

Policy Title	Safe and Accepting Schools		
Date of Issue	June 19, 2001	<u>Related Procedures</u>	AP 6801-D; AP 6819-D; AP 6820-D; AP 6821-D; AP 6822-D; AP 6824-D AP 6825-D; AP 6826-D; AP 6835-D; AP 6905-D; AP 6920-D
Revision Dates	February 11, 2004; January 22, 2008; January 19, 2010; June 15, 2010; February 21, 2012; September 17, 2013; October 15, 2019	Related Forms	AF 6410; AF 6408; AF 2810; Online Incident Reporting Tool
Review Date	October 1, 2024	Originator	Board of Trustees
References			
The Education Act; The Child, Youth, and Family Services Act; The Trespass to Property Act; Youth Criminal Justice Act; Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act; Ontario Human Rights Code; Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act; Occupational Health and Safety Act; Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms; Controlled Drugs and Substances Act; Cannabis Act (Bill C-45); Smoke-Free Ontario Act; Regulation 472/07 - Behaviour, Discipline and Safety of Pupils; Regulation 474/00 - Access to School Premises; Regulation 298 – Operation of Schools – General; Bill 157 “Keeping Our Kids Safe At School Act”; Bill 13 “Accepting Schools Act”; PPM No. 144 “Bullying Prevention and Intervention”; PPM No. 145 “Progressive Discipline and Promoting Positive Student Behaviour”; PPM No. 120 “Reporting Violent Incidents to the Ministry of Education”; BP/AP 6303-D “Equity and Inclusive Education”; BP 7520-D “Human Rights”; AP 6806-D “Drug, Cannabis, Alcohol, and Tobacco - Standards and Education”; BP and AP 6810-D “Safe Arrival”; BP 6850-D “Maltreatment of Staff and/or Students”; AP 6850-D “Child Maltreatment (Suspected) Reporting”; AP 6825-D “Progressive Discipline-Students”; AP 6801-D “Police/School Protocol”; AP 6821-D “Bullying Prevention and Intervention”; BP 1604-D “Communications”; AP 1604-D “Communications – Addressing Parent/Community Concerns”; BP/AP 2101-D “Access to Board Premises”			

1.0 RATIONALE

- 1.1 Bluewater District School Board policies will support and provide the direction necessary to achieve the board’s Vision, Mission and Strategic Plan priorities.
- 1.2 Bluewater District School Board recognizes that a whole school approach is necessary to promote a safe, inclusive, and accepting school that creates a positive school climate.
- 1.3 Safety extends beyond freedom from violence and physical harm, to emotional well-being, mutual respect, and a sense of security.
- 1.4 Bluewater District School Board believes that every student has the right to an education without disruption, and a corresponding responsibility not to deny this right to any other student.
- 1.5 Bluewater District School Board recognizes that the majority of students live within the policies, rules, and regulations of a school. A minority of students occasionally requires both a clear definition of the limits of behaviour and of the consequences of breaking those limits.

2.0 POLICY

- 2.1 Bluewater District School Board is committed to ensuring that its school community is a safe, secure, and welcoming place for all students, staff, and community partners. Creation of a positive learning environment is important. Students with a positive self-concept can more easily appreciate the needs and concerns of others, show respect for others, and resist negative peer pressure as it relates to rules of the school.

- 2.2 Any degree of violence (physical or emotional), threat, bullying, or risk to the safety and/or the physical or emotional well-being of students or adults is considered to be inappropriate behaviour, and is therefore unacceptable whether on school property, on school buses, at school-related events, or in any other circumstance (e.g., online) that could have an impact on school climate.
- 2.3 Bluewater District School Board will utilize a continuum of prevention programs, interventions, supports, and consequences to address all inappropriate student behaviour and to build upon strategies that promote and foster positive behaviours. When inappropriate behaviour occurs, disciplinary measures should be applied within a progressive discipline framework that shifts the focus from one that is solely punitive, to one that is consistent, corrective, supportive, and provides opportunities for students to continue their education.
- 2.4 Bluewater District School Board does not support exclusion as a disciplinary measure.
- 2.5 This policy, and its related procedures, are aligned with board policies including, but not limited to, BP 7520-D “Human Rights” and BP 6303-D “Equity and Inclusive Education”, as well as with the principles and expectations of relevant legislation, such as the Education Act, the Ontario Human Rights Code, the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, the Child, Youth, and Family Services Act, the Occupational Health and Safety Act, and the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act.
- 2.6 This policy is supported by administrative procedures, including, but not limited to, AP 6822-D “Code of Conduct”, AP 6821-D “Bullying Prevention and Intervention”, AP 6825-D “Progressive Discipline – Students”, AP 6820-D “Suspensions and Expulsions”, AP 6819-D “Safe and Accepting Schools Incident Reporting”, and AP 6806-D “Drug, Cannabis, Alcohol, and Tobacco - Standards and Education”.

3.0 SYSTEM EXPECTATIONS

- 3.1 All Bluewater District School Board staff will ensure that the measures and plans prescribed in this and other related policies and procedures, which are intended to ensure safe and accepting schools, are addressed and implemented at the board and school-levels.
- 3.2 It is the principal’s responsibility to address inappropriate behaviour in partnership with school staff, the parents, and the community.
 - 3.2.1 A principal may delegate some disciplinary responsibilities to a vice-principal and/or teacher of the school, in accordance with the Education Act, Ministry of Education policies, and administrative procedure AP 2810-D “Delegation of Authority (Principal)”.
 - 3.2.2 Bluewater District School Board will require all staff, school bus drivers, as well as other third party contractors, such as before-and-after school program operators, to report incidents of inappropriate behaviour to school principals.
 - 3.2.3 All board employees working directly with students will respond to incidents/inappropriate behaviour that may negatively impact the school climate if, in the employee’s opinion, it is safe to respond to it, and it is in accordance with subsection 300.4 of Part XIII of the Education Act and Ontario Regulation 472/07.