

Policy 5144: Discipline

Status: DRAFT

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The Governing Board is committed to providing a safe, supportive, and positive school environment which is conducive to student learning and achievement and desires 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, provision of appropriate interventions and supports, and parent/guardian involvement can minimize the need for disciplinary measures that exclude students from instruction as a means for correcting student misbehavior.

The Superintendent or designee shall develop effective, age-appropriate strategies for maintaining a positive school climate and responding appropriately to student misbehavior at district schools. The strategies shall focus on providing students with needed support; communicating clear, appropriate, and consistent expectations and consequences for student conduct; and ensuring equity and continuous improvement in the implementation of district discipline policies and practices.

In addition, the Superintendent or designee's strategies for responding to student misconduct shall reflect the Board's preference for the use of positive interventions and alternative disciplinary measures over exclusionary discipline measures.

Disciplinary measures that may result in loss of instructional time or cause students to be disengaged from school, such as detention, suspension, and expulsion, shall be imposed only when required or permitted by law or when other means of correction have been documented to 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)

A student shall not be denied recess unless the student's participation poses an immediate threat to the physical safety of the student or to the physical safety of one or more of the student's peers. If, due to such immediate threat, a student is denied recess, staff shall make all reasonable efforts to resolve the threat and minimize the student's exclusion from recess, to the greatest extent practicable. (Education Code 49056)

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)

The Superintendent or designee shall create a model discipline matrix that lists violations and the consequences for each as allowed by law.

The principal or designee at each school may develop disciplinary rules to meet the school's particular needs consistent with law, Board policy, and administrative regulations. The Board, at an open meeting, may review the approved school discipline rules for consistency with Board policy and state law. (Education Code 32282, 35291.5)

At all times, the safety of students and staff, providing interventions and supports to students, as well as 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 support and/or discipline. When choosing between different disciplinary strategies, staff shall consider the effect of each option on the student's health, well-being, and opportunity to learn.

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

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 the school community, and other local measures, shall be included in the district's local control and accountability plan, as required by law.

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 board to enact this policy. Instead, they are provided as additional resources for those interested in the subject matter of the policy.

State References

	Description
5 CCR 307	Participation in school activities until departure of bus
5 CCR 353	Detention after school
Civ. Code 1714.1	Liability of parent or guardian for act of willful misconduct by a minor
Ed. Code 32280-32289.5	School safety plans
Ed. Code 35146	Closed sessions
Ed. Code 35291-35291.5	Rules
Ed. Code 35291.5	School-adopted discipline rules
Ed. Code 37223	Weekend classes
Ed. Code 48900-48926	Suspension and expulsion
Ed. Code 48980-48985	Parent/Guardian notifications
Ed. Code 49005-49006.4	Seclusion and restraint
Ed. Code 49055	Restorative justice practices
Ed. Code 49056	Recess restriction
Ed. Code 49330-49335	Injurious objects
Ed. Code 49414.4	Opioid misuse; alternative to referral to law enforcement
Ed. Code 49550-49564.5	Meals for needy students
Ed. Code 52060-52077	Local control and accountability plan

Federal References

	Description
20 USC 1400-1482	Individuals with Disabilities Education Act
29 USC 794	Rehabilitation Act of 1973; Section 504
42 USC 1751-1769j	School Lunch Program
42 USC 1773	School Breakfast Program

Management Resources References

	Description
California Dept of Education Program Advisories	Classroom Management: A California Resource Guide for Teachers and Administrators of Elementary and Secondary Schools, 2000
CSBA Publication	The Case for Reducing Out-of-School Suspensions and Expulsions, Fact Sheet, April 2014
CSBA Publication	Recent Legislation on Discipline: AB 240, Fact Sheet, March 2015
CSBA Publication	Safe Schools: Strategies for Governing Boards to Ensure Student Success, 2011
CSBA Publication	Providing a Safe, Nondiscriminatory School Environment for Transgender and Gender-Nonconforming Students, Policy Brief, February 2014
CSBA Publication	Maximizing Opportunities for Physical Activity During the School Day, Fact Sheet, November 2009

Fix School Discipline Project	Sample alternative discipline policy
U.S. DOE, Office for Civil Rights Publication	Resource on Confronting Racial Discrimination in Student Discipline
U.S. DOE, Office for Civil Rights Publication	Supporting Students with Disabilities and Avoiding the Discriminatory Use of Student Discipline under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973
U.S. DOE, Office for Civil Rights Publication	Dear Colleague Letter on the Nondiscriminatory Administration of School Discipline, January 2014
Website	CSBA District and County Office of Education Legal Services
Website	Public Counsel
Website	U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights
Website	California Department of Education
Website	CSBA

Cross References

Description

0450	Comprehensive Safety Plan
0450	Comprehensive Safety Plan
0460	Local Control And Accountability Plan
1312.3	Uniform Complaint Procedures
1312.3	Uniform Complaint Procedures
3512	Equipment
3512-E PDF(1)	Equipment
3513.3	Tobacco-Free Schools
3513.3	Tobacco-Free Schools
3515	Campus Security
3515.3	District Police/Security Department
3515.3	District Police/Security Department
3515.4	Recovery For Property Loss Or Damage
3515.4	Recovery For Property Loss Or Damage
3543	Transportation Safety And Emergencies
4131	Staff Development
4131	Staff Development
4158	Employee Security
4158	Employee Security
4258	Employee Security
4258	Employee Security
4358	Employee Security
4358	Employee Security
5000	Concepts And Roles
5020	Parent Rights And Responsibilities
5020	Parent Rights And Responsibilities
5030	Student Wellness
5112.1	Exemptions From Attendance
5112.1	Exemptions From Attendance

5112.5	Open/Closed Campus
5112.5	Open/Closed Campus
5113.1	Chronic Absence And Truancy
5113.1	Chronic Absence And Truancy
5116.2	Involuntary Student Transfers
5116.2	Involuntary Student Transfers
5125	Student Records
5125	Student Records
5127	Graduation Ceremonies And Activities
5131	Conduct
5131.1	Bus Conduct
5131.1	Bus Conduct
5131.2	Bullying
5131.2	Bullying
5131.4	Student Disturbances
5131.4	Student Disturbances
5131.41	Use Of Seclusion And Restraint
5131.5	Vandalism And Graffiti
5131.6	Alcohol And Other Drugs
5131.6	Alcohol And Other Drugs
5131.62	Tobacco
5131.62	Tobacco
5131.63	Steroids
5131.63	Steroids
5131.7	Weapons And Dangerous Instruments
5131.7	Weapons And Dangerous Instruments
5131.9	Academic Honesty
5132	Dress And Grooming
5132	Dress And Grooming
5137	Positive School Climate
5141.4	Child Abuse Prevention And Reporting
5141.4	Child Abuse Prevention And Reporting
5142	Safety
5142	Safety
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
5145.3	Nondiscrimination/Harassment
5145.6	Parent/Guardian Notifications

5145.6-E PDF(1)	Parent/Guardian Notifications
5145.7	Sexual Harassment
5145.7	Sexual Harassment
5145.71	Title IX Sexual Harassment Complaint Procedures
5145.9	Hate-Motivated Behavior
5148.2	Before/After School Programs
5148.2	Before/After School Programs
6145	Extracurricular And Cocurricular Activities
6145	Extracurricular And Cocurricular Activities
6145.2	Athletic Competition
6145.2	Athletic Competition
6145.2-E PDF(1)	Athletic Competition
6145.8	Assemblies And Special Events
6153	School-Sponsored Trips
6153	School-Sponsored Trips
6159.4	Behavioral Interventions For Special Education Students
6163.4	Student Use Of Technology
6163.4	Student Use Of Technology
6164.2	Guidance/Counseling Services
6164.2	Guidance/Counseling Services
6164.5	Student Success Teams
6164.5	Student Success Teams
6184	Continuation Education
6184	Continuation Education
6185	Community Day School
6185	Community Day School
9321	Closed Session