



# Northeastern Catholic District School Board

## BEAR WISE PROTOCOL

Administrative Procedure Number: APH 003

### POLICY STATEMENT

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The following precautionary measures may be enacted at the discretion of the Principal when nuisance bears become present in a schoolyard.

### REFERENCES

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NCDSB Policy E-23 Emergency Preparedness  
Administrative Procedure: APE 002 School Emergency Preparedness Plans

### PROCEDURES

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1. Staff members responsible for outdoor supervision of pupils during the school day will carry a whistle with them at all times.
2. The school shall notify the proper authorities to report the bear sighting. In an emergency, the school shall call 911.
3. The principal upon verification of a bear sighting with a clear understanding that the animal is in the vicinity will inform staff about the bear sighting.
4. If a bear is sighted immediately outside of the fenced area that borders the school property or within the school grounds while students are outside at recess nutrition break or lunch hour, staff members on supervision duty will blow their whistle three times as a warning to the students.
5. Upon hearing the warning, the students must immediately walk slowly off the playground area and go directly into the school. The supervisor on duty must ensure that all students have vacated the school playground. **Students and staff should not run as this could encourage a bear to give chase.**
6. Students must enter the school immediately and proceed quietly to their classrooms.
7. All staff and students working within the school during the warning must also proceed immediately to their classrooms.
8. All teaching staff are required to take attendance promptly and must notify the office that all students are present and accounted for.

9. During school yard inspections, the custodian shall ensure that no attractants (e.g. someone's leftover lunch) are left in the school yard.
10. The Principal shall review the bear procedure at September staff meeting. Copies are to be made for all staff.
11. The Principal shall ensure that students are informed of appropriate procedures when a bear is present.
12. The Principal shall ensure that staff and students are compliant with the bear protocol.

**Director of Education:** *Tricia Stefanie Weltz*

**Date:** **January 2021**