



<u>DUFFERIN-PEEL CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD</u> <u>POLICY</u>	
POLICY NUMBER:	P-0013
SUBJECT:	Research Studies Conducted In DPCDSB
REFERENCE	<u>GAP0005</u> Research Studies Conducted in DPCDSB
EFFECTIVE DATE:	February 19, 2019
AMENDED DATE:	April 29, 2025

"It is the Lord who gives wisdom; from him come knowledge and understanding."

Proverbs 2:6

1. Research within the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board (DPCDSB) plays an important role in providing an evidence-based approach to the development of DPCDSB policies and procedure, operational goals, and plans for improvement at the school and system level. To promote a culture of reflective inquiry that is aligned with the DPCDSB's vision, mission, and strategic commitments, the system supports internal and external research involving staff, students, and the broader community.
2. Research conducted in publicly funded school systems in Ontario is governed by the *Education Act*, as well as other pertinent legislation. Accordingly, research conducted in DPCDSB is governed by policies and practices to ensure the protection of research participants, researchers, the system, and the public. All research involving DPCDSB staff and students should be carried out in a manner consistent with the following fundamental principles:
 - a) Consistent with Catholic Social Teaching, respect for human dignity and persons, who, having been sufficiently informed, should have the right to choose voluntarily what shall happen to them;
 - b) Individuals should be selected and treated in a fair and appropriate manner;
 - c) The risks should be reasonable in the light of the expected benefits and every reasonable effort be made to minimize the potential risks of research;
 - d) The maintaining of confidentiality with respect to information supplied by research subjects when requested and appropriate use of that information in a manner that is consistent with the supplier of the information;
 - e) The investigators should be competent to conduct the research and to protect the welfare of research subjects, students, and staff of DPCDSB.
3. Research in DPCDSB may be of internal or external in nature. Prior to implementation, the Research Committee must approve all external research projects.
4. **Internal Research:** This type of research consists of research projects affiliated with DPCDSB's educational programming and operational goals. These goals include, but are not limited to: the *Multi-Year Strategic Plan*, reports to Trustees, Ministry mandates and impact studies. Internal research does not require approval from the Research Committee.

5. **External Research:** This type of research consists of research that is unaffiliated with DPCDSB. External research projects include but are not limited to: DPCDSB staff pursuing personal goals and credentials (e.g., a graduate degree/project), external agencies (e.g., Region of Peel, Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, publishers, research firms and/or consultants), and university or college students completing research projects.
6. The **DPCDSB Research Committee** must review and approve all external research projects involving staff, students, and the broader community of DPCDSB, prior to implementation. This policy applies to all external research projects undertaken in or under the auspices of the system.
7. The research review process for external research projects must be fair in standards and procedures, as well as impartial towards particular proposals and independent of institutional agendas or pressures. This review includes: (1) review to ensure that research adheres to the moral teachings of the Catholic Church; and (2) review of the ethical and operational implications of the methods and design of the research.
8. The Superintendent responsible for research provides overall leadership for the Research Committee, oversees decisions of the Research Committee for consistency and fairness, and ensures that the decisions are recorded accurately and communicated clearly to researchers in writing. The decisions made by the Research Committee are final and not subject to appeal.