

AP 390 SAFE AND CARING SCHOOL COMMUNITIES-SCHOOL CODES OF CONDUCT POLICY #390



RATIONALE:

The Board of Education strives to develop positive and inclusive school cultures and is committed to fostering optimal environments for learning. A key part of this work includes fostering school connectedness and developing protocols for preventing and intervening in instances of bullying, and other worrisome behaviours.

PROCESS:

1. The Superintendent will ensure that each Principal, in consultation with staff, parents and, when appropriate, students, establishes a code of conduct for his/her school that is consistent with the District Student Code of Conduct, and which reflects the provincial standards.
2. The school's Code of Conduct and a summary of the district's administrative procedures or policies on Student Suspension (AP 320), Illicit Substances (Policy 311), and use of digital devices (AP 620) shall be communicated to all students annually.
3. Under the Freedom of Information and Privacy Protection Act and/or other relevant legislation, it may be necessary to advise other parties of serious breaches of the District Student Code of Conduct

2. School Environment

The Board believes that acceptable behaviours and conduct are fostered in a positive climate in which:

- 2.1 all students feel safe, valued, and trusted, and have the opportunity to develop, assume and maintain responsibility and self-motivation.
- 2.2 all students feel supported without fear of retaliation in reporting unsafe conditions, actions, or potential incidents.
- 2.3 there is a joint effort to learn and a feeling of mutual respect among staff, students, and parents.
- 2.4 appropriate behaviour is taught, encouraged, modelled, practiced, and acknowledged, thereby increasing student self-respect and positive social behaviours.
- 2.5 disciplinary action, wherever possible, is preventative and restorative, rather than solely punitive.
- 2.6 expectations for student behaviour increase as they become older and more mature.
- 2.7 disciplinary action is considerate of students with special needs if these students are unable to fully comply with the code of conduct due to a diagnosed disability of an intellectual, physical, sensory, emotional, or behavioural nature.

3. Conduct Expectations

- 3.1 The Board believes that acceptable 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:
- 3.2 be aware of and obey all school rules.
- 3.3 respect the rights of all persons within the school including peers, staff, parents, and volunteers.
- 3.4 refrain from lying, cheating, and stealing.
- 3.5 attend classes punctually and regularly.
- 3.6 work cooperatively and diligently at their studies and home assignments.
- 3.7 respect the legitimate authority of the school staff.
- 3.8 respect all school property, including buildings and equipment.
 - 3.8.1 respect the diversity of our school community.
- 3.9 behave safely and responsibly at all times.
- 3.10 refrain from any behaviour that would threaten, harass, bully*, intimidate, assault, or discriminate against, in any way, any person within the school community on or off school property (*Bullying includes but is not limited to physical or verbal intimidation, verbal harassment and cyberbullying).
- 3.11 refrain from being in possession of or under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol in all school facilities or on school grounds or at school-sponsored functions and activities:
- 3.12 refrain from being in possession of weapons or firearms of any kind in school or at school activities. This includes imitation or low-velocity firearms like BB, pellet, gel, airsoft and paintball guns, and imitation firearms are items that could reasonably be mistaken for a real firearm, such as lighters designed to closely resemble firearms.
 - 3.12.1 respect the new laws and regulations under the Firearms Violence Prevention Act (FVPA) that came into effect October 1, 2026, in British Columbia. Fair Notice to Parents/Guardians has been placed on the school district website and school websites. Anyone who illegally possesses a firearm, low-velocity firearm, or imitation firearm on school property without a valid exemption may have these items confiscated, forfeited and disposed of by law enforcement, and if convicted of an offence, may face fines and serious penalties under the FVPA.

For more information on the Firearm Violence Prevention Act and regulations, visit: [Firearm Violence Prevention Act \(FVPA\) – Province of British Columbia](#).

- 3.13 refrain from inappropriate computer usage and/or multi-media devices in accordance with Board AP 620 (cell phones, cameras, tablets, etc.)
- 3.13.1 Schools are required to include specific guidelines with regards to the acceptable use of digital devices, including locations and time of day
- 3.13.2 Schools will set an appropriate range of classroom strategies for restricting the use of digital devices. These may include:
- Caddy or “apartment”
 - Basket
 - Device face down and in sight
 - Devices not out or visible
 - Other
- 3.13.3 Elementary and Secondary schools may differ, and it is expected elementary schools may be more restrictive due to limited productive use opportunities.
- 3.13.4 Secondary schools will not allow digital devices in classes such as PE or shops (or others as determined by the school) unless a part of a student’s learning plan.
- 3.13.5 Students are not permitted to leave the classroom with their phone/device during class time and are not permitted to have them in bathrooms.

The Board believes that any breach of Code of Conduct behaviours or expectations would be considered unacceptable. Students are encouraged to inform a responsible adult when becoming aware of any infraction of the Code of Conduct.

4. Consequences

- 4.1 Students will be disciplined in a timely and fair manner and such discipline shall be in accordance with AP 320 – Student Suspensions.
- 4.1.1 Students who fail to adhere to the school and classroom guidelines for digital devices as per 3.13 may:
- Have their device taken away
 - Be prohibited from having a device on school property.
 - Be suspended in accordance with AP 320—Student Suspensions
- 4.2 Students, while attending school, school-sponsored functions, and activities, shall be subject to the District Code of Conduct as well as the school's Code of Conduct. Students may be subject to discipline under the school and/or District Code of Conduct for any conduct which has the effect of negatively impacting the school environment,

whether that conduct occurs on or off School District property, at a school-sponsored function or activity, or elsewhere.

- 4.3 Serious breaches of conduct that threaten the safety and welfare of others will be referred directly to an indefinite suspension including a review from a representative of the Superintendent.