



COMMUNITY RELATIONS

BOARD POLICY – CIVILITY

BP 1313

The Santa Barbara County Board of Education and the County Superintendent of Schools recognize the impact that civility has on the effective operation of the county office of education (COE), including its role in creating a safe and positive school climate and enabling a focus on student well-being, learning, and achievement. The County Board believes that each person should be treated with dignity and respect in their interactions within the school community.

The County Board and the County Superintendent of Schools understands that the First Amendment provides strong protection for speech. However, the County Board and the County Superintendent of Schools expect that all speech and expression will comport with norms of civil behavior on COE grounds, in COE facilities, during COE activities or events, and in the use of COE electronic/digital systems and platforms.

Civil behavior is polite, courteous, and reasonable behavior which is respectful to others and includes integrity, honesty, acceptance, timeliness, dependability, observance of laws and rules, and effective communication.

The County Board and the County Superintendent of Schools shall model civil behavior as an example of behavior that is expected throughout the COE. Practices that promote civil behavior include actively listening, giving full attention to the speaker, and refraining from interruptions; welcoming and encouraging participation, input, and feedback through stakeholder engagement; promptly responding to concerns; and embracing varying and diverse viewpoints. Such practices may be incorporated into governance standards adopted by the County Board.

Students, staff, parents/guardians, and community members should be educated in the recognition, development, and demonstration of civil behavior. Concepts of civil behavior and other related concepts may be incorporated in the curriculum, provided in staff development activities, and/or communicated by this policy to the school community.

Students, staff, parents/guardians, and community members shall not communicate or behave in a manner that causes disruption or hinders or threatens the orderly conduct of COE operations, the educational program, or any other COE program or activity.

Behavior by students or staff that is discriminatory, harassing, or intimidating, including sexual harassment, bullying, and/or hate violence or behavior that is in any other way unlawful, is prohibited.

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 County Superintendent of Schools or designee to enact this policy. Instead, they are provided as additional resources for those interested in the subject matter of the policy.

State

Ed. Code 200-262.1
Ed. Code 48907
Ed. Code 48950
Gov. Code 54954.3
Pen. Code 243.5
Pen. Code 422.55
Pen. Code 422.6
Pen. Code 627-627.10

Description

[Educational equity; prohibition of discrimination on the basis of sex](#)
Students' exercise of free expression; rules and regulations
Freedom of speech and other communication
Opportunity for public to address legislative body
Assault or battery on school property
Definition of hate crime
Crimes, harassment
Access to school premises

ADOPTED BY COUNTY BOARD: November 13, 2025
REVISED: