



REPORT TO

GOVERNANCE AND POLICY
COMMITTEE

CURRICULUM AND PROGRAM POLICIES

Give instruction to the wise, and they will become wiser still; teach the righteous and they will gain in learning. - Proverbs 9:9

Drafted

September 16, 2024

Derek Luk, Senior Policy Advisor

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Lori DiMarco, Superintendent of Curriculum Leadership and Innovation; and Academic Information and Communications Technology

Cristina Fernandes, Executive Superintendent of Student Achievement, Innovation and Well-Being

Meeting Date

October 1, 2024

RECOMMENDATION REPORT

Vision: *IN GOD'S IMAGE: Growing in Knowledge, with Justice and Hope.*

Mission: *Nurturing the faith development and academic excellence of our Catholic learning community through the love of God, neighbour, and self.*



MULTI-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN
2022 - 2025

IN GOD'S IMAGE: Growing in Knowledge, with Justice and Hope



Brendan Browne
Director of Education

Adrian Della Mora
Associate Director of Academic
Affairs & Chief Operating Officer

Derek Boyce
Associate Director of Corporate
Services and Chief Commercial Officer

Ryan Putnam
Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer

A. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

To provide the Governance and Policy Committee (GAP) with information and recommendations for review of seven Curriculum and Program related policies.

The cumulative staff time required to prepare this report was 29 hours.

B. PURPOSE

Following updates at the January and February 2024 GAP meetings regarding the new policy review process and direction to review “student facing” policies as a priority, staff are providing proposed workplans for Curriculum and Program policies.

C. BACKGROUND

Seven student facing curriculum and program related policies have been identified which includes Combined (Split) Grade Classes for Elementary Schools, Concussion, Elementary French Programming, School Excursions, Student and Program Assessment, Cursive Writing and Physical Activities Within the Physical and Health Education Programs.

D. EVIDENCE/RESEARCH/ANALYSIS

1. The chart below includes a list of the seven curriculum and program related policies, along with date of last review, and rationale for review.
2. Five of the seven policies are recommended to be reviewed and include the associated workplans in Appendices A - E.
3. Staff propose that GAP consider rescinding the Cursive Writing Policy (Appendix F) since the Ministry of Education updated the Grades 1 to 8 Language curriculum that made cursive writing a requirement since the beginning of 2023-2024 school year
4. Staff propose that GAP consider rescinding the Physical Activities Within the Physical and Health Education Programs Policy (Appendix G) since:
 - i. All Ontario school boards already follow Ontario Physical and Health Education Association’s (OPHEA) Physical Activity Safety Standards as a matter of practice and Ministry expectations; and
 - ii. A jurisdictional scan of Ontario school boards resulted in no other boards with a standalone Physical and Health Education Programs Policy.

Policy	Date of Last Review	Recommendation for Review	Rationale
Appendix A - Combined (Split) Grade Classes for Elementary Schools Policy and Draft Workplan	May 2019	Yes	Meets the objective of reviewing within the five-year review cycle.
Appendix B - Concussion Policy and Draft Workplan	January 2019	Yes	Meets the objective of reviewing within the five-year review cycle.
Appendix C - Elementary French Programming Policy Draft Workplan	October 2019	Yes	Meets the objective of reviewing within the five-year review cycle.
Appendix D - School Excursions Policy and Draft Workplan	April 2019	Yes	Meets the objective of reviewing within the five-year review cycle.
Appendix E - Student and Program Assessment Policy and Draft Workplan	2019	Yes	Meets the objective of reviewing within the five-year review cycle. Update required to reflect EQAO grade 9 math being embedded in grade 9 math mark. Early years screener requirement.
Appendix F – Cursive Writing Policy	October 2019	No	Meets the objective of reviewing within the five-year review cycle.
Appendix G - Physical Activities Within the Physical and Health Education Programs	November 2017	No	The policy was last reviewed seven years ago.

E. METRICS AND ACCOUNTABILITY

1. Staff will begin executing on the work plans for each recommended policy review, pending feedback and direction from GAP.

F. STAFF RECOMMENDATION

1. Staff recommend that GAP approve review of the five policies and provide direction to staff on the associated work plans.
2. Staff recommend the Cursive Writing Policy and Physical Activities Within the Physical and Health Education Programs Policy be rescinded.