

Code of Conduct for Students

-POLICY-

The Board of Education believes and expects that students will conduct themselves in a manner that demonstrates respect for self, others, property, and the environment.

-REGULATION-

District Code of Conduct

All members of the District learning community shall conduct themselves, both in language and behaviour, in a manner that:

- Complies with all applicable and relevant legislation including but not limited to the prohibited grounds of discrimination as set out in the *BC Human Rights Code*.
- Reflects the values of tolerance and respect.
- Supports and models the guidelines of *Safe, Caring and Orderly Schools* at home and in the school community.

The Board of Education expects that students will:

- Conduct themselves in a manner that supports a safe, orderly, and caring school environment for all members of the learning community.
- Be aware of, and maintain a healthy respect for the diversity of all members of the school learning community.
- Be an active participant in the development of their own learning and the development of the environment that supports the learning of others.

The Board of Education believes safety and learning are the foundation of student success, and it is expected that students will:

- Engage in their learning through active attendance and the completion of school work;
- Be free of illegal drugs and alcohol, possession, use or influence during any time they are under the jurisdiction of the school district.
- Maintain a level of conduct that eliminates violent behaviour (physical and emotional) and the use of any form of weapon.

It is expected that a progressive discipline process will be actively engaged from the school level up on through to the Board level. Consequences are a result of an individualized assessment of the circumstance relating to each student and the determination of the steps necessary to maintain a safe, orderly and caring environment. It is the duty of the Board to maintain the safety of all students, and when that safety is jeopardized by the actions of others, the Board will act to protect students and remove the source of that danger.

School Code of Conduct

Each school shall develop and maintain a school code of conduct consistent with the *Safe, Caring and Orderly School* guidelines. School codes of conduct must, at a minimum, include:

- A statement of purpose.
- Statements describing acceptable and unacceptable behaviour while at school, at a school-related activity or in other circumstances where engaging in the activity will have an impact on the school environment.
- Strategies with respect to the consequences of unacceptable behaviour, that are guided by a progressive discipline process and/or restorative process rather than punitive methodologies and be cognizant of students with special needs and disabilities of an intellectual, physical, sensory, emotional or behavioural nature.
- A statement of rising expectations indicating changing expectations as students mature
- A statement of indicating the schools' responsibility for notifying parents and, in the event of a serious breach of the code of conduct, other agencies.
- Makes explicit reference to the BC Human Rights Code. Thus the Code of Conduct addresses the prohibited grounds of discrimination set out in the BC Human Rights Code (Section 7) in respect of discriminatory publication:

Discriminatory publication

7 (1) A person must not publish, issue or display, or cause to be published, issued or displayed, any statement, publication, notice, sign, symbol, emblem or other representation that

(a) indicates discrimination or an intention to discriminate against a person or a group or class of persons, or

(b) is likely to expose a person or a group or class of persons to hatred or contempt because of the race, colour, ancestry, place of origin, religion, marital status, family status, physical or mental disability, sex, sexual orientation or age of that person or that group or class of persons.

(2) Subsection (1) does not apply to a private communication, a communication intended to be private or a communication related to an activity otherwise permitted by this Code.

And, as set out in the Human Rights Code (Section 8) in respect of discrimination in accommodation, services, facilities, or school environment:

Discrimination in accommodation, service and facility

8 (1) *A person must not, without a bona fide and reasonable justification,*

(a) deny to a person or class of persons any accommodation, service or facility customarily available to the public, or

(b) discriminate against a person or class of persons regarding any accommodation, service or facility customarily available to the public because of the race, colour, ancestry, place of origin, religion, marital status, family status, physical or mental disability, sex, sexual orientation or age of that person or class of persons.

(2) *A person does not contravene this section by discriminating*

(a) on the basis of sex, if the discrimination relates to the maintenance of public decency or to the determination of premiums or benefits under contracts of life or health insurance, or

(b) on the basis of physical or mental disability or age, if the discrimination relates to the determination of premiums or benefits under contracts of life or health insurance.

- An expectation that all school codes of conduct will be reviewed on a yearly basis, distributed to all staff, parents and students at the beginning of each school year and to newly assigned staff and students registering mid-year. This can be achieved by having the Code of conduct:

- Available on the school's website.
- Available in printed brochures.
- Included in student agendas (where possible).
- Posted in a prominent location within the school.

VALUES

In its consideration of this policy, the Board has been guided by the principles of responsibility, respect, fairness, and compassion.