



Durham Catholic District School Board

"The Board"

# Policy

Title: <b>Inclusion</b>	Policy #: <b>PO804</b>
Policy Area: Student Services	
Source: Superintendent of Education – Student Services	
Date Approved: January 5, 1998	
Dates of Amendment: November 9, 2015; February 5, 2018	

## 1.0 Introduction

The Durham Catholic District School Board recognizes its responsibility to embrace diversity and promote inclusion across the system by welcoming all individuals consistent with Gospel values and the Board's mission statement which states: *We are called to celebrate and nurture the God-given talents of each student as we serve with excellence in the light of Christ.*

## 2.0 Definitions

**Diversity** – The presence of a wide range of human qualities and attributes within a group, organization, or society. The dimensions of diversity include, but are not limited to ancestry, culture, ethnicity, gender identity, language, physical and intellectual ability, race, religion, sexual orientation and socio-economic status.

**Equity** – A condition or state of fair, inclusive, and respectful treatment of all people. Equity does not mean treating people the same without regard for individual differences.

**Inclusive Education** – Education that is based on the principles of acceptance and inclusion of all students. Students see themselves reflected in their curriculum, their physical surroundings, and the broader environment, in which diversity is honoured and all individuals respected.

## 3.0 Purpose

To provide all students with appropriate learning experiences in their home schools and in regular classrooms that will provide personal growth and preparation for active participation in the community with the help of a carefully planned and judiciously executed program.

#### 4.0 **Application/Scope**

This policy applies to all students Junior Kindergarten to Grade 12 or age 21 within the Durham Catholic District School Board. Responsibility for providing an inclusive education, including both for intrapersonal, interpersonal and spiritual growth is shared by the Principal, classroom teachers, Early Childhood Educators, school support staff, Teaching and Learning staff, Student Services staff, parents/guardians and community agencies.

#### 5.0 **Principles**

- 5.1 The Durham Catholic District School Board is committed to the principle that all students registered within its schools will be welcomed into and will attend their home school.
- 5.2 The regular classroom may include support.
- 5.3 Classroom teachers will receive assistance with program delivery support from in-school staff, student services staff, program services staff, community supports and parents and guardians.

#### 6.0 **Requirements**

- 6.1 All students begin school in the September of the year the child turns four.
- 6.2 Parents and guardians are encouraged to make the school aware of their child's special needs prior to registration.
- 6.3 Schools will implement Entry Plan procedures as pertinent to student's needs whether the child is beginning school for the first time or transitioning from one school to another.
- 6.4 Classroom teachers will include all students in classroom activities and programs.
- 6.5 A school team meeting will determine what assistance is necessary from in-school staff, Teaching and Learning staff and Student Services staff.
- 6.6 Parents/guardians, school staff and Student Services personnel will collaborate to develop and deliver a program suitable to the student's abilities and goals with the assistance of Teaching and Learning staff and community agencies where services are required.
- 6.7 Specialized transportation may be provided for students whose special needs meet the criteria as outlined in the Durham Student Transportation Services (DSTS) policy and Board criteria.
- 6.8 Students with special needs may attend school until June of the calendar year the student turns 21.

## 6.0 **Requirements** (Cont'd)

- 6.9 The Program Support department will provide parents/guardians with opportunities for Integrated Transition Planning during their child's high school years to prepare for his/her transition to the world of work or community programs.

## 7.0 **Sources**

- Special Education in Ontario, Kindergarten to Grade 12 Policy & Resource Guide, 2017
- Durham Catholic District School Board Special Education Plan

## 8.0 **Related Administrative Procedures**

- AP410-1 Admission of Students