

## AP 351 – School Codes of Conduct

### Background:

The District believes that a code of conduct with broad support of the students, parents, teachers and administrative personnel greatly contributes to a safe and effective school environment. It also believes that there must be ongoing communication and consultation regarding behavioral expectations of everyone within the school community.

### Procedures:

1. Principals shall establish, with the involvement of students, parents, and staff, a code of conduct for the school with the accompanying rules, guidelines, and range of consequences for inappropriate behavior:
  - 1.1. Within the school facility in all school programs and activities.
  - 1.2. Outside the school facility in all school programs and activities.
  - 1.3. Going to and from school when the school deems it to be appropriate.
2. Principals have the overall responsibility to see that codes of conduct are enforced and have paramount authority for the discipline of students.
3. All adults in the school are expected to be vigilant and to act thoughtfully and responsibly in ensuring the safety and security of the students and the building.
4. The code of conduct shall include the following elements:
  - 4.1 Reference to:
    - 4.1.1 each of the prohibited grounds of discrimination set out in section 7 (Discriminatory publication) and section 8 (Discrimination in accommodation, service and facility) of the [Human Rights Code](#), RSBC 1996, c. 210, and
    - 4.1.2 Without limiting subsection (i), sexual orientation, gender identity or expression;
    - 4.1.3 An example of a statement schools might include to support i) and ii) is:  
“Discrimination will not be tolerated on the basis of (but not limited to): appearance, Indigenous identity, race, colour, ancestry, place of origin, political belief, religion, marital status, family status, physical or mental disability, sex, real or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or age.

- 4.2 A statement of purpose that provides a rationale for the code of conduct, with a focus on safe, caring and orderly school environments;
  - 4.3 One or more statements about what is
    - 4.3.1 Acceptable behaviour, and
    - 4.3.2 Unacceptable behaviour including bullying, cyberbullying, harassment, intimidation, threatening or violent behaviours 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;
  - 4.4 A statement that references the prohibition of weapons and objects imitating weapons (ex. Imitation guns)
  - 4.5 one or more statements about the consequences of unacceptable behaviour, which must take account of the student's age, maturity and special needs, if any;
  - 4.6 an explanation that the board will take all reasonable steps to prevent retaliation by a person against a student who has made a complaint of a breach of a code of conduct.
  - 4.7 Statements about consequences of unacceptable behaviour that:
    - 4.7.1 indicate that whenever possible and appropriate, consequences shall be restorative in nature rather than punitive, and
    - 4.7.2 include an explanation that special considerations and advocacy may apply to students with special needs and/or learning differences 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.
    - 4.7.3 An explanation that special consideration and advocacy may apply for students and families of indigenous ancestry, with an approach that is mindful of historical context and indigenous ways of knowing and perspectives.
5. The school district is committed to providing students with learning environments that are safe, responsive, and inclusive. Each school shall adopt a dress code that recognizes that decisions about dress reflect individual expression of identity, socio-cultural norms, and that such decisions are personal.
- 5.1 Students may attend school and school-related functions in dress of their choice provided that their choices:
    - 5.1.1 Do not represent or promote alcohol or drugs;
    - 5.1.2 Use respectful language
    - 5.1.3 Do not depict or promote violence, racism, sexism, or discrimination; and
    - 5.1.4 Conform with established health and safety requirements for the intended activity;
    - 5.1.5 Are not intimidating to others
  - 5.2 Students have the right to dress in a manner consistent with their gender identity or gender expression. This includes students who may dress in a manner that is not consistent with the societal expectations of masculinity/femininity.
6. The school's code of conduct will be reviewed annually with input from students, staff, parents and administration.
7. School codes of conduct are to be regularly communicated through a variety of methods to staff, students and parents and published both on the school website and in the student handbook.
8. Each school's code of conduct shall be filed with the District annually.

Legal Reference: *Sections 6, 7, 17, 20, 22, 26, 65, 79, 85 School Act3*