



## School District No. 43 (Coquitlam)

### Policy Statement

#### DISTRICT CODE OF CONDUCT/SCHOOL RULES

V-32,P.294

#### RATIONALE:

The Board of School Trustees believes that each principal should establish the general school rules governing expectations of students based on discussion with staff, parents and where appropriate, students. These rules will be consistent with the district code of conduct and will be filed on an annual basis with the zone assistant superintendent.

The Board encourages school staffs to maintain a positive climate in which:

- all students feel safe, important and trusted, and have the opportunity to develop, assume and maintain responsibility and self-motivation;
- there is a joint effort to learn and a feeling of mutual respect among staff, students and parents;
- appropriate behaviour is consistently encouraged and complimented, thereby increasing student self-esteem and reinforcing self-control;
- students are disciplined in a fair, judicious and responsible manner; and
- on-going communication exists between staff and parents that encourages and provides increased opportunities for active and constructive parental involvement in their children's education.

#### POLICY:

The Board supports principals and school staffs in the maintenance of proper order and discipline that is consistent with Board policy, and believes that the responsibility for student discipline in school is shared among students, staff and parents. Students have a responsibility to respect the rights and dignity of others and to become actively and productively involved in their own academic learning and social growth. Educators are responsible for establishing a positive school climate in which structure, support and encouragement assist the students in developing a sense of self-discipline and responsibility. Parents are responsible for establishing a positive learning atmosphere in the home, knowing school policies and procedures, supporting the school in the enactment of these policies and procedures. To support these aims, the Board has established a "District Code of Conduct" for students, which shall be followed in all schools.

### REGULATIONS

#### DISTRICT CODE OF CONDUCT

The Board of School Trustees believes that appropriate 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:

- be aware of and obey all school rules;
- attend classes punctually and regularly;
- work cooperatively and diligently at their studies and with home assignments;
- respect the rights of all persons within the school including peers, staff and parents;
- respect the legitimate authority of the school staff;
- respect and take pride in the school's physical school facilities;
- respect the ethnic diversity of our school community;
- behave in a safe and responsible manner at all times; and
- not threaten, harass, intimidate or assault, in any way, any person within the school community.

## SCHOOL RULES

1. The principal, in consultation with staff, parents and, when appropriate, students will establish a code of conduct for the school that is consistent with the district code of conduct.
2. The school's conduct and a summary of the district's policies and regulations on "School Rules" (II-B-83), "Violence, Intimidation, and Possession of Weapons" (II-B-84), and "Suspension of Students" (II-B-85) will be sent home annually to be signed by the parents/guardians and, where appropriate, students. The school's code of conduct will be reviewed with students on an on-going basis throughout the school year.
3. Students, while attending school and school functions, and while travelling to and from school, shall be subject to the school's rules of conduct and department established by the school principal. (Ref.School Act. Section 85).
4. Students registered in School District #43 (Coquitlam) engaged in unauthorized gatherings on school property may be subject to disciplinary action by the school.
5. Serious breaches of conduct that threaten the safety and welfare of students and staff will be referred directly to level three of the suspension process for resolution by the Student Suspension Review Committee (II-B-85).
6. Where a student 16 years of age or older repeatedly fails to comply with the code of conduct rules and policies of the school, or has failed to apply him/herself to his/her studies as set out in the School Act, Section 85(3)(a)(b), the principal is empowered to refuse further school service to the student. Such action will be reported to the superintendent, together with supporting documentation.
7. Students are prohibited from possessing weapons, \* potentially dangerous articles, alcohol, or illegal drugs in all schools, at school functions, and while travelling to and from school.
8. Students are prohibited from being under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs in all schools, at school functions and while travelling to and from school.

*\*weapons are defined as any instrument, which can be used to injure, harm or intimidate another person.*

## GUIDELINES FOR HOMEWORK AND DETENTION OF STUDENTS

1. Homework is assigned as an integral component of the education program provided by the district. As a general rule, it may consist of short, informal tasks in primary, extend up to one hour in years 5 to 8, and not exceed two hours per school night in years 9 to 13.
2. Students are normally dismissed at the close of the school day and are to go directly home. However, primary students may be detained for up to 15 minutes beyond the school day to receive behavioural counselling or assistance with their studies. Intermediate and secondary students should not ordinarily be detained more than thirty minutes on any school day. Extension of these times for a particular student may be made upon agreement with the parent.