

## **DISTRICT CODE OF CONDUCT FOR STUDENTS**

The Board believes it has a responsibility to establish expectations of students as part of its governance role for the District.

The Board further believes that the responsibility for student discipline in school is shared among students, staff and parents. Students have a responsibility to respect the rights and dignity of others and to become actively and productively involved in their own academic learning and social growth. Educators are responsible for establishing a positive school climate in which structure, support and encouragement assist the students in developing a sense of self-discipline and responsibility. Parents are responsible for establishing a positive learning atmosphere in the home, knowing school policies and procedures, supporting the school in the enactment of these policies and procedures, and encouraging their children to understand and respect these policies and procedures. To support these aims, the Board has established a District Code of Conduct for Students, which shall be followed in all schools.

### **Specifically**

1. The Board believes that appropriate student conduct, based on respect for oneself, respect for others, and respect for property is essential to the development of responsible citizens. To this end students are expected to:
  - 1.1 be aware of and obey all school rules;
  - 1.2 attend classes punctually and regularly;
  - 1.3 work cooperatively and diligently at their studies and with home assignments;
  - 1.4 respect the rights of all persons within the school including peers, staff and parents;
  - 1.5 respect the legitimate authority of the school staff;
  - 1.6 respect and take pride in the school's physical school facilities;
  - 1.7 respect the ethnic diversity of our school community;
  - 1.8 behave in a safe and responsible manner at all times; and
  - 1.9 **not** threaten, harass, intimidate or assault, in any way, any person within the school community.
  
2. The Board further believes that these expectations are fostered in a positive climate in which:
  - 2.1 all students feel safe, important and trusted, and have the opportunity to develop, assume and maintain responsibility and self-motivation;
  - 2.2 there is a joint effort to learn and a feeling of mutual respect among staff, students and parents;

- 2.3 appropriate behaviour is consistently encouraged and complimented, thereby increasing student self-esteem and reinforcing self-control;
  - 2.4 students are disciplined in a fair, judicious and responsible manner; and
  - 2.5 on-going communication exists between staff and parents that encourages and provides increased opportunities for active and constructive parental involvement in their children's education.
3. The Superintendent will ensure that each Principal, in consultation with staff, parents and, when appropriate, students, establishes a code of conduct for his/her school that is consistent with the District code of conduct for students.
  4. Students, while attending school and school functions, and while travelling to and from school, shall be subject to the District code of conduct for students and the school's rules of conduct and department established by the Principal.
  5. Students registered in School District #43 (Coquitlam) engaged in unauthorized gatherings on school property may be subject to disciplinary action by the school.
  6. Serious breaches of conduct that threaten the safety and welfare of students and staff will be referred directly to level three of the suspension process for resolution by the Student Suspension Review Committee.
  7. Where a student 16 years of age or older repeatedly fails to comply with the code of conduct, rules and policies of the school, or has failed to apply him/herself to his/her studies as set out in Section 85 of the School Act, the Principal is empowered to refuse further school service to the student. Such action will be reported to the Superintendent, together with supporting documentation.
  8. Students are prohibited from possessing weapons, potentially dangerous articles, alcohol, or illegal drugs in all schools, at school functions, and while travelling to and from school. Weapons are defined as any instrument which can be used to injure, harm or intimidate another person.
  9. Students are prohibited from being under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs in all schools, at school functions and while travelling to and from school.
  10. Homework is assigned as an integral component of the education program provided by the District. As a general rule, it may consist of short, informal tasks in primary, extend up to one hour in years 5 to 8, and not exceed two hours per school night in years 9 to 13.
  11. Students are normally dismissed at the close of the school day and are to go directly home. However, primary students may be detained for up to 15 minutes beyond the school day to receive behavioural counselling or assistance with their studies. Intermediate and secondary students should not ordinarily be detained more than thirty minutes on any school day. Extension of these times for a particular student may be made upon agreement with the parent.

Legal Reference: Section 85, School Act