

SCHOOL-COMMUNITY RELATIONS	8000
STUDENT CONCUSSION MANAGEMENT POLICY	8074

1. Rationale

- 1.1 Lakehead District School Board is committed to promoting awareness of safety in schools and recognizes that the health and safety of students are essential preconditions for effective learning and participation in physical activity.
- 1.2 All partners in education, including the Ministry of Education, other Ontario ministries, school boards, administrators, educators, school staff, students, parents, school volunteers and community-based organizations, have important roles to play in promoting student health and safety, and in fostering and maintaining healthy and safe environments in which students can learn.
- 1.3 Concussions can have a serious effect on a young, developing brain. Proper prevention, recognition and response to concussion in the school environment can prevent further injury and can help with recovery. A concussion can have a significant impact on a student: cognitively, physically, emotionally and socially.

2. Policy

It is the policy of the Lakehead District School Board to ensure the provision of minimized risk in elementary and secondary schools and to provide a safe environment that takes steps to reduce the risk of injury and promotes the overall well-being of students.

3. Guiding Principles

- 3.1 Children and adolescents are among those at greater risk for concussions due to body trauma at any time. Although falls and motor vehicle accidents are the leading causes of concussion, there is a heightened risk due to concussion during physical activity which includes physical education classes, playground time, or sports activities.
- 3.2 To address this increased risk of concussions and to prevent and identify the signs and symptoms of concussion, the Board is committed to increasing awareness for all students, staff, parents, volunteers, and health care practitioners to support the proper prevention and management of concussions.
- 3.3 It is very important to students' long-term health and academic success that individuals in schools have information on appropriate strategies to minimize risk of concussion, steps to follow if they suspect that a student may have a concussion, and effective management procedures to guide students' return to learning and physical activity after a diagnosed concussion.

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3.4 In accordance with Policy Program Memorandum (PPM) 158 (School Board Policies on Concussion), Lakehead District School Board will develop and implement concussion management strategies. These strategies must include development of awareness, prevention, identification, training and management procedures for a diagnosed concussion.

4. Requirements

The Lakehead District School Board requires:

- 4.1 Receipt of confirmation of annual review of approved Concussion Awareness Resources by individuals participating in Board-sponsored interschool sports.
- 4.2 The establishment of Concussion Codes of Conduct for individuals participating in Board-sponsored interschool sports, and the receipt of confirmation of annual review of the relevant code of conduct by those individuals.
- 4.3 Annual concussion training for relevant school staff.
- 4.4 The establishment of a process for the removal of students with a suspected concussion from physical activity and, for those diagnosed with a concussion, a Return to School Plan, which includes their return to learning and to physical activity.
- 4.5 The establishment of a process to document and track a student's progress, from removal from an activity due to a suspected concussion, to the return, through graduated steps, to learning and to physical activity.

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5. Review

Concussion information and procedures for the components of prevention, identification and Return to School Plan are always evolving with new research and consensus guidelines. In order to keep users current with information and procedures, the Concussion Protocol will be reviewed and revised where necessary. An annual consult every September for the current Ontario Physical Activity Safety Standards in Education Concussion Protocol will occur.

This policy shall be reviewed in accordance with 2010 Policy Development and Review Policy.

<u>Cross Reference</u>	<u>Date Approved</u>	<u>Legal Reference</u>
	January 27, 2015	
	<u>Date Revised</u> February 25, 2020	Policy/Program Memorandum No. 158 Issue Date September 25, 2019 Rowan's Law (Concussion Safety), 2018