

SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 48 (SEA TO SKY)

POLICY SERIES 500 - STUDENT POPULATION

502 **STUDENT CONDUCT**
502.3 **Prohibited Behaviours and**
 Disciplinary Actions

In keeping with the wish of the Board of Education, School District No. 48 (Sea to Sky), to ensure a safe and positive school climate, the following prohibited behaviours have been defined. The policies apply to all school district property including buildings, grounds and buses. As well, they apply to all school functions whether on district property or elsewhere. They also apply to but are not limited to behaviours by students that affect the health and well being of all students at all times.

The prohibited behaviours found in this policy are defined below. This list may not encompass all possible prohibited behaviours. Therefore, the Board, or an agent of the Board, may exercise its responsibility to apply disciplinary action to other behaviours which may be harmful to others or which are illegal.

1. Threatening and /or Violent Behaviour

A violent activity is characterized by verbal or written threats; physical, emotional, sexual abuse/harassment; or racial harassment by an individual or group of individuals which has the effect of impairing or might have the effect of impairing the health and welfare of any student or staff member.

The Board recognizes its responsibility to ensure a secure environment for staff and students in which they will be safe from violence.

Therefore, the Board shall consider any act of intimidation, discrimination, harassment, extortion, bullying, youth gang behavior, or assault to be a serious threat to the school environment and to the safety of both students and staff. The Board shall take appropriate action against any individual so involved.

Objectives:

- 1.1 To provide a safe environment in all schools.
- 1.2 To indicate the seriousness and hence the non-acceptance of such behaviour specified above.
- 1.3 To deter persons from using such behaviour as an acceptable means of conflict resolution.

Definitions

(i) Harassment:
Harassment is any improper behaviour directed at a person that the person finds offensive and the other person knew, or ought reasonably to have known, would be unwelcome. Harassment can be a remark or a gesture made one or many times that demeans, belittles, or causes a person humiliation or embarrassment.

(ii) Intimidation:
Intimidation occurs when one or more individuals target another with the intent of causing fear and apprehension through verbal and/or non-verbal threats.

(iii) Discrimination:

Discrimination occurs, for the purpose of this policy, when an individual is subjected to insults, ridicule, or alienation for reasons of race, religion, ethnic background, appearance, sexual orientation, disability or gender.

(iv) Bullying:

The Board of Education recognizes that bullying behavior is destructive to both victim and bully. It is a behavior that needs to be dealt with judicially but in a caring approach that will enable both victim and offender to participate in the school community in an acceptable manner.

“Bullying is defined as a pattern of repeated aggressive behaviour, with negative intent, directed from one person to another where there is a power imbalance.” (Olweus, 1993)

A student is being bullied or victimized when he or she is exposed, repeatedly and over time, to negative actions on the part of one or more students. Bullying may be physical, or it may be verbal, psychological, written, pictorial or electronic..

(v) Youth Gang:

As members of a youth gang may be involved in threatening or violent activity, a definition is included.

A youth gang/group is composed of three or more persons who, while acting or congregating together, display a pattern of delinquent behaviour, which may result in harmful activities.

2. Possession of Weapons

The Board of Education recognizes its responsibility to ensure a secure environment for students and staff in which they will be safe from violence or intimidation.

The Board shall consider the possession or use of any weapon by anyone on school premises to be a serious threat to the school environment and to the safety of both students and staff. The Board shall take appropriate action against any individual so involved.

Objectives:

- 2.1 To provide a weapons-free environment in all schools and on all district property.
- 2.2 To indicate the seriousness and hence the non-acceptance of weapons in schools or on district property.
- 2.3 To deter persons from possession of weapons on school premises or during school functions.

Weapons

Weapons are defined under the Criminal Code of Canada in two categories:

- (i) Any item that is designed to be used as a weapon, specifically designed to be used in combat or to inflict punishment;
- (ii) Any item a person uses or intends to use as a weapon that injures and becomes a weapon in certain circumstances.

3. Illegal/Harmful Substances

3.1 Types of Illegal/Harmful Substances

The Board of Education deems the following substances to be harmful to students and a threat to the wish to provide a safe and positive environment for all students.

3.1.1 Smoking/Tobacco

Under the Tobacco Restraint Act, it is unlawful for persons 16 years and under to smoke, and for other persons to provide cigarettes to under-age persons. In addition, the Board considers that it is reasonable for schools to discourage a habit which is known to have serious effects on health and which poses safety and fire hazards to the schools.

3.1.2 Alcohol and Illegal Drugs

The seriousness of drug and alcohol related problems (either possession of, or under the influence of, drugs or alcohol) cannot be over emphasized. The Board will not tolerate the possession of illegal substances (including alcohol).

All students and their parents will be informed that the school will not tolerate the use or possession of a drug or alcohol. If a student is under the influence of, or is possession of, a drug or alcohol at school activities whenever and wherever held, the Board requires that appropriate action be taken.

In any discovery of a drug or alcohol, the principal should exercise extreme care while in the possession of the substances and at all times secure the presence of another adult to serve as a corroborating witness. Any substance which may be required later as evidence should not be destroyed and should be turned over as evidence to the police as soon as possible.

3.2 Illegal Substances and/or Alcohol Trafficking

In keeping with its commitment to provide a safe and positive school environment, the Board of Education will not tolerate the trafficking of drugs or alcohol.

It is expected that the local police will be informed and that the student engaged in such activity will be immediately suspended from school and the suspension referred to the Board of Education.

Objectives:

- 3.2.1 To provide a safe environment free from drug and/or alcohol trafficking.
- 3.2.2 To indicate the seriousness and hence non-acceptance of drug and/or alcohol trafficking.
- 3.2.3 To deter persons from trafficking in drugs and/or alcohol.

Definitions:

Trafficking is defined in the Criminal Code of Canada as selling and "includes offer for sale, expose for sale, have in possession for sale and distribution, whether or not the distribution is made for consideration."