

	POLICY NO: 5.5
Adopted	2018
Projected Review Date	2029
Revisions	2025

POLICY: MEDICAL HEALTH SUPPORTS

PURPOSE:

Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board is committed to providing learning environments that are welcoming, respectful, accessible, and supportive of students with diverse medical needs. We will uphold human rights, safety, and well-being by supporting all students in feeling safe and secure in our classrooms and school communities.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES:

- All health support services must be administered in a manner that respects the student's rights to privacy, dignity, cultural sensitivity, and identity-affirming practices to the degree possible in the circumstances.
- Students with medical/health needs will be accommodated in the school in which they are registered whenever possible.
- When considering a student's support plan, objective medical documentation and identity-affirming practices will be used for planning purposes.
- In an emergency, staff and/or volunteers may be required to provide emergency assistance for a student.

INTENDED OUTCOMES:

Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board will:

- Ensure that all students receive a quality education and are accommodated according to the Ontario Human Rights Code to the point of undue hardship, including considerations for health and safety requirements.
- In collaboration with Ontario Health atHome and other regulated health professionals, share the responsibility for providing school health support services to support students in attending and participating in learning, recognizing their special health support needs.
- Support students with prevalent medical conditions and those who require medical health supports to fully access school in a safe, accepting, and healthy learning environment that supports well-being.
- Empower students, as confident and capable learners, to reach their full potential for self-management of their medical condition(s), according to their Plan of Care or other accommodation plan.

RESPONSIBILITY:

Chief Executive Officer

TERMINOLOGY:

Identity-Affirming Practices: Practices which affirm and centre an individual's sense of self and identity, considering the impact of identity on mental health and well-being. This involves building positive connections by acknowledging, validating, and respecting a student's unique identity (including but not limited to race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, cultural background, socioeconomic status, and abilities) and prioritizing cultural knowledge and practices that are responsive to the student.

Ontario Health atHome: An organization that assists in coordinating in-home and community-based care through the assessment of patient care needs to support health and well-being.

Plan of Care: An individualized plan containing information about the medical conditions of a student.

Prevalent Medical Condition: As outlined in [Policy/Program Memorandum 161](#) (anaphylaxis, asthma, diabetes, and epilepsy).

Regulated Health Professional(s): Members of a regulatory college which are governed by the Regulated Health Professions Act.

ACTION REQUIRED:

Ensure procedures supporting the medical accommodation of students are:

- Developed and regularly reviewed.
- Articulate the expected roles and responsibilities of caregivers, school staff, principal, and school board in supporting students requiring accommodation, as well as the roles and responsibilities of the students themselves.
- Communicated regularly by school principals to ensure the roles and responsibilities of caregivers, students, and school staff are understood.
- Ensure that procedures under this policy follow any related Ministry of Education related policy, program, or memorandum (where applicable).

PROGRESS INDICATORS:

Intended Outcome	Assessment
Ensure that all school-aged children receive a quality education, and are accommodated, to the point of undue hardship including considerations for health and safety requirements.	• Human rights incidents, inquiries • School climate surveys • Parent/community voice surveys • Student Voice Survey • SEAC Feedback
Support students with prevalent medical conditions and those who require medical health supports to fully access school in a safe, accepting, and healthy learning environment that supports well-being.	• Individual feedback from students, staff and principals. • Student Voice Survey
Empower students, as confident and capable learners, to reach their full potential for self-management of their medical condition(s), according to their Plan of Care or other accommodation plans.	• Individual feedback from students, staff and principals. • Student Voice Survey • SEAC Feedback

REFERENCES:

Education Act
 Ontario Human Rights Code
 Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act
 Freedom of Information Act
 Policy/Program Memorandum 81: Provision of Health Support Services in a School Setting
 Memorandum dated August 14, 1989, Catheterization and Suctioning
 Policy/Program Memorandum 161: Supporting Children and Students with Prevalent Medical Conditions (Anaphylaxis, Asthma, Diabetes and/or Epilepsy) in Schools
 Policy/Program Memorandum 158: School board policies on concussion
 Sabrina's Law – Bill 3 – An Act to Protect Anaphylactic Pupils, 2006
 Ryan's Law - Ensuring Asthma Friendly Schools, 2015
 Rowan's Law – Bill 193 – Concussion Safety, 2018