

Title: **Codes of Conduct**
Category: **Education**
Number: **1080**

1. Principals shall work with their students, staff and the parent advisory council to develop an appropriate code of behavior for their school.
2. The following elements are to be included in a school's code of conduct.
 - a) One or more statements that address the prohibited grounds of discrimination as set out in the *BC Human Rights Code* sections 7 and 8, which state:

7 Discriminatory publication

(1) A person must not publish, issue or display, or cause to be published, issued or displayed, any statement, publication, notice, sign, symbol, emblem or other representation that

(a) indicates discrimination or an intention to discriminate against a person or a group or class of persons, or

(b) is likely to expose a person or a group or class of persons to hatred or contempt because of the race, colour, ancestry, place of origin, religion, marital status, family status, physical or mental disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or age of that person or that group or class of persons.

(2) Subsection (1) does not apply to a private communication, a communication intended to be private or a communication related to an activity otherwise permitted by this Code.

8 Discrimination in accommodation, service and facility

(1) A person must not, without a bona fide and reasonable justification,

(a) deny to a person or class of persons any accommodation, service or facility customarily available to the public, or

(b) discriminate against a person or class of persons regarding any accommodation, service or facility customarily available to the public because of the race, colour, ancestry, place of origin, religion, marital status, family status, physical or mental disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or age of that person or class of persons.

(2) A person does not contravene this section by discriminating

(a) on the basis of sex, if the discrimination relates to the maintenance of public decency or to the determination of premiums or benefits under contracts of life or health insurance, or

(b) on the basis of physical or mental disability or age, if the discrimination relates to the determination of premiums or benefits under contracts of life or health insurance.

- b) A statement of purpose that provides a rationale for the code of conduct, with a focus on safe, caring and orderly school environments.
 - c) One or more statements about what is
 - i. Acceptable behavior, and

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- ii. Unacceptable behavior, including aggressive behaviors such as bullying while at school, and school related activity or in other circumstances where engaging in the activity will have an impact on the local environment.
 - d) One or more statements about the consequences of unacceptable behavior which focus on consequences that are restorative in nature rather than punitive, and which must take account of the students age, maturity and special needs if these students are unable to comply with the code of conduct due to having a disability of an intellectual, physical, sensory, emotional or behavioral nature.
 - e) An explanation that the school will take all reasonable steps to prevent retaliation by a person against a student who has made a complaint of a breach of the code of conduct.
- 3. The code shall be reviewed at least annually by the parents, staff and parent advisory council.
 - 4. A copy of the code shall be filed with the Superintendent annually.
 - 5. Principals are responsible for ensuring that codes of conduct are enforced.
 - 6. At the beginning of each school year, copies of the school's code of conduct shall be distributed to all parents and students.
 - 7. Employees who are assigned to school during the year are to receive a copy of the code.
 - 8. Students and their parents/guardians who enroll during the year are to receive a copy of the code during registration.
 - 9. The school code of conduct shall be displayed in a prominent area of school.
 - 10. Members of staff are expected to recognize that the code of conduct specifies ideal behavior and that students may need help in learning what is acceptable/unacceptable behavior. Staff can expect students to become more responsible on a gradual basis and to become increasingly accountable for their own behavior.

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References: Sections 6,7,17,20,22,26,65,79 and 85 of the *School Act*;
Sections 7 and 8 of the *BC Human Rights Code*;
Ministerial Order 276/07