MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

Policy/Program Memorandum No. 120

Date of Issue: May 16, 2011

Effective: Until revoked or modified

Subject: REPORTING VIOLENT INCIDENTS TO THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

Application: Directors of Education
Supervisory Officers and Secretary-Treasurers of School Authorities
Principals of Elementary Schools
Principals of Secondary Schools
Principals of Provincial and Demonstration Schools

References: This memorandum replaces Policy/Program Memorandum No. 120, June 1, 1994, and revokes the document Violence-Free Schools Policy, 1994.

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide direction to school boards1 on the development of procedures for reporting violent incidents to the Ministry of Education. Boards are required to have these procedures in place by September 1, 2011.

Research shows that violence in schools can affect the social, psychological, and physical well-being of students, as well as the learning process. Students who experience violence in school are more likely to report feelings of social isolation, depression, and frustration, and to demonstrate decreased engagement in school.2 Research also shows that it is important to monitor the occurrence of violent incidents in order to obtain accurate data on which to base policies and planning.3

REQUIREMENTS FOR BOARDS

Reporting of Violent Incidents
Boards are required to report the total number of violent incidents on an annual basis to the Ministry of Education through the Ontario School Information System (OnSIS). All violent incidents that occur on school premises during school-run programs must be reported to the ministry, whether the violent incident was committed by a student of the school or whether it was committed by any other person.

1. In this memorandum, school board(s) and board(s) refer to district school boards and school authorities.
For the purposes of this memorandum, the term *violent incident* is defined as the occurrence of any one of the following or the occurrence of a combination of any of the following:4

- possessing a weapon, including possessing a firearm
- physical assault causing bodily harm requiring medical attention
- sexual assault
- robbery
- using a weapon to cause or to threaten bodily harm to another person
- extortion
- hate and/or bias-motivated occurrences

Boards must follow the direction in *Provincial Model for a Local Police/School Board Protocol, 2011* regarding notification of the police if any of the above violent incidents occurs.5

In circumstances where board employees have reason to believe that a student may be in need of protection, they are required to call a children’s aid society, in accordance with the requirements of the Child and Family Services Act.6

**Ongoing Monitoring by Boards**

Boards are also required to collect and analyse data on the nature of violent incidents to support the development of board policies and to inform board and school improvement plans.

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