

SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION/DUE PROCESS

The Board of Trustees desires to provide district students access to educational opportunities in an educational environment that promotes equity, access, and inclusion, and where all students can feel safe and respected. The Board believes that the intentional development of such an environment will reduce the need for office referrals, suspensions, expulsions, and time that students are excluded from instruction due to behavior infractions.

The District is committed to ensuring consistent and equitable implementation of research-based alternatives to punitive discipline and to using exclusionary discipline as a last resort after exhaustion of alternatives. Such research-based alternatives will focus on a continuum of both prevention and evidence-based responses including: a) positive behavioral strategies, b) restorative practices, and c) other SEL (social emotional learning) skill building practices. The District will work with the students who exhibit social behavioral issues, and their families to ensure that the students remain maximally engaged in the District's educational program and are given every opportunity to reach their potential by not limiting their instructional and engagement opportunities.

To accomplish these goals, the Board shall adopt rules and regulations providing for ongoing data analysis to ensure such other means of correction/alternatives are implemented, evaluated, improved upon, and supported by a culturally responsive system and discipline is administered without regard to any protected characteristic; and implementation of a positive behavior intervention system that is culturally sensitive and fair and equitable disciplinary processes and procedures for addressing violations.

The Board shall also develop rules and regulations to ensure training in and implementation of social-emotional learning, restorative practices, and conflict resolution and culturally-responsive academic tiers of supports, also known as Multi-Tiered Systems of Support, that build strong, authentic relationships between students and staff and foster teacher confidence and student understanding and achievement.

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.

Suspended or expelled students shall be denied the privilege of participation in all extracurricular activities during the period of suspension or expulsion.

(cf. 6145 - Extracurricular and Cocurricular Activities)

SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION/DUE PROCESS (continued)

Jurisdiction to Suspend or Expel

A student may be suspended or expelled only when the behavior is related to a school activity or school attendance occurring at any district school or within any other 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

(cf. 5131.1 - Bus Conduct)

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- 8" of the accompanying administrative regulation, or when the student's presence causes a danger to others, suspension shall be used only when the appropriate interventions and supports that are culturally responsive and other means of correction/alternatives have been exhausted, documented, and have failed to bring about the proper conduct, and only when Superintendent or designee determines the conduct is consistent with conduct delineated in Education Code section 48900 (Education Code 48900.5, 48900.6, Administrative Regulation 5144))

(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)

Notification of Suspension/Expulsion

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.

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On-Campus Suspension

The Board recognizes that students who are suspended from school often have no supervision or guidance during the school hours when they are off campus and may fall behind in the coursework. The Board believes that, in many cases, it would be better to manage the student's behavior by keeping the student at school and providing him/her with supervision that is separated from the regular classroom.

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 a school may establish a supervised suspension classroom program which shall meet the requirements of law and the accompanying regulation.

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)

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 the Superintendent or principal shall have the discretion to recommend expulsion of a student consistent with the law and Board policies. 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

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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)

No child enrolled in a preschool program shall be expelled except under limited circumstances as specified in AR 5148.3 - Preschool/Early Childhood Education.

(cf. 5148.3 - Preschool/Early Childhood Education)

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))

Maintenance and Monitoring of Records and Outcome Data

The District shall maintain a record of each suspension and expulsion, including its specific cause(s). (Education Code 48900.8) Expulsion records of any student shall be maintained in the student's mandatory interim record and sent to any school in which the student subsequently enrolls upon written request by that school. (Education Code 48918(k))

The Superintendent or designee shall, within five working days, honor any other district's request for information about an expulsion from this district. (Education Code 48915.1)

The Superintendent or designee shall maintain the following data: (Education Code 48900.8, 48916.1)

1. The number of students recommended for expulsion
2. The specific grounds for each recommended expulsion
3. Whether the student was subsequently expelled
4. Whether the expulsion order was suspended
5. The type of referral made after the expulsion
6. The disposition of the student after the end of the expulsion period

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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. For any expulsion that involves the possession of a firearm, such data shall include the name of the school and the type of firearm involved, as required pursuant to 20 USC 7961. Suspension and expulsion data shall be reported to the Board annually and to the California Department of Education when so required.

The report shall be disaggregated by school and by numerically significant student subgroups, including, but not limited to, ethnic subgroups, socioeconomically disadvantaged students, English learners, foster youth, students with disabilities, 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 the Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP).

(cf. 0460 - Local Control and Accountability Plan)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

212.5 Sexual harassment

233 Hate violence

1981-1981.5 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

48660-48666 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

64000-64001 Consolidated application

CIVIL CODE

47 Privileged communication

48.8 Defamation liability

SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION/DUE PROCESS (continued)

Legal Reference: (continued)

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 Employee 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

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

SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION/DUE PROCESS (continued)

Legal Reference: (continued)

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 18
921 Definitions, firearm

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 20
1415(K) Placement in alternative educational setting
7961 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 Ops.Cal.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 PUBLICATIONS
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/crdc-2012-data-summary.pdf>
U.S. Department of Education, Office of Safe and Healthy Students:
<http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/oese/oshs>

Policy

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OROVILLE CITY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Oroville, California