

STUDENTS

Freedom of Expression/Religious Symbols

The Board recognizes the importance to members of the Sikh community of possessing and wearing Kirpans. The following guidelines are established to accommodate initiated Sikh students in exercising their religion through the possession of Kirpans on school campuses:

1. The Kirpan must be secured by a strap and tightly sewn into the strap so it is securely held.
2. For students through Grade 10, the Kirpan must be worn on a cloth strap under the student's clothing so that it is not readily visible.
3. The Kirpan shall have a dull blade, not more than 3.5 inches in length, with a total length not to exceed 6 inches, including its sheath.
4. The student shall not remove the Kirpan from its sheath nor shall it be displayed, brandished, or used in a threatening manner.
5. A designated official of the school district may make reasonable inspections to confirm compliance with the conditions specified above in a manner that causes the least interference with the student's classroom instruction.
6. If any of the conditions specified above are violated, the District may take proportional remedial or disciplinary action, including suspending the student's privilege of wearing the Kirpan on a school campus and the student may be subject to applicable disciplinary action, as specified in Education Code 48900.
7. The District will take all reasonable steps to prevent any unlawful harassment, discrimination, bullying, intimidation or provocation of any student wearing a genuine Kirpan. Appropriate disciplinary action will be taken to prevent and redress such action, should it occur.
8. The District shall not prohibit any student meeting the requirements set forth herein from participating in any extracurricular activities except as may be precluded by specific rules outside the control of the District.

(cf. 0410 – Nondiscrimination in District Programs and Activities)

(cf. 5132 – Dress and Grooming)

(cf. 5131.2 – Bullying)

(cf. 5145.3 – Nondiscrimination)

Regulation approved: 12/15/2020