



<b>POLICY NAME:</b>	<b>CONCUSSION POLICY</b>
<b>POLICY SECTION:</b>	Schools, Students and Learning
<b>DATE APPROVED:</b>	November 23, 2014
<b>DATE OF NEXT REVIEW:</b>	2030
<b>DATES OF AMENDMENTS:</b>	January 21, 2019; January 7, 2025
<b>RESPONSIBLE DEPARTMENT:</b>	Curriculum Leadership & Innovation

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### **Policy:**

A concussion can have a significant impact on a student’s cognitive and physical abilities. Rowan’s Law requires that school boards have a concussion policy that ensures students, parents and staff are informed about the risk of concussions and the steps to be taken, to prevent, detect and manage concussions in schools.

The policy is in alignment with the TCDSB’s Multi-Year Strategic Plan (MYSP) and reflects Catholic values rooted in the love of Christ.

### **Scope and Responsibility:**

This policy extends to staff members, volunteers, students and their family members. The Director of Education with the support of Superintendents, Principals and Teachers are responsible for ensuring the procedures are followed.

### **Regulations:**

1. The Curriculum Leadership & Innovation Department shall maintain and revise as required Protocols for Concussions. The protocol shall include the following:
  - a. Concussion Education that will:
    - i. focus on awareness.
    - ii. empower students to speak up if a concussion is suspected.
    - iii. include strategies for sharing information on the seriousness of concussions, on concussion prevention, identification and management with students, parents, board employees, administrators, educators, school staff, volunteers, doctors and nurse practitioners and community-based organizations.
  - b. Guidelines to help prevent the occurrence of a concussion.
  - c. Measures and procedures for recognizing that a concussion has taken

- place.
- d. Guidelines to direct the appropriate level of response depending on the signs and symptoms that are prevalent at the time of a suspected concussion.
  - e. Protocol for return to play and for return to learn.
  - f. A concussion code of conduct that outlines rules of behavior to minimize concussions while playing sport.
2. The Curriculum Leadership & Innovation Department shall;
    - a) provide appropriate in-servicing to school administration in the implementation of the Protocols for Concussions.
    - b) provide concussion awareness education to all students, staff, parents/guardians and volunteers. School staff will take every precaution in order to prevent concussions and mild traumatic brain injuries in the workplace and school environment.
    - c) distribute to all Administrators, Athletic Representatives and Department Heads of Physical Education the current OPASSE Safety Standards that provide guidelines to reduce the incidences of concussions.
    - d) provide coaches appropriate orientation to the Protocols for Concussions through a standing item at Athletic Representatives Regional Meetings in September of each school year.
  3. Each School Principal will;
    - a) in-service school staff annually, in September, on the Protocols for Concussions.
    - b) post the most current Pocket Concussion Recognition Tool (produced by Parachute Canada), distributed by the TCDSB Health and Physical Education Department. The tool shall be posted in all gymnasiums and a copy kept in the main office area, to assist with concussion identification.
  4. All cases of suspected concussion will be addressed by the school principal or designate in consultation with the appropriate medical authorities who will be notified in the event that a concussion has been suspected.
  5. In the event of suspected or confirmed concussion, schools will follow the collective team approach, as found within the Timeline of TCDSB Protocols for Concussions.

### **Cross References:**

#### Legislation:

- Education Act, S.217
- Occupational Health and Safety
- Rowan's Law (Concussion Safety), 2018, S.O. 2018, c.1- Bill 193

Ministry of Education Policy/Program Memorandum:

- Policy/Program Memorandum No. 158: School Board Policies on Concussion

TCDSB Policy/Procedure:

- Physical Activities Within the Physical and Health Education Program
- Code of Conduct
- Ontario School Board Insurance Exchange

Other:

- Ontario Physical Activity Safety Standards in Education (OPASSE)
- Parachute Canada Pocket Concussion Recognition Tool

**Definitions:**

**Concussions:** A concussion is a traumatic brain injury that causes changes in how the brain functions, leading to signs and symptoms that can emerge immediately or in the hours or days after the injury. It is possible for symptoms to take up to 7 days to appear.

**Evaluation and Metrics:**

1. The TCDSB Protocols for Concussions will be reviewed annually to ensure compliance with legislation and any new TCDSB policies.
2. Survey Data is received annually from schools regarding the number of concussions and the outcome.
3. The policy will be reviewed every five years