

Legislated Authority of Superintendent of Schools

Source of reference: *School Act*

A school board appoints a superintendent of schools for the school district. The superintendent is accountable to the school board and on some matters, to the Minister of Education. A board may also appoint one or more assistant superintendents of schools to perform duties assigned by the superintendent of schools for that school district.

Under the board's direction, the superintendent:

- has general supervision and direction over the educational staff employed in the district
- is responsible for the general organization, administration, supervision and evaluation of all educational programs the operation of schools in that district, and
- must perform other duties set out in the regulations.

“District Officials: have a duty to exercise professional judgment in managing the district in accordance with specified powers and duties. They have a corresponding responsibility to provide professional leadership in the design and implementation of education programs in districts, and are accountable to the local school board.”

BC Ministry of Education, Statement of Education Policy Order 1989

Legislated Authority of Secretary-Treasurers

Sources of reference: *School Regulation*

The secretary-treasurer is the board's corporate financial officer and is responsible for:

- complying with the accounting and administrative procedures specified by the minister
- keeping a record of the proceedings of the board
- performing those duties assigned by the board
- performing the duties specified by the *School Act* and rules and regulations made under it.

Students

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

Students have the right to:

- enroll in an educational program between the ages of 5 and 19 (*SA Section 2*)
- enroll in an educational program in any school in BC subject to the board determining there is available space and facilities, or in the case of a distributed learning school, capacity to deliver an educational program (*SA Section 2*)

“Students: have the opportunity to avail themselves of a quality education consistent with their abilities, the opportunity to share in the shaping of their educational programs, and the opportunity to determine their career and occupational goals. They have the responsibility to make the most of their opportunities, to respect the rights of others, and to cooperate with fellow students in the achievement of their goals.”

BC Ministry of Education, Statement of Education Policy Order 1989

- enroll in one or more educational programs under section 3 if the student is in any of grades 10-12 and receives instruction through distributed learning (*SA Section 3.1*)
- consult with a teacher or principal with regard to their educational program (*SA Section 4*)
- receive instruction in English (or in a language other than English if the students’ parents are eligible under section 23 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms) (*SA Section 5*)
- examine, on request and while accompanied by the principal or designate, their student records (*SA Section 9*)
- receive a copy of their student records, although they may be requested to pay a fee (*SA Section 9*)
- appeal to the school board decisions (or a staff member’s failure to make a decision) by any school employee which affect the student’s education health or safety (*SA Section 11*)
- if the student has a special need, to receive an educational program in a classroom and to be integrated with other students who do not have special needs, unless the educational needs of the student or other students indicate the educational program for the student with special needs should be provided otherwise. (*Special Needs Student Order*)
- if the student has a special need, where appropriate, the opportunity to be consulted about the preparation of their Individual Education Plan (IEP) (*Individual Education Plan Order*)
- be offered student learning activities in accordance with the IEP designed for that student. (*Individual Education Plan Order*)

Students have the responsibility to:

- participate in an educational program until at least 16-years-old (*SA Section 3*)
- comply with the school rules authorized by the principal of the school and the code of conduct and other rules and policies of the board (*SA Section 6*)
- participate in an educational program as directed by the board (*SA Section 6*)
- be held liable with their parents for board property that is destroyed, damaged, lost or converted by an intentional or negligent act. (*SA Section 10*)

Children's Human Rights (Plain Language Version)

The Declaration, adopted Nov. 20, 1959 by the United Nations and ratified by Canada in 1991, includes the following principles for all children:

All children have the right to what follows, no matter what their race, colour, sex, language religion, political or other opinion, or where they were born or to whom they were born.

1. You have the special right to grow up in a healthy and normal way, free and with dignity.
 2. You have a right to a name and to be a member of a country.
 3. You have a right to good food, housing and medical care.
 4. You have the right to special care if handicapped in any way.
 5. You have the right to love and understanding, preferably from parents, but from government where you have no parent.
 6. You have the right to go to school for free, to play, and to have an equal chance to be what you are and to learn to be responsible and useful.
 7. You have the right always to be among the first to get help.
 8. You have the right not to be harmed and not to be hired for work until old enough.
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