

DISCIPLINE

The Board of Trustees believes that one of the major functions of the public schools is the preparation of youth for responsible citizenship. The District shall foster a safe, supportive, and positive learning environment which reinforces the concepts of self-discipline and the acceptance of personal responsibility. Students are expected to progress from being adult-directed to self-directed with minimal application of disciplinary measures.

State Education Code and law and Board policy set major standards for rules and regulations governing student conduct.

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.

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) The Board recognizes that it would be a disservice to school sites to establish a complicated and inflexible set of punishments corresponding to violations of state laws, Board policies, and school rules and regulations. The basic tenets of justice espoused within the democratic framework of government require that, as appropriate, mitigating circumstances in each individual case of student misbehavior be taken into consideration in the final determination of any punishment which is to be administered to a student.

In order to maintain an environment conducive to attaining the highest quality of education, District disciplinary policies and regulations relating to student conduct which delineate acceptable behavior and provide the basis for sound disciplinary practices will be enforced fairly, consistently, and in accordance with the District's nondiscrimination policies.

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 connectedness to the school community, and other local measures, shall be included in the District's local control and accountability plan, as required by law.

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.

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)

Seclusion and behavioral restraint are prohibited as a means of discipline unless nonviolent crisis interventions tactics are required for safety reasons and shall not be used to correct student behavior except as permitted pursuant to Education Code 49005.4 and in accordance with District regulations. (Education Code 49005.2)

Corporal Punishment

Corporal punishment shall not be used as a disciplinary measure against any student. Corporal punishment includes the willful infliction of, or willfully causing the infliction of, physical pain on a student. (Education Code 49000, 49001)

For purposes of this policy, corporal punishment does not include an employee's use of force that is reasonable and necessary to protect the employee, students, staff or other persons or to prevent damage to District property. (Education Code 49001)

The Board stresses that punishment is to be considered only after other positive methods of changing student behavior have failed. All negative sanctions addressing student misconduct shall be assigned in strict adherence to state laws, Board policies, and District rules and regulations.

Notice to Parents/Guardians and Students

The principal of each school shall ensure that students and parents/guardians are notified in writing of all Board policies, administrative regulations, and the school discipline handbooks related to discipline at the beginning of each school year. Transfer students and their parents/guardians shall be so advised upon enrollment.

The notice shall state that these rules and regulations are available on request at the principal's office in all District schools.

DISCIPLINE (continued)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

- 32280-32289 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*
- 49005-49006.4 Seclusion and restraint*
- 49330-49335 Injurious objects*
- 49550-49564.5 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 20

- 1400-1482 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act*

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 29

- 794 Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973*

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 42

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