



Education Program

Admission to Elementary Schools

Policy Number EP-01

The Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board admits age appropriate students to elementary schools if either the student or at least one of the parents/guardians is baptized Roman Catholic or an Eastern Church in full communion with the Holy See of Rome, and is a separate school supporter.

Exceptions to this requirement may be made with the approval of the local Superintendent of Education under any of the following:

1. the parent/guardian has enrolled in the RCIA program, or the student is enrolled in the RCIC program; or
2. the child has been previously enrolled in a Catholic or Christian school; or
3. the child is a sibling of a student who is already in attendance in an elementary school of the Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board; or
4. the parents/guardians desire a faith-based Catholic education for their child.

If a student is to be enrolled based on any of the exceptions, documentation verifying the request is required, as well as documented parent/guardian commitment to full participation by their child in all aspects of Catholic school life signed by the parent/guardian.

Reference is to be made to Admission to Elementary Schools Procedures in applying this policy.

Procedural Guidelines Follow

Approved: Board Meeting #18-2006 (Wednesday, November 8, 2006)
Revised: Board Meeting #05-2009 (Wednesday, February-25, 2009)
Revised: Board Meeting # 12-2010(Wednesday, June 30, 2010)
Revised: Board Meeting # 8-2014 (Wednesday, May 14, 2014)
Revised: Board Meeting # 5-2015(Wednesday, March 25, 2015)
Revised: Board Meeting #08 (Wednesday, June 01, 2016)

Procedures and Guidelines Supporting Admission to Elementary Schools

Policy Number EP-01

1.
 - a) List of Eastern Churches in communion with Rome (Appendix 1):
Students who are members of any of the churches in communion with Rome will be granted admission.
 - b) List of Eastern Churches not in communion with Rome (Appendix 2):
Students who are members of any of the churches not in communion with Rome would need to make application for admission based on one of the following exceptions.

2. **Exceptions:**

Admission to a Catholic school within the jurisdiction of the Board will be considered subject to an understanding and acceptance by the applicant of the Catholic character of the school. The applicant must understand that the school by its very nature is Christ-centred, that all programs are taught in the context of Gospel values and the teachings of the Catholic Church, and that Catholicity permeates the entire curriculum and climate and is not confined only to the Religion programme. The Board emphasizes that the transmission of the school's Catholic culture is integrated into everything the school does, and therefore expects that the student will participate in all aspects of Catholic school life.

An interview with the Principal is required in order for admission to be considered for each of the following exceptions.

The signature of BOTH parents/guardians is required where there is more than one legal parent/guardian.

Approval of the local Superintendent of Education is required to admit a student under any of the following exceptions.

- a. The parent/guardian has enrolled in the RCIA program, or the student is enrolled in the RCIC program:
 - i. written documentation verifying enrolment is required;
 - ii. documented parent/guardian commitment to full participation by their child in all aspects of Catholic school life signed by the parents/guardians.
- b. The child has been previously enrolled in a Catholic or Christian school:
 - i. written documentation verifying enrolment is required;



- ii. documented parent/guardian commitment to full participation by their child in all aspects of Catholic school life signed by the parents/guardians.
- c. The child is a sibling of a student who is already in attendance in an elementary school of the Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board:
 - i. upon written request from the parent or guardian, the sibling may also be admitted to the same school provided the sibling lives in the same household;
 - ii. documented parent/guardian commitment to full participation by their child in all aspects of Catholic school life signed by the parents/guardians.
- d. The parents/guardians desire a faith-based Catholic education for their child:
 - i. upon written request from the parent or guardian the school principal will conduct an interview to determine the suitability of the request;
 - ii. the Principal is to carefully consider the merit of the request. For instance the request must be a Bona Fide request for faith-based education for the child. As an example, it cannot be the result of avoiding conflict in the student's previous school, or based solely on convenience or geographic location.
 - iii. documented parent/guardian commitment to full participation by their child in all aspects of Catholic school life signed by the parents/guardians;
 - iv. the principal will submit an Application for Admission of Non-Catholic Students to a Catholic Elementary School with recommendation for admission to the Superintendent of Education where warranted (see Appendix 3).

Appendices

1. [Appendix 1 - Eastern Churches in Communion with Rome](#)
2. [Appendix 2 - Eastern Churches Not in Communion with Rome](#)
3. [Appendix 3 - Application for Admission of Non-Catholic Students to a Catholic Elementary School](#)