
Creating and implementing experiential learning opportunities in partnership with the local community is important to the Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board (the Board) to ensure that students are provided with rich opportunities to understand how their classroom learning applies in a community setting. These intentional experiences are valuable and support all learners, while encouraging experiential life skills that foster student success, and build trust and collaborative relationships with students, staff, families and community.

Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP)

A specialized program in secondary school that allows students to explore a skilled trade while earning high school Cooperative Education credits towards their Ontario Secondary School Diploma. The program provides opportunities for students to learn and develop skills in apprenticeship trades while providing a head start on their journey person certification.

Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM)

A Ministry of Education approved program that allows students to gain credits toward their Ontario Secondary School Diploma and focus their learning on a specific economic sector, while gaining specialized skills, knowledge and certifications relevant to their chosen industry.

This experiential learning policy applies to members of the Board community which includes all persons on Board premises, persons working on Board-related business (whether on or off Board premises), and persons involved with Board-sponsored programs at other premises, including students, staff, trustees, parents/guardians, volunteers, visitors, and community partners.

The Board of Trustees is responsible for establishing and approving this policy document.

The Director of Education is responsible for designating resources for ensuring the implementation of and compliance with this policy document.

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Experiential learning is a mode of learning delivered under Ministry of Education guidelines that occurs in person or virtually and provides developmentally appropriate opportunities that integrate the theoretical concepts of classroom activities with a community experience. Students of all ages can:

- participate in rich experiences connected to the world outside the school,
- reflect on the experiences to derive meaning, and
- apply the learning to their decisions and actions.

In Kindergarten to Grade 8, teachers help students make connections between their learning in school and opportunities outside school through field trips, simulations and authentic tasks. In secondary school, students can also attain experiential learning opportunities in a particular area of interest as a part of the curriculum of any course or in a cooperative education program, Specialist High Skills Major program, or Ontario Youth Apprenticeship program.

The Board approves the inclusion of experiential learning based on the following principles:

6.2.1 to enhance the student's ability in curriculum-related areas by providing

6.2.7 to provide the community with the opportunity to actively participate in