



Trustee News

CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF EASTERN ONTARIO

Volume: IX
Number: 6
March 2015

Brent Laton, Chair (Grenville County and Elizabethtown-Kitley Township)

Todd Lalonde, Vice-Chair (Cornwall-Glengarry)

Ronald Eamer (Cornwall-Glengarry)

Nancy Kirby (Lanark)

Karen McAllister (Stormont-Dundas)

Robin Reil (City of Brockville, Town of Smiths Falls, and Leeds County)

Sue Wilson (Prescott-Russell)

Brianna Workman (Catholic Student Trustee)

CDSBEO Graduation Rates

Each year, the Ministry of Education provides the Board with annual cohort based graduation rates. The data is collected through the Ontario School Information System (OnSIS), and helps to identify areas for success as well as areas where students may need support. The Ministry calculates a cohort graduation rate based on the information they receive from OnSIS for students graduating in four and five years.

The Ministry calculation is based on both a four-year and five-year formula which includes students who have moved from the CDSBEO to another system, and did not graduate, as well as students who have left the province and are beyond the Board's ability to track. Board members consider the total number of students currently enrolled in grade 12 for that specific cohort.

A significant piece of the data includes accumulation rates. In the analysis of Board credit accumulation for the 2009-10 cohort, results are as follows:

- Under the Ministry of Education formula, the CDSBEO 4 year graduation rate is 85.3 per cent (up 2.3 per cent from the previous cohort), and the 5 year graduation rate is 88.4 per cent.
- Of students who stayed within the CDSBEO for the duration of their secondary education (985 students), 90.8 per cent graduated within 4 years, and 93.4 per cent within 5 years.

The data demonstrates that CDSBEO students are successful in graduating with their Ontario Secondary School Diploma in a four year period. The programs offered to Board students, including our 23 Specialist High Skills Major Programs, Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program, Personal Support Worker Program, and online learning programs, all contribute to a meaningful graduation outcome for learners.

Concussions in Schools

The CDSBEO has partnered with local health units within the Board's jurisdiction to develop strategies to prevent and identify concussions, manage procedures for diagnosed concussions, and train Board and school staff. Prevention is key in the school environment, and educators should work toward identifying and minimizing concussion risk. The new protocol will equip school staff with the necessary tools to be able to identify possible concussions, respond effectively to the injury, and manage the student's return to the learning environment and gradual return to physical activity post diagnosis.

New Suicide Prevention, Intervention and Risk Protocol

A new Community Suicide Prevention, Intervention and Risk Review (SPIRR) Protocol, has been developed by a joint committee of community partners, led by the CDSBEO. The protocol is a collaborative response for children and youth in crisis, and will assist school boards and community partners to take active, consistent and collaborative steps to link students who pose a risk of suicide to community partners, and to ensure the safety and well-being of all of all CDSBEO children and youth. The new SPIRR Protocol will assist in providing a coordinated response to identify, intervene, and support children and youth at risk of suicide.

Developed in collaboration with community partners, the protocol helps to ensure a community effort and response when a student is in crisis. Three stages of activation and a continuum of supports and interventions are identified in the document, along with an overview of risk alerts and identifiers which may be characteristic of those presenting with suicidal behaviours and ideation. In addition, the protocol outlines the components of prevention, including education and training, intervention guidelines, and postvention plans.

Specialized training programs, such as SafeTALK provided to all secondary teachers and staff, and Applied Suicide Interventions Skills Training (ASIST), which has been provided to 143 Board and school staff, including SSWs, chaplains, mental health lead teachers, and administrators. Giving staff the tools to work with students, and make them feel comfortable asking students the right questions is a significant piece in the response. In addition, this training allows staff to be able to accurately identify and respond to the risk, as well as help with a student's return to school.

The most recent additions to the protocol surround changes to include the urgent care component, to ensure that the Board is able to facilitate urgent care access for youth in crisis. Through partnerships with CHEO (Ottawa) and Hotel Dieu Hospital (Kingston), students in crisis have access to programs through direct referrals which can be made by the Board, and information can be shared between the school/board and urgent care providers. This piece of the protocol also allows for wraparound support for the student when returning from an urgent care situation. The suicide protocol signing ceremony will take place on March 31, 2015, and will be hosted at the Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario's Kemptville Board Office.