

POLICY 310 STUDENT EXPECTATIONS, RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Board of Education believes that the conduct of students should at all times contribute to a safe, caring, and inclusive learning environment that encourages the development of responsible citizens. Each student is expected to respect the rights and property of others, respect themselves and their own property, and adhere to Board Policy and Procedures and the School Code of Conduct.

Each student must meet the expectations set out in the B.C. Human Rights Code. There must be no discrimination or intent to discriminate against a person or a group or class of persons because of their race, colour, ancestry, place of origin, religion, marital or family status, physical or mental disability, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, or age. Appropriate behaviour is a shared responsibility among students, their parents/guardians/caregivers 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 Board of Education will take all reasonable steps to prevent retaliation by a person against a student who has made a complaint of a breach of a Code of Conduct.

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:

- a discrimination free environment as reflected in Policy 313: Safe Schools.
- an appropriate educational program in a safe environment.
- consult with teachers and administrators regarding their educational program and learning environment.
- procedural fairness with respect to disciplinary procedure.
- an appeal procedure regarding the decisions of Board employees which significantly affect the education, health or safety of students.
- privacy and confidentiality relating to student records.
- express themselves and advocate for their interests.
- be informed of the standard of behaviour expected of them and the consequences of misbehaviour.

Related Legislation: *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, Provincial Standards for Codes of Conduct Order

Related Contract Article: Nil

Adopted: November 26, 1991

Amended: January 22, 2013; May 28, 2002; February 27, 2007; April 24, 2012; June 13, 2023

Students have the responsibility to uphold Policy 313 Safe Schools and are expected to:

- attend school regularly.
- follow school rules and codes of student conduct.
- respect the legitimate authority of the school staff.
- respect and support the rights of others and their property.
- respect and support both the health and safety of others and themselves.
- respect and support the educational process and learning environment.
- demonstrate self-discipline and self-regulation according to their abilities.
- respect school and District property.
- not threaten, harass, intimidate, or assault, in any way, any member of the school community.
- not be in possession of controlled and regulated substances, including drugs, alcohol, and cannabis,
- not use controlled and regulated substances, including drugs, alcohol, cannabis, tobacco products, vaping devices and e-cigarettes, on school property or during school-authorized trips or activities

SCHOOL CODE OF CONDUCT:

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 by October 31st of each year.

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

Related Legislation: *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, Provincial Standards for Codes of Conduct Order*

Related Contract Article: Nil

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The standard of discipline applied to students shall be kind, firm and judicious. Consequences should be designed to teach students to be responsible citizens, to promote personal and social development, and whenever possible and appropriate, be restorative in nature. Student disciplinary action shall take into account the developmental and individual needs of students and will not discriminate while taking into consideration all relevant circumstances. Considerations may apply to students with diverse abilities if these students are unable to comply with a Code of Conduct due to having an intellectual, physical, sensory, emotional or behavioural disability.

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.

APPEALS REGARDING DISCIPLINARY ACTION:

As per [Policy 390 – Resolving Concerns](#), the Board of Education believes that when a parent/guardian/caregiver has a concern about the action or decision of any employee, their concern should be first channeled through the employee and then the principal of the school. If resolution is not reached at the school level, a concern may be forwarded to the appropriate Assistant Superintendent before being referred to the Superintendent for consideration.

Pursuant to Section 11 of the *BC School Act* and Board Bylaw 4: Appeal Procedure, a student and/or the student's parent/guardian/caregiver may appeal disciplinary action taken by Board personnel that they believe significantly affects the education, health or safety of the student, once the above steps have been considered.

Related Legislation: *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, Provincial Standards for Codes of Conduct Order

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