

CODE OF CONDUCT

A guide for parents & students

In-school suspension

School administrators might assign a student to an in-school suspension. Teachers will provide the student with appropriate work during the in-school suspension. Parents/guardians will be contacted when such action is taken.

Out-of-school suspension

The following staff may approve an out-of-school suspension:

- A teacher may suspend a student from class for not more than two days.
- A principal may suspend a student from school for not more than five days.
- A superintendent or designate may suspend a student from school for not more than six weeks.

Expulsion

Expulsion is applied when a student's behaviour has been a serious danger to other students, teachers, school officials or school property, or when the behaviour has been shown to be habitual. Expulsion is a function of the board of trustees.

Threat assessment

The purpose of the threat assessment process is to use the best knowledge, skill and experience available to assess high-risk threatening behaviours so that appropriate interventions can be identified to protect individuals from harm and ensure a climate of safety in schools and the community.

All high-risk behaviours will be taken seriously and high-risk students will be assessed accordingly. When a high-risk threat to self-harm or to harm others occurs, it is essential to assess safety, put in place the required interventions to ensure safety, analyze appropriate next steps and determine appropriate consequences.

No student who has posed a threat of harm to him/herself or to others will be permitted to attend school until safety is assured.

APPEAL PROCESS

River East Transcona School Division recognizes that, on occasion, concerns may arise. Parents/guardians of students may raise their concerns or appeal decisions as follows:

Appeals of disciplinary decisions

Students and parents/guardians must follow the board of trustees' established appeal process:

- a) The decision of a teacher is first to be discussed with the teacher. If the parties are unable to come up with an agreeable solution, this decision may be appealed to the principal.
- b) The decision of the principal may be appealed to the assistant superintendent.

- c) The decision of the assistant superintendent may be appealed to the superintendent.
- d) The decision of the superintendent may be appealed to the board of trustees. A letter outlining the concerns should be sent to the board of trustees in care of the board chair.
- e) Exceptions are suspensions in excess of five days and expulsions. In these cases, the appeal goes directly to the board of trustees. These are explained below.

Appeals of suspensions or expulsions

- For suspensions over five days, parents/guardians have the right to make presentations to the board of trustees.
- The board of trustees has the authority to confirm or modify the suspension, or reinstate the student.
- Parents/guardians have the right to appeal a student expulsion to the board of trustees.

SAFE & CARING SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT

As citizens, we share a responsibility to work together to provide school environments where all students feel safe and respected, thereby allowing them to reach their full potential. River East Transcona School Division is committed to fostering inclusion for all people.

The RETSD Code of Conduct is consistent with the Safe Schools Charter of Manitoba. The Safe Schools Charter (Province of Manitoba, S.M. 2004. c. 24) sets forth guidelines that apply to students and staff regarding behaviour. Behaviours that will not be tolerated in schools and that will be dealt with immediately include but are not limited to the following:

- Bullying: a behaviour that is intended to cause or should be known to cause fear, intimidation, humiliation, distress or other forms of harm to another person's body, feelings, self-esteem, reputation or property. It is also behaviour that is intended to create or should be known to create a negative school environment for another person.
- Cyberbullying: bullying by means of any form of electronic communication, including social media, text messaging, instant messaging, websites or email.
- Abusing physically, sexually or psychologically, in writing, verbally or otherwise.
- Inappropriate use of email, the Internet, digital cameras, cellphones, cellphone cameras, text messaging sent by cellphone or other personal electronic communication devices, including accessing, uploading, downloading or distributing material that the school has determined objectionable, students taking photos, video recordings, audio recordings and images of staff or students on school property without the permission of authorized school personnel.

- Discriminating unreasonably on the basis of any characteristic set out in subsection 9(2) of the Manitoba Human Rights Code.
- Using, possessing or being under the influence of alcohol or illicit drugs at school.
- Gang involvement on school property.
- Possessing a weapon as "weapon" is defined in Section 2 of Canada's Criminal Code.

REFERENCES

The River East Transcona School Division Policy Manual can be viewed at www.retsd.mb.ca/yourretsdpolicies/.

Applicable policies include:

- Policy ACF—*Respect for Human Diversity*
- Policy BEDH—*Public Participation at Board Meetings, Section 3*
- Policy IJND—*Computer Technology Use*
- Policy JICA—*Student Dress Code*
- Policy JICDAC—*Threat Assessment*
- Policy JICH—*Alcohol and Other Drug Use by Students*
- Policy JICJ—*Student Use of Cell Phones and Electronic Communication Devices*
- Policy JKD—*Student Suspension and Expulsion*
- Policy KE—*Concern Protocol*

The Provincial Code of Conduct can be viewed at:

http://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/safe_schools/pdf/code_conduct.pdf

The Public Schools Act can be viewed at:

<http://web2.gov.mb.ca/laws/statutes/ccsm/p250e.php>
or ordered from the Statutory Publications Office at 204.945.3103

The Safe Schools Charter of Manitoba can be viewed at:

<http://web2.gov.mb.ca/laws/statutes/2004/c02404e.php>
or ordered from the Statutory Publications Office at 204.945.3103.

This brochure serves as fair notice that incidents of threat to self-harm or to harm others will be actively investigated. Because of the serious nature of such incidents, the investigation will continue even if the parents/guardians cannot immediately be contacted. Continued efforts will be made to contact the parents/guardians.

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MISSION STATEMENT

To fulfil our purpose and in our journey toward our vision, River East Transcona School Division is committed to providing relevant, progressive educational programming and supportive services in a safe, stimulating learning environment.

CODE OF CONDUCT

The purpose of the code of conduct is to promote a safe, caring and inclusive school culture where high levels of achievement occur within a positive school environment. River East Transcona School Division believes that everyone has the right to be treated with dignity and respect.

River East Transcona School Division staff, students, parents/guardians and community members will promote the development of beliefs and attitudes that foster a safe, caring and inclusive learning environment. Staff, students, parents/guardians and community members are to behave in a respectful manner and comply with the code of conduct.

- An active student voice will be encouraged in all schools.
- Community-school initiatives will be encouraged.
- A continuum of supports and services will be utilized to address the unique academic and behavioural needs of students.
- Problem-solving and conflict-management skills will be developed.
- Parents/guardians will initiate dialogue regarding their child through the classroom teacher or school administration.

ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

The division believes that all staff, students and parents/guardians have a responsibility to maintain a safe, caring and inclusive environment.

Principals will:

- Act as the disciplinary authority over the conduct of students while they are at school, on their way to and from school, and being transported via school bus.
- Address unacceptable student conduct including bullying, cyberbullying and abuse of another student.
- Notify the parents/guardians of a student, as soon as reasonably possible, when it's believed that the student has been harmed as a consequence of unacceptable behaviour.

Staff will:

- Provide relevant learning experiences based on the diverse needs of students.
- Approach the education of students in a respectful manner.
- Provide a classroom environment that is safe, caring and inclusive.

- Participate in creating a positive school culture.
- Communicate information about student progress, attendance and behaviour to students, parents/guardians and administration.
- Respect and demonstrate consideration for other cultures.
- Respect confidential information about students and staff.
- Support and implement proactive and reactive intervention strategies offered through a continuum of supports and services.

Students will:

- Be polite, respectful and co-operative to all people within the school community.
- Develop self-discipline.
- Resolve interpersonal conflicts and difficulties through discussions or by seeking assistance from school staff.
- Demonstrate and support a safe, caring and inclusive school environment.
- Respect that fellow students have a right to a school environment that is free from violence.
- Respect school property and the personal property of others.
- Dress appropriately according to the RETSD dress code policy.

Parents/guardians will:

- Recognize the authority of the school staff to provide a safe, caring and inclusive environment.
- Communicate regularly with the school staff and advocate for their child's success.
- Ensure regular, punctual attendance and contact the school staff when their child is absent.
- Support and work collaboratively with school staff to ensure their child's success and appropriate behaviour.
- Encourage the peaceful resolution of conflict and discourage disrespectful, violent or aggressive behaviour to solve a problem.

PROACTIVE STRATEGIES

The teaching and learning of expected student behaviour forms the cornerstone of a proactive, preventative approach. School plans will reflect outcomes related to a positive school culture and staff and parents/guardians will encourage participation in activities that promote a safe, caring and inclusive environment.

The following are the key components in promoting a positive school climate. School staff will:

- Participate in creating a positive school culture.
- Implement a continuum of schoolwide behavioural supports.

- Develop, maintain and strengthen their working relationships with parents/guardians, community members and organizations.
- Employ active supervision.
- Implement validated prevention and intervention programs.

INTERVENTION STRATEGIES

The division believes that effective student management teaches students appropriate behaviour and incorporates an appropriate range of consequences.

The division will apply a wide range of consequences for behaviour that interferes with safety, learning and work. Which consequences are applied will depend on the severity of the incident, the diverse needs of the student and the frequency of the behaviour. The following is a list of some options available when working with students regarding their behaviour:

Informal interview

School staff talk with the student to reach an agreement regarding the student's behaviour. The parents/guardians will be contacted as required.

Parental involvement

Contact might be made with the parents/guardians to discuss the specific behaviour of the student and steps that are necessary to change the behaviour, unless directed otherwise by police. The nature of contact could vary from a telephone conversation to a formal conference at the school with the parents/guardians, the student and school staff.

Student involvement

Students who are 18 years of age or older must give their consent before parents are informed of the student's behaviour.

Formal interview

A conference is held with the student, the school team and the parents/guardians to develop a plan for changing the student's behaviour.

School-based student services staff involvement

School-based student services staff may consult with divisional support staff when developing a behaviour intervention plan (BIP). Parents/guardians will be involved.

Detention

The student is detained at school for inappropriate behaviour. When such detention exceeds 15 minutes beyond the regular school hours or causes a student to miss a school bus, the parents/guardians will be informed.

Withdrawal from classroom setting

The student is temporarily removed to an alternate, supervised location to complete his/her assignments when inappropriate behaviour is deemed to have a negative impact on the classroom environment.

Removal of privileges

The student's privileges are removed under certain circumstances. This removal can include access to the playground, library, cafeteria or lunchroom, or participation in extracurricular activities.

Restitution

The student and/or parents/guardians are required to compensate for damages caused by the student.

Behavioural/performance contract

In some instances, the student may be required to meet specific behavioural outcomes that are identified in a written contract. Such expectations are developed and agreed upon by the school, the parents/guardians and the student. Such an agreement is documented, with copies provided to all concerned parties.

Division-based student services staff involvement

Division-based student services staff might become involved to assist in developing appropriate proactive and reactive approaches for unacceptable behaviour. This plan might include a level of counselling or supports for the student that is beyond the school staff's capabilities. Parental/guardian permission will be obtained for assessments and/or interventions.

Outside agency involvement

In some circumstances, the student's behaviour may involve violation of the law (e.g. drugs, theft or assault) and police involvement will be required; parents/guardians will be informed immediately of any such action unless police direct otherwise. Other circumstances may require a referral to Manitoba Child and Family Services or other community-based programs/agencies. In all circumstances, the safety of the student and others will be the key factor for determining such action.

Suspension

Suspension is the temporary stopping of a student's right to attend school. When a student's conduct is deemed injurious to the welfare of the school or injurious to the school's educational purpose, suspension is sometimes necessary to ensure the safety of other students in the school. Suspensions are applied when other disciplinary measures have been found to be ineffective or when the student's behaviour disrupts the learning of others, endangers fellow students, teachers or school officials, or damages property.