

Policy 4331: Staff Development

Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 10/01/1998 | **Last Revised Date:** 08/01/2026 | **Last Reviewed Date:** 08/01/2026

The Governing Board recognizes that professional development enhances employee effectiveness and contributes to personal growth. Staff development for administrative and supervisory personnel shall be designed to guide institutional improvement, build leadership skills, and enhance overall management efficiency.

Staff shall attend staff development as directed by the Superintendent or designee and in accordance with any applicable collective bargaining agreement and Board Policy 4319.1 - Civil and Legal Rights.

CSBA NOTE: Education Code 52060-52077 requires districts to develop a local control and accountability plan (LCAP) which includes goals aligned with state and local priorities, specific actions aligned to meet those goals, and a budget aligned to fund those specific actions. For more information regarding LCAP requirements, see BP/AR 0460 - Local Control and Accountability Plan. Alignment of the district's staff development program with its priorities and goals, as outlined in the LCAP and other applicable district and school plans, will help the district meet such goals and priorities.

Education Code 44690 established the 21st Century California School Leadership Academy to organize and offer high-quality professional learning opportunities and to select providers of high-quality professional learning for administrators and other school leaders to receive grants to ensure the availability of professional learning through the 21st Century California School Leadership Academy, free of charge, to districts that receive federal Title II funds.

The U.S. Department of Education's, "Supporting Effective Instruction State Grants (Title II, Part A)," provides grants to State educational agencies and subgrants to local educational agencies to (1) increase student achievement consistent with challenging state academic standards, (2) improve the quality and effectiveness of teachers, principals, and other school leaders, (3) increase the number of teachers, principals, and other school leaders who are effective in improving student academic achievement in schools, and (4) provide low-income and minority students greater access to effective teachers, principals, and other school leaders.

The Superintendent or designee shall develop a plan for administrator support and development activities that is based on a systematic assessment of the needs of district students and staff and is aligned to the district's vision, goals, local control and accountability plan, and other comprehensive plans.

CSBA NOTE: Items #1-2 in the following list are required.

Due to ongoing litigation related to the religious rights of employees, it is recommended that districts consult CSBA's District and County Office of Education Legal Services or district legal counsel if an employee objects to certain content of a staff training on religious grounds.

The district's staff development program shall assist district and school administrators in developing knowledge and skills, including, but not limited to:

CSBA NOTE: Pursuant to Education Code 44691, districts are required to provide annual training, using the online training module provided by the California Department of Social Services to their employees and persons working on their behalf who are mandated reporters, on the mandated reporting requirements. This training is required to include information that failure to report an incident of known or reasonably suspected child abuse or neglect, is a misdemeanor. Additionally, this training is required to include information on the prevention of abuse, including sexual abuse, of children on school grounds, by school personnel, or in school-sponsored programs. In addition, the California Department of Education (CDE) is required to develop and disseminate information to all school districts, and their school personnel in California, regarding the detection and reporting of child abuse.

1. Mandated reporter requirements

Administrative and supervisory staff shall receive training annually, or if hired during the course of the school year upon being hired, on the prevention of abuse, including sexual abuse, of children on school grounds, by school personnel, or in district-sponsored programs. The training shall include that failure to report an incident of known or reasonably suspected child abuse or neglect is a misdemeanor punishable by up to six months confinement in a county jail, or by a fine of one thousand dollars (\$1,000), or by both imprisonment and fine. (Education Code 44691)

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The Board of Education recognizes that professional development enhances employee effectiveness and contributes to personal growth. Staff development for administrative and supervisory personnel shall be designed to guide institutional improvement, build leadership skills, and enhance overall management efficiency.

The Superintendent or designee shall develop a plan for administrator support and development activities that is based on a systematic assessment of the needs of district students and staff and is aligned to the district's vision, goals, local control and accountability plan, and other comprehensive plans.

The district's staff development program for district and school administrators may include, but is not limited to, the following topics:

1. Personnel management, including best practices on hiring, recruitment, assignment, and retention of staff
2. Effective fiscal management and accountability practices
3. Academic standards and standards-aligned curriculum and instructional materials
4. Leadership training to improve the academic achievement of all students, including capacity building in pedagogies of learning, instructional strategies that meet the varied learning needs of students, and student motivation
5. The use of student assessments, including analysis of disaggregated assessment results to identify needs and progress of student subgroups
6. The use of technology to improve student performance and district operations
7. Creation of safe and inclusive school environments
8. Parental involvement and community collaboration
9. Employee relations
10. Effective school and district planning processes

The district's staff evaluation process may be used to recommend additional staff development for individual employees.

The Superintendent or designee shall evaluate the benefit to staff and students of professional development activities.

CSBA NOTE: Pursuant to Education Code 49428.2, on or before July 1, 2029, districts are required to certify to CDE that 100 percent of its certificated employees and 40 percent of its classified employees who have direct contact with students in any of grades 7-12 have received youth behavioral health training, at least one time, in accordance with the requirements specified in Education Code 49428.2.

2. Youth behavioral health

On or before July 1, 2029, administrative and supervisory staff who have direct contact with students in any of grades 7-12 shall, at least one time, receive youth behavioral health training which provides instruction around the unique risk factors and warning signs of behavioral health problems in adolescents, builds understanding of the importance of early intervention, and teaches staff how to help an adolescent in crisis or experiencing a behavioral health challenge. The training may also include instruction on: (Education Code 49428.2)

- a. Recognizing the signs and symptoms of youth behavioral health disorders, including, but not limited to, psychiatric conditions and substance use disorders such as opioid and alcohol abuse
- b. How to maintain student privacy and confidentiality in a manner consistent with federal and state privacy laws
- c. Safe de-escalation of crisis situations involving students with a youth behavioral health disorder

CSBA NOTE: The remaining items are suggested, but not required and may be revised to reflect district practice.

3. Personnel management, including best practices on hiring, recruitment, assignment, and retention of staff
4. Effective fiscal management and accountability practices
5. Academic standards and standards-aligned curriculum and instructional materials
6. Leadership training to improve the academic achievement of all students, including capacity building in pedagogies of learning, instructional strategies that meet the varied learning needs of students, and student motivation
7. The use of student assessments, including analysis of disaggregated assessment results to identify needs and progress of student subgroups
8. The use of technology to improve student performance and district operations

CSBA NOTE: CSBA's guide, "Practical Steps Toward Advancing Equitable and Supportive Discipline," a summary of research from the University of California, Los Angeles', and University of California, Berkeley's Race, Education, and Community Healing (REACH), offers actionable, research-informed steps for Governing Boards to support more equitable discipline practices, including the support of professional development opportunities that equip educators with effective restorative-focused classroom management tools.

9. Creation of safe and inclusive school environments
10. Parent/guardian involvement and community collaboration
11. Employee relations
12. Effective school and district planning processes

Staff Development Materials and Services

The Board shall adopt staff development materials and services that align with the district's mission, vision, and goals, are relevant to student academic achievement and well-being, and are instrumental in assisting administrative and supervisory staff in developing the knowledge and skills specified in Items #1-12, above.

CSBA NOTE: Education Code 244, as amended by AB 715 (Ch. 428, Statutes of 2025), prohibits the Board from adopting or approving the use of any staff development materials or services if such materials or services promote, endorse, or otherwise support actions or the use of any textbook, instructional material, supplemental instructional material, or curriculum which would subject a student to unlawful discrimination pursuant to Education Code 220. For more information regarding nondiscrimination in staff development, see BP 0410 - Nondiscrimination in District

Programs and Activities.

The Board shall not adopt the use of any staff development materials or services that promote, endorse, or otherwise support actions or the use of any textbook, instructional material, supplemental instructional material, or curriculum which would subject a student to unlawful discrimination pursuant to Education Code 220 and Board Policy 0410 - Nondiscrimination in District Programs and Activities. (Education Code 244)

CSBA NOTE: Pursuant to Education Code 244, as amended by AB 715, the Board is required to take remedial action as described below, if the Board knows or has reason to know that materials were used in a classroom, staff development materials or services were used, or an action occurred, which violated Education Code 220. The following paragraph requires the Superintendent or designee to conduct the investigation on behalf of the Board.

If the Board knows or has reason to know that materials were used in a classroom, staff development materials or services were used, or an action occurred which subjected an individual to unlawful discrimination pursuant to Education Code 220, the Superintendent or designee shall remediate the action, which may include, but is not limited to, implementation of restorative justice practices. (Education Code 244)

CSBA NOTE: Pursuant to Education Code 60152, as added by AB 715, if it is determined that any textbook, instructional material, supplemental instructional material, staff development material, or curriculum provided by an organization has violated Education Code 244, the district is required to notify the organization that corrective action is required unless the Superintendent of Public Instruction has already done so. If corrective action is not taken within 60 days, CDE may use any means authorized by law to effect compliance. For more information regarding such notification see AR 1312.3 - Uniform Complain Procedures.

If it is determined that any textbook, instructional material, supplemental instructional material, staff development material, or curriculum provided by an organization has violated Education Code 244, the district shall notify the organization that corrective action is required unless the Superintendent of Public Instruction has already done so. If corrective action is not taken within 60 days, the California Department of Education may use any means authorized by law to effect compliance. (Education Code 60152)

The district's staff evaluation process may be used to recommend additional staff development for individual employees.

CSBA NOTE: Pursuant to Government Code 12940.2, as added by SB 303 (Ch. 216, Statutes of 2025), an employee's assessment, testing, admission, or acknowledgment of their own personal bias that was made in good faith and solicited or required as part of a bias mitigation training does not, by itself, constitute unlawful discrimination. For more information regarding nondiscrimination in employment, see BP 4030 - Nondiscrimination in Employment.

An employee's assessment, testing, admission, or acknowledgment of their own personal bias that was made in good faith and solicited or required as part of a bias mitigation training does not, by itself, constitute unlawful discrimination. (Government Code 12940.2)

The Superintendent or designee shall provide a means for continual evaluation of the benefit of staff development activities to both staff and students and shall regularly report to the Board regarding the effectiveness of the staff development program. Based on the Superintendent's report, the Board may revise the program as necessary to ensure that the staff development program supports the district's priorities for student achievement and well-being.
