



Policy Title: **Health, Safety, and Wellness**

Policy No. **6.04**

Rationale: The Connect Charter School Board recognizes that the health, safety and wellness of the members of the school community are of paramount importance.

POLICY: The Board of Connect Charter School is committed to providing a welcoming, caring, respectful and safe environment that respects diversity and fosters a sense of belonging. Staff members employed by Connect Charter School Society and students enrolled in the school will not be discriminated against as provided for in the *Alberta Human Rights Act* or the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*.

Principles:

1. All members of the school community share responsibility for fostering a safe and healthy learning environment that respects and celebrates diversity and inclusion.
2. The physical and emotional health, safety, and wellness of all students and staff members are primary considerations for all activities within the jurisdiction of the school.
3. All staff members play a critical role in the proactive identification and mitigation of health and safety issues.
4. In accordance with Section 16.1 of The Education Act, the teaching and administrative staff of Connect Charter School will provide opportunities for students to advocate for, establish or access peer support groups or organize activities, including but not limited to gay-straight alliances (GSAs) and queer-straight alliances (QSAs), diversity clubs, anti-racism clubs and anti-bullying clubs.
5. Staff rely on parents or guardians to provide timely, accurate and relevant information to the school regarding student concerns that may impact their child's health, safety and educational well-being.
6. Grade specific health curricula will be used by teachers as a framework to support students in proactively identifying and making healthy and safe choices.
7. All reasonable steps will be taken to ensure that equipment and buildings are maintained to minimize risk of injury.
8. Connect Charter School commits to protecting students and employees from injury, illness, and accidents as required by Occupational Health and Safety Legislation, the Education Act, and common law. Transmittable diseases declared a public health threat, including but not limited to COVID-19, are identifiable workplace hazards. Such hazards can have a detrimental effect on health and safety, school operations, student learning, employee productivity, school costs, and employee morale. Connect Charter School has legal



obligations to take all reasonable steps to identify, eliminate, and control workplace hazards like COVID-19.

9. As the health and safety of Connect Charter employees is a priority and Connect Charter is committed to providing a healthy, safe and caring environment for all, in order to protect the continuation of in-person learning in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic, Connect Charter is prepared to implement reasonable measures as set out in Section K of Appendix A for Policy 6.04- Health, Safety, and Wellness which includes the implementation of a COVID-19 testing procedure as a way of protecting against the hazard of COVID-19.