
SCHOOL-COMMUNITY RELATIONS

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COMMUNITY/EDUCATION PARTNERSHIPS POLICY

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1. Rationale

Lakehead District School Board (LDSB) believes that education is a shared responsibility within our community. Lakehead District School Board believes that community/education collaboration will help to maximize the effectiveness of education by:

- enhancing student learning;
- providing transitional school-to-work experiences for students;
- widening the scope of career choices for students;
- promoting the pursuit of excellence in the school, workplace and community;
- enabling the sharing of knowledge and resources;
- integrating issues relevant to the community and education;
- fostering a greater understanding of the goals, visions and directions of the various partners;
- encouraging responsible citizenship and teamwork; and/or
- helping to achieve common outcomes.

2. Policy

It is the policy of LDSB to encourage community involvement in education which positively impacts upon student learning and community life.

3. Guidelines

In the development of community/education partnerships, the learner's interests and partner organization's interests can be safeguarded by making informed decisions that benefit everyone involved. Guiding principles based on ethical standards, program standards, student protection standards, labour and employee standards, and suitability of partnership organization measures, will provide the framework for exploring and developing partnerships. Before entering into a community/education partnership, the partners must reflect on the suitability of the partnership arrangement. Senior administration, the principal or other program coordinators involved in developing a partnership, must reflect on issues of suitability. The guidelines will help determine appropriate partnerships and help to provide clear expectations.

Lakehead District School Board will enter into community partnerships that fulfill the following principles:

3.1 Ethical Guidelines

All Board and community partnerships will:

- enhance the quality and relevance of education for learners;
- mutually benefit all partners;
- treat fairly and equitably all those served by the partnerships;
- allocate resources to complement and not replace public funding for education;
- involve individual participants on a voluntary basis; and

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- provide equity of access for programs.

3.2 Program Standards

- All partnerships must be compatible with the mission, values and policies of the Board.
- School partnerships must align with the established goals and directions of individual schools.
- All partnerships must follow the Ministry of Education policies, procedures and guidelines.

3.3 Student Protection Standards

- All partnerships must abide by Health and Safety Regulations and, when applicable, provide students with health and safety training.
- All partnerships must abide by any government regulations, such as Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB) coverage for students in work education programs (Policy/Program Memorandum No. 76A).
- No student shall be exploited.
- All students participating in community/education partnerships shall be given equal encouragement and support without regard to ethnic origins, gender or religion.

4. Review

This policy will be reviewed according to 2010 Policy Development and Review Policy.

<u>Cross Reference</u>	<u>Date Approved</u>	<u>Legal Reference</u>
	September 30, 1997	
	<u>Date Revised</u>	
	April 22, 2014 February 22, 2022	