

POLICY NAME	STUDENT DEMOCRACY (JIBA)
Original approval date	2015-07-07
Last review date	2026-06-30
Next review date	2031-2032
Related documents	N/A

1. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

- 1.1
In order to nurture effective learning environments, students need to be viewed as a diverse learning community that is both willing and capable of shaping the decisions associated with their learning as well as school improvement. Students play an integral role in our schools, centres, and classrooms and as such need to have a voice in their educational endeavours through meaningful and purposeful student involvement. New Frontiers School Board (NFSB) promotes guiding students in the development of social and democratic habits that will foster an understanding of citizenship and learning.
- 1.2
In accordance with section 211.1, articles 42, 51, 96.5, 96.5, 96.7, 102 of the *Education Act* (EA) and the *Quebec Education Program* (QEP), this policy aims to:

1.2.1
Promote the concept of democracy for all NFSB students;

1.2.2
Support and reinforce the importance of student participation in activities related to school and centre democracy; and

1.2.3
Ensure a form of student representation with the Council of Commissioners.

2. POLICY CONTENT

- 2.1
Student Democracy at the School & Centre Level

2.1.1
Students are encouraged to participate in school life by taking on an active role in the democratic process that exists within their school or centre.

2.1.2
All schools and centres must establish a Student Council or similar governing body. The governing body must adopt internal rules of procedure as listed below and must also include a procedure for the election of the Student Coalition representative. Due to the unique characteristics of the adult education and vocational training sector, centres may adopt alternative mechanisms to support student voice and participation. While a formal Student Council or ongoing Student Coalition representation may not always be feasible, centres must ensure that students have opportunities to participate in centre life and democratic processes through mechanisms such as representation on the governing body, participation in consultations, or nomination of a student representative when appropriate.

2.1.3
All established student governing bodies must develop internal rules of procedure that include:
 - A constitution stating aims and objectives;
 - Definitions of roles and responsibilities of the body and its members;
 - Criteria for student membership;
 - Election procedures (Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, etc.);
 - A clear procedure for recording and documenting the agenda and minutes of each meeting;
 - The structure of sub-committees and their responsibilities (i.e. Dance Committee, Anti-Bullying Committee, etc.);
 - Other procedures it deems necessary.

2.2
New Frontiers Student Coalition

2.2.1
The NFSB Student Coalition provides a platform for students to collaborate and have a voice in the processes, decisions, and operations that take place within their respective schools and centres. This platform also provides an opportunity for reflection on issues of concern to the student body and to collaboratively develop and implement school (and centre)-based strategies while striving towards overall school (and centre) improvement.

2.2.2
The NFSB Student Coalition is comprised of student representatives from each school, elected from within their Student Council (or similar governing body). To ensure consistency, a grade 5 and grade 6 student will represent each elementary school. At least one grade 7, grade 8, or grade 9 student, and at least one grade 10 or grade 11 student will represent each secondary school. Students must have signed permission from a parent and/or guardian where required.

2.2.3
The Student Coalition will meet at least 3 times a year.

2.2.4
All student representatives will promote student involvement and encourage diversity, inclusion, and equity.

2.3
Student Representation with the Council of Commissioners

2.3.1
Student representation with the Council of Commissioners is expected under section 211.1 of the EA. At the NFSB, on an annual basis, the NFSB Student Coalition and adult and/or vocational education sector student(s) will be invited to meet with the Council of Commissioners.

3. AUTHORITY

This Policy and its organizational guide(s) are administered under the authority of the Director of Educational Services.

4. REVIEW

The Director of Educational Services will review this policy at least once every five (5) years.

End.