



Adopted: 2011-04-08	Reviewed: n/a	Amended: 2016-04-26 2017-09-12 2024-07-22
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POLICY

SUBJECT: **DISTRICT STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT**

A. Statement of Purpose

The Board of Education for School District No. 78 (Fraser-Cascade) recognizes its responsibility to provide a safe, caring and positive learning environment for all students. The establishment of a District Student Code of Conduct is intended to promote such an environment by providing students with guidance and direction on expectations for acceptable conduct.

In order to provide the necessary guidance, the Board of Education expects schools to develop school cultures that foster optimal learning environments, as outlined in the Diversity in BC Schools: A Framework. Therefore schools will strive to:

- develop positive school cultures and focus on prevention
- use school-wide efforts to foster respect, inclusion, fairness and equity
- set, communicate and consistently reinforce clear expectations of conduct
- teach, model and encourage socially responsible behaviours that contribute to the school community, solve problems in peaceful ways, value diversity and defend human rights
- assume responsibility, in partnership with the wider community, for resolving safety concerns
- work together to better understand issues such as bullying, harassment, and intimidation, racism, sexism and homophobia, and to learn new skills to respond to them
- respond consistently to incidents in a fair and reasoned manner, using interventions that repair harm, strengthen relationships and restore a sense of belonging
- participate in the development of policies, procedures and practices that promote school safety
- monitor and evaluate their school environments for evidence of continuous improvement
- recognize and celebrate achievements, while acknowledging areas that need improvement

([Diversity in BC Schools: A Framework](#); p. 22)

However, when students violate the District Code of Conduct despite proactive measures by schools, the Board then recognizes the need for appropriate forms of intervention which whenever possible will focus on consequences that are restorative in nature rather than punitive.

B. Policy

The Board of Education for School District No. 78 (Fraser-Cascade) expects students to treat others with respect and courtesy and to conduct themselves in a manner which contributes to and promotes a safe, caring and orderly learning environment in schools and at school activities.

The Board shall consider the conduct of any member of the school community that adversely affects the school environment to be a breach of the District Student Code of Conduct and to warrant appropriate forms of intervention. Special consideration may apply to students with special needs if these students are unable to comply with a code of conduct due to having a disability of an intellectual, physical, sensory, emotional or behavioural nature.

C. B.C. Human Rights Code

The Board of Education believes all individuals in the school district have the right to an environment free from discrimination and acknowledges that certain kinds of discrimination as prohibited by the BC Human Rights Code must be a part of a district and a school code of conduct.

The Board therefore expects students to not without a bona fide and reasonable justification:

to publish, issue or display, or cause to be published, issued or displayed, any statement, publication, notice, sign, symbol, emblem or other representation that

- (a) indicates discrimination or an intention to discriminate against a person or class of persons.
- (b) exposes a person or group or class of persons to hatred or contempt because of race, colour, ancestry, place of origin, religion, marital status, family status, physical or mental disability, gender identity or expression, sex, sexual orientation, or age.

The Board also expects that a person or class of persons will not, without a bona fide and reasonable justification, be:

- (a) denied or discriminated against in regard to any accommodation, service or facility customarily available to the public because of their race, colour, ancestry, place of origin, religion, marital status, family status, physical or mental disability, sex, sexual orientation or age.

D. District Student Code of Conduct

Expected Behaviour

i) Respect

Students are expected to show respect for people, property, and the school's code of conduct. They are expected to act in a responsible manner and be respectful of the rights of others at school and school activities wherever held.

ii) Responsibility

Students are expected to gradually assume more responsibility for themselves, as individuals and members of society. They are expected to become more responsible for undertaking, organizing and completing their schoolwork and for contributing to and promoting a safe, caring and positive school environment.

iii) Commitment

Students are expected to strive for excellence in all their school endeavours and comply with school expectations and rules for student work, attendance, behaviour, and deportment.

iv) Attitude

Students are expected to participate willingly and diligently in their assigned work and to undertake school activities with a spirit of cooperation and fair play.

E. Compliance with the District Student Code of Conduct

It is expected that students will not engage in violent, bullying, cyber-bullying, intimidating, harassing, threatening or unacceptable behavior (that is behavior that differs from the expected behaviour listed in section "D") and that students will abide by the District Student Code of Conduct and school Code of Conduct going to and from school, on school buses, at school, and at school activities wherever held. Consequences for non-compliance with District or School Codes of Conduct will take into account the age, maturity and special needs (if any) of the student, and, whenever possible, be focused on on processes that are restorative rather than punitive.

F. Retaliation Concerns

- a. Schools and the district will take necessary measures to prevent retaliation by an individual against a student who has made a complaint of a breach of code of conduct.

G. SCHOOL CODE OF CONDUCT

Each school shall develop and maintain a school code of conduct consistent with the Safe, Caring and Orderly School Guidelines. School codes of conduct must, at a minimum, include:

- a. a statement of purpose
- b. statements describing acceptable and unacceptable behaviour (including violent, bullying, cyber-bullying, intimidating, threatening and harassing behaviour) while at school, at a school related activity or in other circumstances where engaging in the activity will have an impact on the school environment.
- c. A statement specifically referencing each prohibited grounds of discrimination which are set out in sections 7 and 8 of the Human Rights Code: race, colour, ancestry, place of origin, religion, marital status, family status, physical or mental disability, gender identity or expression, sex, sexual orientation, and age.
- d. Schools' strategies with respect to the consequences of unacceptable behaviour, that are guided by a progressive discipline process and/or restorative process rather than punitive methodologies and be cognizant of students with special needs and disabilities of an intellectual, physical, sensory, emotional or behavioural nature.
- e. A statement of rising expectations indicating changing expectations as students mature
- f. A statement of indicating the schools' responsibility for notifying other agencies, in the event of a serious breach of the code of conduct
- g. An expectation that all school codes of conduct will be
 - a) displayed in a prominent area of the school,
 - b) linked to the front page of each school website and the School District Code of Conduct Policy 7007,
 - c) reviewed on a yearly basis,

- d) and distributed to and formed in consultation with representatives of
1. employees of the board,
 2. parents / guardians, and
 3. students.
- h. **Personal Electronic Device Usage During Instructional Time**
 Students in SD78 are currently given access to school or district-owned devices such as tablets, laptops, and desktop computers for educational and instructional purposes. This supports learning and achievement. We acknowledge the need to model and teach our students about online safety, the impact of technology on mental health and how it can distract from a focused learning environment when used inappropriately. Beginning in September 2024, the district expects that the following guidelines will be observed in each school:

Elementary Schools

No access to or use of personal electronic devices is permitted at any time during the school day. At the instructor's or administrator's discretion, an exception may be made when the use of a device supports a specific learning objective and is part of the planned lesson.

Secondary Schools

Instructional Hours

No access to or use of personal electronic devices is permitted at any time during the instructional hours defined by each school. At the instructor's or administrator's discretion, an exception may be made when the use of a device supports a specific learning objective and is part of the planned lesson.

Non-Instructional Hours

During non-instructional hours, students may use their devices in a respectful and non-disruptive manner. Such times may include morning break, lunch, recess, and while travelling on SD78 buses before and after school.

Exceptions

At the instructor's or administrator's discretion, an exception may be made when the use of a device supports a specific learning objective and is part of the planned lesson. SD78 also will exempt students who have recognized adaptations or modifications for learning or health circumstances that require a personal electronic device to facilitate full inclusion.

H. Policies to Support the District Student Code of Conduct

The following policies support the District Student Code of Conduct and shall be considered as an extension of the Code:

No. [7008](#)

Student Threat Assessment

No. [7200](#)

Suspensions – Students