

Memorandum

PHD-C 5-2026

Subject: Declaration of Commitment with Niagara School Boards

Date: February 10, 2026

To: Public Health and Social Services Committee

From: Catherine Lowes, Manager School Health, Pamela Dilts, Director Family & Community Health

This memo is to inform Council of a Declaration of Commitment (2025-2030) between Public Health and Niagara's four school boards:

- District School Board of Niagara (DSBN)
- Niagara Catholic District School Board (NCDSB)
- Le Conseil scolaire Viamonde
- Conseil scolaire catholique MonAvenir

This declaration formalizes a shared commitment to promote the health and well-being of children and youth in Niagara schools. It establishes a foundation for sustained partnership and achievement of mutual goals.

School boards and public health units are mandated by the Ontario Ministry of Education and the Ontario Public Health Standards to work collaboratively to support student health and education. This declaration ensures coordinated efforts to foster healthy, supportive school environments through engagement with parents, students, educators, and community partners.

Key Objectives of the Declaration include:

- **Shared Priorities & Collaboration:** Aligning efforts to strengthen student well-being and leverage organizational expertise.
- **Evidence-informed Practices:** Developing and promoting resources that reflect school board values and address health-related priorities.
- **Data-Informed Decision Making:** Using local data to guide equitable allocation of services and inform planning.
- **Focus Initiatives:** Emphasizing mental health, substance use prevention, human development, infection prevention, physical activity, and nutrition.

- Monitoring & Evaluation: Committing to joint research, data sharing, and evaluation to measure progress and impact.

This Declaration of Commitment (2025-2030) closely aligns with Niagara Region's Council Strategic Priorities.

The declaration will be reviewed annually and renewed every five years, as appropriate.

We extend our sincere thanks to the District School Board of Niagara, Niagara Catholic District School Board, Le Conseil scolaire Viamonde, and Conseil scolaire catholique MonAvenir for their ongoing partnership and dedication to student well-being.

Respectfully submitted and signed by

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Appendices

Appendix 1 Niagara Region Public Health and Niagara School Boards Declaration of Commitment 2025-2030 - English

Appendix 2 Niagara Region Public Health and Niagara School Boards Declaration of Commitment 2025-2030 - French