

**POLICY**

It is the policy of the Upper Grand District School Board to support and engage in communication with its partners in the education community, the Ministry of Education and all levels of government (Federal, Provincial and Municipal) to identify, discuss and find solutions to policy, financial, operational and other issues of common interest.

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**Administrative Detail**

1. This policy applies to Trustees, Board staff, School Councils and other Board-affiliated organizations.
2. It is the responsibility of the Director of Education to administer this policy.
3. The Board will not use its schools or students to advocate on behalf of any personal or partisan issue, or a particular political party or agenda.

**A. GENERAL**

1. In this policy advocacy is defined as communication activities carried out by the Upper Grand District School Board and affiliated organizations that are designed to influence public policy and perceptions about the Board and the public education system.
2. The Board will support the advocacy role of established professional and educational interest organizations representing Trustees, school Board administrators and staff (e.g., the Ontario Public School Boards' Association, the Council of Directors of Education, the Ontario Public Supervisory Officers' Association, the Ontario Association of School Business Officials, the Provincial Parent Board, and the Ontario Student Trustees' Association, etc.).
3. The Board will participate in activities that encourage open and ongoing communication, the exchange of information and the provision of input into issues of common interest to the Board, its education partners and governments.
4. The Board may develop and approve position papers, presentations, advocacy strategies and activities to present its position on issues affecting the Board and the public education system to its education partners.