

Policy 5131.4: Student Disturbances

Status: DRAFT

Original Adopted Date: 04/12/2017 | **Last Reviewed Date:** 06/18/2026

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

State

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

Description**Federal**

U.S. Constitution, First Amendment

Description

[Free exercise, free speech, and establishment clauses](#)

Management Resources

Court Decision
 U.S. Department of Education Publication
 Website
 Website
 Website

Description

Dariano v. Morgan Hill Unified School District (2014) 767 F.3d 764
[Practical Information on Crisis Planning: A Guide for Schools and Communities, Jan. 2007](#)
[CSBA District and County Office of Education Legal Services](#)
[California Department of Education, Safe Schools](#)
[CSBA](#)

Cross References

0450
 0450
 1313
 3515-E PDF(1)
 3515.2
 3515.2
 3516
 3516
 4118
 4118
 4119.1
 4119.25

Description

[Comprehensive Safety Plan](#)
[Comprehensive Safety Plan](#)
[Civility](#)
[Campus Security - Use Of Unmanned Aircraft Systems \(Uas\)/Drones On District Grounds](#)
[Disruptions](#)
[Disruptions](#)
[Emergencies And Disaster Preparedness Plan](#)
[Emergencies And Disaster Preparedness Plan](#)
[Dismissal/Suspension/Disciplinary Action](#)
[Dismissal/Suspension/Disciplinary Action](#)
[Civil And Legal Rights](#)
[Political Activities Of Employees](#)

Cross References

	Description
4119.25	Political Activities Of Employees
4158	Employee Security
4158	Employee Security
4218	Dismissal/Suspension/Disciplinary Action
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-E PDF(1)	Conduct - Elementary Plan
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
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
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

Cross References

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Description

[Continuation Education](#)

[Continuation Education](#)