

Policy Statement: The Western School District is committed to maintaining safe and caring schools.

1. Application

This policy shall apply to all building, facilities, grounds and properties under the jurisdiction of the Western School District. All vehicles parked on school property, school buses, board-owned or leased vehicles. All staff, students and any person present on School District property or involved in school sponsored events, 24 hours a day, every day. All school-wide activities, school trips, off-site school activities and activities outside of school hours. Any other event in which the school is responsible for students.

2. Rationale

The Western School District believes that all students and employees have a right to a safe and secure environment that safe and caring environments can be created and maintained throughout the Western School District and that safe and caring learning environments are built on the following principles.

- a) A positive learning environment is respectful and caring of all of its members.
- b) Fair and consistently implemented school policies and codes of behavior contribute to positive environments and reduce bullying, racism, and other forms of harassment.
- c) An inclusive curriculum develops an understanding of the underlying causes of violence and inequality, recognizes diversity, promotes equal opportunity, and enhances safety, respect and mutual understanding.
- d) Positive social behavior, beliefs and values are taught and reinforced throughout the curriculum.
- e) Disciplinary practices are pro-active and based on principles of mutual respect and shared responsibility.
- f) Involvement of all members of the school community through shared decision-making, problem solving and inter-agency collaboration ensures these principles are universal.

3. Procedures

3.1 The Western School District's Safe and Caring Schools committee will:

- a) Ensure that an emphasis on safe and caring schools is maintained in the school district's strategic plan.
- b) Develop and regularly review district policies that guide the implementation and enforcement of the provincial Code of Conduct and safe and caring schools action plans.
- c) Involve, where possible, community partners such as regional committees for violence prevention in the development and review of district safe and caring schools policies and action plans.
- d) Ensure clear communication of the district's safe and caring schools policies to all members of the school community, in a manner that encourages full support and commitment.
- e) Establish guidelines for the implementation of preventative and pro-active school-wide practices that foster positive behaviors by all members of the school community.
- f) Foster and promote the vital roles and responsibilities of the school, home and community in the establishment of a safe and caring learning environment.
- g) Provide guidance and resources to schools as they develop safe and caring schools policies and as they implement school action plans.
- h) Establish guidelines and procedures to assist school personnel in managing potentially violent situations.

4. Related Operational Policies

4.1 The Board's Safe and Caring Schools governance policy will result in a number of operational policies including, but not limited to, the following;

- a) Anaphylaxis
- b) Student Search and Seizure
- c) Bomb Threats

- d) Bullying
- e) Administering Medication, Medical Intervention and Chronic Care
- f) Police Investigation/Weapons
- g) Guidance
- h) Student Hygiene
- i) Lockdown Procedures/Emergency Response
- j) Video Security Systems

Approved: January 30, 2008	Review Date: July 21, 2011	Updated:
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