



SAFE, CARING AND INCLUSIVE SCHOOL COMMUNITIES

CONTEXT:

In accordance with international, federal, and provincial laws and protocols, schools must be safe, compassionate and inclusive communities of learning. The B.C. Curriculum Core Competencies, and Ministerial Order 276/07 (M341/16 and M89) mandate the need for specific school and district-based systems that maintain and enhance positive and respectful climates within all schools. The Board strongly upholds the “recognition of the inherent dignity and the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, peace and justice in the world.” (Preamble UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights.)

POLICY STATEMENT:

The Board supports all and any actions that contribute to the establishment and maintenance of a safe, compassionate and inclusive school community as outlined in international, federal and provincial rights legislation. Active and persistent work to teach, model and encourage positive social behaviour is expected at all levels of our organization.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES:

The Board believes that:

1. All schools must provide a positive, responsive, safe, compassionate, and inclusive environment for all learners.
2. Educational equity is paramount and we must recognize and celebrate diversity in our schools and community.
3. School Districts must work with all community partners to actively develop and collaboratively maintain protocols that support safety and inclusion while protecting against any violence or safety concerns.

The Board expects that:

1. Each school will establish procedures, protocols and practices that create and enhance safe, compassionate and inclusive environments. These will be evident in each school’s code of conduct.
2. Each school’s code of conduct will use the district’s template and include content that speaks to anti-discrimination, expected behaviours, unacceptable behaviours, responses to unacceptable behaviours, safe reporting, and the responsibility to inform. As well, language will be included supporting a distraction free learning environment through restrictions on personal digital devices.
3. Incidents compromising the safety of students will be responded to in a timely, fair and reasonable manner.
4. Wherever possible, responses and interventions to incidents that compromise safety will be restorative; meaning they will repair harm, strengthen relationships and enhance a sense of belonging to school and community.
5. District wide professional learning for educators will continuously provide best practices.
6. All staff who work directly with students shall have access to training on the impacts of trauma.
7. The right of individuals to be different, and to consider themselves different will be respected as long as their individual expression does not compromise a safe, compassionate and inclusive environment.



QUALICUM SCHOOL DISTRICT

BOARD POLICY 700

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REFERENCES:

- [*Administrative Procedure: Safe, Caring, and Inclusive School Communities*](#)
- [*Board Policy 701: Student Discipline and its attendant Administrative Procedures*](#)
- [*B.C. Human Rights Code as of July 2021*](#)
- [*Violence, Threat-making, Risk and Threat Assessment Community Protocol*](#)
- [*Provincial Standards for Codes of Conduct Order \[Ministerial Order 276/07\(M89\)\]*](#)
- [*SOGI 1 2 3*](#)
- [*Universal Declaration of Human Rights \(United Nations\)*](#)
- [*Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*](#)
- [*Ministry of Education Province of B.C. Core Competencies*](#)

DATES OF ADOPTION AND AMENDMENTS:

Adopted: 1998.02.24

Amended: 2000.08.29: 2016.11.22: 2018.01.23: 2022.01.25: **2024.06.25**



Purpose

These Administrative Procedures are written in support of Board Policy 700: *Safe, Caring, and Inclusive School Communities*.

This administrative procedure is explicitly directed toward the conduct of students in their interaction with other students. Also included in this administrative procedure is the bullying, intimidation, discrimination, harassment, or violence toward adults by students. Ultimately, this procedure is intended to support the development of a respectful environment that leads to better outcomes.

Bullying, intimidation, discrimination, harassment, or violence by adults toward students or of adults by other adults are similarly prohibited but are governed by procedural guidelines in other school district administrative procedures - Collective Agreements, Human Rights and Workers Compensation Legislation and in *the Criminal Code of Canada*.

School Codes of Conduct

The Board of Education believes that a Code of Conduct with broad support of the students, parents, teachers, staff and administrative personnel greatly contributes to a safe and effective learning environment. The Board of Education also believes that there should be ongoing communication and consultation regarding behavioral expectations of students within the school community.

The Board of Education supports the values expressed in the *BC Human Rights Code* respecting the rights of all individuals in accordance with the law – prohibiting discrimination based on race, colour, ancestry, place of origin, religion, marital status, family status, physical and mental disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, and age.

Principals and Vice-Principals shall establish, with the involvement of students, parents, and staff a Code of Conduct for the school. This Code of Conduct shall be in compliance with the *Provincial Standards for Codes of Conduct Order [Ministerial Order 276/07(M341/16)(M89)]*.

1. This code shall establish expectations for student conduct:
 - a. within the school facility in all school programs and activities.
 - b. outside the school facility in all school programs and activities.
 - c. going to and from school, when the school deems it to be appropriate.
2. School Codes of Conduct will use a matrix which is developed by the principal of the school through consultative processes which describes expected behaviours in a positive and aspirational manner.
3. School Codes of Conduct will contain language that restricts the use of personal digital devices at school for the purpose of promoting online safety and a focused learning environment. School Codes of Conduct and resulting practice will specifically state and/or implicitly support the following:
 - a. restrictions on the use of personal digital devices at school, including during hours of instruction;
 - b. use of personal digital devices for instructional purposes and digital literacy;
 - c. use of personal digital devices that is appropriate to a student's age and developmental stage;



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SAFE, CARING, AND INCLUSIVE SCHOOL COMMUNITIES

- d. accessibility and accommodation needs;
 - e. medical and health needs;
 - f. equity to support learning outcomes.
4. Principals and Vice-Principals have the overall responsibility to see that Codes of Conduct are enforced and have paramount authority for the discipline of students.
 5. 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.
 6. Strategies are to be in place for active teaching and promotion of the behavioural expectations outlined in the Code of Conduct.
 7. Significant breaches of the Code of Conduct and related disciplinary/restorative responses will be noted in the district student information system.
 8. The Code of Conduct will clearly state a range of consequences for inappropriate behavior.
 9. The school's Code of Conduct will be informally reviewed annually with input from students, staff, parents, and administration. Confirmation of the review will be filed with the Superintendent of Schools or designate by April 15th of each school year (*attached form*).
 10. Each school's Code of Conduct shall be filed with the Superintendent of Schools or designate by July 15th, annually and submitted for approval by the Board of Education at its August Regular Board Meeting.
 11. The school's Code of Conduct shall be posted publically.
 12. All reasonable steps will be taken to prevent retaliation against a student who has made a complaint of a breach of a Code of Conduct.

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Dates of Adoption/Amendments:

Adopted: 2016.11.22

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