

## 1. Rationale

The Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) recognizes that the Ontario Curriculum is developed by the Ministry of Education and includes mandatory learning expectations for students and teaching supports (tools and information used by educators). Curriculum is used to guide program planning, provide context for learning, and outline overall and specific learning expectations for students. High quality, individualized and engaging instruction encourages student interest, critical thinking and maximizes student learning and achievement.

The SCDSB values the diversity of students and is committed to supporting the achievement and well-being of all students while fostering a safe, inclusive, and accepting learning environment.

## 2. Policy

It is the policy of the SCDSB that each elementary and secondary school will assist all students to demonstrate achievement of overall curriculum expectations at or above the provincial standard as outlined in the Ontario Curriculum and, where appropriate, other curriculum expectations as approved by the Board. From the *Education Act*. Part 1, section 8, subsection (1), par. 3:

**“3. courses and areas of study – in respect of schools under the jurisdiction of a board,**  
(a) *issue curriculum guidelines and require that courses of study be developed therefrom and establish procedures for the approval of courses of study that are not developed from such curriculum guidelines,*  
(b) *prescribe areas of study and require that courses of study be grouped thereunder and establish procedures for the approval of alternative areas of study under which courses of study shall be grouped, and*  
(c) *approve or permit boards to approve,*  
(i) *courses of study that are not developed from such curriculum guidelines, and*  
(ii) *alternative areas of study under which courses of study shall be grouped, and authorize such courses of study and areas of study to be used in lieu of or in addition to any prescribed course of study or area of study.”*

All SCDSB schools will retain up-to-date copies of courses of study for all courses offered at the school and make them available for parents/guardians and students to examine upon request. Section 5.3.2 of *The Ontario Schools Kindergarten to Grade 12 Policy and Program Requirements* document outlines the minimum requirements for courses of study.

All students must have an opportunity to learn the curriculum and to achieve the provincial curriculum expectations to the best of their abilities. Alignment of board policies, procedures and resources must support the implementation and achievement of the curriculum. The curriculum must also be inclusive and accessible to all students.

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### 3. Guidelines

The Ministry of Education has the responsibility to review and develop curriculum documents. The SCDSB, through the Student Achievement department, provides teachers with professional learning opportunities to support curriculum implementation.

Locally developed curriculum courses designed by teachers within a school board to meet local student needs must go through a ministry approval process.

The alternative curriculum is developed by district school boards for students with special education strengths and needs who may require a variation of the Ontario Curriculum. This includes the SCDSB Alternative Curriculum Expectations (ACE) and Assessment Companion Tool (ACT) (elementary) and Alternative Courses (i.e. secondary non-credit K courses).

### 4. Roles and Responsibilities

4.1 Supervisory Officers are responsible for the development, implementation, operation and supervision of educational programs in schools. They are also responsible for bringing about improvement in the quality of education by supporting the development of the instructional leadership capacity of administrators and by assisting teachers and designated early childhood educators in their practices. The *Education Act* and Regulation 309 outline these duties.

4.2 Teachers, designated early childhood educators, vice-principals and principals are responsible for ensuring that all students demonstrate achievement of the overall curriculum expectations at or above the provincial standard to the best of their ability. The *Education Act* and Regulation 298 outline these duties. In addition, the Ontario College of Teachers provides direction for teachers through the Standards of Practice.

4.3 Other persons such as parents/guardians, students, trustees, school council members and all staff contribute to the overall effectiveness and efficiency of curriculum implementation and student achievement.

### 5. Administrative Procedures

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

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