

4370 District Code of Conduct

Policy 4370

STATUS: ADOPTED

DISTRICT CODE OF CONDUCT

Board Approved: March 28, 1984

Last Revised: June 19, 2013; January 2017; April 2019

Description:

The Board of Education recognizes its obligation to all members of the school community to provide a safe and caring learning environment, such that effective, purposeful teaching and learning may occur. It is expected all members of the school community will conduct themselves in an ethical, respectful and lawful manner that demonstrates consideration for self, others, property and the environment. Schools will intentionally foster the highest standards of acceptance and equity for all, regardless of their race, colour, ancestry, place of origin, marital status, family status, physical or mental disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or age. A violation of the code of conduct may warrant intervention.

The Board of Education expects each school shall develop, display and annually review a school code of conduct for students that is in compliance with the BC Human Rights Code. This written document shall be made available to the public and filed with the Superintendent on an annual basis and is to guarantee due process and equitable treatment of students.

DISTRICT CODE OF CONDUCT

Board Approved: March 28, 1984

Last Revised: June 19, 2013; January 2017; October 2018; April 2019; June 2024

Description:

1.0 Members of School Community

1.1 It is expected that all members of the school community (staff, students, parents, and guests) will adhere to the District code of conduct and will:

- respect the rights of others to feel safe and secure in all facilities;
- respect the positive learning environment in schools;
- respect the property of others - private and public in all environments;
- respect the legitimate authority of the school principal and staff;
- respect the diversity of the school community;
- respect the non smoking nature of district schools and property (prohibiting the use of tobacco, cannabis/cannabis products and vapour products);
- not threaten, harass, intimidate or assault, in any way, any person within the school community and in all district environments; (ref: Policy 4390 Bullying and Harassment in Schools)
- not be in possession of weapons, dangerous articles, alcohol, cannabis/cannabis products or illegal drugs while in school or at school functions, or on any school district property;
- Maintain confidentiality of all work related information

2.0 School Code of Conduct for Students

2.1 Each school will develop a code of conduct for students, in consultation with staff, parents, and students, that will include the following elements:

2.1.1 A statement of purpose that provides a rationale for the code of conduct with a focus on safe, caring and orderly school environments (ref: *Safe, Caring and Orderly Schools: A Guide*).

2.1.2 Reference to each of the prohibited grounds of discrimination as set out in section 7 and section 8 of the BC Human Rights Code relative to displays, statements, publications, etc., and in any accommodation or service:

- a) Specifically: race, colour, ancestry, place of origin, religion, marital status, family status, physical or mental disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or age.

2.1.3 Each school code of conduct will include a section on “Restrictions on Student Use of Personal Digital Devices*” and the following expectations must be met:

- a) As needed, all students will have access to school/district owned technology at an age-appropriate level that supports learning and the development of digital literacy.
- b) As outlined in an Inclusive and Competency-Based Individual Education Plan (ICBIEP), schools will exempt specific students from restrictions on the use of personal digital devices when they are needed to support inclusion in learning.
- c) Additionally, schools will exempt specific students from restrictions on the use of personal digital devices when they are needed as an essential support for their medical support plan and needs (i.e. diabetes, medication, etc.).
- d) Personal digital devices at the elementary school level will not be permitted at any time during the school day.
- e) Personal digital devices at the middle and secondary school level will not be permitted during instructional time, bell-to-bell. Personal digital devices are allowed during breaks.
- f) The security and storage of personal digital devices is the sole responsibility of the owner/user. The District assumes no responsibility for the safety, security, loss, repair or replacement of such devices.

* Personal digital devices include but are not limited to, cell phones, smartphones, tablets, computers, smartwatches, and portable video game systems.

2.1.4 Reference to each of the prohibited grounds of discrimination as set out in section 7 and section 8 of the BC Human Rights Code relative to displays, statements, publications etc. and in any accommodation or service:

- a) Specifically: race, colour, ancestry, place of origin, religion, marital status, family status, physical or mental disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or age.

2.1.5 Communicate and reinforce clear expectations of student dress and promote an environment free from:

- a) emotional and physical safety concerns;
- b) drugs and alcohol;
- c) obscenity or profanity;
- d) discrimination, including each of the prohibited grounds under the Human Rights Code;
- e) gangs;
- f) overt sexual or violent content;

2.1.6 Statements about what is acceptable and unacceptable behaviour including threats, harassment, intimidation or assault.

- 2.1.7 Statements about the consequence of the unacceptable behaviour, which must take account of the student's age, maturity and circumstance:
- a) Whenever possible and appropriate, focus on consequences that are restorative in nature;
 - b) Principles of fair treatment and the capacity to evaluate each circumstance based on the individual circumstance, rather than arbitrary application of rules.
- 2.1.8 An explanation that the board will take reasonable steps to prevent retaliation by a person against a student for a complaint in regard to the code of conduct.
- 2.1.9 An explanation that the school code of conduct applies throughout the school day* which includes break times and any school activity or school sanctioned event, even if it is not held on school property.
- 2.1.10 May reference the Criminal Code or the School Act and Regulation (including relevant Ministerial Orders).

3.0 It is the responsibility of the principal or designate to ensure that members of the school community, while at school or at a school function, have been made aware of the district code of conduct as authorized by the principal and other policies of the Board.

4.0 The district code of conduct shall be prominently displayed in the school or in the school handbook and communicated to students, staff, and parents at regular (at least once per school year) intervals.

*School Day = Reasonable length of time to get to and from school. (May vary with home's distance from school.)