

AVON MAITLAND DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE

NO. 141

SUBJECT: EQUITY AND INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

Legal References: *Education Act Section 264 Duties of Teachers - Religion and Morals; Section 265 Duties of Principal - Co-operation among the Members of the Staff ...Care of Pupils and Property; Part XIII - Behaviour, Discipline and Safety; Ontario Regulation 298 - Operation of Schools Section 20 Duties of Teachers - Consistent Disciplinary Practices; Section 23 Requirements for Pupils; Guideline - Ontario Schools Code of Conduct; Criminal Code of Canada; Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms; Ontario Human Rights Code; Equity and Inclusive Education in Ontario Schools: Guidelines for Policy Development and Implementation, Ontario's Equity and Inclusive Education Strategy and Policy/Program Memorandum No. 119 (2009) "Developing and Implementing Equity and Inclusive Education Policies in Ontario Schools*

Related References: *Administrative Procedure 138 Positive Workplace Environment; AP 351 Code of Conduct; AP 352 Promoting Positive Student Behaviour; AP 400 Recruitment, Hiring and Selection of Staff; AP 421 Staff Development*

1. Commitment to Equity and Inclusivity

- 1.1 The director of education has been delegated responsibility by the board of trustees to ensure that commitment to equity and inclusivity shall permeate all aspects of the district's education and employment procedures, guidelines, programs and proceedings.
- 1.2 Staff of the Avon Maitland District School Board will uphold the principles of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms enshrined in the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, the Constitution Act, 1982* and confirmed in the Ontario *Human Rights Code*. Staff is also committed to the elimination of all types of discrimination as outlined in Ontario's Equity and Inclusive Education Strategy (the "Strategy") and the Ontario Ministry of Education (the "Ministry") Policy/Program Memorandum No. 119. (Appendix A identifies the hierarchy of legislation and policy to be considered).

2. Areas of Focus

- 2.1 Priorities for staff will be:
 - to serve staff, students, and families in diverse communities by incorporating the principles of equity and inclusive education, consistent with the principles of the *Human Rights Code*, into all aspects of our operations, structures, policies, programs, procedures, guidelines, and practices;
 - to establish and maintain partnerships with diverse communities so that the perspectives and experiences of all students are recognized in order to help meet their needs;
 - to establish and maintain a collaborative relationship with diverse communities so that the perspectives and experiences of all students, families, and employees are recognized and addressed;

- to implement an inclusive curriculum and to review resources, instruction, and assessment and evaluation practices in order to identify and address discriminatory biases so that each student may maximize her or his learning potential;
- to acknowledge each individual's right to follow or not to follow religious beliefs and practices, free from discriminatory or harassing behaviour, and to take all reasonable steps to provide religious accommodations to staff and students;
- to commit to the principle that every person within the school community is entitled to a respectful, positive school climate and learning environment, free from all forms of discrimination and harassment;
- to provide administrators, staff, students and other members of the school community with opportunities to acquire the knowledge, skills, attitudes, and behaviour needed to identify and eliminate discriminatory biases and systemic barriers under the *Human Rights Code*; and
- to assess and monitor progress in implementing Ontario's Equity and Inclusive Education Strategy, to embed the principles into all board policies, programs, guidelines and practices, and to communicate these results to the community.