

APPENDIX B



POLICY NAME:	MENTAL HEALTH AND WELL-BEING
POLICY SECTION:	Schools, Students and Learning
DATE APPROVED:	July 11, 2013
DATE OF NEXT REVIEW:	2030
DATES OF AMENDMENTS:	October 2019; January 2015; December 1987; September 1981; May 1967; March 1966; June 3 2025
RESPONSIBLE DEPARTMENT:	Special Services

Policy:

Policy/Program Memorandum 169 - Student Mental Health outlines requirements for school boards to provide culturally responsive, evidence-informed student mental health promotion, prevention and early intervention supports and services that respect students as individuals with diverse needs and experiences.

This policy affirms the TCDSB's commitment to build awareness about mental health concerns affecting students, and to guide the response to critical mental health issues impacting students. The care and support of our students is a collective responsibility shared by all members of our Catholic community.

Employees of the Toronto Catholic District School Board shall refer any students with identifiable mental health concerns to the school's appropriate local school-based support learning team members, namely, social work and psychology staff.

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

Scope and Responsibility:

The policy extends to staff members, students and their families while in attendance at school or engaged at other TCDSB events. The Director of Education, with the assistance of Supervisory Officers and Principals, is responsible for this policy.

Regulations:

1. Employees of the Toronto Catholic District School Board shall refer any students with identifiable mental health concerns to the school's appropriate local school-based support learning team members, namely, social work and psychology staff.
2. Through the local school principal, the social worker and/or psychologist who are members of the local school-based support learning team will be engaged in a timely manner when concerns involve suicidal ideation and to support following a critical incident at a school or in the community that may impact school functioning.
3. In the event that a student expresses suicidal ideation, employees shall follow the Suicide Prevention and Life Promotion Protocol.
4. In the event of a mental health crisis occurrence, employees of the Toronto Catholic District School Board shall implement the Mental Health Crisis Response Guidelines.
5. Mental Health Response Guidelines has been developed for the TCDSB. All staff members shall use these guidelines when dealing with students presenting mental health concerns.
6. The Suicide Prevention and Life Promotion Protocol has been developed for the TCDSB. All staff members shall follow these guidelines when there is concern about a student regarding suicidal ideation and/or behaviour, as indicated by a disclosure or other signs.
7. Mental Health Crisis Response Guidelines have been developed for the TCDSB. All staff shall use these guidelines when dealing with a mental health crisis occurrence.
8. The TCDSB shall provide ongoing professional learning for all employees about the types of mental health concerns impacting students via engagement at the local school level with members of the social work and psychology departments.
9. To sustain awareness about mental health concerns, all employees will annually review this policy and any related process guidelines.
10. The dignity and privacy of the student experiencing mental health concerns will be respected in all circumstances.
11. The Director of Education is empowered to modify the guidelines as required, and will notify the Board of Trustees of any changes made to the guidelines.

Definitions:

Mental Health Concern

Includes, but is not limited to, any concerns of a psychological or social emotional nature as outlined in the Mental Health Response Guidelines and the Suicide Prevention and Life Promotion Protocol Intervention Guidelines.

Mental Health Response Staff

Staff includes administrators, social workers, psychology staff, and/or guidance counselors, as outlined in the Mental Health Response Guidelines.

Mental Health Crisis Occurrence

Includes, but is not limited to, any occurrence that results in a negative mental health impact for the school or students. For example, the aftermath of a violent/traumatic incident at the school/in the community, serious illness of student/ staff, death of student or staff member (e.g. illness, accident, suicide).

School Based Support Learning Team – Social Workers and Psychologists

Social workers and psychologists are clinical staff that are regulated mental health providers with extensive training in identifying, supporting and referring students to relevant services. These staff members will be engaged by the school principal in a timely manner when concerns involve suicidal ideation and to support following a critical incident at school or in the community that may impact school functioning.

Cross References:

Ministry of Education Policy/Program Memorandum

- Ministry of Education Nutritional Standards for Ontario Schools
- Policy/Program Memorandum 169 - Student Mental Health

TCDSB Policy/Procedure

- Fund Raising in Schools
- Prevalent Medical Conditions
- Duty to Report, Duty to Support
- Mental Health Response Guidelines
- Suicide Intervention Guidelines
- Mental Health Crisis Response Guidelines

Other

- TCDSB Mental Health Action Plan 2023-2026
- Government of Ontario, Moving On Mental Health: A System that makes sense for children and youth, 2015

Evaluation and Metrics:

1. The policy will be reviewed every five years.
2. The associated process guidelines will be reviewed annually.