



School District No. 43 (Coquitlam) Policies and Administrative Procedures

Complete copies of the following policies and administrative procedures are available for your viewing at the school office and on the district website: www.sd43.bc.ca Board of Education/Policies

1. District Code of Conduct – Policy 17

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 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 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, bully*, intimidate or assault, in any way, any person within the school community.
- 1.10 **not** be in possession or under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol.

2. Suspension of Students – AP (Administrative Procedure) 355

The effective management of student discipline is a necessity in establishing safe, caring and orderly school environments that foster student learning needs. Prevention and intervention strategies taught at the school level and supported at the District level are the foundations of a successful discipline program. When student misconduct occurs, the school and District must respond fairly, quickly, and effectively, imposing a disciplinary consequence that is appropriate to the circumstances and that reinforces for the student involved and students generally, appropriate standards of student behaviour.

The Principal has overall responsibility for the maintenance of student discipline and school rules. Under the general supervision of the Superintendent and subject to Administrative Procedures, a Principal and/or Vice Principal has the authority to suspend or remove a suspension imposed on a student.

3. Violence, Intimidation and Possession of Weapons - Policy 18

The Board believes that schools are purposeful places where students and staff must be able to work, learn and play without the threat of physical or psychological harm. Schools are characterized by sensitivity and respect for all individuals, an environment of non-violence, clear student behavioral expectations and disciplinary practices that are enforced consistently and fairly. The Board acknowledges its role in providing secure learning environments which are safe from threats, violence or intimidation.

5. Race Relations – AP 205

School District 43 acknowledges the challenge of becoming responsive to the needs of a pluralistic society and affirms that the racial, ethno-cultural, linguistic and religious diversity of its students, staff, and community is a source of enrichment and strength for Canada.

As an educational institution, the District has a special responsibility to develop positive values, attitudes, knowledge and practices by developing a framework which will promote and support equity, justice and access to all.

6. Personal, Discriminatory, and Sexual Harassment – AP 165

The District recognizes the right of all students and staff members to learn and work in an environment free from personal, discriminatory or sexual harassment.

The District, all staff members, students and people within school communities have a responsibility to promote, monitor and maintain learning environments and workplaces that are free from harassment.

8. Tobacco Free Environment – AP 171

The Board declares that all buildings under its jurisdiction and all school grounds shall be designated “tobacco free”. This “no smoking” policy shall be followed by students, staff, parents and visitors at all times.

9. Closure of Schools for Extreme Weather Conditions – AP 132

In the case of extreme weather conditions, the Superintendent of Schools has authority on behalf of the Board, to temporarily close a school.

Procedures: As a general expectation, parents should be advised that schools are open. If parents believe the local conditions are unsafe, they should keep their child at home or arrange his/her early dismissal. If schools are to be closed before morning classes begin, an announcement will be made on local radio stations CKNW (980), CKWX (1130) and CBC (690) by 8:00 am if possible, and posted on the district website.

10. Resolution of Student or Parent School Concerns – AP 380

The District encourages students and/or parents to discuss their questions or concerns regarding the education of their children with school personnel as early and as directly as possible.

Procedures: Students or parents who disagree with or wish to question decisions or actions that are taken by teachers and/or administrators are expected to seek a resolution by pursuing the following steps:

A. *Teacher or Classroom Level Problem*

1. Discuss the matter directly with the teacher whose judgement or decision is being questioned.
2. If not resolved, discuss your concern with the Principal.
3. If still unsatisfied with the outcome, discuss your concern with the Assistant Superintendent. (contact the Board office at 604-939-9201 or email information@sd43.bc.ca)
4. Unresolved matters may be referred to the Board.

B. *Principal or School Level Problem*

1. Discuss directly with the Principal the action, policy, procedure or practice being questioned.
2. If not resolved, refer to the Assistant Superintendent. (see contact information above)
3. If not resolved, refer to the Board as per Board Policy 13

It is expected that School District personnel will seek a resolution to the problem as quickly as possible.

Aboriginal Programs for students of Aboriginal ancestry are offered throughout the district. For information on these programs please contact your school, or the Aboriginal Education Department at 604-945-7386.