Administrative Procedure 312

Students

STUDENT DISCIPLINE

Background

The Board is committed to establishing and maintaining a welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environment for its students, staff, volunteers, and visitors.

The Board recognizes the positive benefits of student discipline and advocates a relationship between school and student fostering mutual respect and responsibility.

Procedures

1. The Board expects that school and classroom discipline practices, in general, should be based upon the following principles:

    1.1. Students who are made to feel capable and have a sense of belonging tend also to be contributing and cooperative members of the school community.

    1.2. Student conduct is best managed through a combination of positive reinforcement, clear and consistent expectations, and logical consequences.

    1.3. Students need to assume responsibility for their conduct as individuals and as members of a group.

    1.4. Students must be accountable for their conduct to any adult serving in a position of authority.

    1.5. All actions taken with respect to discipline must be as positive and proactive as possible.

    1.6. A safe and orderly classroom is essential to effective learning and, as such, teachers must establish reasonable and clearly understood expectations.

    1.7. Disciplinary matters need to be dealt with promptly, fairly and objectively, balancing the needs and rights of the individual with those of the total school population.

1.8. Parents, as partners, play a vital role in instilling and reinforcing the knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary for appropriate student conduct.

1.9. Discipline is a partnership between the home, school and the community.

2. The Board recognizes that positive and preventative disciplinary measures are those which are most effective. These measures can be facilitated through programs established by the classroom teacher, administrator, school resource team, consultants, police or other community agencies and parent(s). Such measures also include effective classroom management strategies, counseling, peer support, and conflict resolution training.

3. Supports for those students who engage in unacceptable behaviour may include:

3.1. mentoring;

3.2. restorative discipline;

3.3. supportive positive behaviors;

3.4. regular check-ins with teachers or school counsellors;

3.5. external counselling; and

3.6. parental support for remediation.

4. A communication plan shall be established with the parents of students experiencing discipline problems.

5. Students and their parents shall be reminded of the student's obligation to Administrative Procedure #310 Student Code of Conduct.

6. The principal is expected to take immediate action in responding to abusive and aggressive behavior which causes or threatens harm to persons or property. Students who are responsible for this kind of serious misconduct may be reported to the police. Students may also face formal suspension and the possibility of an expulsion recommendation.

7. Decisions regarding the use of specific disciplinary measures should be based on

consideration of the following factors, where appropriate:

7.1. effect of the student's conduct upon other students, staff, volunteers or visitors, the school and the community;

7.2. nature of the incident;

7.3. student's previous conduct;

7.4. student's age, maturity and individual needs;

7.5. intended impact of proposed action on the student's conduct;

7.6. previous documented disciplinary actions and interventions;

7.7. discussion with the students and/or the parents of students who have been harmed by the student's behaviour; and

7.8. discussion with the student and/or the parents of the student being considered for disciplinary measures.

8. Measures used in support of school discipline are to be consistent with the provisions of the Education Act, as they may apply to Charter schools, and with Board policies and may include:

8.1. detention;

8.2. suspension from class;

8.3. in-school suspension;

8.4. voluntary withdrawal from school for students at least sixteen (16) years old;

8.5. supported leave (i.e. temporary home study);

8.6. suspension from school; and

8.7. recommendation to the Board for expulsion.

9. Serious and/or repeated offences which affect the safety and security of students, staff, volunteers and/or visitors on school property or during school-sponsored activities shall be responded to in accordance with the following:

9.1. The offenses to which this section apply include but are not limited to the following:

9.1.1. use, possession of, or involvement with weapons;

9.1.2. threats which endanger others physically and/or emotionally;

9.1.3. theft;

9.1.4. assault causing bodily harm;

9.1.5. vandalism;

9.1.6. use, possession, distribution, or collection of money for illicit drugs, cannabis, cannabis- infused products, alcohol, or inhalants in school, on Board property or in the context of any school-related activity;

9.1.7. use or possession of non-medicinal drugs or tobacco products;

9.1.8. personal harassment;

9.1.9. open defiance of authority; and

9.1.10. other criminal activity.

9.2. The disciplinary measures used may include:

9.2.1. in-school suspension;

9.2.2. suspension from school;

9.2.3. suspension with a recommendation to the Board for expulsion; and

9.2.4. a report to the police by the principal, as appropriate.

9.3. The disciplinary measure used shall be at the discretion of the principal, unless otherwise provided by Board policy.

10. The following measures of student discipline are unacceptable:

10.1. physical threats or attacks upon the student;

10.2. corporal punishment;

10.3. mass punishment aimed at unspecified individuals or groups;

10.4. threats, enticements and use of grades as a means of discipline or any other measure which may be viewed as coercive;

10.5. verbal attacks; and

10.6. deliberate humiliation.

11. Students who are victims of unacceptable behavior will offered access to reasonably available supports and services.

Approved: July 2023