



Policy 4218: Dismissal/Suspension/Disciplinary Action

Status: DRAFT

Original Adopted Date: Pending | **Last Reviewed Date:** 09/16/2026

The Governing Board expects all employees to perform their jobs satisfactorily, to exhibit professional and appropriate conduct, and serve as positive role models both at school and in the community. A classified employee may be disciplined for unprofessional conduct or unsatisfactory performance in accordance with law or any applicable collective bargaining agreement, Board policy, or administrative regulation.

Disciplinary actions shall be based on the particular facts and circumstances involved and the severity of the employee's conduct or performance.

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that disciplinary actions are taken in a consistent, nondiscriminatory manner. In addition, an employee shall not be suspended, disciplined, reassigned, transferred, dismissed, or otherwise retaliated against solely for engaging in protected activities, or for acting to protect a student engaged in exercising any free speech or press right authorized by, or for refusing to infringe upon a student's conduct protected pursuant to, Education Code 48907 or 48950.

Disciplinary actions may include, but are not limited to, verbal and written warnings, involuntary reassignment, demotion, suspension or leave without pay, reduction of wages, or dismissal.

A probationary classified employee may be dismissed without cause anytime before the probationary period expires.

Permanent classified employees shall be subject to disciplinary action only for cause as specified in the accompanying administrative regulation. (Education Code 45113)

Procedures for Serious Disciplinary Proceedings

The Superintendent or designee shall develop disciplinary procedures for use when dismissal, suspension, demotion, involuntary reassignment, or other serious disciplinary action is contemplated against an employee. The procedures for such discipline shall include an opportunity for an employee for whom any such disciplinary action is recommended to meet with, or respond in writing to, a designated district official ("Skelly officer") who will determine whether the recommended discipline should proceed further or be modified or withdrawn.

After meeting with the employee or considering the employee's written response, if the Skelly officer determines that the recommended discipline should proceed, the Superintendent or designee shall send the employee a notice of the recommended disciplinary action, a statement of charges, and the results of the Skelly review process. The notice shall include a statement advising the employee of the right to request a Board hearing on the matter. (Education Code 45113, 45116)

If the employee fails to request a hearing within the time specified in the notice, the employee is deemed to have waived the right to do so, and the Board may order the recommended disciplinary action into effect immediately.

If a timely request is submitted, a hearing shall be conducted by the Board or by a third-party hearing officer, in accordance with law. (Education Code 45113, 45312)

A classified employee who timely requests a hearing may only be suspended, demoted, or dismissed pending the outcome of the hearing in accordance with Education Code 45113 and as specified in the accompanying

administrative regulation.

The hearing shall be held at the earliest convenient date, taking into consideration the established schedule of the Board and the availability of legal counsel and witnesses. The employee shall be notified of the time and place of the hearing.

The hearing shall be held in closed session unless the employee requests that the matter be heard in an open session meeting. (Government Code 54957)

The employee shall be entitled to appear personally, produce evidence, and be represented by legal counsel.

The Board may use the services of its legal counsel in ruling upon procedural questions, objections to evidence, and issues of law. The Board may review and consider the records of any prior personnel action proceedings against the employee in which disciplinary action was ultimately sustained, and any records contained in the employee's personnel files and introduced into evidence at the hearing. The Board shall not be bound by rules of evidence used in California courts. Informality in any such hearing shall not invalidate any order or decision made by the Board.

At any time before a matter is submitted to the Board for decision, the Superintendent or designee may, with the consent of the Board, serve on the employee and file with the Board an amended or supplemental recommendation of disciplinary action. If the amended or supplemental recommendation includes new causes or allegations, the employee shall be afforded a reasonable opportunity to prepare a defense. Any new causes or allegations shall be deemed controverted and any objections to the amended or supplemental causes or allegations may be made orally at the hearing and shall be noted on the record.

Following the hearing or, if the employee has not requested a hearing, after reviewing the Superintendent or designee's recommendation for disciplinary action, the Board shall affirm, modify, or reject the recommended disciplinary action. The decision of the Board shall be in writing and shall contain findings of fact and the disciplinary action approved, if any. The decision of the Board shall be final.

Within 10 working days of the Board's final decision, a copy of the decision shall be delivered to the employee and/or designated representative personally or by registered mail.

Except for an allegation of egregious misconduct in which a minor is involved, the Board may delegate the authority to determine whether sufficient cause exists for disciplinary action to an impartial third-party hearing officer. When a matter is heard by a third-party hearing officer, the Board shall review the determination and adopt or reject the recommended decision. (Education Code 45113)

When any matter involves an allegation of egregious misconduct as defined in Education Code 44932 and involves a witness who is a minor, the matter shall be referred to an administrative law judge to determine whether sufficient cause exists for disciplinary action against the employee. In such cases, the ruling of the administrative law judge shall be binding on the district and the employee. (Education Code 45113)

Compulsory Leave of Absence

Upon being informed that a classified employee has been charged with a mandatory leave of absence offense, the Superintendent or designee shall immediately place the employee on a compulsory leave of absence. (Education Code 44940, 44940.5, 45304)

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

CA Constitution Article 1, Section 1

Ed. Code 35161

Ed. Code 44009

Ed. Code 44010

Ed. Code 44011

Ed. Code 44940

Ed. Code 44940.5

Ed. Code 45101

Ed. Code 45109

Ed. Code 45113

Ed. Code 45116

Ed. Code 45123

Ed. Code 45302

Ed. Code 45303

Ed. Code 45304

Gov. Code 12954

Veh. Code 1808.8

Description

[Inalienable rights](#)

[Board delegation of any powers or duties](#)

[Conviction of specified crimes](#)

[Sex offense; definition](#)

[Controlled substance offense; definition](#)

[Compulsory leave of absence for certificated persons](#)

[Procedures when employees are placed on compulsory leave of absence](#)

[Definitions; disciplinary action and cause](#)

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[Notification of charges; classified employees](#)

[Notice of disciplinary action](#)

[Employment after conviction of controlled substance offense](#)

[Demotion and removal from permanent classified service](#)

[Additional cause for suspension or dismissal of employee charged with mandatory or optional leave of absence offense](#)

[Compulsory leave of absence for classified persons](#)

[Employment discrimination; cannabis use](#)

[School bus drivers; dismissal for safety-related cause](#)

Federal

42 USC 12101-12213

U.S. Constitution, First Amendment

Description

[Americans with Disabilities Act](#)

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

Management Resources

Court Decision

Court Decision

Court Decision

Court Decision

Court Decision

U.S. Department of Education Publication

Website

Website

Website

Website

Description

[Visalia Unified School District v. Public Employment Relations Board \(2024\) 98 Cal.App.5th 844](#)

[Kennedy v. Bremerton \(2022\) 142 S.Ct. 2407](#)

[California School Employees v. Livingston Union School District \(2007\) 149 Cal. App. 4th 391](#)

[CSEA v. Foothill Community College District \(1975\) 52 Cal. App. 3rd 150](#)

[Skelly v. California Personnel Board \(1975\) 15 Cal.3d 194](#)

[Guidance on Constitutionally Protected Prayer and Religious Expression in Public Elementary and Secondary Schools, February 2026](#)

[Office of the Attorney General](#)

[Office of Administrative Hearings](#)

[Department of General Services, About Teacher Dismissal Case Type](#)

[CSBA District and County Office of Education Legal Services](#)

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[U.S. Department of Education](#)

Cross References

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[District-Sponsored Social Media](#)

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[Complaints Concerning District Employees](#)

[Uniform Complaint Procedures](#)

[Uniform Complaint Procedures](#)

[Uniform Complaint Procedures](#)

[Federal Grant Funds](#)

[Federal Grant Funds](#)

[Equipment](#)

[Equipment](#)

[Tobacco-Free Schools](#)

[Tobacco-Free Schools](#)

[Disruptions](#)

[Disruptions](#)

[Unmanned Aircraft Systems \(Drones\)](#)

[Bomb Threats](#)

[Concepts And Roles](#)

[Drug And Alcohol-Free Workplace](#)

[Nondiscrimination In Employment](#)

[Nondiscrimination In Employment](#)

[Employee Use Of Technology](#)

[Employee Use Of Technology](#)

[Employee Use Of Technology](#)

[Criminal Record Check](#)

[Criminal Record Check](#)

[Personnel Files](#)

[Civil And Legal Rights](#)

[Title IX Sexual Harassment Complaint Procedures](#)

[Title IX Sexual Harassment Complaint Procedures](#)

[Professional Standards](#)

Cross References

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