

PROVINCIAL STANDARDS FOR CODES OF CONDUCT ORDER

Authority: *School Act*, sections 85(1.1) 168 (2) (s.1)

Ministerial Order 276/07 (M276/07).....Effective October 17, 2007
Amended by M208/14..... Effective June 23, 2014
Amended by M341/16..... Effective September 7, 2016
Orders of the Minister of Education

1 In this order “**board**” includes a francophone education authority as defined in the *School Act*.

2 Boards must, in accordance with this order, establish one or more codes of conduct for the schools within their school district and ensure that the schools within their school district implement the codes.

3 When establishing codes of conduct, boards must consider the results of the consultations undertaken by schools within its school district at the school level with individuals or groups the schools consider are representative of

- (a) employees of the board,
- (b) parents, and
- (c) students

4 Boards must ensure that schools within their school district

- (a) make codes of conduct available to the public;
- (b) distribute the codes of conduct at the beginning of the school year to
 - (i) employees of the board at the school,
 - parents of students attending the school, and
 - (ii) students attending the school
- (c) provide codes of conduct to employees of the board who are assigned to a school during the school year when they are so assigned;
- (d) provide the codes of conduct to students who start attending a school during the school year and their parents when the students start attending the school;
- (e) display the codes of conduct in a prominent area in the school.

5 Boards must ensure that schools within their school district review the codes of conduct annually with individuals or groups the schools consider are representatives of

- (a) employees of the board,
- (b) parents, and
- (c) students

to assess the effectiveness of the codes of conduct in addressing current school safety issues.

6 Boards must ensure that the following elements are included in their codes of conduct:

- (a) a reference to
 - (i) each of the prohibited grounds of discrimination set out in section 7 (*Discriminatory publication*) and section 8 (*Discrimination in accommodation, service and facility*) of the *Human Rights Code*, RSBC 1996, c. 210, and

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- (ii) without limiting subsection (i), sexual orientation, gender identity or expression;
- (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 behaviour, and
 - (ii) unacceptable behaviour, including bullying, cyberbullying, harassment, intimidation, threatening or violent behaviourswhile at school, at a school-related activity or in other circumstances where engaging in the activity will have an impact on the school environment;
- (d) one or more statements about the consequences of unacceptable behaviour, which must take account of the student's age, maturity and special needs, if any;
- (e) an explanation that the board will take all reasonable steps to prevent retaliation by a person against a student who has made a complaint of a breach of a code of conduct.

[am M208/14, effective June 23/14; am M341/16, effective Sept 7/16]

7 Further to section 6(c), boards must do the following in the statements about consequences of unacceptable behaviour:

- (a) whenever possible and appropriate, focus on consequences that are restorative in nature rather than punitive, and
- (b) include an explanation that special considerations may apply to students with special needs if these students are unable to comply with a code of conduct due to having a disability of an intellectual, physical, sensory, emotional or behavioural nature.