
POLICY P.124.SCO

TITLE: PROGRESSIVE DISCIPLINE AND PROMOTING POSITIVE STUDENT BEHAVIOUR

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1.0 OBJECTIVE

- 1.1 The Board believes in the maintenance of school environments that are supportive and respectful of the needs of all students and encourage positive student behaviour while at the same time providing progressive measures to prevent inappropriate behaviours from escalating, and therefore, the Board shall:
- a) promote programs and activities that focus on the building of healthy relationships, character development and good citizenship;
 - b) support the active engagement of all members of the school community in a progressive discipline approach;
 - c) require the use of intervention strategies to foster safe and appropriate student behaviour in schools and in school-related activities;
 - d) develop and strengthen community partnerships/linkages to promote positive student behaviour;
 - e) provide training on this policy to all administrators, teachers, occasional teachers, educational assistants, school office staff, and care staff, and ensure that other Board staff, parents, volunteers, school bus operators/drivers, and members of community agencies are made aware of the policy.

2.0 DEFINITIONS

2.1 Progressive Discipline

Progressive discipline is a whole-school approach that utilizes a continuum of interventions, supports, and consequences to address inappropriate student behaviour and to build upon strategies that promote positive behaviours. When inappropriate behaviour occurs, disciplinary measures should be applied within a framework that shifts the focus from one that is solely punitive to one that is both corrective and supportive. Schools should utilize a range of interventions, supports, and consequences

that include learning opportunities for reinforcing positive behaviour while helping students to make good choices.

There is a continuum of interventions, in some circumstances short-term suspension may be a useful tool. In the case of a serious incident, long-term suspension or expulsion, which is further along the continuum of progressive discipline, may be the response that is required.

3.0 POLICY

- 3.1 The goal of this policy is to support a safe learning and teaching environment in which every student can reach his/her full potential.
- 3.2 Appropriate action shall consistently be taken by staff in schools to address student behaviours that are contrary to the provincial and the school board codes of conduct.
- 3.3 The range of interventions, supports and consequences used in schools shall be clear and developmentally appropriate and shall include learning opportunities for students in order to reinforce positive behaviours and help students make good choices.
- 3.4 For students with special education needs, the interventions, supports and consequences shall be consistent with the expectations in the student's Individual Education Plan (IEP).
- 3.5 The Board and school administrators shall consider all mitigating and other factors, as required by the *Education Act* and as set out in Regulation 472/07: *Suspension and Expulsion of Students*.

4.0 SPECIFIC DIRECTIVES

- 4.1 Each school shall develop a school policy and procedure on progressive discipline and the promotion of positive student behaviour.
- 4.2 The school procedure on progressive discipline shall outline a continuum of interventions, supports, consequences and strategies as outlined in Board Procedure PR.660.SCO: Progressive Discipline and Promoting Positive Student Behaviour.
- 4.3 The school policy shall focus on ensuring that a positive climate built on healthy relationships, character development, social inclusion, and good citizenship will prevail in the school community.
- 4.4 The school policy shall take into account the needs of individual students and will show sensitivity to diversity, cultural needs and special education needs of students.
- 4.5 The Director of Education is authorized to issue such procedures as may be necessary to implement this policy.

5.0 REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

The Education Act

Education Amendment Act (Progressive Discipline and School Safety) 2007

Ontario Regulation 472/07 Suspension and Expulsion of Students

Policy/Program Memorandum 128, the Provincial Code of Conduct and School Board Codes of Conduct, October 4, 2007

Policy/Program Memorandum 144, Bullying Prevention and Intervention, October 4, 2007

Policy/Program Memorandum 145, Progressive Discipline and Promoting Positive Student Behaviour, October 4, 2007

Board Policy P.032.SCO: Safe Schools

Board Policy P.123.SCO: Bullying Prevention and Intervention

Board Policy P.125.SCO: School Board Code of Conduct

Board Procedure PR.521.SCO: Safe Schools

Board Procedure PR.659.SCO: Bullying Prevention and Intervention

Board Procedure PR.660.SCO: Progressive Discipline and Promoting Positive Student Behaviour