

Fencing at HCDSB Sites	
Adopted: March 20, 2017	Last Reviewed/Revised: June 5, 2023
Next Scheduled Review: 2025-2026	
Associated Policies & Procedures: IV-02 Outdoor Facility Enhancements, Maintenance and Security	

Purpose

The Halton Catholic District School Board (HCDSB) recognizes the role of fencing to provide safe and secure learning environments for school communities. Properly designed fencing addresses several security and safety needs, such as:

- Designating the grounds as a maintained space that deserves respect;
- Limiting entry and exit points to a few easily monitored locations;
- Enabling/Aiding school site surveillance by school staff;
- Limiting access to areas that are not highly visible.

This procedure will assist the HCDSB in selecting appropriate fencing measures to provide safe and secure sites throughout the HCDSB.

Application and Scope

Maintaining safe and secure properties is of the utmost importance to the HCDSB. The use of fencing to enhance site security plays a key role in site safety. Fencing applications on HCDSB properties include perimeter security, play area segregation and pedestrian and traffic control. As such, this procedure shall apply to all HCDSB-owned facilities and properties.

Principles

In accordance with Policy IV-02, Outdoor Facility Maintenance and Security, fencing shall be installed and maintained, as required, on HCDSB sites to ensure a safe and secure environment for students and staff.

Requirements

Where possible, the following guidelines will be followed when installing new fencing or altering existing fencing:

- All HCDSB properties are to be fenced. Perimeter fencing shall be installed approximately 150 millimetres from the property line, on HCDSB property, so that the fence is wholly-owned by the HCDSB.
- For new or vacant HCDSB properties, the perimeter of the property shall be enclosed by a 9-gauge galvanized or black vinyl chain link fence not less than 1.8 metre-high with a 43-millimetre diameter top and bottom rail.
- For new properties, the fence will be installed by the developer, in compliance with Policy IV-02, as part of the Developer's Subdivision Agreement, and the Purchase and Sale Agreement.
- Properties with no buildings or structures shall have a gate(s) installed to allow for access and maintenance of the property. All gates shall remain locked at all times with a chain and padlock whenever possible.
- Properties with vacant buildings shall have a 6-metre-wide opening gate installed wherever the perimeter fence crosses the fire route to allow for the access of emergency vehicles. All gates shall remain locked at all times with a chain and padlock whenever possible.
- HCDSB will install at new sites, where feasible and practical, a 9-gauge galvanized or black vinyl chain link fence not less than 1.8 metre-high with a 43-millimetre diameter top and bottom rail between the HCDSB's property and the adjoining residential or commercial properties. Perimeter fencing shall be installed approximately 150 millimetres from the property line, on HCDSB property, so that the fencing is wholly-owned by the HCDSB.
- Openings in a site's perimeter fencing that adjoins a residential or commercial property shall not be permitted. Since the perimeter fencing is wholly-owned by the HCDSB and situated on HCDSB property, all openings created in the perimeter fencing shall be removed and replaced with continuous fencing to ensure site safety and security.
- Fencing between public open space or parks and a HCDSB-owned site will be evaluated on a site by site basis to determine if fencing is required. Where site safety and security risks are identified due to an adjacent public open space or park and an evidence-based need is substantiated, fencing may be installed between the school site and adjacent public open space or park, in accordance with the fencing requirements in this procedure for new sites.
- Where a site's parking area is located adjacent to residential or commercial properties, municipal by-laws may require a different type of fencing than chain link (i.e., wood plank privacy fencing). HCDSB will comply with the respective site plan agreement and municipal by-laws and install the necessary fencing type, as required.
- Where appropriate, parking areas and driveways will be separated from play areas by a 1.2 metre-high 9-gauge galvanized or black vinyl chain link fence with a 43-millimetre diameter top and bottom rail. All entrance and exit points in the play areas must be gated with a latching mechanism that can accommodate a lock.

- Kindergarten and Child Care Centre play areas shall be enclosed with a 1.2 metre-high 6-gauge black vinyl chain link fence with a 43-millimetre diameter top and bottom rail. All entrance and exit points in the play areas must be gated with a latching mechanism that can accommodate a lock.
- Exceptions to the above listed fencing requirements may be granted to comply with municipal by-laws, provided the safety and security of students, staff and the site is not compromised.

APPROVED: Regular Meeting of the Administrative Council

AUTHORIZED BY: _____
Director of Education and Secretary of the Board