



SECTION 1000: STUDENTS AND SCHOOLS

POLICY 1015: SAFE, CARING, ORDERLY SCHOOLS

- *Date Adopted: February 20, 2013*
 - *Date Revised: October 12, 2021 (Housekeeping Revisions)*
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POLICY STATEMENT

The Board strives to develop positive and welcoming school cultures and is committed to fostering optimal environments for learning. The Board shares a commitment with its communities to maintaining safe, caring, and orderly schools for students, staff, and community.

RATIONALE

This policy is developed to recognize that a student's ability to learn is strongly affected by his or her sense of safety and belonging. The Board is committed to creating and maintaining school environments that support student achievement and a sense of well-being by addressing safety issues that can become barriers to learning. In agreement with the Ministry document, *Developing and Reviewing Codes of Conduct*, the Board believes that:

- Safe schools make it easy and safe for students and their parents to inform school authorities of safety concerns. They recognize the extreme importance of addressing instances of bullying, harassment, and intimidation.
- Caring schools enable parents to advocate for their children's well-being, enable students to help each other, and promote appropriate adult-student relationships.
- Orderly schools plan for things to go right and are ready to respond appropriately if or when things go wrong, minimize distractions from purposeful learning activities, and are characterized by a climate of mutual respect and responsibility.

This policy complements these related Board Policies:

- Code of Conduct (Policy 1025)
- Diversity in Schools (Policy 1020)



RATIONALE *(continued)*

Together, these three policies address developing positive school cultures; maintaining a focus on prevention and safety; building a sense of community; and fostering respect, inclusion, fairness and equity.

LEGISLATION/REGULATIONS

- *School Act*: Preamble, Sections 2, 6(1), 73 (1b), 75(1), 76(2)(3), 85(1)(1.1)(2)(3a), 90, 91, 92, 169(3), and 177
- Provincial Standards for Codes of Conduct Order E-87.1 October 23, 2007; Authority: School Act 85(1.1), 168(2)(s.1)
- Statement of Education Policy Order (OIC 1280/89) Mandate for the School System
- Ministry Policy: Safe and Caring School Communities
- Ministry Document: *Safe, Caring, and Orderly Schools: A Guide*
- Ministry Document: *Diversity in BC Schools: A Framework*
- Ministry Document: *Developing and Reviewing Codes of Conduct: A Companion to the Provincial Standards for Codes of Conduct Ministerial Order (2007)*
- BC Ministry of Education – Safe, Caring, and Orderly Schools Resources (<http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/sco/resources.htm>)
- *Keeping Schools Safe: A Practical Guide for Principals and Vice Principals*

Also:

- *Constitution Act* (1982)
 - Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms
 - Rights of Aboriginal Peoples
- *Multiculturalism Act* (RSBC 1996)
- Human Rights Code (RSBC 1996, c 210)
- *Employment Equity Act* (1995)
- *Official Languages Act* (1985)



POLICY

The Board is committed to maintaining safe, caring, and orderly schools. The Board will foster and maintain effective measures to deal with potentially unsafe situations in the schools. In accordance with government policies and guidelines, the Board will strive to ensure that each school will:

- develop positive school cultures that focus on prevention
- use school-wide efforts to build community, fostering respect, inclusion, fairness, and equity
- set, communicate, and consistently reinforce clear expectations of conduct
- teach, model, and encourage socially responsible behaviours that contribute to the school community, solve problems in peaceful ways, value diversity, and defend human rights
- assume responsibility, in partnership with the wider community, for resolving critical safety concerns
- work together to better understand issues such as bullying, intimidation and harassment, racism, sexism and homophobia, and to learn new skills to respond to them
- respond consistently to incidents in a fair and reasoned manner, using interventions that repair harm, strengthen relationships, and restore a sense of belonging
- participate in the development of policies, procedures, and practices that promote school safety
- monitor and evaluate school environments for evidence of continuous improvement
- recognize and celebrate achievements, while acknowledging areas that need improvement.

Note - Procedures for this policy are included in the *CMSD82 Critical Incidents & Student Safety Manual* and *School Administration Procedures Manual*.