

POLICY #7214 SMOKE FREE ENVIRONMENT

The Surrey Board of Education declares all School District No. 36 (Surrey) buildings, grounds and property (including school district vehicles), to be a totally smoke free environment for students, parents, visitors and staff.

In accordance with the *Tobacco and Vapour Products Control Act*, while in or on school property, all students, parents, visitors and staff are prohibited from:

- a) Smoking or using tobacco, or holding lighted tobacco, and;
- b) Using e-cigarettes, or holding activated e-cigarettes.

The prohibition in section a) above does not apply to the ceremonial use of tobacco in or on school property if the ceremonial use is approved by the board and is performed in relation to a traditional aboriginal cultural activity, or by a prescribed group for a prescribed purpose.

In accordance with the *Cannabis Control and Licensing Act* all students, parents, visitors and staff are prohibited from smoking cannabis, or holding lighted cannabis, in or on school property or within a prescribed distance from school property. As well, a person must not use or hold a device that is vapourizing cannabis for inhalation or release in the air in or on school property or within a prescribed distance from school property.

The school district shall post appropriate signage to inform students, staff, parents and other visitors of the Smoke Free Environment policy.

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2018-09-11
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POLICY #9410 SAFE AND CARING SCHOOLS

STATEMENT OF VALUES

School District No. 36 (Surrey) is strongly committed to Human Rights and Anti-Discrimination ([Policy #10900 – Anti Discrimination and Human Rights](#)). Creating safe and caring environments for all students and staff is a top priority of the district.

While the district is responsible to ensure that all students are treated with respect and dignity, the district also recognizes that school community members identifying (either publicly or privately) as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, transsexual, two-spirit, intersex, queer, questioning (LGBTQ) face a unique set of challenges within schools and communities. The creation of safe and caring environments specifically to students or staff who are LGBTQ is addressed in detail in this policy on Safe and Caring Schools and in [Regulation #9410.2 – Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity or Expression](#).

School community members identifying as LGBTQ are often targets of discriminatory behaviours and or exclusion. All members of the Surrey school district share the responsibility for upholding the values inherent in the Charter or Rights and Freedoms and for supporting students and staff in addressing and facing these unique challenges. Homophobic and or transphobic comments, discrimination, bullying, and attacks are demeaning to all students, parents or guardians and employees regardless of their actual or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity or expression.

The school district will not permit or tolerate any homophobic and or transphobic behaviour such as harassment, intimidation, discrimination or bullying, whether by commission or by failing to act to end such behaviour. Staff will respond to all incidents and provide support and assistance to those who are the intended or unintended targets of such behavior. In order to support safe, caring, inclusive and welcoming environments to our LGBTQ staff, students and families, the district makes commitments to the following actions.

1. DISTRICT CODE OF CONDUCT

- 1.1. The Surrey Board of Education is committed to providing safe and caring environments in which all learners can achieve academic excellence, personal growth and responsible citizenship.
- 1.2. The board promotes clearly defined behavioural expectations that represent the highest standards of respectful and responsible citizenship and lead to a culture of non-violence among all persons in all schools and at all school-authorized events and activities.

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To this end, the board expects that persons will:

- Comply with all applicable federal, provincial and municipal laws, and with district policy and regulations.
- Value and encourage learning and working environments that are inclusive and respectful of the diverse individual, collective, social and cultural needs of our community.
- Treat one another with dignity and respect.
- Refrain from engaging in, or encouraging acts of violence of any form.
- Show care and regard for school property and the property of others.
- Take appropriate measures to help those in need; and
- Respect those in positions of authority.

1.3. The board expects that all persons will not engage in behavior that constitutes discrimination based on grounds as set out in the *Human Rights Code*, including:

- Race
- Colour
- Ancestry
- Place of origin
- Political belief
- Religion
- Marital status
- Family status
- Physical or mental disability
- Sex
- Gender identity or expression
- Sexual orientation, and
- Age

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2. MANAGING STUDENT BEHAVIOUR IN SAFE AND CARING SCHOOLS

2.1 Responsibility for an effective discipline program is shared among many partners including the district, schools, students, parents/guardians, community groups, social agencies and the RCMP. The board promotes understanding and acceptance of the interactive roles required to achieve safe and caring schools.

2.1. Safe and caring school environments are free of acts of:

- Bullying, cyberbullying, harassment, threats, intimidation, verbal or written abuse, racism, homophobia and other forms of discrimination of any kind, including but not limited to those listed in section 1.3 or any other distinguishing characteristic, or if based on an association with an individual or group with any of aforementioned characteristics.
- Any form of violence
- Theft
- Vandalism

2.2. Safe and caring school environments do not tolerate the presence of:

- Intoxicating or banned substances.
- Weapons (or replica weapons) and explosives; and
- Intruders or trespassers.

3. APPROPRIATE DRESS

3.1. Each school shall adopt a dress code that attempts to balance individual liberty, social convention, functionality, community standards and school community values.

3.2. Staff and students are expected to dress in ways that are appropriate for their particular roles in the school and that show respect for themselves, for others and for the school.

3.3. In the case of student dress, there should be a partnership between student, parent and school that provides sufficient, but not excessive, guidance so students not only dress appropriately, but also learn to make

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good independent decisions regarding dress.

4. SCHOOL CODE OF CONDUCT

- 4.1. Each school shall establish a School Code of Conduct including statements of expectations regarding student behaviour. These codes of conduct shall be displayed in a prominent area in the school visible to visitors and ambassadors of the school (e.g. coaches, volunteers).
- 4.2. School Codes of Conduct shall be consistent with the *School Act* and relevant district policy and regulation, and shall be developed and reviewed in accordance with [Regulation #9410.1](#) and the Safe and Caring Schools Handbook of Procedures.
- 4.3. School Codes of Conduct will specifically reference each of the following prohibited grounds of discrimination which are set out in the *Human Rights Code*, and include:
- Race
 - Colour
 - Ancestry
 - Place of origin
 - Religion
 - Marital status
 - Family status
 - Physical or mental disability
 - Sex
 - Gender identity or expression
 - Sexual orientation, and
 - Age

5. AUTHORITY TO ACT

- 5.1. Principals and vice principals are authorized by the board under the *School Act* to suspend a student from attendance at school in keeping with district

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policy, regulation and procedures and will make reasonable accommodation to continue the student's education program during the period of the suspension.

- 5.2. Principals and vice principals may conduct or authorize a search of a student, personal property or locker if there are reasonable grounds to believe that policy has been or is being violated and that evidence of the violation will be found in the location or on the person of the student searched. The search should be conducted in a sensitive manner and be minimally intrusive.

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POLICY #10300
PARENTS' ADVISORY COUNCILS

The Surrey Board of Education recognizes the positive contribution parents can make to individual schools, and to the system as a whole. Parental involvement is formally acknowledged in legislation through the School Act which defines the formation of Parent Advisory Councils for each school in a district and for a District Parent Advisory Council which represents all schools. These councils are respectively intended, through legislation, to advise principals, the staff, and the Board of Education on “any matter” relating to the school or district.

This policy is intended to promote the establishment and operation of such representative bodies. It is the board’s expectation that school administrators and staff will encourage the establishment of parents’ advisory councils and assist with the function of such groups.

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REGULATION #10300.1 PARENTS' ADVISORY COUNCILS

SCHOOL PARENTS' ADVISORY COUNCILS

1. Establishment of School Parents' Advisory Councils

- 1.1. Parents of students attending a school in the district wishing to establish a school parents' advisory council shall apply to the board to establish such an advisory council. Applications to the board shall be made through the office of the secretary-treasurer.
- 1.2. On receipt of such application the board will recognize the establishment of a parents' advisory council for that school.
- 1.3. There shall be only one parents' advisory council for each school in the district as per the School Act.

2. Function of School Parents' Advisory Councils

- 2.1. Section 8(5) of the School Act mandates the required bylaws of Council meetings and how to conduct its business affairs including elections and dissolution. .
- 2.2. The constitution and bylaws of every parents' advisory council shall be filed with the board.
- 2.3. A school parents' advisory council through its elected officers may advise the board and the principal and staff at the school respecting any matter relating to the school.
- 2.4. Notwithstanding 2.3. above, school parents' advisory councils should not discuss individual school personnel, students, parents or other members of the school community.
- 2.5. Minutes of meetings should be kept and copies of the minutes of meetings are to be retained on file and be available to members of the school community.

3. Funding of School Parents' Advisory Councils

- 3.1. Annually the board will provide funding to duly established parents' advisory councils to support its activities. The amount will be determined annually.

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- 3.2. Individual school parents' advisory councils will use the money provided to support its activities consistent with its constitution and bylaws, as amended, and as approved from time to time by its membership.

SURREY SCHOOL DISTRICT PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

The board recognizes the District Parent Advisory Council as representing individual school parents' advisory councils. Such recognition is subject to the understanding that:

1. Membership and participation in the council and its activities is open to all parents' advisory councils established pursuant to this policy and, as per the School Act.
 - 1.1. Each parents' advisory council may elect annually one of its members to be a representative on the district parents' advisory council for a term of not more than one year.
 - 1.2. Minutes of the District Parent Advisory Council meetings will be provided to the board and kept on file in the secretary-treasurer's office.
 - 1.3. A superintendent of schools or designate, and /or a trustee may attend any meeting of the District Parent Advisory Council.

2. District Parent Advisory Council Function

The stated objective of the school District #36 Parent Advisory Council is to encourage cooperation and communication among parents, students, educators and school district appointed and elected representatives. In meeting this objective District #36 Parent Advisory Council, as the recognized district representative group, shall:

- 2.1. Promote the interests of the public school system throughout the district.
- 2.2. Liaise with the board, district staff assigned this responsibility by the board or the superintendent and other partner groups.
- 2.3. Liaise with the British Columbia Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils.

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- 2.4. Provide a vehicle for communication among parents' advisory councils and provide assistance to councils as requested.
3. Board Support for the District Parent Advisory Council (DPAC)
 - 3.1. The board shall provide meeting space for DPAC meetings free of charge for up to two meetings a month.
 - 3.2. The board shall provide access to reprographic services with a budget of up to \$1,000 annually to support the publication of newsletters and other materials.
 - 3.3. The board shall provide access to the school district courier system to DPAC to enable them to distribute mail to and from schools and district offices.
 - 3.4. The board shall provide to the District Parent Advisory Council, without charge, a copy of all regular board meeting agendas and a copy of the board policy manual with amendments as necessary.

DISTRICT COMMITTEES THAT INCLUDE PARENT MEMBERS

1. District committees which call for parent members will include the following:
 - a) One or more representatives appointed by the District Parent Advisory Council.
 - b) One or more members of the parents' advisory council where the district committee's mandate deals with a program or service that is located at a specific school.
 - c) Other parent representatives as determined by the board's terms of reference for a specific district committee.
2. The District Parent Advisory Council shall appoint representatives to district committees for a one-year term.
3. Where applicable, the parents' advisory council shall appoint representatives to district committees for a one-year term.

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4. Where possible, appointments should be made by September 30 of each year.
5. With the District Parent Advisory Council's endorsement, a PAC representative may also serve as the DPAC representative on district committees.

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