

CSBA Sample Board Policy

Philosophy, Goals, Objectives, and Comprehensive Plans

BP 0470(a)

COVID-19 MITIGATION PLAN

Note: The following policy is intended for use during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and supersedes conflicting provisions in other district policies and administrative regulations, thereby eliminating the need to temporarily revise multiple policies. When the Governing Board determines, consistent with state and local orders from health officials, that the need for this policy no longer exists, the following policy should be removed from the district's policy manual.

Due to the unexpected nature of the pandemic, the evolving circumstances, and rapidly changing health and safety guidance regarding COVID-19, this policy has been revised to refer directly to the state resources that serve as both mandatory and recommended guidance to districts during the pandemic. Districts are encouraged to consult with local health officials, staff, students, parents/guardians, neighboring school districts, and the county office of education in comprehensive planning for safe operations.

This policy is not intended to serve as or supersede the District's COVID-19 Prevention Program ("CPP") required by the California Division of Occupational Safety and Health (Cal/OSHA), as described below, or the District's Injury and Illness Prevention Program ("IIPP"). Rather, this policy should supplement and support the IIPP. See BP/AR 4157/4257/4357 - Employee Safety.

This policy involves a number of working conditions that are often addressed in collective bargaining agreements and, as such, may be subject to negotiations with employee organizations.

The following policy establishes actions that will be taken by the district to provide a safe learning and working environment during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, and shall supersede any conflicting language in existing district policies or administrative regulations until the Governing Board determines that the need for this policy no longer exists. The Board acknowledges that, due to the evolving nature of the pandemic, federal, state, and local orders impacting district operations are subject to change without notice. In the event that any federal or state law and/or order or local order may conflict with this policy, the law or order shall govern.

The Board may also adopt resolutions or take other actions as needed to respond to such orders or provide further direction during the pandemic.

(cf. 2210 - Administrative Discretion Regarding Board Policy)

(cf. 5141.22 - Infectious Diseases)

(cf. 9310 - Board Policies)

To limit the impact of the pandemic on the education of district students, the district shall implement learning recovery, social-emotional support, and other measures and strategies designed to keep students learning and engaged in the instructional program.

COVID-19 MITIGATION PLAN (continued)

COVID-19 Safety Plan

Note: Pursuant to Health and Safety Code 120130, the State Public Health Officer has the authority to create mandates for K-12 schools to prevent the spread of a communicable disease. In addition, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) may adopt and enforce regulations requiring strict or modified isolation or quarantine if necessary for the protection of the public health. Local health officials have similar authority pursuant to Health and Safety Code 120175-120255 to issue orders they deem necessary to control the spread of a communicable disease, subject to the control and regulation of CDPH. Districts are therefore obligated to comply with COVID-19 mitigation requirements from multiple jurisdictional authorities including: (1) the California Department of Public Health (CDPH); (2) Cal/OSHA; and (3) local health authorities.

CDPH's COVID-19 Public Health Guidance for K-12 Schools in California, 2021-22 School Year (updated September 1, 2021) provides updated public health guidance applicable to California schools. The CDPH guidance provides that all students must have access to safe and full in-person instruction and to as much instructional time as possible. The guidance includes both mandatory and recommended practices on a range of topics, including: masking; physical distancing; ventilation; protocols for staying home when sick and getting tested; screening testing; case reporting, contact tracing and investigation; quarantining; isolating when sick with COVID-19; hand hygiene; cleaning; vaccination verification; COVID-19 safety planning transparency; school-based extracurricular activities; supporting students with disabilities or other health care needs; and visitors.

On June 11, 2021, the State Public Health Officer issued an order that requires all individuals to follow the CDPH face mask guidance and any amended guidance for K-12 schools. This order went into effect on June 15, 2021 and does not have an expiration date. In a letter dated August 23, 2021, CDPH emphasized that universal masking indoors is mandatory, that districts have no discretion to opt out or not enforce the mandate, and that districts that do not enforce the mandate will be at significant liability risk.

In addition, on August 11, 2021, the State Public Health Officer issued an order that requires workers and volunteers in school settings serving students in transitional kindergarten through grade 12 to either provide proof of vaccination, as specified by CDPH, or submit to regular testing for COVID-19. Schools are also required to have a plan in place by October 15, 2021 for tracking verified worker vaccination status and records must be made available, upon request, to the local health authority for the purposes of case investigation.

Pursuant to 8 CCR 3205, districts must have a Cal/OSHA COVID-19 prevention program that contains the following elements: (1) a system for communicating with and providing notice to employees; (2) identification and evaluation of COVID-19 hazards; (3) investigation and response to COVID-19 cases; (4) procedures for correcting COVID-19 hazards; (5) training and instruction to employees; (6) face coverings; (7) other engineering controls, administrative controls, and personal protective equipment (PPE); (8) reporting, recordkeeping, and access to the written COVID-19 prevention program; (9) exclusion of COVID-19 cases; and (10) return-to-work criteria.

Pursuant to state and federal law, districts are required to create and post COVID-19 safety plans. Specifically, pursuant to Education Code 32091, districts are required to post a completed COVID-19 safety plan that complies with the health guidance of CDPH and Cal/OSHA on the district's web site home page. In addition, districts receiving Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief funds are required to adopt and post a Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan and review it at least every six months for possible revisions, describing how the district will maintain the health and safety of

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students, educators and other staff, including the extent to which it has adopted policies, and a description of such policies, on each of the safety recommendations provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). A template plan for this purpose is available on the California Department of Education's web site.

Due to the evolving nature of the pandemic, health and safety guidance is subject to change. Districts are strongly encouraged to refer directly to public health orders and guidance and work closely with public health authorities to ensure that COVID-19 mitigation measures stay current.

The Superintendent or designee shall establish, implement, and maintain a COVID-19 safety plan that complies with any mandatory public health guidance of the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), the COVID-19 prevention program ("CPRP") consistent with the regulations of the California Division of Occupational Safety and Health, any orders of state or local health authorities, and any other applicable law and/or health order(s). The Superintendent or designee shall ensure, at a minimum, that the COVID-19 safety plan complies with all mandatory guidance and gives priority to recommended practices that are identified as being particularly effective at COVID-19 mitigation. The Superintendent or designee shall regularly review public health guidance to ensure that the district's COVID-19 mitigation strategies are current with public health mandates or recommendations.

The district's COVID-19 safety plan shall be posted on the district's web site.

Note: The following list is **optional** and may be revised to reflect district practice. CDPH recommends that districts consider certain factors when making decisions regarding COVID-19 mitigation strategies, reflected in Items #1-3 below.

To promote transparency and facilitate decision-making regarding COVID-19 mitigation strategies, the Superintendent or designee shall report to the Board on a regular basis regarding the following:

1. Level of community transmission of COVID-19
2. COVID-19 vaccination coverage in the community and among students and staff
3. Any local COVID-19 outbreaks or increasing trends
4. Changes to local, state, and/or federal public health guidance, orders, and laws
5. Any revisions to the district's COVID-19 safety plan

Reporting to the Public Health Department

Note: The following section reflects reporting obligations pursuant to Education Code 32090-32091, as added by AB 86 (Ch. 10, Statutes of 2021) and amended by AB 130 (Ch. 44, Statutes of 2021).

COVID-19 MITIGATION PLAN (continued)

Upon learning that a school employee or student who has tested positive for COVID-19 was present on campus while infectious, the Superintendent or designee shall immediately, and in no case later than 24 hours after learning of the positive case, notify the local health officer or the local health officer's representative about the positive case. The notification shall be made even if the individual who tested positive has not provided prior consent to the disclosure of personally identifiable information and shall include all of the following information, if known: (Education Code 32090)

1. Identifying information of the individual who tested positive, including full name, address, telephone number, and date of birth
2. The date of the positive test, the school(s) at which the individual was present, and the date the individual was last onsite at the school(s)
3. The name, address, and telephone number of the person making the report

If a school has two or more outbreaks of COVID-19 and is subject to a safety review by CDPH pursuant to Education Code 32090, the Superintendent or designee shall cooperate fully with the review.

Statewide Instructional Mode Survey

Note: Pursuant to Education Code 32091, as amended by AB 130, districts are required to notify the California Collaborative for Educational Excellence (CCEE) of specified information in a form and adhering to the procedures to be determined by the CCEE.

On or before the second and fourth Monday of each month, the Superintendent or designee shall submit to the California Collaborative for Educational (CCEE) information required under Education Code 32091, in accordance with the form and procedures determined by CCEE.

Stakeholder Engagement and Community Relations

The District shall solicit input from stakeholders on how to best support students following the learning disruptions of the pandemic through appropriate methods, which may include surveys, community and family meetings, and other methods identified by the Superintendent or designee.

The Superintendent or designee shall collaborate with local health authorities to ensure that parents/guardians are provided with the information needed to ensure that public health guidance is observed in the home as well as in school, such as information about isolation and quarantine requirements, face mask requirements, symptom checks prior to school attendance, and who to contact when students have symptoms and/or were exposed.

COVID-19 MITIGATION PLAN (continued)

The Superintendent or designee shall use a variety of methods to regularly communicate with students, parents/guardians, and the community regarding community transmission levels, district operations, school schedules, and steps the district is taking to promote the health and safety of students. In addition, the members of the Board have a responsibility as community leaders to communicate matters of public interest in a manner that is consistent with Board policies and bylaws regarding public statements.

(cf. 1100 - Communication with the Public)

(cf. 1112 - Media Relations)

(cf. 9010 - Public Statements)

The district shall continue to collaborate with local health officials and agencies, community organizations, and other stakeholders to ensure that district operations reflect current recommendations and best practices for COVID-19 mitigation strategies. The Superintendent or designee shall keep informed about resources and services available in the community to assist students and families in need.

(cf. 1400 - Relations Between Other Governmental Agencies and the Schools)

(cf. 1700 - Relations Between Private Industry and the Schools)

Learning Recovery and Social-Emotional Support

Note: Pursuant to Education Code 43520.3525, as added by AB 86 and amended by AB 130, starting in the 2020-21 school year and continuing into the 2022-23 school year, districts are required to provide academic interventions and student supports to address barriers to learning and accelerate progress to closing learning gaps.

The U.S. Department of Education's Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) has emphasized that districts are required to fully implement the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) during the COVID-19 pandemic, including but not limited to the requirement to meet child find obligations. In Return to School Roadmap: Child Find Under Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, OSEP encourages districts to reexamine the efficacy of existing child find practices in light of the educational disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. See BP/AR 6164.4 - Identification and Evaluation of Individuals for Special Education for "child find" procedures.

The following paragraph is **optional** and may be revised to reflect district practice.

The Superintendent or designee shall develop a plan for assessing students' current academic levels early in the school year to ensure that each student is provided with appropriate opportunities for learning recovery based on need. The plan may include:

1. Use of interim or diagnostic assessments
2. Review of available data from assessments within the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress

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3. Review of attendance data from the 2020-2021 school year
4. Review of prior year grades
5. Discussion of student needs and strengths with parents/guardians and former teachers

(cf. 3553 - Free and Reduced Price Meals)

(cf. 5141.5 - Mental Health)

(cf. 5141.52 - Suicide Prevention)

(cf. 5147 - Dropout Prevention)

(cf. 6120 - Response to Instruction and Intervention)

(cf. 6146.1 - High School Graduation Requirements)

(cf. 6164.4 - Identification and Evaluation of Individuals for Special Education)

(cf. 6146.11 - Alternative Credits Toward Graduation)

(cf. 6159 - Individualized Education Program)

(cf. 6164.5 - Student Success Teams)

(cf. 6173 - Education for Homeless Children)

(cf. 6173.1 - Education for Foster Youth)

(cf. 6174 - Education for English Learners)

(cf. 6184 - Continuation Education)

Note: Pursuant to Education Code 43522, as amended by AB 130, districts that receive Extended Learning Opportunities (ELO) grant funding are required to implement a learning recovery program that provides supplemental instruction, support for social-emotional well-being, and to the maximum extent permissible as specified in U.S. Department of Agriculture guidelines, meals and snacks, to students who are eligible for free or reduced-price meals, English learners, foster youth, homeless students, students with disabilities, students at risk of abuse, neglect, or exploitation, disengaged students, and students who are below grade level, including, but not limited to those who did not enroll in kindergarten in the 2020-21 school year, credit-deficient students, high school students at risk of not graduating, and other students identified by certificated staff.

The Superintendent or designee shall develop and implement a learning recovery program that, at a minimum, provides supplemental instruction and support for social emotional well-being, and to the maximum extent permissible meals and snacks, to eligible students. (Education Code 43522)

Supplemental Instruction and Support

The district shall provide students with evidence-based supports and interventions in a tiered framework that bases universal, targeted, and intensive supports on students' needs for academic, social-emotional, and other integrated student supports through a program of engaging learning experiences in a positive school climate. (Education Code 43522)

Targeted and intensive supports may include: (Education Code 43522)

1. Extending instructional learning time based on student learning needs including through summer school or intersessional instructional programs

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2. Tutoring or other one-on-one or small group learning supports provided by certificated or classified staff
3. Learning recovery programs and materials designed to accelerate student academic proficiency, English language proficiency, or both
4. Integrated student supports to address other barriers to learning, such as:
 - a. The provision of health, counseling, or mental health services
 - b. Access to school meal programs
 - c. Access to before and after school programs
 - d. Programs to address student trauma and social-emotional learning
 - e. Referrals for support for family or student needs
5. Community learning hubs that provide students with access to technology, high-speed internet, and other academic supports

Note: Pursuant to Education Code 51225, as added by AB 104 (Ch. 41, Statutes of 2021), the district is required to provide a student who was enrolled in the student's third or fourth year of high school during the 2020-21 school year and is not on track to graduate in the 2020-21 or 2021-22 school years the opportunity to complete the statewide coursework required for graduation pursuant to Education Code 51225.3, which may include, but is not limited to, completion of the coursework through a fifth year of instruction, credit recovery, or other opportunity to complete the required coursework. See BP 6146.1 - High School Graduation Requirements.

6. Supports for credit deficient students to complete graduation or grade promotion requirements and to increase or improve students' college eligibility
7. Additional academic services for students, such as diagnostic, progress monitoring, and benchmark assessments of student learning
8. Other interventions identified by the Superintendent or designee

(cf. 6164.2 - Guidance/Counseling Services)

Note: Pursuant to Education Code 43522, as added by AB 86 and amended by AB 130, funding from ELO grants may be expended for educating school staff regarding strategies, including trauma-informed practices, to engage students and families in addressing students' social-emotional health and academic needs as well as for accelerated learning and effectively addressing learning gaps.

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To ensure schoolwide implementation of the district's tiered framework of supports, the Superintendent or designee shall plan staff development that includes: (Education Code 43522)

1. Accelerated learning strategies and effective techniques for closing learning gaps, including training in facilitating quality learning opportunities for all students
2. Strategies, including trauma-informed practices, to engage students and families in addressing students' social-emotional health needs and academic needs

Reengagement for Chronically Absent Students

Note: The U.S. Department of Education (USDOE) recommends that nonpunitive measures be used to reengage students who became chronically absent during the pandemic. See USDOE's [ED COVID-19 Handbook, Volume 2: Roadmap to Reopening Safely and Meeting All Students' Needs](#) (August 2021).

The Superintendent or designee shall implement strategies for identifying, locating, and reengaging students who were chronically absent or disengaged during the 2020-21 school year, including students who were kindergarten age but who did not enroll in kindergarten. Strategies for reengaging students may include:

1. Personal outreach to families, including by staff who are known to families
2. Door-to-door campaigns
3. The use of social media to spread awareness about the implementation of COVID-19 mitigation strategies
4. Welcoming and supporting students who experienced chronic absenteeism due to the COVID-19 pandemic or who are returning to school after a long absence

Student Absence and Attendance

The Board recognizes that COVID-19 will continue to impact the attendance of students. The Superintendent or designee shall notify students and parents/guardians of expectations regarding school attendance. Such notification shall direct any student who contracts the virus or is subject to a quarantine order to stay home in accordance with state and local health orders.

(cf. 5113.1 - Chronic Absence and Truancy)

(cf. 5113.11 - Attendance Supervision)

COVID-19 MITIGATION PLAN (continued)

Note: Pursuant to Education Code 51745, as amended by AB 130, for the 2021-22 school year all districts are required to offer independent study to meet the educational needs of students. See BP 6158 - Independent Study and 3516.5 - Emergency Schedules.

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure continuity of instruction for students who may be under a quarantine order to stay home, by offering such students independent study or other instructional delivery channels that allows the student to continue to participate in the instructional program to the greatest extent possible.

Nondiscrimination

The Board prohibits discrimination based on actual or perceived medical condition or disability status. (Government Code 11135)

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

Individual students and staff shall not be identified as being COVID-positive, nor shall students be shamed, treated differently, or denied access to a free and appropriate public education because of their COVID-19 status or medical condition. Staff shall not disclose confidential or privileged information, including the medical history or health information of students and staff except as allowed by law (Education Code 49450)

(cf. 4119.23/4219.23/4319.23 - Unauthorized Release of Confidential/Privileged Information)

The Superintendent or designee shall investigate any reports of harassment, intimidation, and bullying targeted at any student based on their medical condition or COVID status, exposure, or high-risk status.

(cf. 1312.3 - Uniform Complaint Procedures)

(cf. 5131.2 - Bullying)

(cf. 5145.3 - Nondiscrimination/Harassment)

Legal Reference: (see next page)

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Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

32090-32095 COVID-19 reporting and public health requirements
43520-43525 In-person instruction and expanded learning opportunities grants
44978 Sick leave for certificated employees
45191 Leave of absence for illness and injury, classified employees
48205 Excused absences
48213 Prior parent notification of exclusion; exemption
48240 Supervisors of attendance
49451 Exemption from physical exam; exclusion from attendance

GOVERNMENT CODE

11135 Nondiscrimination in programs or activities funded by state
54950-54963 The Brown Act
12945.1-12945.2 California Family Rights Act

HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE

120175-120255 Functions and duties of local health officers
120230 Exclusion from attendance
120275 Violations of quarantine order
131080 Advice to and control of local health authorities

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 2

11087-11098 California Family Rights Act

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

202 Exclusion from attendance
306 Explanation of absence
420-421 Record of verification of absence due to illness and other causes

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 8

3205 COVID-19 prevention

Management Resources:

CSBA PUBLICATIONS

Sample School Board Resolution on Grading During Emergency School Closures
The Resource Guide: Turning Crisis into Opportunity, Delegate Assembly Report, May 2021
Understanding and Addressing Disruptions to Learning During the COVID-19 Pandemic, May 2021

CALIFORNIA COLLABORATION FOR EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE PUBLICATIONS

Statewide Instructional Mode Survey Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs), September 14, 2021

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PUBLICATIONS

Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan Template

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH PUBLICATIONS

COVID-19 Public Health Guidance for K-12 Schools in California, 2021-22 School Year, September 1, 2021

Requirement for Universal Masking Indoors at K-12 Schools, August 23, 2021

State Public Health Officer Order of August 11, 2021

State Public Health Officer Order of June 11, 2021

Management Resources: (see next page)

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Management Resources continued:

CALIFORNIA DIVISION OF OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH PUBLICATIONS

COVID-19 Prevention Emergency Temporary Standards - Fact Sheets, Model Written Program and Other Resources

CALIFORNIANS TOGETHER PUBLICATIONS

Teaching and Learning During Uncertain Times: A Review of Learning Continuity Plans

CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION PUBLICATIONS

Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools, August 5, 2021

INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION SCIENCES PUBLICATIONS

Addressing Trauma in Educational Settings, Module 1: Impacts and Symptoms of Trauma and Relevant Strategies to Support Students, Webinar, November 2020

NATIONAL CENTER FOR LEARNING DISABILITIES PUBLICATIONS

Promising Practices to Accelerate Learning for Students with Disabilities During COVID-19 and Beyond

NATIONAL SCHOOL PUBLIC RELATIONS ASSOCIATION PUBLICATIONS

Coronavirus Communications Crisis for Public Schools guide

OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET PUBLICATIONS

Administrative Relief for Recipients and Applicants of Federal Financial Assistance Directly Impacted by the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Due to Loss of Operations, Memorandum M-20-17, March 19, 2020

Evidence-Based Practices for Assessing Students' Social and Emotional Well-Being, February 2021

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PUBLICATIONS

Confronting COVID-19-Related Harassment in Schools, August 2021

ED COVID-19 Handbook, Volume 1: Strategies for Safely Reopening Elementary and Secondary Schools, August 2021

ED COVID-19 Handbook, Volume 2: Roadmap to Reopening Safely and Meeting All Students' Needs, August 2021

Return to School Roadmap: A Child Find Under Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, August 2021

Long COVID under Section 504 and the IDEA: A Resource to Support Children, Students, Educators, Schools, Service Providers, and Families, July 2021

WEB SITES

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

California Collaborative for Educational Excellence: <https://ccee-ca.org>

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

California Department of Public Health: <https://www.cdph.ca.gov>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov>

California Division of Occupational Safety and Health: <https://www.dir.ca.gov/dosh>

California Interscholastic Federation: <https://cifstate.org/covid-19/index>

Office of the Governor: <https://www.gov.ca.gov>

Office of Management and Budget: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/omb>

State of California Safe Schools for All Hub: <https://schools.covid19.ca.gov>

U.S. Department of Labor: <https://www.dol.gov>

World Health Organization: <https://www.who.int>

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