



REPORT TO

GOVERNANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE

APPENDIX B S M 16 ASTHMA POLICY REPORT.DOCX

The Lord God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and man became a living being. Genesis 2:7

Created, Draft	First Tabling	Review
June 1, 2015	June 9, 2015	Click here to enter a date.
Loretta Notten, Superintendent of Governance and Policy Frank Piddisi, Superintendent of Special Services		

RECOMMENDATION REPORT

Vision:

At Toronto Catholic we transform the world through witness, faith, innovation and action.

Mission:

The Toronto Catholic District School Board is an inclusive learning community rooted in the love of Christ. We educate students to grow in grace and knowledge and to lead lives of faith, hope and charity.



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A. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On April 30th, 2015, the Government of Ontario enacted “Ryan’s Law”, legislation intended to protect and support individuals who suffer from asthma. The legislation requires all school boards in Ontario to craft and implement a policy to identify, support and intervene (when necessary) for students suffering from asthma. Currently the TCDSB does not have such a policy and so this report recommends the adoption of an interim policy to satisfy the requirements of Ryan’s Law. There is the potential for TCDSB to consider a longer term plan that might consolidate all policies dealing with Health Care issues.

B. PURPOSE

In October 2012, student Ryan Gibbons died at school of an asthma attack. His tragic death inspired the Government of Ontario to contemplate legislation entitled “Ensuring Asthma Free Schools”. The policy will require schools to ensure that they are taking the appropriate precautions to ensure the safety of their students suffering from asthma and also allow for students to carry their inhalers with them to allow for immediate remediation should an asthma attack take place.

C. BACKGROUND

1. In October 2012, Ryan Gibbons a young student of 12 years of age died of asthma attack during recess. Ryan did not have his inhaler with him, but rather it was locked in the main office with all of the other prescribed medications. His tragic death has inspired the government of Ontario to review school protocols and practices in relation to students suffering from asthma.
2. The TCDSB currently has a policy for Anaphylaxis (S.M. 15) but does not have a policy in relation to asthma.
3. The Ontario Education Services Corporation has been working with the Ministry of Education to help prepare templates to support the implementation of sound policy and procedure in relation to Ryan’s Law.

4. At this time templates have been provided that support the development of policy so that Boards would be able to move quickly in the development and implementation of policy. Further supports are expected to support more comprehensive Operational Procedures in relation to the responsible prevention and treatment of asthma.

D. VISION

VISION	PRINCIPLES	GOALS
Provide a new policy to govern both the proactive and reactive responses to students who have been diagnosed as suffering from asthma.	Aligns with the MYSP goals of Fostering Student Achievement and Well-Being And Strengthening Public Confidence	Craft and implement a new policy with the guidelines provided by the Ministry of Education through the Ontario Education Services Corporation. Nurture schools that provided a safe and caring environment for our students.

E. ACTION PLAN

1. The TCDSB would have a wide cross-section of students who suffer from asthma and its symptoms. Ryan's Law was legislated in an effort to more formally address the potential life-threatening attacks of asthma sustained by students at the elementary and secondary levels. TCDSB will comply with legislation and implement a policy on "ensuring asthma free schools".
2. The TCDSB shares the Ministry commitment to promoting awareness of safety and a commitment to student's long term health and academic success. The policy which has been developed, has been heavily informed by the guidelines provided by the *Ontario Education Services Corporation (OESC)*.

3. The OESC has further indicated that a resource for the development of more comprehensive Operational Procedures is also forthcoming, (likely in June 2015). Therefore it would be prudent to implement the current policy as an interim policy and then supplement the policy with more comprehensive Operational Procedures. Upon receipt of those guidelines, the TCDSB may also wish to consider the possibility of an “omnibus” Student Health Care Policy in which the current policies on anaphylaxis, asthma and possibly concussion might be consolidated.
4. In order to build widespread awareness about the importance of the Asthma Policy and Protocol the TCDSB Special Services Department will work with administrators and local staff to ensure broadly understood awareness about the Policy and its requirements.
5. The new asthma policy reflects the goals of the Multi-Year Strategic Plan and the principles of our Catholic Social Teachings, insofar as it builds and sustains a positive, safe and healthy school climate in all our TCDSB learning environments.

F. METRICS AND ACCOUNTABILITY

1. The TCDSB Special Services Department will be responsible for the Asthma Policy. Statistics and reporting evidence will be maintained at local schools, with a goal of both reducing the number of asthma attacks which take place and the safe care of students who have incurred an asthma attack.

G. COMMUNICATION AND IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

1. Principals will be in-serviced on the new asthma policy, with an update provided at fall Principal meetings. Principals in turn will implement and highlight the new policy in their local schools.
2. The Superintendent of Special Services will message all schools annually regarding inservice opportunities on the new asthma protocol.

H. STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That the board approve the new policy S.M 16 Asthma, as found in Appendix A on an interim basis.

That the board consider revising the policy to include Operational Procedures once the guidelines are received from the Ministry of Education/Ontario Education Services Corporation.

APPENDIX B