



## ***Policy to Promote the Arts and Culture in our Schools***

### **1.0 Preamble**

Initiatives of the Ministry of Education, Recreation and Sports (MELS) and the Ministry of Culture and Communications (MCC) through a provincial entente aim to bring students into contact with the arts and culture within the school system. By integrating artistic and cultural dimensions into the educational mission of each school, young people are given an opportunity to broaden their horizons and open up to the world. The entente requires that each school board adopt a cultural policy that is specific to the board and encourages the educational community to work together with its cultural communities. (MELS - Culture in the School, A Class Act, 2006)

Riverside's *Policy to Promote the Arts and Culture in our Schools* is established to bring artistic and cultural dimensions into the school system in order to promote the nurturing of students in mind, body and spirit, through engagement in artistic and cultural activities. The introduction of the arts and culture to students fosters the enrichment of attitudes, aptitudes and cross-curricular competencies, be they of an intellectual, physical, emotional, personal, social or communicative nature.

### **2.0 Principles**

Riverside School Board fosters the approach of an arts-infused education for all its students, drawing on the arts as a means of engaging students in learning within other disciplines. The Board promotes, whenever possible, the engagement of artists to work in collaboration with teachers.

The policy is applied through the collaboration of all members of the Riverside community: the Council of Commissioners, the school board's senior management, the schools and their administration, the school teaching staff, the Riverside School Board Advisory Committee for the Arts and Culture in Education, the Parents' Committee and the Governing Boards, as well as community representatives.

The target clientele of the policy which promotes arts and culture in education, includes all preschool, elementary, secondary students and adult and vocational students as well as school board employees and school community parents.

### **3.0 Objectives**

The objectives of the policy are to:

- foster the development of intellectual, emotional and social activities, and the mastery of knowledge by way of artistic activities;

- help students learn how to live and work together through the participation in artistic projects;
- place greater emphasis on the arts and culture in the school board by encouraging and supporting artistic and cultural activities (Culture in Education partnerships, cultural outings, trips to museums, etc.);
- promote and support artistic and cultural projects that encourage artists working within classrooms, the pooling of resources to support artistic activities;
- establish or maintain collaboration among schools, and with the municipalities and other cultural and community-based organizations to carry out collaborative culture-in-education projects.
- establish a *Riverside School Board Advisory Committee for the Arts and Culture in Education*.

## **4.0 Roles**

### **4.1 The Riverside School Board Advisory Committee for the Arts and Culture in Education**

The Advisory Committee provides a link between the schools of the Board and arts and cultural organizations, and its other partners, within the community.

Members of the Advisory Committee are drawn from the Council of Commissioners, senior board administration, Educational Services, the Finance Department, administrators and teachers of elementary and secondary schools, students from secondary school, representatives of adult education, representatives of the artistic and cultural community of the territory, parent representatives, members of the community at large.

The Advisory Committee is formed at the beginning of each school year.

The role of the Advisory Committee is to:

- establish and implement an action plan; advise and make recommendations to the School Board regarding any action, or allocation of resources, resulting from implementation of the policy;
- stimulate cultural life and the cultural dimension of learning among teaching staff, as promoted by the policy;
- raise awareness in the community regarding how arts and culture can be used to enhance students' development in subject-specific and cross-curricular competencies of the Québec Education Program (QEP);
- review and support annual cultural events of the School Board (e.g. Québec Arts Week, ArtsSmarts projects, display of students' work, launching students' publications, multidisciplinary performance festival, lectures with a cultural theme intended for employees, etc.);

- encourage schools to consult the professional, artistic and cultural resources in their community;
- forge partnerships with cultural groups, artists, libraries, museums, art galleries, bookstores, universities, colleges, municipalities, potential sponsors, as well as with the Ministry of Culture and Communications, and the Ministry of Education, Recreation and Sports.

## **4.2 School Board**

The role of the School Board is to:

- support the initiatives of the schools and services of the School Board that promote arts and culture in general;
- promote accessibility of personnel to arts and cultural activities, training and cultural venues and consult personnel in this regard as the need arises;
- promote strategies to place greater emphasis on arts and culture and teaching of arts and culture to students, both internally and externally;
- maintain the advisory committee for the arts and culture in education by providing the necessary resources;
- forge partnerships with cultural groups, artists, libraries, universities, colleges and cities, as well as with the Ministère de la culture, etc.;
- publicize the artistic and cultural projects that have been carried out by the School Board and schools among parents and the population in general;
- provide evaluation services to gauge the qualitative and quantitative impact of arts and culture initiatives.
- consult with the administration, teaching staff and governing boards of schools, as well as the Parents' Committee to gather input for programs and activities.

## **4.3 School Administration**

The role of School Administration is to:

- raise awareness among all personnel regarding the importance of integrating the arts and cultural dimension into the school's educational project, success plan and all other learning and teaching activities;
- foster the implementation of a school Arts and Culture committee and support and coordinate its activities;
- facilitate the dissemination of information and activities of a cultural nature among the staff and throughout the organization;
- encourage personnel to select and bring to life arts and cultural learning projects as part of the Culture in Education Partnership;
- forge partnerships with cultural organizations and the municipalities and other interested organizations;

- publicize the initiatives of the schools and Adult Education Centre that promote and integrate a cultural dimension;
- publicize the arts and cultural projects that have been carried out by the school by sharing them with other schools via a networking initiative;
- establish cooperative partnerships with representatives of the Riverside School Board Advisory Committee for the Arts and Culture in Education.

#### **4.4 Teaching Staff**

The Teachers' role is to:

- assume a major role in the development of the artistic and cultural dimension of students' learning;
- expose students to a wide variety of artistic and cultural references within the context of their learning activities, as part of the Québec Education Program;
- provide the opportunity for students to have meaningful artistic and cultural experiences in which they can act, take ownership of, and become involved in their culture;
- foster openness towards the cultural diversity of the community.

#### **4.5 Governing Board**

Governing Boards are encouraged to:

- include the arts/cultural dimension in the school's educational project;
- ensure that the arts/cultural dimension to learning is integrated throughout all the school's activities;
- facilitate accessibility to equipment and venues for the purpose of holding cultural activities and events;
- review on an annual basis the arts and culture programs and initiatives in the school, in light of the Board's Arts and Culture policy, and make recommendations for the coming year;
- create and maintain arts and culture committees in schools.

#### **4.6 Parents' Committee**

The Parents' Committee is encouraged to:

- provide input into initiatives of the Riverside School Board Advisory Committee for the Arts and Culture in Education;
- promote local activities which ensure that the arts and cultural dimension to learning is integrated throughout all the school's activities.