



POLICY SECTION: SCHOOLS
SUB-SECTION:
POLICY NAME: MENTAL HEALTH AND WELL BEING
POLICY NO: S. 03

Date Approved: June 11, 2013	Date of Next Review: September 2022	Dates of Amendments: September 21, 2017
Cross References: S.17 Suspected Child Abuse Reporting Ministries of Children and Youth Services, and Education, Open Minds, Healthy Minds, 2011 Government of Ontario, Moving On Mental Health: A System that makes sense for children and youth, 2011.		
Appendix A- Mental Health Response Guidelines Appendix B- Suicide Intervention Guidelines Appendix C- Mental Health Crisis Response Guidelines		

Purpose:

This policy affirms the TCDSB’s commitment to build awareness about mental health concerns affecting students, and to guide the response to critical mental health issues impacting students. The care and support of our students is the collective responsibility of all members of our Catholic community.

Scope and Responsibility:

The policy extends to staff members, students and their families while in attendance at school or engaged at other TCDSB events. The Director of Education, with the assistance of Supervisory Officers and Principals, is responsible for this policy.

Alignment with MYSP:

- Living Our Catholic values
- Strengthening Public Confidence
- Fostering Student Achievement and Well-Being



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Policy:

Employees of the Toronto Catholic District School Board shall refer any students with identifiable mental health concerns to the school’s local mental health response staff as per the Mental Health Response Guidelines (Appendix A). In the event that the mental health concern involves suicidal ideation, employees shall implement the Suicide Intervention Guidelines. (Appendix B). In the event of a mental health crisis occurrence, employees of the Toronto Catholic District School Board shall implement the Mental Health Crisis Response Guidelines (Appendix C).

Regulations:

1. Mental Health Response Guidelines and Suicide Intervention Guidelines have been developed for the TCDSB. All staff members shall use these guidelines when dealing with students presenting mental health concerns.
2. Mental Health Crisis Response Guidelines have been developed for the TCDSB. All staff shall use these guidelines when dealing with a mental health crisis occurrence.
3. The TCDSB shall provide ongoing professional learning for all employees about the types of mental health concerns impacting students
4. To sustain awareness about mental health concerns, all employees will annually review the Mental Health Response Guidelines, Suicide Intervention Guidelines, and Mental Health Crisis Response Guidelines.
5. The dignity and privacy of the student experiencing mental health concerns will be respected in all circumstances.
6. The Director of Education is empowered to modify the guidelines as required, and will notify the Board of Trustees of any changes made to the guidelines.



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Definitions:

Mental Health Concern

Includes, but is not limited to, any concerns of a psychological or social –emotional nature as outlined in the Mental Health Response Guidelines and the Suicide Intervention Guidelines.

Mental Health Response Staff

Staff includes administrators, social workers, psychology staff, and/or guidance counselors, as outlined in the Mental Health Response Guidelines.

Mental Health Crisis Occurrence

Includes, but is not limited to, any occurrence that results in a negative mental health impact for the school or students. For example, the aftermath of a violent/traumatic incident at the school/in the community, serious illness of student/ staff, death of student or staff member (e.g. illness, accident, suicide).



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Evaluation and Metrics:

The effectiveness of the policy will be determined by measuring the following:

1. TCDSB staff will consult with other Catholic school boards in Ontario with respect to their implementation of mental health policies and procedures.
2. Special Services personnel will annually review the Mental Health Response Guidelines, the Suicide Intervention Guidelines, and the Mental health Crisis Response Guidelines and assess their effectiveness.