



Policy Manual – Schools

S.23 – Single Use Water Bottles

The mission of Catholic Education in Hamilton-Wentworth, in union with our Bishop, is to enable all learners to realize the fullness of humanity of which Our Lord Jesus Christ is the model.

Policy Statement

The Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board (HWCDSB) is committed to eliminating the sale and reducing the use of single-use plastic water bottles within its schools and administrative sites.

To achieve this policy, the following apply:

Board

- i) The Board will promote that at all meetings, professional development sessions, special events, and other such gatherings that the consumption of water will be from municipal water sources;
- ii) Contracted services (e.g., cafeteria service providers, vending machines etc.) will eliminate the sale of single-use plastic water bottles. Existing contracts will be honoured until such time as a new contract is negotiated. All contracts shall be compliant with this policy no later than the initial review date of this policy; and,
- iii) The Board will provide ongoing communication and education to staff, students and families regarding this policy and the importance of reducing the use of single-use plastic water bottles in order to foster a bottled water free environment that promotes the de-commodification of water and the careful stewardship of creation.

Schools/Administrative Sites

- i) In addition to the items listed above, schools and administrative sites will actively promote the use of refillable water bottles through:
 - a) information campaigns;
 - b) partnerships with the Catholic School Council and/or other community agencies to provide refillable water bottles for staff and students;
 - c) other methods to encourage the use of refillable water bottles.
- ii) All beverages provided in elementary and secondary schools will comply with the HWCDSB Food and Beverage Policy (S.M.06) and the Ontario Ministry of Education PPM 150 School Food and Beverage Policy (2010);
- iii) Schools shall take steps to encourage all individuals to adhere to the practices outlined in this policy however, this policy does not preclude the right of individual staff, students, and/or visitors to use single-use plastic water bottles on the schools and administrative sites of the Board. Ensuring the rights and the dignity of all individuals shall be of paramount importance when implementing this policy.

Exceptions to this Policy

- i) Field trips/events and/or places where local sources of water may be unavailable or unreliable;
- ii) Extenuating circumstances where the safety of a student or staff member is at risk; and,
- iii) The school principal may designate up to 5 days during the school year as special-event days where activities would be exempt from this policy. The school principal shall consult with the Catholic School Council prior to designating a day as a special-event day.

Purpose

The reduction in the sale and use of single-use plastic water bottles is a goal that is consistent with the teachings of the Social Doctrine of the Roman Catholic Church. The Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church (2004) identifies that: *by its very nature water cannot be treated as just another commodity among many, and it must be used rationally and in solidarity with others. The right to water, as all human rights, finds its basis in human dignity and not in any kind of quantitative assessment that considers water as merely as economic good (§. 485).* In addition to supporting the de-commodification of water, the Board embraces its responsibility for the careful stewardship of creation. Reduction of single-use water bottles in the Board is also consistent with the stated stewardship goals of the HWCDSB.

This policy applies to all staff and students of the HWCDSB and to vendors providing food and beverage services within the HWCDSB.

Responsibility

Director of Education

Regulations

Ontario Ministry of Education PPM 150 School Food and Beverage Policy (2010)

Related Policies

HWCDSB Food and Beverage Policy (S.M.06)

Related Board Committee

Committee of the Whole

Policy Review Date:

BM Original Policy Approved: 22 November 2016

Revisions: 06 October 2020

To be reviewed every five years