

GUIDANCE AND COUNSELLING SERVICES

Background

The Division shall endeavour to provide guidance and counselling services for all students in the Division as an integral part of the school program in supporting and complementing the learning opportunities and experiences of all students to maximize their academic, personal, and social development.

Although the Division accepts that authority for students under the age of 18 rests with the parents, it also recognizes situations may occur that result in providing information to students that is not readily available, accessible, or provided by parents.

Procedures

In such cases where students seek information regarding medical, educational, or personal needs, qualified school personnel should consider the following:

1. Attempts will be made to convince the student to involve the parent(s); and
2. Where failure of the above exists, advice may be given as to agencies that deal with such information. At no time will direct guidance be provided by a teacher in areas that are:
 - 2.1 Beyond their training;
 - 2.2 Contrary to Board policy and philosophy; or
 - 2.3 In contravention of a particular parent(s) expressed wishes for their child(ren).

Teachers are to be cognizant of the student's age, family background, and nature of request in dealing with controversial and sensitive issues.

3. Where financially feasible, NLSD schools provide access to a guidance counselor or Student Advocacy Counsellor.

Reference: Section 39, 60, 61, School Act
Guidance and Counselling Policy 1.6.3