

Students

Policy 5144

Discipline

The Governing Board is committed to providing a safe, supportive, and positive school environment which is conducive to student learning and to preparing students for responsible citizenship by fostering self-discipline and personal responsibility. The Board believes that high expectations for student behavior, use of effective school and classroom management strategies, provision of appropriate intervention and support, and parent involvement can minimize the need for disciplinary measures that exclude students from instruction as a means for correcting student behavior. Staff shall use preventative measures and adopt alternative disciplinary measures that provide students with appropriate interventions and supports as a means for preventing and addressing student misbehavior.

The Superintendent or designee shall design a complement of effective, age appropriate strategies for maintaining a positive school climate and correcting student misbehavior at district schools. The strategies shall focus on providing students with the needed supports; communicating clear, appropriate, and consistent expectations and consequences for student conduct; and ensuring equity and continuous improvement in the implementation of district discipline policies and practices.

In addition, the Superintendent or designee's strategies shall reflect the Board's preference for the use of positive interventions and alternative disciplinary measures over exclusionary discipline measures as a means for correcting student misbehavior.

Disciplinary measures that may result in loss of instructional time or cause students to be disengaged from school, such as detention, suspension, and expulsion, shall be imposed only when other means of correction have been documented to have failed.

The Superintendent or designee shall create a model discipline matrix that lists violations, the interventions to be used, and, as necessary, the consequences for each as allowed by law.

At all times, the safety of students and staff and the maintenance of an orderly school environment shall be priorities in determining appropriate discipline. When misconduct occurs, staff shall attempt to identify the causes of the student's behavior and implement appropriate discipline. When choosing between different disciplinary strategies, staff shall consider the effect of each option on the student's health, well-being, and opportunity to learn.

Staff shall enforce disciplinary rules fairly, consistently, and in accordance with the district's nondiscrimination policies. Routine discipline matters will be handled by school

administration. School resource officers will only be called upon for threats to school safety and serious school-based criminal conduct that cannot be safely and appropriately handled by the school's internal disciplinary procedures.

The Superintendent or designee shall provide professional development as necessary to assist staff in developing the skills needed to effectively implement the disciplinary strategies adopted for district schools, including, but not limited to, consistent school and classroom management skills, effective accountability and positive intervention techniques, and development of strong, cooperative relationships with parents/guardians.

District goals for improving school climate, based on suspension and expulsion rates, surveys of students, staff, and parents/guardians regarding their sense of school safety, and other local measures, shall be included in the district's local control and accountability plan, as required by law.

At the beginning of each school year, the Superintendent or designee shall report to the Board regarding: 1) disciplinary strategies used in district schools in the immediately preceding school year and their effect on student learning; and 2) whether discipline data disaggregated by race, ethnicity, gender, and/or disability raises any concerns about different treatment of particular groups of students and any strategies utilized by the District to address the concerns.

Legal References: Education Code
32280-32288 School safety plans
35146 Closed sessions
35291 Rules
35291.5-35291.7 School-adopted discipline rules
37223 Weekend classes
44807.5 Restriction from recess
48900-48926 Suspension and expulsion
48980-48985 Notification of parent/guardian
49000-49001 Prohibition of corporal punishment
49330-49335 Injurious objects
52060-52077 Local control and accountability
Civil Code
1714.1 Parental liability for child's misconduct

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

307 Participation in school activities until departure of bus
353 Detention after school

Management Resources:

CSBA Publications

State Board of Education Policies

California Department of Education Program Advisories

Classroom Management: A California Resource Guide for Teacher and Administrators of Elementary and Secondary Schools

U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights Publications

Web Sites

CSBA:<http://www.csba.org>

California Department of Education: <http://www.cde.ca.gov>

U.S. Department of Education: <http://www.ed.gov>

Policy

revised: 02/17/76

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