



Remote Work #300.26

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| Adopted: | February 2023 |
| Last Reviewed/Revised: | September 2023 |
| Responsibility: | Human Resource Services |
| Next Scheduled Review: | June 2027 |

Policy Statement

The Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board (the “Board”) recognizes the potential benefits that a work arrangement combining remote and on-site work can bring to both the employee and the Board. With the philosophy of maintaining high performance standards, accountability, service to the community and engendering exceptional employee engagement, this Policy and Administrative Procedure is intended to address the remote working aspect of flexible working arrangement by providing guidance on remote working.

Application and Scope

This Administrative Procedure applies in a broad sense to all employees as is recognized that not all jobs can be performed remotely or are suitable in all situations for remote working, and it is therefore expected that before remote working can be applied, it must satisfy the requirements outlined within the Administrative Procedure.

Employees may request or be required by the Board to perform their duties remotely, as applicable to their role, on a temporary or continuous basis. In general, staff working within schools and/or working directly with students would not be eligible for remote work arrangements. (e.g., front line, student, or client-facing)

To engage in remote work, employees shall enter into a Remote Work Agreement with the employer that details an employment arrangement in which an employee conducts their work at an alternate work location, including the employee’s residence, rather than at their regular board location.

When working remotely, all staff shall be subject to this Policy and Administrative Procedure and all other applicable Board Policies and Administrative Procedures and Legislation.

Employees engaged in remote work will be responsible for safeguarding the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of board information in their possession.

References

- [Policy 300.01.P Workplace Harassment](#)
- [Policy 300.16.P Health & Safety](#)
- [Policy 300.17.P - Professional Standards and Conflict of Interest](#)
- [Policy 300.19 Progressive Discipline \(Employees\)](#)
- [Policy 300.20.P - Workplace Violence Prevention](#)
- [Policy 400.13.P - Records and Information Management](#)
- [Policy 600.01.P - Electronic Communications and Social Media Use](#)
- [Policy 600.02.P - Information and Communications Technology Use](#)
- [Accessibility for Ontario with Disabilities Act, 2005](#)
- [Employment Standards Act](#)
- [Human Rights Code of Ontario](#)
- [Occupational Health and Safety Act](#)
- [Workplace Safety and Insurance Act](#)
- [Administrative Procedure OPS 400.18.AP - Electronic Monitoring.pdf](#)
- [Bill 27, Working for Workers Act, 2021](#)



- [OECTA Secondary Collective Agreement](#)
- [OECTA Elementary Collective Agreement](#)
- [OECTA Occasional Teacher Collective Agreement](#)
- [OSSTF – PSS Collective Agreement](#)
- [OSSTF – ESS Collective Agreement](#)
- [OSSTF – ECE Collective Agreement](#)
- [Elementary and Secondary Principals/Vice-Principals Terms and Conditions of Employment](#)
- [Administrative/Non-Union Terms and Conditions of Employment](#)

Forms

- [HRS 300.26.F01 - Remote Workspace Self-Assessment Checklist.pdf](#)
- [HRS 300.26.F02 - Remote Working Agreement.pdf](#)

Appendices

- N/A

Definitions

Remote working: refers to a voluntary work arrangement, approved by the Board, whereby the employee conducts some of their work at an off-site location.

Normal Working Hours: refers to the regular work arrangement typically followed by employees in order to fulfill their work responsibilities and/or as set out in collective agreements or terms and conditions of employment as applicable.

Administration Procedures

These Administrative Procedures and related supporting documents outline the broad expectations for the Board and employees around remote work including:

- Terms of participation and eligibility requirements
- Accountability and evaluation
- Guidelines and requirements – which include legal rights and obligations, security and confidentiality, work performance and other related conditions

1. Preamble

- 1.1. Not all jobs are appropriate for remote working arrangements. The nature of the employee's role shall determine whether remote work is a feasible option. Some roles (e.g., reception, student, or client-facing) cannot be performed from a remote work location and will not be considered suitable for this remote work arrangement option outside of certain exceptional circumstances (e.g., inclement weather, public health orders, other emergencies).
- 1.2. Staff who work remotely will be available to attend or access any Board site or function if the necessity arises. An employee's supervisor has the right to recall an employee working remotely to an on-site meeting or event as required. In the event of an emergency, employees working remotely may be called upon to attend or access a Board site within a reasonable amount of time upon notification.
- 1.3. When working remotely, all staff shall be subject to this Policy and Administrative Procedure.
- 1.4. A successful remote work program relies on mutual trust between employees and administration.



- 1.5. *Remote Work Agreements* are outside of extenuating circumstances such as Public Health orders or other legislated emergencies. Critical situations are an unexpected, undefined and an evolving situation that forces all employees or a large percentage of employees to work from home or some other location. Remote working in critical situations may be mandatory as opposed to optional. Such situations are temporary by nature and temporary remote working arrangements are understood not to alter the nature or typical working arrangements of any job. Critical situations may require remote work to be performed even for jobs that might not otherwise be suited for remote work. In these situations, this Administrative Procedure will apply to all employees.

2. Principles Governing Remote Work

- 2.1. Remote working arrangements are voluntary, and employees may request to perform some of their duties remotely, as applicable to the specific role. Unless required to do so in critical situations, employees are not required to participate in remote working arrangements.
- 2.2. The applicable supervisory officer or manager will determine role eligibility for remote work based on (1) job description of the role, (2) performance expectations, and (3) the ability to carry out job responsibilities remotely.
- 2.3. For a role to be eligible for remote work, the resources required by the employee to perform their job must be easily transferable or available in electronic format.
- 2.4. Remote work arrangements shall not be undertaken on an ad hoc basis. Except in extenuating circumstances, employees authorized to work remotely shall be limited to a maximum of two (2) scheduled day per week for remote work arrangements and shall commit to that work schedule.
- 2.5. No employee may request to work remotely on both a Monday and a Friday.
- 2.6. There will be no additional remote working days offered in lieu of an employee's remote working day(s) that may fall on a statutory holiday, mandatory closure day or if the employee is recalled to the worksite for any reason.
- 2.7. When scheduling remote working days, no department shall have more than 50% of employees working remotely on any given day.
- 2.8. The appropriate supervisory officer or manager shall schedule remote working days for employees for eligible roles to ensure continued high levels of service to the Board community. Such schedules are dependent on operational needs and may not be able to accommodate individual employee's requested remote working days. All parties must be flexible in scheduling remote working days.
- 2.9. When enacted, the work agreement shall be documented through a *Remote Working Agreement* (HRS.300.26.F02) between the employee and the Board.
- 2.10. The supervisory officer or manager may modify or revoke remote work arrangements at anytime with reasonable notice to the employee, where possible.
- 2.11. Employees shall not have any expectation that a role previously approved for remote work will be extended or continue in the same manner.
- 2.12. As referenced in the Board's Electronic Monitoring Administrative Procedure 400.18AP, there is no expectation of privacy in using Board technology while working remotely. The Board may monitor and access electronic communications, internet history/traffic, files, documents, and overall system use. The monitoring mechanisms ensure the system's integrity and compliance with Board policies and procedures.
- 2.13. Professionalism, privacy, and confidentiality must be maintained while working remotely. Employees conducting work remotely must continue compliance with all Board policies and Administrative Procedures.



3. Performance Expectations

- 3.1. The Board expects employees authorized or assigned to remote work to maintain the same level of service, communication and responsiveness to the Board community while working remotely.
 - 3.1.1. Employees conducting work remotely must continue to meet performance expectations set out by their supervisor and remain accountable to their direct supervisor and/or management through regular check-ins and updates. Employees will need to engage with their supervisor and participate in their performance appraisal on site and in person unless otherwise directed by their supervisor.
 - 3.1.2. The direct supervisor will clearly outline all employee duties, responsibilities and expectations associated with the remote work arrangement.
 - 3.1.3. The direct supervisor will schedule regular check-ins with employees engaged in remote work.
- 3.2. Employees working remotely will be subject to the same performance evaluation process as employees working in-person at Board sites.
- 3.3. Employees working remotely will be expected to complete their work during standard Board working hours as agreed upon with their supervisor.
- 3.4. Employees engaged in remote work must make themselves accessible via email, virtual meetings, or phone (as applicable) during standard work hours.
- 3.5. Employees working remotely must maintain a minimal standard related to an acceptable dress code and personal appearance and are expected to present themselves on video as they would in an in-person meeting.
- 3.6. Employees working remotely are expected to ensure the background visible during meetings is professional and that background noises are appropriate.
- 3.7. Supervisors may remove remote work arrangements where employees working remotely fail to meet performance and/or accessibility expectations.

4. Employee Health and Well-Being

- 4.1. Availability of a flexible work option such as remote work, where practical, can support positive employee well-being.
- 4.2. The Board recognizes the importance of work-life balance and the challenges that remote work may present to employees regarding this balance.
 - 4.2.1. Supervisors must encourage employees engaged in remote work to take breaks and enjoy personal activities when not scheduled to work.
 - 4.2.2. Employees engaging in remote work are advised to maintain regular contact with colleagues, family, and friends to reduce any feelings of loneliness or isolation.
- 4.3. Employees experiencing difficulties while working remotely are reminded to contact their supervisor or access well-being resources including the Employee Assistance Program (EAP).

5. Attendance Reporting

- 5.1. Employees engaged in remote work must report to work and/or report time worked in accordance with their collective agreement or terms and conditions of employment.
- 5.2. Employees working remotely who are sick or unable to work must notify their manager/supervisor as soon as possible and in the same manner as they would when working in-person.
- 5.3. Employees working remotely who are sick or unable to work may access sick leave, short-term disability leave or an unpaid leave of absence where available and eligible and as applicable.



6. Workplace Safety, Work-Related Injuries and Reporting

- 6.1. The employee should designate a private, clean, and safe space in their residence or other remote work site, as applicable, for remote working.
- 6.2. Employees working remotely will ensure their workplace is always free from hazards and will maintain sufficient lighting, ventilation, and safety equipment (e.g., smoke and carbon monoxide detectors).
- 6.3. Prior to commencing remote work, employees will complete a Workspace Safety Compliance Checklist (HRS 300.28.F01) and submit it to their manager/supervisor. This checklist is to be reviewed and re-submitted at least annually or when a significant change in the employee remote working location changes (i.e., employee moves houses or remote working locations).
- 6.4. Employees working remotely must complete annual safety training applicable to their role either in-person or online.
- 6.5. Employees working remotely must not host work-related, in-person meetings at any non-Board remote site. All such meetings should be conducted through video conferencing, phone, or in-person at a Board site.
- 6.6. The Board is not responsible for any injuries not related to work that occur at a remote work location.
- 6.7. The Board is not responsible nor liable for any injury or accident to family members, visitors, or others in the employee's remote work location.
- 6.8. An employee who sustains a workplace accident or injury while engaged in remote work must comply with the Board's reporting requirements for any work-related accident.

7. Board Resources and Compliance

- 7.1. Employees conducting remote work shall receive Board resources to perform their duties remotely, such as a laptop, software applications, and access to the virtual private network (VPN). The supervisor shall determine the resources necessary.
- 7.2. For further clarity, the employee, at their own expense, will be responsible for their off-site work location. Employees will receive similar resources and equipment as if they are working at a Board-site. The Board will not provide additional equipment or furniture for an employee's off-site location (e.g., monitors, chairs, printers, desks, etc.).
- 7.3. Employees engaged in remote work shall ensure, at their own expense, continuous access to reliable and secure internet during regular working hours. The Board shall not be responsible for the installation, maintenance, or costs of residential internet services to facilitate remote work.
- 7.4. Employees engaged in remote work are responsible for checking voicemail on a regular basis.
- 7.5. The manager shall maintain and share updated phone contact lists for all staff who are working remotely.
- 7.6. Access to the Board's VPN is via Board-owned devices only.
- 7.7. Employees conducting remote work must only use Board-supplied VPN access mechanisms to access Board resources and services protected by the Board's firewall. Use of any other VPN services to access Board services is prohibited.

8. Records Management and Protection of Privacy

- 8.1. Employees working remotely remain bound to the Board's confidentiality agreement enacted upon hiring and shall comply with [OPS 400.13.P - Records and Information Management](#) as well as all Policies and APs related to Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy.
- 8.2. Content created or modified will be done only on a Board-owned or approved encrypted device. Employees working remotely will use secure Wi-Fi connections when browsing the internet or creating content.



- 8.3. Employees engaged in remote work will minimize the amount of paper files and hardcopy materials removed from Board work sites.
- 8.4. Confidential or sensitive files should not be printed in hardcopy at non-Board remote sites, including at a private residence.
 - 8.4.1. Where necessary, for remote performance of duties, materials containing sensitive or personal information must be kept confidential and not exposed to unauthorized individuals, including family members or other individuals in the same remote work location.
 - 8.4.2. Confidential or sensitive files must be accessed electronically through the Board's approval systems or software. Secure or sensitive data must never be downloaded or transported through any means such as a USB flash drive between sites.
- 8.5. Employees working remotely will be responsible for making sure unauthorized individuals do not use or damage Board-owned devices.
- 8.6. Employees engaged in remote work will be responsible for safeguarding the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of Board information in their possession.