

**STATEMENT**

**OF**

**POLICY**

**QUEBEC FEDERATION OF**

**HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATIONS**

**MAY 2016**

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INTRODUCTION OF  
STATEMENT OF POLICY

Of prime concern to members of the Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations is the welfare of the child in the home, the school and the community.

Each year at the Annual General Meeting of Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations, delegates from local Home & School associations, along with members of the Federation's Board of Directors, caucus resolutions which are the expression of the concerns of the membership and then the delegates vote on them.

The next stage is the formation of a "STATEMENT OF POLICY" which contains those resolutions which the annual meetings feels complements the purposes and objectives of Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations. It is understood that a statement of policy may be changed by the Annual General Meeting whenever developments would suggest that change is necessary.

The following is the 'Statements of Policy' of Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations under selected headings.

## POLICY STATEMENTS

### Quebec Federation of Home & School Associations

QFHSA supports/endorse:-

#### EDUCATION

1. Constitutional protection of minority language education and right of naturalized citizens to equal access to such education. The Government of Quebec acknowledging its duty to support, defend and respect minority language educational rights [2016/01]
2. The teaching of French as a second language in English schools from Kindergarten on. Focused research aimed at evaluating and strengthening French second language programs and the establishment of standards of functional proficiency. For provincial governments to develop standard methods and tools to evaluate the results of various second language learning programs. Focused research aimed at evaluating and strengthening second language learning programs. [2009.01]
3. Accountability of provincial governments to the federal government for the use made of funds for second language teaching and minority language education.
4. Development of school and public libraries.
5. Individual parent-teacher interviews.
6. The use of distinctly Canadian textbooks.
7. The elimination of sex and/or race stereotyping in school textbooks.
8. The principle of school boards having the freedom to purchase books and documents from the most convenient sources.
9. Provision by school boards of special education for mentally and physically handicapped children in cooperation with municipal and voluntary agencies.
10. Identification and provision of programs for intellectually and creatively gifted children.
11. The right of the disabled to equal access to educational opportunities.
12. Extracurricular driver education for high school students.
13. Family life education in elementary and high schools.
14. Environmental education.

15. Education for peace and international understanding integrated into the present school curriculum.
16. The setting and evaluation of high school leaving examinations by the school board under accreditation to the Department of Education.
17. The inclusion in high school leaving examinations of essay-type questions.
18. Compulsory health education program K to Secondary 3.
19. School boards having control and management of curriculum.
20. Development of curriculum for English schools being placed in the hands of qualified educators and parents within the English speaking community.
21. Parents' right to exempt their children from Moral and Religious Education.
22. Courses in parenting education for both adults and students.
23. Media literacy and appreciation skills as a component of the curriculum from Kindergarten through high school.
24. Special accommodation for learning disabled students in administering examinations.
25. The inclusion of specific learning disabilities to the MEQ definition of learning disabilities and handicapped children.
26. Participation of parents in open discussions on concept of exit profiles.
27. Participation of Ministries of Education and Health and Social Services, along with all the partners in a school community, to help ensure adequate resources of people and materials for learning.
28. To maintain current level of time requirements for physical education with fully qualified physical education specialists.
29. A) Equality of choice of program and same accreditation to all secondary school leavers in whether they chose an academic or technical/vocational pathway [updated 2006/02].  
B) Extending availability of vocational education programs to all secondary school students, while ensuring quality core requirements.
30. Implementation of peer mediation programs in schools.
31. Derogation for high school diploma from the second language requirement to students with documented speech/language disabilities. (96/1)

QFHSA supports/endorsed:-

32. Enhancement of employability skills throughout the curriculum. (96/6)
33. Support for the formation and maintenance of English core programs. (98/5)
34. Support for compulsory physical education programs. (98/6)
35. Fair, nominal fees for supplemental ministry exams. (98/7)
36. Adequate and sufficient funds and teacher training be allotted when curriculum is changed. (99/10); provision of textbooks and materials needed by students and teachers are available prior to required implementation date.[2007/3]
37. Adequate and sufficient funds for the youth sector of public education system. (99/11)
38. Adequate and sufficient funds and equitable weighting for special education services, classes and students. (99/15)
39. Parental choice for alternative programs for special needs students. (99/16) [2010/03] [2011/03]
40. Adequate and sufficient funding for transportation for special needs students. (99/16) [updated 2005/04]
41. Schedule of June exams to enhance the opportunities for student success. [2001/01]
42. Materials and teacher training available as soon as new curriculum. [2001/03]; new curriculum be implemented only after textbooks have been approved and translated and made available simultaneously in French and English. [2007/2]
43. Increased funding of youth sector of public education. [2001/04]
44. Increased and sufficient funding for schools in isolated and small rural communities to enable parents, school and board officials to meet on a regular basis. [2003/02]
45. Increased MEQ budget allocation for special needs students to ensure their ability to succeed in school. [2003/01] Updated to include more funding in a separate envelope for additional trained personnel. [2005/03]
46. Increased funding for libraries and librarians. [2004/01] [2011/01]
47. MELS and School Boards provide sufficient one-on-one remediation to help students function at grade level; student teachers be trained to recognize signs of learning disabilities. [2005/05]
48. To fund vocational and technical summer camps for youth. [2006/02]
49. Encourage the setting up of Community Learning Networks as outlined in the *Children's*

QFHSA supports/endorsers:-

- Literacy Resource Guide (CLRC)* and that local Home & School Associations use the CLRC as a leadership tool to create learning activities for children. [2006/03]
50. Special Education services in mainstream schools (2010/02) [2011/02]
  51. Sufficient one-to-one support be provided so that children with learning disabilities and/or learning difficulties can learn at grade level and that no student is left behind.(2010/04) [2011/04]
  52. Making Financial Literacy a compulsory part of the Quebec curriculum (2014/01)
  53. Local associations supporting and promoting a policy of diversity and inclusion in all activities at home, in the school and in the wider community (2015/01)
  54. The History of Residential Schools becoming an integral compulsory part of Elementary and Secondary curriculum, developed in collaboration with leading Indigenous Peoples educators (2015/02)

### EDUCATION - SYSTEM

1. Responsibility for education at the local level being kept in the hands of School Commissioners democratically elected by universal suffrage.(add) Responsibility for governance of education being maintained with linguistic school boards whose commissioners are democratically elected and who are responsible solely for education. [2012/01]
2. The right of parents of elementary and secondary students to vote for and hold office on school boards having jurisdiction over their child's school.
3. Financial aid to university students in the form of scholarships, loans and bursaries.
4. Parents' participation in schools as volunteers using educational, technical and other skills.
5. Federal government funding for elementary, secondary and higher education without infringement of provincial autonomy in education.
6. Confidentiality of all students' personal, medical and other records; that they be accessible to parents and guardians and that, otherwise, access be limited to those personnel directly concerned with the students' education.
7. Access for English-speaking residents within a reasonable distance in rural areas.(98/4); provide sufficient funding to ensure all English speaking residents have access to current network of English schools within a reasonable distance.[2007/4]
8. Maintenance of confessional school boards until the Canadian Constitution guarantees elected English language school board systems with administrative and pedagogical English language support systems.
9. Confidentiality of student and employee records in matters relating to AIDS.

QFHSA supports/endorse:-

10. Equitable access to school social service staff and nurses for all students.
11. Adequate teacher and student access to copyrighted material.
12. Access to education in English to include any child who was being educated in English or who has a parent from an English-speaking part of the world.
13. Mandatory open-door policy in schools to allow and encourage parent participation at all levels of school life.
14. Shared staff-parent training sessions and workshops so as to ensure a unified parent-school community.
15. Allocation of funds from local association budgets for training conferences and educational workshops pertaining to leadership, shared decision making, group dynamics, interpersonal skills.[2007/4]
16. Consultation between Parent Committees and Provisional Councils of the proposed linguistic school boards.
17. Fair criteria to ensure equity in the electoral process and implementation of appeal process. Permanent linguistic voter lists for School Board elections. [2005/02] [2012/02]
18. Partnership and cooperation among all parties involved in public education. (99/2)
19. Admitting students to English schools upon demand while their “eligibility” is being investigated. (99/7) (add): Any child who began their education in English be allowed to continue in English; Section 29 of the Constitution Act 1982 be abrogated; neither confirmation of parents’ citizenship, school attendance of child in another province, should delay child’s provisional entry into an English school. [updated 2006/01]. Respect for the 2009 unanimous ruling of the Supreme Court of Canada that Bill 104 is unconstitutional by the Government of Quebec, and henceforth, to absolutely take no further legal, legislative and/or other actions to lessen access to education in English [2010/01] [2012/03]
20. The transport of students (to school) remain a responsibility of the linguistic school boards. [2000/01]
21. The adequate funding of schools to enable their existence without commercial exploitation of students.[2000/02]
22. That there be a permanent linguistic voters list for School Board elections (2005/5); said list to be dependent on School Board attended by voters’ children and that the voters remain on this list after their children have finished their secondary education.[2007/6] [2012/02] [2014/02]



QFHSA supports/endorsed:-

23. The recommendation that the Quebec Government amend the Charter of the French Language to include the children whose parents attended English school with a special authorization based on their serious learning disabilities, by striking the last paragraph of section 73. [2009/02]

### HEALTH

1. Mental health services for school children.
2. Compulsory immunization against polio, tetanus, diphtheria and whooping cough.
3. Cooperation and action by communities to deal with abuse of drugs and alcohol and solvent inhalants.
4. Education to deter students acquiring the habit of smoking.
5. The designation of each school as a smoke-free environment.
6. Compulsory annual medical examinations for school students under the Quebec Health Plan.
7. Provision of nutritional meals by school cafeterias and a ban on junk foods.
8. The provision of adequate school health services, including nursing staff.
9. Right of minors (14 years and older) to seek treatment for sexually transmitted diseases or drug addiction by a qualified physician without consent of parent or guardian.
10. Cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) training for school personnel and Secondary 5 students.
11. Open dialogue and full access to current information about AIDS.
12. Establishment and recurrent funding for rehabilitative treatment centers and after-care services for chemically-dependent adolescents.
13. Quebec medicare cover costs of treatment and after-care services for chemically-dependent adolescents.
14. CLSC social workers be empowered to work extra-territorially (to serve all students in a school regardless of where they live).
15. Augmentation of school-based services with social workers from CLSCs.

QFHSA supports/endorse:-

16. Routine testing of all pregnant women for Group B Streptococcus bacteria.
17. Federal and provincial government financial assistance to researchers involved in preparation of a vaccine for Group B Streptococcus.
18. Inclusion of Hepatitis B vaccination under the Québec Medicare Plan.
19. Provision of readily accessible and appropriate professional intervention and support for children at risk, regardless of where they live.
20. Allocation of funds to School Boards for feeding undernourished children. (99/18)
21. A map to reflect specific socio-economic background of English school students (99/18)
22. Learning about human sexuality through age-appropriate curriculum. [2001/02]
23. Increased maintenance allotment for healthier school environments. [2001/06] Improved air quality in schools [2010/06]
24. Institution of a comprehensive Non-Smoking Policy, for all students in all schools, be developed, enforced and supported. [2004/05]
25. Energy drinks only available by purchase by persons over the legal age of majority [2010/05]

#### MISCELLANEOUS

1. A Centre of Science and Technology in the province of Quebec.
2. Review and disallowance of ministerial regulations by members of the National Assembly.
3. MEQ give priority to its commitment to provide adequate support to the Learning Materials Centre, so they can improve and enlarge their scope to produce English materials. [2004/03]

#### PARENT INVOLVEMENT

1. Show-casing schools and school boards which have adopted an open door policy towards parental involvement and have school-based committees with parents as active participants.
2. Designated room for parents' use in each school.
3. Allow parents a meaningful role in allocation and dispersal of funds for materials used in a

QFHSA supports/endorse:-

school.

4. Adequate comprehensive liability insurance for all participants at extra-curricular activities sponsored by Home & School Associations. (96/4)
5. The need for facilities over and above the individual classrooms to serve as language rooms, computer labs, libraries, etc., as decided by the school community. (00/3)
6. The decisions of existing school communities to maintain and upgrade existing facilities be honoured by adequate funding from the Ministry of Education. (00/4)

### SAFETY

1. Traffic safety measures including traffic patrols near schools, increased penalties for infractions, compulsory insurance and safety tests for vehicles.
2. Mandatory instruction [first aid included], examinations and periodic re-certification for school bus drivers and charter bus drivers responsible for the transportation of children.
3. CSA Standard D.250 for school buses, seat top and back padding and inclusion of buses under the Canada Motor Vehicle Safety Act Standards.
4. Strict enforcement of laws concerning the passing of stationary school buses.
5. Inclusion of safety education and awareness programs both in the classroom as part of the school curriculum and by the bus driver for children on his bus.
6. The obligation of parents to educate their children in road and public transport safety.
7. Traffic Safety School Brigades in the schools.
8. School bus drivers able to communicate in the language of the students, be it English or French.
9. Charter bus companies, hired by schools and school boards, to meet present safety standards of school buses.
10. Charter buses, hired by schools and school boards, to be equipped with new safety equipment as required by law for school buses.
11. Gun ownership is a privilege, not a right; gun ownership should be linked to a rigid screening process; private ownership of military assault weapons or large capacity magazines be banned; all guns registered; sale of ammunition controlled..[1993/6]; .with mandatory program of education, guns safely stored.[1995/2]. Reaffirmed [2007/5].

QFHSA supports/endorses:-

12. Mandatory use of bike helmets.
13. Mandatory driver education. (97/1)
14. Banning trampolines from schools and municipal playgrounds. (98/8)

### TEACHERS

1. Salaries for teachers comparable to those received by similar professionals, i.e. equitable, competitive pay for teachers and recognition of teachers as full-time employees.(2002/01)
2. Provision of guidance counselling services in elementary and high schools.
3. Teachers having access to information, guidance and training in the principles of mental health.
4. Teachers receiving specific training in recognizing the exceptional child.
5. The appointment of an ombudsman to represent the interests of the children in all provincial teacher contract negotiations.
6. Teachers having training and education in media literacy.
7. Increased allocation from Ministry of Education for additional trained help to work with special needs students in the classroom.
8. Identification of difficulties and support for children with difficulties through the first cycle of elementary school as well as four and five-year old kindergarten students. (96/5)
9. Appropriate training being provided for student teachers, and quality professional development being provided for classroom teachers, to recognize the early warning signs of learning disabilities and/or learning difficulties, so that they can recommend early and on-going testing and intervention. Professional development being provided for classroom teachers in order to teach and accommodate these students within specialized classes, regular classes or within groups of students with special needs. Additional financial support for materials, resources and training being available for all personnel involved with students with learning disabilities and/or learning difficulties (2010/04)

### WELFARE

1. Establishment of Family Courts in larger centers of the province.
2. Cessation of nuclear weapons testing by any nation.
3. Guarantee in the Constitution of Canada of French and English language rights for all

QFHSA supports/endorse:-

residents.

4. Abolition of corporal punishment in public schools.
5. Any necessary measures to ensure that the environment be compatible with human health and enjoyment.
6. Quality television programming for young people during after-school hours.
7. Elimination of offensive advertising during children's viewing hours.
8. The exclusion of gambling casinos from Quebec.
9. Police officers laying charges in instances of wife-beating.
10. Community action in support of agencies concerned with family violence.
11. The provision of appropriate care, assistance and shelter for children in need.
12. Provision of qualified homemaker services for families with children at risk.
13. Retention of the Child Tax Exemption for dependent children.
14. The right of children's testimony being entered into evidence in cases of sexual offences against children.
15. Support all efforts to create a literate environment for our youth.
16. The promotion, development and support of local school-based strategies for preventing and dealing with student aggressive behaviour.
17. Parent conferences focused on training parents in the process of shared decision-making.
18. Legislation to regulate sale to minors of beverages containing up to 1% alcohol.[2001/07]
19. Implementation of conflict resolutions programs with necessary training of staff and provision of resource materials. [2001/08]
20. Urge federal government to eliminate conditional sentences for those convicted of impaired driving, causing bodily harm, or death. [2005-01]

QFHSA supports/endorsees:-

(File:Statement of Policy\English2017) includes 2016 addns)