



# Huron-Superior Catholic

## DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

### PROCEDURAL GUIDELINES ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

The following procedural guidelines will be implemented in order to achieve the three goals of environmental education identified by the Ontario Ministry of Education:

The policy framework emphasizes the necessity of ensuring that young people become environmentally active and responsible citizens. Students are required to have the knowledge and skills that will enable them to understand and deal with complex issues that affect the environment now and in the future. (*Environmental Education Scope and Sequence 2017*)

#### GOAL 1 - Teaching and Learning Strategy 1.1

Increase student knowledge and develop skills and perspectives that foster environmental stewardship.

#### ACTIONS

The Huron-Superior Catholic District School Board will:

- Use relevant curriculum resource documents to support implementation of revised curricula, as appropriate, and
- Support staff and students in linking environmental knowledge and related skills and activities to the teachings of diverse communities, including First Nation, Métis, and Inuit peoples, and to principles of responsible citizenship.

Huron-Superior Catholic District School Board schools will:

- Provide opportunities for students to acquire knowledge and skills related to environmental education in all subject areas, and encourage them to apply their knowledge and skills to environmental issues (e.g., loss of biodiversity, climate change, waste reduction, energy conservation) through action-based projects, and;
- Challenge students to develop skills in systems thinking and futures thinking which they will need to become discerning, active citizens.

#### Strategy 1.2

Model and teach environmental education through an integrated approach that promotes collaboration in the development of resources and activities.

## ACTIONS

The Huron-Superior Catholic District School Board will:

- Foster collaborative opportunities for educators to develop and share activities, integrated approaches, and action research projects related to environmental education, and
- Encourage innovative interdisciplinary programs that focus on the environment and include field components.

Huron-Superior Catholic District School Board schools will:

- Develop learning opportunities that will help students understand the underlying causes, the multiple dimensions, and the dynamic nature of environmental issues, and;
- Develop professional learning communities to share effective practices about pedagogical strategies that support learning and teaching about the environment.

## GOAL 2: Student Engagement and Community Connections

### Strategy 2.1

Build student capacity to take action on environmental issues.

The Huron-Superior Catholic District School Board will:

- Engage student leaders in the design and delivery of environmental education projects at the board level;
- Share school and student projects across the board that demonstrate engagement in environmental stewardship;
- Encourage environmental learning for all students inside and outside the classroom, and
- Support students, on a system-wide basis, as they develop skills and act as decision makers to effect positive environmental change.

Huron-Superior Catholic District School Board schools will:

- Engage student leaders in the design and delivery of environmental education at the school level;
- Encourage students to enrich their learning by using information technology to access resources, connect with others, and create e-communities that focus on environmental issues;
- Encourage action research that promotes partnerships and the innovative implementation of environmental education concepts and principles;
- create opportunities for students to address environmental issues in their homes, in their Local communities, or at the global level;
- Work with their Catholic School Councils in promoting environmental education;
- Encourage students to plan environmental education activities for all students, and;
- Encourage all students to participate in environmental education activities on school grounds.

### Strategy 2.2

Provide leadership support to enhance student engagement and community involvement.

The Huron-Superior Catholic District School Board will:

- Offer community-linked experiences and programs, such as cooperative education and work experience opportunities that are relevant to environmental education;
- Encourage the Parent Involvement Committee to provide advice on the implementation of environmental education;
- Share information about local resources that support environmental awareness and protection, energy conservation, waste management, protection of the biosphere, and outdoor education, and
- Share links and partnerships with community organizations (such as non-profit organizations, businesses, farms, and industries) to help extend engagement in and responsibility for environmental education to the broader community.

Huron-Superior Catholic District School Board schools will:

- Work with parents, the Catholic School Council, First Nation partners, community groups, and other education stakeholders to promote environmental awareness and foster appropriate environmentally responsible practices;
- Enrich and complement students' classroom learning by organizing out-of-classroom experiences and activities (such as the naturalization of the school yard), as appropriate, and;
- Encourage students to consider ways of completing their community service requirements that involve addressing environmental issues in their communities, in a manner consistent with school board policy.

### GOAL 3: Environmental Leadership

#### Strategy 3.1

Increase the extent to which environmental education is integrated into school board policies, procedures, and strategic plans.

The Huron-Superior Catholic District School Board will:

- Develop a school board environmental education policy that promotes environmental literacy and environmentally responsible management practices;
- In connection with our policy, we will:
  - Create and maintain a system-wide environmental education and management committee;
  - Embed environmental education as a priority in the board's strategic plan;
  - Develop and implement a plan for integrating sustainable environmental practices into each of the board's operational services;
  - Develop an environmental action plan that is annually reviewed, renewed, and communicated to all school board employees and trustees;

- Review existing board recognition programs for opportunities to include recognition of responsible environmental leadership;
- Integrate in-service opportunities related to environmental education into staff development for all employee groups, and
- Encourage all school board personnel, the Parent Involvement Committee, students, parents, and Catholic School Councils to adopt and promote environmentally appropriate practices.

Huron-Superior Catholic District School Board schools will:

- Create or revise an implementation plan that aligns with the school board environmental education policy;
- Adopt environmentally responsible management practices that are consistent with board policy and consider the advice of members of the school community on these matters;
- Encourage staff to develop knowledge and skills related to environmental education and responsible environmental practices and encourage mentoring opportunities, and;
- Facilitate sharing of staff expertise and knowledge through existing networks.

### Strategy 3.2

Enhance the integration of environmentally responsible practices into the management of resources, operations, and facilities.

The Huron-Superior Catholic District School Board will:

- Implement strategies, programs and procedures to protect and conserve the environment, while ensuring that schools and workplace environments are safe and healthy, and
- Develop environmentally responsible purchasing practices, while considering quality, price, and service.

Huron-Superior Catholic District School Board Schools will:

- Encourage staff to participate in school or school board sessions on environmental sustainability and the role of staff in preparing and implementing the school and/or school board's action plan, and;
- Plan an environmentally responsible approach to managing resources and operations.

### Resources

Various resources are available at in the Environmental Education section of the Ontario Ministry of Education Website.