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**ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY****4045**

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1. Rationale

Lakehead District School Board is committed to, and accepts a leadership role in, environmental education and care of the environment.

2. Policy

Lakehead District School Board is committed to deliver effective environmental education, to model environmentally responsible practices, and to raise environmental awareness for students, staff and the school community. Environmental issues, concerns and impacts will be considered in all decision making, and concern for the quality of the natural environment will be reflected in the daily operations of the Board.

3. Guidelines

3.1 Teaching and Learning

The Board will provide environmental education through a collaborative integrated approach that enables students to develop knowledge, skills and perspectives that foster environmental stewardship.

3.2 Student Engagement and Community Connections

The Board will provide leadership to support and foster student engagement and capacity to take action on environmental issues and projects in order to build links between schools and communities.

3.3 Environmental Leadership

The Board will integrate environmental education into Board practices including the management of resources, operations and facilities.

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4. Review

This policy shall be reviewed in accordance with Policy Development and Review Policy 2010.

<u>Cross Reference</u>	<u>Date Approved</u>	<u>Legal Reference</u>
_____	April 26, 2011	_____
_____	<u>Date Revised</u>	_____

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1. Policy

Lakehead District School Board is committed to deliver effective environmental education, to model environmentally responsible practices, and to raise environmental awareness for students, staff and the school community. Environmental issues, concerns and impacts will be considered in all decision making, and concern for the quality of the natural environment will be reflected in the daily operations of the Board.

2. Procedures

2.1 Teaching and Learning

In order to improve the opportunities for students to acquire knowledge, skills and perspectives that foster understanding of their fundamental connections to each other, to the world around them and to all living things, the Board will:

- 2.1.1 Support staff to build capacity in effective practices and pedagogical strategies in environmental education.
- 2.1.2 Encourage implementation of revised curricula with relevant curriculum resources and existing professional development and learning structures.
- 2.1.3 Support staff and students in linking environmental knowledge, skills and activities to the teachings of diverse communities, including First Nation, Métis and Inuit peoples, and to the principles of responsible citizenship.
- 2.1.4 Support schools' ability to provide experiential learning opportunities, explore multiple environments and engage in learning activities that are situated in the outdoor environment, and involve actions to improve the environment.
- 2.1.5 Foster collaborative opportunities for educators to develop and share activities and integrated approaches related to environmental education.
- 2.1.6 Encourage innovative interdisciplinary programs that focus on the environment across curriculum areas.

2.2 Student Engagement and Community Connections

In order to increase student engagement and participation in environmental projects and build links between schools and communities, the Board will:

- 2.2.1 Consult student leaders and school communities and school councils in the design and delivery of environmental education projects at the Board level.
- 2.2.2 Support the sharing of school and student projects across the Board that demonstrate engagement in environmental stewardship.

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- 2.2.3 Encourage environmental learning for students inside and outside the classroom.
  - 2.2.4 Support students, on a system-wide basis, as they develop skills and act as decision makers to effect positive environmental change.
  - 2.2.5 Offer community-linked experiences and programs that are relevant to environmental education.
  - 2.2.6 Support the sharing of information about local resources that support environmental education efforts and foster links and partnerships with community organizations to help extend engagement in environmental education.
- 2.3 Environmental Leadership
- In order to ensure environmental education is integrated into Board practices including the management of resources, operations and facilities, the Board will:
- 2.3.1 Develop and implement a plan for integrating sustainable environmental practices into the Board's daily operations and similarly support schools in adopting environmentally responsible practices to reduce, reuse, recycle and re-think.
  - 2.3.2 Implement practices and strategies to protect and conserve the environment while ensuring that schools and workplace environments are safe and healthy.
  - 2.3.3 Annually develop plans to include energy management in the Board's operational and capital budgets. Examples include but are not limited to capital planning, new construction, alterations, renovations, plant operations, maintenance etc.
  - 2.3.4 Develop plans to monitor, evaluate and communicate the efficiency of energy management initiatives.
  - 2.3.5 Develop environmentally responsible purchasing practices, while considering quality, price, and service.
  - 2.3.6 Encourage all Board personnel, students, parents, and school communities to adopt and promote environmentally appropriate practices.
  - 2.3.7 Integrate in-service opportunities related to environmental education into staff development.

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3. Review

These procedures shall be reviewed in accordance with Policy Development and Review Policy 2010.

<u>Cross Reference</u>	<u>Date Received</u>	<u>Legal Reference</u>
_____	April 26, 2011	_____
_____	<u>Date Revised</u>	_____
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