



NORTHERN LIGHTS PUBLIC SCHOOL

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Information Package and Form Checklist

NORTHERN LIGHTS PS

This package includes important information about the school. Please review this information. You will also receive an **email from YRDSB in the coming weeks with forms that you need to complete for each child**. If you prefer to receive a paper copy or have not received the forms, please contact your school office.

Required Forms

These forms will be sent by email from YRDSB and must be completed.

- ☐ School Start-Up Permissions Form
- ☐ Student Information Consent Form

Forms are to be completed online by: SEPTEMBER 22, 2024

Additional Forms

These programs or opportunities are optional. These forms will be sent by email and must be completed **only** if you or your child wish to participate.

- ☐ Request for Faith Accommodations Form
- ☐ School Council Nomination Form **to be returned by September 22, 2024**

Welcome from the Principal

September 3, 2024

Dear Families,

Welcome to the 2024-2025 school year. It is our pleasure to welcome all of our new and returning families. We hope you all had a safe, healthy and enjoyable summer.

The professional and dedicated team of staff at Northern Lights Public School have a strong commitment to supporting your child's learning, achievement and well-being. We have been working hard to prepare to welcome your child to school and to create a learning environment where they feel safe, welcome, valued and respected.

There are some important things we want to share at the start of the school year:

- This start-up package includes important information about our school, and I encourage you to review it.
- The [Guide to the School Year](#) includes important information you may need to access throughout the school year. You can use the translation feature on the website to translate this content. Find the guide at <https://www2.yrdsb.ca/school-year-guide>.
- Each year we ask families to complete important start-up forms. You will receive an email in the coming weeks from the Board with a link to the online forms. Please review and complete the forms. If you prefer to receive and complete a paper copy, please contact the main office.

We value the relationship and partnership we have with families and look forward to connecting and working with you throughout the school year. Please do not hesitate to contact the school if you have any questions. We welcome the opportunity to connect with you.

There are many ways to stay connected with what's happening in our school:

- Visit our school website for up-to-date information about events.
- Review the weekly Northern Highlights newsletter which will be sent to you each Friday by email.
- You can also find updated information about the Board at www.yrdsb.ca, X (formerly Twitter) @YRDSB, Instagram @yrdsb.schools, or the Board podcast TuneIn YRDSB wherever you listen to podcasts.

We wish you all a happy, safe and successful school year.

Sincerely,

Mrs. J. Fine
Principal

Contact Information

For Ministry and Board compliance purposes, **please ensure that the school has your up-to-date contact information**, including:

- telephone number
- home address
- email address
- your child's emergency contact information
- medical information, if applicable

Please contact your school's main office to review or update your information.

If your child has a medical condition that requires emergency intervention, an essential routine health care plan, or any of the following medical conditions: Anaphylaxis, Asthma, Diabetes or Seizures you must contact your child's school to ensure all information is up-to-date and accurate.

Our School

BELL TIMES

8:30 am	Outdoor supervision begins
8:45 am	Entry into the school begins
8:50 am	Class begins and attendance is taken.
10:25-10:55 am	Morning Recess
12:35-1:35 pm	Lunch
3:15 pm	Dismissal

Additional Information

You can find information on topics covered in this package and more in the **Guide to the School Year**. A copy is provided to families and is also available on the York Region District School Board website at www.yrdsb.ca.

Accident Insurance

Student accident insurance provides coverage for injuries due to accidents not covered by government or private health plans (e.g. the cost of expensive dental work as a result of an accident). It is strongly recommended that parents/guardians of students involved in athletics purchase this insurance.

If your child is involved in an accident, whether at school or during non-school hours, insuremykids® protects your family from the resulting expenses, which are not normally covered under your government health and group insurance plans. For more information, visit insuremykids.com or call 1-800-463-5437.

Allergies/Medical Conditions

There are students and staff members in our school who have life-threatening allergies to nuts and other allergens. If they smell or come into contact with these allergens, they may have an anaphylactic reaction.

To help create an allergen-safe environment, please refrain from bringing nuts or nut products to school. For more information on helping to create an allergen-safe environment, please see the section on Allergies in the Guide to the School Year.

If your child has a serious or life-threatening allergy or prevalent medical condition, such as anaphylaxis, asthma, diabetes and/or epilepsy/seizure disorder, **please let the school administration know immediately** and speak to the school office staff about completing the appropriate health care plans.

Announcements

Important information is shared with students during the morning announcements. Students are asked to listen attentively and respectfully during the announcements.

Attendance

Parents/guardians are asked to inform your child's school if your child is going to be absent or late to school or an after-school event that they planned to attend. Where possible, notify the school in advance using one of the following methods:

Online

If you have activated your Edsby account, you can login to Edsby at www.yrdsb.edsby.com and report your child's absence online. You can access an [online video tutorial to learn more](http://bit.ly/edsbyabsence) (bit.ly/edsbyabsence) about how to do this. If you have not yet created an Edsby account, please contact your local school for information on how to do this.

By phone at (905) 727-4224

You can also use the YRDSB's automated phone reporting tool, iNFORM. To report your child's absence, please call the school phone number, press 1 to report a late or absence, and follow the prompts provided. A confirmation email will be sent to all parents/guardians who have access to the student's records.

You can also use both options to report future planned absences.

Before/After School Supervision

The safety of our students is our mutual priority and responsibility. Supervision for students in the morning begins 15 minutes before the bell. Parents/guardians are responsible for their children until staff are on duty. At the end of the school day, staff will supervise students' safe exit from the school upon dismissal.

Arrivals and Departures

We are a walking school community and encourage students of all ages and families to walk to school. In good weather, bikes, scooters and skateboards are also a great way to get to school. **Families should ensure that they are abiding by public health guidelines when traveling to and from school.**

Parents/guardians who drive their children to school, cannot park in the Kiss and Ride Loop. Traffic must keep moving, cars cannot stop to park. We have staff on duty in the morning beginning at 8:30.

ALSO, there is no drop off or parking allowed in the Bus Loop at the front of the school. You may be ticketed if the by-law officer is present.

Students who use bicycles, rollerblades, skateboards or scooters to travel to school:

- Must wear a helmet.
- Must walk while on school property.
- Should lock scooters and bicycles on the bike rack. **None of these can be stored in the school.**
- Older students may store rollerblades or skateboards in their lockers.

The school is not responsible for any lost or damaged personal items, so please ensure they are locked up outside or stored securely in lockers.

For students who take the bus to school, please be at your bus stop 5 minutes before pick up time.

More information about bus routes and times can be found at www.schoolbuscity.com.

Parents/guardians, it is important to remember your child's bus number and pick-up/drop-off times.

School Bus Safety

When riding school buses, you must:

- Be at the bus stop five minutes before your scheduled pick up.
- Keep well away from the road until the bus has stopped. Do not move toward the bus until it has stopped.
- Watch for the bus driver's signal before crossing the road. Look both ways and then cross the road.
- Get on the bus safely by using the handrail and go directly to your seat.
- Stay seated while the bus is in motion.
- Not eat or drink on the bus.
- Keep the aisle clear of books, knapsacks, lunch bags and other items.
- Keep windows closed.
- Never throw anything inside the bus or out of the window.
- Talk quietly so you do not distract the driver.
- Use respectful language.

Shouting, rough play and fighting are strictly prohibited. Students engaging in these activities will have their bus privileges suspended. We expect that all students should treat buses as an extension of the school and follow school rules and policies.

Transportation will be cancelled by 6:00 a.m. if road conditions are unsafe or are expected to deteriorate significantly by the time students are to be transported home. To find out if transportation is cancelled, check: the @YRDSB Twitter account, the YRDSB website, school websites, the Student Transportation Services' (STS) website at www.schoolbuscity.com or hotline 1-877-330-3001, radio and television media outlets. Schools will remain open unless otherwise stated. For more information, visit the [Student Transportation section of the Board website](#).

Cycling or Rolling to School

Students who use bicycles, rollerblades, skateboards or scooters to travel to school:

- Must wear a helmet.
- Must walk while on school property.
- Should lock bicycles on the bike rack, and store rollerblades, skateboards or scooters in their locker, backpack or school designated area. The school is not responsible for any lost or damaged personal items.

There may be rare occasions when unprecedented winter weather events occur and we need to close all schools and Board locations. For more information, please see the section on Weather Conditions in the Guide to the School Year. At all times, students and families should be aware of somewhere else they can go or someone to contact if bus services are cancelled or delayed, or if schools are forced to close due to an emergency.

Code of Student Conduct

A positive school climate is essential for students to succeed in school, as it promotes a safe, respectful and welcoming learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct sets standards of behaviour for students and members of the school community that support a caring, safe and inclusive school environment. All school members must respect and treat others fairly, regardless of race, ancestry, place of origin, colour, ethnic origin, creed, sex, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, age, marital status, family status or disability. The code applies whether on school property, on school buses, at school-related events or activities, before and/or after school programs or in other circumstances that could have an impact on the school climate.

To enhance caring, safe and inclusive school climates, positive student behaviour supports are provided and inappropriate behaviour is addressed using a bias-aware progressive discipline approach that takes into account mitigating factors.

We use a progressive discipline approach when inappropriate behaviour occurs. This means we consider a range of options to determine the most appropriate response to each situation to help students learn from their choices. In some cases, suspension or expulsion may be necessary. The Ontario Education Act and our Board Caring and Safe Schools Policy outline the situations in which suspension and expulsion must be considered. These infractions are also outlined in the Guide to the School Year. When inappropriate behaviour occurs, information will be shared with the victim and parents/guardians of the victim to the extent that legislation allows.

Class Placements

Due to late registrations and enrolments, there may be staffing changes and class reorganization during the first few weeks of school. We do our best to keep these changes to a minimum and to support students during any transitions.

Communication between School and Home

Parents/guardians are our most important partners in educating children. We communicate with you in a variety of ways throughout the year.

Student Agendas

The student agenda serves as a useful way for teachers and parents/guardians to communicate. Parents/guardians, with students in grade 2-6, please check your child's agenda daily. An agenda is a tool for students to record homework, important dates and notes and is a useful way for teachers and parents to communicate. Agendas can be purchased through School Cash Online.

Canada's Anti-Spam Legislation (CASL)

Canada's Anti-Spam Legislation (CASL) impacts how schools, staff and school councils communicate electronically to parents. CASL prohibits the sending of any type of electronic message that is commercial in nature (e.g., registration fees, pizza days, field trips, fundraising, etc.) unless the recipient has provided specific and informed consent. CASL does not apply to electronic information messages or to hard copy formats.

To subscribe or unsubscribe to commercial electronic messages, visit the school website or Family Resources page at www.yrdsb.ca/familyresources and, using the link provided, submit a valid email address.

Email/ Electronic Communication

To improve communication between home and school and reduce paper use, we coordinate an email distribution list. The list will be maintained and used only by school staff to communicate electronically to parents/guardians. Your email will not be sold, distributed or publicly posted. Families may receive electronic communication from the school through different platforms, such as Edsby or email.

Texts

Families can now receive text messages in emergency situations only - as part of our elementary school safe arrivals program or in the rare occasion of schools being closed due to [emergency winter weather](#). Ensure your school has your correct cell phone number captured to participate. Families can opt out at any time.

Stay Connected Online

You can also stay connected online through our school website, Twitter feed @NLPSIceCats and the Edsby app or website (<https://yrdsb.edsby.com/>). Some classrooms also have Google Classrooms, Twitter feeds or newsletters to help you stay connected. Your child's teacher will provide more information.

In addition, you can follow Board news and updates through:

- www.yrdsb.ca
- Instagram @yrdsb.schools
- Twitter @YRDSB

- [YouTube channel YRDSBMedia](#)
- the Board app YRDSB Mobile
- [TuneIn YRDSB](#), the Board's podcast, available on most podcast platforms

Dress Code

School dress codes are currently under review. Clothing Guidelines:

- Clothing must be free of inappropriate logos, slogans, pictures and symbols
- No depiction of weapons, violence or gore
- No undergarments showing or no see-through clothing for tops and bottoms
- No spiked accessories/jewelry that can cause physical harm

Emergency Information

Office staff should be notified as soon as possible if any of the following information changes:

- address, work or home numbers or other contact information
- emergency contacts and telephone numbers
- changes in custody agreements
- medical alert or changes in health condition (e.g., allergies, medications)

Emergency Preparedness

The Board has a number of policies and procedures in place to address emergency situations if normal school operations cannot continue or where student and staff member safety may be at risk. This could include a fire, flood or acts of violence. All schools have individual plans and conduct drills throughout the year.

There will be six fire, one hold and secure, and two lockdown drills annually so students become familiar with emergency preparedness procedures. These drills are important so that in the case of an actual emergency, students and staff members know what to do to be safe.

Excursions/Community Walkabouts

Our outdoor spaces are learning spaces. Teachers may take classes on walks around the community to support classroom learning, environmental literacy, and mental and health and well-being. As well, many physical education classes and other activities are held outdoors, weather permitting. You will be informed whenever school vehicles are used for longer trips.

Family Resources

Visit www.yrdsb.ca/familyresources or click on the link from the Board's homepage to access a variety of resources for families, including:

- links to the start-up forms (when available)
- IT support for families
- translation tools, privacy considerations and more
- links to community resources, curriculum materials, student supports and more
- online tools like Google Classroom, Edsby and School Cash Online. Click on the "Need Help?" link for access to tips and resources to support you in using these online tools.

Homework

The Ministry of Education defines homework as “work that students do at home to practise skills, consolidate knowledge and skills, and /or prepare for the next class.”

The Board has a homework policy that supports student learning and recognizes the importance of personal and family well-being. The amount, frequency and nature of assigned homework will vary depending on the student’s strengths and needs, well-being, grade, subject and other factors. For more information about time guidelines and how parents can provide support, please see the Guide to the School year and [Board Homework Policy and Procedure](#).

How Can We Help You?

Most concerns can be resolved with dialogue and cooperation. If you have a school-related question or concern, please follow these steps:

1. Arrange a meeting with your child’s teacher or the appropriate school staff member.
2. If you need further assistance, the school principal or designate may be contacted to review the matter, mediate and help facilitate the process.
3. Contact the superintendent for our school if the matter remains unresolved.

We are committed to addressing concerns in a fair, equitable and timely manner.

If you have a human rights related concern and/or complaint, the first step is to engage with the school or the superintendent. Following a review of the matter, a determination is made on whether or not it is to be referred to the Board’s Human Rights Commissioner’s Office. The Independent Office of the Integrity Commissioner may also be engaged to address concerns related to trustee behaviour. Contact information can be found on the Board website, or by contacting the school.

More information is available in the Guide to the School Year and [on the Board website](#).

Lunch Time Agreement

Students who leave school property for lunch must have parent/guardian permission, otherwise students must stay at school. The **School Start-Up Permissions Form** must be completed for all students and returned to the school.

Personal and School Property

The school and the Board are not responsible for lost, damaged or stolen personal items. You can reduce the risk by leaving valuable items at home. Always secure items.

Students are expected to show respect for school property and materials at all times. Students, together with their parents/guardians, are responsible for ensuring that school items are returned in good condition. Textbooks, lockers, desks and chairs should not be vandalized (e.g., writing inside school books, torn pages, holes in desks, etc.). Lost or damaged textbooks, library books or other school materials are the responsibility of the student. Restitution will be expected and outlined by each school.

Pets on School Property

Except for trained service animals, pets such as dogs or cats, are not permitted in a school, a classroom, or onto school property.

Recess

All students are expected to go out for recess and lunch hour to support their well-being, weather permitting. If a student is well enough to attend school, then they will benefit from short periods of outdoor exercise. Schools do not have supervised health room facilities. Recess, entry, dismissal times, and lunch time are supervised. Students should dress comfortably and appropriately according to weather conditions.

Requests for Faith Accommodation

There may be circumstances where students and families request accommodation for religious beliefs in curriculum areas including the Arts and Physical Education. Accommodations may include different instruction and assessment opportunities, or full withdrawal. If you are interested in discussing an accommodation based upon your religious beliefs, speak with your child's teacher and the school principal or complete the **Faith Requests for Curriculum Accommodations Form** available through the school.

By providing a range of accommodations, we are building a sense of community and belonging for all students. For more information, see Board Procedure on Equity and Inclusivity: Religious Accommodation.

Significant Faith Days

York Region is rich in culture and diverse in religious beliefs and practices based on faith.

The dates listed below are some faith holidays of particular significance to members of the major faith communities in our Board. We affirm and value equally the faith diversity in our schools, therefore, events such as field trips, school concerts, conferences, meetings, workshops, other professional events, co-curricular activities and exams/tests will not be scheduled on these dates:

<u>2024-2025</u>	<u>FAITH DAY</u>	<u>FAITH</u>
October 3-4, 2024	Rosh Hashanah ²	Judaism
October 12, 2024	Yom Kippur ²	Judaism
November 1, 2024	Diwali	Hinduism
December 25, 2024	Christmas	Christianity (Western)
January 7, 2025	Christmas Christianity	(Eastern)
January 29, 2025	Lunar New Year	Buddhism
March 31, 2025	Eid-ul-Fitr ^{1 2}	Islam
April 13, 2025	Pesach/Passover ²	Judaism
April 14, 2025	Vaisakhi	Sikhism

April 18, 2025	Good Friday	Christianity (Western)
April 18, 2025	Holy Friday	Christianity (Eastern)
April 20, 2025	Ridvan	Baha'i

¹ Dates are subject to the sighting of the moon each month and may vary for different members of the Islamic faith

² All Jewish and Islamic Holy Days commence on the preceding evening at sunset.

Please note that in addition to the above listed dates, we will take reasonable steps to accommodate students and staff members of a faith group for whom the Board's and the school's operations or requirements create undue hardship and interfere with their ability to exercise their religious beliefs and practices.

School Council

As parents/guardians, there are many ways you can be engaged in your child's learning at home and at school. This includes getting involved with the school council. Contact school office staff for more information. Elections shall occur within the first thirty days of the start of each school year. **School Council Nomination Forms** are [due by September 22, 2022](#).

Student Personal Information

Schools routinely collect, use and release student personal information, in keeping with the Education Act and other laws. Whenever your child's personal information is collected, its use will be explained to you.

Parents/guardians, please sign the **Student Personal Information Consent Form** and see the section on Privacy and Information Access in the Guide to the School Year for more information.

If you have any questions about your child's privacy protection, please contact the school principal or the Information Access and Privacy Office at 905-727-0022 ext. 2015.

Technology Use

All students and their parents/guardians are expected to read the [Use of Technology Agreement](#) (in the Guide to the School Year or available on the Board website). They are also required to sign the **School Start-Up Permissions Form** to acknowledge that they have read, understand and will support the conditions/rules concerning the use of school/Board and personal technology as it supports learning.

This agreement is designed to ensure a safe and supportive school environment and network integrity.

We believe the classroom is the ideal place to teach students how to use digital tools effectively and responsibly, and how to stay safe online. Google Suite for Education is one of the tools educators may use to engage students in online learning and teach students how to stay safe and be responsible using technology.

Through Google Suite, students have access to a Google Suite Gmail. This Gmail access is customized for appropriate age levels. Students younger than Grade 6 cannot send or receive emails outside of the YRDSB Google Suite. We have also put strict measures in place to prevent SPAM and block inappropriate language and websites for students using email through the Google Suite. For more information, please visit the Board website or speak to your child's teacher about the tools they are using in the classroom.

We all have a role to play in helping students to become responsible digital citizens. Digital citizenship at home resources are available on our Board website.

Use of Non-Board Electronic Devices

We recognize that learning can be enhanced by technology and we have created opportunities in our classrooms to leverage digital tools to enhance teaching, learning and communication. Each school has its own guidelines about electronic devices. At a minimum, cell phones and other personal communication devices must be turned off and kept out of sight during all instructional periods, except with the clear permission of the principal or the classroom teacher.

Discussions will take place in our classrooms throughout the year about the impact of digital footprints and how a positive attitude toward using technology supports collaboration, learning and productivity. Camera and/or video functions on mobile devices are not permitted for use on school property without clear permission from the principal or teacher. Infractions will be dealt with as student discipline, under the Caring and Safe Schools Policy and its related procedures.

Check with the school's main office to find out if students may bring electronic devices into the classroom, use them in school, or if they must leave these items in their backpacks/lockers. There are exceptions for students who need specific devices as per their Individual Education Plan, such as voice recorders and other mobile technology. The use of these tools is managed by Board staff.

At no time may electronic devices be used in washrooms or change-rooms.

Students are responsible for the care and security of their personal devices. The school is not responsible for any damage, loss or theft.

Visitors

All visitors (including parents/guardians) must:

- Use the main entrance of the school, buzzing to enter all elementary schools.
- Check in at the main office when they arrive.
- Only visit classrooms or other locations within the school, with permission from the principal or their designate.
- Follow the direction of the principal at all times.

The office staff will get important messages and materials to your child.

Volunteering in the School

We welcome and encourage the important role that parents/guardians and community members play in education. There are many opportunities for you to get involved at the school. For more information,

contact the school office staff or review Volunteers in Our Schools Policy and Procedure. If you are interested, please complete the **Volunteers in Our Schools Form** and return it to the school office.

Fair Notices

Reporting Children And Youth In Need Of Protection

All school board staff have a legal responsibility to notify a child protection agency if there are concerns for the well-being of students under the age of 16 years. Staff may report suspicions of a protection concern to a child protection agency for youth aged 16 and 17 years. Any suspicions of physical or sexual abuse, neglect or lack of care by a parent/guardian must be reported immediately to the administrator for all students under the age of 18 years. Parents/guardians will not be consulted in these situations.

Student Threat-Risk Assessment Protocol: Fair Notice and Process

Threat Assessment and Intervention

Schools continue to be among the safest places in our community. The well-being and safety of members of the school community are a shared responsibility. This includes preventing and responding to the risk of violence.

Our Student Threat-Risk Assessment Protocol was developed with community partners to respond to behaviours, including actions, statements and other indicators that suggest that a student may be “at risk” of harming others. To keep school communities safe and provide support to everyone, staff, parents/guardians, students, and community members must report all threatening situations to the school administrator or police as soon as possible. Note – other procedures and protocols are in place to deal with threats from adults in the school community.

What is the purpose of the Threat Assessment Protocol?

- Ensure the safety of students, staff, parents/guardians, and other members of the school community
- Ensure an effective and timely response when there is a threatening situation
- Understand the factors that contribute to a threatening situation
- Assist in the development of an intervention plan
- Promote the emotional and physical safety of everyone involved

What is a threatening situation?

A threatening situation is defined as an indication of impending harm or violent acts against someone or something. Threats may be implied, verbal, written, drawn, posted on the internet, sent electronically or by information technology of any type, made by gesture or reasonably inferred from the surrounding circumstances of events. Threats may be direct, indirect, conditional or veiled.

What behaviours activate the Threat Assessment Protocol?

The protocol will be initiated when behaviours include, but are not limited to:

- Serious violence with intent to harm or kill;

- Verbal/written threats of serious violence to harm or kill others (clear, direct and plausible);
- Use of technology to communicate threats to harm/kill others.
- Possession of weapons (including replicas);
- Bomb threats (making and/or detonating explosive devices);
- Fire setting;
- Sexual assault;
- Criminal Harassment;
- Gang-related occurrences.

What happens when a threatening situation is reported?

All threatening behaviours by a student shall be reported to the principal who will activate the Threat Assessment protocol.

Once a threatening situation has been reported to a school administrator, interviews will be conducted. These interviews may include students, staff, family members and/or others as appropriate. This will be done to determine the level of risk, and develop an effective and timely response to the incident. After the immediate safety risk has been addressed, support and intervention plans will be developed with input from parents/guardians.

Who is a member of a Threat Assessment team?

Each school will have staff trained in the Threat Assessment protocol. A multi-disciplinary Threat Assessment team will assess the situation and support the development of an intervention plan. The team includes a School Administrator, a School Social Worker and/or a Psychological Services staff member, a York Regional Police officer, and appropriate members of the student's circle of care.

Is parental/guardian or student consent required?

Consent is not required to respond to an emergency situation. When there is a risk that someone may be harmed, it is important that the incident be addressed as quickly and effectively as possible.

Fair Notice

Please consider this as "fair notice" to all members of the school community that any report of a threatening situation will be investigated. The Threat Assessment protocol is part of our strategy to create a safe, secure and supportive school environment for everyone.

YRDSB Student Suicide Intervention Protocol Fair Notice

York Region District School Board is committed to student well-being and mental health. YRDSB has developed a Student Suicide Intervention Protocol to help keep students safe in the event of suicidal thoughts or actions. Youth suicide is a complex, emotionally-charged and sadly real problem in Canada. It is the second leading cause of death amongst young people. It's important to recognize that those who struggle with mental health have personal strength and resilience and the potential to overcome difficulties to ultimately thrive.

The YRDSB Student Suicide Intervention Protocol is designed to address the six steps involved when responding to current and present thoughts of suicide, as well as actions related to suicide. In addition,

the Protocol is governed by a set of guiding principles which are underpinned by a culturally responsive and reflective practice.

Suicide is not culturally neutral. Our cultural and ethnic backgrounds will inform how each of us understands suicide. To see all the guiding principles, see the [Student Suicide Intervention Protocol on the Board website, or request a copy through the school office.](#)

Given the urgent need to help keep students safe from suicide, each school has access to Board staff trained in suicide intervention. In the urgent situation of suicide intervention, staff trained in suicide intervention do not require parental / guardian consent to intervene. However, we do make every effort to contact parents/ guardians to apprise you of your child's situation and the assistance provided. Parents/guardians are an integral part of keeping their children safe. In the event that the intervention protocol is used, a record of the intervention will be shared with you (student consent to share information is required for those over the age of 18 years) and a copy will be created and stored in a private and confidential on-line records management system. In accordance with privacy and health records legislation, a copy will be retained for one year plus a day following the intervention. As per the protocol parental/guardian (student if 18 or over) consent will be sought to share the intervention plan with those members identified in the record. If you have any questions about the Student Suicide Intervention Protocol please contact your school principal.