



Policy Manual – Schools

S.05 School Attendance Boundary Changes

Policy Statement

The Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board is responsible for the establishment, maintenance and modification/alteration of school boundaries for attendance purposes. School attendance boundaries play a significant role for the Board to operate and maintain schools as effectively and efficiently as possible in support of student achievement.

To achieve this policy, the following apply:

1. A resident Roman Catholic pupil is required to attend the school within the attendance area of residence or the school to which assigned unless the student has received an exception to the school attendance boundary consistent with the HWCDSB policies S.03 Elementary School students out of boundary requests or S.04 Secondary school students out-of-boundary requests.
2. Elementary school boundaries shall be established by the Board, and all modifications or alterations pertaining to boundaries shall require the approval of the Board.
3. The establishment and maintenance of school boundaries shall take into consideration the operational needs of the school system, demographic data, and the impact upon the educational program of the school system. Recommendations for the establishment or alterations of boundaries shall include an analysis and justification based on these factors.
4. Primary considerations governing the determination of school boundaries shall include:
 - a. The efficient and educationally effective use of the capacities of each school;
 - b. The geographic location of each school and its relationship to the surrounding student population;
 - c. Safe walking conditions; and,
 - d. The preservation of Parish and neighbourhood identities within a school.
5. Changes to previously established school boundaries would require one or more of the following conditions:
 - a. The opening of a new school may require a shift of boundaries in order to make more efficient use of facilities at existing schools;
 - b. Development of new residential areas;
 - c. Overcrowding at an existing school when space is available at other schools; and,
 - d. Declining enrolment at an existing school.
6. Where admission has been granted for an out-of-boundary student transportation for such a student shall be the responsibility of the parent(s)/guardian(s).

Policy Support(s)

S.05 School Attendance Boundary Changes – PROCEDURES

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is intended to provide clarity with respect to how elementary school boundaries are established, maintained and/or modified. In addition, (it helps to support the board to make the most effective use of resources during the annual staffing process) and when creating and/or updating long term capital plans including but not limited to: major additions, temporary accommodations, consolidation/school closure and/or new school builds.

Responsibility

School Principals, Superintendents of Education and Manager of Planning & Accommodation
Associate Director of Corporate Services and Treasurer

Regulations

Education Act S.32 (1)

Related Policies

S.03 Elementary School Students Out-of-Boundary Requests
S.04 Secondary School Students Out-of-Boundary Requests
S.09 Pupil Accommodation Review Procedures

Related Board Committee:

Committee of the Whole

Policy Review Date

BM Original Policy Approved 3 June 1997

Revisions: 7 November 2000, 24 June 2003, 24 June 2008, 05 March 2013, 19 November 2019,
7 November 2023

To be reviewed every five years