

DISCIPLINE

The Governing Board desires to provide a safe, supportive, and positive school environment conducive to student learning and to prepare 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, the 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 misbehavior.

The Superintendent or designee may approve, for each school, a complement of effective, age-appropriate strategies for correcting student behavior. Such strategies may include, but are not limited to: conferences with students and their parents/guardians; use of study, guidance, or other intervention-related teams; enrollment in a program teaching pro-social behavior or anger management; and participation in a restorative justice program.

In addition, the Superintendent's 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 suspension and expulsion, shall be imposed only when required by law and when other means of correction have failed. (Education Code 48900.5)

School personnel and volunteers shall not allow any disciplinary action taken against a student to result in the denial or delay of a school meal. (Education Code 49557.5)

Seclusion and behavioral restraint are prohibited as a means of discipline and shall not be used to correct student behavior except as permitted pursuant to Education Code 49005.4 and in accordance with district regulations. (Education Code 49005.2)

Board policies and regulations shall outline acceptable student conduct and provide the basis for sound disciplinary practices.

The administrative staff at each school may develop disciplinary rules to meet the school's particular needs. However, the rules shall be consistent with law, Board policy, and District regulations. The Board may review, at an open meeting, the approved school discipline rules for consistency with Board policy and state law. (Education Code 35291.5) Site-level discipline rules shall be included in the comprehensive school safety plan. (Education Code 32282, 35291.5.)

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 and opportunity to learn.

Staff shall enforce disciplinary rules fairly and consistently and in accordance with the District's nondiscrimination policies.

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The Superintendent or designee shall provide professional development as necessary to assist staff in developing the skills needed to effectively and equitably implement the disciplinary strategies adopted for district schools, including but not limited to, knowledge of school and classroom management skills and their consistent application, effective accountability and positive intervention techniques, and the tools to form 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 connectedness to school community, and other local measures, shall be included in the District's local control and accountability plan (LCAP), as required by law.

At the beginning of every school year, the Superintendent or designee shall report to the Board regarding disciplinary strategies used in each school in the immediately preceding school year and their effect on student learning.

Corporal Punishment

Corporal punishment shall not be used as a disciplinary measure against any student. Corporal punishment includes the willful infliction of, or willfully causing the infliction of, physical pain on a student. (Education Code 49001)

However, corporal punishment does not include any pain or discomfort suffered by a student as a result of his/her voluntary participation in an athletic or other recreational competition or activity. In addition, an employee's use of force that is reasonable and necessary to protect himself/herself, students, staff, or other persons, to prevent damage to property, or to obtain possession of weapons or other dangerous objects within the control of the student is not corporal punishment. (Education Code 49001)

Legal Reference:

CIVIL CODE

1714.1 Parental liability for child's misconduct

EDUCATION CODE

32280-32289 School safety plans

35146 Closed sessions

35291 Rules

35291.5-35291.7 School-adopted discipline rules

37223 Weekend classes

44807.5 Restriction from recess

48900-48927 Suspension and expulsion

48980-48985 Notification of parents or guardians

49000-49001 Prohibition of corporal punishment

49005-49006.4 Seclusion and restraint

49330-49335 Injurious objects

49550-49564.5 Meals for needy students

52060-52077 Local control and accountability plan

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

307 Participation in school activities until departure of bus

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353 Detention after school

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 20

1400-1482 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 29

794 Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 42

1751-1769j School Lunch Program

1773 School Breakfast Program

Management Resources:

CSBA PUBLICATIONS

Recent Legislation on Discipline: AB 240, Fact Sheet, March 2015

The Case for Reducing Out-of-School Suspensions and Expulsions, Fact Sheet, April 2014

Providing a Safe, Nondiscriminatory School Environment for Transgender and Gender-Nonconforming Students, Policy Brief, February 2014

Safe Schools: Strategies for Governing Boards to Ensure Student Success, October 2011

Maximizing Opportunities for Physical Activity during the School Day, Fact Sheet, 2009

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS PUBLICATIONS

Dear Colleague Letter on the Nondiscriminatory Administration of School Discipline, January 2014

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PROGRAM ADVISORIES

Classroom Management: A California Resource Guide for Teachers and Administrators of Elementary and Secondary Schools, 2000

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICIES

01-02 School Safety, Discipline, and Attendance, March 2001

WEB SITES

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

CDE: <http://www/cde.ca.gov>