

STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

Background

The Division believes it has a responsibility to set standards of student conduct through a school behaviour matrix which develops and promotes the growth of student self-discipline and encourages, teaches and reinforces responsible behaviour. The Division also believes that parents/guardians share the responsibility to promote appropriate student behaviour and that the community has an inherent interest and role in reinforcing acceptable behaviour of its youth.

The Division believes all students have the right to feel welcome, cared for, respected and safe at school, without regard for their race, religious beliefs, colour, gender, gender identity, gender expression, physical disability, mental disability, age, ancestry, place of origin, marital status, source of income, family status or sexual orientation. With that right comes the responsibility to respect the rights of those around them, and to accept the rewards and consequences of their behaviour.

The Division recognizes that every student and staff member, including those with diverse sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression, are unique individuals and have unique needs. The Division expects all members of this diverse community to be welcomed, respected, accepted and supported in every school.

Procedures

1. The Division will ensure that each school's behaviour matrix is made publicly available; is provided to all staff, students and parents of the Division; and is reviewed annually.

2. Behavioural Expectations

2.1 Work Ethics

2.1.1 Students must attend school regularly and punctually.

2.1.2 Students will be ready to learn and actively engage in their learning.

2.1.3 Students will diligently pursue their education.

2.1.4 Students will continually strive for excellence in all endeavors.

2.1.5 Students will positively contribute to the student's school and community.

2.2 Respect for Self and Others

2.2.1 Students will dress appropriately and use appropriate language and deportment.

2.2.2 Students will respect the rights, diversity, safety, privacy, and wellbeing of all.

2.2.3 Students will refrain from, report and not tolerate bullying or bullying behaviour directed towards others in the school, whether or not it occurs within the school building, during the school day, or by electronic means.

2.2.4 Students will adhere to the school's behaviour matrix (Code of Conduct), as it relates to classmates, school mates and school staff, within the school building, during school hours, at school functions and beyond school hours both in person and when using electronic means of communication.

2.3 Respect for Authority

- 2.3.1 Students will adhere to all Board and school policies and procedures.
- 2.3.2 Students will co-operate fully with everyone authorized by the Division to provide educational programs and services.
- 2.3.3 Students will conduct themselves with respect for legal authority.

2.4 Respect for Property

- 2.4.1 Students will respect school property.
- 2.4.2 Students will respect the property of others.

3. Within the framework of these behavioural expectations, staff of each school, with input from students, parents/guardians, and the school council, will develop a behaviour matrix which will include indicators of expected student behaviour appropriate for the age of the student.
4. Consequences for inappropriate behaviour need to be timely, consistently applied, reasonable, capable of being enforced, and the most likely to change the behaviour of an individual student.
5. In addition to outlining actions related to the offending student, the behaviour matrix will also detail ways in which the school community will provide support for students who are impacted by the inappropriate behaviour.
6. The behaviour matrix is to involve the parents/guardians through several steps or levels of consequences. Depending on the severity of the behaviour, the Principal may proceed to a more serious consequence by omitting intermediate steps in the discipline plan.
7. The behaviour matrix is to provide alternative consequences so that the Principal, or Principal and parents/guardians, may chose a consequence most likely to change the behaviour of the individual student. This may include practices consistent with restorative justice.
8. In cases of persistent unacceptable behaviour, a referral for educational/psychological assessment, family counseling or to community or government agencies is to be considered.
9. Suspension and expulsion of students is a serious consequence that may be used in warranted circumstances. All suspensions and expulsions will be in accordance with Sections 36 and 37 of the Education Act. Refer to procedures in AP 356 *Student Suspension/Expulsion*.
10. Recommendations by the school Principal regarding consequences for major offences -- suspension, with the possibility of expulsion, is an appropriate consequence for:
 - 10.1 Physical or emotional abuse, violence, assault, and threats to student/staff safety (including possession of weapons);
 - 10.2 Possession and/or use of prohibited drugs and/or alcohol;
 - 10.3 Open defiance and/or opposition to authority;
 - 10.4 Sexual and/or other harassment of other students;
 - 10.5 Theft;
 - 10.6 Vandalism;
 - 10.7 Bullying; and
 - 10.8 Other conduct injurious to the moral tone of the school.
11. A re-entry plan will be developed for the re-integration of the offending student.

Reference: Section 31, 8, 36, 37, 42, 43, 48 Education Act

Related APs: Student Suspension/Expulsion (356)
Transportation - Student Conduct (551)

Forms: Student Suspension/Expulsion Report (356-1)

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