

SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 85

VANCOUVER ISLAND NORTH

POLICY MANUAL
Section 2

Policy No. 2-42

CODE OF CONDUCT - STUDENTS

POLICY

The Board of Education of School District No. 85 (Vancouver Island North) has the responsibility to set expectations for student behaviour in schools as part of its governance role for the District.

The Board of Education believes that schools should be places where students are free from harm, where clear expectations of acceptable behaviour are held and met, and where people feel they belong; schools should be safe, caring and orderly environments in which to work and learn.

The District Code of Student Conduct provides a framework with respect to expectations for student behaviour while at school, during a school-related activity, or while engaging in an activity that has an impact on the school environment. Individual school codes of conduct are to be developed within this framework by the principal in a collaborative process which includes staff, students and parents. Codes of conduct should include a clearly worded statement of purpose.

Students have the responsibility for conducting themselves in accordance with the codes of conduct established by the school district and by their school.

REGULATIONS

1. The Board 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 participate to the best of their ability in their school's program by:
 - 1.1. attending classes punctually and regularly;
 - 1.2. coming prepared to class;
 - 1.3. working cooperatively and diligently;
 - 1.4. submitting only original work for assessment;
 - 1.5. respecting the rights of all persons within the school;
 - 1.6. respecting the legitimate authority of school staff;
 - 1.7. respecting the school's physical facilities;

- 1.8. respecting the diversity of the school community; and
 - 1.9. behaving in a safe and responsible manner at all times.
2. Conduct that is unacceptable to the Board of Education and is in contravention of the District Code of Student Conduct includes:
 - 2.1. interfering with the learning of others,
 - 2.2. threatening, harassing, bullying, intimidating or assaulting in any way any person within the school community including ‘cyber’ hate messaging and websites created in the students’ home, in ‘cyber’ cafes or other settings;
 - 2.3. being in possession or under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol;
 - 2.4. using or being in possession of weapons;
 - 2.5. taking retribution against a person who has reported incidents of unacceptable behaviour described above.
 3. The Board believes that schools must be free of discrimination. To that end, each school’s code of conduct shall contain the following statement:

Students shall not discriminate against others on the basis of Indigenous identity, race, colour, ancestry, place of origin, religion, marital status, family status, physical or mental disability, sex or sexual orientation, gender identity or expression and age or for any other reason set out in the Human Rights Code of British Columbia; nor shall a student publish or display anything that would indicate an intention to discriminate against another, or expose them to contempt or ridicule, on the basis of any such grounds.

4. A personal digital device is any personal digital device that can access the internet, such as a cell phone or a tablet. Additional examples of devices that may fall into this definition are smart watches, gaming devices, and electronic toys. Students shall not use personal digital devices during hours of instruction, except when their use is:
 - 4.1. for educational purposes, with teacher approval;
 - 4.2. outlined in the students’ learning plan or Individual Education Plan; or
 - 4.3. is integral to addressing diagnosed medical and health needs.

Elementary schools may implement more substantive restrictions on elementary student use of personal digital devices in their school codes of conduct, due to the age level of the learners concerned. Such restrictions could include no use of personal digital devices during the school day.

5. Schools are expected to have consequences for unacceptable conduct, including for unacceptable use of personal digital devices. Consequences must take into account students’ age, maturity and special needs. The following are the Board’s expectations for consequences for unacceptable behaviour:

- 5.1 Responses to unacceptable conduct should be known to the school community ahead of time, and be fairly and consistently applied.
- 5.2 Disciplinary action, whenever possible, should be preventative and restorative, rather than punitive.
- 5.3 Students should be encouraged to participate in the development of meaningful consequences for violations of the school’s code of conduct.
- 5.4 Special considerations will apply to students with special needs if these students are unable to comply with a code of conduct due to having a disability of an intellectual, physical, sensory, emotional or behavioural nature.

6. Schools within the school district must:

- 6.1 make their code of conduct available to the public;
- 6.2 distribute their code of conduct at the beginning of the school year to:
 - 5.1.1 students attending the school;
 - 5.2.2 parents of students attending the school, and
 - 5.2.3 employees of the Board at the school.
- 6.3 distribute their code of conduct during the school year when any students, parents or employees join the school community;
- 6.4 display their code of conduct in a prominent area in the school; and
- 6.5 review their code of conduct annually with individual or groups representative of board employees working in the school, parents and students, in order to assess its effectiveness in addressing school safety issues.

7. School District policies that are related to this policy include:

Policy Name	Policy Number
Alcohol or Other Drugs	<i>5-30</i>
Student Dress Code	<i>5-130</i>
Race Relations	<i>5-100</i>
Safe Schools	<i>2-00 & 5-00</i>
Smoke Free Environment	<i>5-120</i>
Violence, Intimidation or Weapons	<i>5-150</i>
LGBTQ+ Non-discrimination	<i>5-160</i>

- 8. Principals are to refer to “Safe, Caring and Orderly Schools: A Guide (2004)” when developing and reviewing their school codes of conduct.