

Policy Title	Safe and Accepting Schools		
Date of Issue	June 19, 2001	Related Procedure	AP 6820-D; AP 6825-D; AP 6821-D; AP 6819-D, AP 6822-D; AP 6826-D
Revision Dates	February 11, 2004, January 22, 2008, January 19, 2010, June 15, 2010, February 21, 2012, September 17, 2013	Related Forms	AF 6410; AF 6408; AF 6819 (e-Form Part I & II); AF 2810
Review Date	September 1, 2018	Originator	Board of Trustees
References			
<p><u>The Education Act; The Child and Family Services Act; The Trespass to Property Act; Youth Criminal Justice Act; Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act; Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms; Regulation 472/07 - Suspension and Expulsion 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 and AP 6301-D "Antiracism and Ethnocultural Equity"; BP and AP 6806-D "Drug, Alcohol and Tobacco Standards and Education"; BP and AP 6810-D "Safe Arrival"; BP and AP 7522-D "Assault, Sexual Abuse"; BP and AP 6825-D "Progressive Discipline-Students"; BP and AP 6850-D "Child Maltreatment (Suspected) Reporting"; AP 6801-D "Police/School Protocol"; BP and AP 6821-D "Bullying Prevention and Intervention"; BP and AP 1604-D "Communications – Addressing Parent/Community Concerns".</u></p>			

Policy:

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 Basic to a Safe and Accepting Schools policy is the premise 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 The 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 establishing and maintaining a safe and secure environment for its students, staff and community through the implementation of an effective Safe and Accepting Schools policy
- 2.2 Bluewater District School Board is committed to ensuring that its school community is a safe 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.

- 2.3 No degree of violence, threat or risk to the safety of students or adults is acceptable in the school system. For any act of violence, however expressed, there will be an appropriate consequence, which may result in parallel but separate school and legal consequences.

3.0 SYSTEM EXPECTATIONS

- 3.1 Bluewater District School Board staff will ensure that the measures prescribed in this and other related policies and procedures to ensure safe and accepting schools are addressed.
- 3.2 Bluewater District School Board will require 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.
- 3.3 It is the principal's responsibility to address disruptive behaviour in partnership with the school staff, the parents and the community.
- 3.4 A progressive discipline approach will be used to address disruptive behaviour wherever possible.