

CONNECT CHARTER SCHOOL SOCIETY

Policy Title: **Student Support Services**

Policy No. **6.03**

RATIONALE: Connect Charter School Board recognizes the need to provide support services to students and families in order to optimize social, emotional, and academic development within the school community.

POLICY: The Board of Connect Charter School will retain the services of qualified student services staff to support the social, emotional and academic development of students as an integral component of school programs. Counselling services will be proactive and may be developmental or crisis-oriented in nature and will support the role of the inclusive practices coordinator.

DEFINITIONS:

Student Support Services – personnel and other supports intended to supplement teachers' ability to address social, emotional or academic issues for students and their families. In school student support services personnel includes the School Counselor, Inclusive Practices Coordinator, Educational Assistants and school administration.

PRINCIPLES:

1. Student support services are viewed as a fundamental component of a healthy school community.
2. Parents or guardians are recognized as the primary caregivers and as such will normally be involved in the counseling process.
3. The first level of counselling intervention will often begin with the classroom teacher and may involve any or all student support services personnel and other external service providers as deemed necessary.
4. Student support services will utilize a proactive approach to addressing student issues. An important aspect of the proactive approach is the successful implementation of the student health curriculum.

First Reading	<u>November 27, 2004</u>
Adopted	<u>December 7, 2004</u>
Amended	<u>March 18, 2014</u>
Amended	<u>June 18, 2019</u>

PROCEDURES

1. The School Counselor will possess appropriate experience and qualifications in counselling strategies and interventions as required by the Board.
2. The role of the School Counselor is as follows:
 - a. Provide social/emotional support to students as well as consultation and guidance to staff and parents/guardians;
 - b. Recommend assessment referrals to appropriate professional caregivers and agencies as deemed necessary to address concerns regarding a student;
 - c. Provide support and consultation to staff and parents/guardians in addressing the needs of students;
 - d. Ensure that informed consent is obtained from parents/guardians for assessment and/or intervention outside of the classroom or school setting.
3. Individual guidance and counselling may be initiated at the request of a student, parent/guardian, teacher, or administrator.
4. Upon identification of a social, emotional or academic issue involving a student, the School Resource Group (teachers, student support services personnel, administration, and parents) may be convened as required to review the concerns and develop an action plan.
5. The School Counselor and school administration will facilitate in-service support and training for staff on counselling issues and responsibilities under the Child Welfare Act and other legislation or policies relating to the well being of children in their care.
6. The School Counselor will be available to support teachers with the delivery of the Health curriculum.
7. The Inclusive Practices Coach will work with teachers to further develop their capacity for differentiated instruction and student support.
8. Educational Assistants will work under the direction of classroom teachers and the Inclusive Practices Coach in order to support particular students who are identified as requiring more individual support and assistance.
9. School personnel will provide high school enrollment information to students and their parents/guardians and be available for consultation.