

What Guides & Directs Our Practice?

From government regulations to district policy to professional standards, Principals & Vice-Principals must be familiar with their rights and responsibilities.

Basic Duties and Fiduciary Responsibilities of a Principal or Vice-Principal

Placing employer interests first

Cooperating with the employer: following reasonable and lawful orders and directions

Speaking and acting on behalf of the employer

Exercising the care, diligence, and skill that a reasonably prudent person would exercise

Unconditionally demonstrating honesty and integrity toward the employer

Ensuring confidentiality

Complying with all statutory requirements and general legal principles pertaining to their duties and responsibilities



General Standards of Care

Principals and Vice-Principals owe a duty of care to:

- protect students from reasonably foreseeable risk of harm
- appropriately supervise students

There are potential employment consequences for failure to supervise.

Codes of Conduct

Every district and each school site has its own Code of Conduct: a set of rules or guidelines that everyone in the school is expected to follow to ensure an environment of fairness, respect, and safety.

General Standards of Conduct

Principals and Vice-Principals:

- hold a position of trust, confidence, and responsibility
- are held to a higher standard of conduct than the general public

Professional Standards for BC Educators

(Commissioner for Teacher Regulation)

The Professional Standards, formerly the Standards for Education, Competence and Professional Conduct for Educators in BC, outline the conduct and competence requirements for an individual to be issued and maintain a BC teaching certificate of qualification.

BCPVPA Leadership Competencies

The 2024 Competencies represent a shift from traditional leadership standards to a competency-based approach that aligns with the complex and evolving landscape of educational leadership.

BCPVPA Leadership Standards

The 2019 Leadership Standards is a guide to hold student and adult development, engagement, and learning central to all leadership practices.

School District Policies/ Administrative Procedures

Each school district develops their own policies and administrative procedures to support the governance function of the Board, and the operation of the district.

It's important to be familiar with the policies in your district.

School Act/ Regulations

The BC School Act is a provincial statute governing primary and secondary education in B.C. The Act outlines important roles, rights, and responsibilities for parents, students, and the education system.

Contract of Employment

Principals and Vice-Principals contract with their school district under a Personal Services Contract. It's important to be familiar with your contract. If BCPVPA members need assistance with clarification or explanation of contract clauses, they can review their contract with the Member Support Services team.

Employment Standards Act

The Employment Standards Act sets out BC's rights and obligations in regard to hours of work, time off, notice, severance pay, and other topics.

Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms

The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms is part of Canada's Constitution. The Charter protects every Canadian's right to be treated equally under the law.

Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action

Educators have a responsibility to help address the legacy of residential schools and advance Canadian reconciliation to promote healing and understanding in schools and classrooms.

Collective Agreements

BC School District Collective Agreements

for school support staff exist between districts and unions, such as Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE).

Provincial Collective Agreement (PCA)

for teachers exists between the BC School Public Employers' Association (BCPSEA) and the BC Teachers' Federation (BCTF).

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act

FIPPA sets out the access and privacy rights of individuals as they relate to the public sector, and establishes an individual's right to access records in the custody or control of a 'public body' including access to one's own 'personal information'. FIPPA also sets out the terms under which a public body can collect, use, and disclose the personal information of individuals.

Occupational Health and Safety Regulation (Worksafe BC)

The Occupational Health and Safety Regulation (OHSR) contains legal requirements that must be met by all workplaces under the inspectional jurisdiction of WorkSafe BC.

The OHSR promotes occupational health and safety and protects workers and other persons present at workplaces from work-related risks to their health, safety, and well-being.

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Questions?

Contact BCPVPA

Member Support Services

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