

## Chapter 3

# Discipline and Safety

### **ABSTRACT**

*To have a positive learning environment, schools must be safe, and students must be well-disciplined. One important task of teachers and administrators is to maintain order and discipline in schools and in school-related activities. This chapter presents the information on discipline and student safety in the California Education Code and the Chinese Education Act. Again, it focuses on the Ontario Education Act and related statutes and regulations. The chapter contains sections from the Ontario Education Act concerning consequences for inappropriate student behaviour. It also has information respecting rules administrators and teachers shall follow when they discipline students who have engaged in inappropriate activities.*

Pupils are expected to comply with educational regulations. California Education Code Title 2 Division 4 Part 27 Chapter 6 section 48908 presents that all pupils shall comply with the regulations, pursue the required course of study, and submit to the authority of their teachers. The Chinese Education Act uses the expression of education receivers for all students in the Chinese education system. Chapter 5 section 44 of the Act indicates that education receivers shall comply with laws and regulations, follow the student code of conduct, respect teachers and parents, form moral behavior, study diligently, and complete prescribed learning tasks.

Part I section 11 subsection (27) of the Ontario Education Act states that the Ministry of Education may make regulations prescribing the duties of

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pupils. Regulation 298/1990 Operation of Schools stipulates requirements for pupils.

Section 23 subsection (1) of the Regulation states that a pupil shall,

- (a) be diligent in attempting to master such studies as are part of the program in which the pupil is enrolled;
- (b) exercise self-discipline;
- (c) accept such discipline as would be exercised by a kind, firm and judicious parent;
- (d) attend classes punctually and regularly;
- (e) be courteous to fellow pupils and obedient and courteous to teachers;
- (f) be clean in person and habits;
- (g) take such tests and examinations as are required by or under the Act or as may be directed by the Minister; and
- (h) show respect for school property.

Subsection (2) stipulates that when a pupil returns to school after an absence, a parent of the pupil shall give the reason for the absence orally or in writing as the principal requires.

Subsection (3) indicates that a pupil may be excused by the principal from attendance at school temporarily at any time at the written request of a parent of the pupil. Subsection (4) stipulates that every pupil is responsible for his or her conduct to the principal of the school on the school premises, on out-of-school activities that are part of the school program, and while travelling on a school bus owned by a board or on a bus or school bus under contract to a board.

Although Regulation 298 has these requirements, there are pupils who do not meet these requirements. Education Act section 264 subsection (1) clause (e) stipulates that one of teachers' duties is to maintain, under the direction of the principal, proper order, and discipline in the teacher's classroom and while on duty in the school and on the school ground.

Regulation 298 also prescribes duties of teachers respecting discipline.

Section 20 clause (h) states that a teacher shall co-operate with the principal and other teachers to establish and maintain consistent disciplinary practices in the school. A teacher is also expected to maintain disciplinary practices during out-of-school activities that are part of the school program. For some teachers, particularly new teachers, student

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