EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Student Rights and Responsibilities

2026-2027

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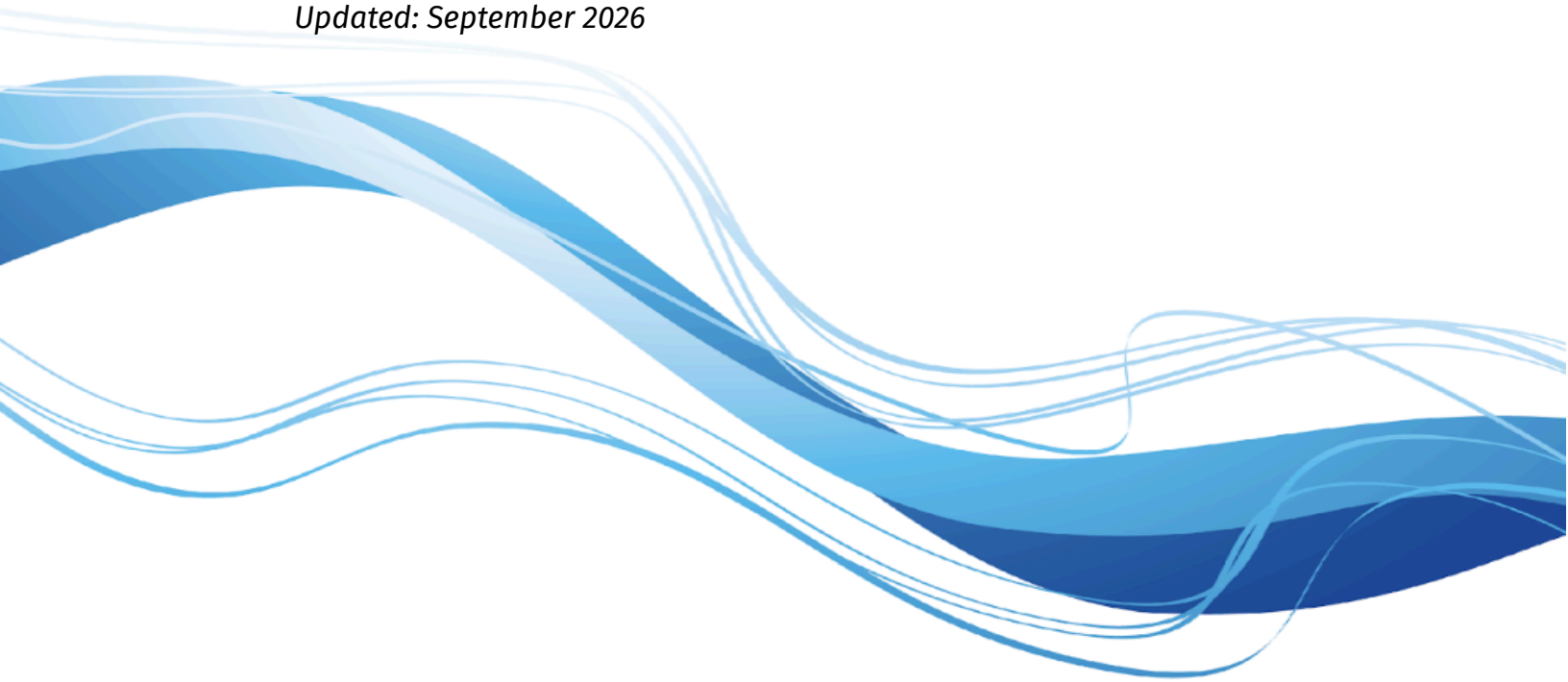

Our Commitment to High Quality Learning Environments

At Edmonton Public, we are deeply committed to the well-being and success of students. Each student deserves a caring, inclusive, safe, and healthy learning environment that supports their learning, respects diversity, and nurtures a sense of belonging.

As a Division, we have established clear behaviour expectations for all students, from Kindergarten to Grade 12. The expectations are outlined in the Board's Student Behaviour and Conduct Policy which was developed in consultation with students, parents, staff, and community members. The policy outlines the rights, responsibilities, and expectations of students, and the potential responses when students demonstrate inappropriate behaviour.

The role of families in their child's education is a vital one in promoting positive student behaviour. Partnerships with families continue to make a difference for students and staff. By working together, we can ensure high quality learning environments where students can grow and thrive.

Saadiq Sumar, Board Chair

Student Success and Safety—Our Highest Priorities

It is our shared responsibility to ensure that each student can learn and realize their potential within a safe and caring learning environment. In addition to teaching the necessary learning outcomes, our schools are places where students can develop the character and skills needed to become responsible, respectful, compassionate and successful citizens.

School staff use the *Education Act*, S.A. 2012, c.E-03, Board Policy HG.BP—Student Behaviour and Conduct and Administrative Regulation HG.AR – Student Behaviour and Conduct as the basis for creating this **Student Rights and Responsibilities** document. This document is designed to communicate expectations, and balances the overarching rights and responsibilities that are communicated in our policy with the unique context of each school. The expectations and processes outlined in this document are implemented by principals in collaboration with school staff, parents and local communities.

Ensuring each student can thrive in a safe, innovative and caring learning environment is essential to our work in improving student achievement and high school completion rates. By working together to promote positive attitudes and responsible, respectful behaviour in our schools, we believe students will receive the greatest benefit during their educational journey.

Ron Thompson, Superintendent of Schools

Supporting Student Success

Members of the Edmonton Public Schools community, including students, parents, staff and trustees, have a shared responsibility to help students be successful in school. Safety and well-being is fundamental to our students thriving as learners, and experiencing success and fulfillment both at school and in their lives. This Student Rights and Responsibilities document has been created to communicate clear expectations for how our students are expected to behave in order to ensure they become the best students and citizens they can be.

Parents support their child's success and positive behaviour by:

- taking an active role in their child's personal and academic success
- reviewing expectations outlined in this document with their child and helping them develop the skills required to meet expectations set out by the school, the Division, and the Province.
- helping them to attend school regularly and punctually
- encouraging and modeling collaborative, positive and respectful relationships with others in the school community
- contributing to a caring, respectful, and safe learning environment
- reporting to the school any circumstances which may impact student safety
- talking with their child(ren) about the potential risks and benefits of technology, responsible internet and social media use (including online profiles, group chats, and chats on gaming consoles), and the importance of respecting privacy and protecting personal information in age-appropriate ways.

Students are responsible for their behaviour and effort, and are expected to:

- contribute to a safe and caring environment that fosters and maintains respectful and responsible behaviours
- learn, practice and demonstrate positive personal and interpersonal skills and attributes
- use their abilities and talents to gain maximum learning benefit from their school experience
- attend school regularly and punctually
- be accountable for behaviour which impacts others in the school, whether or not the behaviour occurs within the school building or during the school day or by electronic means

School staff will help your child succeed by:

- providing an inclusive learning environment that commits to safety, caring and respect for all
- ensuring that students and parents understand the school's expectations for student behaviour
- establishing supports and processes at the school to proactively guide positive student behaviour
- helping students develop and practice the skills and attributes to meet these expectations
- working with students, parents and other school staff to address behaviour concerns, including implementing appropriate responses to address inappropriate student behaviour

To support a shared understanding of the language and intent of this document, refer to the glossary for a definition of terms.

Our Belief and Commitment

At Westmount School we believe:

At Westmount Junior High, we are committed to ensuring our school is a welcoming, caring, respectful, and safe learning environment for all students. We are a learning community of students, parents, teachers and supporters dedicated to providing opportunity and community to prepare young people for the next steps in their school career. We take pride in supporting students to learn from adversity and encourage them to reach their full potential. Our goal is to help students become productive and informed citizens inside and outside our school community. Staff, students, parents and all community stakeholders will treat each other with respect and dignity.

Westmount believes in nurturing and developing independent, responsible and reflective learners. As educators, it is our duty to empower our students and strengthen their academic and social well-being. Relationship building and student engagement are the focus of all interactions between students and staff. We intend to address student needs and assist them in gaining confidence, empathy, compassion and skills that guide them to explore the world with curiosity and imagination. Our staff are a valuable support system to students, and we recognize that having our students feel safe, supported and respected is crucial to the development of the whole student

Rights and Responsibilities

Our Division recognizes the following fundamental rights and responsibilities:

All students have the right to be treated with dignity, respect and fairness by other staff and students.

Students, parents, staff and trustees have a shared responsibility to create and support a safe and caring environment that fosters and maintains respectful and responsible behaviours. Students must also refrain from engaging in, and assist in the prevention of, violence.

All members of our school community are expected to respect diversity and not engage in any form of bullying, harassment, threats, intimidation or discrimination on the basis of race, religious beliefs, colour, gender, gender identity, gender expression, physical disability, mental disability, ancestry, place of origin, marital status, source of income, family status or sexual orientation.

Students and parents have a right to be informed about Division and school expectations for student behaviour. To support this right, all schools' Student Rights and Responsibilities documents will be posted on SchoolZone and on school websites.

Students are responsible for the care and security of all personal belongings brought to school. The Division is not responsible for the loss, damage, or theft of personal items. In the event of an accidental injury resulting in broken eyeglasses or prosthetic appliances, families may be eligible for limited reimbursement through the Blanket Student Accident Insurance Plan, provided a school incident report is completed. The Division's Student Accident Plan administrative regulation can be found HERE.

All members of the Edmonton Public Schools community:

- have the right to learn and work in an environment that:
  - is free of discrimination, prejudice, racism and violence
  - recognizes diversity as a strength
  - supports each individual to be included and feel represented in their greater school community, and
- have the responsibility to:
  - demonstrate respect for diverse cultural perspectives, traditions, languages, beliefs and values
  - learn and work together as a part of the broader school community to end racism and discrimination
  - report, not participate in, and not tolerate acts of racism, discrimination or violence.

These rights and responsibilities are communicated in the *Alberta Human Rights Act* and the *Education Act* and are reinforced in Division policies and regulations which are publicly available and include AE.BP—Welcoming, Inclusive, Safe and Healthy Learning and Working Environments, HG.BP—Student Behaviour and Conduct, HG.AR—Student Behaviour and

Conduct, HFA.AR—Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity and HAAB.BP – Anti-Racism and Equity.

At Westmount School, everyone in our school community has the right to learn and work in an environment that is respectful, inclusive, safe, healthy and focused on learning and success. In order to preserve these rights, students must also be aware of their individual responsibilities.

All students at Westmount school are aware of our 5 School Agreements to ensure that we are making our school safe and respectful. These agreements were made on the first day of school through our School-wide positive school culture common messaging. Our 5 Agreements are:

1. Treat everyone with respect
2. No Weapons
3. No Drugs, alcohol, vapes, etc.
4. No Bullying of any kind
5. No violence or aggression

Student Behaviour Expectations

To ensure that Westmount School is a positive learning environment for everyone, all students are expected to comply with expectations set by our school Division and mandated by the *Education Act*, as well as school rules which are in place for the benefit of all members of our school community. These expectations apply to all students in the school community, including while learning and engaging with others both in-person and online.

Board Policy HG.BP—Student Behaviour and Conduct, and Administrative Regulation HG.AR—Student Behaviour and Conduct outline that students are expected to behave in accordance with section 31 of the *Education Act* which states that, a student, as a partner in education, has the responsibility to:

- attend school regularly and punctually,
- be ready to learn and actively engage in and diligently pursue the student's education,
- ensure the student's conduct contributes to a caring, respectful and safe learning, environment that respects diversity and fosters a sense of belonging,
- respect the rights of others in the school,
- refrain from, report and not tolerate bullying or bullying behaviour directed toward others in the school, whether or not it occurs within the school building, during the school day or by electronic means,
- refrain from engaging in, assist in the prevention and reporting of, violence without putting the student's own safety or well-being at risk,
- comply with rules of the school and the policies of the Board,
- cooperate fully with everyone authorized by the Board to provide education programs and other services,
- be accountable to the student's teachers and other school staff for the student's conduct, and
- positively contribute to the student's school and community.

Furthermore, students are expected to:

- resolve conflict or seek assistance to resolve conflict in a peaceful, safe, and non-threatening manner that is conducive to learning and growth. Strategies for addressing conflict between students may include counselling, mediation, or forms of restorative practice.
- use school and personal technology (which includes artificial intelligence) appropriately and ethically, and in alignment with teacher, school, Division and provincial expectations.
- demonstrate academic integrity in all schoolwork. Generative AI tools (such as text, image, or code generators) may only be used when explicitly authorized by a teacher for a specific assignment. Submitting AI-generated content as one's own original work, or using AI on assessments without teacher approval, constitutes academic dishonesty. When AI use is permitted, students must transparently cite and disclose how the tool was used.
- report all incidents of academic misconduct including, but not limited to, cheating and plagiarizing.

Regular Attendance – It's the Law

Regular attendance is strongly linked to student academic success and a student's sense of belonging at school. The *Education Act* reminds parents and students that students are expected to attend school and be punctual every day. Students are only considered to be excused from attending school if they must be away due to:

- sickness or other unavoidable cause
- the day being recognized as a religious holiday by the religious denomination that the child belongs to
- suspension or expulsion
- an exemption from compulsory attendance granted by the Board for a defined period of time

Expectations for Student Attire

At Edmonton Public Schools, students are expected to dress in a manner that reflects a caring, respectful, inclusive, safe and healthy learning environment. School expectations for student attire take into account a student's right to fairness, dignity and respect, and will not discriminate against students based on race, gender, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, ethnicity, religion, cultural observance, socio-economic status, or body type. Some examples of welcome attire are durags, turbans, hijabs and burkas.

Student safety and well-being are our highest priorities. Students are also expected to refrain from wearing, carrying, or displaying any clothing or accessories which pose a safety hazard. Students are not permitted to wear lanyards around their neck.

Student Responsibilities in Relation to Public Health

The Division's first priority is always to support the health and well-being of students and staff. Students are expected to abide by protocols and expectations that are established at the school, Division, or provincial level for K-12 education, in relation to public health.

These expectations will be communicated to students, parents, and staff by the school administration in a timely manner,

and may be updated over the course of the school year in relation to a public health concern.

In addition to the Division expectations outlined above, students at Westmount School are expected to adhere to our 5 Agreements to Make our School Safe and Respectful.

Responsible and Ethical Use of Technology

Our Division is committed to assisting students to become ethical, informed digital citizens. We strive to ensure that appropriate and responsible technology use supports high quality teaching and learning, while also supporting a respectful, inclusive, and safe learning and working environment.

Technology refers to any hardware, applications (which may include artificial intelligence), networking and communications equipment used in the Division, including those that are personally owned. Division technology is intended for educational purposes and cannot be used for purposes that are illegal, unethical, disrespectful, hateful, inappropriate, or that cause harm.

Student Use of Personal Mobile Devices and Social Media

To maximize student engagement in learning, support student mental health, reduce opportunities for cyberbullying, and mitigate the negative impacts of excessive exposure to social media, the Government of Alberta has established standards restricting student use of personal mobile devices and access to social media.

At a minimum:

- Students will be required to have devices powered off and stored out of sight during instructional time.
- Students will not be able to access social media platforms on Division networks and devices.

Personal mobile devices include smartphones, cellphones, smart watches, tablets and laptops. Students are expected to respect and abide by classroom, school, Division and provincial expectations for the use of personal mobile devices and social media.

Read more about the province's standards.

In support of the provincial standards, EPSB filters social media sites so students are not able to access them using the school's network. If a student chooses to access social media sites using their own cellular data, families need to be aware that additional data charges may incur. The social media sites that are currently restricted for student access include, but are not limited to; Facebook, Instagram, Tik Tok, SnapChat, X (Twitter), Be Real, Discord, Threads, WeChat, and Pinterest.

A school authority is required to allow for the following limited use exceptions:

- Limited use of personal mobile devices must be permitted, as determined by a principal or equivalent, for health or medical reasons or to support special learning needs;
    - In Edmonton Public Schools these requests would be supported by a student's medical management plan (MMP) or a student's Individual Program Plan (IPP);
- Limited use of personal mobile devices may be permitted for educational or other purposes, as determined by a principal or equivalent;
- Limited access to social media may be permitted, as determined by a principal or equivalent.

To access any of these exemptions, parents must first speak to school administration for potential authorized access.

Pursuant to the *Education Act*, students are accountable for their behaviour when using technology, including when a student's online behaviour outside of the school building or beyond the school day impacts others in the school community. A range of responses as outlined in HG.BP – Student Behaviour and Conduct and HG.AR – Student Behaviour and Conduct, including loss of technology privileges, may be put in place to address unacceptable use of technology.

As digital citizens, students have the following responsibilities:

- **Demonstrate respect and integrity**
    - understand that expectations for conduct and academic integrity while online, including when using personal devices and outside of school hours, are consistent with school and Division expectations (for example, students should only join online classes in which they are enrolled)
    - use good judgment and participate appropriately in online environments such as meetings, chats, and other applications, and when posting or sharing digital content
    - communicate in a manner that is appropriate, respectful and inclusive at all times
    - use artificial intelligence tools transparently, responsibly, and only for authorized educational purposes.
    - ensure that submitted work reflects personal effort and understanding, properly acknowledging any assistance or media generated by AI platforms.
- **Be safe and secure**
    - protect passwords and personal information of self and others including photos, name, age, address and other contact information
    - protect personal privacy by never entering confidential, private, or personally identifiable information (such as full names, student numbers, addresses, or photos) of oneself or others into public AI software or chat models.
    - students must ensure they log in only to their assigned EPSB account, and log off devices and meetings when finished
    - obtain permission before downloading files, including games, music, and movies
    - report, and refrain from searching, viewing, downloading, or sharing, any illegal or inappropriate content
    - refrain from participating in online bullying and/or violence, and report any awareness of dangerous online behavior
    - do not record or share any audio or video of in-person or online classrooms or other learning activities
    - obtain consent before photographing, recording, or sharing a photo or recording of another person
- **Respect and protect property**

- demonstrate proper care and security of personal and Division technology
- do not use AI tools to create, alter, or share synthetic media (such as "deepfakes," altered photos, cloned voices, or manipulated videos) that depict students or staff without explicit consent.
- students are responsible for the care and security of personal mobile devices brought to school.
- should school staff take possession of a student's personal device, staff will ensure that student devices in staff's possession are stored securely.
- the Division will not be responsible for any issues related to the safety, security, loss, repair, or replacement of students' personal devices, even if these devices are confiscated as part of disciplinary actions. This means that if a device is lost, damaged, or stolen while in the school's possession, the school will not cover any related costs or damages.

In addition to the Division and provincial expectations outlined above, students at Westmount School are expected to store all personal technology devices (including but not limited to cellphones, earphones, meta glasses, smart watches, etc.) off and away in their locked lockers. Westmount Junior High School students are not permitted to bring personal mobile devices/cell phones, wireless headphones/earbuds, Meta glasses or Smart watches into classrooms, learning spaces, and washrooms. If a student chooses to bring their personal devices to school, they are to be turned off and kept in their assigned locker. Grade 9 students may use personal devices at lunchtime while off campus. It is the student's responsibility to arrive on time for their next class.

Students and parents sign a Responsible Use of Technology agreement document at the beginning of each school year to reinforce school expectations. Students sign paper copies in school and parents are able to digitally sign the document via SchoolZone.

Westmount students are informed of the school technology use agreements through: first day of school common messaging, the student handbook and upon reviewing and signing the Responsible Use of Technology agreement document.

Unacceptable Behaviour

Any behaviour, whether or not it occurs on school property, or within the school day, which disrupts the educational atmosphere of the school or which interferes with the rights of others to learn, to be respected or to feel safe is unacceptable.

As outlined in Board Policy HG.BP—Student Behaviour and Conduct, and Administrative Regulation HG.AR—Student Behaviour and Conduct and supported by the *Education Act*, unacceptable behaviour includes, but is not limited to:

- behaviours that interfere with the learning of others and/or the school environment
- behaviours that create unsafe conditions
- acts of bullying, harassment, threats, or intimidation, whether it be in person, indirectly, or by electronic means
- physical violence
- retribution against any person who has intervened to prevent or report bullying, violence, or any other safety concern

- possession, use, or distribution of substances restricted by federal, provincial, municipal, Division or school authorities
- any illegal activity such as:
    - possession, use, or distribution of illegal substances
    - possession of a weapon or use of a weapon (or replica) to threaten, intimidate or harm others
    - possession, use, display, or distribution of offensive messages, videos or images
    - theft or possession of stolen property
- any breach of rules and expectations established by government orders, Division administrative regulations or school-based code of conduct
- misrepresenting AI-generated content as original student work (academic misconduct).
- creating, generating, or distributing AI-manipulated images, audio, or video (deepfakes) to impersonate, demean, intimidate, or harass any member of the school community.
- inputting confidential school data, personal identification, or intellectual property into unauthorized third-party AI platforms.
- failure to comply with *Education Act*, section 31 regarding student responsibilities

Bullying and Conflict

Bullying is defined in the *Education Act* as repeated and hostile or demeaning behaviour by an individual in the school community where the behaviour is intended to cause harm, fear or distress to one or more other individuals in the school community, including psychological harm or harm to an individual's reputation. Bullying also includes the distribution of an intimate image of another person knowing that the person depicted in the image did not consent to the distribution, or being reckless as to whether or not that person consented to the distribution.

Bullying can take different forms:

- physical (e.g., pushing, hitting)
- verbal (e.g., name-calling, threats)
- social (e.g., exclusion, rumours)
- electronic (e.g., using technology to harass or threaten)

Conflict occurs when there is a breakdown in relationships between individuals that results from a disagreement or misunderstanding. While conflicts may require adult intervention, they are considered to be a natural part of how students learn to navigate relationships.

All students are expected to refrain from, report and not tolerate bullying or bullying behaviour directed toward others in the school, whether or not it occurs within the school building, during the school day or by electronic means. Students are also expected to resolve conflict or seek assistance to resolve conflict in a peaceful, safe, and non-threatening manner that is conducive to learning and growth. School staff can help address conflict between students using strategies that may include counselling, mediation, consequences and/or forms of restorative practice.

School Responses to Unacceptable Behaviour

Our Division acknowledges the importance of responsive discipline which involves a continuum of interventions that aim to build a sense of community in schools, facilitate healthy relationships, support behavioural changes, repair harm, and hold students accountable.

Edmonton Public Schools' Board Policy HG.BP—Student Behaviour and Conduct, and Administrative Regulation HG.AR—Student Behaviour and Conduct outline the following:

> Unacceptable behaviour may be grounds for disciplinary action which provides the student with an opportunity for critical learning and reflection in the areas of personal accountability and responsibility, the development of empathy, as well as communication, conflict resolution, and social skills development.
>
> The specific circumstances of the situation and of the student are taken into account when determining appropriate responses to unacceptable behaviour.
>
> When a student engages in unacceptable behaviour, consequences and responses may include, but are not limited to:

- temporary assignment of a student to an alternate supervised area within the school
- temporary assignment of a student to an alternate learning location
- short term removal of privileges including access to technology
- interventions such as positive behaviour supports, contracts, counselling, restorative practices
- replacement or reimbursement for loss of, or damage to property
- in-school or out-of-school suspension
- referral to Attendance Board
- recommendation for expulsion

At Westmount Junior High School, we are committed to ensuring that our school is a safe and productive learning environment. School staff will work with students and parents/guardians to address behaviour concerns and ensure all partners understand the school's expectations for conduct. Where necessary, staff implement appropriate responses to maintain order and discipline and address unacceptable behaviour by students.
Consequences depend on individual circumstances and the severity of the behaviour, and may include, but are not limited to:

- - interventions such as positive behaviour supports, facilitated conversations, restorative practices, seating arrangements, locker relocation, and/or class changes
- - short-term removal of privileges

With regard to technology challenges specifically:

- A school or personal technology device may be confiscated and kept at the office when a student's use of technology breaches this agreement, in order to maintain a welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environment.
- After 2 personal technology use breaches students turn in their personal devices to the office, before the first block or upon arrival at school and pick them up after the last block or when they depart school, for the remainder of the month.

Students are responsible to cooperate with school staff and comply with the rules of the school and the policies of the school division. School administration may conduct a search of student property, including electronic devices, where there are reasonable grounds as part of an incident investigation that there has been a breach to the safety of the learning environment. It is the expectation that students make available the unaltered contents of the electronic device that breaches this agreement to their parents/guardians and school administration. This recourse is bound by standards of conduct expected of a caring, knowledgeable and reasonable adult entrusted with the custody, care and education of students.

Edmonton Public Schools is helping to shape the future in every one of our classrooms. We're focused on ensuring each student learns to their full potential and develops the ability, passion and imagination to pursue their dreams and contribute to their community.

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