

**SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION/DUE PROCESS**

The Governing Board desires to provide district students access to educational opportunities in an orderly school environment that protects their safety and security, ensures their welfare and well-being, and promotes their learning and development. The Board shall develop rules and regulations setting the standards of behavior expected of district students and the disciplinary processes and procedures for addressing violations of those standards, including suspension and/or expulsion.

*(cf. 5131 - Conduct)*

*(cf. 5131.1 - Bus Conduct)*

*(cf. 5131.2 - Bullying)*

The grounds for suspension and expulsion and the procedures for considering, recommending, and/or implementing suspension and expulsion shall be only those specified in law, in this policy, and in the accompanying administrative regulation.

Except when otherwise permitted by law, a student may be suspended or expelled only when his/her behavior is related to a school activity or school attendance occurring within any district school or another school district, regardless of when it occurs, including, but not limited to, the following: (Education Code 48900(s))

1. While on school grounds
2. While going to or coming from school
3. During the lunch period, whether on or off the school campus

*(cf. 5112.5 - Open/Closed Campus)*

4. During, going to, or coming from a school-sponsored activity

District staff shall enforce the rules concerning suspension and expulsion of students fairly, consistently, equally, and in accordance with the district's nondiscrimination policies.

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

**Appropriate Use of Suspension Authority**

Except when a student's act violates Education Code 48900(a)-(e), as listed in items #1-5 under "Grounds for Suspension and Expulsion: Grades K-12" of the accompanying administrative regulation, or when his/her presence causes a danger to others, suspension shall be used only when other means of correction have failed to bring about proper conduct. (Education Code 48900.5, 48900.6)

## **SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION/DUE PROCESS (continued)**

*(cf. 1020 - Youth Services)*  
*(cf. 5138 - Conflict Resolution/Peer Mediation)*  
*(cf. 5144 - Discipline)*  
*(cf. 6142.4 - Service Learning/Community Service Classes)*  
*(cf. 6164.2 - Guidance/Counseling Services)*  
*(cf. 6164.5 - Student Success Teams)*

A student's parents/guardians shall be notified as soon as possible when there is an escalating pattern of misbehavior that could lead to on-campus or off-campus suspension.

No student in grades K-3 may be suspended for disruption or willful defiance, except by a teacher pursuant to Education Code 48910. (Education Code 48900)

Students shall not be suspended or expelled for truancy, tardiness, or absenteeism from assigned school activities.

*(cf. 5113 - Absences and Excuses)*  
*(cf. 5113.1 - Chronic Absence and Truancy)*

### **On-Campus Suspension**

To ensure the proper supervision and ongoing learning of students who are suspended for any of the reasons enumerated in Education Code 48900 and 48900.2, but who pose no imminent danger or threat to anyone at school and for whom expulsion proceedings have not been initiated, the Superintendent or designee shall establish a supervised suspension classroom program which meets the requirements of law.

Except where a supervised suspension is permitted by law for a student's first offense, supervised suspension shall be imposed only when other means of correction have failed to bring about proper conduct. (Education Code 48900.5)

### **Authority to Expel**

A student may be expelled only by the Board. (Education Code 48918(j))

As required by law, the Superintendent or principal shall recommend expulsion and the Board shall expel any student found to have committed any of the following "mandatory recommendation and mandatory expulsion" acts at school or at a school activity off school grounds: (Education Code 48915)

1. Possessing a firearm which is not an imitation firearm, as verified by a certificated employee, unless the student had obtained prior written permission to possess the item from a certificated school employee, with the principal or designee's concurrence

*(cf. 5131.7 - Weapons and Dangerous Instruments)*

**SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION/DUE PROCESS** (continued)

2. Selling or otherwise furnishing a firearm
3. Brandishing a knife at another person
4. Unlawfully selling a controlled substance listed in Health and Safety Code 11053-11058
5. Committing or attempting to commit a sexual assault as defined in Penal Code 261, 266c, 286, 288, 288a, or 289, or committing a sexual battery as defined in Penal Code 243.4
6. Possessing an explosive as defined in 18 USC 921

For all other violations listed in the accompanying administrative regulation under "Grounds for Suspension and Expulsion: Grades K-12" and "Additional Grounds for Suspension and Expulsion: Grades 4-12," the Superintendent or principal shall have the discretion to recommend expulsion of a student. If expulsion is recommended, the Board shall order the student expelled only if it makes a finding of either or both of the following: (Education Code 48915(b) and (e))

1. That other means of correction are not feasible or have repeatedly failed to bring about proper conduct
2. That due to the nature of the violation, the presence of the student causes a continuing danger to the physical safety of the student or others

A vote to expel a student shall be taken in an open session of a Board meeting.

The Board may vote to suspend the enforcement of the expulsion order pursuant to the requirements of law and the accompanying administrative regulation. (Education Code 48917)

No student shall be expelled for disruption or willful defiance. (Education Code 48900)

**Due Process**

The Board shall provide for the fair and equitable treatment of students facing suspension and/or expulsion by affording them their due process rights under the law. The Superintendent or designee shall comply with procedures for notices, hearings, and appeals as specified in law and administrative regulation. (Education Code 48911, 48915, 48915.5, 48918)

*(cf. 5119 - Students Expelled from Other Districts)*

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

**SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION/DUE PROCESS** (continued)

**Maintenance and Monitoring of Outcome Data**

The Superintendent or designee shall annually present to the Board a report of the outcome data which the district is required to collect pursuant to Education Code 48900.8 and 48916.1, including the number of students recommended for expulsion, the grounds for each recommended expulsion, the actions taken by the Board, the types of referral made after each expulsion, and the disposition of the students after the expulsion period.

In presenting the report to the Board, the Superintendent or designee shall disaggregate data on suspensions and expulsions by school and by numerically significant student subgroups, including, but not limited to, ethnic subgroups, socioeconomically disadvantaged students, English learners, students with disabilities, foster youth, and homeless students. Based on the data, the Board shall address any identified disparities in the imposition of student discipline and shall determine whether and how the district is meeting its goals for improving school climate as specified in its local control and accountability plan.

*(cf. 0460 - Local Control and Accountability Plan)*

*Legal Reference: (see next page)*

**SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION/DUE PROCESS (continued)**

*Legal Reference:*

EDUCATION CODE

212.5 Sexual harassment  
233 Hate violence  
1981 Enrollment of students in community school  
17292.5 Program for expelled students  
32261 Interagency School Safety Demonstration Act of 1985  
35145 Open board meetings  
35146 Closed sessions (regarding suspensions)  
35291 Rules (for government and discipline of schools)  
35291.5 Rules and procedures on school discipline  
48645.5 Readmission; contact with juvenile justice system  
48660-48667 Community day schools  
48853.5 Foster youth  
48900-48927 Suspension and expulsion  
48950 Speech and other communication  
48980 Parental notifications  
49073-49079 Privacy of student records  
52052 Numerically significant student subgroups  
52060-52077 Local control and accountability plan

CIVIL CODE

47 Privileged communication  
48.8 Defamation liability  
CODE OF CIVIL PROCEDURE  
1985-1997 Subpoenas; means of production

GOVERNMENT CODE

11455.20 Contempt  
54950-54963 Ralph M. Brown Act

HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE

11014.5 Drug paraphernalia  
11053-11058 Standards and schedules

LABOR CODE

230.7 Discharge or discrimination against employee for taking time off to appear in school on behalf of a child

PENAL CODE

31 Principal of a crime, defined  
240 Assault defined  
241.2 Assault fines  
242 Battery defined  
243.2 Battery on school property  
243.4 Sexual battery  
245 Assault with deadly weapon  
245.6 Hazing  
261 Rape defined  
266c Unlawful sexual intercourse  
286 Sodomy defined  
288 Lewd or lascivious acts with child under age 14  
288a Oral copulation  
289 Penetration of genital or anal openings  
417.27 Laser pointers  
422.55 Hate crime defined  
422.6 Interference with exercise of civil rights

**SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION/DUE PROCESS (continued)**

*Legal Reference: (continued)*

PENAL CODE (continued)

422.7 Aggravating factors for punishment

422.75 Enhanced penalties for hate crimes

626.2 Entry upon campus after written notice of suspension or dismissal without permission

626.9 Gun-Free School Zone Act of 1995

626.10 Dirks, daggers, knives, razors, or stun guns

868.5 Supporting person; attendance during testimony of witness

WELFARE AND INSTITUTIONS CODE

729.6 Counseling

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 18

921 Definitions, firearm

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 20

1415(K) Placement in alternative educational setting

7151 Gun-free schools

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 42

11432-11435 Education of homeless children and youths

COURT DECISIONS

*T.H. v. San Diego Unified School District (2004) 122 Cal. App. 4th 1267*

*Woodbury v. Dempsey (2003) 108 Cal. App. 4th 421*

*Board of Education of Sacramento City Unified School District v. Sacramento County Board of Education and Kenneth H. (2001) 85 Cal.App.4th 1321*

*Garcia v. Los Angeles Board of Education (1991) 123 Cal. App. 3d 807*

*Fremont Union High School District v. Santa Clara County Board (1991) 235 Cal. App. 3d 1182*

*John A. v. San Bernardino School District (1982) 33 Cal. 3d 301*

ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINIONS

84 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 146 (2001)

80 OpsCal.Atty.Gen. 348 (1997)

80 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 91 (1997)

80 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 85 (1997)

*Management Resources:*

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

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

WEB SITES

CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>

California Attorney General's Office: <http://www.oag.ca.gov>

California Department of Education: <http://www.cde.ca.gov>

U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights:

<http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/crhc-2012-data-summary.pdf>

U.S. Department of Education, Office of Safe and Healthy Students:

<http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/oese/osh>

Policy

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GAMUT Update: December 2017

**SAUGUS UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Santa Clarita, California