STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

Background

STEM Innovation Academy is committed to the establishment and maintenance of a welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environment for its students. Principals have a legal responsibility to provide a welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environment that respects diversity and fosters a sense of belonging.

Students acknowledge STEM Innovation Academy is a non-denominational (in accordance with legislation), co-educational school offering quality instruction to students from grades 7-12. Non-denominational means the school is not affiliated with any single religion. Our students represent a multitude of cultures and religions from around the globe.

Students are expected to be responsible and to conduct themselves in a manner which respects the rights and property of others. Matters of conduct should be approached through a lens of learning and teaching.

Procedures

1. The Student Code of Conduct is to be consistent with the Education Act, the Alberta Human Rights Act, the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and reflect community values.

2. The disclosure of personal information related to issues of student conduct is governed by the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

3. A student shall conduct himself or herself so as to reasonably comply with the following Code of Conduct established pursuant to the Education Act:

    3.1. be diligent in pursuing the student's studies;

    3.2. attend school regularly and punctually;

    3.3. co-operate fully with everyone authorized by the Board to provide education programs and other services;

    3.4. comply with the rules of the school;

    3.5. account to the student's teachers for the student's conduct;

    3.6. respect yourself and the rights of others;

    3.7. ensure that the student's conduct contributes to a welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environment that respects diversity and fosters a sense of belonging;

    3.8. 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; and

3.9. positively contribute to the student's school and community.

4. Students are expected to be respectful, responsible, trustworthy, fair, caring and good citizens.

5. The following behaviours or offenses towards self, peers, staff, volunteers, visitors and/or property will not be tolerated whether or not the behaviour occurs within the school building, or on school property, during the school day or by electronic means:

   5.1. deliberately disrupting the learning of others;

   5.2. acts of bullying, discrimination, intimidation, harassment or violence;

   5.3. creating a disturbance;

   5.4. being disrespectful;

   5.5. being disobedient or defiant;

   5.6. retribution against any person in the school who has intervened to prevent or report bullying or any other incident or safety concern;

   5.7. being dishonest;

   5.8. vandalism;

   5.9. using, possessing or involvement with weapons;

   5.10. using profane, vulgar or inappropriate language;

   5.11. using or possessing cigarettes including e-cigarettes(vaping) or other tobacco products;
   5.12. inappropriately using prescription medications; or

   5.13. use, possession, distribution, or collection of money for illicit drugs, cannabis, cannabis-infused products, alcohol, or inhalants in school, on school board property or in the context of any school-related activity;

   5.14. engaging in any other criminal activities.

6. The school will ensure that reasonable learning opportunities are provided for students in order to foster the development of responsible and respectful conduct.

7. The school will ensure that students who are impacted by behaviours or offenses by others will be provided appropriate supports and services to recover from any negative or harmful effects.

8. The Education Act and this Student Code of Conduct shall apply:

   8.1. to any school or school-sponsored activity whether on or off-campus;

   8.2. to any bus transportation of students, including designated drop-off or pick-up areas;

8.3. to any electronic communications both on or off campus;

8.4. during transportation by volunteer drivers to school-sponsored off-campus activities; and to any other circumstances that impact the school environment.

9. Any violations of this code of conduct will be addressed promptly and in accordance with Board policy and administrative procedures.

The principal will:

1. Provide students, staff and parents with a copy of, or electronic access to, the posted Student Code of Conduct and is communicated at least annually to parents and on an on-going basis to students.

2. Investigate all student complaints of bullying, discrimination, harassment, intimidation or violence in a timely, respectful manner with the primary goal of ending such behaviour through restorative processes, strategies for addressing issues of dispute, or counselling and where deemed necessary, through disciplinary action including suspension or expulsion.

3. Develop awareness in the school community that bullying is defined 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.

4. Support Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week.

Approved: September 2021

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