

Policy 4218.1: Dismissal/Suspension/Disciplinary Action (Merit System)

Status: ADOPTED

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The Governing Board expects all employees to perform their jobs satisfactorily and exhibit professional and appropriate conduct, and serve as positive role models both at school and in the community. A classified employee may be disciplined for unprofessional conduct or unsatisfactory performance in accordance with law, any applicable collective bargaining agreement, and the rules of the personnel commission.

Disciplinary actions shall be based on the particular facts and circumstances involved and the severity of the employee's conduct or performance.

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that disciplinary actions are taken in a consistent nondiscriminatory manner. In addition, an employee shall not be suspended, disciplined, reassigned, transferred, dismissed, or otherwise retaliated against solely for engaging in protected activities, or 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 and written warnings, involuntary reassignment, demotion, suspension or leave without pay, reduction of wages, or dismissal.

A probationary classified employee may be dismissed without cause at any time prior to the expiration of the probationary period.

A permanent classified employee shall be subject to suspension, demotion, or dismissal only for one or more of the causes designated by rule of the personnel commission. (Education Code 45302, 45304)

When such serious disciplinary action is being contemplated against an employee, the district shall adhere to disciplinary procedures developed by the personnel commission. Due process shall be afforded to the employee, including proper notice, an opportunity for the employee to meet with a designated district official ("Skelly officer") or to respond in writing to the charges, and an opportunity to appeal the district's decision with the personnel commission in accordance with Education Code 45305-45307. If the matter is addressed in a hearing before the personnel commission, the decision of the personnel commission shall be final.

However, if the matter involves an allegation of egregious misconduct as defined in Education Code 44932 and involves a witness who is a minor, the matter shall be referred to an administrative law judge to determine whether sufficient cause exists for disciplinary action against the employee. The ruling of the administrative law judge shall be binding on the district and the employee. (Education Code 45312)

If the district places an employee on a compulsory leave of absence or suspension during the period the employee is charged with a criminal offense, is under a criminal investigation, or is waiting due to administrative delay for necessary job-related administrative determinations, and the proceedings are resolved in favor of the employee, the district shall pay to the employee the employee's full compensation for the period of the involuntary leave of absence upon the employee's return to service in the school district. (Education Code 45190)
