



POLICY NO. 5800

DISTRICT CODE OF CONDUCT FOR STUDENTS

POLICY

The Board of Education believes that the conduct of students should at all times contribute to a safe and positive learning environment. Each student is expected to respect the rights and property of others, and to adhere to Board and school regulations and rules. Each student must meet the expectations set out in the B.C. Human Rights Codes. There must be no discrimination or an intention to discriminate against a person or a group or class of persons because of the race, colour, ancestry, place of origin, religion, marital status, physical or mental disability, sex, sexual orientation, or age. Consequences for misbehaviour must be applied in a reasonable, firm and judicious manner and shall not include corporal punishment. These consequences should be designed to teach students to be responsible citizens in the school community and to promote personal and social development. The Board 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.

The purpose of this code of conduct is to:

- (a) direct the student toward responsible behaviour;
- (b) maintain an orderly, positive school community conducive to learning; and
- (c) protect persons and property.

Scope Of This Code Of Conduct

Except where a rule is expressly limited to time and place, this Code of Conduct applies to students of the District who are involved in:

- (a) any activity on school premises whether during a regular school day, outside the regular school day, or on a day that is not a school day;
- (b) travel on a school bus or other transportation contracted or arranged by the Board or School;
- (c) any activity sponsored by, organized by or participated in by the School regardless of time or place;
- (d) Any activity that affects the rights or properties of neighbouring residences or businesses.

School Reg. Sec. 4.1 (b&c) 5.7
SD6 Appeal Bylaw II
School Act, Sec. 6, 10, 11, 25.1, 95.3, 103.2c, 103.3
Bill 10, Tobacco Sales Amendment Act, 2007
B.C. Human Rights Code

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REGULATIONS

1. SCHOOL RULES

Students shall comply with the *School Rules* authorized by the Principal and with the code of conduct and other rules and policies of the Board.

1.1 Within the School

The School Principal is responsible for formulation and operation of the School Rules, with the co-operation of staff. The School Principal shall submit a copy of the School Rules to the District Office pursuant to any changes being made.

The School Principal shall take reasonable steps to establish a process to inform students and their parents or guardians of the School Rules.

The staff is expected to take all reasonable measures to control and/or eliminate behaviour by any student that is detrimental to student welfare or the learning atmosphere at the school.

1.2 Within the Classroom

The teacher is expected to establish and maintain an atmosphere conducive to learning within the classroom. Disciplinary measures must at all times be:

- in concert with District Code of Conduct and the School Rules;
- reasonable, bearing in mind the nature of the breach of conduct, and the age or mental ability of the student;.
- capable of being enforced; and
- administered impartially and consistently.

2. DISTRICT CODE OF CONDUCT

Expectations within the District Code of Conduct include but are not limited to the following:

2.1 Alcohol and Drugs

No student (unless in accordance with a physician's prescription) shall possess, use, or be under the influence of any of the following and no student shall sell or otherwise transfer:

- (a) spirits, wine, beer or any other alcoholic or intoxicating beverage;
- (b) any controlled substances or drug, the use or possession of which is prohibited by law;
- (c) glue, aerosol, gasoline, paint or other chemical substance for the purpose of inhalation;
- (d) any other intoxicant, mood changing, mind altering or behaviour altering drug, chemical or substance;
- (e) any paraphernalia related to the use of drugs or chemical substances.

2.2 Weapons

- 2.2.1 No student shall possess or be in possession of any weapon for any purpose except as otherwise approved by the school principal (e.g. Archery Club, Drama Club, Outdoor Education).
- 2.2.2 Weapons include any firearm or other device prohibited or restricted under the Criminal Code of Canada, and weapons also include anything used, designed or intended for the purpose of causing death or injury, or for the purpose of threatening or intimidating any person.
- 2.2.3 Examples of weapons which are prohibited include but are not limited to hand guns, rifles, shotguns, air rifles, knives, devices known as or similar to nunchaku sticks, shuriken plates, manrikigusari weights or grips, finger rings with blades, tasers, laser pointers, knife combs, push daggers, constant companion belts, crossbows, tear gas, mace, pepper spray, bear spray and any liquid or powder or other substance that is capable of injuring, immobilizing, or otherwise incapacitating any person.
- 2.2.4 Further, no student shall possess, be in possession of, or use any object or thing as a weapon with the intention of or for the purpose of causing injury, death, or to threaten or intimidate any person. Replica or imitation weapons and "toy" weapons are also prohibited.
- 2.2.5 Kirpans may be worn for religious purposes with the prior approval of the principal and on the conditions established by the principal in consultation with the parents.

2.3 Offences to the Person:

No student shall be involved in any conduct that has or can reasonably be expected to have a negative impact on the culture, working, and/or learning environment of the school or on the safety and rights of others including, but not limited to:

- behavior (including speech, expressive conduct, electronic communication) that intimidates or exposes students or staff members to physical harm, ridicule, hatred or contempt, defamation, bullying, harassment and/or cyber-bullying;
- conduct (including expressive conduct) that impacts the rights of others or may be seen as discriminatory as set out in the B.C. Human Rights Code.

2.4 Offences to Property

No student shall damage, destroy, deface or vandalize the property of others or of the Board. Further, no student shall take, temporarily or otherwise, property not belonging to him or her without the consent of the person to whom the property belongs.

2.5 Tobacco Use

No student shall use tobacco products on school property or during any activity organized or sponsored by the School or the Board.

2.6 Disruptive Behaviour

No student shall:

- (a) disrupt, or interfere with the conduct of classes or any other school activity;
- (b) disrupt the school in general; e.g. bomb threats, false fire alarms;
- (c) possess or use fireworks, firecrackers, explosives, smoke or stink bombs, dangerous projectiles, or similar devices or objects;
- (d) tamper with any safety equipment;

- (e) display or take part in any behaviour, conduct or activity, including electronic communication or encourage such behaviour in others, that is prohibited by this Code of Conduct or by the School Rules;
- (f) disobey or fail to comply with any lawful directive or instruction of a teacher or other employee of the Board.

3. STUDENT SUSPENSION

3.1 A principal of a school shall, in accordance with this Code of Conduct and other policies of the Board, exercise paramount authority within the school in matters concerning the discipline of students. Discipline may include the suspension of a student from attending school where in the opinion of the Principal (or designate), such action is warranted and provided that an alternate educational program is made available to the student.

3.2 Special Needs Student - Suspension

When students with identified special needs require intervention regarding their conduct the principal will ensure that such students have been adequately assessed, that appropriate interventions are applied before suspension is considered, that the grounds for suspension are clear and appropriate, that meaningful education programs or interventions are offered during the period of suspension and that planning is undertaken for successful re-entry.

3.3 Suspension of Five Days or Less

A Principal of a school may, and is hereby authorized to, suspend a student from the school for a period not exceeding five consecutive school days. Parental contact will be established by telephone and/or by personal interview prior to a student leaving the school on suspension.

3.4 Suspensions of More Than Five Days

A Principal of a school may and is hereby authorized to suspend a student from the school for a period exceeding five school days pending a hearing by the Student Conduct Review Committee. In such a situation, the Principal should notify the Assistant Superintendent so that a meeting can be convened, when possible within five days of suspension. The Student Conduct Review Committee may require that the student, or the student and the parents or guardians, be present at a meeting of the Committee prior to a decision on the matter. The Student Conduct Review Committee is authorized to suspend students for a period exceeding five days or to withdraw the student from attendance at a school if the student is beyond the age of 16.

- 3.4.1 Student Conduct Review Committee shall be composed of one trustee, and the Assistant Superintendent and/or one or two Principals from schools other than the student's school.
- 3.4.2 Should the decision of the Student Conduct Review Committee be appealed to the Board of Education (Appeal Bylaw II), the Trustee who was a member of the Student Conduct Review Committee will not participate in the Appeal Hearing.
- 3.4.3 The purpose of the Student Conduct Review Committee is to determine consequences that balance discipline, restitution, and the student's learning - both academic and behavioural.
- 3.4.4 In fulfilling its mandate the Committee may wish to consider:
 - (a) the opportunity for a victim impact statement which might include a recommendation for restitution;
 - (b) a risk assessment of the student's likelihood to re-offend;

- (c) the District's method of providing access to educational services while the student is suspended without allowing access to the school;
 - (d) access to and acceptance of counselling as a condition of return;
 - (e) development of and adherence to a behavioural contract as a condition of remaining in school;
 - (f) follow-up on the conditions of re-entry to the system as a condition of remaining in school;
- 3.4.5 The Student Conduct Review Committee should proceed with its deliberation and consequences even if the matter is being dealt with by the criminal justice system.

3.5 Suspension Letters

In situations resulting in a suspension of a student, an official letter of suspension shall be sent to the parent/guardian without delay, a copy forwarded to the Superintendent as well as a copy to Assistant Superintendent. The letter of suspension shall include the following:

- (a) Student Information:
 - Official name of the student
 - Personal Education Number (PEN) of the student
 - Date of Birth
 - Grade
- (b) A statement indicating that the student has failed to comply with a specific section of School Act [e.g.. Sec 6.(1) (a) & (b) which requires a student to comply with the code of conduct and other rules and policies of the Board or School].
- (c) A statement which outlines the date, time and description of the alleged *misconduct*.
- (d) A statement listing the terms of the suspension.
- (e) An invitation, with phone number, to contact the writer if further clarification is needed.
- (f) Notification of the parents' right to appeal.
- (g) Copies sent to the Zone and District Office.

4. WITHDRAWAL

- 4.1 In the case of a student 16 years of age or older, the Board may refuse to offer an educational program where the student:
 - (a) has refused to comply with this Code of Conduct, the School's Code of Conduct or other rules or policies of the Board; or
 - (b) has failed to apply himself or herself to his or her studies.
- 4.2 Where possible students should be advised in writing that continued misconduct may jeopardize their right to attend school.
- 4.3 In the case of a student under the age of 16 years, the Board must facilitate access to an educational program.

5. APPEALS

- 5.1 A student or a parent of a student may appeal a decision of an employee of the Board of Education, or a decision of the Student Conduct Review Committee, according to School District No. 6 Appeal Bylaw II.
- 5.2 Decisions of the Board may be appealed to the Superintendent of Achievement, School Act, Section 11, Appeals.