

**4370 District Code of Conduct**

Policy 4370

STATUS: APPROVED

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*DISTRICT CODE OF CONDUCT*

Board Approved: March 28, 1984

Last Revised: June 19, 2013; January 2017

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Description:

The Board of Education expects that each school shall develop, display and annually review a school code of conduct for students. 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.

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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. To that end it is expected that 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. A violation of the code of conduct may warrant intervention or disciplinary action.

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 need for a continued 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 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 or cannabis products or illegal drugs while in school or at school functions, or on any school district property;
1. Each school will develop a code of conduct, in consultation with staff, parents, and students, that will include the following elements:
    - a. 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*)
    - b. 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 accomodation or service:
      - i. 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.

- c. Statements about what is acceptable and unacceptable behaviour including threats, harassments, intimidation or assault.
  - d. Statements about the consequence of the unacceptable behaviour, which must take account of the student's age, maturity and circumstance:
    - i. Whenever possible and appropriate, focus on consequences that are restorative in nature;
    - ii. Principles of fair treatment and the capacity to evaluate each circumstance based on the individual circumstance, rather than arbitrary application of rules.
  - e. An explanation that the board will take reasonable steps to prevent retaliation by a person against a student for a complaint in regards to the code of conduct.
  - f. An explanation that the school code of conduct applies throughout the school day\*, including break times, and to any school activity or school sanctioned event even if it is not held on school property.
    - i. May reference the Criminal Code or the School Act and Regulation (including relevant Ministerial Orders);
2. 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 conform to the district code of conduct and school rules as authorized by the principal and other policies of the Board.
3. The district code of conduct and school rules 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.

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