

EASTERN SCHOOL DISTRICT

POLICY STATEMENT

SUBJECT: **Caring Places to Learn/Safe School Environment**

DATE OF ADOPTION: April 6, 2011

EFFECTIVE DATE: April 6, 2011

REVIEW DATE:

SUPERSEDES: January 14, 1999

CROSS REFERENCE: Administrative Regulation ADDA-R - Caring Places to Learn/Safe School Environment -

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The Eastern School District is committed to providing a healthy, safe and supportive learning and working environment for students and staff. The Board recognizes that student learning and staff productivity are improved by a positive learning environment.

The District will establish clear expectations of acceptable conduct and develop and implement supporting programs and preventative and intervention procedures.

These expectations will help develop a sense of self discipline in students and the realization that they are responsible and accountable for their actions and decisions. These expectations will acknowledge that staff members are committed to and responsible for knowing and using best professional practice. These expectations will acknowledge the role that parents play, as partners with the school, in modelling and shaping appropriate behaviour in children.

The principle of disciplined caring is the fundamental practice to ensure the promotion of appropriate professional growth, and positive student behaviours. The District will promote the principle of the **Duty of Care** whereby all interpersonal relationships will demonstrate respect for the unique worth of each individual, fair procedural treatment, and persistent and diligent effort to encourage successful performance.

The **Duty of Care** is the fundamental principle that will guide interpersonal relationships and staff, student and parent conduct. In the case of students, the demonstration of care means that they will demonstrate care for themselves, for each other, and for their school and staff. This principle guides professional practices and provides a bench mark guide for continued improvement. This principle guides the conduct of parents, guardians, visitors and volunteers as positive, contributing partners in the school. In the case of alleged violation, it provides a guide to investigation and corrective action.

For staff, the demonstration of care is found in programs and practices based on concern and respect for the individual student or employee, and operationalized through special knowledge, skills, commitment, fair treatment and persistent effort. It is assumed that staff members are responsible for and committed to improving their own professional practices, and that they are accountable for knowing and using good professional practices. This assumes the use of professional judgement whereby staff members recognize a variety of student abilities and needs, and provide programs, teaching strategies, and use of prevention and intervention methods appropriate to the varying circumstances and individual students needs.

The District will not tolerate verbal abuse, abusive language or behaviours that infringe upon the rights of students and/or staff to benefit from a successful and fulfilling learning and working-experience in its schools. In all cases of reported violation, immediate and ongoing attention and care will be given to meet the needs of the victims.

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