

EASTERN TOWNSHIPS SCHOOL BOARD	<i>Title:</i> SAFE SCHOOL POLICY	
<i>Source:</i> Director of Complementary Educational Services	<i>Adopted:</i> Resolution No. ETSB07-07-79 Effective July 3, 2007	<i>Reference Number:</i> PO35

1 – Preamble

The Eastern Townships School Board believes that students in its community are entitled to a safe, healthy and respectful environment free from any forms of psychological or physical harm, whether from an internal or external threat/source.

The *Safe School Policy* governs the students under the age of 18, as victims or aggressors of other students, in the Youth Sector, the Adult and Vocational Sector, while they are involved in activities under the jurisdiction of the Eastern Townships School Board, including bus travel and field trips. This policy also governs adults in situations of them being in contravention of this policy with respect to their interactions with students, with the exception of 4.3, which applies to adults in all circumstances.

This policy also applies to students with handicaps between the ages of 18 and 21. Adult students over the age of 18 are also governed by the present policy, with the appropriate adaptations (sections 3.1 and 3.3).

2 - Guiding Principles

- 2.1 All students have a right to a safe and caring learning environment.
- 2.2 This safe learning environment must be maintained and protected in response to various societal negative influences.
- 2.3 A positive school climate improves the conditions for learning and is beneficial to the peaceful coexistence among students and between staff and students.
- 2.4 Developing a safe and caring school involves a partnership among home, school and community.¹
- 2.5 An effective approach must be based on current empirical data and be guided by student-centered principles.

¹ International Observatory on School Violence, Canadian Chapter, 2005

3 - Legal Framework

The Safe School Policy conforms to the following legal framework. It governs the Youth, Adult and Vocational Sectors of the Eastern Townships School Board.

3.1 The Eastern Townships School Board hereby undertakes to honour the first paragraph of Section 39 of the *Youth Protection Act*, which reads as follows:

39. Every professional who, by the very nature of his profession, provides care or any other form of assistance to children and who, in the practice of his profession, has reasonable grounds to believe that the security or development of a child is or may be considered to be in danger within the meaning of section 38 or 38.1, must bring the situation to the attention of the director without delay. The same obligation is incumbent upon any employee of an institution, any teacher or any policeman who, in the performance of his duties, has reasonable grounds to believe that the security or development of a child is or may be considered to be in danger within the meaning of the said provisions.

3.2 The Eastern Townships School Board also undertakes to honour Section 1 of the *Quebec Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms*, which reads as follows:

1. Every human being has a right to life, and to personal security, inviolability and freedom.

3.3 In addition, the Eastern Townships School Board undertakes to honour Sections 76 and 242 of the *Education Act*, which read as follows:

76. The governing board is responsible for approving the rules of conduct and the safety measures proposed by the principal. The rules and measures may include disciplinary sanctions other than expulsion from school or corporal punishment; the rules and measures shall be transmitted to all students at the school and their parents.

242. A school board may, at the request of the principal and for just and sufficient cause, and after giving the student and his parents an opportunity to be heard, enrol him in another school or expel him from its school; in the latter case, it shall inform the director of youth protection.

3.4 The Eastern Townships School Board undertakes to honour the provisions set forth in the “Multi-sectoral Agreement” as well as in the “Police Presence in Schools – A Frame of Reference” (Annex 1).

4 - Intent

It is the intent of this policy to assure:

- 4.1 That each school/centre focus on maintaining a safe school environment through a program of ***ongoing proactive and preventative education***.

The whole school/centre community should be made aware of this educational program and of the daily social behavioural expectations and methods of conflict resolution.

- 4.2 That schools/centres have effective ***protocols for dealing with person(s) to person(s) physical and/or psychological violations*** of student safety, in conformity with the documents mentioned in Annex 1, where required.

Physical and/or psychological violation results from acts of physical aggression, social alienation and/or verbal aggression or intimidation.² For the purposes of this policy, the definition of physical and/or psychological violation should be considered within a developmental context that considers age and intellectual development.

- 4.3 That schools/centres have effective ***protocols for responding to school-wide or board-wide emergencies or threats*** (ie: threats of violence, fires, bomb threats, natural disasters, etc.)

This section of the policy applies to all employees (please refer to the *Policy for the Protection of the Dignity of Employees in the Workplace*) as well as to all students.

5 – Application

The Director of Complementary Educational Services is responsible for the application of this policy as well as the assessment of its effectiveness, and must authorize, in writing, any derogation to this policy.

² Bully Proofing Your Child: A Parents Guide, Garrity and Baris, Sopris West: Colorado; 2000