

POLICY

**SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 53
(Okanagan Similkameen)**

STUDENT CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINE

**Reference: F-3
Approved: June 24, 2009**

District Expectations

The Board of Education believes that a positive school and district environment promotes respect for the dignity of individuals and the diversity of the school community; respect for the property of others; a drug, alcohol and smoke free environment; intolerance of bullying and harassing behaviors; and solutions which provide for non-violent conflict resolution. The Board believes that safe school environments are necessary for students to learn and achieve and for staff to support student learning. Discrimination is not part of such an environment therefore the Board is committed to creating and maintaining an environment free from all forms of discrimination. As a result, the Board supports and endorses the values and objectives contained in the Canadian Multiculturalism Act, the BC Multiculturalism Act, the Charter of Rights and Freedoms and the BC Human Rights Code.

Schools in partnership with staff, parents and the community will develop:

- a written school code of conduct which encompasses the District values that shall be provided to all students. A copy of the school code of conduct shall be filed with the office of the Superintendent of Schools;
- plans of action which include governance, prevention and intervention and will consider the needs and concerns of all members of the school community;
- opportunities to facilitate students and staff acquiring the knowledge and skills which build positive interactions and avoid violent confrontations at school; and
- reflective and proactive practices which model positive classroom and school interactions and maximize the learning opportunities for all students.

In recognition of these beliefs, the Board supports the following:

- all students have a right to an educational program which addresses their individual needs while being treated fairly;
- the design and implementation of student discipline procedures must focus upon the needs and aspirations of all students; and
- all adults must share responsibility for supporting all students in the development of positive relationships.

Student Code of Conduct

Students are expected to act in a manner that enables all students and staff to participate effectively in the educational community.

While on school premises, going to and returning from school and at all school sponsored games and functions, whenever and wherever held, every student shall be subject to the code of conducts established by the school and the district. Students are expected to:

- attend school on a daily basis except in cases of illness, family need, or medical excuse;
- be punctual and prepared for classes;
- apply themselves to their educational program in a manner commensurate with their ability;
- demonstrate respect, tolerance and acceptance of others including the rights of others;
- resolve conflicts in a non-violent manner; and
- respect personal and school property.

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PROCEDURES STUDENT BEHAVIOUR AND INTERVENTION

It is recognized that school staff must work with parents or guardians to address student behavior issues. Parents or guardians should be notified in the event of serious or repetitive behavior issues and prior to any student being sent home, if suspended.

When the misbehavior of a student impacts another student or involves onlookers, appropriate interventions will be taken to address the needs of all of those involved (i.e. the student who has engaged in the misbehavior, the student who was the subject of the misbehavior and any onlookers).

When the actions of a student jeopardize access to a safe and positive school environment, various strategies will be initiated and may include:

- referral to the school counsellor and/or behavior teacher, school based team, school administration;
- involvement of parents or guardians;
- reallocation of school based resources and staff;
- consultation with district Student Support Services and/or administrative staff;
- access outside support or community agency support;
- natural consequences;
- in-school suspensions;
- part time placements;
- placement in another school;
- restorative/restitution processes;
- co-operative discipline plan;
- district level suspension review;
- referral to alternate programs; and
- out-of-school suspensions.

When needed, a Positive Behaviour Support Plan (PBS) may be developed for the student by appropriate school personnel, parents, possibly the student and in some cases community and district personnel. The PBS should:

- target problem behaviors;
- include functional assessment of problem behaviors when appropriate;
- define specific goals, including replacement behaviours and timelines;
- describe interventions, including strategies to change negative behaviors, teach appropriate skills and outline positive and negative consequences; and
- monitor effectiveness of the plan.

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Student Suspensions

Principals and Vice-Principals, Directors, Assistant Superintendents and Superintendents or designates are authorized to suspend students in accordance with this policy and to take other disciplinary action to that of a kind, firm and judicious parent.

Students are expected to comply with the school and district codes of conduct, the school rules authorized by the Principal, and other policies and regulations authorized by the Board and, may be suspended from school for non-compliance.

Generally, student suspensions will occur only after interventions of a lesser form or alternate methods of discipline have been utilized. It is recognized, however, that there may be occasions when the behavior of the student is sufficiently serious to warrant a suspension, even though no previous disciplinary actions or other interventions have taken place. When a suspension is initiated, an opportunity should be provided to parents to meet with the school administrator to discuss the student conduct and related matters. As well, an alternate educational program will be provided, interventions will be outlined, and a plan for re-entry will be developed.

At the time of any suspension verbal notification, including the reasons for and length of the suspension shall be provided to the parents or guardians with written notification to follow. The Principal or designate shall attempt to ensure the safety of the student until the parent or guardian is notified. The written notification shall also inform the parent or guardian of the access to appeal to the Board.

When the Principal considers that a student has committed repeated or serious breaches of the district code of conduct, school rules or other policies or regulations authorized by the Board; or the Principal considers that the conduct of the student warrants a suspension in excess of 5 days, the Assistant Superintendent or designate will be notified.

The Assistant Superintendent shall provide the parents and/or student with the opportunity to meet to review the circumstances related to the suspension as well as the student's prior disciplinary record, academic progress record, assessments and other pertinent information. The Assistant Superintendent may give any direction he/she considers appropriate.

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Should the parents wish to appeal the decision to suspend the student to the Secretary Treasurer, or designate, the Board of Education will convene a hearing to determine whether there has been a significant impact on the student's health, safety or education as a result of the decision. If the Board deems that any of one of the three areas has significantly affected the student, the Board shall provide the parent and/or student with an opportunity to address the Board in accordance with its appeal bylaw. The Board shall decide on the appeal and may take one or more of the following actions:

- confirm the suspension or consequences set out for the student;
- vary the length of the suspension or any conditions of the suspension;
- reinstate the student to the school;
- reinstate the student to school with conditions;
- place the student in another school or program; and/or
- provide services appropriate to the student's needs in another manner (YouLearn.ca).

The Superintendent or designate shall inform the parent and/or student of the decision of the Board of Education.