

EDUCATION: STUDENTS

Policy 502

Student Behaviour and Discipline

Student Conduct

The Board supports the principle that no one has the right to interfere with other people, and more specifically with other people's property and other people's time. The schools should attempt to develop and encourage an attitude of individual responsibility towards the quality of life in the school community.

The code of behaviour expected from our students rests on three basic rules: respect for themselves; respect for others; respect for their own and others' property. All detailed school regulations, bus rules, etc. will be logical extensions of these three basics expectations, and will be explained to children in those terms.

Student Discipline

It is expected that most students, in most instances, will be able to keep to the basic code of behaviour outlined above. However, there will inevitably be times when students need to be reminded of their responsibilities to themselves and to the school community, and when it may be necessary to impose disciplinary procedures. When problems of behaviour arise, they will be dealt with according to regulations developed by the administration and implemented by the school principal, as required under Board policy and the School Act (see 502.1 and regulations, following).

Sportsmanship

Good sportsmanship is expected of all students who participate, either as athletes or as spectators, in any form of school-related sports activities. Good behaviour rests, again, upon the three basic principles set forth in the behaviour code above: students are expected to behave with self-respect, respect for others, and respect for their own and others' property. Specific regulations pertaining to behaviour and discipline during school-related activities will be developed and enforced by the administration (see 503.5/503.6).

Student Rights and Responsibilities

Each student in our schools has the right to be treated with respect, courtesy and consideration by every other student, teacher, school employee, or other adult in the school. He/she has the right to know what the rules are; to appeal to higher authority when he/she feels unfairly treated, or when he/she thinks that no objective hearing has been allowed (see 500).

However, persons in charge of classrooms and schools must have the authority to carry out their work for the benefit and safety of everyone concerned without constant argument. If a student feels that a particular rule or judgment is unfair, he/she may express such complaints as described below.

Student Complaints and Grievances

In the interest of safety and order in the schools, it is expected that students obey directions first and ask questions later. Much as the Board wishes to foster students' gradual development in self-discipline and intelligent decision-making, it must be made clear to students that schools are not a one-man, one-vote democracy but that the persons in charge have special responsibilities that can be carried out only if their authority is accepted, respected, and supported by all.

This must not be construed to mean that students who feel that they have been unfairly treated have no recourse. Most complaints and grievances can and must be resolved at the level at which they arise: between the student and the teacher or other school employee, as necessary with the help of the principal. In all cases student complaints should be dealt with courteously and promptly, preferably within two school days after the student raised the question.

If any matter cannot be resolved at the school level, the principal may consult the Director of Instruction (Administration) / Superintendent of Schools. However, if the student feels that his/her complaint has not been fully or fairly dealt with as stated in the policy on appeals, provision is made for an appeal.