

SUPERIOR-GREENSTONE DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Section SCHOOLS AND STUDENTS

Policy Name CONCUSSION 541

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Rationale

In March of 2018, the Ontario government passed Rowan’s Law. Designed to protect amateur athletes and educate parents/guardians, coaches and officials about the dangers of head injuries, it is the first law of its kind in Canada and will benefit both athletes and non-athletes. Rowan’s Law is also about education. By increasing concussion awareness and knowledge, we can change Ontario’s culture around sports, physical activity and injury. Rowan’s Law will make it easier for those who experience concussions to speak up, get the help they need, and take the time necessary for recovery, with the support of everyone around them. Rowan’s Law Day is the last Wednesday in September.

Policy

It is the policy of the Superior Greenstone 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.

1.0 Guiding Principles

- 1.1 Research indicates that a concussion can have a significant impact on a student’s cognitive and physical abilities. Concussions can have a serious effect on a young, developing brain. Proper recognition and response to concussion in the school environment can prevent further injury and can help with recovery. Children and adolescents are among those at greater risk for concussions due to body trauma at any time. There is a heightened risk due to concussion during physical activity which includes physical education classes, playground time or sports activities.
- 1.2 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.
- 1.3 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.

- 1.4 In accordance with Policy Program Memorandum (PPM) 158 (School Board Policies on Concussion), Superior Greenstone 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.

2.0 Roles and Responsibilities

- 2.1 Senior administration will do an annual review of the concussion policy with administration.
- 2.2 Principals will work with their staff in implementing the school board's concussion protocols, i.e. - prevention, identification and on-going monitoring and management of a student with a concussion
- 2.3 Teaching staff, support staff, coaches will be provided with annual training about concussions.
- 2.4 School Volunteers will be provided with Concussion awareness information.
- 2.5 Community Users will be provided with Concussion awareness information.
- 2.6 Information will be provided for students and parents/guardians to gain awareness of concussions and collaborate with the school to manage suspected or diagnosed concussions
- 2.7 Schools will work with medical professionals to ensure they are aware of the concussion policy when they provide support to schools, students and parents/guardians if a concussion is suspected and/or diagnosed.

References

This policy operates in conjunction with:

- Superior Greenstone District School Board Concussions Procedural Guideline
- Policy/Program Memorandum 158, School Board Policy on Concussion, Ministry of Education, March 19, 2014
- Ontario Physical Education Safety Guidelines, managed by OPHEA (Ontario Physical and Health Education Association) <http://safety.ophea.net>
 - [Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care Concussion Portal](#)
 - <https://goo.gl/pHxESJ>
- Canadian Pediatric Society (CPS) position paper on concussion, 2014, www.cps.ca/en
- Ontario School Boards' Insurance Exchange (OSBIE) incident reporting procedures and insurance audit conditions
- <http://www.parachutecanada.org/downloads/resources/Concussion-Parents-Caregivers.pdf>
- <http://www.parachutecanada.org/downloads/resources/Concussion-Coaches.pdf>
- <http://www.parachutecanada.org/downloads/resources/Concussion-Athletes.pdf>