

Policy: School Shut-Down (Professional Development)

Policy Statement

Eastern School Board affirms its commitment to on-going professional development for teachers and support staff to enable them to acquire the capacity to facilitate quality learning experiences for each student. To provide a strong and direct focus for professional growth and development initiatives, the Board will allocate time annually to facilitate school closures for staff development.

Rationale

There is considerable research evidence that professional growth and development at the school and community levels is valuable and has the potential to be effective in the continuous development of the teaching-learning process in each school. Eastern School Board is committed to supporting the development of professional learning communities to ensure a strong emphasis on teaching and learning, and through this policy will provide opportunities to support this.

Procedures

1. The District will establish Administrative Regulations that govern the application of this policy.
2. These Administrative Regulations will be reviewed annually by the CEO/Director of Education in collaboration with the Administrative Council and the Regional Administrative Councils.
3. This policy will govern all such times when classes are closed for students, including full-day shut-down, half-day shut-downs, and early closures. In planning to use this time, school administrators are required to ensure that Administrative Regulations are followed.
4. Requests for school based shut-down time for professional development purposes will be assessed against criteria established by the District. All requests must clearly demonstrate a connection to the School Development Plan and the District Strategic Education Plan.
5. Eastern School District is committed to the *Family of Schools* model of organization, and encourages family collaboration and cooperation to increase the professional

development opportunities for teachers.

- 5.1.1 For the purpose of this policy, a Family of Schools is defined as a group of schools who have been joined together to:
 - a) promote greater collaboration and cooperation amongst administrators and teachers,
 - b) encourage discussion of common professional issues and concerns;
 - c) facilitate problem solving.
 - d) Enhance professional development opportunities for teachers.
6. Requests for shutdown time for professional development will be considered for individual schools, groups of schools, and whole Family shutdowns.
7. All requests under this policy must be made following the requirements established by the District, and as outlined in Administrative Regulations.