

<p style="text-align: center;">STRAIT REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD <i>Excellence in Lifelong Learning</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">POLICIES AND GUIDELINES</p>	<p>STRAIT REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD I-C-4</p>
	<p>Partnerships EXTERNAL AGENCY INVOLVEMENT IN SCHOOLS</p>
	<p>Adopted: September 2, 2009 Revised: Page: Page 1 of 2</p>

EXTERNAL AGENCY INVOLVEMENT IN SCHOOLS

Policy Statement

The Strait Regional School Board recognizes that external agency professionals and paraprofessionals (for example, health, justice and community services) as well as non-government and community organizations can have a positive impact on school learning and working environments.

The Strait Regional School Board encourages active participation of these partners in schools when, in the opinion of the Principal and school staff, this will enhance programs and services for students.

General Guidelines

1. The Strait Regional School Board has sole jurisdiction over all educational programs and student services offered as part of the Public School Program in our schools. Any outside agency inquiries pertaining to the delivery of programs and/or student services must be directed to the school principal. Parental inquiries about outside agencies supporting school programs and/or student services should also be directed to the principal.

2. To assist the principal with making decisions regarding the involvement of external agencies in schools, the following resources, including but not limited to, are available: The Education Act and Regulations under the Education Act (Consolidated August 2006), the Public School Program, Our Kids are Worth It – Strategy for Children and Youth, Learning for Life Action Plans, the Department of Education Business Plan, as well as applicable School Board Policies, including Use of Instructional Time for Non-Classroom Activities, Policy III-B-6 and its supporting procedures PRO III-B-6, Equity and Affirmative Measures, Policy I-D-2, Race Relations, Cross Cultural Understanding and Human Rights (RCH), Policy I-D-3.

Further, principals should consult with the appropriate teaching staff as part of the decision-making process.

3. Prior to approval by the Principal, the Strait Regional School Board requires security checks for all personnel from external agencies. This includes a child abuse registry check and criminal records check. School Principals are responsible for ensuring that the necessary checks are completed and that the associated documentation is maintained by the school.

The requirement for security checks applies to all external agency representatives who provide support services to the schools on a regular or long-term basis.

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4. Personnel from external agencies are responsible to the Principal of the school.
5. Programs or activities initiated by external agencies must have the approval of the Principal. Subsequent changes to the nature of the service should be done in consultation with and approved by the school principal.
6. The time allocated for the work of external agencies will enhance regular, co-curricular or extra-curricular school programs and should not interfere with established expectations and routines of the school.
7. The management of student behaviour is the responsibility of the school administration and teaching staff. Concerns about student behaviour by a member of an external agency are to be communicated to the teacher or administrator in charge. Therefore, the presence and supervision by a teacher is required.
8. Confidentiality of school based information by personnel from external agencies is essential. Discussion outside the school of school issues or issues involving students is unacceptable. It is the responsibility of the school administration and teachers to communicate with parents about student issues.
9. Issues not specifically covered in the above guidelines are to be brought to the attention of the school principal.

Please note: The involvement of members of the public not associated with a government or non-government agency is covered under Policy VI-C-1 Volunteers in the School.