

Peel Healthy Schools Partnership Declaration



Declaration Statement

Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board (DPCDSB), Peel District School Board (PDSB), and Peel Public Health (PPH) commit to partner in order to create and sustain healthy school environments and school communities that contribute to the well-being of children and youth in Peel.

Purpose

The purpose of this declaration is to demonstrate the commitment of public health and education in Peel to use the potential of collaboration and collective action to positively influence the lives of children and youth. The link between health and education is paramount. Healthy students are better learners, and education is a key determinant of health. Through collaboration between education and public health in Peel, we can achieve greater collective impact to create healthy school communities that foster student well-being and success.

Goals

The goals of Peel Healthy Schools Partnership are to:

- I. Develop and sustain a cross-sectoral (DPCDSB, PDSB and PPH) commitment to healthy school environments and school communities that contribute to student well-being in Peel (in alignment with the Council of Directors of Education [CODE]/ Council of Medical Officers of Health [COMOH] Committee's November, 2014 recommendation) that: all school boards and boards of health establish and maintain a written partnership agreement to support a mutually-beneficial working relationship between the local school board(s) and public health units.
- II. Establish and sustain strategic direction of partnership, which involves:
 - a. integration with applicable/relevant organizational mandates, strategic priorities and values, and board improvement plans
 - b. joint planning and reporting, and integration of partnership actions in respective multi-year organizational plans
 - c. commitment to organizational accountability and achievement of mutual goals and outcomes related to student well-being
 - d. strategic and efficient use of resources and staff time

Approach

Healthy schools will be achieved through strategic partnership and collaboration, communication, knowledge exchange, and development of supportive environments. This includes a commitment to excellence in health protection and health promotion. At all levels (board, family of schools, school), plans to address any issue will follow the best practice of using multi-pronged strategies consistent with the Foundations for a Healthy School Framework (EDU, 2014) including:

- curriculum, teaching and learning
- school and classroom leadership
- student engagement
- supportive social and physical environments achieved through plans, policies, programs and actions
- home, school and community partnerships

Signatories agree to collaboration, through the terms outlined below

DPCDSB and PDSB agree to:

1. Delegate three individuals with knowledge and relevant portfolio responsibilities, to represent organizational interests (and adhere to respective board processes as appropriate) on Peel Healthy Schools Partnership Advisory Group (ongoing).
2. Commit to annual joint strategic planning, implementation and delivery of action items and reporting to move the partnership agenda forward.
3. Foster support for health protection, and health promotion initiatives, at the systems, community and local school levels.
4. Include partnership actions in school board strategic plans (annually/ongoing) to support sustainability and accountability of partnership outcomes.
5. Support collaborative research and evaluation mechanisms (e.g., data collection, monitoring, knowledge exchange and sharing) to track progress towards intended goals and outcomes related to student well-being, as appropriate.

PPH agrees to:

1. Delegate three individuals with knowledge and relevant portfolio responsibilities, to represent organizational interests (and adhere to respective health unit processes as appropriate) on Peel Healthy Schools Partnership Advisory Group (ongoing).
2. Commit to annual joint strategic planning, implementation and delivery of action items and reporting to move the partnership agenda forward.
3. Support student well-being through commitment to excellence in health protection and health promotion in Peel schools, including application of End-to-End Public Health Practice (i.e., provision of evidence-based population health practice, health expertise, knowledge and information to support the development of healthy policies and practices).
4. Include partnership actions in organizational plans/ accountability agreements (annually/ongoing) to support sustainability and accountability of partnership outcomes.
5. Support collaborative research and evaluation mechanisms (e.g., data collection, monitoring, knowledge exchange and sharing) to track progress towards intended goals and outcomes related to student well-being, as appropriate.

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