

Policy 5131.4: Student Disturbances

Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 06/01/1990 | Last Revised Date: 05/01/2026 | Last Reviewed Date: 05/01/2026

The Governing Board desires to provide orderly campuses that create a positive school environment and are conducive to learning, and recognizes that student disturbances interfere with such an environment and interrupt learning

In order to respond to a student disturbance and to help prevent student activity from becoming a student disturbance, the Superintendent or designee and the principal of each school shall establish a student disturbance management plan for the school. At the Superintendent's or designee's discretion, the plan may be included in the school's comprehensive school safety plan in accordance with Board Policy/Administrative Regulation 0450 - Comprehensive Safety Plan, or in the district's school emergency and disaster preparedness plan in accordance with Board Policy/Administrative Regulation 3516 - Emergencies and Disaster Preparedness Plan.

In developing each school's plan, the Superintendent or designee and principal may consult with students, staff, parents/guardians, and other interested individuals, as appropriate. Additionally, the Superintendent or designee and principal may consult with local law enforcement authorities to the extent the plan includes guidelines for law enforcement support and intervention.

The plan may include, but need not be limited to, the following:

1. The types of student disturbances that the plan addresses, including prohibited activities listed in the accompanying administrative regulation

Additionally, this may include student activities that constitute or may lead to student disturbances such as protests, sit-ins/stand-ins, and walk-outs.

2. Measures designed to prevent student disturbances

This may include identifying student supports and training to help staff recognize, report, and respond to student activities that may lead to student disturbances.

3. The school's responses to student disturbances

This may include consideration of student rights such as freedom of expression in accordance with Board Policy/Administrative Regulation 5145.2 - Freedom of Speech/Expression.

4. Staff involvement in student disturbances

Any such involvement shall be in accordance with Board Policy 4119.1/4219.1/4319.1 - Civil and Legal Rights and Board Policy/Administrative Regulation 4119.25/4219.25/4319.25- Political Activities of Employees.

Students who participate in a disturbance may be subject to discipline in accordance with Board Policy/Administrative Regulation 5144 - Discipline, Board Policy/Administrative Regulation 5144.1 - Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process, and Administrative Regulation 5144.2 - Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process (Students with Disabilities).

Policy Reference Disclaimer: These references are not intended to be part of the policy itself, nor do they indicate the basis or authority for the Governing Board to enact this policy. Instead, they are provided as additional resources for those interested in the subject matter of the policy.

State	Description
CA Constitution Article 1, Section 2	Freedom of speech and expression
Ed. Code 32210	Willful disturbance of public school or meeting
Ed. Code 32211	Threatened disruption or interference with classes
Ed. Code 32280-32289.6	School safety plans

Policy 5131.4: Student Disturbances

Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 04/12/2017 | **Last Reviewed Date:** 04/12/2017

The Board of Education desires to provide orderly campuses that create a positive school environment and are conducive to learning. When students initiate or are involved in a campus disturbance that has the potential to threaten the safety of students or staff, the Superintendent or designee may request law enforcement assistance.

The Superintendent or designee and the principal of each school shall establish a school disturbance response plan that is intended to curb disruptions which may lead to riots, violence, or vandalism at school or at school-sponsored events. In developing each school's plan, the Superintendent or designee shall consult with local law enforcement authorities to create guidelines for law enforcement support and intervention.

Staff are encouraged to be alert to conditions at school that may lead to a disturbance, such as racial or cultural conflict, student protests, or gang intimidation and confrontations. Staff who believe that a disturbance is imminent, or who see a disturbance occurring, shall immediately contact the principal and invoke the school disturbance response plan.

Students who participate in a campus disturbance shall be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with Board policy and administrative regulations.

State	Description
Ed. Code 35160	Authority of governing boards
Ed. Code 38000-38005	Security departments
Ed. Code 44810	Willful interference with classroom conduct
Ed. Code 44811	Disruption of classwork or extracurricular activities
Ed. Code 48205	Excused absences
Ed. Code 48900	Grounds for suspension or expulsion
Ed. Code 48907	Exercise of free expression; time, place, and manner rules and regulations
Ed. Code 51512	Prohibited use of electronic listening or recording device
Pen. Code 243.5	Assault or battery on school property
Pen. Code 403-420	Crimes against the public peace
Pen. Code 415	Fighting; noise; offensive words
Pen. Code 415.5	Disturbance of peace of school; unlawful fighting, noise, offensive words
Pen. Code 416	Assembly to disturb peace; refusal to disperse
Pen. Code 626-626.11	Weapons on school grounds and other school crimes
Pen. Code 627-627.10	Access to school premises
Pen. Code 653b	Loitering about schools or public places

Federal	Description
U.S. Constitution, First Amendment	Free exercise, free speech, and establishment clauses

Management Resources	Description
Court Decision	Dariano v. Morgan Hill Unified School District (2014) 767 F.3d 764
U.S. Department of Education Publication	Practical Information on Crisis Planning: A Guide for Schools and Communities, Jan. 2007
Website	CSBA District and County Office of Education Legal Services
Website	California Department of Education, Safe Schools
Website	CSBA

Cross References	Description
0450	Comprehensive Safety Plan
0450	Comprehensive Safety Plan
1313	Civility
3515	Campus Security
3515	Campus Security
3515.2	Disruptions
3515.2	Disruptions
3515.3	District Police/Security Department
3515.3	District Police/Security Department
3515.31	School Resource Officers
3515.7	Firearms On School Grounds
3516	Emergencies And Disaster Preparedness Plan
3516	Emergencies And Disaster Preparedness Plan

Cross References	Description
4118	Dismissal/Suspension/Disciplinary Action
4118	Dismissal/Suspension/Disciplinary Action
4119.1	Civil And Legal Rights
4119.25	Political Activities Of Employees
4119.25	Political Activities Of Employees
4158	Employee Security
4158	Employee Security
4218	Dismissal/Suspension/Disciplinary Action
4218	Dismissal/Suspension/Disciplinary Action
4218.1	Dismissal/Suspension/Disciplinary Action (Merit System)
4219.1	Civil And Legal Rights
4219.25	Political Activities Of Employees
4219.25	Political Activities Of Employees
4258	Employee Security
4258	Employee Security
4319.1	Civil And Legal Rights
4319.25	Political Activities Of Employees
4319.25	Political Activities Of Employees
4358	Employee Security
4358	Employee Security
5113	Absences And Excuses
5113	Absences And Excuses
5113.1	Chronic Absence And Truancy
5113.1	Chronic Absence And Truancy
5131	Conduct
5131.41	Use Of Seclusion And Restraint
5131.5	Vandalism And Graffiti
5131.8	Mobile Communication Devices
5136	Gangs
5136	Gangs
5137	Positive School Climate
5138	Conflict Resolution/Peer Mediation
5142	Safety
5142	Safety
5144	Discipline
5144	Discipline
5144.1	Suspension And Expulsion/Due Process
5144.1	Suspension And Expulsion/Due Process
5144.2	Suspension And Expulsion/Due Process (Students With Disabilities)
5145.2	Freedom Of Speech/Expression

Cross References	Description
5145.2	Freedom Of Speech/Expression
5145.9	Hate-Motivated Behavior
6116	Classroom Interruptions
6145.2	Athletic Competition
6145.2	Athletic Competition
6145.8	Assemblies And Special Events
6184	Continuation Education
6184	Continuation Education

