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## STUDENT DISCIPLINE

### Background

The District believes that the conduct of students is to always contribute to a safe, orderly, and positive learning environment. Each student is expected to respect the rights and property of others, and to adhere to District and school procedures.

District and school procedures shall set expectations for student conduct that:

- Direct the student toward responsible behaviour;
- Maintain an orderly, positive school environment conducive to learning, and
- Protect persons and property.

Discipline expectations are designed to teach students to be responsible citizens in the school community. For mis-behaviour, there shall be reasonable disciplinary action that promotes personal/social development.

### Procedures

#### 1. Discipline

- 1.1. In general, consequences for inappropriate behaviour are to direct students to attain the attributes of an educated citizen and are to support the District's core values. An educational component that will help students understand the relationship between mis-behaviour and its impact on others can be vital to the discipline process. Wherever practical and appropriate, students will be provided with opportunities to make restitution for their mis-behaviour.
- 1.2. Consequences for inappropriate behaviour are to vary with the age of the students and severity of the behaviour, with severe, persistent, pervasive, or retaliatory mis-behaviour warranting stronger consequences.
- 1.3. The Principal of the school shall, in accordance with this Administrative Procedure and other procedures of the District, exercise paramount authority within the school in matters concerning the discipline of students. Discipline may include the suspension of a student from attending the school where in the opinion of the Principal, such action is warranted.
- 1.4. The Principal may, and is hereby authorized to suspend a student from the school for a period not exceeding five (5) consecutive school days provided that the student is assigned schoolwork, to be completed at home. An in-school suspension is not a suspension, it is reported as an exclusion.

- 1.5. Subject to clause 1.4, a suspension under clause 1.2 shall not be confirmed until the Principal has provided the student and parent an opportunity to review the suspension being considered.
  - 1.6. The Principal may and is hereby authorized to suspend a student from the school for a period exceeding five (5) consecutive school days, provided that an alternate educational program is made available to the student in another school, another District or through a home study program offered by the District. Such suspension may be in addition to and may be made during a period of suspension imposed pursuant to clause 1.2. A school-based Suspension Review Meeting will be held to consider a suspension in excess of five (5) days.
  - 1.7. Despite anything in Section 1, where a student, in the opinion of the Principal poses a present danger to the safety, health or welfare of other students or to employees of the District, or presents an immediate disruptive influence on the learning environment, the Principal may forthwith suspend the student and shall as soon as possible thereafter provide an opportunity for review as set out in clause 1.5.
2. Refusal of An Educational Program
- 2.1. In the case of a student 16 years of age or older, the District may refuse to offer an educational program where the student:
    - 2.1.1. Has refused to comply with this Administrative Procedure, the school procedures, or other procedures of the District; or
    - 2.1.2. has failed to apply himself or herself to his or her studies.
  - 2.2. Where the District is considering the refusal of an educational program to a student under clause 2.1, and before it makes any determination about such refusal, the Board shall:
    - 2.2.1. Ensure that the Principal has informed the student and the parent of that student that a refusal to offer an educational program is being considered
    - 2.2.2. Ensure that the Superintendent has provided to the student together with his or her parent a reasonable opportunity to meet with the Superintendent to review the reasons why a refusal to offer an educational program is being considered, and to provide an opportunity to make representations to the Superintendent as to why the student is not to be refused an educational program.
    - 2.2.3. Receive a report and recommendation in writing from the Superintendent,
    - 2.2.4. Provide the Superintendent's report and recommendations to the student and his or her parent together with notification of the date and time that the Board will meet to consider the matter.
    - 2.2.5. Meet to consider the report and recommendations of the Superintendent, hear from the student and their parent, and determine the matter.
  - 2.3. A refusal to offer an educational program under section 2 may be considered and determined notwithstanding that the student is at the time suspended from school pursuant to section 1, of this Administrative Procedure.

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### 3. Appeals

- 3.1. An appeal pursuant to section 11 of the School Act lies in respect of any decision relating to discipline or a refusal to offer an educational program made pursuant to section 1 or section 2 of this Administrative Procedure. See **Board Policy 13 – Appeals**.

Reference: Sections 6, 7, 8, 11, 17, 20, 22, 26, 65, 79, 85 *School Act*

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