

Safe Schools and Code of Conduct Policy Revisions

Policy Revision Team Members: Mary Jane Farrish, Colin Anderson, Engy Masieh and Jessica Young

Phase I Emergent Themes

Student Focus Groups

Emergent Themes

- Welcoming atmosphere for everyone
- Diversity is recognized and honoured
- Safe spaces for all students
- Student mental health and well being
- Culture that promotes self expression
- Culture that supports indigenous students and their families
- More school mental health support
- Bullying
- Dress Code
- Vaping on School Property

Student Senate and Council Presidents Emergent Themes

- Mental Health Supports
- Dress Code
- Vaping on School Property
- Adding more security cameras for safety
- More SROs - greater police presence
- Fighting on school property and gang related behaviour
- Safe spaces in schools for ALL students
- Addressing racial slurs and homophobia
- Sexism and sex based violence

Parent Guardian Emergent Themes

- Bullying
- The use of social media
- Dress Code
- Mental health and well being of students and staff
- Understanding policies and procedures (hard to navigate)
- More community involvement in schools
- Understanding more about progressive discipline
- Violent Incidents in Schools

Multicultural Liaison Officers

Emergent Themes

- Safety in schools (wide ranging - from bullying to bus safety)
- School culture and awareness
- Use of social media
- The application and practice of progressive discipline
- Suspensions
- Building trust and effective communication with parents and community
- Racism and discrimination in schools
- Police in schools (defining their role)

School Administrators Emergent Themes

- Mental health of staff and students and how to support
- Bullying (definition, use of the term, progressive discipline)
- Digital Citizenship (the use of the social media)
- Communication and Engagement of Parents and Community
- Dress Code
- One, district wide CoC (schools then tailor it with some local content)
- Progressive Discipline and Mitigating Factors
- Exclusions
- Ease of access for all policies and procedures

Federation partners

Emergent Themes

- Policies need to reflect ALL staff in terms of roles and responsibilities
- More PD: bullying, bias aware progressive discipline, mental health, restorative practices
- Better understanding of the role of the school based Safe Schools Team
- Better understanding of Exclusions and direction
- Responding to incidents involving dysregulation where 'violent Incidents' are reported
- Plans and processes such threat and risk assessments and behaviour and safety Plans

CHANGES TO REVISED POLICIES (highlights)

| Safe Schools: Changes from previous policy | Code of Conduct: Changes from previous policy |
|---|---|
| Worked with OCDSB Human Rights and Equity Advisor to create policy with a Human Rights and Equity lens / framework. | Worked with OCDSB Human Rights and Equity Advisor to create policy with a Human Rights and Equity lens / framework. |
| Now two separate Safe Schools Policies: Emergency Preparedness and Response, and Managing Student Behaviour. | Now one District Code of Conduct to be used in all schools, elementary and secondary. |
| Now limited to dealing with breaches of the Code of Conduct Policy. | All expectations of behaviour are now incorporated in this policy. |
| Now focuses on the promotion of positive student behaviour, disciplinary and disciplinary responses to breaches. | Now includes dress code expectations. |
| Withdrawal of transport privileges is now merged with this policy. | Substance abuse, smoking and vaping policies are now merged with this policy. |
| References a new Exclusion and Modified Days policy (under development) as one way to deal with breaches of Code of Conduct policy. | More positive language compared to previous policy. |

