



## **SECTION 1000: STUDENTS AND SCHOOLS**

### **POLICY 1025: STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT**

- *Date Adopted: February 27, 2019*
  - *Date Revised: June 19, 2024 (Housekeeping Revision – Ministerial Order No. M89 amending the Provincial Standards for Codes of Conduct Order, Ministerial Order No. 276/07 effective July 1, 2024, that all Boards of Education are to include one or more statements restricting student use of personal digital devices at school, to promote focused learning environments and online safety.)*
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### **POLICY STATEMENT**

The Board is committed to providing safe school environments for all persons. A safe school environment is conducive to the development of positive interpersonal interactions among students, employees, parents, and community. Such positive interpersonal interactions are guided by law and are characterized by courtesy and respect for one another.

### **RATIONALE**

In 2007, the *School Act* made it mandatory for Boards to have policy outlining expectations for school codes of conduct. In addition, a Ministerial Order entitled *Provincial Standards for Codes of Conduct Order* was enacted that sets the standards for codes of conduct.

Boards of Education are obligated to ensure that codes of conduct in their school districts meet the provincial standards and comply with the *School Act* and the *Provincial Standards for Codes of Conduct Order*.

This policy complements these related Board Policies:

- Diversity in Schools (Policy 1020)
- Safe, Caring, Orderly Schools (Policy 1015)
- Bring Your Own Technology (BYOT) (Policy 1090)
- Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (Policy 1095)



## **LEGISLATION/REGULATIONS**

- *School Act*, sections 85(1.1), 168(2) (s.1)
- *School Act*: 26, 85(2)©(ii), 85(2)(d), and 85(3)
- Ministerial Order No. M89 (effective July 1, 2024)
- Ministerial Order No. 276/07
- Provincial Standards for Codes of Conduct Order M341/16, September 7, 2016; Authority: School Act 85(1.1), 168(2)(s.1) Ministry Document: *Developing and Reviewing Codes of Conduct: A Companion to the Provincial Standards for Codes of Conduct Ministerial Order and Safe, Caring and Orderly Schools: A Guide (2007)*
- Ministry Document: *Safe, Caring and Orderly Schools: A Guide (2008)*
- Ministry Document: *Diversity in BC Schools: A Framework (2008)*
- Ministry Resources: *BC Performance Standards, Social Responsibility: A Framework (2001)*
- *Human Rights Code*, RSBC 1996, c. 210 – Sections 7 and 8
- Provincial Ministerial Order No. 542: Cannabis Control Regulation, c. 29, ss. 127, 128, 130, 134, 137, 138 and 139
- Provincial *Cannabis Control and Licensing Act*, S.B.C. 2018, Chapter 29
- Provincial *Tobacco Control & Vapour Products Control Act*, [RSBC 1996], Chapter 451
- Provincial *Liquor Control and Licensing Act*, SBC 2015, Chapter 19

## **POLICY**

The Board is committed to supporting a school community that develops students who demonstrate social responsibility and interdependence. Through instruction, modeling, and support, students will acquire the knowledge, skills, and attitudes that enable them to experience a sense of relationship and respect with their families, peers, and school community.

## **REGULATIONS FOR CODE OF CONDUCT**

1. Students will conduct themselves in a manner that supports a safe, orderly, and caring school environment for all members of the learning community.



**REGULATIONS FOR CODE OF CONDUCT** *(continued)*

2. Students will be aware of and maintain a healthy respect for the diversity of all members of the school learning community in accordance to the prohibited grounds of discrimination set out in sections 7 and 8 of the *Human Rights Code*: race, colour, ancestry, place of origin, religion, marital status, family status, physical or mental disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, and age.
3. Students will be active participants in the development of their own learning and the development of an environment that supports the learning of others.
4. In order to address critical aspects of safety and learning, students will:
  - a. Engage in their learning through active attendance and the completion of school work;
  - b. Be free of illegal drugs, alcohol, cannabis (by smoking, vaping or ingestion), smoking tobacco, tobacco related products and electronic nicotine & non-nicotine delivery systems (ENDS), possession, use or influence during any time they are under the jurisdiction of the school district:

“Smoke-free or Vape-free zone” is an area within the vicinity of a school where smoking, electronic cigarettes, and the use of tobacco or vapour products is prohibited. This area will encompass school buildings and properties and extend a reasonable distance from school property. The “smoke-free or vape-free zone” is in effect for students at all times they are under the school’s jurisdiction.

While cannabis is legalized within Canada, it remains illegal to minors, and student involvement with cannabis will be treated in a similar manner to student involvement with alcohol and other drugs.

In accordance to the *Cannabis Control Regulation*, cannabis must not be consumed on or in school property or a sidewalk, boulevard, or similar that abuts school property and a highway (i.e., any road, street, lane, or right of way used or intended for passage of vehicles by the general public.

Further to the Regulation, the prescribed distance from a bus stop, within which a person must not smoke or vape cannabis, is 6 metres.

Note - students are exempt from the prohibition on cannabis consumption in/on school property if the following conditions are met:

- The student must maintain proof on file with the school principal, superintendent or the Board to possess medical cannabis under section 4, Cannabis Control Regulation.
- The cannabis possessed and consumed is medical cannabis.



**REGULATIONS FOR CODE OF CONDUCT** *(continued)*

- The minor student's parent/guardian has notified the school's principal, superintendent, or Board of their authority to possess medical cannabis.
  - The students' health care practitioner directs consumption of cannabis at interval, which overlap with regular school hours, activities or events.
  - The student does not smoke or vape the cannabis.
- c. Maintain a level of conduct that eliminates violent behaviour (physical and emotional) and the use of any form of weapons;
- d. Comply with the school's Code of Conduct and with the Code of Conduct Policy and other relevant policies of the Board.
5. Students will comply with expectations for the use of school or district-owned technology, as well as personal digital devices, such as cell phones, tablets, or smart watches, contributing to a safe and focused learning environment for all.
6. Principals at each school shall establish statements of expectations regarding student attendance and department. The School Code of Conduct will be established through a consultative process involving staff, students, and parents.
7. Such statements are to be consistent with the *School Act*, Regulations, and Board Policy and should be mindful of the intended audience in clearly outlining a School Code of Conduct based on positive attitudes towards schools, respect for the dignity of others, their rights and property, and regular school attendance.
8. Codes of Conduct must be reviewed at least annually. A process to review codes should be regularly scheduled and should be reconsidered in light of emerging circumstances.
9. It is the responsibility of every principal to ensure that students are familiar with the provisions of the school's Code of Conduct.
10. It is expected that students will abide by the School Code of Conduct going to and from school, on school buses, at school, and at school functions wherever held.
11. The school's Code of Conduct will be communicated to students and parents in written or electronic form as early as practical at the beginning of the school year.



### **REGULATIONS FOR CODE OF CONDUCT** *(continued)*

12. Disciplinary actions arising as a result of students not adhering to the School Code of Conduct will be based on the notion of progressive discipline with the least possible erosion of instructional time depending on the severity of the infraction.
13. Consequences are a result of an individualized assessment of the circumstance relating to each student with consideration of special needs students and the determination of the steps necessary to maintain a safe orderly and caring environment.
14. It is expected that all members of the learning community (staff, parents, and volunteers) will support the school's Code of Conduct within the school environment, and reinforce it within the context of their contact and relationship with students.
15. The superintendent of schools, the director(s) of instruction, and all school principals and vice principals are authorized to suspend students in accordance with applicable *School Act* provisions.
16. The paramount responsibility is to maintain the safety of all students. When that safety is jeopardized by the actions of others, principals will act to protect students and remove the source of that danger.
17. Therefore, all persons who engage in aggressive or violent behaviour or who arm themselves with weapons, or potential weapons, will be dealt with immediately, may be deprived of the opportunity to attend school, and may face criminal charges where warranted.

### **REGULATIONS FOR ILLEGAL DRUGS**

18. In these Regulations, the word "drug" means:  
*Alcohol or any "controlled substance", as defined by the Controlled Drug and Substances Act (CDSA), that is not prescribed by a qualified medical practitioner, including but not limited to cannabis (by smoking, vaping or ingestion), opiates, amphetamines, methamphetamines or barbiturates.*
19. Alcohol and other drug possession, supply, or sale is illegal and interferes with both effective learning and the healthy development of all individuals.
20. An effective drug prevention strategy encompasses three aspects: prevention, intervention, and rehabilitation.



## **REGULATIONS FOR ILLEGAL DRUGS** *(continued)*

### **21. Prevention**

- a. Prevention factors promoted by the school include:
  - i. positive bonds among home, school and community
  - ii. clear standards for behaviours
  - iii. strong norms against drug use
  - iv. problem solving and interpersonal skills
  - v. meaningful involvement in caring activities, such as service to others
  - vi. sense of purpose and a positive view of personal future
- b. Schools will implement appropriate prevention education

### **22. Intervention**

- a. Students shall not attend school or any school-organized or sponsored event while under the influence of illegal drugs, alcohol, cannabis (by smoking, vaping or ingestion).
- b. Students shall not buy, sell, distribute or possess drugs on school premises or at any event that is organized or sponsored by a school.
- c. Students violating this policy shall be subject to discipline in accordance with the established School Code of Conduct and with relevant district regulations and procedures.
- d. For the purposes of enforcing school rules and maintaining a safe and orderly learning environment, principals and vice principals may conduct lawful searches of student lockers and any other property found on school premises.
- e. The principal, vice-principal, or a Board-approved designate may conduct random locker searches to ensure compliance with school board policy regarding drugs. These searches may include the use of drug detection dogs from an accredited organization.

### **23. Rehabilitation**

- a. The Board will work in concert with other agencies to endeavor to bring students who have contravened Board policies back into a healthy and constructive relationship with their school and community.



## **REGULATIONS FOR ILLEGAL DRUGS**

### **24. Discipline**

- a. The principal of a school is responsible for ensuring that the Board's position and policy on illegal drugs, alcohol, cannabis (by smoking, vaping or ingestion) and relevant sections of these procedures will be communicated to students and parents at the beginning of each school year:

The Board will not condone the use, possession, supply, or sale of illegal drugs in schools or at Coast Mountains School District sponsored events, regardless of whether the activity takes place inside or outside the School District geographical boundaries.

- b. The principal of a school is responsible for ensuring that students and parents are advised that lockers may be subject to random searches at any time.
- c. Students and parents must be advised that students are not obliged to obtain a school locker, but that if a student obtains a school locker, they do so on the condition that it may be subject to random searches and that it is to be used only for authorized purposes.
- d. A student who is under the influence of, or using drugs, or who is promoting, selling or distributing such a substance during school hours or at a school-sponsored event, will be disciplined accordingly.
- e. In addition to the imposition of school district discipline, the school may, depending upon the circumstances of the case, report to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) the circumstances of any use, possession, sale or distribution of drugs.
- f. If a student has been suspended, the normal conditions for re-admission are:
  - i. evidence that the student can succeed in a school environment without further abuse of drugs, such as proof of enrollment in an approved intervention program
  - ii. completion of all assigned work
  - iii. completion of an impact statement (if requested)
  - iv. school-based contract



## **REGULATIONS FOR ILLEGAL DRUGS**

### **25. Search and Seizure**

- a. In performing their official duties as school district employees, principals or their designates, may, if they have reasonable grounds to be suspicious, search students, their lockers and the vehicles.
- b. Students and their vehicles may only be searched on school property or while attending a school sponsored event.
- c. Any illegal substance or dangerous object found in students' lockers, vehicles or on a student may be seized and held as evidence.
- d. When the administrator believes that charges may be laid as a result of the search, the RCMP shall be informed without delay.
- e. Illegal substances seized must be turned over to the police.
- f. Generally, dangerous objects seized must be turned over to the police. However, principals may use discretion when it is clear that an object was not brought to the school for harmful purposes (for example, a pocket knife). In these cases, the item should be confiscated and the parent notified that the object may be picked up from the school.
- g. Principals shall not physically search students. Students should be requested to provide any concealed articles on their person, or personal property.
- h. If a student refuses to provide any concealed articles on their person, or personal property, the principal shall contact the parent or guardian to come to the school and assist.