



## SUN SAFETY AND SHADING

Legal References:	<i>Education Act</i>
Related References:	<i>Policy 2000 Environmental Values</i> <i>Administrative Procedure 4140 Severe Weather Conditions (Bus Cancellation – Student Dismissal – School Closing)</i> <i>Shade Audit Information Guide and Tool, Region of Waterloo</i>
Effective Date:	January 2012
Revisions:	March 2015
Reviewed:	March 20, 2017, June 11, 2018

### 1. Preamble

- 1.1 It is the policy of the Waterloo Region District School Board (Board) to promote public health through the development of a culture of sun safety through education, communication and action.

### 2. Sun Safety

- 2.1 The Board recognizes that exposure to ultraviolet radiation (UVR) poses an identified health risk (such as skin cancer) to children and adults.
- 2.2 The Board recognizes that the strategic provision of shade:
- reduces the urban heat island effect by reducing the temperature of hard surfaces including paved areas and parking lots
  - enables children to play in outdoor environments while protecting them from the harmful impact of UVR.
- 2.3 The Board acknowledges the important role of communicating and promoting sun safety awareness and protective strategies to students, parents and staff which include:
- 2.3.1 The potential ill effects of sun exposure
- 2.3.2 Protective Strategies:
- providing shaded areas for outdoor activities
  - wearing protective clothing (long sleeved shirts and long pants and tightly woven fabrics)
  - wearing hats with wide brims, visors and/or back flaps
  - wearing UV protective sunglasses
  - using sunscreens
  - using portable shade devices
- 2.4 The Board recognizes the importance of the provision of shade, either natural (trees or other appropriate vegetation) or constructed, as an essential element in the planning and design of new or renovations to board facilities. When plans for school construction, additions or renovations include the removal of healthy trees from the school property, the overall communication process should inform and allow input from school communities and surrounding neighbours.
- 2.5 In addition, existing school sites should be reviewed periodically to ensure that appropriate shaded areas are being provided for children.

- 2.6 The Board supports and encourages schools and school councils to develop school based greening solutions to address ongoing sun safety behaviours and shading initiatives.
- 2.7 The Board acknowledges and accepts its responsibility in the community to participate in the development and support of a Region Wide Shade Policy with community partners.