

Policy 5131 Conduct

Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 11/1999

Last Revised Date: 08/28/2024

The Governing Board believes that all students have the right to be educated in a safe and positive learning environment free from disruptions. Students shall be expected to exhibit appropriate conduct that does not infringe upon the rights of others or interfere with the school program while on school grounds, going to or coming from school, at school activities, or using district transportation.

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that each school develops standards of conduct and discipline consistent with Board policies and administrative regulations. Students and parents/guardians shall be notified of district and school rules related to conduct.

Prohibited student conduct includes, but is not limited to:

1. Conduct that endangers students, staff, or others, including, but not limited to, physical violence, possession of a firearm or other weapon, and terrorist threats
2. Discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying of students or staff, including sexual harassment, hate-motivated behavior, cyberbullying, hazing or initiation activity, extortion, or any other verbal, written, or physical conduct that causes or threatens to cause violence, bodily harm, or substantial disruption to the school program
3. Conduct that disrupts the orderly classroom or school environment
4. Willful defiance of staff's authority
5. Damage to or theft of property belonging to students, staff, or the district

The district shall not be responsible for students' personal belongings which are brought on campus or to a school activity and are lost, stolen, or damaged.
6. Obscene acts or use of profane, vulgar, or abusive language
7. Possession, use, or being under the influence of tobacco, alcohol, or other prohibited substances
8. Possession or use of a laser pointer, unless for a valid instructional or other school-related purpose with prior permission of the principal or designee (Penal Code 417.27)

Prior to bringing a laser pointer on school premises for a valid instructional or school-related purpose, a student shall obtain permission from the principal or designee.

9. Use of a cell phone, smart watch, pager, or other mobile communication device during instructional time or in an unauthorized manner in violation of district policy

No student shall be prohibited from possessing or using an electronic signaling device that is determined by a licensed physician or surgeon to be essential for the student's health and the use of which is limited to purposes related to the student's health. (Education Code 48901.5)

10. Plagiarism or dishonesty on school work or tests
11. Wearing of any attire that violates district or school dress codes, including gang-related apparel
12. Tardiness or unexcused absence from school
13. Failure to remain on school premises in accordance with school rules

Employees are expected to enforce standards of conduct and, when they observe or receive a report of a violation of these standards, to appropriately intervene or seek assistance. As necessary, the employee shall refer the matter to a supervisor or the principal or designee.

When a school employee suspects that a search of a student or a student's belongings will turn up evidence of the student's violation of the law or school rules, such a search shall be conducted in accordance with BP/AR 5145.12 - Search and Seizure.

When a student uses any prohibited device, or uses a permitted device in an unauthorized manner, a district employee may confiscate the device. The employee shall store the device securely until it is returned to the student or turned over to the principal or designee, as appropriate.

Students who violate district or school rules and regulations may be subject to discipline including, but not limited to, suspension, expulsion, transfer to alternative programs, referral to a student success team or counseling services, or denial of participation in extracurricular or cocurricular activities or other privileges in accordance with Board policy and administrative regulation. The Superintendent or designee shall notify local law enforcement as appropriate.

Students also may be subject to discipline, in accordance with law, Board policy, or administrative regulation, for any off-campus conduct during non-school hours which poses a threat or danger to the safety of students, staff, or district property, or substantially disrupts school activities.

11/1999
03/2002
11/2002
7/9/2003
03/2004

07/2007
12/12/2007
11/2008
04/08/2009
08/2010
07/2012
08/28/2024

Policy Reference Disclaimers

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

5 CCR 300-307
Civ. Code 1714.1

Ed. Code 200-262.4
Ed. Code 32280-32289.5
Ed. Code 35181

Ed. Code 35291-35291.5
Ed. Code 44807
Ed. Code 48900-48925
Ed. Code 51512

Pen. Code 288.2
Pen. Code 313
Pen. Code 417.25-417.27
Pen. Code 647

Pen. Code 653.2
Veh. Code 23123-23124

Federal

20 USC 1681-1688

Management Resources

California Department of Education
Publication

Court Decision

Court Decision
Court Decision

Court Decision

Court Decision

Court Decision

Court Decision

Description

Duties of students

[Liability of parent or guardian for act of willful misconduct by a minor](#)

[Prohibition of discrimination](#)

[School safety plans](#)

[Governing board authority to set policy on responsibilities of students](#)

[Rules](#)

[Teachers' duty concerning conduct of students](#)

[Suspension and expulsion](#)

[Prohibition against electronic listening or recording device in classroom without permission](#)

[Harmful matter with intent to seduce](#)

[Harmful matter](#)

[Laser scope or laser pointer](#)

[Use of camera or other instrument to invade person's privacy; misdemeanor](#)

[Electronic communication devices; threats to safety](#)

[Prohibitions against use of electronic devices while driving](#)

Description

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; discrimination based on sex

Description

[Bullying at School, 2003](#)

Lavine v. Blaine School District (2001, 9th Cir.) 257 F.3d 981

New Jersey v. T.L.O. (1985) 469 U.S. 325

Tinker v. Des Moines Independent Community School District (1969) 393 U.S. 503

Bethel School District No. 403 v. Fraser (1986) 478 U.S. 675

Emmett v. Kent School District No. 415 (2000) 92 F.Supp. 1088

J.C. v. Beverly Hills Unified School District (2010) 711 F.Supp.2d 1094

LaVine v. Blaine School District (2000, 9th Cir.) 257 F.3d 981

CSBA Publication	Cyberbullying: Policy Considerations for Boards, Policy Brief, July 2007
CSBA Publication	Providing a Safe, Nondiscriminatory School Environment for All Students, Policy Brief, April 2010
CSBA Publication	Safe Schools: Strategies for Governing Boards to Ensure Student Success, 2011
Website	CSBA District and County Office of Education Legal Services
Website	National School Safety Center
Website	Center for Safe and Responsible Internet Use
Website	California Department of Education, Safe Schools
Website	CSBA
Website	U.S. Department of Education

Cross References

Code	Description
0440	District Technology Plan
0440	District Technology Plan
0450	Comprehensive Safety Plan
0450	Comprehensive Safety Plan
1114	District-Sponsored Social Media
1114	District-Sponsored Social Media
1313	Civility
1330.1	Joint Use Agreements
3513.4	Drug And Alcohol Free Schools
3515.4	Recovery For Property Loss Or Damage
3515.4	Recovery For Property Loss Or Damage
3516.2	Bomb Threats
4131	Staff Development
4219.21	Professional Standards
4219.21-E(1)	Professional Standards
4231	Staff Development
4319.21	Professional Standards
4319.21-E(1)	Professional Standards
5000	Concepts And Roles
5020	Parent Rights And Responsibilities
5020	Parent Rights And Responsibilities
5112.5	Open/Closed Campus
5113	Absences And Excuses
5113	Absences And Excuses
5113.1	Chronic Absence And Truancy
5113.1	Chronic Absence And Truancy
5113.11	Attendance Supervision
5113.12	District School Attendance Review Board
5113.12	District School Attendance Review Board
5127	Graduation Ceremonies And Activities
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
5131.8	Mobile Communication Devices
5131.9	Academic Honesty
5132	Dress And Grooming
5132	Dress And Grooming
5136	Gangs
5136	Gangs
5137	Positive School Climate
5138	Conflict Resolution/Peer Mediation
5141.4	Child Abuse Prevention And Reporting
5141.4	Child Abuse Prevention And Reporting
5141.52	Suicide Prevention
5141.52	Suicide Prevention
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)
5144.4	Required Parental Attendance
5144.4	Required Parental Attendance
5145.12	Search And Seizure
5145.12	Search And Seizure
5145.2	Freedom Of Speech/Expression
5145.2	Freedom Of Speech/Expression
5145.3	Nondiscrimination/Harassment
5145.3	Nondiscrimination/Harassment
5145.7	Sexual Harassment
5145.7	Sexual Harassment
5145.9	Hate-Motivated Behavior
6116	Classroom Interruptions
6142.8	Comprehensive Health Education
6142.8	Comprehensive Health Education
6144	Controversial Issues
6145	Extracurricular And Cocurricular Activities
6145	Extracurricular And Cocurricular Activities
6145.2	Athletic Competition
6145.2	Athletic Competition
6145.5	Student Organizations And Equal Access
6145.5	Student Organizations And Equal Access
6145.8	Assemblies And Special Events
6153	School-Sponsored Trips
6153	School-Sponsored Trips
6159.4	Behavioral Interventions For Special Education Students
6162.54	Test Integrity/Test Preparation

6163.4	Student Use Of Technology
6163.4-E(1)	Student Use Of Technology
6164.2	Guidance/Counseling Services
6173.1	Education For Foster Youth
6173.1	Education For Foster Youth
6184	Continuation Education
6184	Continuation Education