

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Student Behaviour and Conduct Policy



*Working together....
to promote a positive attitude
in our schools*

District Priorities 2011 – 2014

Through an extensive consultation process with stakeholders, the Board has established the following priority outcomes:

- Provide supports and programs that will enable all students to complete high school.
- Deepen students' understanding of equity and empathy as key citizenship traits.
- Ensure all students and their families are welcomed, respected, accepted and supported in every school.
- Promote health and wellness for all students and staff.
- Listen to staff, honour their contributions, and support their opportunities for collaboration, growth and professional development.

High Standards for Student Behaviour

At Edmonton Public Schools, we are committed to building a bright future for every student. An important part of that work is to provide students with a safe environment that supports teaching and learning.

As a District, we have established clear expectations for appropriate behaviour and conduct for all of our students, from Kindergarten to Grade 12. These expectations are clearly outlined in the District's Student and Behavior Conduct Policy, a vital resource developed in consultation with students, parents, staff and community members. The policy outlines, in specific terms, the rights and responsibilities of students and the consequences for inappropriate actions.

Parental involvement in public education plays a significant role in promoting positive student behaviour. We are pleased that our ongoing partnership with parents continues to make a difference for our schools and students. In the most recent District satisfaction surveys, 88 per cent of parents expressed satisfaction with the way discipline is handled in their child's school. In addition, 92 per cent of our students say they feel safe in school.

The Board believes these results affirm the District's approach to student behaviour and conduct. By working together, we will ensure our students learn the importance of good character and our schools will remain safe and secure places to learn.

Dave Colburn
Board Chair

Safe and Secure Schools

As a District, we recognize it is our responsibility to ensure students are given every opportunity to learn and realize their potential within a safe and caring school community. To help create an environment where education will thrive, we developed the Student Behaviour and Conduct Policy. Schools use this policy as the basis for their own discipline plans that reflect the values and unique circumstances of their school. These plans are then implemented by principals in cooperation with school staff, parents and local communities.

In an effort to positively influence student behaviour, schools draw upon a wide range of strategies and programs. Teaching conflict resolution skills and providing personal counselling for students are just some of the techniques that continue to be used to successfully resolve situations within schools.

Ensuring a healthy learning environment is an essential part of our work to improve student achievement results and high school completion rates. By promoting positive attitudes and conduct in our schools, we believe students will receive the greatest benefit from their educational experience. Edmonton Public Schools remains committed to making sure students feel a sense of well-being and security as they move towards their best, brightest future.

Edgar Schmidt
Superintendent of Schools



EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Student Behaviour and Conduct Policy

Student Rights and Responsibilities

Students shall be treated with dignity, respect, and fairness by other students and staff.

Students shall be provided with a learning environment that is free from physical, emotional, and social abuse.

Students and parents shall be informed of the board's and school's expectations for student behaviour within the school, the school grounds, and during school activities.

In the event of student misbehaviour, students and parents shall have the right to offer an explanation, and to be informed about consequences of misbehaviour.

Students shall exercise their responsibilities to:

- use their abilities and talents to gain maximum learning benefits from their school experiences;
- contribute to a climate of mutual trust and respect conducive to effective learning, personal development, and social living; and
- attend school regularly and punctually.

Appropriate opportunities for student consultation and involvement in student related matters shall be provided.



Student Behaviour and Conduct

The board supports the endeavours of staff, students, parents, and the community to ensure positive student behaviour and conduct. In addition, the board expects parents and students to recognize their responsibility in developing student self-discipline.

Students shall be responsible and accountable for their behaviour and conduct:

- while involved in school-sponsored or related activities;
- while on school property;
- during any recess or lunch periods on or off school property;
- while travelling to and from school; and
- beyond the hours of school operation if the behaviour or conduct detrimentally affects the welfare of individual students or the governance, climate, or efficiency of the school(s).

Parents play a vital role in developing student behaviour and conduct. It is the district's expectation that parents:

- be aware of the board policy and regulations and the school's expectations for student behaviour and conduct;
- review the board policy and regulations and the school's expectations for student behaviour and conduct with their child(ren);
- work with the school to resolve student behavioural issues when they affect their child(ren); and
- co-operate with the school's or district's recommended course of action prior to re-admission of the student following a student suspension.

Students shall show respect for:

- school authority;
- others and their property;
- ethnic, racial, religious, and gender differences;
- school attendance and punctuality;
- work habits, assignments and homework;
- school property;
- textbooks and equipment;
- fire alarms and safety equipment; and
- district policies relating to smoking, alcohol, drugs and inhalants.

Failure to meet the expectations for behaviour and conduct shall result in some or all of the following consequences:

- problem solving, monitoring or reviewing behaviour expectation with student and reprimand;
- parental involvement;
- referral to attendance board;
- temporary removal of privileges;
- detention of student;
- temporary exclusion of student from class;
- in-school suspension;
- out-of-school suspension;
- behaviour contract with student,
- restitution for property damage to an individual or board;
- assessment of student to develop appropriate programming;
- involvement of police; and
- expulsion from a school or all district schools.

Grounds for disciplinary action that could lead to suspension or expulsion exist where a student has demonstrated unacceptable behaviour such as:

- conduct which threatens the safety of students and-or staff;
- possession of a weapon on a student's person, or in a student's locker or desk, that is dangerous to students and staff; A weapon is anything used, designed to be used or intended for use in causing death or injury to any person, or for the purpose of threatening or intimidating any person.
- displaying or brandishing a weapon in a threatening or intimidating manner;
- assaulting another person;
- possession or use of illegal drugs, alcohol, or inhalants in school and on school property;
- contravention of district policies and regulations related to student harassment, smoking, student attendance, and student rights and responsibilities;
- theft;
- willful disobedience and-or open opposition to authority;
- use or display of improper or profane language;
- willful damage to school or others' property;
- interfering with the orderly conduct of class(es) or the school; and-or
- contravention of the code of conduct as set out in the *School Act*.

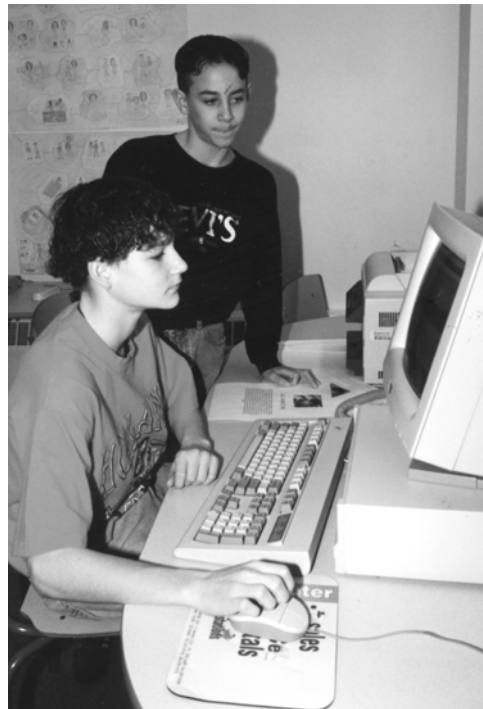
- contravention of the provisions of section 27 of the School Act related to trespassing, loitering, and causing a disturbance; and-or
- use of technology such as computers, cameras, cell phones, and other digital equipment for purposes that are illegal, unethical, immoral, or inappropriate.

Principals shall report to police the names of all persons for whom they have reasonable and probable grounds to believe are trafficking in drugs. The principal shall:

- inform the parents of students involved; and-or
- proceed with disciplinary measures which may lead to suspensions or expulsions.

Based on the board policy and regulations for student behaviour and conduct, each school shall develop and communicate to parents and students expectations for student behaviour and conduct.

The principal shall communicate annually, to students and parents, the board policy and regulations and the school's expectations for student behaviour and conduct.



***It is our responsibility
to provide an environment
which will enhance the
education of our
young people.***

Each school's expectations for student behaviour and conduct shall be:

- developed with opportunity for input from staff, students, parents and the community;
- communicated in writing to students, parents and community annually by the principal; and
- reviewed and revised as required.

The school's expectations shall include the consequences for failure to meet the expectations related to student behaviour, conduct, dress, discipline, deportment, and attendance.

When disciplinary action is required, staff shall, where possible, work with the student's parents, may involve district resource staff and, where appropriate, staff from community agencies.

The principal shall maintain records of disciplinary action taken by school staff as a result of unacceptable student behaviour.

Staff members shall inform the principal of suspected instances of possession of weapons, use of-or trafficking in illegal drugs and-or substance abuse in the school.

Parents requiring clarification or further information regarding student behaviour and conduct should call their school principal.



EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Centre for Education
One Kingsway, Edmonton, Alberta
T5H 4G9
Telephone (780) 429-8000

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SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Edgar Schmidt