

MEDICINE HAT PUBLIC BOARD OF EDUCATION OPERATES AS MEDICINE HAT PUBLIC SCHOOL DIVISION, AND FOR THE PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT WILL BE REFERRED TO AS "MHPSD" AND/OR "DIVISION"

SECTION 600 – Students

POLICY 632: SCHOOL DISCIPLINE

BACKGROUND

In order to provide a welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environment in which students are able to pursue their goals, standards of behavior are required in Division schools.

POLICY

The Board expects each school to develop and communicate standards for behavior and to exercise judicious use of consequences for inappropriate behavior. Unacceptable behaviours (any conduct that contravenes Section 12 of the *School Act*), whether or not the behaviour occurs within the school building, during the school day or by electronic means shall be addressed in accordance with the guidelines of this policy.

GUIDELINES

1. Discipline measures will be fair, will foster mutual respect, teach social responsibility, encourage the development of self-discipline on the part of the student and will consider the student's age, maturity and individual circumstances.
2. Support will be provided for students who are impacted by inappropriate behaviour as well as for students who engage in inappropriate behaviour.
3. The encouragement of appropriate behavior in schools and the implementation of discipline measures is a shared responsibility amongst students, their parents, the community and Division staff.
4. Appropriate standards of student conduct will be established through the use of effective classroom management strategies.
5. Preventive discipline measures are the most effective. Early action to resolve discipline concerns is expected.
6. Implementing and maintaining the student code of conduct within the classroom is the responsibility of the teacher and on the bus it is the responsibility of the bus driver.
7. Parents play a vital role in developing student behavior and conduct. Parents are encouraged to:
 - 7.1. take an active role in their child(ren)'s educational success, including assisting their child(ren) in complying with the Division's student code of conduct;
 - 7.2. ensure that the parent's conduct contributes to a welcoming, caring, respectful and safe

- learning environment;
- 7.3. cooperate and collaborate with school staff to support the delivery of supports and services to their child(ren);
 - 7.4. encourage, foster and advance collaborative, positive, respectful relationships with teachers, principals, other school staff and professionals providing supports and services in the school;
 - 7.5. engage in their child(ren)'s school community;
 - 7.6. review the school's code of conduct with their child(ren);
 - 7.7. set expectations that encourage their children to meet the school's expectations;
 - 7.8. work with the school to resolve student behavioral issues when they affect their child(ren);
 - 7.9. co-operate with the school's recommended course of action prior to re-admission of the student following a student suspension; and
 - 7.10. conduct themselves in their communication with staff with dignity and respect.
8. Corporal punishment shall not be used as a discipline measure in the Division. Corporal punishment is defined as physical chastisement of a student through the use of any object

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES

[632 P 001 – School Discipline](#)

[632 P 002 – Student Expulsion Hearings](#)

[632 P 003 – Behaviour of Students While Riding on Buses](#)

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES – EXHIBITS

[632 E 001 – Extra-curricular Regulations](#)

[632 E 002 – Student Expulsion Checklist](#)

[632 E 003 – Sample Template of Letter of Suspension](#)

[632 E 004 – Sample Letter Setting Hearing](#)

REFERENCES

Alberta Education – School Act

Approved: June 26, 2018

Revised: June 26, 2018

