

## **Policy Statement**

It is the policy of the Keewatin-Patricia District School Board to work with its community partners in order to share its facilities to the benefit of the Board, its students and the community, and to optimize the use of the assets owned by the Board. The Board will seek opportunities to share facilities with community partners when building new schools and undertaking significant renovations, and when considering the use of unoccupied space in schools. The Board will attempt to expand the number of partnerships in a way that is transparent, sustainable and supportive of student achievement.

## **Rationale**

Cooperative and collaborative partnerships are part of the foundation of a strong, vibrant and sustainable publicly funded education system. Offering space in schools to partners can strengthen the role of schools in communities, provide a place for programs and facilitate the coordination of, and improve access to, services for students and the wider community.

## **Guidelines**

1. Authority for entering into facility partnerships on behalf of the Board is delegated to the Director of Education or Designate.
2. All facility partnerships shall meet the following requirements:
  - a. Health and safety of students must be protected.
  - b. Partnerships must be appropriate for the school setting.
  - c. Partnerships must not compromise the Board's student achievement strategy.
  - d. Entities that provide competing education services such as tutoring services, JK-12 private schools or private colleges, and credit-offering entities that are not government-funded, are not eligible partners.
3. A notification list of potential partners will be maintained by the Director or designate consisting at a minimum of the applicable entities listed in Ontario Regulation 444/98. If childcare operators and government-funded agencies request it, they will

be added to the notification list. Other eligible agencies may be added to the notification list by the Director or designate.

4. Information on space available to partners will be posted on the Board's website and the information will be updated on an annual, or more frequent, basis. Entities on the notification list will be notified when information is updated.
5. A public meeting will be held once per year in a community of the Board to discuss potential facility partnerships and to receive information on the needs of the communities within the Board. Details on the time and location of the meeting will be provided to the entities on the notification list and posted on the board's website at least 30 days in advance of the meeting.
6. When the Board is considering building a new school or undertaking a significant addition or renovation, it will notify the entities on the notification list 1 to 3 years prior to the potential construction start date. The Board will provide as much information as possible about its plans and the site to support potential partners in determining the project's suitability for their purposes.
7. The rent and/or fees charged to partners should cover the operations and capital cost, including administrative costs and property taxes (if applicable), to the Board of the space occupied by the partner. Additional costs to perform minor renovations to protect student safety, provide appropriate washrooms, and otherwise make the space suitable for use by facility partners should be borne by the partners.
8. Notwithstanding the above, where suitable partners cannot be found or where the Board considers it to be in its best interest, surplus space may be sold or leased in accordance with Ontario Regulation 444/98 as amended. Board Policy 802, School Viability & Closure governs the study of schools for potential closure.