



Education Program

Admission to Elementary Schools

Policy Number EP-01

The Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board admits age appropriate students to elementary schools (Year 1 Kindergarten to Grade 8) 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.

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)
Reviewed: Board Policy Review Committee Meeting #02-2021 (Wednesday, February 17, 2021)
Revised: Board Meeting #06-2021 (Wednesday, March 24, 2021)

Procedures and Guidelines Supporting 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.

- * A child who has attained a minimum of four (4) or (5) years of age on or before December 31st in any given year and who meets the requirements of the Education Act for admission to a Catholic school shall be admitted to a Kindergarten class operated by this Board in September of the year in which he or she attains the age of four (4) or five (5).

Reference is to be made to the following when applying this policy.

1. **Eastern Churches**

- a) List of Eastern Churches in communion with Rome (refer to 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 (refer to Appendix 2):
Students who are members of any of the churches not in communion with Rome would need to make an 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.



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 and signed by the parent(s)/guardian(s).

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 appropriate Superintendent of Student Achievement 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](#)

Approved: Board Policy Review Committee – Meeting SP BPR 01-2016 (Wednesday, June 01, 2016)

Revised: Wednesday, February 17, 2021