



Community Engagement

Date Approved: 2014

Projected Review Date: 2018

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PURPOSE:

Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board (HWDSB) is committed to developing high levels of community participation, collaboration and involvement to support student success and well-being, and to strengthen the community.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES:

HWDSB will:

- Welcome, encourage, respect, recognize and value community members as partners in student success and well-being.
- Work with community agencies, organizations and public bodies to use and strengthen schools as community hubs that support student success and well-being.
- Strive for open and inclusive processes which value stakeholder input and participation.
- Strengthen the community through involvement as aligned with HWDSB Strategic Directions.

INTENDED OUTCOMES:

HWDSB and all its school's will:

- Build relationships (and partnerships) with community members and organizations in support of student achievement and well-being.
- Provide the community with varied opportunities to give input and inform decision-making.
- Ensure equity of opportunity and access by striving to remove barriers (e.g. communication) to engagement.
- Ensure equity of opportunity and access to schools, outside of school hours, for students and the school community.
- Share how the community can communicate and be involved with HWDSB.
- Involve the community in ways which reflect the diversity of our community.

RESPONSIBILITY:

Director of Education
 Members of Executive Council
 Principals and service leaders



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TERMINOLOGY:

Collaboration: Is working with others to do a task and to achieve shared goals

Communication: This is the ongoing discussion with all stakeholders so that they have a role in planning and decision making within the education system.

Community Involvement: This is the way community members are involved with HWDSB/schools to improve student success and well-being.

Community Engagement Report Card: This is a tool that helps us set and measure goals to show the process of community involvement, practices and activities.

Community Hub: This is having programs and services right at the heart of the community which allows communities greater access to, and make the most use of school space.

Community Use of Schools Report Card: This is a tool that helps report on how well we are meeting our goals and using school space.

Equity: This is being fair, inclusive and respectful of all people. This does not mean treating people the same without regard for individual differences.

Participation: This refers to the different ways the public can share their opinions.

Stakeholders: These are our parents, community partners, schools, board and all others involved or affected by what we do.

ACTION REQUIRED:

In order to provide responsive support to schools, departments and community organizations, staff will:

- identify needs in support of student achievement and well-being
- follow best practices to identify community stakeholders in support of community involvement
- identify current community involvement taking place in schools and departments
- recognize the vital role of consulting and having two-way communication
- create a process for identifying human and material resources that contribute to community partnerships



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PROGRESS INDICATORS:

| Intended Outcome | Assessment |
|---|---|
| Build relationships (and partnerships) with community members in support of student achievement and well-being. | Annual summary of who and where we engage and the impact of the engagement |
| Provide the community with varied opportunities to give input and inform decision-making | Review of the tools/formats used for communication and consultation. |
| Ensure equity of opportunity and access by striving to remove barriers (e.g. communication) to engagement. | Annual Community Engagement Report Card |
| Ensure equity of opportunity and access to schools, outside of school hours, for students and the school community. | Annual Community Engagement Report Card Annual Community Use of Schools Report Card Priority Schools Data |
| Share how the community can communicate and be involved with HWDSB. | Clear, transparent outline of HWDSB points of contact is accessible |
| Involve the community in ways which reflect the diversity of our community. | Annual Community Engagement Report Card |

REFERENCES:

Government Documents

Regulation 330/10: School Councils and Parent Involvement Committees

Regulation 464/97: Special Education Advisory Committees

Regulation 613/00: Operation of Schools

Education Act

HWDSB Policies

Naming of Schools

Visual Identity

Volunteer

Educational Excursions