

PARENT CODE OF CONDUCT

The Phoenix Education Foundation (hereafter called Phoenix) has high expectations for standards of behavior for its organization, which includes students, parents, staff members, volunteers, and Board members. **Phoenix believes that all its members have the right to learn and work in a welcoming, caring, respectful and safe environment.** Phoenix will not tolerate any form of abuse, harassment or unacceptable behavior by anyone associated with Phoenix.

Definition of Terms:

- **Parent** - means in respect of a student (Grades 1-12) or child enrolled in an early childhood services program, the relevant individual referred to in subsection (2) of the Education Act.
- **Student** - means a person who is in accordance to the School Act:
 1. Enrolled in a school or
 2. Required under section 7 to attend school but does not include a child younger than 6 years of age who is enrolled in an early childhood services program.
- **Principal** – means a teacher designated as a principal by the operator, who must hold a valid teaching certificate and may not be the operator or a voting member of the board of directors.
- **Private School** – means a school registered under section 29 of Education Act.

References:

This policies references the Education Act, Section 1, 2. Part 1, Section 9 (2,4). Part 2, Section 3 (29,30). Part 3, Sections 31, 32, and the Private Schools Regulation, Sections 12, 19, 20, 21.

The Parent Code of Conduct includes:

- a) Scope of Parent Responsibilities;
- b) Unacceptable Behavior;
- c) The consequences faced by parents when they are found responsible for unacceptable behavior;
- d) ECS Programs

Scope of Responsibilities (Education Act Section 32)

A parent has the prior right to choose the kind of education that shall be provided to the parent's child, and as a partner in education, has the responsibility to:

- (a) act as the primary guide and decision-maker with respect to the child's education,
- (b) take an active role in the child's educational success, including assisting the child in complying with section 31,
- (c) ensure that the child attends school regularly,
- (d) ensure that the parent's conduct contributes to a welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environment,
- (e) co-operate and collaborate with school staff to support the delivery of specialized supports and services to the child,
- (f) encourage, foster and advance collaborative, positive and respectful relationships with teachers, principals, other school staff and professionals providing supports and services in the school, and

(g) engage in the child's school community.

Parents may be held responsible and accountable to the school and its agents for their behavior and conduct:

- a) While they are involved in Phoenix sponsored activities;
- b) At Phoenix facilities;
- c) While traveling to and from Phoenix activities;
- d) Beyond the hours of Phoenix operations, if the behavior or conduct detrimentally affects the governance, climate, or efficiency of Phoenix.

Unacceptable Behavior

- a) May be observed by anyone at Phoenix, including students, other parents, staff and visitors;
- b) May be conducted in person, in writing, or via electronic means;
- c) Must be reported to a Phoenix staff member or a member of the Board of Directors.
- d) Will be documented utilizing the appropriate school form.

Some examples of unacceptable behavior include but are not limited to:

- a) Possession of or active contact with a weapon on a person or in a locker or desk;
- b) The use of physical aggression towards another adult or child or threatening to do actual bodily harm to a member of school staff, visitor, fellow parent or student regardless of whether or not the behavior constitutes a criminal offense.
- c) Disruptive behavior which interferes or threatens to interfere with the operation of a classroom, an employee's office, office area or any other area of the school grounds.
- d) Using loud/or offensive language, swearing, cursing, using profane language or displaying temper.
- e) Abusive or threatening emails or text/voicemail/phone messages or other written communication
- f) Distribution or display of offensive messages or pictures;
- g) Theft;
- h) Willful damage to Phoenix' or others' property;
- i) Use of, possession of, distribution of, under the influence of or any active contact with drugs, alcohol, or inhalants in the Phoenix facility or in the context of any Phoenix activity;
- j) Personal or sexual harassment;
- k) Extortion;
- l) Failure to complete or comply with any of the parental responsibilities as outlined in Section 32 of the Education Act.
- m) Defamatory, offensive or derogatory comments regarding any of the students, parents, staff or the school on Facebook or other social sites. Any concerns students may have about students, parents, staff or the school must be made through the appropriate channels by speaking to a teacher, Principal, or Administrator, so they can be dealt with fairly, appropriately and effectively for all concerned.
- n) Approaching someone else's child in order to discuss or chastise them because of the actions of this child towards their own child. (Such an approach to a child may be seen to be an assault on that child and may have legal consequences).

Consequences for Breaching the Parent Code of Conduct

Consequences for Breaching the Parent Code of Conduct will be determined by the Principal or Administrator. At the Principal's or Administrator's discretion, the Board of Directors may be asked to review and/or apply disciplinary action. Consequences may include one or more of the following:

- a) A warning letter from the Principal or Administration staff;
- b) Suspension from attending programs, classes, field trips, etc with their children;
- c) Reporting of the parent to appropriate Agencies such as Social Services, the Truancy Board and so on;
- d) In the event that any parent of a child/ren being educated in the school is found to be posting libelous or defamatory comments on Facebook or other social network sites, they will be reported to the appropriate 'report abuse' section of the network site. All social network sites have clear rules about the content which can be posted on the site and they provide robust mechanisms to report content or activity which breaches this. The school will also expect that any parent/carer removes such comments immediately.
- e) Legal action.

ECS Programs

The ECS program is not a mandatory educational program in Alberta and doesn't fall under the School Act. The Principal or Administrator reserves the right to apply disciplinary action, as above, to anyone for breaching the Parent Code of Conduct.

As stated in Section 30 (3) of the School Act:

If a child referred to in subsection (1) (a) of the School Act attends a program under this section, the child is not, by reason of attending that program;

- a) A resident student of the board, or
- b) Entitled to any of the rights or benefits given to a student under the Student Act.

Date Reviewed: May 25, 2017, March 8, 2023