

Policy No. II-

and Well-being	
Adopted: October 18, 2011	Last Reviewed/Revised: May 17, 2022
Next Scheduled Review: 2021-2025	
Associated Policies & Procedures: II-45 Equity and Inclusive Education	

[Purpose](#)

The Halton Catholic District School Board (HCDSB) recognizes the critical importance of positive mental health and well-being to school success. Further, the Halton Catholic District School Board is committed to building awareness through mental health literacy and the development of board-wide and school-wide inclusive and equitable programs and practices that actively engage students and staff in promoting positive mental health and well-being while addressing mental health issues using a multi-tiered approach. ~~HCDSB~~ ~~assists~~ ~~our~~ ~~school~~ ~~community~~ in helping to identify ~~students~~ ~~in~~ ~~need~~ ~~for~~ ~~early~~ ~~intervention~~ and ~~students~~ ~~developing~~ ~~integrated~~ ~~pathways~~ ~~of~~ ~~supports~~.

[Application and Scope](#)

This policy applies to ~~all~~ ~~school~~ ~~mental~~ ~~health~~ ~~and~~ ~~well-being~~ ~~in~~ ~~all~~ ~~schools~~ ~~within~~ ~~the~~ ~~Halton~~ ~~Catholic~~ ~~District~~ ~~School~~ ~~Board~~.

[References](#)

[Education Act](#)
[Ontario Education Equity Action Plan](#)
[Ontario Human Rights Code](#)
[PPM 149](#)
[School Mental Health Ontario \(SMHO\)](#)



Principles

Board is committed to:

responding to the teachings of Jesus Christ to “Love one another, as I have loved you” (John 13:33-35)
student mental health and well-being which is a collective responsibility of our Catholic communities by supporting the promotion of positive mental health for all students, building the capacity and conditions to create safe, caring, accepting, inclusive and welcoming classrooms and acknowledging this as foundational to positive mental health and well-being
using an approach to the mental health needs of students based on an evidence-based tiered model of intervention, with equity, engagement, and evidence as the foundational pillars at all tiers
supporting students, parents/guardians and families with mental health issues or distress
promoting positive mental health while reducing stigma
prioritizing mental health and well-being for all students while recognizing the intersection between mental health and equity, and embedding a culturally responsive approach
ensuring that all interventions center human rights based anti-racist/anti-oppressive frameworks to eliminate systemic barriers to mental health and well-being

Requirements

The Halton Catholic District School Board, under the direction of the Director of Education in conjunction with the (in Worker and the Chief Psychologist) will guide the Mental Health Leadership Team and staff of applicable HCD SB employees, students, directives of this policy.

Board-wide Strategy for Mental Health Promotion

Continue to make positive mental health in school settings, maintain and update the existing board-wide Mental Health and Addictions Strategy.

Board-level Responsibility:

among the members of the Mental Health Leadership Team, continue with the implementation of our board-wide strategy of promotion, prevention and early intervention in the school setting for all students
to update the Mental Health and Addictions Strategy every three years, based on current evidence and best practice
to maintain and update guidelines for program selection, development, implementation, and monitoring
to ensure that in each school there are staff who are knowledgeable and employ compassionate in dealing with mental health concerns

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to identify ongoing system needs in program development and delivery and to approach identity and lived experiences

School Responsibility:

to build common understanding about suicide amongst staff and school mental health leaders

to understand when to engage school-based personnel and resources in addressing student needs

to communicate pathways to resources and supports to staff, students, and parents/guardians

APPROVED: Regular Meeting of the Board

AUTHORIZED BY: _____
Chair of the Board