Santa Barbara County Education Office
Susan C. Salcido, Superintendent

STUDENTS

BOARD POLICY – **CONDUCT** BP 5131

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

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

Prohibited student conduct includes, but is not limited to:

1. Conduct that endangers students, staff, or others, including, but not limited to, physical violence, possession of a firearm or other weapon, and terrorist threats

2. Discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying of students or staff, including sexual harassment, hate-motivated behavior, cyberbullying, hazing or initiation activity, extortion, or any other verbal, written, or physical conduct that causes or threatens to cause violence, bodily harm, or substantial disruption to the school program

3. Conduct that disrupts the orderly classroom or school environment

4. Willful defiance of staff's authority

5. Damage to or theft of property belonging to students, staff, or the SBCEO

6. Obscene acts or use of profane, vulgar, or abusive language

7. Possession, use, or being under the influence of tobacco, alcohol, or other prohibited substances

8. Possession or use of a laser pointer, unless for a valid instructional or other school-related purpose with prior permission of the program manager or designee (Penal Code 417.27)

9. Use of a smartphone or other mobile communication device in an unauthorized manner

10. Plagiarism or dishonesty on schoolwork or tests

11. Wearing of any attire that violates SBCEO or school dress codes, including gang-related apparel

12. Tardiness or unexcused absence from school

13. Failure to remain on school premises in accordance with school rules

14. Other conduct prohibited by Education Code 48900-48915

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

When a school employee suspects that a search of a student or a student's belongings will turn up evidence of the student's violation of the law or school rules, such a search shall be conducted in accordance with law.

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

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

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

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**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 | Description |
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| 5 CCR 300-307 | Duties of students |

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| Civ. Code 1714.1 | Liability of parent/guardian for act of willful misconduct by a minor |
| Ed. Code 200-262.4 | Prohibition of discrimination |
| Ed. Code 32280-32289.5 | School safety plans |
| Ed. Code 35181 | Governing board authority to set policy on responsibilities of students |
| Ed. Code 35291-35291.5 | Rules |
| Ed. Code 44807 | Teachers' duty concerning conduct of students |
| Ed. Code 48900-48925 | Suspension and expulsion |
| Ed. Code 51512 | Prohibition against electronic listening or recording device in classroom without permission |
| Pen. Code 288.2 | Harmful matter with intent to seduce |
| Pen. Code 313 | Harmful matter |
| Pen. Code 417.25-417.27 | Laser scope or laser pointer |
| Pen. Code 647 | Use of camera or other instrument to invade person's privacy; misdemeanor |
| Pen. Code 653.2 | Electronic communication devices; threats to safety |
| Veh. Code 23123-23124 | Prohibitions against use of electronic devices while driving |

| **Federal** | **Description** |
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| 20 USC 1681-1688 | Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; discrimination based on sex |

| **Management Resources** | **Description** |
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| California Department of Education Publication | Bullying at School, 2003 |
| Court Decision | Mahanoy Area School District v. B.L. (2021) 141 S.Ct. 2038 |
| Court Decision | Lavine v. Blaine School District (2001, 9th Cir.) 257 F.3d 981 |
| Court Decision | New Jersey v. T.L.O. (1985) 469 U.S. 325 |
| Court Decision | Tinker v. Des Moines Independent Community School District (1969) 393 U.S. 503 |
| Court Decision | Bethel School District No. 403 v. Fraser (1986) 478 U.S. 675 |
| Court Decision | Emmett v. Kent School District No. 415 (2000) 92 F.Supp. 1088 |
| Court Decision | J.C. v. Beverly Hills Unified School District (2010) 711 F.Supp.2d 1094 |
| Court Decision | LaVine v. Blaine School District (2000, 9th Cir.) 257 F.3d 981 |
| CSBA Publication | Cyberbullying: Policy Considerations for Boards, Policy Brief, July 2007 |
| CSBA Publication | Providing a Safe, Nondiscriminatory School Environment for All Students, Policy Brief, April 2010 |
| CSBA Publication | Safe Schools: Strategies for Governing Boards to Ensure Student Success, 2011 |
| Website | CSBA District and County Office of Education Legal Services |
| Website | National School Safety Center |
| Website | Center for Safe and Responsible Internet Use |
| Website | California Department of Education, Safe Schools |
| Website | CSBA |
| Website | U.S. Department of Education |

ADOPTED BY COUNTY BOARD: November 13, 2025
REVISED: