

Parents

Sources of reference: *School Act*, *School Act Regulations* and *Ministerial Orders*

“Parents: have the right and responsibility to participate in the process of determining the education goals, policies and services provided for their children. They have a primary responsibility to ensure that children are provided with the healthy and supportive environment necessary for learning. They have a responsibility to shape and support the goals of the school system and to share in the tasks of educating their young.”

BC Ministry of Education, Statement of Education Policy Order 1989

Parents have the right to:

- enroll their child in a school of their choice in BC where the board decides there is a facility and space (*SA Section 2*)
- receive an educational program for their child provided in English, or in French if the child is eligible (*SA Section 3*)
- enroll their child in an educational program on the first day of a school year if, on or before December 31 of that school year, the child will be five-years-old, or defer the enrollment of their five-year-old child until the first school day of the next school year (*SA Section 3*)
- be informed about their children’s attendance, behaviour and progress in school (*SA Section 7*)
- belong to a Parent Advisory Council (*SA Section 7*)
- provide volunteer services at or for a school as long as the service does not displace an employee. (*SA Section 7.1*)
- receive on request, a copy of the school plan for the school and the accountability contract for the school district (*SA Section 7*)
- run for election as a parent representative to the District Parent Advisory Council (*SA Section 8*)
- run for election as a parent representative to a School Planning Council (SPC) position if not employed by any school district (*SA Section 8*)
- appeal a decision, or failure to make a decision, of an employee to the board, where that decision significantly affects the education health or safety of their child. A board may refuse to hear the appeal unless the parent discusses the decision with one or more persons as directed by the board. (*SA Section 11*)
- educate their child at home or elsewhere (*Section 12*)
- be consulted through a school board process when the board is considering a school calendar that is different from the standard school calendar for the school their child attends. (*SA Section 78*)
- examine, on request and while accompanied by the principal or designate, all student records kept by a board regarding their child (*SA Section 9*)
- receive a copy of any student record they are entitled to examine, on payment of a fee if applicable (*SA Section 9*)
- receive the most recent Student Learning Plan of their child in grades 9-12 as required under the curriculum, if any (*Student Progress Report Order*)

- consult with a teacher or principal regarding their child's educational program (*SA Section 7*)
- be consulted regarding placement of their child with special needs in an educational program, and have their child integrated with other students who do not have special needs unless the educational needs of their child or other students indicate otherwise (*Special Needs Student Order*)
- be consulted about the preparation their child's Individual Education Plan. (*Individual Education Plan Order*)

Parents have the responsibility to:

- register their child in an educational program (*SA Section 3*)
- consult with a teacher or principal about their child's educational program if requested (*SA Section 7*)
- be held liable, with their child, for property of the board that is destroyed, damaged, lost or converted by an intentional or negligent act of their child. (*SA Section 10*)

Teachers

Sources of reference: *School Act, School Act Regulations and Ministerial Orders*

Teachers have the right to:

- exercise professional judgement in providing instruction to students
- be consulted on class size and class composition (*SA Section 76.2*)
- provide consent whether a class in Grades 4 to 7 exceeds 30 students. (*SA Section 76.2*)

Teachers have the responsibility to:

- design, supervise and assess educational programs and provide instruction to individual students and groups of students (*SA Section 17*)
- hold a certificate of qualification as a teacher or a letter of permission issued under the Teaching Profession Act (*SA Section 19*)
- provide teaching and other educational services, including advice and instructional assistance to the students assigned to them (*School Regulation*)
- provide such assistance as the board or principal considers necessary for the supervision of students on school premises and at school functions, whenever and wherever held (*School Regulation*)

“Teachers: have the right to exercise professional judgment in providing instruction to students in accordance with specified duties and powers. They have a corresponding responsibility to ensure that each student is provided with quality instruction, to participate in all normal school activities and to monitor the behavior and progress of each learner in accordance with provincial and local policies. They have a responsibility to communicate with students and parents, and are accountable to the School Board and its delegates.”

BC Ministry of Education, Statement of Education Policy Order, 1989

- ensure that students understand and comply with the codes of conduct governing their behaviour and with the rules and policies governing the operation of the school (*School Regulation*)
- assist in providing programs to promote students’ intellectual development, human and social development and career development (*School Regulation*)
- maintain records required by the minister, the board and the school principal (*School Regulation*)
- encourage regular attendance of students assigned to them (*School Regulation*)
- evaluate education programs for students as required by the minister or the board (*School Regulation*)
- evaluate each students’ intellectual development, human and social development and career development and educational programs, administering and grading required graduation program exams (*School Regulation*)
- ensure the security of Provincial exams and keep completed Provincial exams for any period of time set by the minister (*School Regulation*)
- provide information about students assigned to them, as required by the minister, board or, subject to the approval of the board, a parent (*School Regulation*)
- verify the accuracy of the information provided to the minister when required by the minister (*School Regulation*)
- regularly provide parents or guardians of students with reports about the student’s school progress (*School Regulation*)
- attend all meetings or conferences called by the principal or superintendent of schools to discuss matters they consider necessary unless excused by them from attending (*School Regulation*)
- admit student teachers to their classroom, provide assistance to them and submit reports on their teaching ability or other matters relating to their work (*School Regulation*)
- discipline students in a manner similar to that of a kind, firm and judicious parent. (*SA Section 76*)