

Safe Schools Legislation

Bill 157: Keeping Our Kids Safe at School Act, 2009

Responding to Incidents:

All LDSB employees who work directly with students are required to respond to incidents that may have a negative impact on the climate of the school community. At the time of the incident, all employees must respond in a manner that protects the personal safety of the respondent and the safety of others. If it is unsafe to respond, the staff member is required to report to the principal as soon as possible.

Reporting Incidents:

Individuals who become aware of a student who may have engaged in an activity for which Suspension (306) or Expulsion (310) must be considered, are required to report in writing to the Principal the details of the activity no later than the end of the school day. The following is a list of the individuals who must report according to Limestone District School Board Procedures: all Board Employees as well as Crossing Guards, Bus Drivers, Cafeteria Staff, School Resource Officers, Yard Supervisors, Contractors, Trustees, and Co-op Employers, among others.

Follow-up to Reports:

For reports involving a victim who has been harmed as a result of any incident that must be considered for suspension or expulsion, principals are required to inform the victimized student's parent/guardian. The information provided to the parent/guardian will deal with the nature of the harm, the nature of the activity that resulted in the harm, and the nature of steps being taken to protect their child. This may include disciplinary measures taken in response to the activity causing harm.

**A positive school climate,
with a safe learning and
teaching environment, is
essential for students to
succeed in school.**

A Culture of Reporting and Care:

All stakeholders share the responsibility to nurture a safe, healthy and caring school environment.

Reporting incidents of an urgent nature should occur verbally to the principal and then in writing using the specified Report Form for Board employees. Principals will investigate all reports submitted verbally and/or in writing.

Through communication, and knowledge of Board policy and ministry regulations, staff of the Limestone District School Board are committed to maintaining safe, welcoming, and caring school environments.

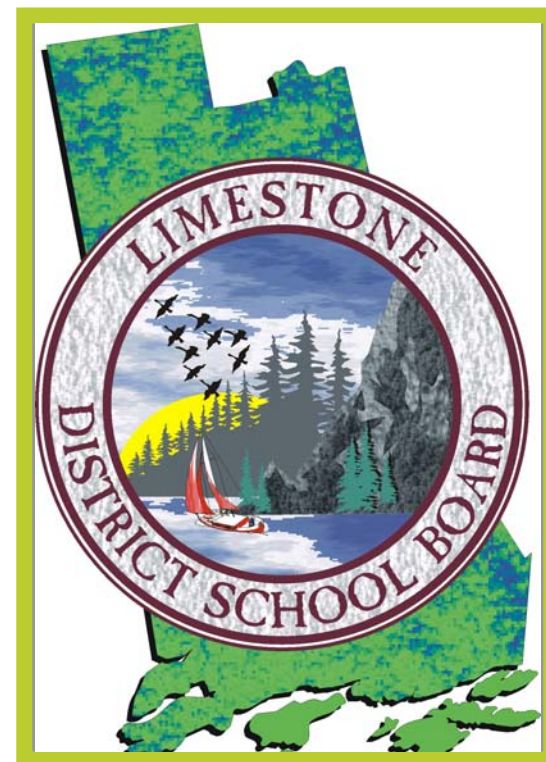
Assistance to Students: School staff are committed to supporting all students who have been victimized and/or who have reported incidents of bullying, gender-based violence, homophobia, and sexual harassment. Where appropriate, contact information about professional supports will be made available.

Assistance to Parents: School administration will assist the parents of students harmed by incidents for which a suspension or expulsion must be considered, as well as the parents of students identified as aggressors. The school administration will provide the parents with appropriate resources and support that will help parents nurture the well-being of their children.

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Limestone District School Board

Safe Schools Legislation

“Our Students, Our Future”

To view Board Procedures go to
www.limestone.on.ca

For Ministry Legislation go to
<http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/index.html>

Safe Schools Legislation

Bill 212: An Act to amend the Education Act (Progressive Discipline & School Safety), 2007

Activities for which a principal shall consider suspension under section 306(1) of the Education Act:

- Uttering a threat to inflict serious bodily harm on another person
- Possessing alcohol or illegal drugs
- Being under the influence of alcohol or drugs
- Swearing at a teacher or another person in a position of authority
- Committing an act of vandalism that causes damage to school property at the pupil's school or to a property located on the premises of the pupil's school
- Engaging in another activity that, under a policy/procedure of the board, is one for which a suspension may be considered-specify
- Discriminating against another person's race, sexuality, or religion
- Persistent truancy
- Persistent opposition to authority
- Habitual neglect of duty
- The willful destruction of school property
- Conduct injurious to the moral tone of the school or to the physical or mental well-being of others in the school
- Smoking on school property
- Bullying

Mitigating Factors:

The Principal will consider the reasons (factors) why a student may have behaved as he or she did. Some of these factors may affect (or mitigate) the discipline imposed for the behaviour. More information about suspensions and expulsions can be found on the Board website. Mitigating factors does not mean that there will be no consequences for inappropriate conduct.

Activities for which a principal shall suspend a student, pending a possible recommendation for expulsion under section 310(1) of the Education Act:

- Possessing a weapon, including possessing a firearm
- Using a weapon to cause or to threaten bodily harm to another person
- Committing physical assault on another person that causes bodily harm requiring treatment by a medical practitioner
- Committing sexual assault
- Trafficking in weapons or in illegal drugs
- Committing robbery
- Giving alcohol or drugs to a minor
- The student's pattern of behaviour is so refractory that the pupil's presence is injurious to the effective learning and/or working environment of others
- The student has engaged in activities that cause the student's continuing presence in the school to be injurious to the physical or mental well-being of others in the school
- The student has engaged in activities that cause extensive damage to the property of the Board or to goods that are on Board property
- The student has demonstrated through a pattern of behaviour that he/she has not prospered by the instruction available to him/her and that he/she is persistently resistant to making the changes in behaviour which would enable him/her to prosper
- Any other activity that is an activity for which a principal must suspend a student under a Policy of the Board and, accordingly, must also conduct an investigation to determine whether to recommend to the Board that the student be expelled

SAFE SCHOOLS In Diverse and Inclusive Communities

“All of us... staff, students, parents, and community agencies... have a part to play in making schools safer” Keeping Our Kids Safe at School Act, 2009

What is Progressive Discipline?

In Progressive Discipline, the school Administrator and staff may work in several ways to try and change a student's misbehaviour while the student continues to go to school. Where possible, restorative practices will be used as part of the response to student misbehavior with the aim of resolving the root cause(s) of an issue and providing a structured format for positive discussion. However, on occasion, when the behaviour of a student is harmful to himself or herself, or harmful to others in the school, steps may need to be taken to immediately remove the student from school.

What is the Code of Conduct?

The Code of Conduct outlines what behavior is expected in a school and what happens when someone does not behave acceptably. Copies of the Code of Conduct are in every student's agenda. The Code of Conduct used in a school is also discussed yearly with students at Safe Schools assemblies and reviewed yearly by the School Council, whose members include representatives from the school's parents, guardians, staff, and community.

Students, staff and parents can expect to be treated with respect and fairness; all are expected to follow the Code of Conduct. Progressive Discipline may be applied when behaviours do not meet these standards.

What is Considered Misbehaviour?

When a student misbehaves, he or she acts in a way that is harmful or hurtful to himself or herself or to others, or acts in a way that negatively impacts the safe and caring environment expected in our schools.