



**DURHAM CATHOLIC
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD**
Learning and Living in Faith

POLICY – 410

Admission to Schools

Area: Operations

Source: Superintendent of Business, Finance and Facilities Services

Approved: May 17, 1999

Revised: June 25, 2012; May 9, 2022

1. Introduction

The Board policy and procedures for admission of students to schools are consistent, thorough and aligned with the faith traditions, beliefs and teachings of the Catholic Church. The Board believes Catholic schools exist primarily to meet the needs of Catholic students and their families.

2. Definitions

Nil

3. Purpose

To establish criteria for the admission of kindergarten to grade 12 students to schools located within the Board's jurisdiction.

4. Application / Scope

This policy applies to the admission of all students in elementary and secondary schools operated by the Board.

5. Principles

- 5.1 The Board has a mandate to provide Catholic education to the students registered in its schools.
- 5.2 The Ministry of Education recognizes the right of Catholic schools to provide Catholic education.

- 5.3 The Board believes that its Admission Policy must respect the constitutional rights of Catholic ratepayers in order to maintain the Catholicity of our schools.
- 5.4 All children who have been admitted to a school within the Board's jurisdiction shall be provided a Catholic education in accordance with the Education Act of Ontario and the Regulations under the Act, in order to maintain the Catholicity of our schools.
- 5.5 The age of admission for all students shall conform with the provisions of the Education Act of Ontario and the Regulations under the Act.

6. Requirements

- 6.1 Children who are eligible to attend an elementary school as per the Education Act of Ontario and whose parent(s)/guardian(s) have provided evidence that the student has the right to attend a Catholic school, will be admitted to the geographically appropriate school under the jurisdiction of the Board. Subject to space availability, enrolment/registrations at a school may be restricted, and it may be necessary to direct a student to another Catholic elementary school within the jurisdiction.
- 6.2 Children who are eligible to attend an elementary school as per the Education Act of Ontario, but whose parent(s)/guardian(s) have not provided the required evidence, should be directed to follow the procedure for admission to Catholic Elementary Schools for non-Catholic children in the Admission of Students Administrative Procedure (AP410-1).
- 6.3 Subject to Board policies regarding transportation and school boundaries, any secondary school-aged student within the Board's jurisdiction has the right to attend a Catholic secondary school. All secondary school-aged students and/or their parent(s)/guardian(s) are expected to demonstrate respect and show support of the distinctive Catholic programs, character, culture and rituals that are an integral part of the Catholic Secondary School community.
- 6.4 Specialized programs (e.g., French Immersion, Arts & Media Program, etc.) may have additional admissions processes and criteria established by the board.
- 6.5 Special admissions procedures for the following registration categories can be found in the Admission of Students Administrative Procedure 410-1:
 - Ward of the Children's Aid Society
 - Parent(s)/Guardian(s) is Roman Catholic and Residing in Temporary Residence
 - Baptized Roman Catholic Child Residing with Non-Roman Catholic Parent(s)/Guardian(s)
 - Children Whose Parent(s)/Guardian(s) Enrol(s) in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adult(s) (RCIA) Program

- Students Residing Outside Board Jurisdiction
- Students Under the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act
- Permanent Residents (Landed Immigrant)
- Work Permit, Diplomatic Status, or Visiting Forces
- Refugees
- International Students (Student Authorization)
- Indigenous People (Government of Canada)
- Students from Out of Province
- Exchange Students

7. Sources

7.1 Education Act of Ontario and its Regulations

7.2 Archdiocese of Toronto – Eastern Churches in Communion with the Sea of Rome

8. Related Policies and Administrative Procedures

8.1 Admission of Students Administrative Procedure (AP410-1)