

ATTENTION:**TCDSB Placed Under Supervision by Minister of Education**

On Friday, June 27, 2025, the Minister of Education placed the Toronto Catholic District School Board (TCDSB) under supervision. While under supervision, all decisions that would normally be made by Trustees, with the exception of denominational matters, will now be made by the Ministry appointed Supervisor. The Supervisor will refer such denominational matters to the Board of Trustees for decision.

Revisions to Policy made to reflect the role of the Ministry appointed Supervisor will apply while the TCDSB is under Ministry Supervision. All other revisions remain in effect beyond Supervision.

**POLICY NAME:****PREVALENT MEDICAL CONDITIONS**

POLICY SECTION:

Schools, Students, and Learning

DATE APPROVED:

September 2018

DATE OF NEXT REVIEW:

2031

DATES OF AMENDMENTS:

February 2026

RESPONSIBLE
DEPARTMENT:

Special Services

Policy:

Policy/Program Memorandum (PPM) 161: Supporting Children and Students with Prevalent Medical Conditions, expects all school boards in Ontario to develop and maintain a policy to support students in schools who have asthma, diabetes, and/or epilepsy, and/or are at risk for anaphylaxis.

In accordance with PPM 161, the purpose of this policy is:

- To support students with prevalent medical conditions and other medical conditions to fully access school in a safe, accepting, and healthy learning environment that supports well-being.
- To empower students, as confident and capable learners, to reach their full potential for self-management of their medical condition(s), according to their Student Plan of Care.

The policy is in alignment with the Toronto Catholic District School Board's

(TCDSB) Multi-Year Strategic Plan (MYSP) and reflects Catholic values rooted in the love of Christ.

Scope and Responsibility:

This policy applies to students with prevalent medical conditions, their parent/guardian and school staff, including occasional staff, including staff who support and/or have direct contact with students with prevalent medical conditions.

Responsibilities per PPM 161:

- The TCDSB is responsible for communicating, on an annual basis, their policies on supporting students with prevalent medical conditions to parents, school board staff, and others in the school community who are in direct contact with students.
- The school principal is responsible for working with the family to ensure that all relevant medical information is collected and disseminated to the appropriate staff as per the Student Plan of Care.
- School staff are responsible for supporting students with prevalent medical conditions in schools as appropriate.
- Parents/guardians are responsible for supporting the management of their child's prevalent medical condition.
- Students are responsible for actively supporting the development and implementation of their Student Plan of Care as appropriate.

The Director of Education, with the support of the Superintendent of Special Services, is responsible for this policy.

Regulations:

This policy will be implemented in accordance with PPM 161 as reflected in the TCDSB's Protocols for Prevalent Medical Conditions which include:

1. A generic Student Plan of Care for students with medical conditions other than those outlined in PPM 161.
2. A communication plan for the dissemination of information on prevalent medical conditions to parents, students and school staff.
3. Annual-training on dealing with prevalent medical conditions for all school staff and others who are in direct contact with pupils on a regular basis.
4. A requirement that every school principal develops a Student Plan of Care for each student who has anaphylaxis, asthma, diabetes and/or epilepsy/seizure

disorders.

5. A requirement that every school principal maintains a file for each pupil with a prevalent medical condition, of current treatment and other information, including any/all appropriate medical forms and instructions from the pupil's physician or nurse as needed.
6. A requirement that every school principal review the current TCDSB Policy on Prevalent Medical Conditions with school staff upon appointment and on an annual basis, and that every effort shall be made to provide nut-free alternatives during fundraising campaigns in schools.
7. A requirement that every school principal keeps a record of annual training sessions and participants in a location within the school.

Cross References:

Legislation

- *Education Act* R.S.O 1990, c. E
- Human Rights Code, R.S.O. 1990, c. H19
- *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* R.S.O. 1990, c.M.56
- *Personal Health Information Protection Act* 2004, S.O. 2004, c.3, Sched A
- Ontario Regulation 298, Section 20(g) - Ryan's Law, 2015, (Ensuring Asthma Friendly Schools), S.O. 2015, c.3
- Sabrina's Law, 2005, S.O. 2005

Ministry of Education Policy/Program Memorandum

- Policy/Program Memorandum No. 81, July 19, 1984: Provision of Health Support Services in School Settings
- Policy/Program Memorandum No. 150, October 4, 2010: School Food and Beverage Policy
- Policy/Program Memorandum No. 149, September 25, 2009: Protocol for Partnerships with External Agencies for Provision of Services by Regulated Health Professionals, Regulated Social Services Professionals, and paraprofessionals
- Policy/Program Memorandum No. 161, - Supporting Children and Students with Prevalent Medical Conditions (Anaphylaxis, Asthma, Diabetes, And Epilepsy)

TCDSB Policy/Procedure

- Cafeteria Services and Food and Beverages Sold in Schools
- Smoke and Vapour Free Space
- TCDSB Safety Manual
- TCDSB Excursion Handbook

Other

- Canadian Pediatric Society Positioning Statement, 2015: Managing type 1 diabetes in school-Recommendations for policy and practice:
<http://www.cps.ca/en/documents/position/type-1-diabetes-in-school>
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<http://www.cps.ca/en/documents/position/type-1-diabetes-in-school>
- Guidelines for the Care of Students Living with Diabetes at School, 2014: Canadian Diabetes Association (PDF)
- <https://www.diabetesatschool.ca/> (Diabetes at School is a resource for families, schools and caregivers to help school-aged children with type 1 diabetes. 2016 by Canadian Pediatric Society, Canadian Pediatric Endocrine Group, Diabetes Canada)
- Ontario Human Rights Code, Part I, Freedom from Discrimination - Services: Every person has a right to equal treatment with respect to services, goods and facilities, without discrimination because of disability.
- Ontario Human Rights Code, Accommodating Students with Disabilities - Roles and Responsibilities (Fact sheet): Education providers have a duty to accommodate students with disabilities up to the point of undue hardship.
- <http://epilepsyontario.org/at-work-school/epilepsy-and-education/for-educators>

Appendix:

- Protocols for Prevalent Medical Conditions

Definitions:

School Staff are all school employees, including occasional staff.

“Self-management” of medical conditions can be understood to exist along a continuum where students’ cognitive, emotional, social, and physical capacity and stage of development are determinants of their ability to confidently and independently manage their medical condition(s). The students’ journey to reach their full potential along the self-management continuum is not linear and can

require varying levels of support over time. A student's capacity for self-management may be compromised during certain medical incidents, and additional support will be required. As a student's needs change, the Student Plan of Care would need to be adjusted accordingly.

Prevalent Medical Conditions refer to medical conditions that can result in a medical incident or a life-threatening medical emergency, which include, but are not limited to asthma, diabetes, epilepsy and/or anaphylaxis

Student Plan of Care is a form that contains individualized information on a student with a prevalent medical condition.

Evaluation and Metrics:

1. The policy will be reviewed every five years.
2. Collect data regularly, including but not limited to data on the number of students with prevalent medical conditions at TCDSB schools, the number of occurrences of medical incidents and medical emergencies, as well as the circumstances surrounding these events. The TCDSB shall use the data as part of its cyclical policy reviews.