



Ontario Catholic School
Trustees' Association

Box 2064, Suite 1804
20 Eglinton Avenue West
Toronto, Ontario M4R 1K8
T. 416.932.9460 F. 416.932.9459
ocsta@ocsta.on.ca www.ocsta.on.ca

Patrick Daly, *President*
Beverley Eckensweiler, *Vice President*
Nick Milanetti, *Executive Director*

October 24, 2017

MEMORANDUM

TO: Chairpersons and Directors of Education
- All Catholic District School Boards

FROM: Stephen Andrews, Director of Legislative and Political Affairs

SUBJECT: **Draft PPM Supporting Children and Students with Prevalent Medical Conditions in Schools**

On October 24, 2017 your board received the attached draft PPM on Supporting Children and Students with Prevalent Medical Conditions (anaphylaxis, asthma, diabetes, and epilepsy) along with supporting documents including “Plan of Care” templates.

As you may know, the Ministry of Education has been consulting stakeholders on this draft PPM for the past several months. OCSTA has participated in these consultations and provided feedback on earlier drafts of the PPM which has been incorporated in the following areas:

- Clarified the role of parents and their responsibilities in supporting the management of their child’s medical conditions;
- Provided details on the revised Plan of Care to support school boards;
- Recognizes that boards need a degree of flexibility in managing student’s roles and responsibilities in their plan of care.

The draft PPM will be finalized by early 2018 and full implementation will start by September 2018.

School Board Responsibilities for Policy Development on Prevalent Medical Conditions

In developing, revising and implementing policies to support students with prevalent medical conditions, the PPM indicates that boards must respect all applicable legislation, policies, collective agreements while taking into account local needs. These will include cultural factors, demographics and the supports and resources within the school board’s community.

The PPM also indicates that boards should consult with parents, students, board staff, labour groups, community health teams, school councils, Joint Health and Safety Committees, Special

Education Advisory Committees, Parent Involvement Committees and volunteers working in schools when developing and/or revising their prevalent medical conditions policies.

The draft PPM goes on to outline the key areas all school board policies must incorporate. These include

- Policy/goal statement
- Roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders, including parents, students, staff, school board
- The Plan of Care for each student with a prevalent medical condition
- Supports for students in managing daily or routine medical management
- Emergency response
- Raising awareness of board policies and provide information on prevalent medical conditions
- Safety considerations
- Privacy and confidentiality
- Reporting and data collection on numbers of student with prevalent medical conditions
- Liability issues.

School boards are expected to communicate on an annual basis their policies on supporting students with prevalent medical conditions to school board staff and others in the school community who are in direct contact with students. These policies and Plans of Care templates must be available on board websites. (Further details about school boards' responsibilities in policy development are outlined on page 6 of the draft PPM).

Boards will have support materials and other evidence based resources to develop their prevalent medical condition policies posted on a "Prevalent Medical Conditions" website.

Next Steps

OCSTA will continue to liaise with the Ministry of Education on this important matter and share any concerns our Catholic boards may have with the draft PPM.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Stephen Andrews at sandrews@ocsta.on.ca.

Attachments