

**SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
AGENDA AND ORDER OF BUSINESS - SPECIAL MEETING**

Board Policies and Bylaws Committee
Monday, October 23, 2023

**South San Francisco Unified School District,
Board Room
398 B Street, South San Francisco**

SSFUSD Equity Definition

Equity, in SSFUSD, is defined as giving students what they need, when they need it to fulfill their potential.

The Board Policies and Bylaws Committee invites the community to participate in this meeting in-person.

Translation: For in-person attendees, a Spanish language translation will be provided if requested through the Superintendent's office, 650-877-8705, no later than 48 hours prior to the start of the meeting.

Traducción: La oficina de la superintendente, 650-877-8705, les proveerá una traducción en español a los asistentes si la piden 48 horas antes de empezar la reunión.

OPEN SESSION - 4:30 p.m.

- A. CALL TO ORDER**
- B. ROLL CALL**
- C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- D. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT**

We acknowledge that the South San Francisco Unified School District is located on the unceded ancestral homeland of the Ramaytush Ohlone peoples who are the original inhabitants of the San Francisco Peninsula.

We wish to pay our respects by acknowledging the Ancestors, Elders, and relatives of the Ramaytush Community and by affirming their sovereign rights as First Peoples.

- E. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

To comment prior to the meeting:

Public comments may be submitted in advance of the meeting through the following link: <https://bit.ly/specialmeeting10232023> beginning at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 19, until 1:00 p.m. on Monday, October 23. These comments

will be read by the Board Policies and Bylaws Committee members and posted on the District website's 2023-24 meetings page at:

<https://www.ssfusd.org/apps/pages/meetings>

Special Meeting comments in-person during the meeting:

In accordance with the law, the Brown Act, **during special meetings, public comments are limited to only those items on the agenda.** Public comments are limited to one to three minutes per individual (per Board Bylaw 9323). Name/address cards are placed in the back of the room to be completed and given to a committee member who will call upon individuals in random order who have requested to speak. Each person may only speak once, and is required to address the committee from the podium.

INFORMATION/DISCUSSION

PAGE

1. ADMINISTRATION

a. Board Policies and Bylaws Committee

Board Vice President Patricia Murray and Trustee Amanda Anthony are the 2023-24 members of the Board Policies and Bylaws Committee. They will review and discuss the following Bylaw and Policies prior to them being submitted for approval by all the Trustees at future regular Board meetings.

Documents:

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ADJOURNMENT

Pursuant to Government Code 54954.2, Individuals who need special assistance or a disability-related modification or accommodation (including auxiliary aids or services) to participate in this meeting, should contact Nalani Allen-Cantley, Senior Executive Assistant to the Superintendent, at least three working days prior to the meeting at (650) 877-8705. Notification in advance of this meeting will enable the District to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility.

The agenda is available for review at the District's website: www.ssfusd.org (Click on *Board, Meetings*).

PROPOSED

Policy 3350: Travel Expenses

The Governing Board recognizes that district employees may incur expenses in the course of performing their assigned duties and responsibilities. To ensure the prudent use of public funds, the Superintendent or designee shall establish rules to keep such expenses to a minimum while affording employees a reasonable level of safety and convenience.

(cf. 9250 - Remuneration, Reimbursement and Other Benefits)

The Board shall authorize payment for actual and necessary travel expenses incurred by any employee performing authorized services for the district, whether within or outside district boundaries. (Education Code 44032)

The Superintendent or designee shall establish procedures for the approval of travel requests and the submission and verification of expense claims. He/she also shall establish reimbursement rates in accordance with law and Board policy.

An employee shall obtain approval from the Superintendent or designee prior to traveling. The Superintendent or designee may approve travel requests in accordance with the adopted budget and upon determining that the travel is authorized or assigned by the employee's supervisor, is necessary to attend a conference or other staff development opportunity that will enhance employee performance, and/or is otherwise necessary to the performance of the employee's duties. Travel expenses not previously budgeted may be approved on a case-by-case basis by the Superintendent or designee if he/she determines that the travel is essential and that resources may be obtained or redirected for this purpose.

Board members shall likewise obtain approval from the Board prior to traveling, in accordance with the policy outlined below. The Board may approve travel requests in accordance with the adopted budget and upon determining that the travel will enhance the Board member's ability to lead the district in alignment with Board and district policies and strategic goals, provide opportunities for partnership, and not interfere with regular Board business. Board members do not need additional approval to attend the annual California School Boards Association Annual Education Conference (AEC), Masters in Governance trainings, delegate assembly or other CSBA-organized workshops.

Board members shall obtain approval as early as possible but no later than 1 board meeting prior to said travel. Every effort should be made to register and book accommodation at early-bird pricing, while ensuring the most economical but still adequate accommodation. Board members shall explain, in writing, how the travel will support our Board and district priorities. If authorized, the Board member agrees to present his/her learnings at the next possible Board meeting, and maximally within two months.

PROPOSED

The aforementioned policy does not apply when travel is funded through a third party.

Approval of Board member travel is contingent upon Board member attendance at Board workshops and Board self-evaluations, completion of the Masters in Governance course, and attendance of 90% or better at regular Board meetings. Exceptions will be made for cases of family emergency, such as hospital stays, and major life events such as weddings, graduations, and funerals.

(cf. 3100 - Budget)

(cf. 3110 - Transfer of Funds)

(cf. 4131 - Staff Development)

(cf. 4231 - Staff Development)

(cf. 4331 - Staff Development)

All out-of-state travel for which reimbursement will be claimed shall be approved in advance by the Board.

Reimbursable travel expenses may include, but are not limited to, costs of transportation, parking fees, bridge or road tolls, lodging when district business reasonably requires an overnight stay, registration fees for seminars and conferences, telephone and other communication expenses incurred on district business, and other necessary incidental expenses. Every effort will be made to minimize the cost of travel and accommodation, while still maintaining safety and comfort, when overnight stays are necessary.

The district shall not reimburse personal travel expenses including, but not limited to, tips or gratuities, alcohol, entertainment, laundry, expenses of any family member who is accompanying the employee on district-related business, personal use of an automobile, and personal losses or traffic violation fees incurred while on district business.

Except as otherwise provided, reimbursement of travel expenses shall be based on actual expenses as documented by receipts.

Authorized employees shall be reimbursed for the use of their own private vehicles in the performance of assigned duties, on either a mileage or monthly basis as determined by the Superintendent or designee. (Education Code 44033)

The mileage allowance provided by the district for employees' use of their private vehicles shall be equal to the rate established by the Internal Revenue Service.

PROPOSED

Vehicles should be shared whenever possible to minimize travel costs. No employee shall be entitled to reimbursement for automobile travel when he/she is transported free of charge or by another employee who is entitled to the expense reimbursement.

The Superintendent or designee shall establish a per diem allowance for meal costs incurred while traveling on district business based on the location and hours of travel. The per diem allowance shall not exceed the standard meal allowance for business-related travel prescribed for federal income tax purposes.

Any expense that exceeds the maximum rate of reimbursement established by the district shall be reimbursed only with the approval of the Superintendent or designee.

All expense reimbursement claims shall be submitted on a district form, within 10 working days following return from travel when possible. The form shall be accompanied by receipts and any explanation necessary to document that the expenses meet district criteria for reimbursement.

The Superintendent or designee shall approve expense claims only upon verifying that all necessary documentation is provided and that all expenses are appropriate and related to district business. If an expense claim is disallowed due to lack of documentation or inappropriate expenses, the employee may be personally responsible for any improper costs incurred.

When approved by the Superintendent or designee, an employee may be issued a district credit card for use while on authorized district business. Receipts documenting the expenses incurred on a district credit card shall be submitted promptly following return from travel. Under no circumstances shall personal expenses be charged on a district credit card, even if the employee intends to subsequently reimburse the district for the personal charges.

When necessary, the Superintendent or designee may approve a cash advance, not to exceed the estimated out-of-pocket reimbursable expenses, to an employee authorized to travel on district business. Within 10 working days following return from travel, the employee shall submit a final accounting with all necessary supporting documentation.

He/she shall refund to the district any amount of cash advance exceeding the actual approved reimbursable expenses.

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.

PROPOSED

State	Description
Ed. Code 42634	<u>Itemization of expenses</u>
Ed. Code 44016	<u>Travel expense to employment interview</u>
Ed. Code 44032	<u>Travel expense payment</u>
Ed. Code 44033	<u>Automobile allowance</u>
Ed. Code 44802	<u>Student teacher's travel expense</u>

Management Resources	Description
Internal Revenue Service Publication	Per Diem Rates (For Travel Within the Continental United States), Publication 1542
Website	<u>CSBA District and County Office of Education Legal Services</u>
Website	<u>U.S. General Services Administration, Per Diem Rates</u>
Website	<u>Internal Revenue Service</u>

Cross References

Code	Description
1220	<u>Citizen Advisory Committees</u>
1220	<u>Citizen Advisory Committees</u>
2121	<u>Superintendent's Contract</u>
2230	<u>Representative And Deliberative Groups</u>
3100	<u>Budget</u>
3100	<u>Budget</u>
3110	<u>Transfer Of Funds</u>
3230	<u>Federal Grant Funds</u>
3230	<u>Federal Grant Funds</u>

PROPOSED

3300	<u>Expenditures And Purchases</u>
4131	<u>Staff Development</u>
4231	<u>Staff Development</u>
4331	<u>Staff Development</u>
6159.3	<u>Appointment Of Surrogate Parent For Special Education Students</u>
6159.3	<u>Appointment Of Surrogate Parent For Special Education Students</u>
9150	<u>Student Board Members</u>
9150-E PDF(1)	<u>Student Board Members</u>
9250	<u>Remuneration, Reimbursement And Other Benefits</u>

Policy 3350: Travel Expenses

Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 09/25/2014

The Governing Board recognizes that district employees may incur expenses in the course of performing their assigned duties and responsibilities. To ensure the prudent use of public funds, the Superintendent or designee shall establish rules to keep such expenses to a minimum while affording employees a reasonable level of safety and convenience.

(cf. 9250 - Remuneration, Reimbursement and Other Benefits)

The Board shall authorize payment for actual and necessary travel expenses incurred by any employee performing authorized services for the district, whether within or outside district boundaries. (Education Code 44032)

The Superintendent or designee shall establish procedures for the approval of travel requests and the submission and verification of expense claims. He/she also shall establish reimbursement rates in accordance with law and Board policy.

An employee shall obtain approval from the Superintendent or designee prior to traveling. The Superintendent or designee may approve travel requests in accordance with the adopted budget and upon determining that the travel is authorized or assigned by the employee's supervisor, is necessary to attend a conference or other staff development opportunity that will enhance employee performance, and/or is otherwise necessary to the performance of the employee's duties. Travel expenses not previously budgeted may be approved on a case-by-case basis by the Superintendent or designee if he/she determines that the travel is essential and that resources may be obtained or redirected for this purpose.

(cf. 3100 - Budget)

(cf. 3110 - Transfer of Funds)

(cf. 4131 - Staff Development)

(cf. 4231 - Staff Development)

(cf. 4331 - Staff Development)

All out-of-state travel for which reimbursement will be claimed shall be approved in advance by the Board.

Reimbursable travel expenses may include, but are not limited to, costs of transportation, parking fees, bridge or road tolls, lodging when district business reasonably requires an overnight stay, registration fees for seminars and conferences, telephone and other communication expenses incurred on district business, and other necessary incidental expenses.

The district shall not reimburse personal travel expenses including, but not limited to, tips or gratuities, alcohol, entertainment, laundry, expenses of any family member who is accompanying the employee on district-related business, personal use of an automobile, and personal losses or traffic violation fees incurred while on district business.

Except as otherwise provided, reimbursement of travel expenses shall be based on actual expenses as documented by receipts.

Authorized employees shall be reimbursed for the use of their own private vehicles in the performance of assigned duties, on either a mileage or monthly basis as determined by the Superintendent or designee. (Education Code 44033)

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The mileage allowance provided by the district for employees' use of their private vehicles shall be equal to the rate established by the Internal Revenue Service.

Vehicles should be shared whenever possible to minimize travel costs. No employee shall be entitled to reimbursement for automobile travel when he/she is transported free of charge or by another employee who is entitled to the expense reimbursement.

The Superintendent or designee shall establish a per diem allowance for meal costs incurred while traveling on district business based on the location and hours of travel. The per diem allowance shall not exceed the standard meal allowance for business-related travel prescribed for federal income tax purposes.

Any expense that exceeds the maximum rate of reimbursement established by the district shall be reimbursed only with the approval of the Superintendent or designee.

All expense reimbursement claims shall be submitted on a district form, within 10 working days following return from travel when possible. The form shall be accompanied by receipts and any explanation necessary to document that the expenses meet district criteria for reimbursement.

The Superintendent or designee shall approve expense claims only upon verifying that all necessary documentation is provided and that all expenses are appropriate and related to district business. If an expense claim is disallowed due to lack of documentation or inappropriate expenses, the employee may be personally responsible for any improper costs incurred.

When approved by the Superintendent or designee, an employee may be issued a district credit card for use while on authorized district business. Receipts documenting the expenses incurred on a district credit card shall be submitted promptly following return from travel. Under no circumstances shall personal expenses be charged on a district credit card, even if the employee intends to subsequently reimburse the district for the personal charges.

When necessary, the Superintendent or designee may approve a cash advance, not to exceed the estimated out-of-pocket reimbursable expenses, to an employee authorized to travel on district business. Within 10 working days following return from travel, the employee shall submit a final accounting with all necessary supporting documentation.

He/she shall refund to the district any amount of cash advance exceeding the actual approved reimbursable expenses.

PROPOSED

Policy 4118: Dismissal/Suspension/Disciplinary Action

Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 07/01/2000 | Last Revised Date: ~~12~~09/01/20142022 | Last Reviewed Date: ~~12~~09/01/20142022

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

Disciplinary action shall be based on the particular facts and circumstances involved and the severity of the conduct or performance. An employee's private exercise of personal beliefs and activities, including religious, political, cultural, social, or other beliefs or activities, or lack thereof, shall not be grounds for disciplinary action against the employee, provided that the beliefs or activities do not involve coercion of students or any other violation of law, Board policy, or administrative regulation.

In addition, an employee shall not be suspended, disciplined, reassigned, transferred, dismissed, or otherwise retaliated against solely 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 warnings, written warnings, reassignment, suspension, freezing or reduction of wages, compulsory leave, or dismissal.

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that disciplinary actions are taken in a consistent, nondiscriminatory manner and are appropriately documented.

Suspension/Dismissal Procedures

The Superintendent shall notify the Board whenever there is cause to suspend or dismiss an employee pursuant to Education Code 44932 or 44933.

When the Board finds that there is cause to suspend or dismiss an employee pursuant to Education Code 44932 or 44933, it may formulate a written statement of charges specifying instances of behavior and the acts or omissions constituting the charge, the statutes and rules that the employee is alleged to have violated when applicable, and the facts relevant to each charge. The Board shall also review any duly signed and verified written statement of charges filed by any other person.- (Education Code 44934, 44934.1)

Based on the written statement of charges, the Board may, upon majority vote, give notice to the employee of the Board's intention to suspend or dismiss the employee at the expiration of 30 days from the date the notice is served. (Education Code 44934, 44934.1)

PROPOSED

Prior to serving a suspension or dismissal notice that includes a charge of unsatisfactory performance, the district shall give the employee written notice of the unsatisfactory performance that specifies the nature of the unsatisfactory performance with such specific instances of behavior and with such particularity as to furnish the employee an opportunity to correct the faults and overcome the grounds for any unsatisfactory performance charges and, if applicable, that includes the evaluation made pursuant to Education Code 44660-44665.- The written notice of the unsatisfactory performance shall be provided at least 90 days prior to the filing of the suspension or dismissal notice or prior to the last one-fourth of the school days in the year.- (Education Code 44938)

Prior to serving a suspension or dismissal notice that includes a charge of unprofessional conduct, the district shall give the employee written notice that describes the nature of the unprofessional conduct with such specific instances of behavior and with such particularity as to furnish the employee an opportunity to correct the faults and overcome the grounds for any unprofessional conduct charges and, if applicable, that includes the evaluation made pursuant to Education Code 44660-44665. The written notice of the unprofessional conduct shall be provided at least 45 days prior to the filing of the suspension or dismissal notice.- (Education Code 44938)

Except for notices that only include charges of unsatisfactory performance, the written suspension or dismissal notice may be served at any time of year. Such notice shall be served upon the employee personally if given outside of the instructional year or, if given during the instructional year, may be served personally or by registered mail to the employee's last known address. Notices with a charge of unsatisfactory performance shall be given only during the instructional year of the school site where the employee is physically employed, and may be served personally or by registered mail to the employee's last known address.- (Education Code 44936)

If an employee has been served notice and demands a hearing pursuant to Government Code 11505 and 11506, the Board shall either rescind its action or schedule a hearing on the matter. (Education Code 44941, 44941.1, 44943, 44944)

Pending suspension or dismissal proceedings for an employee who is charged with egregious misconduct, immoral conduct, conviction of a felony or of any crime involving moral turpitude, incompetency due to mental disability, or willful refusal to perform regular assignments without reasonable cause as prescribed by district rules and regulations, the Board may, if it deems it necessary, immediately suspend the employee from assigned duties. If the employee files a motion with the Office of Administrative Hearings for immediate reversal of the suspension based on a cause other than egregious misconduct, the Board may file a written response before or at the time of the hearing.- (Education Code 44939, 44939.1, 44940)

When a suspension or dismissal hearing is to be conducted by a Commission on Professional Competence, the Board shall, no later than 45 days before the date set for the hearing, select one person with a currently valid credential to serve on the Commission. The appointee shall not be an employee of the district and shall have at least three years' experience within the past 10 years at the same grade span or assignment as the employee, as defined in Education Code 44944.- (Education Code 44944)

Policy 4118: Dismissal/Suspension/Disciplinary Action

Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 11/18/2010 | Last Reviewed Date:
11/18/2010

The Governing Board expects all employees to exhibit professional and appropriate conduct and serve as positive role models both at school and in the community. An employee may be suspended or disciplined for unprofessional or inappropriate conduct in accordance with law, the district's collective bargaining agreement, Board policy, and administrative regulation.

(cf. 4000 - Concepts and Roles)

(cf. 4112.5/4312.5 - Criminal Record Check)

(cf. 4117.4 - Dismissal)

(cf. 4119.21/4219.21/4319.21 - Professional Standards)

(cf. 4141/4241 - Collective Bargaining Agreement)

The Superintendent or designee may take disciplinary action as he/she deems appropriate in light of the particular facts and circumstances involved and based on the severity of the misconduct. Disciplinary actions may include, but not be limited to, verbal warnings, written warnings, reassignment, suspension, freezing or reduction of wages, compulsory leave, or dismissal.

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that, consistent with law, disciplinary actions are taken in a consistent, nondiscriminatory manner and are appropriately documented.

(cf. 1312.1 - Complaints Concerning District Employees)

(cf. 4030 - Nondiscrimination in Employment)

(cf. 4032 - Complaints Concerning Discrimination in Employment)

(cf. 4112.6/4212.6/4312.6 - Personnel Files)

(cf. 4119.1/4219.4319.1 - Civil and Legal Rights)

(cf. 4119.11/4219.11/4319.11 - Sexual Harassment)

In accordance with law, the Superintendent or designee shall notify the Commission on Teacher Credentialing when the status of a credentialed employee has been changed as a result of alleged misconduct.

(cf. 4117.7 - Employment Status Reports)

PROPOSED

Policy 4119.1: Civil And Legal Rights

Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 03/01/2004 | Last Revised Date: 0709/01/20122022 | Last Reviewed Date: 0709/01/20122022

The Governing Board believes that the personal life of an employee is not an appropriate concern of the district, except as it may directly relate to performance of the employee's duties.

District employees may engage in private, personal activities, including the exercise of their religious, political, cultural, social or other beliefs or activities, during personal time including when employees are not on duty or engaged in the supervision or instruction of students.

The district shall make no inquiry concerning the personal values, attitudes, and beliefs of district employees or their sexual orientation or political or religious affiliations, beliefs, or opinions except when authorized by law. In addition, no district employee shall be required to provide critical appraisals of other individuals with whom the employee has a familial relationship. However, the district reserves the right to access any publicly available information about any employee.

No employee shall be dismissed, suspended, disciplined, reassigned, transferred, or otherwise retaliated against solely for acting to protect a student engaged in conduct authorized under Education Code 48907 or 48950.

When necessary to protect the health, welfare, or safety of students and staff, school officials may search district property under an employee's control.

Whistleblower Protection

An employee shall have the right to disclose to a Board member, a school administrator, a member of the County Board of Education, the County Superintendent of Schools, or the Superintendent of Public Instruction any improper governmental activity by the district or a district employee that violates state or federal law, is economically wasteful, or involves gross misconduct, incompetency, or inefficiency. When the employee has reasonable cause to believe that the information discloses a violation of state or federal statute or a violation of or noncompliance with a state or federal rule or regulation, the employee has the right to disclose such information to a government or law enforcement agency or to refuse to participate in any such activity. (Education Code 44112, 44113; Labor Code 1102.5)

The Superintendent or designee shall prominently display in lettering larger than size 14 point type a list of employees' rights and responsibilities under the whistleblower laws, including the telephone number of the whistleblower hotline maintained by the office of the California Attorney General. (Labor Code 1102.7, 1102.8)

PROPOSED

No employee shall use or attempt to use official authority status or influence to intimidate, threaten, coerce, or command, or attempt to intimidate, threaten, coerce, or command, another employee for the purpose of interfering with that employee's right to disclose improper governmental activity. (Education Code 44113)

An employee who has disclosed improper governmental activity and believes that acts or attempted acts of reprisal have subsequently occurred shall file a written complaint in accordance with the district's complaint procedures. After filing a complaint with the district, the employee may also file a copy of the complaint with local law enforcement and/or seek civil law remedies against the supervisor or administrator who retaliated or attempted to retaliate against the employee, in accordance with Education Code 44114.

Protection Against Liability

No employee shall be liable for harm caused by the employee's act or omission when acting within the scope of employment or district responsibilities, the employee's act or omission is in conformity with federal ~~or~~, state, and local laws, district policy, or administrative regulation, and the employee's act or omission is in furtherance of an effort to control, discipline, expel, or suspend a student or to maintain order or control in the classroom or school. (20 USC 7946)

The protection against liability shall not apply when: (20 USC 7946)

1. The employee acted with willful or criminal misconduct, gross negligence, recklessness, or a conscious, flagrant indifference to rights or safety of the individual harmed.
2. The employee caused harm by operating a motor vehicle or other vehicle requiring license or insurance.
3. The employee was not properly licensed, if required, by state law for such activities.
4. The employee was found by a court to have violated a federal or state civil rights law.
5. The employee was under the influence of alcohol or any drug at the time of the misconduct.
6. The misconduct constituted a crime of violence pursuant to 18 USC 16 or an act of terrorism for which the employee has been convicted in a court.
7. The misconduct involved a sexual offense for which the employee has been convicted in a court.
8. The misconduct occurred during background investigations, or other actions, involved in the employee's hiring.

Policy 4119.1: Civil And Legal Rights

Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 03/28/2013

The Governing Board believes that the personal life of an employee is not an appropriate concern of the district, except as it may directly relate to the employee's performance of his/her duties.

An employee's religious or political activities, or lack thereof, shall not be grounds for any discrimination or disciplinary action by the district, provided that these activities do not violate law, Board policy, or administrative regulation.

(cf. 4030 - Nondiscrimination in Employment)

(cf. 4119.21/4219.21/4319.21 - Professional Standards)

(cf. 4119.25/4219.25/4319.25 - Political Activities of Employees)

A teacher shall have the right to refuse to submit to any evaluation or survey conducted by the district concerning personal values, attitudes, and beliefs; sexual orientation; political affiliations or opinions; critical appraisals of other individuals with whom the teacher has a family relationship; or religious affiliations or beliefs. (Education Code 49091.24)

The district shall make no inquiry concerning the personal values, attitudes, and beliefs of district employees or their sexual orientation or political or religious affiliations, beliefs, or opinions except when authorized by law. In addition, no district employee shall be required to provide critical appraisals of other individuals with whom the employee has a familial relationship. However, the district reserves the right to access any publicly available information about any employee.

Employees do not have a reasonable expectation of privacy with regards to district property under an employee's control including, but not limited to, desks, classrooms, offices, file cabinets, computers, or phones. When necessary to protect the health, welfare, or safety of students and staff, school officials may search district property under an employee's control.

(cf. 3515 - Campus Security)

(cf. 4040 - Employee Use of Technology)

Whistleblower Protection

An employee shall have the right to disclose to a Board member, a school administrator, a member of the County Board of Education, County Superintendent of Schools, or the Superintendent of Public Instruction any improper governmental activity by the district or a district employee that violates state or federal law, is economically wasteful, or involves gross misconduct, incompetency, or inefficiency. When the employee has reasonable cause to believe that the information discloses a violation of state or federal statute or a violation or noncompliance with a state or federal rule or regulation, he/she has the right to disclose such information to a government or law enforcement agency or to refuse to participate in any such activity. (Education Code 44112, 44113; Labor Code 1102.5)

The Superintendent or designee shall prominently display in lettering larger than size 14 point type a list of employees' rights and responsibilities under the whistleblower laws, including the telephone number
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of the whistleblower hotline maintained by the office of the California Attorney General. (Labor Code 1102.8)

No employee shall use or attempt to use his/her official authority or influence to intimidate, threaten, coerce, or command another employee for the purpose of interfering with that employee's right to disclose improper governmental activity. (Education Code 44113)

(cf. 4118 - Suspension/Disciplinary Action)

(cf. 4218 - Dismissal/Suspension/Disciplinary Action)

An employee who has disclosed improper governmental activity and believes that he/she has subsequently been subjected to acts or attempted acts of reprisal shall file a written complaint in accordance with the district's complaint procedures. After filing a complaint with the district, he/she may also file a copy of the complaint with local law enforcement in accordance with Education Code 44114.

(cf. 1312.1 - Complaints Concerning District Employees)

(cf. 1312.3 - Uniform Complaint Procedures)

(cf. 4144/4244/4344 - Complaints)

Protection Against Liability

No employee shall be liable for harm caused by his/her act or omission when acting within the scope of employment or district responsibilities. For the protection against liability to apply, the act or omission must be in conformity with federal, state, and local laws and must be in furtherance of an effort to control, discipline, expel, or suspend a student, or to maintain order or control in the classroom or school. (20 USC 6736)

(cf. 3320 - Claims and Actions Against the District)

(cf. 9260 - Legal Protection)

The protection against liability shall not apply when: (20 USC 6736)

1. The employee acted with willful or criminal misconduct, gross negligence, recklessness, or a conscious, flagrant indifference to the harmed person's right to safety.
2. The employee caused harm by operating a motor vehicle or other vehicle requiring license or insurance.
3. The employee was not properly licensed, if required, by state law for such activities.
4. The employee was found by a court to have violated a federal or state civil rights law.
5. The employee was under the influence of alcohol or any drug at the time of the misconduct.
6. The misconduct constituted a crime of violence pursuant to 18 USC 16 or an act of terrorism for which the employee has been convicted in a court.
7. The misconduct involved a sexual offense for which the employee has been convicted in a court.
8. The misconduct occurred during background investigations, or other actions, involved in the employee's hiring.

PROPOSED

Policy 4219.1: Civil And Legal Rights

Status: **ADOPTED**

Original Adopted Date: 03/01/2004 | Last Revised Date: ~~07/09/01/2012~~2022 | Last Reviewed Date: ~~07/09/01/2012~~2022

The Governing Board believes that the personal life of an employee is not an appropriate concern of the district, except as it may directly relate to the performance of the employee's duties.

District employees may engage in private, personal activities, including the exercise of their religious, political, cultural, social or other beliefs or activities, during personal time including when employees are not on duty or engaged in the supervision or instruction of students.

The district shall make no inquiry concerning the personal values, attitudes, and beliefs of district employees or their sexual orientation or political or religious affiliations, beliefs, or opinions except when authorized by law. In addition, no district employee shall be required to provide critical appraisals of other individuals with whom the employee has a familial relationship. However, the district reserves the right to access any publicly available information about any employee.

No employee shall be dismissed, suspended, disciplined, reassigned, transferred, or otherwise retaliated against solely for acting to protect a student engaged in conduct authorized under Education Code 48907 or 48950.

When necessary to protect the health, welfare, or safety of students and staff, school officials may search district property under an employee's control.

Whistleblower Protection

An employee shall have the right to disclose to a Board member, a school administrator, a member of the County Board of Education, the County Superintendent of Schools, or the Superintendent of Public Instruction any improper governmental activity by the district or a district employee that violates state or federal law, is economically wasteful, or involves gross misconduct, incompetency, or inefficiency. When the employee has reasonable cause to believe that the information discloses a violation of state or federal statute or a violation of or noncompliance with a state or federal rule or regulation, the employee has the right to disclose such information to a government or law enforcement agency or to refuse to participate in any such activity. (Education Code 44112, 44113; Labor Code 1102.5)

The Superintendent or designee shall prominently display in lettering larger than size 14 point type a list of employees' rights and responsibilities under the whistleblower laws, including the telephone number of the whistleblower hotline maintained by the office of the California Attorney General. (Labor Code 1102.7, 1102.8)

PROPOSED

No employee shall use or attempt to use official authority status or influence to intimidate, threaten, coerce, or command, or attempt to intimidate, threaten, coerce, or command, another employee for the purpose of interfering with that employee's right to disclose improper governmental activity. (Education Code 44113)

An employee who has disclosed improper governmental activity and believes that acts or attempted acts of reprisal have subsequently occurred shall file a written complaint in accordance with the district's complaint procedures. After filing a complaint with the district, the employee may also file a copy of the complaint with local law enforcement and/or seek civil law remedies against the supervisor or administrator who retaliated or attempted to retaliate against the employee, in accordance with Education Code 44114.

Protection Against Liability

No employee shall be liable for harm caused by the employee's act or omission when acting within the scope of employment or district responsibilities, the employee's act or omission is in conformity with federal, state, and local laws, district policy, or administrative regulation, and the employee's act or omission is in furtherance of an effort to control, discipline, expel, or suspend a student or to maintain order or control in the classroom or school. (20 USC 7946)

The protection against liability shall not apply when: (20 USC 7946)

1. The employee acted with willful or criminal misconduct, gross negligence, recklessness, or a conscious, flagrant indifference to rights or safety of the individual harmed.
2. The employee caused harm by operating a motor vehicle or other vehicle requiring license or insurance.
3. The employee was not properly licensed, if required, by state law for such activities.
4. The employee was found by a court to have violated a federal or state civil rights law.
5. The employee was under the influence of alcohol or any drug at the time of the misconduct.
6. The misconduct constituted a crime of violence pursuant to 18 USC 16 or an act of terrorism for which the employee has been convicted in a court.
7. The misconduct involved a sexual offense for which the employee has been convicted in a court.
8. The misconduct occurred during background investigations, or other actions, involved in the employee's hiring.

Policy 4219.1: Civil And Legal Rights

Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 03/28/2013

The Governing Board believes that the personal life of an employee is not an appropriate concern of the district, except as it may directly relate to the employee's performance of his/her duties.

An employee's religious or political activities, or lack thereof, shall not be grounds for any discrimination or disciplinary action by the district, provided that these activities do not violate law, Board policy, or administrative regulation.

(cf. 4030 - Nondiscrimination in Employment)

(cf. 4119.21/4219.21/4319.21 - Professional Standards)

(cf. 4119.25/4219.25/4319.25 - Political Activities of Employees)

A teacher shall have the right to refuse to submit to any evaluation or survey conducted by the district concerning personal values, attitudes, and beliefs; sexual orientation; political affiliations or opinions; critical appraisals of other individuals with whom the teacher has a family relationship; or religious affiliations or beliefs. (Education Code 49091.24)

The district shall make no inquiry concerning the personal values, attitudes, and beliefs of district employees or their sexual orientation or political or religious affiliations, beliefs, or opinions except when authorized by law. In addition, no district employee shall be required to provide critical appraisals of other individuals with whom the employee has a familial relationship. However, the district reserves the right to access any publicly available information about any employee.

Employees do not have a reasonable expectation of privacy with regards to district property under an employee's control including, but not limited to, desks, classrooms, offices, file cabinets, computers, or phones. When necessary to protect the health, welfare, or safety of students and staff, school officials may search district property under an employee's control.

(cf. 3515 - Campus Security)

(cf. 4040 - Employee Use of Technology)

Whistleblower Protection

An employee shall have the right to disclose to a Board member, a school administrator, a member of the County Board of Education, County Superintendent of Schools, or the Superintendent of Public Instruction any improper governmental activity by the district or a district employee that violates state or federal law, is economically wasteful, or involves gross misconduct, incompetency, or inefficiency. When the employee has reasonable cause to believe that the information discloses a violation of state or federal statute or a violation or noncompliance with a state or federal rule or regulation, he/she has the right to disclose such information to a government or law enforcement agency or to refuse to participate in any such activity. (Education Code 44112, 44113; Labor Code 1102.5)

The Superintendent or designee shall prominently display in lettering larger than size 14 point type a list of employees' rights and responsibilities under the whistleblower laws, including the telephone number
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of the whistleblower hotline maintained by the office of the California Attorney General. (Labor Code 1102.8)

No employee shall use or attempt to use his/her official authority or influence to intimidate, threaten, coerce, or command another employee for the purpose of interfering with that employee's right to disclose improper governmental activity. (Education Code 44113)

(cf. 4118 - Suspension/Disciplinary Action)

(cf. 4218 - Dismissal/Suspension/Disciplinary Action)

An employee who has disclosed improper governmental activity and believes that he/she has subsequently been subjected to acts or attempted acts of reprisal shall file a written complaint in accordance with the district's complaint procedures. After filing a complaint with the district, he/she may also file a copy of the complaint with local law enforcement in accordance with Education Code 44114.

(cf. 1312.1 - Complaints Concerning District Employees)

(cf. 1312.3 - Uniform Complaint Procedures)

(cf. 4144/4244/4344 - Complaints)

Protection Against Liability

No employee shall be liable for harm caused by his/her act or omission when acting within the scope of employment or district responsibilities. For the protection against liability to apply, the act or omission must be in conformity with federal, state, and local laws and must be in furtherance of an effort to control, discipline, expel, or suspend a student, or to maintain order or control in the classroom or school. (20 USC 6736)

(cf. 3320 - Claims and Actions Against the District)

(cf. 9260 - Legal Protection)

The protection against liability shall not apply when: (20 USC 6736)

1. The employee acted with willful or criminal misconduct, gross negligence, recklessness, or a conscious, flagrant indifference to the harmed person's right to safety.
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4. The employee was found by a court to have violated a federal or state civil rights law.
5. The employee was under the influence of alcohol or any drug at the time of the misconduct.
6. The misconduct constituted a crime of violence pursuant to 18 USC 16 or an act of terrorism for which the employee has been convicted in a court.
7. The misconduct involved a sexual offense for which the employee has been convicted in a court.
8. The misconduct occurred during background investigations, or other actions, involved in the employee's hiring.

PROPOSED

Policy 4319.1: Civil And Legal Rights

Status: **ADOPTED**

Original Adopted Date: 03/01/2004 | Last Revised Date: ~~07/09/01/2012~~2022 | Last Reviewed Date: ~~07/09/01/2012~~2022

The Governing Board believes that the personal life of an employee is not an appropriate concern of the district, except as it may directly relate to the performance of the employee's duties.

District employees may engage in private, personal activities, including the exercise of their religious, political, cultural, social or other beliefs or activities, during personal time including when employees are not on duty or engaged in the supervision or instruction of students.

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PROPOSED

No employee shall use or attempt to use official authority status or influence to intimidate, threaten, coerce, or command, or attempt to intimidate, threaten, coerce, or command, another employee for the purpose of interfering with that employee's right to disclose improper governmental activity. (Education Code 44113)

An employee who has disclosed improper governmental activity and believes acts or attempted acts of reprisal have subsequently occurred shall file a written complaint in accordance with the district's complaint procedures. After filing a complaint with the district, the employee may also file a copy of the complaint with local law enforcement and/or seek civil law remedies against the supervisor or administrator who retaliated or attempted to retaliate against the employee, in accordance with Education Code 44114.

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3. The employee was not properly licensed, if required, by state law for such activities.
4. The employee was found by a court to have violated a federal or state civil rights law.
5. The employee was under the influence of alcohol or any drug at the time of the misconduct.
6. The misconduct constituted a crime of violence pursuant to 18 USC 16 or an act of terrorism for which the employee has been convicted in a court.
7. The misconduct involved a sexual offense for which the employee has been convicted in a court.
8. The misconduct occurred during background investigations, or other actions, involved in the employee's hiring.

Policy 4319.1: Civil And Legal Rights

Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 03/28/2013

The Governing Board believes that the personal life of an employee is not an appropriate concern of the district, except as it may directly relate to the employee's performance of his/her duties.

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(cf. 4030 - Nondiscrimination in Employment)

(cf. 4119.21/4219.21/4319.21 - Professional Standards)

(cf. 4119.25/4219.25/4319.25 - Political Activities of Employees)

A teacher shall have the right to refuse to submit to any evaluation or survey conducted by the district concerning personal values, attitudes, and beliefs; sexual orientation; political affiliations or opinions; critical appraisals of other individuals with whom the teacher has a family relationship; or religious affiliations or beliefs. (Education Code 49091.24)

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(cf. 3515 - Campus Security)

(cf. 4040 - Employee Use of Technology)

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The Superintendent or designee shall prominently display in lettering larger than size 14 point type a list of employees' rights and responsibilities under the whistleblower laws, including the telephone number
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of the whistleblower hotline maintained by the office of the California Attorney General. (Labor Code 1102.8)

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(cf. 4118 - Suspension/Disciplinary Action)

(cf. 4218 - Dismissal/Suspension/Disciplinary Action)

An employee who has disclosed improper governmental activity and believes that he/she has subsequently been subjected to acts or attempted acts of reprisal shall file a written complaint in accordance with the district's complaint procedures. After filing a complaint with the district, he/she may also file a copy of the complaint with local law enforcement in accordance with Education Code 44114.

(cf. 1312.1 - Complaints Concerning District Employees)

(cf. 1312.3 - Uniform Complaint Procedures)

(cf. 4144/4244/4344 - Complaints)

Protection Against Liability

No employee shall be liable for harm caused by his/her act or omission when acting within the scope of employment or district responsibilities. For the protection against liability to apply, the act or omission must be in conformity with federal, state, and local laws and must be in furtherance of an effort to control, discipline, expel, or suspend a student, or to maintain order or control in the classroom or school. (20 USC 6736)

(cf. 3320 - Claims and Actions Against the District)

(cf. 9260 - Legal Protection)

The protection against liability shall not apply when: (20 USC 6736)

1. The employee acted with willful or criminal misconduct, gross negligence, recklessness, or a conscious, flagrant indifference to the harmed person's right to safety.
2. The employee caused harm by operating a motor vehicle or other vehicle requiring license or insurance.
3. The employee was not properly licensed, if required, by state law for such activities.
4. The employee was found by a court to have violated a federal or state civil rights law.
5. The employee was under the influence of alcohol or any drug at the time of the misconduct.
6. The misconduct constituted a crime of violence pursuant to 18 USC 16 or an act of terrorism for which the employee has been convicted in a court.
7. The misconduct involved a sexual offense for which the employee has been convicted in a court.
8. The misconduct occurred during background investigations, or other actions, involved in the employee's hiring.

Policy 6158: Independent Study

Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 03/01/2005 | Last Revised Date: ~~12/09/01/2021~~2022 | Last Reviewed Date: ~~12/09/01/2021~~2022

The Governing Board authorizes independent study as an optional alternative instructional strategy for students whose needs may be best met through study outside of the regular classroom setting. Independent study shall offer a means of individualizing the educational plan to serve students who desire a more challenging educational experience, whose health or other personal circumstances make classroom attendance difficult, who are unable to access course(s) due to scheduling problems, and/or who need to make up credits or fill gaps in their learning. As necessary to meet student needs, independent study may be offered for short- or long-term placements, on a full-time or part-time basis, and/or in conjunction with part- or full-time classroom study.

The Board shall hold a public hearing when considering the scope of its existing or prospective use of independent study as an instructional strategy, its purposes in authorizing independent study, and factors bearing specifically on the maximum realistic lengths of assignments and acceptable number of missed assignments for specific populations of students or adult education students. (Education Code 51747; 5 CCR 11701)

The Superintendent or designee may provide a variety of independent study opportunities, including, but not limited to, through a program or class within a comprehensive school, an alternative school or program of choice, a charter school, and an online course.

Student participation in independent study shall be voluntary- and no student shall be required to participate. (Education Code 51747, 51749.5, 51749.6)

Independent study for each student shall be under the general supervision of a district employee who possesses a valid certification document pursuant to Education Code 44865 or an emergency credential pursuant to Education Code 44300. Students' independent study shall be coordinated, evaluated, and documented, as prescribed by law and reflected in the accompanying administrative regulation. (Education Code 51747.5)

The minimum period of time for any independent study option shall be three consecutive school days. (Education Code 46300)

General Independent Study Requirements

Superintendent or designee may offer and approve independent study for an individual student upon determining that the student is prepared to meet the district's requirements for participation and is likely to succeed as well as or better than the student would in the regular classroom setting.

The minimum instructional minutes shall be the same for all students at each school including students participating in independent study, except as otherwise permitted by law. (Education Code 46100)

Because excessive leniency in the duration of independent study assignments may result in a student falling behind peers and increase the risk of dropping out of school, independent study assignments shall be completed no more than one week after assigned for all grade levels and types of programs. When necessary based on the specific circumstances of the student's approved program, the Superintendent or designee may allow for a longer period of time between the date an assignment is made and when it is due. However, in no event shall the due date of an assignment be extended beyond the termination date of specified in the student's written agreement.

PROPOSED

Satisfactory educational progress shall be determined based on all of the following indicators: (Education Code 51747)

1. _____ The student's achievement and engagement in the independent study program, as indicated by the student's performance on applicable student-level measures of student achievement and engagement specified in Education Code 52060
2. _____ The completion of assignments, assessments, or other indicators that evidence that the student is working on assignments
3. _____ Learning of required concepts, as determined by the supervising teacher
4. _____ Progress towards successful completion of the course of study or individual course, as determined by the supervising teacher

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that students participating in independent study are provided with content aligned to grade level standards at a level of quality and intellectual challenge substantially equivalent to in-person instruction. For high schools, this shall include access to all courses offered by the district for graduation and approved by the University of California ([UC](#)) or the California State University ([CSU](#)) as creditable under the A-G admissions criteria. (Education Code 51747)

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that [all](#) students participating in independent study for 15 school days or more receive the following throughout the school year: (Education Code 51747)

1. _____ For students in grades transitional kindergarten, kindergarten, and grades 1 to 3, opportunities for daily synchronous instruction
2. _____ For students in grades 4-8, opportunities for both daily live interaction and at least weekly synchronous instruction
3. _____ For students in grades 9-12, opportunities for at least weekly synchronous instruction

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that procedures for tiered reengagement strategies are used for all students participating in an independent study program for 15 school days or more who: [are](#): (Education Code 51747)

1. _____ [Not](#) generating attendance for more than [ten](#) percent of required minimum instructional time over four continuous weeks of the district's approved instructional calendar
2. [Not participating in synchronous instructional offerings](#) pursuant to [Education Code](#) 51747.5 for more than [50](#) percent of the scheduled [times](#) of synchronous instruction in a school month as applicable by grade span
3. _____ [In](#) violation of their written agreement

Tiered reengagement strategies procedures used in district independent study programs shall include, [local](#) [programs intended to address chronic absenteeism, as applicable, including](#) but are not limited to the following: (Education Code 51747)

PROPOSED

1. Verification of current contact information for each enrolled student
2. Notification to parents/guardians of lack of participation within one school day of the recording of a non-attendance day or lack of participation
3. A plan for outreach from the school to determine student needs, including connection with health and social services as necessary
4. A clear standard for requiring a student-parent-educator conference to review a student's written agreement and reconsider the independent study program's impact on the student's achievement and well-being

The Superintendent or designee shall, for students who participate in an independent study program for 15 school days or more, develop a plan to transition students whose families wish to return to in-person instruction from independent study expeditiously, and, in no case, later, than five instructional days. (Education Code 51747)

When any student enrolled in classroom-based instruction is participating in independent study due to necessary medical treatment or inpatient treatment for mental health or substance abuse under the care of appropriately licensed professionals, the student shall be exempt from the live interaction and/or synchronous instruction, tiered reengagement strategies, and transition back to in-person instruction requirements specified above. In such cases, evidence from appropriately licensed professionals, of the student's need to participate in independent study, shall be submitted to the Superintendent or designee.

(Education Code 51747)

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that a written ~~master~~ agreement exists for each participating student as prescribed by law. (Education Code 51747, 51749.5)

Upon the request of the parent/guardian of a student, and before signing a written agreement as described below in the section "Master Agreement," the district shall conduct a telephone, videoconference, or in-person student-parent-educator conference or other meeting during which the student, parent/guardian, and, if requested by the parent/guardian an advocate, may ask questions about the educational options, including which curriculum offerings and nonacademic supports will be available to the student in independent study. (Education Code 51747)

Master Agreement

A written agreement shall be developed and implemented for each student participating in independent study for three or more consecutive school days. (Education Code 46300, 51747)

For student participation for 15 school days or more, a signed written agreement shall be obtained before the student begins independent study. For student participation of less than 15 school days, a signed written agreement shall be obtained within ten school days of the first day the student's enrollment. (Education Code 46300, 51747)

The agreement shall include general student data, including the student's name, address, grade level, birth date, school of enrollment, and program placement.

The independent study agreement for each participating student also shall include, but is not limited to, all of the following: (Education Code 51747; 5 CCR 11700, 11702)

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1. The manner, time, frequency, and place and manner for submitting the student's assignment

Information Discussion

PROPOSED

reporting the student's academic progress, and communicating with a student's parent/guardian regarding the student's academic progress

2. The objectives and methods of study for the student's work and the methods used to evaluate that work

3. The specific resources that will be made available to the student, including materials and personnel, and access to Internet connectivity and devices adequate to participate in the educational program and complete assigned work

4. A statement of the Board's policy detailing the maximum length of time allowed between an assignment and its completion, the level of satisfactory educational progress, and the number of missed assignments which will trigger an evaluation of whether the student should be allowed to continue in independent study

5. The duration of the independent study agreement, including the beginning and ending dates for the student's participation in independent study under the agreement, with a maximum of one school year

1. A statement of the number of course credits or, for the elementary grades, other measures of academic accomplishment appropriate to the agreement, to be earned by the student upon completion

2. A statement detailing the academic and other supports that will be provided to address the needs of students who are not performing at grade level, or need support in other areas, such as English learners, students with disabilities with an individualized education program or a Section 504 plan in order to be consistent with their program or plan, students in foster care or experiencing homelessness, and students requiring mental health supports.

8. A statement that independent study is an optional educational alternative in which no student may be required to participate

9. In the case of a suspended or expelled student who is referred or assigned to any school, class, or program pursuant to Education Code 48915 or 48917, a statement that instruction may be provided through independent study only if the student is offered the alternative of classroom instruction

10. Before the commencement of independent study projected to last for 15 school days or more, or within ten school days of the first day of enrollment for independent study for less than 15 school days, the agreement shall be signed and dated by the student, the student's parent/guardian or caregiver if the student is under age 18 years of age, the certificated employee responsible for the general supervision of independent study, and students with disabilities, the certificated employee designated as having responsibility for the special education programming of the student

Written agreements may be signed using an electronic signature that complies with state and federal standards, as determined by the California Department of Education (CDE). (Education Code 51747)

PROPOSED

Course-Based Independent Study

The district's course-based independent study program for students in grades K-12 shall be subject to the following requirements: (Education Code 51749.5)

1. A signed learning agreement shall be completed and on file for each participating student, pursuant to Education Code 51749.6

2. Courses shall be taught under the general supervision of certificated employees who hold the appropriate subject matter credential and are employed by the district or by another district, charter school, or county office of education with which the district has a memorandum of understanding to provide the instruction-

3. Courses shall be annually certified by Board resolution to be of the same rigor and educational quality and to provide intellectual challenge that is substantially equivalent to inperson, classroom-based instruction, and shall be aligned to all relevant local and state content standards. For high schools, this shall include access to all courses offered by the district for graduation and approved by UC or CSU as creditable under the A-G admissions criteria. **The certification shall, at a minimum, include the duration, number of equivalent daily instructional minutes for each school day that student is enrolled, number of equivalent total instructional minutes, and number of course credits for each course, consistent with that of equivalent classroom-based courses.** The certification shall also include plans to provide opportunities throughout the school year, for all students in transitional kindergarten, kindergarten, and grades 1-3 to receive daily synchronous instruction, for all students in grades 4-8, to receive both daily live interaction and at least weekly synchronous instruction, and for all students in grades 9-12 to receive at least weekly synchronous instruction.

4. Students enrolled in independent study courses shall meet the applicable age requirements established pursuant to Education Code 46300.1, 46300.4, 47612, and 47612.1, and the applicable residency and enrollment requirements established pursuant to Education Code 46300.2, 47612, 48204, and 51747.3-

5. For each student participating in an independent study course, satisfactory educational progress shall be determined based on the student's achievement and engagement in the independent study program, as indicated by ~~their~~ the student's performance on applicable student-level measures of student achievement and engagement set forth in Education Code 52060, completion of assignments, assessments, or other indicators that evidence that the student is working on assignments, learning of required concepts, as determined by the supervising teacher, and progress toward successful completion of the course of study or individual course, as determined by the supervising teacher.

If satisfactory educational progress in an one or more independent study ~~class~~ courses is not being made, the teacher providing instruction shall notify the student and, if the student is under 18 years of age, the student's parent/guardian. **The teacher shall conduct an evaluation to determine whether it is in the student's best interest to remain in the course or whether the student should be referred to an alternative program, which may include, but is not limited to, a regular school program.** A written record of the evaluation findings shall be treated as a mandatory interim student record maintained for three years from the date of the evaluation. If the student transfers to another California public school, the record shall be forwarded to that school.

PROPOSED

Procedures for tiered reengagement strategies shall be used for all students who are not making satisfactory educational progress in one or more courses or who are in violation of the written learning agreement, as described in the section "Learning Agreement for Course-Based Independent Study" below. These procedures shall include, but are not necessarily limited to, the verification of current contact information for each enrolled student a plan for outreach from the school to determine student needs, including connection with health and social services as necessary, and a clear standard for requiring a student-parent-educator conference to review a student's written agreement and reconsider the independent study program's impact on the student's achievement and well-being.

6. Examinations shall be administered by a proctor.

7. Statewide testing results shall be reported and assigned to the school at which the student is enrolled and shall be included in the aggregate results of the district. Test results also shall be disaggregated for purposes of comparisons with the test results of students enrolled in classroombased courses.

8. A student shall not be required to enroll in courses included in the course-based independent study program.

9. The student-teacher ratio in the courses in this program shall meet the requirements of Education Code 51745.6

10. For each student, the combined equivalent daily instructional minutes for courses in this program and all other courses shall meet applicable minimum instructional day requirements, and the student shall be offered the minimum annual total equivalent instructional minutes pursuant to Education Code 46200-46208.

11. Courses required for high school graduation or for admission CSU shall not be offered exclusively through independent study.

12. A student participating in this program shall not be assessed a fee that is prohibited by Education Code 49011.

13. A student shall not be prohibited from participating in independent study solely on the basis that the student does not have the materials, equipment, or access to Internet connectivity necessary to participate in the course.

14. A student with disabilities, as defined in Education Code 56026, shall ~~not~~ may participate in course-based independent study, ~~unless~~ if the student's individualized education program specifically provides for that participation.

15. A temporarily disabled student shall not receive individual instruction pursuant to Education Code 48206.3 through course-based independent study.

PROPOSED

16. The district shall maintain a plan to transition any student whose family wishes to return to in-person instruction from course-based independent study expeditiously, and, in no case, later than five instructional days-

Learning Agreement for Course-Based Independent Study

Before enrolling a student in a course within a course-based independent study program, the Superintendent or designee shall provide the student and, if the student is under age 18 years, the student's parent/guardian with a written learning agreement that includes all of the following:
(Education Code 51749.6)

1. A summary of the district's policies and procedures related to course-based independent study pursuant to Education Code 51749.5
2. The duration of the enrolled course(s) and the number of course credits for each enrolled course, consistent with the Board certifications made pursuant to Item #3 of the CourseBased Independent Study section above
3. The duration of the learning agreement, which shall not exceed a school year or span multiple school years
4. The learning objectives and expectations for each course, including, but not limited to, a description of how satisfactory educational progress is measured and when a student evaluation is required to determine whether the student should remain in the course or be referred to an alternative program, which may include, but is not limited to, a regular school program
5. The specific resources that will be made available to the student, including materials and personnel, and access to Internet connectivity and devices adequate to participate in the educational program and complete assigned work
6. A statement detailing the academic and other supports that will be provided to address the needs of students who are not performing at grade level, or need support in other areas, such as English learners, students with disabilities with an individualized education program or a Section 504 plan in order to be consistent with their program or plan, students in foster care or experiencing homelessness, and students requiring mental health supports-
7. A statement that enrollment is an optional educational alternative in which no student may be required to participate. In the case of a suspended or expelled, ~~or~~ student who is referred or assigned to any school, class, or program pursuant to Education Code 48915 or 48917, a statement that instruction may be provided through course-based independent study only if the student is offered the alternative of classroom instruction.
8. The manner, time, frequency, and place for submitting a student's assignments, for reporting the student's academic progress, and for communicating with a student's parent/guardian regarding a student's academic progress-

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work-

10. A statement of the adopted policies regarding the maximum length of time allowed between the assignment and the completion of a student's assigned work, the level of satisfactory educational progress, and the number of missed assignments allowed before an evaluation of whether the student should be allowed to continue in course-based independent study-

11. A statement of the number of course credits or, for the elementary grades, other measures of academic accomplishment appropriate to the learning agreement, to be earned by the student upon completion.

12. Before the commencement of an independent study course projected to last for 15 school days or more, or within ten school days of the first day of enrollment for an independent study course projected to last less than 15 school days, the learning agreement shall be signed and dated by the student, and by the student's parent/guardian or caregiver if the student is less than 18 years of age, the certificated employee responsible for the general supervision of the independent study course, and as applicable for students with disabilities, the certificated employee designated as having responsibility for the special education programming of the student. For purposes of this paragraph "caregiver" means a person who has met the requirements of Family Code 6550-6552.

Learning agreements may be signed using an electronic signature that complies with state and federal standards, as determined by the CDE. (Education Code 51749.6)

A signed learning agreement from a parent/guardian of a student who is less than 18 years of age shall constitute the parent/guardian's permission for the student to receive instruction through course-based independent study. (Education Code 51749.6)

Upon the request of a student's parent/guardian, and before signing a learning agreement as described above, the district shall conduct a telephone, videoconference, or in-person student-parent-educator conference, or other meeting during which the student, parent/guardian, and, if requested by the parent/guardian, an advocate, may ask questions about the educational options, including which curriculum offerings and nonacademic supports will be available to the student in independent study. (Education Code 51749.6)

Student-Parent-Educator Conferences

A student-parent-educator conference shall be held as appropriate including, but not limited to, as a reengagement strategy and/or, if requested by a parent/guardian, prior to enrollment or disenrollment from independent study. (Education Code 51745.5, 51747, 51749.5)

Records

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that records are maintained for audit purposes.

These records shall include, but not be limited to: (Education Code 51748; 5 CCR 11703)

1. A copy of the Board policy, administrative regulation, and other procedures related to independent study

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course credits attempted by and awarded to students in grades 9-12 and adult education

3. _____ A file of all agreements, with representative samples of each student's work products bearing the supervising teacher's signed or initialed and dated notations indicating that the teacher has personally evaluated the work or personally reviewed the evaluations made by another certificated teacher

4. _____ As appropriate to the program in which the students are participating, a daily or hourly attendance register that is separate from classroom attendance records, maintained on a current basis as time values of student work products judged by a certificated teacher, and reviewed by the supervising teacher if they are two different persons

5. _____ Appropriate documentation of compliance with the teacher-student ratios required by Education Code 51745.6 and 51749.5 (Education Code 51745.6 and 51749.5)

6. _____ Appropriate documentation of compliance with the requirements pursuant to Education Code 51747.5 to ensure the coordination, evaluation, and supervision of the independent study of each student by a district employee who possesses a valid certification document pursuant to Education Code 44865 or an emergency credential pursuant to Education Code 44300 (Education Code 51747.5)

The district shall document each student's participation in live interaction and synchronous instruction pursuant to Education Code 51747 on each school day, as applicable, in whole or in part, for which live interaction or synchronous instruction is provided as part of the independent study program. A student who does not participate in scheduled live interaction or synchronous instruction shall be documented as nonparticipatory for that school day. (Education Code 51747.5)

The Superintendent or designee shall also maintain a written or computer-based record such as a grade book or summary document of student engagement, for each class, of all grades, assignments, and assessments for each student for independent study assignments. (Education Code 51747.5)

Signed written and supplemental agreements, assignment records, work samples, and attendance records may be maintained ~~on~~ as an electronic file in accordance with Education Code 51747 and 51749.6, as applicable.

Program Evaluation

The Superintendent or designee shall annually report to the Board the number of district students participating in independent study, the average daily attendance generated for apportionment purposes, student performance as measured by standard indicators and in comparison to students in classroombased instruction, and the number and proportion of independent study students who graduate or successfully complete independent study. Based on the program evaluation, the Board and Superintendent shall determine areas for program improvement as needed.

Policy 6158: Independent Study

Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 02/24/2016 | Last Revised Date: 08/12/2021 | Last Reviewed Date: 08/12/2021

Instruction

INDEPENDENT STUDY

Note: Education Code 51745-51749.6 authorize districts to establish independent study programs to meet the educational needs of students. **Pursuant to Education Code 51745, as amended by AB 130 (Ch. 44, Statutes of 2021), for the 2021-22 school year, all districts are required to offer independent study to meet the educational needs of students.**

Education Code 51747, as amended by AB 130, mandates that the Governing Board adopt a policy with specified requirements as a condition of receiving state apportionments for independent study students. **In addition to meeting the requirements specified by Education Code 51747, board policies must comply with rules and regulations adopted by the Superintendent of Public Instruction (SPI). Boards are encouraged to review independent study policies as the SPI adopts revised rules to reflect the new requirements of AB 130.**

Commencing with the 2021-22 fiscal year Guide for Annual Audits of K-12 Local Education Agencies and State Compliance Reporting, the State Controller is required to incorporate verification of the adoption of the policies, including loss of apportionment for independent study for districts found to be noncompliant.

Education Code 51749.5 mandates that the Board adopt policy with specified components as a condition of offering a program of course-based independent study. The mandated components are reflected throughout this policy and the accompanying administrative regulation.

When developing policy on independent study, 5 CCR 11701 requires the Board to consider, in a public hearing, (1) the scope of its existing or prospective use of independent study as an instructional strategy, (2) its purposes in authorizing independent study, and (3) factors bearing specifically on the maximum realistic lengths of assignments and acceptable number of missed assignments for specific populations of students or adult students.

In the event of a school closure necessitated by an emergency condition pursuant to Education Code 46392, districts must develop a plan for offering independent study to affected students pursuant to Education Code 46393, as added by AB 130. See BP 3516.5 - Emergency Schedules.

Independent study may be offered as a program within a school, as a charter school, or as an alternative school of choice pursuant to Education Code 58500-58512; see AR 0420.4 - Charter School Authorization, BP 6146.11 - Alternative Credits Toward Graduation, and BP/AR 6181 - Alternative Schools/Programs of Choice.

The Governing Board authorizes independent study as an optional alternative instructional strategy for students whose needs may be best met through study outside of the regular classroom setting. Independent study shall offer a means of individualizing the educational plan to serve students who desire a more challenging educational experience, whose health or other personal circumstances make classroom attendance difficult, who are unable to access course(s) due to scheduling problems, and/or who need to make up credits or fill gaps in their learning. As necessary to meet student needs, independent study may be offered on a full-time basis or on a part-time basis in conjunction with part- or full-time classroom study.

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The Superintendent or designee may provide a variety of independent study opportunities, including, but not limited to, through a program or class within a comprehensive school, an alternative school or program of choice, a charter school and an online course.

(cf. 0420.4 - Charter School Authorization)

(cf. 6181 - Alternative Schools/Programs of Choice)

A student's participation in independent study shall be voluntary. **(Education Code 51747, 51749.5)**

Independent study for each student shall be under the general supervision of a district employee who possesses a valid certification document pursuant to Education Code 44865 or an emergency credential pursuant to Education Code 44300. Students' independent study shall be coordinated, evaluated, and documented, as prescribed by law and reflected in the accompanying administrative regulation. (Education Code 51747.5)

Note: Pursuant to Education Code 46300, **as amended by AB 130**, the attendance of students participating in independent study for **three** or more consecutive school days will be included in computing average daily attendance for apportionment purposes. The following **optional** paragraph is for use by districts that wish to limit independent study to periods of **three** or more consecutive school days.

The minimum period of time for any independent study option shall be **three** consecutive school days.

General Independent Study Requirements

Note: Education Code 51745, as amended by AB 130, requires districts to offer independent study for the 2021-22 school year only. Districts may meet the requirement for the 2021-22 school year by contracting with a county office of education or by entering into an interdistrict transfer agreement with another district pursuant to Education Code 46600. In addition, the requirement to offer independent study for the 2021–22 school year may be waived for districts by the county superintendent of schools in the county in which the district is located if the district demonstrates that (1) offering independent study would create an unreasonable fiscal burden on the district or county office of education due to low numbers of students participating or other extenuating circumstances; and (2) the Board does not have the option to enter into an interdistrict transfer agreement with another district or to contract with a county office of education to provide an independent study option.

For single-district counties, the waiver must be granted by the SPI.

For the 2021-22 school year, the district shall offer independent study, as specified in Education Code 51745, to meet the educational needs of students unless the district has obtained a waiver. (Education Code 51745)

For the 2022-23 school year and thereafter, the Superintendent or designee may continue to offer and approve independent study for an individual student ~~only~~ upon determining that the student is prepared to meet the district's requirements for independent study and is likely to succeed in independent study as well as or better than **the student would in the regular classroom setting.**

(cf. 5147 - Dropout Prevention)

(cf. 6011 - Academic Standards)

(cf. 6143 - Courses of Study)

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(cf. 6146.1 - High School Graduation Requirements)

(cf. 6146.11 - Alternative Credits Toward Graduation)

(cf. 6172 - Gifted and Talented Student Program)

(cf. 6200 - Adult Education)

Note: Education Code 51747 **mandates** that the Board, in a public hearing, adopt a policy on the maximum length of time, by grade level and type of program, which may elapse between the time an independent study assignment is made and the date by which the student must complete the assignment. 5 CCR 11700 defines "type of program" as the statutory program category for purposes of attendance accounting, such as adult education or continuation high school. In addition, 5 CCR 11701 **mandates** that Board policy reflect an awareness that excessive leniency in the duration of independent study assignments can result in a student falling so far behind peers as to increase, rather than decrease, the risk of dropping out of school.

The following paragraph sets one week for all grade levels and types of programs as the maximum length of time an independent study assignment should be completed, and **should be revised to reflect the length of time determined by the Board**. In order to ensure that apportionments are received, the length of time determined by the Board in its policy should be reflected in the district's written agreement. See the section "**Master Agreement**" below.

Because excessive leniency in the duration of independent study assignments may result in a student falling behind peers and increase the risk of dropping out of school, independent study assignments **shall be completed no more than one week after** assigned for all grade levels and types of program. However, when necessary based on the specific circumstances of the student's approved program, the Superintendent or designee may allow for a longer period of time between the date an assignment is made and when it is due, up to the termination date of the agreement.

Note: Education Code 51747 **mandates** that the Board, in a public hearing, adopt a policy which specifies **the level of satisfactory educational progress and** the number of missed assignments allowed before an evaluation would be required to determine whether it is in a student's best interest to remain in independent study. **The following paragraph specifies a maximum of three assignments and should be revised to reflect the Board's determination of the number of missed assignments that will trigger an evaluation.**

The number of missed assignments that will trigger an evaluation must be included in the student's written agreement.

An evaluation shall be conducted to determine whether it is in a student's best interest to remain in independent study whenever the student **fails to make satisfactory educational progress and/or** misses three assignments. **Satisfactory educational progress shall be determined based on all of the following indicators: (Education Code 51747)**

1. **The student's achievement and engagement in the independent study program, as indicated by the student's performance on applicable student-level measures of student achievement and engagement specified in Education Code 52060**

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2. The completion of assignments, assessments, or other indicators that evidence that the student is working on assignments
3. Learning required concepts, as determined by the supervising teacher
4. Progress towards successful completion of the course of study or individual course, as determined by the supervising teacher

Note: Education Code 51747, as amended by AB 130, mandates the Board to adopt policy that includes the provision of content aligned to grade level standards that is provided at a level of quality and intellectual challenge substantially equivalent to in-person instruction. For high schools, this requirement includes access to all courses offered by the district for graduation and approved by the University of California or the California State University as creditable under the A–G admissions criteria. See BP/AR 6143 - Courses of Study.

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that students participating in independent study are provided with content aligned to grade level standards at a level of quality and intellectual challenge substantially equivalent to inperson instruction. For high schools, this shall include access to all courses offered by the district for graduation and approved by the University of California or the California State University as creditable under the A–G admissions criteria. (Education Code 51747)

Note: Education Code 51747, as amended by AB 130, mandates the Board to adopt policy that includes plans, by grade level, to provide students with specified levels of live interaction and/or synchronous instruction as described below and defined in the accompanying administrative regulation. This requirement only applies to students participating in an independent study program for 15 school days or more.

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that students participating in independent study for 15 school days or more receive the following throughout the school year: (Education Code 51747)

1. For students in grades transitional kindergarten, kindergarten, and grades 1 to 3, opportunities for dailysynchronous instruction
2. For students in grades 4-8, opportunities for both daily live interaction and weekly synchronous instruction
3. For students in grades 9-12, opportunities for weekly synchronous instruction

Note: Education Code 51747, as amended by AB 130, mandates the Board to adopt policy that includes procedures for tiered reengagement strategies for all students who are not generating attendance for more than three school days or 60 percent of the instructional days in a school week. This requirement only applies to students participating in an independent study program for 15 school days or more.

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that procedures for tiered reengagement strategies are used for all students who are not generating attendance for more than three school days or 60 percent of the instructional days in a school week, or who are in violation of their written agreement. This requirement only applies to students participating in an independent study program for 15 school days or more. The procedures shall include, but are not necessarily limited to, all of the following: (Education Code 51747)

1. Verification of current contact information for each enrolled student

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2. Notification to parents/guardians of lack of participation within one school day of the absence or lack of participation
3. A plan for outreach from the school to determine student needs, including connection with health and social services as necessary

Note: Education Code 51747 requires districts to hold a student-parent-educator conference as defined by Education Code 51745.5, at specified times, as reflected below and in the accompanying regulation.

4. A clear standard for requiring a student-parent-educator conference to review a student's written agreement and reconsider the independent study program's impact on the student's achievement and well-being

Note: Education Code 51747, as amended by AB 130, mandates the Board to adopt policy that includes a plan to expeditiously, and not longer than five instructional days, transition students whose families wish to return to in-person instruction from independent study. This requirement only applies to students participating in an independent study program for 15 school days or more.

The Superintendent or designee shall develop a plan to transition students whose families wish to return to in-person instruction from independent study expeditiously, and, in no case later, than five instructional days. This requirement only applies to students participating in an independent study program for 15 school days or more. (Education Code 51747)

Note: Education Code 51747, as amended by AB 130, mandates the Board to adopt policy providing that a current written agreement (i.e., the "master agreement") will be maintained for each student who participates in independent study and for whom apportionment is claimed. Education Code 51747 provides that no independent study agreement can be valid for longer than one school year. For the 2021–22 school year only, the district is required to obtain a signed written agreement for independent study no later than 30 days after the first day of instruction.

In addition, Education Code 51749.5 mandates the Board to adopt a policy providing that a "learning agreement" be maintained for each student participating in course-based independent study.

See the **section "Master Agreement" below** for required content of these agreements.

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that a written master agreement **exists** for each participating student as prescribed by law. (Education Code 51747, 51749.5)

Note: For the 2021-22 school year only, the district must provide notice with specified components of the independent study option available through Education Code 51747. Education Code 51747, as amended by AB 130, requires that the written information, in addition to being written in English, be written in the primary language if 15 percent or more of the students enrolled in a district that provides instruction in transitional kindergarten, kindergarten, or any of grades 1 to 12, inclusive, speak a single primary language other than English, as determined from the census data submitted to the California Department of Education.

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The district shall provide written notice to the parents/guardians of all enrolled students of the option to enroll their child in in-person instruction or independent study during the 2021-22 school year. This notice shall be posted on the district's website, and shall include, at a minimum, information about the right to request a studentparent-educator conference before enrollment, student rights regarding procedures for enrolling, disenrolling, and reenrolling in independent study, and the instructional time, including synchronous and asynchronous learning, that a student will have access to as part of independent study. (Education Code 51747)

Note: Education Code 51747, as amended by AB 130, requires districts to hold a student-parent-educator conference upon the request of a parent/guardian prior to enrollment or disenrollment in independent study. The term student-parent-educator conference is defined in Education 51745.5, and as reflected in the accompanying regulation.

Upon the request of the parent/guardian of a student, before making a decision about enrolling or disenrolling in independent study and entering into a written agreement to do so, the district shall conduct a telephone, videoconference, or in-person student-parent-educator conference or other meeting during which the student, parent/guardian, or their advocate may ask questions about the educational options, including which curriculum offerings and nonacademic supports will be available to the student in independent study. (Education Code 51747)

Master Agreement

Note: Education Code 51747 **mandates** that, in order to receive apportionments for independent study, the district must adopt and implement policy providing for a signed written independent study agreement which contains the components listed in the following section. Because apportionments are only provided for independent study of five **three** or more consecutive school days pursuant to Education Code 46300, **as amended by AB 130**, written agreements are required only in such instances.

Education Code 46300.7 states that apportionments shall be received for a student in independent study only if the district receives written permission from the parent/guardian before the independent study begins, specifying the actual dates of participation, methods of study and evaluation, and resources to be made available for the student's independent study. Since all these components are included in the written agreement which the parent/guardian must sign before the commencement of independent study **pursuant to Education Code 51747**, the parent/guardian's signature on the agreement satisfies the requirement to obtain the parent/guardian's ~~his~~ ^{her} written permission.

However, for the 2021-22 school year the district must obtain a signed written agreement for independent study no later than 30 days after the first day of instruction, pursuant to Education Code 51747, as amended by AB 130.

For the 2021–22 school year only, the district shall obtain a signed written agreement for independent study no later than 30 days after the first day of instruction.

A written agreement shall be developed and implemented for each student participating in independent study for **three** or more consecutive school days. (Education Code 46300, 51747; 5 CCR 11703)

The agreement shall include general student data, including the student's name, address, grade level, birth date, school of enrollment, and program placement.

The independent study agreement for each participating student also shall include, but are not limited to, all of the following: (Education Code 51747; 5 CCR 11700, 11702)

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1. The frequency, time, place and manner for submitting the student's assignments, **reporting the student's academic progress**, and **communicating with a student's parent/guardian regarding the student's academic progress**
2. The objectives and methods of study for the student's work and the methods used to evaluate that work
3. The specific resources that will be made available to the student, including materials and personnel, **and access to Internet connectivity and devices adequate to participate in the educational program and complete assigned work**

Note: **As described in the section "General Independent Study Requirements" above, pursuant to Education Code 51747, the written agreement must contain statements reflecting Board policy pertaining to (1) the maximum length of time, by grade level and type of program, which may elapse between the time an independent study assignment is made and the date by which the student must complete the assignment and (2) the number of missed assignments allowed before an evaluation would be required to determine whether it is in a student's best interest to remain in independent study. As amended by AB 130, Education Code 51747 also requires that the written agreement contain a statement of the Board's policy regarding the level of satisfactory educational progress for students participating in independent study.**

4. A statement of the Board's policy detailing the maximum length of time allowed between an assignment and its completion, **the level of satisfactory educational progress**, and the number of missed assignments, which will trigger an evaluation of whether the student should be allowed to continue in independent study
5. The duration of the independent study agreement, including the beginning and ending dates for the student's participation in independent study under the agreement, with a maximum of one school year
6. A statement of the number of course credits or, for **the elementary grades**, other measures of academic accomplishment appropriate to the agreement, to be earned by the student upon completion
7. **A statement detailing the academic and other supports that will be provided to address the needs of students who are not performing at grade level, or need support in other areas, such as English learners, students with disabilities with an individualized education program or a Section 504 plan in order to be consistent with their program or plan, students in foster care or experiencing homelessness, and students requiring mental health supports.**
8. A statement that independent study is an optional educational alternative in which no student may be required to participate
9. In the case of a suspended or expelled student who is referred or assigned to any school, class, or program pursuant to Education Code 48915 or 48917, a statement that instruction may be provided through independent study only if the student is offered the alternative of classroom instruction
(cf. 5144.1 - Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process)
10. **Before the commencement of independent study, the agreement shall be signed and dated by the student, the student's parent/guardian or caregiver if the student is under age 18 years, the certificated employee responsible for the general supervision of independent study, and all persons who have direct responsibility for providing assistance to the student.**

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However, for the 2021-22 school year, the district shall obtain a signed written agreement for independent study from the student, or the student's parent/ guardian if the student is less than 18 years of age, the certificated employee who has been designated as having responsibility for the general supervision of independent study, and all persons who have direct responsibility for providing assistance to the pupil, no later than 30 days after the first day of instruction.

Written agreements may be signed using an electronic signature that complies with state and federal standards, as determined by the California Department of Education (CDE). (Education Code 51747)

The parent/guardian's signature on the agreement shall constitute permission for the student to receive instruction through independent study.

Course-Based Independent Study

Note: This section is for districts that provide independent study courses to its students. Education Code 51749.5-51749.6, as amended by AB 130, establish a course-based independent study option that may be offered if certain requirements are met, as described below. Education Code 51749.5 mandates that boards in districts adopt policies that comply with the legal requirements listed in the following section and any applicable regulations adopted by the State Board of Education.

The following paragraph may be revised to reflect the grade levels offered by the district.

The district's a course-based independent study program for students in grades K-12 shall be subject to the following requirements: (Education Code 51749.5)

1. **A signed learning agreement shall be completed and on file for each participating student pursuant to Education Code 51749.6**
2. Courses shall be taught under the general supervision of certificated employees who hold the appropriate subject matter credential and are employed by the district or by another district, charter school, or county office of education with which the district has a memorandum of understanding to provide the instruction.

(cf. 4112.2 - Certification)

3. Courses shall be annually certified by Board resolution to be of the same rigor and educational quality **and to provide intellectual challenge that is substantially equivalent to in-person, classroom-based instruction**, and shall be aligned to all relevant local and state content standards. **For high schools, this shall include access to all courses offered by the district for graduation and approved by the University of California or the California State University as creditable under the A-G admissions criteria.** The certification shall, at a minimum, include the duration, number of equivalent daily instructional minutes for each school day that student is enrolled, number of equivalent total instructional minutes, and number of course credits for each course, consistent with that of equivalent classroom-based courses. **The certification shall also include plans to provide opportunities for students in grades transitional kindergarten, kindergarten, and grades 1-3 to receive daily synchronous instruction, for students in grades 4-8, to receive both daily live interaction and at least weekly synchronous instruction, and for students in grades 9-12 to receive at least weekly synchronous instruction.**
4. Students enrolled in **independent study** courses shall meet the applicable age requirements established pursuant to Education Code 46300.1, 46300.4, **47612, and 47612.1**, and the applicable residency and enrollment requirements established pursuant to Education Code 46300.2, **47612, 48204, and 51747.3.**

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5. For each student participating in an independent study course, satisfactory educational progress shall be determined based on the student's achievement and engagement in the independent study program, as indicated by their performance on applicable student-level measures of student achievement and student engagement set forth in Education Code 52060, completion of assignments, assessments, or other indicators that evidence that the student is working on assignments, learning of required concepts, as determined by the supervising teacher, and progress toward successful completion of the course of study or individual course, as determined by the supervising teacher.

If satisfactory educational progress **in an independent study class** is not being made, the teacher shall notify the student and, if the student is under age 18 years, **the student's** parent/guardian. The teacher shall conduct an evaluation to determine whether it is in the student's best interest to remain in the course or whether **the student** should be referred to an alternative program, which may include, but is not limited to, a regular school program. A written record of the evaluation findings shall be a mandatory interim student record maintained for three years from the date of the evaluation. If the student transfers to another California public school, the record shall be forwarded to that school.

Procedures for tiered reengagement strategies shall be used for all students who are not making satisfactory educational progress in one or more courses or who are in violation of the written learning agreement, as described in the section "Learning Agreement for Course-Based Independent Study" below. These procedures shall include, but are not necessarily limited to, the verification of current contact information for each enrolled student, notification to parents/guardians of lack of participation within one school day of the absence or lack of participation, a plan for outreach from the school to determine student needs, including connection with health and social services as necessary, and a clear standard for requiring a student-parent-educator conference to review a student's written agreement and reconsider the independent study program's impact on the student's achievement and well-being.

(cf. 5125 - Student Records)

6. Examinations shall be administered by a proctor.
7. Statewide testing results shall be reported and assigned to the school at which the student is enrolled and shall be included in the aggregate results of the district. Test results also shall be disaggregated for purposes of comparisons with the test results of students enrolled in classroom-based courses.

(cf. 6162.51 - State Academic Achievement Tests)

8. A student shall not be required to enroll in courses included in **the course-based independent study** program.
9. The student-teacher ratio in the courses in this program shall meet the requirements of Education Code 51745.6.
10. For each student, the combined equivalent daily instructional minutes for courses in this program and all other courses shall meet applicable minimum instructional day requirements, and the student shall be offered the minimum annual total equivalent instructional minutes pursuant to Education Code 46200-46208.

(cf. 6111 - School Calendar) (cf. 6112 - School Day)

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11. Courses required for high school graduation or for admission to the University of California or California State University shall not be offered exclusively through independent study.
12. A student participating in this program shall not be assessed a fee that is prohibited by Education Code 49011.

(cf. 3260 - Fees and Charges)

13. A student shall not be prohibited from participating in independent study solely on the basis that **the student** does not have the materials, equipment, or access to Internet **connectivity** necessary to participate in the course.
14. **A student with disabilities, as defined in Education Code 56026, shall not participate in course-based independent study, unless the student's individualized education program specifically provides for that participation.**
15. **A temporarily disabled student shall not receive individual instruction pursuant to Education Code 48206.3 through course-based independent study.**
16. **The district shall maintain a plan to transition any student whose family wishes to return to in-person instruction from course-based independent study expeditiously, and, in no case, later than five instructional days.**

Learning Agreement for Course-Based Independent Study

Before enrolling a student in a course within this program, the Superintendent or designee shall provide the student and, if the student is under age 18 years, **the student's** parent/guardian with a written learning agreement that includes all of the following: (Education Code 51749.6)

1. A summary of the district's policies and procedures related to **course-based independent study pursuant to Education Code 51749.5**
2. The duration of the enrolled course(s) and the number of course credits for each enrolled course, consistent with the Board certifications made pursuant to item #2 above
3. The duration of the learning agreement, which shall not exceed a school year or span multiple school years
4. The learning objectives and expectations for each course, including, but not limited to, a description of how satisfactory educational progress is measured and when a student evaluation is required to determine whether the student should remain in the course or be referred to an alternative program, which may include, but is not limited to, a regular school program
5. The specific resources that will be made available to the student, **including materials and personnel, and access to Internet connectivity and devices adequate to participate in the educational program and complete assigned work**
6. **A statement detailing the academic and other supports that will be provided to address the needs of students who are not performing at grade level, or need support in other areas, such as English learners, students with disabilities with an individualized education program or a Section 504 plan in order to be consistent with their program or plan, students in foster care or experiencing homelessness, and students requiring mental health supports.**
7. **A statement that enrollment is an optional educational alternative in which no student may be required to participate. In the case of a student who is suspended or expelled, or who is referred or assigned to any school, class, or program pursuant to Education Code 48915 or 48917, the**

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agreement also shall include the statement that instruction may be provided to the student through course-based independent study only if the student is offered the alternative of classroom instruction.

8. The manner, time, frequency, and place for submitting a student's assignments, for reporting the student's academic progress, and for communicating with a student's parent/guardian regarding a student's academic progress.
9. The objectives and methods of study for the student's work, and the methods used to evaluate that work.
10. A statement of the adopted policies regarding the maximum length of time allowed between the assignment and the completion of a student's assigned work, the level of satisfactory educational progress, and the number of missed assignments allowed before an evaluation of whether the student should be allowed to continue in course-based independent study.
11. A statement of the number of course credits or, for the elementary grades, other measures of academic accomplishment appropriate to the learning agreement, to be earned by the student upon completion.
12. Before the commencement of an independent study course, the learning agreement shall be signed and dated by the student, the student's parent/guardian or caregiver, if the student is less than 18 years of age, the certificated employee who has been designated as having responsibility for the general supervision of the independent study course, and all persons who have direct responsibility for providing assistance to the student. For purposes of this paragraph "caregiver" means a person who has met the requirements of Family Code 65506552.

However, for the 2021–22 school year only, the district shall obtain a signed written agreement for independent study from the student, or the student's parent/guardian if the student is less than 18 years of age, the certificated employee who has been designated as having responsibility for the general supervision of the independent study course, and all persons who have direct responsibility for providing assistance to the pupil no later than 30 days after the first day of instruction.

Written agreements may be signed using an electronic signature that complies with state and federal standards, as determined by the CDE. (Education Code 51749.6)

The student's or parent/guardian's signature shall constitute permission for the student to receive instruction through independent study. (Education Code 51749.6)

The Superintendent or designee shall retain a physical or electronic copy of the signed learning agreement for at least three years and as appropriate for auditing purposes. (Education Code 51749.6)

Student-Parent-Educator Conferences

A student-parent-educator conference shall be held as appropriate including, but not limited to, as a reengagement strategy and/or if requested by a parent/guardian prior to enrollment in or disenrollment from independent study. (Education Code 51745.5, 51747, 51749.5)

Records for Audit Purposes

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that records are maintained for audit purposes. These records shall include, but not be limited to: (Education Code 51748; 5 CCR 11703)

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1. A copy of the Board policy, administrative regulation, and other procedures related to independent study
2. A listing of the students, by grade level, program, and school, who have participated in independent study, along with the units of the curriculum attempted and completed by students in grades K-8 and the course credits attempted by and awarded to students in grades 9-12 and adult education
3. A file of all agreements, with representative samples of each student's work products bearing the supervising teacher's notations indicating that **the teacher he/she** has personally evaluated the work or ~~that he/she has~~ personally reviewed the evaluations made by another certificated teacher
4. As appropriate to the program in which the students are participating, a daily or hourly attendance register that is separate from classroom attendance records, maintained on a current basis as time values of student work products judged by a certificated teacher, and reviewed by the supervising teacher if they are two different persons
5. **Appropriate documentation of compliance with the teacher-student ratios required by Education Code 51745.6 and 51749.5 (Education Code 51745.6 and 51749.5)**
6. **Appropriate documentation of compliance with the requirements pursuant to Education Code 51747.5 to ensure the coordination, evaluation, and supervision of the independent study of each student by a district employee who possesses a valid certification document pursuant to Education Code 44865 or an emergency credential pursuant to Education Code 44300 (Education Code 51747.5)**

The district shall document each student's participation in live interaction and synchronous instruction pursuant to Education Code 51747 on each school day, as applicable, in whole or in part, for which independent study is provided. A student who does not participate in independent study on a school day shall be documented as nonparticipatory for that school day. (Education Code 51747.5)

The Superintendent or designee also shall maintain a **written or computer-based record such as a grade book or summary document of student engagement, for each class, of all grades, assignments, and assessments for each student for independent study assignments. (Education Code 51747.5)**

(cf. 3580 - District Records)

Note: Education Code 51747 authorizes specified records to be maintained in an electronic file, as provided in the following paragraph. Pursuant to Education Code 51747, an electronic file includes a computer or electronically stored image of an original document, including, but not limited to, a PDF, JPEG, or other digital file type, that may be sent via fax machine, email, or other electronic means.

The signed, dated agreement, any supplemental agreement, assignment records, work samples, and attendance records may be maintained on file electronically. (Education Code 51747)

Program Evaluation

Note: The following **optional** section may be revised to reflect district practice.

The Superintendent or designee shall annually report to the Board the number of district students participating in independent study, the average daily attendance generated for apportionment purposes, student performance as measured by standard indicators and in comparison to students in classroom-

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based instruction, and the number and proportion of independent study students who graduate or successfully complete independent study. Based on the program evaluation, the Board and Superintendent shall determine areas for program improvement as needed.

(cf. 0500 - Accountability)

(cf. 5121 - Grades/Evaluation of Student Achievement)

(cf. 6162.5 - Student Assessment)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

17289 Exemption for facilities

41020 Audit guidelines

41976.2 Independent study programs; adult education funding

42238 Revenue limits

42238.05 Local control funding formula; average daily attendance

44865 Qualifications for home teachers and teachers in special classes and schools

46200-46208 Instructional day and year

46300-46307.1 Methods of computing average daily attendance

46600 Interdistrict attendance computation

46390-46393 Emergency average daily attendance

47612-47612.1 Charter school operation

47612.5 Independent study in charter schools

48204 Residency

48206.3 Home or hospital instruction; students with temporary disabilities

48220 Classes of children exempted

48340 Improvement of pupil attendance

48915 Expulsion; particular circumstances

48916.1 Educational program requirements for expelled students

48917 Suspension of expulsion order

49011 Student fees

51225.3 Requirements for high school graduation

51745-51749.6 Independent study programs

52060 Local control and accountability plan

52522 Adult education alternative instructional delivery

52523 Adult education as supplement to high school curriculum; criteria

56026 Individuals with exceptional needs

58500-58512 Alternative schools and programs of choice

FAMILY CODE

6550-6552 Authorization affidavits

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

11700-11703 Independent study

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 20

6301 Highly qualified teachers

6311 State plans

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COURT DECISIONS

Modesto City Schools v. Education Audits Appeal Panel, (2004) 123 Cal.App.4th 1365

Management Resources:

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PUBLICATIONS

Elements of Exemplary Independent Study

California Digital Learning Integration and Standards Guidance, April 2021

EDUCATION AUDIT APPEALS PANEL PUBLICATIONS

Guide for Annual Audits of K-12 Local Education Agencies and State Compliance Reporting

WEB SITES

California Consortium for Independent Study: <http://www.ccis.org>

California Department of Education, Independent Study: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/eo/is>

Education Audit Appeals Panel: <http://www.eaap.ca.gov>

(7/10 12/14) 7/21

Policy Reference UPDATE Service

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PROPOSED

Policy 6164.2: Guidance/Counseling Services

Status: **ADOPTED**

Original Adopted Date: 11/01/2007 | Last Revised Date: ~~03/09/01/2016~~2022 | Last Reviewed Date: ~~03/09/01/2016~~2022

The Governing Board recognizes that a structured, coherent, and comprehensive counseling program promotes academic achievement and growth, and serves the diverse needs of all district students. The district shall provide an educational counseling program that offers students services and supports within a Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) framework, in accordance with law. Counseling staff shall be available to provide students with individualized reviews of their educational progress toward academic and/or career and vocational goals and, as appropriate, may discuss social, personal, or other issues that may impact student learning and well-being.

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that all persons employed to provide direct school counseling, school psychology, and/or school social work services to students, and/or implement equitable school programs and services that support students' academic and social emotional development and college and career readiness shall possess the appropriate credential from the Commission on Teacher Credentialing authorizing their employment in such positions. Responsibilities of such positions shall be clearly defined in a job description.

Responsibilities of school counselors include, but are not limited to:

1. Engaging with, advocating for, and providing all students with direct services, such as individual counseling, group counseling, risk assessment, crisis response, and instructional services, including mental health and behavioral, academic, and postsecondary educational services and indirect services, including but not limited to, positive school climate strategies, teacher and parent consultations, and referrals to public and private community services
2. Planning, implementing, and evaluating school counseling programs
3. Working within a MTSS that uses multiple data sources to monitor and improve student behavior, attendance, engagement, and achievement
4. Developing, coordinating, and supervising comprehensive student support systems in collaboration with teachers, administrators, other pupil personnel services professionals, families, community partners, and community agencies, including county mental health agencies
5. Promoting and maintaining a safe learning environment for all students by providing restorative practices, positive behavior interventions, and support services, and by developing a variety of intervention strategies, and using those strategies, to meet individual, group, and school community needs before, during, and after a crisis
6. Intervening to ameliorate school-related problems, including issues/problems related to chronic absences and retention

PROPOSED

7. Using research-based strategies to promote mental wellness, reduce mental health stigma, and to identify characteristics, risk factors, and warning signs of students who develop, or are at risk of developing, mental health and behavioral disorders and who experience, or are at risk of experiencing, mistreatment and, including mistreatment related to any form of conflict or bullying
8. Improving school climate and student well-being by addressing the mental and behavioral health needs of students during a period of transition, separation, heightened stress, and critical changes, accessing community programs and services to meet those needs, and providing other appropriate services
9. Enhancing students' social and emotional competence, character, health, civic engagement, cultural literacy, and commitment to lifelong learning and the pursuit of high-quality educational programs
10. Providing counseling services for unduplicated students who are classified as English learners, or foster youth, homeless children, and students eligible for free ~~or~~ and reduced-priced meals, including interventions and support services that enhance equity and access to ~~the~~ appropriate education systems and public and private services
11. Engaging in continued development as a professional school counselor

Educational And Career Counseling

Beginning in grade 7, parents/guardians shall receive a general notice at least once before career counseling and course selection so that they may participate in the counseling sessions and decisions. (Education Code 221.5)

The educational counseling program shall include academic counseling and postsecondary services, in the following areas: (Education Code 49600):

1. Development and implementation, with parent/guardian involvement, of the student's immediate and long-range educational plans
2. Optimizing progress towards achievement of proficiency standards and competencies
3. Completion of the required curriculum in accordance with the student's needs, abilities, interests, and aptitudes
4. Academic planning for access and success in higher education programs, including advisement on courses needed for admission to ~~public~~ colleges and universities, standardized admissions tests, and financial aid

PROPOSED

5. High-quality career programs at all grade levels in which students are assisted in doing all of the following:

- a. Planning for the future, including, but not limited to, identifying personal interests, skills, and abilities, career planning, course selection, and career transition
- b. Becoming aware of personal preferences and interests that influence educational and occupational exploration, career choice, and career success
- c. Developing realistic perceptions of work, self-efficacy for the ever-changing work environment, the changing needs of the workforce, and the effects of work on lifestyle quality of life
- d. Understanding the relationship between academic achievement and career success, and the importance of maximizing career options
- e. Understanding the value of participating in career technical education pathways, programs, and certifications, including, but not limited to, those related to regional occupational and centers, the federal program administered by the United States Department of Labor offering free education and vocational training to students, known as "Job Corps," the California Conservation Corps, work-based learning, industry certifications, college preparation and credit, and employment opportunities
- f. Understanding the need to develop essential employable skills and work habits
- g. Understanding entrance requirements to the Armed Forces of the United States, including the benefits of the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) test

The district's educational counseling program also may include, but not be limited to, identification of students who are at risk of not graduating with the rest of their peers, development of a list of coursework and experience necessary to assist students to satisfy the curricular requirements for college admission and successfully transition to postsecondary education or employment, and counseling regarding available options for students who fail to meet graduation requirements: to continue with their education.

The Superintendent or designee shall establish and maintain a program of guidance, placement, and follow-up for all high school students subject to compulsory continuation education. (Education Code 48431)

As part of the district's educational counseling program, students may be offered mental and behavioral health services under which a student may receive prevention, intervention, short-term counseling services, and mental health related classroom instruction to reduce stigma and increase awareness of counseling support services.

PROPOSED

No counselor shall unlawfully discriminate against any student. Guidance counseling regarding school programs and career, vocational, or higher education opportunities shall not be differentiated on the basis of any protected category specified in BP 0410 - Nondiscrimination in District Programs and Activities.

In addition, counselors shall affirmatively explore with a student the possibility of careers, or courses leading to careers, that are nontraditional for that student's sex. (Education Code 221.5)

For assessing or counseling students, the district shall not use testing or other materials that permit or require impermissible or unlawful differential treatment of students. (5 CCR 4931)

Colleges and prospective employers, including military recruiters, shall have the same access to students for recruiting purposes. (Education Code 49603; 10 USC 503; 20 USC 7908)

The Superintendent or designee shall collaborate with businesses, government agencies, postsecondary institutions including universities and career technical schools, community organizations, and/or other employers to provide students with actual or simulated work-based learning opportunities through college and/or career fairs.

When planning to hold a college or career fair, the Superintendent or designee shall notify each apprenticeship program in the county. The notification shall include the planned date, time and location of the college or career fair. (Labor Code 3074.2)

Personal or Mental Health Counseling

A school counselor, school psychologist, or school social worker may provide individualized personal, mental health, or family counseling to students in accordance with the specialization(s) authorized by their credential. Such services may include, but are not limited to, support related to the student's social and emotional development, behavior, substance abuse, mental health assessment, depression, or mental illness. As appropriate, students and their parents/guardians shall be informed about community agencies, organizations, or health care providers that offer qualified professional assistance.

Written parent/guardian consent shall be obtained before mental health counseling or treatment services are provided to a student, except when the student is authorized to consent to the service pursuant to Family Code 6920-6929, Health and Safety Code 124260, or other applicable law.

Any information of a personal nature disclosed to a school counselor by a student age 12 years or older or by the student's parent/guardian is confidential and shall not become part of the student record without the written consent of the person who disclosed the confidential information. The information shall not be revealed, released, discussed, or referred to except under the limited circumstances specified in Education Code 49602. (Education Code 49602)

PROPOSED

A counselor shall consult with the Superintendent or designee and, as appropriate, with the district's legal counsel whenever unsure of how to respond to a student's personal problem or when questions arise regarding the possible release of confidential information regarding a student.

Crisis Counseling

The Board recognizes the need for a prompt and effective response when students are confronted with a traumatic incident. School counselors shall assist in the development of the comprehensive school safety plan, emergency and disaster preparedness plan, and other prevention and intervention practices designed to assist students and parents/guardians before, during, and after a crisis.

Early identification and intervention plans shall be developed to help identify those students who may be at risk for violence so that support may be provided before they engage in violent or disruptive behavior.

In addition, the Superintendent or designee shall identify crisis counseling resources to train district staff in effective threat assessment, appropriate response techniques, and/or methods to directly help students cope with a crisis if it occurs.

Teacher-Based Advisory Program

The Board recognizes that a supportive, ongoing relationship with a caring adult can provide a student with valuable advice, enhance student-teacher relationships, and build the student's feelings of connectedness with the school. The Board authorizes the development of a teacher-based advisory program in which teachers advise students in such areas as academic planning, character development, conflict resolution, and self-esteem. Any teacher participating in this program shall be under the supervision of a credentialed school counselor as appropriate, receive related information and training, and be subject to this Board policy and law, including requirements pertaining to student confidentiality and nondiscrimination.

Policy 6164.2: Guidance/Counseling Services

Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 06/23/2016

The Governing Board recognizes that a structured, coherent and comprehensive counseling program promotes academic achievement and serves the diverse needs of all district students. Counseling staff shall be available to provide students with individualized reviews of their educational progress toward academic and/or career and vocational goals and, as appropriate, may discuss social, personal, or other issues that may impact student learning.

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that all persons employed to provide school counseling, school psychology, and/or school social work services shall possess the appropriate credential from the Commission on Teacher Credentialing authorizing their employment in such positions. Responsibilities of each position shall be clearly defined in a job description.

(cf. 4112.2 - Certification)

Responsibilities of school counselors include, but are not limited to:

1. Engaging with, advocating for, and providing support for all students with respect to learning and achievement
2. Planning, implementing, and evaluating programs to promote the academic, career, personal, and social development of all students, including students from low-income families, foster youth, homeless youth, undocumented youth, and students at all levels of academic, social, and emotional abilities
3. Using multiple sources of information to monitor and improve student behavior and achievement
4. Collaborating and coordinating with school and community resources
5. Promoting and maintaining a safe learning environment for all students by providing restorative justice practices, positive behavior interventions, and support services

(cf. 5131 - Conduct)

(cf. 5131.2 - Bullying)

(cf. 5138 - Conflict Resolution/Peer Mediation)

(cf. 5144 - Discipline)

6. Intervention on school-related problems, including issues related to chronic absences

(cf. 5113.1 - Chronic Absence and Truancy)

7. Using research-based strategies to reduce stigma, conflict, and student-to-student mistreatment and bullying

8. Improving school climate and student well-being

(cf. 5137 - Positive School Climate)

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9. Enhancing students' social and emotional competence, character, health, civic engagement, cultural legacy, and commitment to lifelong learning and the pursuit of high-quality educational programs

(cf. 6142.4 - Service Learning/Community Service Classes)

10. Providing counseling interventions and support services for students classified as English learners, eligible for free or reduced-priced meals, or foster youth, including enhancing equity and access to the education system and community services

(cf. 0460 - Local Control and Accountability Plan)

(cf. 6173 - Education for Homeless Children)

(cf. 6173.1 - Education for Foster Youth)

(cf. 6174 - Education for English Language Learners)

11. Engaging in continued development as a professional school counselor

(cf. 4131 - Staff Development)

Educational Counseling

Beginning in grade 7, parents/guardians shall receive a general notice at least once before career counseling and course selection so that they may participate in the counseling sessions and decisions. (Education Code 221.5) (cf. 5145.6 - Parental Notifications)

The educational counseling program at the secondary level shall include academic counseling in the following areas: (Education Code 49600)

1. Development and implementation, with parent/guardian involvement, of the student's immediate and long-range educational plans
2. Optimizing progress towards achievement of proficiency standards
3. Completion of the required curriculum in accordance with the student's needs, abilities, interests, and aptitudes
4. Academic planning for access and success in higher education programs, including advisement on courses needed for admission to public colleges and universities, standardized admissions tests, and financial aid
5. Career and vocational counseling, in which students are assisted in doing all of the following:
 - a. Planning for the future, including, but not limited to, identifying personal interests, skills, and abilities, career planning, course selection, and career transition
 - b. Becoming aware of personal preferences and interests that influence educational and occupational exploration, career choice, and career success
 - c. Developing realistic perceptions of work, the changing work environment, and the effect of work on lifestyle
 - d. Understanding the relationship between academic achievement and career success, and the importance of maximizing career options

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e. Understanding the value of participating in career technical education and work-based learning activities and programs, including, but not limited to, service learning, regional occupational centers and programs, partnership programs, job shadowing, and mentoring experiences

(cf. 6178 - Career Technical Education)

(cf. 6178.1 - Work-Based Learning)

(cf. 6178.2 - Regional Occupational Center/Program)

f. Understanding the need to develop essential employable skills and work habits

g. Understanding the variety of four-year colleges and universities and community college vocational and technical preparation programs, as well as admission criteria and enrollment procedures

The district's educational counseling program also may include, but not be limited to, identification of students who are at risk of not graduating with the rest of their class, development of a list of coursework and experience necessary to assist students to satisfy the curricular requirements for college admission and successfully transition to postsecondary education or employment, and counseling regarding available options for a student to continue his/her education if he/she fails to meet graduation requirements.

6. Additional specialized counseling services for students identified as at risk of not graduating with their class

The Superintendent or designee shall establish and maintain a program of guidance, placement, and follow-up for all high school students subject to compulsory continuation education. (Education Code 48431)

(cf. 6184 - Continuation Education)

No counselor shall unlawfully discriminate against any student. Guidance counseling regarding school programs and career, vocational, or higher education opportunities shall not be differentiated on the basis of any protected category specified in BP 0410 - Nondiscrimination in District Programs and Activities.

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

(cf. 5145.3 - Nondiscrimination/Harassment)

In addition, counselors shall affirmatively explore with students the possibility of careers, or courses leading to careers, that are nontraditional for that student's sex. (Education Code 221.5)

For assessing or counseling students, the district shall not use testing or other materials that permit or require impermissible or unlawful differential treatment of students. (5 CCR 4931)

Colleges and prospective employers, including military recruiters, shall have the same access to students for recruiting purposes. (Education Code 49603; 10 USC 503; 20 USC 7908)

(cf. 5125.1 - Release of Directory Information)

Personal or Mental Health Counseling

A school counselor, school psychologist, or school social worker may provide individualized personal, mental health, or family counseling to students in accordance with the specialization(s) authorized by his/her credential. Such services may include, but are not limited to, support related to the student's

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social and emotional development, behavior, substance abuse, mental health assessment, depression, or mental illness. As appropriate, students and their parents/guardians shall be informed about community agencies, organizations, or health care providers that offer qualified professional assistance. (cf. 1020 - Youth Services)

(cf. 5113 - Absences and Excuses)

(cf. 5131.6 - Alcohol and Other Drugs)

(cf. 5141.4 - Child Abuse Prevention and Reporting)

(cf. 5141.6 - School Health Services)

(cf. 5145.9 - Hate-Motivated Behavior)

(cf. 5147 - Dropout Prevention)

(cf. 6164.5 - Student Success Teams)

Written parent/guardian consent shall be obtained before mental health counseling or treatment services are provided to a student, except when the student is authorized to consent to the service pursuant to Family Code 6920-6929, Health and Safety Code 124260, or other applicable law.

Any information of a personal nature disclosed to a school counselor by a student age 12 years or older or by his/her parent/guardian is confidential and shall not become part of the student record without the written consent of the person who disclosed the confidential information. The information shall not be revealed, released, discussed, or referred to except under the limited circumstances specified in Education Code 49602. (Education Code 49602) (cf. 5022 - Student and Family Privacy Rights)

(cf. 5125 - Student Records)

A counselor shall consult with the Superintendent or designee and, as appropriate, with the district's legal counsel whenever unsure of how to respond to a student's personal problem or when questions arise regarding the possible release of confidential information regarding a student.

Crisis Counseling

The Board recognizes the need for a prompt and effective response when students are confronted with a traumatic incident. School counselors shall assist in the development of the comprehensive school safety plan, emergency and disaster preparedness plan, and other prevention and intervention practices designed to assist students and parents/guardians before, during, and after a crisis.

(cf. 0450 - Comprehensive Safety Plan)

(cf. 3516 - Emergencies and Disaster Preparedness Plan)

In addition, the Superintendent or designee shall identify crisis counseling resources to train district staff in effective threat assessment, appropriate response techniques, and/or methods to directly help students cope with a crisis if it occurs.

Early identification and intervention plans shall be developed to help identify those students who may be at risk for violence so that support may be provided before they engage in violent or disruptive behavior.

(cf. 5136 - Gangs)

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(cf. 5141.52 - Suicide Prevention) Teacher-
Based Advisory Program

The Board recognizes that a supportive, ongoing relationship with a caring adult can provide a student with valuable advice, enhance student-teacher relationships, and build the student's feelings of connectedness with the school. The Board authorizes the development of a teacher-based advisory program in which teachers advise students in such areas as academic planning, character development, conflict resolution, and self-esteem. Any teacher participating in this program shall be under the supervision of a credentialed school counselor as appropriate, receive related information and training, and be subject to this Board policy and law, including requirements pertaining to student confidentiality and nondiscrimination.

(cf. 4131 - Staff Development)

PROPOSED

Policy 6178: Career Technical Education

Status: **ADOPTED**

Original Adopted Date: 03/01/2008 | Last Revised Date: ~~10/09/01/2018~~2022 | Last Reviewed Date: ~~10/09/01/2018~~2022

The Governing Board desires to provide a comprehensive career technical education (CTE) program in the secondary grades which integrates core academic instruction with technical and occupational instruction in order to increase student achievement, graduation rates, and readiness for postsecondary education and employment. The district's CTE program shall be designed to help students develop the academic, career, and technical skills needed to succeed in a knowledge- and skills-based economy.

The district's CTE program shall focus on preparing students to enter current or emerging high-skill, high-wage, and/or high-demand occupations by providing a rigorous academic component and practical experience in all aspects of an industry. CTE opportunities may be offered through linked learning programs, partnership academies, apprenticeship programs or orientation to apprenticeships, regional occupational centers or programs (ROC/Ps), charter schools, small learning communities, magnet programs, or other programs that expose students to career options while preparing them for future careers in a given industry or interest area.

The Superintendent or designee shall explore available funding sources that may be used to support CTE programs. The Board shall review and approve all district plans and applications for the use of district, state, and/or federal funds supporting CTE.

The Board shall adopt district standards for CTE which meet or exceed the state's model content standards and describe the essential knowledge and skills that students enrolled in these courses are expected to master. The course curriculum shall be aligned with district-adopted standards and the state's curriculum framework.

At least every three years, the Board shall compare the district's curriculum, course content, and course sequence of CTE with the model state curriculum standards. (Education Code 52376)

The Superintendent or designee shall systematically review the district's CTE courses to determine the degree to which each course may offer an alternative means for completing and receiving credit for specific portions of the course of study prescribed by the district for high school graduation. CTE courses approved for these purposes shall be equivalent in content and rigor to the courses prescribed for graduation. (Education Code 52376)

The Superintendent or designee shall develop partnerships with local businesses and industries to ensure that course sequences, career technical and integrated curriculum, classroom instruction and projects, and assessments have real-world relevance and reflect labor market needs and priorities. The Superintendent or designee shall also work to develop connections with businesses, postsecondary institutions, community organizations, and/or other employers to provide students with actual or simulated work-based learning opportunities.

PROPOSED

The Superintendent or designee shall collaborate with postsecondary institutions to ensure that the district's program is articulated with postsecondary programs in order to provide a sequential course of study. Articulation opportunities may include dual or concurrent enrollment in community college courses.

The Board shall appoint a CTE advisory committee to develop recommendations on the district's CTE program and to serve as a liaison between the district and potential employers. The committee shall consist of at least one student, teacher, business representative, industry representative, school administrator, member of the general public knowledgeable about the disadvantaged, and representative of the field office of the California Employment Development Department. (Education Code 8070)

The Superintendent or designee shall inform all secondary students and their parents/guardians about the CTE experiences available in the district, CTE courses that satisfy college admission criteria, and, if applicable, CTE courses that satisfy high school graduation requirements. In addition, secondary students shall receive individualized academic counseling which provides information about academic and CTE opportunities related to the student's career goals.

Prior to the beginning of each school year, the Superintendent or designee shall advise students, parents/guardians, employees, and the general public that all CTE opportunities are offered without regard to any actual or perceived characteristic protected from discrimination by law. The notification shall be disseminated in languages other than English as needed and shall state that the district will take steps to ensure that the lack of English language skills will not be a barrier to admission and participation in the district's CTE program. (20 USC 2354; 34 CFR 100 Appendix B, 104.8, 106.9)

To the extent required by law, the Superintendent or designee shall invite the participation of private school students in CTE programs supported by federal funding under the Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act (Perkins). (20 USC 2397)

The Superintendent or designee shall collaborate with businesses, government agencies, postsecondary institutions including universities and career technical schools, community organizations, and/or other employers to provide students with actual or simulated work-based learning opportunities through college and/or career fairs.

When planning to hold a college or career fair, the Superintendent or designee shall notify each apprenticeship program in the county. The notification shall include the planned date, time and location of the college or career fair. (Labor Code 3074.2)

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that teachers of CTE courses possess the qualifications and credentials necessary to teach their assigned courses. The Superintendent or designee shall also provide teachers and administrators with professional development designed to enhance their knowledge of standards-aligned CTE and shall provide opportunities for CTE teachers to collaborate with teachers of academic courses in the development and implementation of integrated curriculum models.

PROPOSED

The Superintendent or designee shall provide counselors and other guidance personnel with professional development that includes, but is not limited to, information about current workforce needs and trends, requirements of the district's CTE program, work-based learning opportunities, and postsecondary education and employment options following high school.

The Superintendent or designee shall regularly assess district needs for facilities, technologies, and equipment to increase students' access to the district's CTE program.

The Superintendent or designee shall annually report to the Board achievement data on participating students, including, but not limited to, the percentage of participating students who successfully complete CTE programs, their performance on state and district academic achievement tests, and graduation rates. Data shall be disaggregated by program and various student subgroups. Based on such data, the Board shall determine the need for program improvements and update the goals in the district's local control and accountability plan as necessary.

Policy 6178: Career Technical Education

Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 02/24/2016

The Governing Board desires to provide a comprehensive career technical education (CTE) program in the secondary grades which integrates core academic instruction with technical and occupational instruction in order to increase student achievement, graduation rates, and readiness for postsecondary education and employment. The district's CTE program shall be designed to help students develop the academic, career, and technical skills needed to succeed in a knowledge- and skills-based economy. The program shall include a rigorous academic component and provide students with a strong experience and understanding of all aspects of an industry.

(cf. 6143 - Courses of Study)

(cf. 6200 - Adult Education)

The district's CTE program shall focus on preparing students to enter current or emerging high-skill, high-wage, and/or high-demand occupations. CTE opportunities may be offered through linked learning programs, partnership academies, apprenticeship programs or orientation to apprenticeships, regional occupational centers or programs, tech prep programs, charter schools, small learning communities, or other programs that expose students to career options while preparing them for future careers in a given industry or interest area.

(cf. 0420.4 - Charter School Authorization)

(cf. 6178.2 - Regional Occupational Center/Program)

The Board shall review and approve all district plans and applications for the use of state and/or federal funds supporting CTE.

The Board shall adopt district standards for CTE which meet or exceed the state's model content standards and describe the essential knowledge and skills that students enrolled in these courses are expected to master. The course curriculum shall be aligned with district-adopted standards and the state's curriculum framework.

(cf. 6011 - Academic Standards)

(cf. 6141 - Curriculum Development and Evaluation)

At least every three years, the Board shall compare the district's curriculum, course content, and course sequence of CTE with the model state curriculum standards. (Education Code 52376)

The Superintendent or designee shall systematically review the district's CTE classes to determine the degree to which each class may offer an alternative means for completing and receiving credit for specific portions of the course of study prescribed by the district for high school graduation. The Board shall ensure that these classes are equivalent in content and rigor to the courses prescribed for graduation. (Education Code 52376)

(cf. 6146.1 - High School Graduation Requirements)

(cf. 6146.11 - Alternative Credits Toward Graduation)

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(cf. 6146.2 - Certificate of Proficiency/High School Equivalency)

The Superintendent or designee shall develop partnerships with local businesses and industries to ensure that course sequences, career technical and integrated curriculum, classroom instruction and projects, and assessments have real-world relevance and reflect labor market needs and priorities. He/she also shall work to develop connections with businesses, postsecondary institutions, community organizations, and/or other employers to provide students with actual or simulated work-based learning opportunities.

(cf. 1700 - Relations Between Private Industry and the Schools)

(cf. 5113.2 - Work Permits)

(cf. 6178.1 - Work-Based Learning)

The Superintendent or designee shall collaborate with postsecondary institutions to ensure that the district's program is articulated with postsecondary programs in order to provide a sequential course of study. Articulation opportunities may include dual or concurrent enrollment in community college courses.

(cf. 6172.1 - Concurrent Enrollment in College Classes)

The Superintendent or designee shall inform all secondary students and their parents/guardians about the CTE experiences available in the district, CTE courses that satisfy college admission criteria, and, if applicable, CTE courses that satisfy high school graduation requirements. In addition, secondary students shall receive individualized career guidance and academic counseling which provides information about academic and CTE opportunities related to the student's career goals.

(cf. 5145.6 - Parental Notifications)

(cf. 6164.2 - Guidance/Counseling Services)

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that teachers of CTE courses possess the qualifications and credentials necessary to teach their assigned courses. He/she also shall provide teachers and administrators with professional development designed to enhance their knowledge of standards-aligned CTE and shall provide opportunities for CTE teachers to collaborate with teachers of academic courses in the development and implementation of integrated curriculum models.

(cf. 4112.2 - Certification)

(cf. 4131 - Staff Development)

(cf. 4331 - Staff Development)

The Superintendent or designee shall provide counselors and other guidance personnel with professional development that includes, but is not limited to, information about current workforce needs and trends, requirements of the district's CTE program, work-based learning opportunities, and postsecondary education and employment options following high school.

Upon written request from a nonprofit private school within the geographical area served by the district, the Superintendent or designee shall consult with private school representatives in a timely and meaningful manner and may provide for the participation of private school secondary students in the district's programs and activities funded under the federal Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act. To the extent practicable, the Superintendent or designee also shall, upon request, permit

CURRENT

participation of CTE teachers, administrators, and other personnel from private schools in the district's in-service and preservice professional development programs funded through the Perkins Act. (20 USC 2397)

The Superintendent or designee shall regularly assess district needs for facilities, technologies, and equipment to increase students' access to the district's CTE program.

(cf. 0440 - District Technology Plan)

(cf. 3440 - Inventories)

(cf. 3512 - Equipment)

(cf. 7110 - Facilities Master Plan)

Nondiscrimination

The district's program shall provide equal access to and shall not unlawfully discriminate against students who are members of special populations. Special populations include, but are not limited to, students with disabilities; students from economically disadvantaged families, including foster youth; single parents and single pregnant females; displaced homemakers; students with limited English proficiency; and students preparing for nontraditional fields. Nontraditional fields include occupations or fields of work, including careers in computer science, technology, and other emerging high-skill occupations, for which individuals from one gender constitute less than 25 percent of the individuals employed in each such occupation or field of work. (20 USC 2302, 2354, 2373)

Prior to the beginning of each school year, the Superintendent or designee shall advise students, parents/guardians, employees, and the general public that all CTE opportunities are offered without regard to any actual or perceived characteristic protected from discrimination by law. (34 CFR 100.B, 104.8, 106.9)

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

(cf. 1312.3 - Uniform Complaint Procedures)

The above notification shall be disseminated in languages other than English as needed and shall state that the district will take steps to ensure that the lack of English language skills will not be a barrier to admission and participation in the district's CTE program. (20 USC 2354; 34 CFR 100.B)

School and Community Involvement

The Board shall appoint a CTE advisory committee to develop recommendations on the district's CTE program and to serve as a liaison between the district and potential employers. The committee shall consist of at least one student, teacher, business representative, industry representative, school administrator, member of the general public knowledgeable about the disadvantaged, and representative of the field office of the California Employment Development Department. (Education Code 8070)

(cf. 1220 - Citizen Advisory Committees)

The district also shall involve parents/guardians; students; academic and CTE teachers; administrators; career guidance and academic counselors; representatives of tech prep consortia if applicable, business and industry, labor organizations, and special populations; and other interested individuals in the development, implementation, and evaluation of CTE programs. (20 USC 2354)

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The Board shall monitor the achievement of students participating in the district's CTE program in order to determine the need for program improvements. The Superintendent or designee shall annually report to the Board and the California Department of Education on program enrollment and completion rates, including enrollment and completion of programs in nontraditional fields as defined in 20 USC 2302; student academic assessment results; attainment of career and technical skill proficiencies; attainment of a high school diploma or equivalent; graduation rates; and subsequent placement in postsecondary education or advanced training, military service, or employment. Data shall be disaggregated, in accordance with 20 USC 2323, by race, ethnicity, gender, disability status, migrant status, English proficiency, and economic disadvantage status and for each special population as defined in 20 USC 2302 and listed in the section "Nondiscrimination" above.

(cf. 0500 - Accountability)

(cf. 6162.5 - Student Assessment)

(cf. 6162.51 - State Academic Achievement Tests)

(cf. 6162.52 - High School Exit Examination)

(cf. 6190 - Evaluation of the Instructional Program)

PROPOSED

Policy 6200: Adult Education

Status: **ADOPTED**

Original Adopted Date: 06/01/1997 | Last Revised Date: ~~05/09/01/2016~~2022 | Last Reviewed Date: ~~05/09/01/2016~~2022

The Governing Board believes that education is a lifelong ~~process~~endeavor and that it is important for individuals to continuously develop new skills necessary to participate effectively as citizens, workers, parents/guardians, and family and community members. Eligible adults shall be offered opportunities to enroll in programs and courses that develop academic and workforce skills and, as appropriate, lead to completion of requirements for high school graduation.

The Superintendent or designee shall recommend, for approval by the Board and the California Department of Education, courses to be offered through the district's adult education program.

Adult education classes may be offered any day or evening, including weekends, for such length of time during the school year as determined by the Board. (Education Code 52505)

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that all teachers of adult education classes possess an appropriate credential issued by the Commission on Teacher Credentialing and have access to highquality professional development to continuously enhance their knowledge and skills.

Upon recommendation of the administrator of the student's adult school or noncredit program of attendance, the Board may authorize an adult education student pursuing a high school diploma or a high school equivalency certificate to attend a community college during any session or term as a special parttime student. (Education Code 52620)

The Board may award diplomas or certificates to adults and eligible minors enrolled in adult schools upon satisfactory completion of a prescribed course of study in an elementary school program. (Education Code 52508, 52509)

Adult education students who fulfill the district's graduation requirements shall receive a diploma of high school graduation.

If the district has an adult school or classes for adults but is unable to maintain such school or classes because of an inability to secure a teacher(s) or because of a lack of facilities, the district may, with the approval of the County Superintendent of Schools and the Superintendent of Public Instruction, contract with another district for the instruction of such students. (Education Code 52511)

To ensure efficient and coordinated adult education services, the district may join a regional adult education consortium. The district shall participate in the consortium's identification of the educational needs of adults in the region, identification of available funding and services, development and approval of an adult education plan pursuant to Education Code 84906, and implementation of

PROPOSED

strategies to address the identified needs, improve the effectiveness of district services, and improve students' transitions into postsecondary education and the workforce.

The district's representative to the regional adult education consortium shall be designated by the Board. (Education Code 84905)

The Superintendent or designee shall regularly report to the Board on the effectiveness of the district's adult education program. This report shall include, but not be limited to, the number of adults and high school students participating in the program, student participation in each type of adult education course or class, and the extent to which students successfully completed these programs, including, as applicable, the completion of requirements for the high school diploma or certificate of equivalency.

Policy 6200: Adult Education

Original Adopted Date: 09/08/2016

Status: ADOPTED

The Governing Board believes that education is a lifelong process and that it is important for individuals to continuously develop new skills. Eligible adults shall be offered opportunities to enroll in programs and courses that develop academic and workforce skills and, as appropriate, lead to completion of requirements for high school graduation.

The Superintendent or designee shall recommend, for approval by the Board and the California Department of Education, courses to be offered through the district's adult education program.

To ensure efficient and coordinated adult education services, the district shall collaborate with other local educational agencies and the community college district in the region's adult education consortium. The district shall participate in the consortium's identification of the educational needs of adults in the region, identification of available funding and services, development and approval of an adult education plan pursuant to Education Code 84906, and implementation of strategies to address the identified needs, improve the effectiveness of district services, and improve students' transitions into postsecondary education and the workforce.

The district's representative to the region's adult education consortium shall be designated by the Board. (Education Code 84905)

(cf. 9140 - Board Representatives)

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that all teachers of adult education classes possess an appropriate credential issued by the Commission on Teacher Credentialing and have access to high-quality professional development to continuously enhance their knowledge and skills.

(cf. 4112.2 - Certification)

(cf. 4131 - Staff Development)

Adult education classes may be offered any day or evening, including weekends, for such length of time during the school year as determined by the Board. (Education Code 52505, 52513)

A certificate of completion of the eighth grade shall be awarded through the adult school upon successful completion of both of the following:

1. At least one term in the adult elementary program
2. Overall eighth-grade placement on a recognized standardized achievement test

Adult education students who fulfill the district's graduation requirements shall receive a diploma of high school graduation.

(cf. 6142.7 - Physical Education and Activity)

(cf. 6146.1 - High School Graduation Requirements)

The Superintendent or designee shall regularly report to the Board on the effectiveness of the district's adult education program. This report shall include, but not be limited to, the number of adults and high school students participating in the program, student participation in each type of adult education course

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or class, and the extent to which students successfully completed these programs, including, as applicable, the completion of requirements for the high school diploma or certificate of equivalency.

(cf. 0500 - Accountability)

PROPOSED

Policy 7110: Facilities Master Plan

Status: **ADOPTED**

Original Adopted Date: 02/01/1996 | Last Revised Date: ~~03/09/01/2012~~2022 | Last Reviewed Date: ~~03/09/01/2012~~2022

The Governing Board recognizes the importance of long-range planning for school facilities in order to address changes in student enrollment, teacher housing needs, and ~~in~~ the district's educational program. The Superintendent or designee shall develop, for Board approval, a master plan for district facilities which describes the district's anticipated short- and long-term facilities needs and priorities.

Plan Development

The district's facilities master plan shall be based on an assessment of the condition and adequacy of existing facilities, a projection of future enrollments, and alignment of facilities with the district's vision for the instructional program.

To solicit broad input into the planning process, the Superintendent or designee may establish a facilities advisory committee consisting of staff, parents/guardians, and business, local government, and other community representatives. The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that the public is informed of the need for construction and modernization of facilities and of the district's plans for facilities.

At least 45 days prior to completion of any facilities plan that relates to the potential expansion of existing school sites or the necessity to acquire additional school sites, the Superintendent or designee shall notify and provide copies of the plan or any relevant and available information to the planning commission or agency of the city or county with land use jurisdiction within the district. (Government Code 65352.2)

If the city or county commission or agency requests a meeting, the Superintendent or designee shall meet with the commission or agency within 15 days following the notification. Items that the parties may discuss at the meeting include, but are not limited to, methods of coordinating planning with proposed revitalization efforts and recreation and park programs, options for new school sites, methods of maximizing the safety of persons traveling to and from the site, and opportunities for financial assistance.

(Government Code 65352.2)

The master plan shall be regularly reviewed and updated as necessary to reflect changes in the educational program, existing facilities, finances, or demographic data.

Plan Components

The facilities master plan shall include:

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1. A statement of purpose, including district goals, philosophy, and related policies
2. A description of the planning process
3. Demographics of the community, such as economic trends, migration patterns, employment base, residential base, socioeconomic makeup, historical school enrollments, and inventory of physical resources and needs
4. A description of the educational program, such as grade-level organization, class size, staffing patterns, technology plans, special programs and support services, and other educational specifications
5. Analysis of the safety, adequacy, and equity of existing facilities and potential for expansion, including the adequacy of classrooms, school cafeterias and food preparation areas, physical activity areas, playgrounds, parking areas, and other school grounds
6. Site selection criteria and process
7. Development of a capital planning budget and identification of potential funding sources
8. Policy for reviewing and updating the plan

Planning shall ensure that school facilities meet the following minimum standards: (5 CCR 14001)

1. Are aligned with the district's educational goals and objectives
2. Provide for maximum site enrollment at school facilities
3. Are located on a site that meets California Department of Education standards as specified in 5 CCR 14010
4. Are designed for the environmental comfort and work efficiency of the occupants
5. Are designed to require a practical minimum of maintenance
6. Are designed to meet federal, state, and local statutory requirements for structure, fire, and public safety
7. Are designed and engineered with flexibility to accommodate future need

Plans for the design and construction of new school facilities shall also meet the standards described in 5 CCR 14030, [the California Green Building Standards Code, Title 24, Part 11 of the California Code of Regulations \("CALGreen"\)](#), the Americans with Disabilities Act ([ADA](#)) pursuant to 42 USC 12101-12213, and any other requirements applicable to the funding source and type of project.

PROPOSED

However, plans for residential housing, which includes any building used or intended to be used by the district as a personal residence by a teacher or employee of the district, is not considered to be a “school building” and does not require approval by the Department of General Services regarding earthquake safety and/or the ADA. (Education Code 17283.5; Government Code 4454.5)

To facilitate the efficient use of public resources when planning for new construction or modernization of school facilities, the district may consider designs that facilitate joint use of the facility with a local governmental agency, public postsecondary institution, or nonprofit organization.

Policy 7110: Facilities Master Plan

Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 11/18/2010

The Governing Board recognizes the importance of long-range planning for school facilities in order to help meet the changing needs of district students and to help ensure that resources are allocated in an efficient and effective manner. To that end, the Board directs the Superintendent or designee to develop and maintain a master plan for district facilities.

The plan shall describe the district's anticipated short- and long-term facilities needs and priorities and shall be aligned with the district's educational goals.

(cf. 0000 - Vision)

(cf. 7000 - Concepts and Roles)

(cf. 7111 - Evaluating Existing Buildings)

(cf. 7131 - Relations with Local Agencies)

(cf. 7210 - Facilities Financing)

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that staff, parents/guardians, students, and business and community representatives are kept informed of the need for construction and modernization of facilities and of the district's plans for facilities. The Superintendent or designee may also establish a facilities committee that shall meet at regular intervals in order to give community members opportunities to provide input into the planning process. The committee may consult local governmental and state planning agencies in order to ensure compliance with local and state standards.

(cf. 1220 - Citizen Advisory Committees)

At least 45 days prior to completion of any facilities plan that relates to the potential expansion of existing school sites or the necessity to acquire additional school sites, the Superintendent or designee shall notify and provide copies of the plan or any relevant and available information to the planning commission or agency of the city or county with land use jurisdiction within the district. (Government Code 65352.2)

If the city or county commission or agency requests a meeting, the Superintendent or designee shall meet with them within 15 days following the notification. Items that the parties may discuss at the meeting include, but are not limited to, methods of coordinating planning with proposed revitalization efforts and recreation and park programs, options for new school sites, methods of maximizing the safety of persons traveling to and from the site, and opportunities for financial assistance. (Government Code 65352.2)

PROPOSED

CSBA Sample District Policy Manual CSBA Sample Manual Site

Policy 7150: Site Selection And Development

Status: **ADOPTED**

Original Adopted Date: 02/01/1999 | Last Revised Date: ~~03/09/01/2002~~2022 | Last Reviewed Date: ~~03/09/01/2002~~2022

The Governing Board believes that a school site should serve the district's educational needs in accordance with the district's master plan, as well as show potential for contributing to other community needs.

The Board recognizes the importance of community input in the site selection process. To this end, the Board will solicit community input whenever a school site is to be selected and shall provide public notice and hold public hearings in accordance with law.

The Superintendent or designee shall establish a site selection process which complies with law and ensures that the best possible sites are acquired and developed in a cost-effective manner.

Before acquiring property for a new school or an addition to an existing school site, the Board, at a public hearing, shall either evaluate the property using state site selection standards specified in 5 CCR 14010 or, if a district advisory committee was appointed to evaluate the property, receive the committee's report of findings based on those standards. (Education Code 17211, 17251)

Environmental Impact Investigation for the Site Selection Process

The Superintendent or designee shall determine whether any proposed development project is subject to the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and shall ensure compliance with this Act, including any web site posting requirements. When evaluating district projects, the CEQA guidelines shall be used.

Environmental review documents, including a draft environmental impact report, environmental impact report, negative declaration or mitigated negative declaration, and public notice of the preparation and availability of such documents, shall be posted on the district's web site. (Public Resources Code 21082.1, 21092, 21092.2)

Agricultural Land

If the proposed site is in an area designated in a city, county, or city and county general plan for agricultural use and zoned for agricultural production, the Board shall determine all of the following: (Education Code 17215.5)

1. That the district has notified and consulted with the city, county, or city and county within which the prospective site is to be located

PROPOSED

2. That the Board has evaluated the final site selection based on all factors affecting the public interest and not limited to selection on the basis of the cost of the land
3. That the district shall attempt to minimize any public health and safety issues resulting from the neighboring agricultural uses that may affect students and employees at the site

Policy 7150: Site Selection And Development

Original Adopted Date: 11/18/2010

Status:
ADOPTED

The Governing Board believes that a school site should serve the district's educational needs in accordance with the district's master plan as well as show potential for contributing to other community needs.

(cf. 7110 - Facilities Master Plan)

The Board recognizes the importance of community input in the site selection process. To this end, the Board will solicit community input whenever a school site is to be selected and shall provide public notice and hold public hearings in accordance with law.

(cf. 1220 - Citizen Advisory Committees)

(cf. 9320 - Meetings and Notices)

The Superintendent or designee shall establish a site selection process which complies with law and ensures that the best possible sites are acquired and developed in a cost-effective manner.

(cf. 7140 - Architectural and Engineering Services)

(cf. 7210 - Facilities Financing)

Before acquiring property for a new school or an addition to an existing school site, the Board shall evaluate the property at a public hearing using state site selection standards. (Education Code 17211)

PROPOSED

BB 9100

Board Bylaws

Each year, the Governing Board shall hold an annual organizational meeting. In any year in which a regular election of district Board members is conducted, the organizational meeting shall be held within 15 days following the second Friday in December after the regular election. During all other years, the meeting may be held on any date in December, but no later than December 20th. (Education Code 35143)

Annual Organizational Meeting

During any year in which a regular election is conducted, the Board, at the regular meeting held immediately prior to the second Friday in December, shall select the day and time of the organizational meeting, which shall take place on the first available Thursday after certification of election results, but not on a regular Board meeting day. For any other year, the day and time of the organizational meeting shall be selected at the last regular meeting held immediately before the annual meeting. On behalf of the Board, the Superintendent shall notify the County Superintendent of Schools of the day and time selected. Within 15 days prior to the date of the annual meeting, the Superintendent shall notify in writing all Board members and members-elect of the date and time selected for the meeting. (Education Code 35143)

At this meeting the Board shall:

1. Elect a president and a clerk and/or vice president from its members
2. Appoint the Superintendent as secretary to the Board
3. Authorize signatures
4. Approve a schedule of regular meetings for the year and a Board governance calendar stating the time when the Board will address important governance matters
5. Designate Board representatives to serve on committees or commissions of the district, other public agencies, or organizations with which the district partners or collaborates

(cf. 9140 - Board Representatives)

6. Review and/or consider resources that define and clarify the Board's governance and leadership roles and responsibilities including, but not limited to, governance standards, meeting protocols, Board rules and bylaws, and other Board development materials

PROPOSED

- (cf. 9000 - Role of the Board)
- (cf. 9005 - Governance Standards)
- (cf. 9230 - Orientation)
- (cf. 9240 - Board Training)
- (cf. 9320 - Meetings and Notices)
- (cf. 9323 - Meeting Conduct)

Election of Officers

The Board shall each year elect its entire slate of officers.

After serving at least one year as vice president, at any time during one's cadence, a Board member is eligible to serve as President of the Board. Selection of President will take into consideration Board member attendance at Board workshops and Board self-evaluations, completion of the Masters in Governance course, if practicable and available, and attendance of 90% or better at regular Board meetings. The Trustee must also have attended the CSBA Board President's workshop prior to assuming the role of President. Board President is not a rotational role.

After selection of the president, the board will select the clerk. This will usually go to a Member who is not newly elected, but previously has not served in the role, unless all the Board's members have previously served or are newly elected. Following the selection of the clerk will be the election of the vice president. This will usually go to a Member who has served as clerk, is not newly elected, but previously has not served in the role, unless all the Board's members have previously served or are newly elected.

No Board member shall serve more than 2 consecutive year(s) in the same office.

- (cf. 9224 - Oath or Affirmation)

The election of Board officers shall be conducted during an open session of the annual organizational meeting.

When the president resigns or is absent or disabled, the vice president shall temporarily perform the president's duties until such time as the Board elects its next president. When both the president and clerk are absent or disabled, the Board shall choose a president pro tempore to perform the president's duties until such time as the Board elects its next president and clerk. ~~The SSFUSD Board of Trustees believe that the role of President should go to someone only if they have successfully completed the CSBA master's in governance (MIG) Program, if practicable and available and that the trustee must have attended the CSBA Board President's workshop prior to assuming the role of President.~~

PROPOSED

~~When the president resigns or is absent or disabled, the vice president shall temporarily perform the president's duties until such time as the Board elects its next president. When both the president and clerk are absent or disabled, the Board shall choose a president pro tempore to perform the president's duties until such time as the Board elects its next president and clerk. The SSFUSD Board of Trustees believe that the role of President should go to someone only if they have successfully completed the CSBA master's in governance (MIG) Program, if practicable and available and that the trustee must have attended the CSBA Board President's workshop prior to assuming the role of President.~~

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

5017 Term of office

35143 Annual organizational meeting date, and notice

35145 Public meetings

GOVERNMENT CODE

54953 Meetings to be open and public; attendance

ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINIONS

68 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 65 (1985)

59 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 619, 621-622 (1976)

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	Description
Ed. Code 35143	<u>Annual organizational meetings; date and notice</u>
Ed. Code 35145	<u>Public meetings</u>
Ed. Code 5017	<u>Term of office</u>
Gov. Code 54953	<u>Meetings to be open and public; attendance</u>

Management Resources	Description
Attorney General Opinion	59 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 619 (1976)
Attorney General Opinion	68 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 65 (1985)

PROPOSED

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

Cross References

Code	Description
9000	Role Of The Board
9005	Governance Standards
9121	President
9123	Clerk
9140	Board Representatives
9223	Filling Vacancies
9224	Oath Or Affirmation
9230	Orientation
9240	Board Training
9320	Meetings And Notices
9323	Meeting Conduct

Bylaw 9100: Organization

Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 09/27/2012 | Last Revised Date: 01/28/2021 | Last Reviewed Date: 01/28/2021

BB 9100

Board Bylaws

The day and time of the annual meeting shall be selected by the Board at its regular meeting held immediately prior to the first day of the 15-day period. On behalf of the Board, the Superintendent shall notify the County

Superintendent of Schools of the day and time selected. Within 15 days prior to the date of the annual meeting, the clerk of the Board, with the assistance of the Superintendent, shall notify in writing all Board members and members elect of the date and time selected for the meeting. (Education Code 35143)

Annual Organizational Meeting

The Governing Board shall hold an annual organizational meeting within the time limits prescribed by law. (Education Code 35143)

At this meeting the Board shall:

1. Elect a president and a clerk and/or vice president from its members
2. Appoint the Superintendent as secretary to the Board
3. Authorize signatures
4. Approve a schedule of regular meetings for the year and a Board governance calendar stating the time when the Board will address important governance matters
5. Designate Board representatives to serve on committees or commissions of the district, other public agencies, or organizations with which the district partners or collaborates

(cf. 9140 - Board Representatives)

6. Review and/or consider resources that define and clarify the Board's governance and leadership roles and responsibilities including, but not limited to, governance standards, meeting protocols, Board rules and bylaws, and other Board development materials

(cf. 9000 - Role of the Board)

(cf. 9005 - Governance Standards)

(cf. 9230 - Orientation)

(cf. 9240 - Board Training)

(cf. 9320 - Meetings and Notices)

(cf. 9323 - Meeting Conduct)

Election of Officers
October 29, 2023

CURRENT

The Board shall each year elect its entire slate of officers.

No Board member shall serve more than 2 consecutive year(s) in the same office.

(cf. 9224 - Oath or Affirmation)

The election of Board officers shall be conducted during an open session of the annual organizational meeting. When the president resigns or is absent or disabled, the vice president shall temporarily perform the president's duties until such time as the Board elects its next president. When both the president and clerk are absent or disabled, the Board shall choose a president pro tempore to perform the president's duties until such time as the Board elects its next president and clerk. The SSFUSD Board of Trustees believe that the role of President should go to someone only if they have successfully completed the CSBA master's in governance (MIG) Program, if practicable and available and that the trustee must have attended the CSBA Board President's workshop prior to assuming the role of President.

When the president resigns or is absent or disabled, the vice president shall temporarily perform the president's duties until such time as the Board elects its next president. When both the president and clerk are absent or disabled, the Board shall choose a president pro tempore to perform the president's duties until such time as the Board elects its next president and clerk. The SSFUSD Board of Trustees believe that the role of President should go to someone only if they have successfully completed the CSBA master's in governance (MIG) Program, if practicable and available and that the trustee must have attended the CSBA Board President's workshop prior to assuming the role of President.

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

5017 Term of office

35143 Annual organizational meeting date, and notice

35145 Public meetings

GOVERNMENT CODE

54953 Meetings to be open and public; attendance

ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINIONS

68 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 65 (1985)

59 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 619, 621-622 (1976)

Bylaw 9250: Remuneration, Reimbursement And Other Benefits

Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 09/25/2014

Compensation

Each member of the Governing Board may receive the maximum monthly compensation as provided for in Education Code 35120.

On an annual basis, the Board may increase the compensation of Board members beyond the limit delineated in

Education Code 35120 in an amount not to exceed five percent based on the present monthly rate of compensation.

(Education Code 35120)

Board members are not required to accept payment for meetings attended.

Any member who does not attend all Board meetings during the month is eligible to receive only a percentage of the monthly compensation equal to the percentage of meetings he/she attended, unless otherwise authorized by the Board in accordance with law. (Education Code 35120)

A member may be compensated for meetings he/she missed when the Board, by resolution, finds that he/she was performing designated services for the district at the time of the meeting or that he/she was absent because of illness, jury duty, or a hardship deemed acceptable by the Board. (Education Code 35120)

Student Board members shall receive no compensation for meetings attended. (Education Code 35012)

(cf. 9150 - Student Board Members)

Whenever a quorum of Board members serves as another legislative body which will meet simultaneously or in serial order to a Board meeting, the Board clerk or a member of the Board shall verbally announce the amount of any additional compensation or stipend that each member will be entitled to receive as a result of convening the simultaneous or serial meeting. (Government Code 54952.3)

Reimbursement of Expenses

Board members shall be reimbursed for actual and necessary expenses incurred when performing authorized services for the district. Expenses for travel, telephone, business meals, or other authorized purposes shall be in accordance with policies established for district personnel and at the same rate of reimbursement. (cf. 1160 - Political Processes)

(cf. 3100 - Budget)

(cf. 3350 - Travel Expenses)

(cf. 3513.1 - Cellular Phone Reimbursement)

Board members shall be reimbursed for travel expenses incurred when performing services directed by the Board. (Education Code 35044)

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(cf. 9240 - Board Development)

Authorized purposes may include, but are not limited to, attendance at educational seminars or conferences designed to improve Board members' skills and knowledge; participation in regional, state, or national organizations whose activities affect the district's interests; attendance at district or community events; and meetings with state or federal officials on issues of community concern.

Personal expenses shall be the responsibility of individual Board members. Personal expenses include, but are not limited to, the personal portion of any trip, tips or gratuities, alcohol, entertainment, laundry, expenses of any family member who is accompanying the Board member on district-related business, personal use of an automobile, and personal losses and traffic violation fees incurred while on district business.

Any questions regarding the propriety of a particular type of expense should be resolved by the Superintendent or designee before the expense is incurred.

Board members may use district-issued credit cards while on official district business and consistent with the limits established for district personnel. Personal expenses shall not be charged on a district-issued credit card, even if the Board member intends to subsequently reimburse the district for the personal charges.

Health and Welfare Benefits for Current Board Members

Board members may participate in the health and welfare benefits program provided for district employees.

(cf. 4154/4254/4354 - Health and Welfare Benefits)

Health and welfare benefits for Board members shall be no greater than that received by the district's nonsafety employees with the most generous schedule of benefits. (Government Code 53208.5)

The district shall pay the premiums required for Board members electing to participate in the district health and welfare benefits program to the same extent that it pays for district employees.

Health and welfare benefits provided to Board members shall be extended at the same level to their spouse/registered domestic partner and to their eligible dependent children as specified in law and the health plan.

Health and Welfare Benefits for Former Board Members

Former Board members may participate in the health and welfare benefits program provided for district employees under the conditions specified below.

Health and welfare benefits for former Board members shall be no greater than those received by district nonsafety employees with the most generous schedule of benefits. (Government Code 53208.5)

The district shall pay the premiums for health and welfare benefits of any former Board member who served in office after January 1, 1981, began his/her term before January 1, 1995, and has served for 12 or more years. (Government Code 53201)

Any other former Board member who served at least one term may participate in the health and welfare benefits program at his/her own expense if coverage is in effect at the time he/she leaves office.

(Government Code 53201)