

Policy Statement

It is the policy of the Keewatin-Patricia District School Board (KPDSB) to work with its community partners in order to share its facilities to the benefit of the KPDSB, its students, and the community, and to optimize the use of the assets owned by the KPDSB. The KPDSB will seek opportunities to share facilities with community partners when building new schools and/or undertaking significant renovations, and when considering the use of unoccupied space in schools. The KPDSB will attempt to expand the number of partnerships in a way that is transparent, sustainable, and supportive of student achievement.

Rationale

Cooperative and collaborative partnerships are part of the foundation of a strong, vibrant, and sustainable publicly funded education system. Offering space in schools to partners can strengthen the role of schools in communities, reduce facility operating costs for the KPDSB, provide a place for programs and facilitate the coordination of, and improve access to, services for students and the wider community, as well as provide transitional school-to-work experiences for students.

Guidelines

1. Authority for entering into facility partnerships on behalf of the KPDSB is delegated to the Director of Education or Designate.
2. All facility partnerships shall meet the following requirements:
 - Health and safety of students must be protected;
 - Partnerships must be appropriate for the school setting;
 - Partnerships must not compromise the KPDSB's student achievement strategy; and
 - Entities that provide competing education services such as tutoring services, JK-12 private schools or private colleges, and credit offering entities that are not government funded, are not eligible partners.
3. A notification list of potential partners will be maintained by the Director of Education, or

Designate, consisting, at a minimum, of the applicable entities listed in Ontario Regulation 44/98, and will specifically include:

- All municipalities within the geographic boundaries of the KPDSB;
- The Kenora District Services Board;
- All Public Health Boards and Children’s Mental Health Centres within the geographic boundaries of the KPDSB; and
- Other appropriate entities or public institutions deemed beneficial to student learning and experiences.

If childcare operators and government-funded agencies request it, they will be added to the notification list. Other eligible agencies may be added to the notification list by the Director of Education or Designate.

4. Information on space available to partners will be posted on the KPDSB’s website and the information will be updated on an annual, or more frequent, basis. Entities on the notification list will be notified when information is updated.
5. A public meeting will be held once per year in a community of the KPDSB to discuss potential facility partnerships and to receive information on the needs of the communities within the KPDSB. Details on the time and location of the meeting will be provided to the entities on the notification list and posted on the KPDSB website at least thirty (30) days in advance of the meeting.
6. When the KPDSB is considering building a new school or undertaking a significant addition or renovation, it will notify the entities on the notification list one (1) to three (3) years prior to the potential construction start date. The KPDSB will provide as much information as possible about its plan and the site to support potential partners in determining the project’s sustainability for their purposes.
7. The rent and/or fees charged to partners should cover the operations and capital cost, including administrative costs and property taxes (if applicable), to the KPDSB of the space occupied by the partner. Additional costs to perform minor renovations to protect student safety, provide appropriate washrooms, and otherwise make the space suitable for use by facility partners, should be borne by the partners.
8. Notwithstanding the above, where suitable partners cannot be found or where the KPDSB considers it to be in the best interest, surplus space may be sold or leased in accordance with Ontario Regulation 444/98 as amended. KPDSB Policy 802 – School Viability and Closure governs the study of schools for potential closure.
9. Any requirements contained in the Ministry of Education Community Planning and Partnership Guideline (March 2015) as amended, that are not contained in this policy shall also be adhered to, and where there is any discrepancy between the provisions of this policy and that of the Guideline aforementioned, the provisions of the Guideline shall prevail.