

## **CO-CURRICULAR POLICY**

### **Policy Statement:**

The Eastern School Board is committed to creating high quality educational and co-curricular experiences which prepare our learners to meet the challenges of a diverse global society.

### **Rationale:**

The Eastern School Board recognizes that co-curricular activities are an integral and valuable part of a student's experience at school. Schools can most effectively support student learning by enhancing the regular school program with opportunities for student participation in a variety of age appropriate co-curricular activities. Students may develop a variety of skills through participation in co-curricular activities, including activity specific skills, team collaboration and sharing, positive social values and behaviors which they can transfer to their lives now and in the future. Such activities, wisely selected, properly organized and supervised, may contribute to students' attainment of the curricular outcomes.

### **Scope:**

This policy is applicable to all students and schools within the jurisdiction of the Eastern School Board.

### **Procedures:**

1. The Eastern School District will establish Administrative Regulations that govern the application of this policy.
2. The Administrative Regulations will be reviewed by the CEO/Director of Education in collaboration with the District Administrative Staff.
3. Eastern School Board believes that it is most desirable that all supervision be performed by trained teachers. Teachers generally have training and experience dealing with groups of students and are best equipped to discharge the School Board's obligation to provide supervision.
4. The Eastern School Board recognizes some schools may not be able to secure teacher sponsors for all the student activities that occur in their school, and this necessitates the need for volunteer supervisors who are not under the supervision of a teacher. In balancing the value of these student activities with any associated risks, the board believes the value of the activity outweighs the potential risk if appropriate measures are taken.

5. Non-teacher volunteer (in the absence of supervision of a teacher sponsor), supervising school groups are treated as High Risk Volunteers and must meet the criteria outlined in the administrative guidelines including:
  - Experience working with youth for at least three years.
  - Possessing a current Certificate of Conduct (including a Vulnerable Sector Check) completed by the RNC/RCMP.
  - Having reached the age of 21.
6. When non-teaching volunteers are used without a teacher sponsor, parents of team members must sign a consent form acknowledging that the group will be supervised by a volunteer.
7. All groups which require an overnight stay either in Eastern School District or outside Eastern School District must have a teacher sponsor present.
8. Any non-teaching supervisor who does not meet all the criteria listed in the Administrative Regulations, must have a teacher sponsor present during all school sponsored activities.
9. The Eastern School Board considers the involvement of students in co-curricular activities as a privilege and those who avail of this opportunity must be prepared to accept certain responsibilities.
10. Schools have the discretion to charge a fee to offset the cost associated with a co-curricular activity/ program.
11. While respecting school's rights to charge a fee, student involvement in co-curricular groups/teams cannot be restricted by academic ability or inability to pay.
12. All schools will develop a policy regarding eligibility for student participation in co-curricular activities. To that end, if there is a selection process whereby some students are not selected, it shall be limited to grades 7 -12. For programs involving students in grades K-6, all interested students are to be accepted.
13. K-6 students participating in school instructional skating or general skating must wear a CSA certified helmet approved for skating.
14. School ski trips shall be in compliance with District regulations for supervision suitable to the activity.