

DISCIPLINE

The Governing Board is committed to provide a safe, supportive, and positive school environment conducive to student learning and to prepare students for responsible citizenship by fostering self-discipline and personal responsibility. The Board believes that high expectations for student behavior, use of effective school and classroom management strategies, provision of appropriate intervention and support, and parent involvement can minimize the need for disciplinary measures that exclude students from instruction as a means for correcting student misbehavior.

(cf. 5113.1 - Chronic Absence and Truancy)

(cf. 5131 - Conduct)

(cf. 5131.1 - Bus Conduct)

(cf. 5131.2 - Bullying)

(cf. 5137 - Positive School Climate)

(cf. 5145.9 - Hate-Motivated Behavior)

(cf. 6020 - Parent Involvement)

The Superintendent or designee shall develop effective, age-appropriate strategies for maintaining a positive school climate and correcting student misbehavior at district schools. The strategies shall focus on providing students with needed supports; communicating clear, appropriate, and consistent expectations and consequences for student conduct; and ensuring equity and continuous improvement in the implementation of district discipline policies and practices.

(cf. 5138 - Conflict Resolution/Peer Mediation)

(cf. 6164.2 - Guidance/Counseling Services)

In addition, the Superintendent or designee's strategies for correcting student misconduct shall reflect the Board's preference for the use of positive interventions and alternative disciplinary measures over exclusionary discipline measures.

Disciplinary measures that may result in loss of instructional time or cause students to be disengaged from school, such as detention, suspension, and expulsion, shall be imposed only when required or permitted by law or when other means of correction have been documented to have failed.

(cf. 5020 - Parent Rights and Responsibilities)

(cf. 5144.1 – Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process)

(cf. 5144.2 – Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process (Students with Disabilities))

(cf. 6159.4 – Behavioral Interventions for Special Education Students)

(cf. 6164.5 - Student Success Teams)

School personnel and volunteers shall not allow any disciplinary action taken against a student to result in the denial or delay of a school meal. (Education Code 49557.5)

DISCIPLINE (continued)

(cf. 3550 - Food Service/Child Nutrition Program)
(cf. 3551 - Food Service Operations/Cafeteria Fund)
(cf. 3553 - Free and Reduced Price Meals)

The Superintendent or designee shall create a model discipline matrix that lists violations and the consequences for each as allowed by law.

The administrative staff at each school may develop disciplinary rules to meet the school's particular needs consistent with law, Board policy, and district regulations. The Board, at an open meeting, shall review the approved school discipline rules for consistency with Board policy and state law. Site-level disciplinary rules shall be included in the district's comprehensive safety plan. (Education Code 32282, 35291.5)

(cf. 0450 – Comprehensive Safety Plan)
(cf. 9320 - Meetings and Notices)

At all times, the safety of students and staff and the maintenance of an orderly school environment shall be priorities in determining appropriate discipline. When misconduct occurs, staff shall attempt to identify the causes of the student's behavior and implement appropriate discipline. When choosing between different disciplinary strategies, staff shall consider the effect of each option on the student's health, well-being, and opportunity to learn.

Staff shall enforce disciplinary rules fairly, consistently, and in accordance with the district's nondiscrimination policies.

(cf. 0410 - Nondiscrimination in District Programs and Activities)
(cf. 5145.3 - Nondiscrimination/Harassment)
(cf. 5145.7 - Sexual Harassment)

The Superintendent or designee shall provide professional development as necessary to assist staff in developing the skills needed to effectively implement the disciplinary strategies adopted for district schools, including, but not limited to, consistent school and classroom management skills, effective accountability and positive intervention techniques, and development of strong, cooperative relationships with parents/guardians.

(cf. 4131 - Staff Development)
(cf. 4231 - Staff Development)
(cf. 4331 - Staff Development)

District goals for improving school climate, based on suspension and expulsion rates, surveys of students, staff, and parents/guardians regarding their sense of school safety, and other local measures, shall be included in the district's local control and accountability plan, as required by law.

DISCIPLINE (continued)

(cf. 0460 - Local Control and Accountability Plan)
(cf. 3100 - Budget)

At the beginning of every school year, the Superintendent or designee shall report to the Board regarding disciplinary strategies used in each school in the immediately preceding school year and their effect on student learning.

Legal Reference: (see next page)

DISCIPLINE (continued)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

32280-32288 *School safety plans*
35146 *Closed sessions*
35291 *Rules*
35291.5-35291.7 *School-adopted discipline rules*
37223 *Weekend classes*
44807.5 *Restriction from recess*
48900-48926 *Suspension and expulsion*
48980-48985 *Notification of parent/guardian*
49330-49335 *Injurious objects*
49550-49562 *Meals for needy students*
52060-52077 *Local control and accountability plan*

CIVIL CODE

1714.1 *Parental liability for child's misconduct*
CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5
307 *Participation in school activities until departure of bus*
353 *Detention after school*

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 42

1751-1769j *School Lunch Program*
1773 *School Breakfast Program*

Management Resources:

CSBA PUBLICATIONS

Providing a Safe, Nondiscriminatory School Environment for Transgender and Gender-Nonconforming Students, Policy Brief, February 2014
Safe Schools: Strategies for Governing Boards to Ensure Student Success, October 2011
Maximizing Opportunities for Physical Activity during the School Day, Fact Sheet, 2009

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PROGRAM ADVISORIES

Classroom Management: A California Resource Guide for Teachers and Administrators of Elementary and Secondary Schools, 2000

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICIES

01-02 School Safety, Discipline, and Attendance, March 2001

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS PUBLICATIONS

Dear Colleague Letter on the Nondiscriminatory Administration of School Discipline, January 2014

WEB SITES

CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>
California Department of Education: <http://www.cde.ca.gov>
Public Counsel: <http://www.fixschooldiscipline.org>
U.S. Department of Education: <http://www.ed.gov>

Policy
adopted: May 21, 2013
Revised: April 17, 2018
GAMUT Update: December 2017

SAUGUS UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT
Santa Clarita, California