



STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS

Background

Student demonstrations and walk-outs are sometimes organized by students, and sometimes encouraged by entities and movements outside the school. As outlined in Board *Policy 1: Board Mandate, Mission, Vision, Values and Goals*, the division's responsibility is to provide a safe and caring learning environment while ensuring instructional hours are maximized. As a result, protests and demonstrations should occur outside of school hours and off of school grounds.

This procedure is supported by Section 31 of the *Education Act*, which calls for students to attend school regularly and punctually, be diligent in pursuing their education, and be ready to learn. The procedure is also supported by Section 256 of the *Education Act* which states that no person shall disturb or interrupt the proceedings of a school, loiter or trespass in a school building or a property owned by a board, or conduct themselves in a manner detrimental to the safe operation of a school.

Procedures

1. Staff shall not encourage students to engage in a demonstration or walkout of the school unless it is aligned with Board policy, approved by the school principal, planned in advance, supervised by the school principal, or designate, and approved by the parent or guardian of each participant.
2. Students wishing to engage in a walk-out shall ensure they have parental consent by following the school's protocol for absenteeism. Students who walk-out without parent or guardian's permission are subject to normal protocols for unexcused absences.
3. Principals should monitor any demonstration or walk-out that occurs on school grounds and ensure they do not contravene Section 256 of the *Education Act*.
4. In the event of a walk-out or demonstration, staff are to remain with their regularly scheduled classes and/or duties unless assigned alternate duties by their principal.

References

Sections 31, 256, *Education Act*