



STUDENTS' RIGHT TO ENGAGE IN PEACEFUL PROTESTS

Context

The Board recognizes international law through the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights (1948 Article 19) which guarantees the right to freedom of expression, The Canadian Bill of Rights (1960 Section 1 d) which guarantees freedom of speech, and the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms (1981 Fundamental Freedoms section c) which guarantees freedom of peaceful assembly.

Policy Statement

1. The Board of Education supports the efforts of students to engage in organized, purposeful peaceful protests, including during school time, on issues of recognized local, regional or global significance as part of their learning experience.
2. Students will not be penalized for participating in peaceful protests as long as these protests are held in accordance with this policy and its administrative procedure.
3. Students will be responsible for ensuring that missed school work is made up with support from teachers.

Guiding Principles

1. The Board of Education believes in the right to freedom of expression, speech and peaceful assembly.
2. The Board believes in the right of people to disagree with governing bodies and to exercise that disagreement through peaceful protest.
3. The Board expects that student protests will be held in ways that are safe and appropriate as learning experiences within a participatory democracy, which includes the students understanding the balance of rights and responsibilities as citizens in exercising their Charter rights.

References

- Declaration of Human Rights (United Nations 1948)
- The Canadian Bill of Rights (1960)
- Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms (1981)

Dates of Adoption/Amendments:

Adopted: 2020.02.25

Amended: **2022.06.28**