



Halton District School Board

Wayne Joudrie, *Director of Education*

Gillian Tuck Kutarna, *Chair of the Board*

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The Education Amendment Act (**Progressive Discipline and School Safety**), 2007 came into effect on February 1, 2008. This legislation recognizes that for students to succeed they need to be in school, they need to feel safe and secure in school, and when behavior is inappropriate, they need to be supported through interventions and preventative strategies, as well as progressive discipline, including suspension and expulsion when appropriate. On January 16, 2008 our Board of Trustees approved an interim policy that address Progressive Discipline and School Safety. The Progressive Discipline and School Safety policy and the Suspension Appeal Guidelines are attached to this information notice to all members of your school community.

Progressive discipline is a whole school approach that uses a continuum of interventions, supports and consequences that include opportunities for reinforcing positive behaviour and helping students make good choices. The premise of progressive discipline focuses on early and ongoing prevention and intervention strategies, progressive discipline to address inappropriate behaviour, opportunities for students to learn from the choices made, and parental awareness and involvement.

Bullying Prevention and Intervention

In recognition of the significant impact bullying can have on student safety, learning and school climate, bullying was added to the list of infractions for which suspension must be considered by a school principal. As defined by the Ministry,

“Bullying is typically a form of repeated, persistent and aggressive behaviour directed at an individual or individuals that is intended to cause (or should be known to cause) fear and distress and/or harm to another person’s body, feelings, self-esteem, or reputation. Bullying occurs in a context where there is a real or perceived power imbalance.”

You can find the Bullying Prevention policy on the Board website at www.hdsb.ca.

As part of Halton District School Board’s Strategic Plan, each school will have a Safety and Wellbeing team comprised of at least one student (where appropriate), one parent, one teacher, one support staff member, one community partner, and the principal. This team will work together to ensure that each school in Halton is a safe, inclusive and caring learning environment.

Odette Bartnicki

Superintendent of Education (Safety and Wellbeing)