

**1. Rationale**

The Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) is in a position of trust with regard to our students and must strive to protect their intellectual, physical, mental and emotional well-being. It is also recognized that principals and teachers have a duty of care to their students. Duty of care refers to the legal principle which identifies the obligation to exercise reasonable care including protecting students from harm. Vulnerable Sector Checks are a step in the board's duty of care.

**2. Policy**

It is the policy of the SCDSB to ensure that non-employees who come into direct contact with students on a regular basis have a Vulnerable Sector Check.

**3. Definition**

A Vulnerable Sector Check is a document concerning an individual that:

- 3.1 Was prepared by a police force or service from national data on the Canadian Police Information Centre database within the six month period prior to the first day of volunteering.
- 3.2 Contains information concerning the individual's personal criminal history as well as any sexual offences for which a pardon has been granted.

**4. Guidelines**

- 4.1 Any persons who come into direct contact with students on a regular basis, without the supervision of staff, are required to provide a copy of a Vulnerable Sector Check, executed within the last six-month period prior to the first day of volunteering.
- 4.2 New Vulnerable Sector Check documents must be provided every five years.

**5. Administrative Procedures**

The Director of Education is authorized to provide the administrative procedures necessary to implement this policy.