

# BOARD OF EDUCATION

## School District #33 (Chilliwack)

### 501 POLICY Student Behaviour

#### PREAMBLE:

The Board believes that schools will provide students with a safe environment for purposeful learning. The Board recognizes that appropriate student behaviour, which is based on respect for oneself, for others and for private and public property, is essential to the development of responsible citizens. Appropriate behaviour is a shared responsibility among students, their parents and the school system.

Social media, defined as the use of technologies for information sharing, discussion and communication using interactive dialogue, is an extension of the classroom. What is inappropriate in the school community will be deemed inappropriate on-line. The policy and regulation emphasize a positive approach to student behaviour and a progressive, developmental, preventative and restorative approach to student discipline.

#### STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

The Board believes that, pursuant to the *BC School Act*, the *BC Human Rights Act*, the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* and Board bylaws, policies and regulations, students have certain rights and responsibilities.

STUDENTS HAVE THE RIGHT TO:	STUDENTS HAVE THE RESPONSIBILITY TO:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• an appropriate educational program in a safe and secure environment</li><li>• consult with teachers and administrators regarding their educational program and learning environment</li><li>• procedural fairness with respect to disciplinary procedure</li><li>• an appeal procedure regarding the decisions of Board employees which significantly affect the education, health or safety of students</li><li>• privacy and confidentiality relating to student records</li><li>• express themselves and advocate for their interests</li><li>• be informed of the standard of behaviour expected of them and the consequences of misbehaviour</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• attend school regularly</li><li>• follow school rules and codes of student conduct</li><li>• respect and support the rights of others and their property</li><li>• respect and support both the health and safety of others and themselves</li><li>• respect and support the educational process and learning environment</li><li>• develop self-discipline appropriate to their age</li><li>• display acceptable and appropriate behaviour</li><li>• respect school and district property</li></ul>

Cross Refs: Board Policies 501 (AR), 502 (P), 503 (P), Bylaw 230, Drug & Alcohol Policy, *School Act*, *BC Human Rights Act*, *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*, United Nations Declaration of the Rights of the Child, Safe, Caring and Orderly Schools

Adopted: November 26, 1991  
Reviewed: January 22, 2013  
Revised: May 28, 2002, February 27, 2007, April 24, 2012

## **STUDENT BEHAVIOUR & DISCIPLINE:**

The Board expects that students will comply with rules, policies and regulations established by the Board and the school. The Board also expects that students will act respectfully and with due regard to the authority and responsibility vested in district employees.

Each school shall establish a committee consisting of staff, parents and students, to develop a Code of School Conduct which must comply with the Ministry of Education's Safe, Caring and Orderly Schools and written Board policies. A copy of this Code must be submitted to the Superintendent's office.

The Code of School Conduct will be reviewed annually by a committee of staff, students and parents/guardians. The Code of School Conduct will be clearly communicated to students and parents/guardians at least annually.

Except as otherwise provided, the Board's policy and regulations relating to student behaviour will apply to students while:

1. attending school
2. travelling to and from school
3. attending a function and/or program organized or sponsored by a school
4. on any district property

School district officials will cooperate with law enforcement agencies where student violations of the law affect the school district and the community.

Where an out-of-school incident could have a potential impact on the school environment, student disciplinary action may be taken.

The standard of discipline applied to students shall be kind, firm and judicious but shall not include corporal punishment. Student disciplinary action shall take into account the developmental and unique needs of students and will not discriminate on the basis of gender, sexual orientation, race, colour, ethnic or national origin, language, or religion, except as required to take into appropriate consideration all of the relevant circumstances.

## **STUDENT SUSPENSIONS & TRANSFERS:**

The Board supports in-school suspensions, in-district transfers and out-of-school suspensions as discipline strategies.

In-school suspensions should be used in preference to out-of-school suspensions. The Board believes that the use of out-of-school suspension, as a student discipline strategy, should be used as a last resort.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent or delegate, the Board may exercise its authority to refuse to offer an educational program to a student 16 years of age or older under the *School Act* where that student has refused to comply with:

1. the school rules authorized by the principal
2. the Code of School Conduct
3. other rules and policies of the Board or;
4. failed to apply him/herself to his/her studies

The Board recognizes that the principal of a school is responsible for administering and supervising the school. This includes the general conduct of students, both on school premises and during activities that are organized or sponsored by the school. In accordance with the policies of the Board, the principal shall exercise paramount authority within the school in matters concerning the discipline of students.

**APPEALS REGARDING DISCIPLINARY ACTION:**

Pursuant to Section 11 of the BC *School Act* and Board Bylaw regarding appeals, a student and/or the student's parent/guardian may appeal disciplinary action taken by Board personnel which they believe significantly affects the education, health or safety of the student.