



Policy Manual – Student

S.M.13 – Student Pregnancy and Parenting Support

The mission of Catholic Education in Hamilton-Wentworth, in union with our Bishop, is to enable all learners to realize the fullness of humanity of which Our Lord Jesus Christ is the model

POLICY STATEMENT

The Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board (HWCDSD) is committed to supporting students and families who have self-identified or self-reported a student pregnancy.

To achieve this policy, the following apply:

All board staff will promote open communication and will respond with respect and compassion toward the expectant student and family,

- i) Assist the student's decision-making by providing information and support in keeping with the Catholic faith;
- ii) Support the dignity of the student and the rights of the child in the womb;
- iii) Promote and advocate a plan to give birth;
- iv) Encourage the student to involve family members and others as appropriate (Pastor, Chaplaincy Leader, Social Worker, Catholic Children's Aid Society, etc.) in the decision-making process;
- v) Encourage the student to continue their education and to maintain their career plans.
- vi) **Subject to the annual budget process, the Board will maintain distinct learning supports (e.g., St. Martins Manor, Regina's Place) for students who are pregnant.**

Purpose

The promotion of life is consistent with the Catholic teaching that all life is sacred from conception. Part 3, Section 2270, "Life in Christ" of the Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches us that "Human life must be respected and protected absolutely from the moment of conception. From the first moment of his existence, a human being must be recognized as having the rights of a person - among which is the inviolable right of every innocent being to life."

This policy applies to all staff members of the HWCDSD who become aware of a student pregnancy.

Responsibility: Senior Administration/School Principal

Regulations

- i)** Child and Family Services Act
- ii)** Health Care Consent Act
- iii)** Education Act
- iv)** Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act
- v)** Board By-Law 7.02

Related Board Committee: Religion, Family Life & Faith Formation

Policy Review Date

BM Original Policy Approved 02 November 1993

Revisions: 01 September 1998, 01 October 2002, 05 June 2007, 04 June 2012, 20 June 2017,
16 March 2021

To be reviewed every **five** years.