

WELCOMING, CARING, RESPECTFUL AND SAFE LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS and STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

Policy

The Superintendent shall through general oversight of the School Division's operations make sure that each School Principal implements practices within his or her school designed to ensure that each student enrolled in a school operated by the Board and each staff member employed by the Board is provided with a welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environment that respects diversity and fosters a sense of belonging.

Definitions

Bullying: 'repeated and hostile or demeaning behaviour by an individual in the school community where the behaviour is intended to cause harm, fear or distress to one or more other individuals in the school community, including psychological harm or harm to an individual's reputation.'

Procedures

1. The Superintendent shall ensure that all employees, students, parents, volunteers, visitors, and contractors are advised of the Board's requirement that all such persons respect diversity and foster a sense of belonging by providing a welcoming, caring, respectful and safe environment where students and staff are treated with respect and dignity and all interpersonal interactions at Board facilities and Board sponsored functions are characterized by respect for those with whom they are interacting and that such interactions are free from any discriminatory elements, as discrimination is defined in the *Alberta Human Rights Act*.
2. The Superintendent shall ensure that each School Principal implements practices within his or her school designed to make it clear to students that they are encouraged to report all incidents of threats, bullying, harassment, violence or intimidation to a responsible adult.
3. The Superintendent shall make sure that each School Principal implements practices, consistent with section 16.1 of the *School Act*, within his or her school designed to support the establishment of Gay-Straight Alliances (GSAs), or similar student support

groups, at educational settings offered within the District, where interest by students has been expressed.

4. The Superintendent shall ensure that allegations of bullying, harassing, discriminatory, and violent behaviors toward students and employees are investigated in a timely and respectful manner.
5. The Board hereby establishes a Code of Conduct for students as follows, to be adopted by each school:

“At all schools within Wolf Creek School Division No. 72 an attitude of respect for each other is to be fostered and nurtured amongst all members of the broadly based school community and members of the general public who may attend at schools, or school supported or sponsored functions. Acceptable behaviours must be consistent with the avoidance of discrimination, as discrimination is defined the *Alberta Human Rights Act*. Discrimination or bullying in any form, including but not limited to use of electronic media, at any school or school supported or sponsored functions is not acceptable behavior.”

Students at all Wolf Creek School Division No. 72 schools shall comply with the requirements of section 12 of the *School Act* as outlined below:

- 5.a. Be diligent in pursuing the student’s studies;
- 5.b. attend school regularly and punctually;
- 5.c. co-operate fully with everyone authorized by the Board to provide education programs and other services;
- 5.d. comply with the rules of the school;
- 5.e. account to the student’s teachers for the student’s conduct;
- 5.f. respect the rights of others;
- 5.g. ensure that the student’s conduct contributes to a welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environment that respects diversity and fosters a sense of belonging;
- 5.h. refrain from, report and not tolerate bullying or bullying behaviour directed toward others in the school, whether or not it occurs within the school building, during the school day or by electronic means;
- 5.i. positively contribute to the student’s school and community.

Adherence to the student Code of Conduct is mandatory in order to aid in the effective and orderly functioning of each school.

The expectations of others within the broadly based school community and members of the general public referred to above are also mandatory within those settings under the jurisdiction of the Board.

Consequences will follow any breach of the Code of Conduct, and in the case of students will depend on the student’s age, maturity, and individual circumstances and will address the needs of students who may experience any impact from breach of the

Code of Conduct. In the case of students, the focus of such consequences shall be restorative, remedial and educational. Non-students in breach of the Code will be dealt with in a manner consonant with a reasoned and measured approach given all prevailing circumstances.

Additional expectations regarding safe and caring schools are set out in the Board's Administrative Procedure 105 "Safe and Caring Schools" and in the Board's Administrative Procedure 308 "Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity" which may be found at the Board's website and are to be consulted in conjunction with this Code of Conduct.

6. The Superintendent will ensure that the above Code of Conduct is:
 - 6.a. available to the public,
 - 6.b. reviewed every year,
 - 6.c. provided to all staff of the Division, students of the Division and guardians of students in the Division,
 - 6.d. be in accordance with any further requirements established by the Minister by order.

7. The Board of Trustees will recognize and promote 'Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week' the 3rd week in November each year.

Assurances

1. When the Superintendent has investigated a breach of this Policy, the Superintendent shall inform the Board of the details of the situation, within the parameters of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, as well as the outcome.

Reference: Section 45.1 and 16.1 - School Act
Alberta Human Rights Act
AP 308 - Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity
AP 105 - Safe and Caring Schools
AP 140 - Use of Technology
Wolf Creek Public Schools Technology Code of Conduct

Adopted: April 7, 2016

Reviewed: Annually