



*Office of the Director of Education*

January 29, 2008

Dear Parent/Guardian:

The Education Act permits the Minister of Education to establish a code of conduct that governs the behaviour of all persons in schools. On June 4, 2007 the Provincial Government introduced and passed Bill 212. As a result of this new Bill, a revised Provincial Code of Conduct has been established by the Ministry of Education. Bill 212, and all new and revised policies including the new Provincial Code of Conduct, will come into effect on February 1, 2008.

In addition to requiring school boards to establish codes of conduct, the Education Act permits school boards to require principals to establish a local code of conduct governing the behaviour of persons in the school. All local codes of conduct must be consistent with the Provincial Code of Conduct and with the TCDSB Code of Conduct.

The central Safe Schools Advisory Committee, with input from the wider community through an extensive survey, has put forward a revised TCDSB Code of Conduct policy, which was approved by the Board of Trustees on January 23, 2008. The major changes to the policy are outlined below:

- Extending the right to discipline to include actions that are off school property and outside of school activities where activity has a negative impact on the school climate.
- Adding "Bullying" to the list of infractions for which suspension must be considered.
- Removing the power of principals to expel and the power of teachers to suspend.
- Requiring that a suspension shall be for no less than one school day and no more than 20 school days.
- Removing the process of senior board personnel to review a suspension.
- Revising the committee of a board that would hear suspension appeals or hold expulsion hearings to at least three members of the board.
- Revising the timeframe that a board must hear and determine a suspension appeal to within 15 school days of receiving a notice of appeal, unless the parties agree on a later deadline.
- Replacing the existing regime of mandatory suspensions and expulsions with a more discretionary model.
- Adding as a party to a suspension appeal or expulsion hearing a pupil who is 16 or 17 years old and has withdrawn from parental control.
- Requiring schools to provide programs to suspended pupils and expelled pupils.
- Maintaining the status of expelled pupils as pupils of a school board so long as they are in attendance in a program provided by that board.
- Please note that the rules established at the local school to deal with such things as dress code, sign-in/out office procedures and restrictions on students leaving school property still apply.

The revised Code of Conduct policy and all policies pertaining to safe schools are posted on the TCDSB website at [www.tcdsb.org](http://www.tcdsb.org). We remain focussed and continue to give priority to ensuring that all of our schools are welcoming and safe learning and working environments...where your children feel safe.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin Kobus".

Kevin Kobus  
Director of Education

Cc: Trustees, Superintendents, Principals and Vice-Principals