

Toronto District School Board

Policy P072

Title: **WORKPLACE VIOLENCE PREVENTION**

Adopted: June 23, 2010
Effectuated: June 23, 2010
Revised: [new date]
Reviewed: October 11, 2011; September 1, 2013; October 6, 2015; [new date]
Authorization: Board of Trustees

1.0 RATIONALE

The Workplace Violence Prevention Policy (the “Policy”) affirms the Toronto District School Board’s (TDSB) commitment to providing a safe, nurturing, positive learning and working environment, free of workplace violence, where every individual is treated with dignity and respect.

This Policy complies with the Board’s obligations under the *Occupational Health and Safety Act* (OHSA) and is consistent with the Board’s Mission and Values Policy (P002) and Respectful Learning and Working Environment Policy (P073).

2.0 OBJECTIVE

- To establish the framework for the Board’s compliance with the *Occupational Health and Safety Act* related to workplace violence prevention; and
- To demonstrate the Board’s commitment in providing a work environment that is safe and free of workplace violence.

3.0 DEFINITIONS

Board is the Toronto District School Board, which is also referred to as the “TDSB”.

Employer is the Toronto District School Board and defined under the *Occupational Health and Safety Act* as a person who employs one or more employees or contracts for the services of one or more employees and includes a contractor or subcontractor who performs work or supplies services and a contractor or subcontractor who undertakes with an owner, constructor, contractor or subcontractor to perform work or supply services;

Employee is any person included in the definition of “worker” under the Occupational Health and Safety Act including, but not limited to regular, temporary, probationary employees, co-op students and contract employees.

TDSB is the Toronto District School Board, which is also referred to as the “Board.”

Workplace under the *OHSA* is any land, premises, location or thing at, upon, in or near which an employee works. For the purpose of this policy it also includes any place where individuals perform work or work-related duties or functions. Schools and school-related activities, such as extra-curricular activities and excursions comprise the workplace, as do Board offices and facilities (including eating, lounge/changing areas and vehicles used for work purposes or on work property). Conferences, workshops, training sessions and staff functions (e.g., staff parties, retirement celebrations) also fall within the scope of this policy.

Workplace Violence under the *OHSA* is a) the exercise of physical force by a person against an employee, in a workplace that causes or could cause physical injury to the employee; b) an attempt to exercise physical force against an employee, in a workplace, that could cause physical injury to the employee; and c) a statement or behaviour that is reasonable for an employee to interpret as a threat to exercise physical force against an employee in a workplace that could cause physical injury to the employee.

4.0 RESPONSIBILITY

The Director of Education holds primary responsibility for overseeing this Policy. Within the Director’s Office, the responsibility for the day-to-day management and coordination of the Policy is assigned to the Executive Officer, Facility Services, Sustainability and Planning and subsequently the Manager, Occupational Health and Safety.

5.0 APPLICATION AND SCOPE

This Policy applies to all TDSB employees and Trustees.

The Policy also covers students, parents/guardians, volunteers, permit holders, contractors, customers of the Board and other members of organizations and includes all activities that occur in Board workplaces or while engaging in Board related functions or social events.

6.0 POLICY

- 6.1. The Board believes in the prevention of violence and is committed to promoting a violence-free workplace in which all people respect one another and work

together to achieve common goals.

- 6.2. The Board will take every precaution reasonable in the circumstances for the protection of an employee in accordance with its duties and responsibilities as outlined in the *Occupational Health and Safety Act* and corresponding regulations.
- 6.3. The Board will make every reasonable effort to ensure that all steps are taken to protect employees from workplace violence through the implementation of procedures and programs which includes requirements for incident reporting and investigation, reduction of violent incidents and risk assessment, prevention and control measures, communication and system training.
- 6.4. The Board will ensure that this Policy is posted in conspicuous workplace location(s) and that all employees receive information and instruction about violence in the workplace.
- 6.5. The Board will ensure that employees of the TDSB do not experience reprisal as a result of incident reporting, in accordance with the *Occupational Health and Safety Act*.

7.0 SPECIFIC DIRECTIVES

The Director of Education has authority to issue operational procedures to implement this Policy.

8.0 EVALUATION

This Policy will be reviewed annually, in accordance with the *Occupational Health and Safety Act*.

9.0 APPENDICES

N/A

10.0 REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

Legislation

- *Occupational Health and Safety Act*

Policies and Procedures

- Mission and Values Policy (P002)

- Respectful Learning and Working Environment Policy (P073)
- Health and Safety Procedures (Workplace Violence):
 - Domestic Violence Administration
 - Handling Cash
 - Home Visits by TDSB Staff
 - Risk Reduction for Staff
 - Community Outings/Field Trips
 - Work Refusal
 - Road Rage