

Toronto District School Board

Policy P.061 SCH

Title: **STUDENTS WITHOUT LEGAL IMMIGRATION STATUS**
Adopted: May 16, 2007
Revised:
Review:

1.0 OBJECTIVE

To establish the Board's commitment to providing a safe and welcoming environment for its students regardless of immigration status

2.0 RESPONSIBILITY

Executive Officer, Student and Community Equity

3.0 POLICY

- 3.1. All children who are qualified to be resident pupils of the Board, including those who are without immigration status in Canada, shall be entitled to admission to school.
- 3.2. All children shall be welcomed, regardless of immigration status, and information about them or their families shall not be shared with Immigration authorities.

4.0 SPECIFIC DIRECTIVES

- 4.1. The policy and section 49.1 of the *Education Act* regarding the obligation to admit students without full immigration status will be communicated annually to all school administrators and school office staff and school will implement admission procedures in accordance with these requirements.
- 4.2. All staff involved in admission of students will be provided with orientation and training regarding the policy and implementation plan in order to promote expertise and the appropriate degree of sensitivity required concerning the admission of students without immigration status in Canada who find themselves in vulnerable circumstances.
- 4.3. Where there is a need to verify a student's name, home address, or date of arrival in Canada, and where the usual documentation is not available, the Board will accept letters from lawyers, notary publics, and medical doctors confirming their personal knowledge of this information pertaining to the student.

- 4.4. Schools will continue to comply with current Ministry of Education requirements for verification of date of entry to Canada for all students whom ESL funding claims are made; staff will work with the Ministry of Education to establish a procedure for ESL grant eligibility for students without immigration verification documents, who would otherwise be counted for such grant claims.
- 4.5. The student registration form will be amended to specify that Date of Arrival information is required for ESL grant purposes only and that the absence of this information on this form will not prevent admission to school nor limit the student's access to ESL school resources. The section of the form on Status in Canada will be deleted.
- 4.6. Schools will be instructed not to provide information about a student or his/her family to Immigration authorities, but rather to refer such requests to the Director of Education. Furthermore, the Director shall inform Immigration enforcement agents of the TDSB policy that opposes access to students while in school.
- 4.7. Schools will continue to require verification of temporary status or possession of a study permit from visitors to Canada when they apply for admission to a school in order to determine whether school fees are applicable.
- 4.8. The appropriate instructions for staff and public information materials concerning admission procedures will be revised to reflect the above policy and implementation plan; such revisions will also be included in all training and orientation programs for staff and community agencies who have responsibilities in this area.
- 4.9. The Director is authorized to issue operational procedures to implement this policy.

5.0 REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

Operational Procedure PR.518: Admission Eligibility Requirements