

SAFE AND CARING SCHOOLS

Administrative Directive

The Division expects students and staff to model and reinforce socially responsible and respectful behaviors so teaching and learning can take place in a safe and caring environment. In order to achieve "Safe and Caring Schools", the entire school community has specific obligations and roles. All schools in the Division shall adopt a "zero tolerance" stance for not investigating all threats and threatening behaviors.

Definitions

Safe and Caring School:

A safe and caring school is physically, emotionally and psychologically safe for students and staff. It is an environment wherein everyone is accorded respect and dignity, and their safety and well-being are paramount considerations.

Safe:

Untouched or not exposed to danger, secure from damage, harm or loss.

Caring:

Watchful attention, concern, custody, diligence, direction; to be concerned and attend to the needs of others.

Secure:

Protected from unauthorized access.

School Community:

Includes students, school staff, school council, parents, community members and others (including the Board and Central Office) with ties to the interests of the neighborhood school and school division.

Guidelines and Responsibilities

1. The Division shall:
 - 1.1 Ensure the best educational interests of the student are the paramount consideration when the staff exercise their authority.
 - 1.2 Ensure all schools are safe and caring by requiring all schools to develop, implement and continually evaluate programs, practices and/or policies to prevent and respond to incidents that disrupt teaching and learning.
2. The Principal shall:
 - 2.1 Ensure students in the school have the opportunity to meet the standards of education set by the Minister.

- 2.2 Develop an action plan that:
 - 2.2.1 Provides data management and internal/external communication systems.
 - 2.2.2 Clarifies roles and responsibilities to students, school staff, parents and community agencies to support safe and caring schools.
 - 2.2.3 Establishes criteria for developing, implementing and evaluating violence prevention programs.
 - 2.2.4 Provides crisis management and school disaster plans.
 - 2.2.5 Encourages staff development and training.
 - 2.2.6 Ensures appropriate safety standards for all school sponsored activities.
 - 2.2.7 Ensures that all threats and threatening behavior are appropriately investigated and assessed.

- 3. Teachers shall:
 - 3.1 Create and maintain environments that are conducive to student learning.
 - 3.2 Establish learning environments wherein students feel physically, psychologically, socially, emotionally and culturally secure.
 - 3.3 Be respectful of students' dignity.
 - 3.4 Seek to establish a positive professional relationship with students that is characterized by mutual respect, trust, harmony.
 - 3.5 Model beliefs, principles, values and intellectual characteristics outlined in the "Guide to Education, ECS to Grade 12: and programs of study, and guide students to do the same.

- 4. School Council members and/or parents shall:
 - 4.1 Have a right and responsibility to become involved in decisions respecting the education of their children.
 - 4.2 Consult with the Principal to ensure students in the school have the opportunity to meet the standards of education set by the Minister.
 - 4.3 Advise and consult with the Principal on matters related to student conduct, discipline and consequences.

- 5. Students shall:
 - 5.1 Demonstrate desirable personal characteristics, such as respect, responsibility, fairness, honesty, caring, loyalty and commitment to democratic ideals.
 - 5.2 Conduct themselves so as to reasonably comply with the following code of conduct:
 - 5.2.1 Be diligent in pursuing their studies
 - 5.2.2 Attend school regularly and punctually

- 5.2.3 Comply fully with everyone authorized by the board to provide education programs and other services
- 5.2.4 Comply with the rules of the school
- 5.2.5 Account to their teachers for their conduct
- 5.2.6 Respect the rights of others.

Reference: Section 12, 18, 20, 45, School Act

Adopted: August 2004

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