



<b><u>DUFFERIN-PEEL CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD</u></b> <b><u>POLICY</u></b>	
<b>POLICY NUMBER:</b>	P-2014
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	Victim's Rights
<b>REFERENCE:</b>	<a href="#">GAP2016</a> Victim's Rights
<b>EFFECTIVE DATE:</b>	February 23, 2022
<b>AMENDED DATE:</b>	January 28, 2025

*"You who live in the shelter of the Most High, who abide in the shadow of the Almighty, will say to the Lord, "My refuge and my fortress; my God, in whom I trust." For he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the deadly pestilence;"*

*Psalms 91:1-3*

1. The Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board (DPCDSB) believes in the dignity of all people and affirms the need for students and staff to feel safe and be safe at school.
2. DPCDSB is committed to the implementation in every school of DPCDSB's *P-0002 Catholic Code of Conduct*, which clearly reflects the need to provide and sustain a safe, caring, inclusive, and healthy Catholic school community in which every student can succeed.
3. The *General Administrative Procedure (GAP)* [GAP2016](#) *Victim's Rights* addresses administration of this DPCDSB policy, *P-2014 Victim's Rights*.
4. In those circumstances where a victim has been threatened or harmed as a result of a serious incident, and the school principal believes the victim's safety (physical, emotional, and/or psychological) may be compromised by the continued presence of the individual(s) who threatened or caused the harm, then the principal will have the rights, duties, and obligations outlined in [GAP2016](#) *Victim's Rights*.
5. In accordance with [GAP2016](#) *Victim's Rights*, the obligations of the principal in the direct aftermath of an incident include, but are not limited to, immediately separating the intended/actual victim from the individual(s) who threatened/caused the harm, and ensuring care, support, and/or medical assistance (as required) are provided to the victim.
6. Upon the conclusion of a principal's investigation into the situation, the principal shall determine whether the initial separation of the intended or actual victim and the individual(s) who threatened or caused harm should continue permanently. Where the principal, in consultation with their family of schools superintendent, believes that the separation should continue, the principal shall have the right to assign a Fresh Start to the individual(s) who threatened or caused harm, in accordance with DPCDSB [P-2015](#) *Fresh Start* and [GAP2017](#) *Fresh Start*. A Fresh Start is a non-disciplinary administrative transfer to a new school to preserve student and staff safety. A Fresh Start shall not be imposed as a form of discipline and is appealable to DPCDSB's internal Fresh Start Appeals Panel.

## 7. References

7.1. Section 169.1 of the *Education Act* requires a school board to “develop and maintain policies and organizational structures” that promote, among other things, student achievement and well-being.

7.2. Ministry of Education’s Program/Policy Memorandum 145 (PPM 145) states:

“School boards must provide supports for all students who are affected by serious student incidents and all inappropriate behaviour, and for those who engage in these types of incidents, to assist them in developing healthy relationships, making choices that support continuing their learning, and achieving success...In responding to any incident, board employees who work directly with students must act in a timely, sensitive, and supportive manner...Boards must outline in their progressive discipline policy the procedures that are in place to support students who have been harmed or students who have engaged in serious student incidents. These policies and procedures must outline what schools are required to do to support these students, including the development of specific plans to protect students who have been harmed and must outline a process for parents to follow if they are not satisfied with the supports that their children receive.”

7.3. In accordance with the PPM 145, DPCDSB is required to incorporate supports for students involved in serious incidents, including victims, into its policies and procedure related to progressive discipline.

7.4. This policy applies to both disciplinary and non-disciplinary situations where there is a victim of a serious incident. A non-disciplinary situation may include, for example, the period after a student responsible for the harm has completed their discipline, but, notwithstanding such completion, the victim’s safety (physical, emotional, or psychological) may be compromised by the continued presence of the student responsible for the harm. In such circumstances, the principal may activate the procedures related to [P-2015 Fresh Start](#) and [GAP2017 Fresh Start](#).