



HURON-PERTH CATHOLIC

District School Board

Cooperative Education and Experiential Learning

Adopted:	March 27, 2006	Policy #:	P 2.2.9.
Revised:	February 26, 2024	Policy Category:	2.2. School Program

BELIEF STATEMENT:

The Ministry of Education’s Goals of Cooperative Education align with our values and mission as a Catholic school board. We believe that all students can benefit from participating in cooperative education. In their experiences in cooperative education, students will develop a reflective habit of mind to derive meaning from their experiences; the ability to apply (e.g., transfer) their learning to influence decisions and actions in various aspects of their lives; and the skills, knowledge, and habits of mind required to become competent and confident education and career/life planners. We believe that Cooperative Education is an important program within our secondary schools that can be personalized to help students gain greater knowledge about themselves and opportunities that can shape their future.

POLICY STATEMENT:

The Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board recognizes that co-operative education and other forms of experiential learning can assist all students in making vocational and career decisions as well as in developing the knowledge, skills, and attitudes that are essential to be a contributing Christian member of society. All forms of experiential learning are a valuable complement to the Catholic student’s academic experience and preparation for the future.

PROCEDURES:

Cooperative education is a program that allows students to earn secondary school credits while completing a work placement in the community.

A student’s co-op program consists of the cooperative education course, which is monitored by a cooperative education teacher, and the related curriculum course (that is, a course in any discipline, such as business studies, mathematics, or technological education). Every student in a co-op program must have a Cooperative Education Learning Plan (CELP), which shows how the student’s related curriculum course is being applied at their co-op placement.

The cooperative education course consists of a classroom component and a placement component. The classroom component includes pre-placement instruction, which prepares students for the workplace and includes instruction in areas of key importance such as health and safety, and additional classroom sessions held at various times during and after the placement, which provide opportunities for students to reflect on and reinforce their learning in the workplace.

Cooperative education allows students to participate in valuable learning experiences that help prepare them for the next stage of their lives, whether in apprenticeship training, college, community living, university, or the workplace.

Co-op placements are arranged for students by their school and must follow Ministry of Education policy and guidelines.

1. The Board (through the Director of Education or designate) will support and maintain co-operative education and experiential learning opportunities in its Catholic secondary schools.
2. The principal will ensure that co-operative education and experiential learning opportunities give due regard for student safety and are compliant with Workplace Safety and Insurance Coverage for Students in Work Education programs; Community Connected Experiential Learning 2017; Creating Pathways to Success; as well as any pertinent additional or revised Ministry memoranda or guidelines.
3. The OYAP leader, under the direction of the Superintendent of Education, will review and update a Procedures Manual to inform principals and co-operative education teachers of correct practices and components of an effective co-operative education program.
4. The Board (through the Director of Education or designate) will ensure that schools are in compliance with the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB) Coverage for Students in Work Education Programs.

REFERENCES:

- N/A

RESOURCES, APPENDICES AND FORMS:

- N/A

DEFINITIONS:

- N/A