

Student Rights and Responsibilities 2020–2021

Hardisty School

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Our Commitment to High Quality Learning Environments

At Edmonton Public Schools, we are deeply committed to the success and well-being of our students. Each student is entitled to a welcoming, inclusive, safe and healthy learning environment that supports high-quality learning, respects diversity, and nurtures a sense of belonging and a positive sense of self.

As a Division, we have established clear behaviour expectations for all students, from Kindergarten to Grade 12. The expectations are outlined in the Division's Student Behaviour and Conduct Policy which was developed in consultation with students, parents, staff and community members. The policy outlines the rights and responsibilities of students, our expectations for student conduct, and the potential responses when students demonstrate unacceptable behaviour.

Parental involvement in public education plays a vital role in promoting positive student behaviour. We are pleased that our ongoing partnership with families continues to make a difference for our schools and students.

By working together, we will ensure our students learn the importance of good character and conduct, and our schools will remain safe and secure places to learn and thrive.



Trisha Estabrooks
Board Chair

Student Success and Safety—Our Highest Priorities

It is our shared responsibility to ensure that each student can learn and realize their potential within a safe and caring learning environment. In addition to teaching the necessary learning outcomes, our schools are places where students can develop the character and skills needed to become responsible, respectful, compassionate and successful citizens.

School staff use Board Policy [HG.BP—Student Behaviour and Conduct](#) as the basis for creating this **Student Rights and Responsibilities** document. This document is designed to communicate expectations, and balances the overarching rights and responsibilities that are communicated in our policy with the unique context of each school. The expectations and processes outlined in this document are implemented by principals in collaboration with school staff, parents and local communities.

Ensuring each student can thrive in a safe, productive and welcoming learning environment is essential to our work in improving student achievement and high school completion rates. By working together to promote positive attitudes and responsible, respectful behaviour in our schools, we believe students will receive the greatest benefit during their educational journey.



Darrel Robertson
Superintendent of Schools

Supporting Student Success

Members of the Edmonton Public Schools community, including students, parents, staff and Trustees, have a shared responsibility to help students be successful in school. Safety and well-being is fundamental to our students thriving as learners, and experiencing success and fulfillment both at school and in their lives. This *Student Rights and Responsibilities* document has been created to communicate clear expectations for how our students are expected to behave in order to ensure they become the best students and citizens they can be.

Parents support their child's success and positive behaviour by:

- taking an active role in their child's personal and academic success
- reviewing expectations outlined in this document with their child
- helping them to attend school regularly and to develop the skills required to meet the school's expectations
- encouraging and modelling collaborative, positive and respectful relationships with others in the school community
- working collaboratively with the school to resolve student conduct issues
- reporting to the school any circumstances which may impact student safety

Students are responsible for their behaviour and effort, and are expected to:

- contribute to the development of a welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environment
- learn, practice and demonstrate positive personal and interpersonal skills and attributes
- use their abilities and talents to gain maximum learning benefit from their school experience
- attend school regularly and punctually
- be responsible for behaviour which impacts others in the school, whether or not the behaviour occurs within the school building or during the school day or by electronic means

School staff will help your child succeed by:

- providing a welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environment that respects diversity and fosters a sense of belonging
- ensuring that students and parents understand the school's expectations for student behaviour
- establishing supports and processes at the school to proactively guide positive student behaviour
- helping students develop and practice the skills and attributes to meet these expectations
- working with students, parents and other school staff to address behaviour concerns, including implementing appropriate responses to inappropriate student behaviour

To support a shared understanding of the language and intent of this document, refer to the [glossary](#) for a definition of terms.

Our Belief and Commitment

At Hardisty K-9 School we

- are committed to providing a welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environment that respects diversity and fosters a sense of belonging
- work to encourage positive student behavior and create an environment conducive to learning
- believe in collaborative and compassionate problem solving that is responsive to support our diverse learning community

To achieve these aims, the Hardisty School community has collaboratively developed and continues to be committed to the foundational principles of **RESPECT, responsibility and RELATIONSHIPS...THE 3 R'S**

Respect

RESPECT – something that WE SHOW; it is conditional.

WE SHOW respect by:

- speaking courteously
- Acting appropriately
- Listening attentively
- Remaining calm
- Seeking to understand each other

We will SHOW respect in all circumstances regardless of the attitude or actions of others.

Responsibility

RESPONSIBILITY – something that we TAKE; is not optional

WE TAKE responsibility by:

- Caring for our learning spaces
- Preparing ourselves for learning
- Approaching school seriously
- Owning our actions
- Working to the best of our ability

WE will TAKE responsibility consistently regardless of who, or if anyone, is watching.

Relationships

RELATIONSHIPS – something that is EVERYTHING; we rely on the completely.

We work at building relationships by:

- Accepting differences
- Showing empathy
- Choosing kindness
- Build trust
- Keeping commitments

We will work at building relationships (friendships, partnerships, classmates) daily.

Rights and Responsibilities

Our school Division recognizes the following fundamental rights and responsibilities:

All students have the right to be treated with dignity, respect and fairness by other staff and students.

All members of the Edmonton Public Schools community, including students, parents, staff and Trustees have a role and a shared responsibility to create and support welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environments.

Students and parents have a right to be informed about Division and school expectations for student behaviour. To support this right, all schools' Student Rights and Responsibilities documents will be posted on SchoolZone and on school websites.

All members of our school community are expected to respect diversity and refrain from demonstrating any form of discrimination on the basis of race, religious beliefs, colour, gender, gender identity, gender expression, physical disability, mental disability, ancestry, place of origin, marital status, source of income, family status or sexual orientation.

These rights and responsibilities are communicated in the *Alberta Human Rights Act* and the *Education Act* and are reinforced in Division policies and regulations including [AE.BP—Welcoming, Inclusive, Safe and Healthy Learning and Working Environments](#), [HG.BP—Student Behaviour and Conduct](#), [HG.AR—Student Behaviour and Conduct](#), and [HFA.AR—Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity](#) which are available to the public.

At, Hardisty K-9 School, everyone in our school community has the right to learn and work in an environment that is respectful, safe, healthy and focused on learning and success. Through our commitment to the **3R's**, we ensure that all individuals in our school have the following rights.

- to feel safe, comfortable and cared for
- to be treated with dignity and respect
- to learn and grow
- to advocate for themselves and others

In order to preserve these rights, all members of the school community share a commitment to **show RESPECT**, **take RESPONSIBILITY** and **build RELATIONSHIPS**.

Student Behaviour Expectations

To ensure that Hardisty K-9 is a positive learning environment for everyone, all students are expected to comply with expectations set by our school Division, as well as school rules which are in place for the benefit of all members of our school community.

Board Policy HG.BP – Student Behaviour and Conduct outlines that students are expected to behave in accordance with section 31 of the *Education Act* which states that, a student, as a partner in education, has the responsibility to:

- attend school regularly and punctually,
- be ready to learn and actively engage in and diligently pursue the student's education,
- ensure the student's conduct contributes to a welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning, environment that respects diversity and fosters a sense of belonging,
- respect the rights of others in the school,
- refrain from, report and not tolerate bullying or bullying behaviour directed toward others in the school, whether or not it occurs within the school building, during the school day or by electronic means,
- comply with rules of the school and the policies of the Board,
- co-operate fully with everyone authorized by the Board to provide education programs and other services,
- be accountable to the student's teachers and other school staff for the student's conduct, and
- positively contribute to the student's school and community.

Furthermore, students are expected to:

- resolve conflict or seek assistance to resolve conflict in a peaceful, safe, and non-threatening manner that is conducive to learning and growth. Strategies for addressing conflict between students may include counselling, mediation, or forms of restorative practice.
- use school and personal technology appropriately and ethically.

- ensure that they conduct themselves with academic integrity and refrain from and report all incidents of academic misconduct including, but not limited to, cheating and plagiarizing.

Student Dress Code

At Edmonton Public Schools, students are expected to dress in a manner that reflects a positive sense of self within a welcoming, inclusive, safe and healthy learning environment. School expectations for student attire take into account a student's right to fairness, dignity and respect and will not discriminate against students based on race, gender, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, ethnicity, religion, cultural observance, socio-economic status, or body type.

Dress code expectations will be implemented in a manner that empowers students to make decisions that promote a positive sense of self and contribute to a respectful learning environment.

Regular Attendance—It's the Law

Regular attendance is strongly linked to student academic success and a student's sense of belonging at school. The *Education Act* reminds parents and students that students are expected to attend school and be punctual every day. Students are only considered to be excused from attending school if they must be away due to:

- sickness or other unavoidable cause
- the day being recognized as a religious holiday by the religious denomination that the child belongs to
- suspension or expulsion
- an exemption from compulsory attendance granted by the Board for a defined period of time

In addition to the Division expectations outlined above, students at Hardisty K-9 School are expected to:

Student Behavior Expectations at Hardisty K-9 School:

Safety at School – At the beginning and end of the day, students and parents are to use the **designated doors for drop off and pick up**. All doors are locked during the school day and **all parents/guardians and visitors must first report to the school office**. For student drop off and pick up during the day, parents/guardians will use the front door and report to the school office. (Weather accommodation – on days when the temperature is below -23 degrees Celsius including wind chill or on very rainy/windy days, we will have indoor recess and will open the school in the mornings)

Technology at School – Electronic devices are to be used appropriately in school. Cell phones and hand-held communication devices are to be used only during non-instructional time unless teachers, at their discretion, permit use for educational purposes.

Personal and School Property – Students are to respect the property of others and school property. Students will be asked to replace stolen or damaged items. Do not bring valuables to school, including cash, expensive devices, toys, etc. We do not allow students to trade or sell items to each other while at school.

Student Conduct of Yellow Buses – Students are expected to follow school rules and be safe and cooperative while travelling to and from school on the yellow bus. Students are to be respectful to and listen to the bus drivers. Students are responsible to be respectful to the other students on the bus. Students must sit in their designated bus seat and remain seated at all times, and use quiet voices on the bus. Students are expected to report concerns to the bus driver or safe adults.

Class and School Entering and Leaving – Students are expected to have teacher's permission when entering and leaving the classroom. Students and parents are expected to sign in when arriving at school and sign out when leaving the school.

Dressing for School – Students are expected to dress in an appropriate manner for a learning environment and ensure that clothing provides appropriate coverage. Refrain from wearing clothing bearing offensive messages or symbols. Also, remember that when you enter the school to remove hats. Footwear must be worn at all times to ensure safety. When necessary, staff or administration may have a conversation with regards to appropriate clothing and an alternative garment may be provided. A follow up conversation with a parent/guardian will occur if needed.

Non – Smoking Environment – All Edmonton Public Schools' grounds, including parking lots and playing fields are smoke free areas. The purpose of this policy is to ensure that school building or property are not used to enable a practice that is injurious to the health and well-being of students or staff. While it is expected that students understand and respect the smoke free policy, violations of the policy are treated as matters requiring discipline. The use of e-cigarettes and vaped is also prohibited.

Student responsibilities in relation to COVID-19

The Division's first priority is always to ensure the safety and wellbeing of students and staff.

Effective August 4, 2020, and until further notice from the Superintendent of Schools, all students (Grades 4-12), staff, parents and visitors who are physically, psychologically and developmentally able to are expected to wear a non-medical mask, which fully covers the nose, mouth and chin) upon entering, and while inside, any school or Division-owned building, and while riding on any Division yellow bus.

K-3 students who are physically, psychologically and developmentally able to wear a mask are asked to do so.

This expectation does not apply:

- to persons unable to wear a mask due to a physical, psychological or developmental limitation, or protected ground under the *Alberta Human Rights Act*;
- to persons consuming food or drink in designated areas
- when, as directed by the classroom teacher for certain activities, to not wear a mask and the students are able to physically distance
- to staff who are working alone in their classroom or office, and custodial staff who are working after school hours.

Unacceptable Behaviour

Any behaviour which disrupts the educational atmosphere of the school or which interferes with the rights of others to learn, to be respected or to feel safe is unacceptable. Edmonton Public Schools' policy on student behaviour and conduct outlines the following:

Students are accountable for their behaviour whether or not it occurs on school property or within the school day. When behaviour that occurs off school property, or outside of regular school hours, threatens the safety or well-being of individuals within the school community or disrupts the learning environment, school administrators may apply consequences for the behaviour.

Examples of unacceptable behaviour include, but are not limited to:

1. behaviours that interfere with the learning of others and/or the school environment
2. behaviours that create unsafe conditions
3. acts of bullying, harassment, threats, or intimidations whether it be in person, indirectly, or by electronic means
4. physical violence

5. retribution against any person who has intervened to prevent or report bullying or any other incident or safety concern
6. possession, use or distribution of substances restricted by federal, provincial, municipal, Division or school authorities
7. any illegal activity such as:
 - a. possession, use or distribution of illegal substances
 - b. possession of a weapon or use of a weapon (or replica) to threaten, intimidate or harm others
 - c. possession, use, display, or distribution of offensive messages, videos or images
 - d. theft or possession of stolen property
8. any breach of rules and expectations established by Division administrative regulations or a school-based code of conduct
9. failure to comply with *Education Act*, section 31.

Bullying and Conflict

Bullying is defined in the *Education Act* as repeated and hostile or demeaning behaviour by an individual in the school community where the behaviour is intended to cause harm, fear or distress to one or more other individuals in the school community, including psychological harm or harm to an individual's reputation. Bullying also includes the distribution of an intimate image of another person knowing that the person depicted in the image did not consent to the distribution, or being reckless as to whether or not that person consented to the distribution.

Bullying can take different forms:

- physical (e.g., pushing, hitting)
- verbal (e.g., name-calling, threats)
- social (e.g., exclusion, rumours)
- electronic (e.g., using technology to harass or threaten)

Conflict occurs when there is a breakdown in relationships between individuals that results from a disagreement or misunderstanding. While conflicts may require adult intervention, they are considered to be a natural part of how students learn to navigate relationships.

All students are expected to refrain from, report and not tolerate bullying or bullying behaviour directed toward others in the school, whether or not it occurs within the school building, during the school day or by electronic means. Students are also expected to resolve conflict or seek assistance to resolve conflict in a peaceful, safe, and non-threatening manner that is conducive to learning and growth. School staff can help address conflict between students using strategies that may include counselling, mediation, consequences and/or forms of restorative practice.

TEASING, CONFLICT, MEAN MOMENT, BULLYING

At Hardisty K-9 School, we differentiate between the Teasing, Conflict and Moments and Bullying. The following definitions are shared with students to create a common language. This allows us to better support students in feeling safe at school and to become advocates for their own well being.

TEASING

- Everyone is having fun
- No one is getting hurt
- Not physical
- Everyone is participating willingly
- Equal balance of power
- May occur often
- Usually does not require a solution with adult intervention

MEAN MOMENT

- No one is having fun
- Someone is being hurt on purpose; there is a victim
- Maybe physical or verbal; usually in response to a strong emotion
- Participation may be willing or unwilling
- Unequal balance of power
- Usually an isolated, infrequent event
- A solution may be achieved without adult intervention

CONFLICT

- No one is having fun
- Someone, possibly all participants, may get hurt
- May be physical or verbal
- Participation may be willing or unwilling
- May be an unequal balance of power
- Will occur occasionally
- A solution can be achieved with or without adult intervention

BULLYING

- Some may be having fun at the expense of others
- Someone is being hurt on purpose; there is a victim
- May be physical or verbal; usually includes a degree of emotional/social abuse
- Participation is unwilling on behalf of the victim
- Repeated, targeted, on-going events
- Unequal balance of power
- A solution must include adult intervention

School Responses to Unacceptable Behaviour

If students fail to meet classroom, school or Division expectations, a range of responses or consequences may be put in place to address unacceptable behaviour. Edmonton Public Schools' policy outlines the following:

Unacceptable behaviour may be grounds for disciplinary action which provides the student with an opportunity for critical learning and reflection in the areas of personal accountability and responsibility, the development of empathy, as well as communication, conflict resolution, and social skills development.

The specific circumstances of the situation and of the student are taken into account when determining appropriate responses to unacceptable behaviour.

When a student engages in unacceptable behaviour, consequences may include, but are not limited to:

- temporary assignment of a student to an alternate supervised area within the school
- temporary assignment of a student to an alternate learning location
- short term removal of privileges
- interventions such as positive behaviour supports, contracts, counselling, restorative practices
- replacement or reimbursement for loss of or damage to property
- in-school or out-of-school suspension
- referral to Attendance Board
- recommendation for expulsion

Students are expected to cooperate with investigations by school administration. When contemplating and conducting a reasonable search of student property (including electronic devices), school administration must balance a student's reduced expectation of privacy in relation to school matters, with the need to provide a welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environment that respects diversity and fosters a sense of belonging for students and staff.

At Hardisty K-9 School we are committed to ensuring that our school is a safe and productive learning environment. Where necessary, interventions or disciplinary action may be used to address unacceptable behaviour by students.

In all conversations with students and parent, Hardisty staff will respect student dignity and equality. School staff desire to work collaboratively with students and their parents to resolve issues together.

We understand that our students are still developing their identity, judgement and ability to self-regulate. We will take a progressive approach to dealing with conduct and will give students coaching and support to help them make better choices.

Edmonton Public Schools is helping to shape the future in every one of our classrooms. We're focused on ensuring each student learns to their full potential and develops the ability, passion and imagination to pursue their dreams and contribute to their community.

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