



**DURHAM CATHOLIC
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD**
Learning and Living in Faith

POLICY – 513

Supervised Alternative Learning (SAL)

Area: Teaching and Learning
Source: Superintendent of Education, Academic Services

Approved: June 27, 2011
Revised: October 3, 2016

1. Introduction

The objective of Regulation 374/10 – *Supervised Alternative Learning and Other Excusals from Attendance at School* is to help those students who are most at risk of totally disengaging from school to stay connected to learning and re-engage more fully at a later date. The Ministry of Education believes that Supervised Alternative Learning is a useful tool in maintaining a link to learning for these students when other measures have not been successful.

2. Definitions

Supervised Alternative Learning (SAL) (*O. Reg. 374/10: Supervised Alternative Learning and Other Excusals from Attendance at School*) – an individualized learning program consisting of one or more activities. Students from fourteen to seventeen years of age are excused from attending school while they continue to participate in learning under the supervision of the Board or a school of the Board.

Supervised Alternative Learning Plan (*O. Reg. 374/10: Supervised Alternative Learning and Other Excusals from Attendance at School*) – an individualized plan to enable the pupil to progress towards obtaining an Ontario secondary school diploma or achieving his or her other education and life goals.

3. Purpose

The purpose of this policy and attendant administrative procedure is to provide students who have significant difficulties with regular attendance at school with an alternative learning experience and individualized plan to enable the student to progress towards obtaining an Ontario Secondary School Diploma or achieving their other education and life goals.

4. Application / Scope

This policy and administrative procedure applies to students who are at least 14 years old and are of compulsory school age. A student who turns 18 years old while participating in Supervised Alternative Learning may, if they wish, continue participating in Supervised Alternative Learning until the student's plan expires or is terminated.

5. Principles

- 5.1 The Board believes that there is a correlation between regular student attendance and student success beginning in Kindergarten and continuing through to the completion of secondary school.
- 5.2 In ensuring a safe school environment for all students, the Board acknowledges its responsibility in monitoring student attendance and punctuality, responding to issues of absenteeism and lateness and engaging parents/guardians in a timely manner when such issues arise.
- 5.3 The Board believes that chronic absenteeism and lateness may be symptomatic of a student being disengaged from the traditional delivery of educational programming.
- 5.4 The Board acknowledges its responsibility to consider a variety of interventions, including alternative forms of educational programming that are more likely to result in success for those students who are disengaged from school.
- 5.5 The Board supports the Supervised Alternative Learning programming option as an extenuating pathway for disengaged students between the ages of 14 and 17 when all other avenues for student success and alternative education have been exhausted.
- 5.6 The Board supports the following goals of the Supervised Alternative Learning program:
 - 5.6.1 providing students with life experiences which will enable them to acquire the knowledge and decision-making skills required in everyday life;
 - 5.6.2 enhancing students' opportunities for personal growth, building self-esteem, increasing independence and engaging self-discipline;
 - 5.6.3 broadening students' awareness of the realities and opportunities in the world of work;
 - 5.6.4 assisting students in understanding that it may be in their best interest to return to regular schooling;
 - 5.6.5 providing an opportunity for students to achieve credits outside the traditional delivery of the regular school program; and

5.6.6 providing counselling supports to students to address issues that are affecting their ability to attend school.

6. Requirements

- 6.1 The Director, or designate, shall establish administrative procedures to support the implementation of this policy and amend them thereafter as the need may arise.
- 6.2 The Board shall establish a Supervised Alternative Learning Committee, in accordance with Regulation 374/10 *Supervised Alternative Learning and Other Excusals from Attendance at School* to make decisions regarding supervised alternative learning opportunities for students of the Board **who qualify**.

7. Sources

- 7.1 Regulation 374/10 – Supervised Alternative Learning and Other Excusals from Attendance at School
- 7.2 Supervised Alternative Learning: Policy and Implementation, 2010

8. Related Policies and Administrative Procedures

- 8.1 Student Attendance Policy (PO613)
- 8.2 Student Attendance – Secondary Administrative Procedure (AP613-2)
- 8.3 Supervised Alternative Learning Administrative Procedure (AP513-1)