DDSB Ignite Learning

POLICY

School Operations (SCO)

P SCO 05

Title: **Concussion Management**
Adopted: January 21, 2014
Effective: January 21, 2014
Amended/Reviewed: November 12, 2026

1.0 RATIONALE

The Durham District School Board recognizes the importance of preventing, identifying and appropriately managing student concussions, regardless of whether they occur during school-related or non-school-related activities.

This Policy supports concussion awareness, prevention and management and aligns with Policy/Program Memorandum No. 158: School Board Policies on Concussion, Rowan's Law (Concussion Safety), 2018, and applicable legislation

2.0 OBJECTIVE

The objective of this Policy is to establish a consistent approach to concussion awareness, prevention, identification and management and to support students in safely returning to learning and physical activity following a concussion.

3.0 DEFINITIONS

3.1 Concussion: A concussion is a traumatic brain injury that causes changes in how the brain functions, leading to visible clues (signs) and symptoms that can emerge immediately or in the hours or days after the injury (Parachute, 2024).

3.2 Return to School Plan: An individualized framework established by Ontario School Boards to safely reintegrate a student diagnosed with a concussion back into school.

3.3 Return to Learn: An individualized stage by stage plan for the student to fully return to typical cognitive activity/learning.

3.4 Return to Physical Activity: An individualized stage by stage plan for the student to fully return to physical activity.

4.0 RESPONSIBILITY

DDSB employees have a responsibility to follow the prevention, identification and management process outlined in the DDSB Concussion Management Procedure.

5.0 APPLICATION AND SCOPE

This policy applies to all DDSB employees, students and parents/guardians.

6.0 POLICY STATEMENT

DDSB is committed to supporting student safety, injury prevention and well-being through concussion awareness, prevention, identification and appropriate management.

Students with a suspected or diagnosed concussion will be supported in accordance with the processes established in the Concussion Management Procedure, including appropriate return to learning and physical activity.

7.0 POLICY DIRECTIVES

Concussion awareness, prevention, identification and management will be implemented in accordance with the Concussion Management Procedure and applicable Ministry requirements and legislation.

This policy must be interpreted, applied, and implemented in ways that uphold Indigenous and human rights and responsibilities, promote accessibility, and prevent and address (and do not reinforce) discrimination/discriminatory barriers.

8.0 EVALUATION

This policy will be monitored on an ongoing basis and formally evaluated every five years to ensure continued relevance, effectiveness, and alignment with DDSB's strategic priorities and legislative requirements.

This Policy will be reviewed in accordance with the Board's policy review cycle and may be reviewed earlier where required to reflect changes to applicable legislation, Ministry direction or the supporting Concussion Management Procedure.

9.0 COMMUNICATION

This policy will be published on the DDSB public website in an accessible format and shared with relevant DDSB community members and education partners.

10.0 APPENDICES

None

11.0 REFERENCES

- Policy Program Memorandum (PPM) No 158: School Board Policies on Concussion, September 25, 2019
- Rowan's Law (Concussion Safety), 2018