



KAWARTHA PINE RIDGE DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

POLICY STATEMENT

Policy Name: Experiential Learning
Section: Educational Services

Policy Code: ES-3.4

Established: April 27, 2000

Revised or

Reviewed: October 27, 2005; April 29, 2010; June 21, 2018; June 20, 2023

1. POLICY STATEMENT

Creating and implementing experiential learning opportunities in partnership with the local community is important to the Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board (the Board) to ensure that students are provided with rich opportunities to understand how their classroom learning applies in a community setting. These intentional experiences are valuable and support all learners, while encouraging experiential life skills that foster student success, and build trust and collaborative relationships with students, staff, families and community.

2. OBJECTIVE

The purpose of this policy is to strengthen and expand experiential learning opportunities for students from Kindergarten through Grade 12. Through meeting student's individual learning needs and interests, connecting to the curriculum and to the local community, students experience authentic tasks that enable them to become reflective, self-directed lifelong learners.

3. DEFINITIONS

Board

The corporate Board which maintains the daily operation of the system; Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board; a reference specifically pertaining to Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board as a legal entity; also referred to as KPR or KPRDSB.

Board of Trustees

The elected governance branch of the Board.

Cooperative Education

A planned learning experience, for which secondary school credits are earned while students are completing a work placement in the community that integrates the knowledge and skills acquired in a related curriculum course.

Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP)

A specialized program in secondary school that allows students to explore a skilled trade while earning high school Cooperative Education credits towards their Ontario Secondary School Diploma. The program provides opportunities for students to learn and develop skills in apprenticeship trades while providing a head start on their journey person certification.

Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM)

A Ministry of Education approved program that allows students to gain credits toward their Ontario Secondary School Diploma and focus their learning on a specific economic sector, while gaining specialized skills, knowledge and certifications relevant to their chosen industry.

4. APPLICATION

This experiential learning policy applies to members of the Board community which includes all persons on Board premises, persons working on Board-related business (whether on or off Board premises), and persons involved with Board-sponsored programs at other premises, including students, staff, trustees, parents/guardians, volunteers, visitors, and community partners.

5. RESPONSIBILITY

The Board of Trustees is responsible for establishing and approving this policy document.

The Director of Education is responsible for designating resources for ensuring the implementation of and compliance with this policy document.

The Superintendent responsible for Teaching and Learning K-12 is responsible for the guidelines and directives within this policy and related administrative regulation.

Family of schools superintendents are responsible for ensuring that principals are aware of this policy and are consistent with the implementation of this policy document.

Principals are responsible for providing leadership, management and support for all members of their school communities in their knowledge, understanding and implementation of this policy document and are responsible for ensuring that each student is aware of and has access to experiential learning opportunities and associated programs.

Educators are responsible for ensuring that they are knowledgeable about this policy document and are providing opportunities for students to have access to experiential learning activities and associated programs.

6. POLICY

6.1 Experiential Learning

Experiential learning is a mode of learning delivered under Ministry of Education guidelines that occurs in person or virtually and provides developmentally appropriate opportunities that integrate the theoretical concepts of classroom activities with a community experience. Students of all ages can:

- participate in rich experiences connected to the world outside the school,
- reflect on the experiences to derive meaning, and
- apply the learning to their decisions and actions.

In Kindergarten to Grade 8, teachers help students make connections between their learning in school and opportunities outside school through field trips, simulations and authentic tasks. In secondary school, students can also attain experiential learning opportunities in a particular area of interest as a part of the curriculum of any course or in a cooperative education program, Specialist High Skills Major program, or Ontario Youth Apprenticeship program.

6.2 Experiential Learning Principles

The Board approves the inclusion of experiential learning based on the following principles:

- 6.2.1 to enhance the student's ability in curriculum-related areas by providing the opportunity to apply, and extend the knowledge and skills learned in the classroom;
- 6.2.2 to develop transferable and interpersonal skills and work habits related to the world of work and those required in the job search process;
- 6.2.3 to provide an opportunity for the student to experience potential career pathways while still in school;
- 6.2.4 to assist the student in analyzing and assessing personal interests, aptitudes, abilities, and values;
- 6.2.5 to facilitate student transition from school to their post-secondary destination, whether in apprenticeship training, college, community living, university, or the workplace;
- 6.2.6 to provide opportunities for students to see the relevance of their classroom learning and its connection to the broader world;

- 6.2.7 to provide the community with the opportunity to actively participate in the education of our students;
- 6.2.8 to develop an awareness of health and safety standards and practices;
- 6.2.9 to provide both elementary and secondary students with learning experiences appropriate to their ages and abilities; and
- 6.2.10 that student involvement in experiential learning opportunities is not a replacement for paid employment.

7. RELATED POLICIES, ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS OR PROCEDURAL DOCUMENTS

Board Policies:

- [B-3.2, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion](#)
- [B-8.1, Partnerships in Education](#)
- [ES-3.6, Program Safety](#)
- [HR-4.1, Occupational Health and Safety](#)

Administrative Regulations:

- [B-3.2.3, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion – School-Community Partnerships](#)
- [B-3.2.4, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion – Educational Program, Evaluation, Assessment and Placement](#)
- [ES-3.6.2, Program Safety – Out-of-Classroom Programs](#)

Procedural Documents (internal):

- [Concussion Safety Guidelines](#)

8. REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

Legislation:

- [Education Act](#)

Other Documents:

- [Creating Pathways to Success: An Education and Career/Life Planning Program for Ontario Schools – Policy and Program Requirements, Kindergarten to Grade 12, 2013](#)
- [Ministry of Education, Policy and Program Memoranda 76A – Workplace Safety and Insurance Coverage for Students in Work Education Programs](#)
- [Growing Success: Assessment, Evaluation, and Reporting in Ontario Schools, 2010](#)
- [Ontario Curriculum, Grades 11–12: Cooperative Education, 2018](#)
- [Ontario Schools, Kindergarten to Grade 12: Policy and Program Requirements, 2016](#)
- [Specialist High Skills Major Policy and Implementation Guide](#)