

CSBA Sample Board Policy



Students

BP 5144(a)

DISCIPLINE

Note: The following policy is **optional**. Pursuant to Education Code 52060-52077, the Governing Board is required to adopt a local control and accountability plan (LCAP) that includes a description of the specific actions that the district intends to take in order to achieve its annual goals in specific priority areas, including student engagement and school climate. See BP/AR 0460 - Local Control and Accountability Plan.

Since a district's ability to meet its goals around these priorities is impacted by its student discipline policies and practices, the Board must be careful to enact rules that are effective in maintaining safety and order on campus and in correcting student misbehavior without unnecessarily excluding students from school or participation in instruction. State law specifies behaviors for which a student may be suspended and/or recommended for expulsion (see BP/AR 5144.1 - Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process) and authorizes the use of age-appropriate alternatives designed to address a student's specific misbehavior, including those listed in Education Code 48900.5 and 48900.6.

In addition, the U.S. Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division and the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights (OCR), in their joint January 2014 Dear Colleague Letter on the Nondiscriminatory Administration of School Discipline, state that studies have suggested a correlation between exclusionary discipline policies and practices (such as suspension and expulsion) and an array of serious educational, economic, and social problems, including school avoidance, diminished educational engagement, decreased academic achievement, increased behavior problems, and increased likelihood of dropping out, substance abuse, and involvement with the juvenile justice system. Consequently, they recommend that districts adopt alternative disciplinary measures that provide students with appropriate interventions and supports as a means for preventing and addressing student misbehavior.

The Governing Board is committed to providing a safe, supportive, and positive school environment which is conducive to student learning and to preparing 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,

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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. (Education Code 48900.5)

(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)

Note: Pursuant to Education Code 49557.5, as added by SB 250 (Ch. 726, Statutes of 2017), districts must ensure that any discipline imposed on a student does not result in the denial or delay of a nutritionally adequate meal. The following paragraph is for use by districts participating in the National School Lunch and/or Breakfast Program (42 USC 1751-1769j, 1773), or any district in which there is a school required to serve a free or reduced-price meal during the school day pursuant to Education Code 49550.

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)

(cf. 3550 - Food Service/Child Nutrition Program)

(cf. 3551 - Food Service Operations/Cafeteria Fund)

(cf. 3553 - Free and Reduced Price Meals)

Note: The following **optional** paragraph may be revised to reflect district practice. According to Public Counsel's model policy issued as part of the Fix School Discipline Project, a discipline matrix that lists violations and consequences could be a useful guide to school site administrators with regard to when suspension or expulsion referrals should be utilized.

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

Note: Education Code 35291.5 authorizes, but does not require, school sites to adopt rules and procedures for student discipline. Pursuant to Education Code 32282, any adopted site-level discipline rules must be included in the comprehensive safety plan; see BP/AR 0450 - Comprehensive Safety Plan. The following paragraph is **optional**.

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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)

Note: Pursuant to Education Code 52060, the district must annually adopt an LCAP that includes a description of district goals for improving school climate, as provided in the following paragraph.

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.

(cf. 0460 - Local Control and Accountability Plan)

(cf. 3100 - Budget)

DISCIPLINE (continued)

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

*Legal Reference:*EDUCATION CODE32280-32288 *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 CODE1714.1 *Parental liability for child's misconduct*CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5307 *Participation in school activities until departure of bus*353 *Detention after school*UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 421751-1769j *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, 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 POLICIES01-02 *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 SITESCSBA: <http://www.csba.org>California Department of Education: <http://www.cde.ca.gov>Public Counsel: <http://www.fixschooldiscipline.org>U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights: <http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr>

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