



# **Code of Student Conduct**

## **School Year 2017-2018**

The Board of Trustees of St. Albert Public Schools places a strong emphasis on parent/guardian and community involvement in education. Working with students, staff, parents/guardians and the community, the Board has developed a Student Conduct Policy that will serve to promote a positive attitude and acceptable behaviour in our schools. The policy is in place to ensure that our students get the maximum benefit from their education in a safe and inviting environment. Parents/guardians play an important role in assisting teachers and principals in implementing our Student Conduct Policy.

The Board believes that this Student Conduct Policy is integral in supporting the work of the district. The five outcomes identified in the district's Three Year Education Plan are:

- the diverse needs of our students are met in inclusive learning environments;
- students demonstrate growth in literacy and numeracy skills;
- students are resilient and have the skills to succeed when faced with opportunities and challenges;
- staff are supported through high quality professional learning and collaborative opportunities; and
- governance, policies and partnerships support the success of our students.

In order to achieve these outcomes, our students must have a safe and caring school environment, and all students need to feel accepted and respected. Through the commitment and cooperation of students, staff, parents /guardians and the community, we will provide our students with a safe learning environment.

Glenys Edwards  
Board Chair

It is the responsibility of all of us in St. Albert Public Schools to provide a rich and inspiring educational environment for our students.

We work hard to ensure that our schools are safe and secure places for learning. We recognize, too, that appropriate student behaviour is essential in achieving our goals for student achievement, and the development of caring, compassionate, self-reliant and productive citizens. Our Student Conduct Policy is based on the principles of respect for oneself and for one another.

The policy serves to guide district staff, students, parents/guardians and community members as we work together to make our schools the best they can be.

Barry Wowk  
Superintendent of Schools

# Student Conduct

Each school shall have a written school Code of Student Conduct developed in consultation with staff, students, the school council and parents/guardians. The school shall communicate to parents/guardians and students:

- **expectations for student behaviour;**
- **a range of specific corrective measures that will be taken when students are found responsible for unacceptable behaviour;**
- **provisions regarding safety and security offenses; and**
- **any other matter which the principal deems necessary.**

Reference: Board Policy F-110, Administrative Regulation F-110-AR and Board Regulation F-110-BR

## ***Student Rights and Responsibilities***

Students shall be treated with dignity, respect and fairness by other students and staff.

Students shall be provided with a learning environment that is free from discrimination, harassment and abuse of any kind.

Students and parents/guardians shall be informed of the board's and school's expectations for student behaviour.

In the event of student misbehaviour, students and parents/guardians shall have the right to offer an explanation, and to be informed about consequences of misbehaviour.

Students are accountable for:

- attending school regularly and punctually
- contributing to a climate of mutual trust and respect
- using their abilities and talents to gain maximum learning benefits from their school experiences
- accessing and using networked information resources (technology) appropriately
- behaving appropriately when travelling directly to and from school
- behaviour beyond the hours of school operation if the behaviour detrimentally impacts the welfare of individual students or operations/climate within the school

Students shall be provided with opportunities for consultation and involvement in student-related matters.

Students shall show respect for:

- authority
- others and their property
- ethnic, racial, religious and gender differences, including students, staff and families who identify or are perceived as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, transsexual, two-spirit, queer or questioning their sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression
- school attendance and punctuality
- work habits, assignments and homework
- learning resources and equipment
- fire alarms and safety equipment
- district and school policies relating to smoking, alcohol, drugs and inhalants



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## **Consequences**

Failure of a student to meet the expectations for student conduct may result in one or more of the following consequences, such as:

- participating in deciding on an appropriate consequence
- accounting to parents/guardians
- making appropriate apologies, and where possible, making restitution
- making restitution for property damage to an individual or the board
- being referred to attendance board
- losing privileges for a time
- rendering service or serving a detention
- being temporarily excluded from class
- serving an in-school suspension
- serving an out-of-school suspension
- agreeing to a contract to improve personal conduct
- receiving assistance from the police liaison officer
- being expelled from the school

Grounds for disciplinary action that could lead to suspension or expulsion exist where a student has demonstrated unacceptable behaviour, such as:

- violation of the code of conduct as set out in the *School Act*
- contravention of district policies and regulations related to student conduct
- willful disobedience and/or open opposition to authority
- willful damage to school or others' property
- interference with the orderly conduct of class(es) or the school
- use or display of improper or profane language
- conduct which threatens the safety of students and/or staff, including assault, discrimination and harassment
- possession and/or use of a weapon
- theft
- possession, trafficking or use of illegal drugs, alcohol, or inhalants

## **Role of Parents/Guardians**

Parents/guardians play an essential role in working with the school district to develop appropriate student behaviour and conduct. The district expects that parents/guardians will:

- be aware of board policy and regulations together with the school's expectations for student conduct
- cooperate with the school and district in the implementation of policies, regulations and codes of conduct
- review this *Code of Student Conduct* and the school's code of student conduct with their child(ren)
- work with the school to resolve student conduct issues that affect their child(ren), when they arise

**“...when you go out into the world, it is best to hold hands and stick together.”**

***Robert Fulghum***

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### **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Kim Armstrong  
Cheryl Dumont  
Glenys Edwards  
Gerry Martins  
Sheri Wright

# Role of the School District

## Mission

Through our commitment to excellence in public education, we strive to ensure all students become life-long learners, confident and capable of shaping their future and meeting the challenges of today and tomorrow.

## Beliefs

- Our students' learning is central to everything we do.
- It is a shared responsibility of the school community to encourage all students to become respectful, responsible, global citizens who demonstrate tolerance and acceptance.
- By setting high expectations, students are challenged to achieve to their full potential.
- Schools must be safe and caring environments where students, staff and parents feel connected, valued and respected.
- Public education is the foundation of equal opportunity that recognizes and enhances the value and potential of all.
- The classroom is central to student learning.
- Members of our school community have a shared responsibility and obligation to provide learners with optimum learning environment.

## Student Conduct Policy

*The Board of Trustees believes that a safe and caring school environment is paramount. The board is committed to ensuring the school environment is inclusive, equitable and welcoming for all members of the school community. The board expects that student diversity be respected, accepted and supported in every school.* The board also believes that all members of the school community share in developing and fostering appropriate student conduct, and in the maintenance of order and discipline necessary for quality learning environments. The board expects students to exhibit socially responsible and respectful behaviours so that teaching and learning are maximized. Accordingly, students shall conduct themselves in a manner that demonstrates respect for the dignity of others and which reasonably complies with the code of conduct as specified in the School Act, the St. Albert Public Schools' Code of Student Conduct and the school's code of student conduct.

Reference: Board Policy F-110, Administrative Regulation F-110-AR and Board Regulation F-110-BR

All staff play a vital role in developing student behaviour and conduct by:

- upholding board policy and regulations together with the school's expectations for student conduct
- being committed to *"treat students with dignity and respect and (be) considerate of their circumstances."*

ATA Code of Professional Conduct

## School Act – Code of Conduct

"A student shall conduct himself or herself so as to reasonably comply with the following code of conduct:

- (a) be diligent in pursuing the student's studies;
- (b) attend school regularly and punctually;
- (c) co-operate fully with everyone authorized by the board to provide education programs and other services;
- (d) comply with the rules of the school;
- (e) account to the student's teachers for the student's conduct;
- (f) respect the rights of others."

Section 12 of the *School Act*

To support section 12 of the *School Act*, section 24(1) states:

"A teacher or a principal may suspend a student in accordance with subsection (2) or (3) if in the opinion of the teacher or principal

- (a) the student has failed to comply with section 12, or
- (b) the student's conduct is injurious to the physical or mental well-being of others in the school."

and furthermore, section 25(1) states:

"On considering the report provided to it under section 24(6)(b) and any representations made to it under section 24(9), the board may expel a student if

- (a) the principal has recommended that the board expel the student, and
- (b) the student has been offered another education program by the board."