

TEACHING STAFF DUTY OF CARE RESPONSIBILITIES

Background

The District believes that the rights of its professional staff are accompanied by essential responsibilities.

Procedures

1. The following procedures apply to the responsibilities of the District's teaching staff in relation to their daily dealings with students entrusted to their care.
 - 1.1. Each teacher is required by the regulations to the *School Act* to provide teaching and other educational services, including advice and instructional assistance, to the students assigned by the District or the Minister of Education.
 - 1.2. Each teacher is required under common law to maintain care that school activities are conducted in a suitable manner. When instructions or directions for the safety of students in school are issued, the age and ability of the students must be taken into account. If there are any special categories of students for whom different standards would apply, additional considerations may be necessary.
 - 1.3. The regulations to the School Act require each teacher to provide such assistance as is necessary for the supervision of students in school premises and at school functions, whenever and wherever held. Students are to be under the supervision of a member of the school staff at all reasonable times while they are on school premises or attending school functions.
 - 1.4. All dangerous conditions in the school premises are to be immediately reported to the Principal.
 - 1.5. All overnight or out-of-city field trips are to be approved by the Principal and area Associate Superintendent. If there are any questions concerning the trip, the Principal is to investigate the matter and either disapprove the trip or impose appropriate limitations. Only students whose parents have signed permission slips are to be permitted to participate in the trip. The slip is to indicate an acknowledgement by the parents of the nature of the trip and the time supervision of students will end. While such permission slips do not absolve school personnel of responsibility for negligence, they are important evidence that the parent had knowledge of, and gave consent to, the student's participation.
 - 1.6. Principals are to arrange for appropriate warning signs to be posted in shops, parking areas, and other potentially dangerous places.
 - 1.7. It is advisable for the Principal to review with the teaching staff from time to time school rules regarding students' safety.
2. The foregoing procedures are only intended to give the teaching staff a general outline of their responsibilities. Many individual instances of responsibility could be added. A teacher, like anyone else, is liable for their negligent acts. Teachers are to take the same reasonable

precautions for the safety of the students under their supervision as a responsible parent would take. If this approach is used, there is little danger of any claim for damages.

Reference: Sections 17, 20, 22, 65, 85 School Act
Teachers' Act
School Regulation 265/89

Adopted: October 18, 1982

Revised: August 1, 1990; September 1994; December 1996; January 1999; September 24, 2018