



October 25, 2024

A Focus on Professional Standard #4

As educators in this province, all Principals and Vice-Principals are held to the nine Professional Standards for BC Educators. The Commissioner for Teacher Regulation uses the Standards to address possible breaches, and for this reason, we remind our members of some of the specifics of the Standards that are a regular part of their daily work. Disregarding the Standards could be a risk for Principals and Vice-Principals.

Standard #4 states that ***“Educators value the involvement and support of parents, guardians, families and communities in schools”***.

When a parent or guardian feels that this Standard has not been upheld, there is always the risk that they may choose to file a complaint to the Commissioner of the Teacher Regulation Branch.

Although it is not always possible to eliminate all risk of having a complaint filed, there are proactive measures that are best practices to remember as a Principal or Vice-Principal. Here are some simple reminders:

- Always respond to parents and guardians in a timely manner – even if to acknowledge receipt and advise that a more comprehensive response or process will follow.
- Ensure that parents’ and guardians’ perspectives and suggestions regarding their child’s educational plan or safety considerations are heard – even if alternate decisions need to be made.
- Ensure that teachers in your school are appropriately inviting parents/guardians to IEP or other relevant meetings about their child.

- Ensure that parents/guardians are being informed of relevant discussions at School-Based-Team meetings regarding their child.
- Ensure that any communication with parents is respectful and professional in tone.

As always, should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the MSS team at BCPVPA. And if you ever find yourself in a situation where a complaint to the TRB is filed against you, please contact us and we will support you through the process.