



OTTAWA-CARLETON  
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

# Provincial Code of Conduct

On June 16, 2000, the Government of Ontario passed the Code of Conduct legislation, *Safe Schools Act, 2000*, an act to increase respect and responsibility, to set standards for safe learning and safe teaching in schools. Implementation will take place over the next twelve months.

Two new regulations, which went into effect September 1, 2000, will help make all of Ontario's schools safer, more respectful places for learning and teaching.

A new Opening or Closing Exercises regulation under the *Education Act* requires the singing of the national anthem. It also requires students to recite the Canadian *Oath of Citizenship* if principals, in consultation with school councils, determine that the pledge should be recited. Current exemption provisions for school opening and closing exercises remain the same.

To help control violent or unsafe behaviour in schools and on school grounds and make them safer for everyone, a new Access to School Premises regulation defines exactly who can be on school property.

Also in effect September 1, 2000 are the clear standards of behaviour as set out in the new province-wide Code of Conduct for Ontario's schools.

The Ottawa-Carleton District School Board, over the next twelve months, will be developing new policies and revising current policies that set out how our schools will implement and enforce the Provincial Code of Conduct. Until revoked, current OCDSB policies and procedures remain in effect.

The OCDSB adopted the following mission statement last June:

*The Ottawa-Carleton District School Board challenges all students to achieve personal excellence in learning and responsible citizenship within a safe, equitable, diverse and caring environment.*

In support of our mission statement, we will be communicating information to all parents, students and staff in a manner that ensures their commitment and support to the Code of Conduct. This fact sheet on the Standards of Behaviour for Ontario schools will be the first in a series of updates related to the implementation of the Safe Schools Act, 2000.

## Standards of Behaviour – Respect, Civility and Responsible Citizenship

All school members must:

- respect and comply with all applicable federal, provincial and municipal laws

- demonstrate honesty and integrity
- respect differences in people, their ideas and opinions
- treat one another with dignity and respect at all times and especially when there is a disagreement
- respect and treat others fairly, regardless of their race, ancestry, place of origin, colour, ethnic origin, citizenship, religion, gender, sexual orientation, age or disability
- respect the rights of others
- show proper care and regard for school property and the property of others
- take appropriate measures to help those in need
- respect persons who are in a position of authority
- respect the need of others to work in an environment of learning and teaching

## Physical Safety

### Weapons

All school members must:

- not be in possession of any weapon, including but not limited to firearms
- not use any object to threaten or intimidate another person
- not cause injury to any person with an object

### Alcohol and Drugs

All school members must:

- not be in possession of, or under the influence of, or provide others with, alcohol or illegal drugs

### Physical Aggression

All school members must:

- not inflict or encourage others to inflict bodily harm on another person
- seek staff assistance, if necessary, to resolve conflict peacefully

## Further Information

The Code of Conduct is outlined in detail in a booklet, entitled *Ontario Schools: Code of Conduct*, released by the Ministry last April. For a copy of the booklet, contact Access Ontario at 238-3630 or Publications Ontario, 1-800-668-9938.

Published by Communications and Information Services – Revised November 2001

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