

POLICY 362 SANCTUARY SCHOOLS

The Board of Education is committed to providing a safe and welcoming environment for all students and families who reside within the District, including those with precarious immigration status or no immigration status.

To uphold the Board's commitment to providing educational opportunities for all students in the District, the Board of Education recognizes the importance of extending this to include students with precarious immigration status or no immigration status.

Guidelines

1. All school age children who are ordinarily resident in the District, including those with precarious immigration status or no immigration status in Canada, are entitled to admission to school.
2. The personal information of enrolled students or their families shall not be shared with federal immigration authorities unless required by law.
3. The Board of Education shall not permit Canada Border Services Agency (CSBA) officials or immigration authorities to enter schools or Board facilities unless required by law.
4. All District employees and volunteers shall be informed of this policy, and it will be communicated to requisite stakeholders.
5. The Superintendent will implement communication protocols and administrative procedures that will be reviewed annually with school district principals and clerical staff.
6. Orientation and training for school administration will be provided regarding the policy to promote expertise and sensitivity regarding the needs of students without immigration status in Canada.
7. All student registration forms, including electronic databases, which refer to immigration status in Canada, will be deemed strictly confidential.
8. All student registration forms, including electronic databases, will provide clearly stated options for any family which does not wish to share details of immigration status as a means of establishing that they are ordinarily resident in the District.
9. Where there is a need to verify a student's name, home address, or date of arrival in Canada, and where the usual supporting documentation is not available, the Board and schools will accept a combination of tenancy agreements, utility bills and/or letters from lawyers, medical doctors, religious and community leaders and others confirming their personal knowledge that the student is ordinarily resident in the District.

10. Schools will continue to comply with current Ministry of Education requirements in the case of students for whom ELL funding claims are made but will not disseminate students' personal information.
11. Communication will be developed to share this policy in immigrant communities.

References: Ministry of Education and Child Care K-12 Newcomer Refugee Policy
Date Adopted: October 15, 2024
Date Amended: