Students

DISCIPLINE

Site-Level Rules

Site-level rules shall be consistent with state law and Board policies and administrative regulations. In developing site-level disciplinary rules, the principal or designee shall solicit the participation, views, and advice of one representative selected by each of the following groups: (Education Code 35291.5)

1. Parents/guardians
2. Teachers
3. School administrators
4. School security personnel, if any

(cf. 3515.3 - District Police/Security Department)

5. For junior high and high schools, students enrolled in the school

Annually, site-level discipline rules shall be reviewed and, if necessary, updated to align with any changes in state law, district discipline policies and regulations, and/or goals for school safety and climate as specified in the district's local control and accountability plan. A copy of the rules shall be filed with the Superintendent or designee for inclusion in the comprehensive safety plan.

(cf. 0450 - Comprehensive Safety Plan)
(cf. 0460 - Local Control and Accountability Plan)

School rules shall be communicated to students clearly and in an age-appropriate manner.

It shall be the duty of each employee of the school to enforce the school rules on student discipline. (Education Code 35291.5)

Disciplinary Strategies

To the extent possible, staff shall use disciplinary strategies that keep students in school and participating in the instructional program. Except when students' presence causes a danger to themselves or others or they commit a single act of a grave nature or an offense for which suspension or expulsion is required by law, suspension or expulsion shall be used only when other means of correction have failed to bring about proper conduct. Disciplinary strategies may include, but are not limited to:
DISCIPLINE (continued)

1. Discussion or conference between school staff and the student and parents/guardians
   (cf. 5020 - Parent Rights and Responsibilities)
   (cf. 6020 - Parent Involvement)

2. Referral of the student to the school counselor or other school support service personnel for case management and counseling
   (cf. 5138 - Conflict Resolution/Peer Mediation)
   (cf. 6164.2 - Guidance/Counseling Services)

3. Convening of a study team, guidance team, resource panel, or other intervention-related team to assess the behavior and develop and implement an individual plan to address the behavior in partnership with the student and parents/guardians
   (cf. 6164.5 - Student Success Teams)

4. When applicable, referral for a comprehensive psychosocial or psychoeducational assessment, including for purposes of creating an individualized education program or a Section 504 plan
   (cf. 6159 - Individualized Education Program)
   (cf. 6164.6 - Identification and Education under Section 504)

5. Enrollment in a program for teaching prosocial behavior or anger management

6. Participation in a restorative justice program

7. A positive behavior support approach with tiered interventions that occur during the school day on campus

8. Participation in a social and emotional learning program that teaches students the ability to understand and manage emotions, develop caring and concern for others, make responsible decisions, establish positive relationships, and handle challenging situations capably

9. Participation in a program that is sensitive to the traumas experienced by students, focuses on students’ behavioral health needs, and addresses those needs in a proactive manner
DISCIPLINE (continued)

10. After-school programs that address specific behavioral issues or expose students to positive activities and behaviors, including, but not limited to, those operated in collaboration with local parent and community groups

(cf. 5148.2 - Before/After School Programs)

11. Recess restriction as provided in the section below entitled "Recess Restriction"

12. Detention after school hours as provided in the section below entitled "Detention After School"

13. Community service as provided in the section below entitled "Community Service"

14. In accordance with Board policy and administrative regulation, restriction or disqualification from participation in extracurricular activities

(cf. 6145 - Extracurricular/Cocurricular Activities)

15. Reassignment to an alternative educational environment

(cf. 6158 - Independent Study)
(cf. 6181 - Alternative Schools/Programs of Choice)
(cf. 6184 - Continuation Education)
(cf. 6185 - Community Day School)

16. Suspension and expulsion in accordance with law, Board policy, and administrative regulation

(cf. 5144.1 - Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process)
(cf. 5144.2 - Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process (Students with Disabilities))

When, by law or district policy, other means of correction are required to be implemented before a student could be suspended or expelled, any other means of correction implemented shall be documented and retained in the student's records. (Education Code 48900.5)

(cf. 5125 - Student Records)

**Recess Restriction**

Teachers may restrict a student's recess time only when they believe that this action is the most effective way to bring about improved behavior. When recess restriction involves the withholding of physical activity from a student, teachers shall try other disciplinary measures before imposing the restriction. Recess restriction shall be subject to the following conditions:
DISCIPLINE (continued)

1. The student shall be given adequate time to use the restroom and get a drink or eat lunch, as appropriate.

2. The student shall remain under a certificated employee's supervision during the period of restriction.

3. The student’s teacher shall inform the principal of any recess restrictions imposed.

(cf. 5030 - Student Wellness)
(cf. 6142.7 - Physical Education and Activity)

Detention After School

Students may be detained for disciplinary reasons for up to one hour after the close of the maximum school day, or until the departure of the school bus to which they have been assigned if applicable. (5 CCR 307, 353)

The student shall not be detained unless the principal or designee notifies the parent/guardian.

Students shall remain under the supervision of a certificated employee during the period of detention.

Students may be offered the choice of serving their detention on Saturday rather than after school.

(cf. 6176 - Weekend/Saturday Classes)

Community Service

As part of or instead of disciplinary action, the Board, Superintendent, principal, or principal's designee may require a student to perform community service during nonschool hours on school grounds or, with written permission of the student's parent/guardian, off school grounds. Such service may include, but is not limited to, community or school outdoor beautification, community or campus betterment, and teacher, peer, or youth assistance programs. (Education Code 48900.6)

This community service option is not available for a student who has been suspended, pending expulsion, pursuant to Education Code 48915. However, if the recommended expulsion is not implemented or the expulsion itself is suspended, then the student may be required to perform community service for the resulting suspension. (Education Code 48900.6)
DISCIPLINE (continued)

Notice to Parents/Guardians and Students

At the beginning of the school year, the Superintendent or designee shall notify parents/guardians, in writing, about the availability of district rules related to discipline. (Education Code 35291, 48980)

(cf. 5145.6 - Parental Notifications)

The Superintendent or designee shall also provide written notice of disciplinary rules to transfer students at the time of their enrollment in the district.
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.

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
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.

The 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. 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)

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)
SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION/DUE PROCESS  (continued)

(cf. 5119 - Students Expelled from Other Districts)
(cf. 5144.2 - Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process (Students with Disabilities))

Maintenance and Monitoring of Outcome Data

The Superintendent or designee shall maintain outcome data related to student suspensions and expulsions in accordance with Education Code 48900.8 and 48916.1, including, but not limited to, 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.

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:

EDUCATION CODE
212.5  Sexual harassment
233  Hate violence
1981-1981.5  Enrollment of students in community school
8239.1  Prohibition against expulsion of preschool student
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
48860-48866  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

Legal Reference continued:  (see next page)
SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION/DUE PROCESS  (continued)

Legal Reference:  (continued)

52052  Numerically significant student subgroups
52060-52077  Local control and accountability plan
64000-64001  Consolidated application
CIVIL CODE
47  Privileged communication
48.3  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  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
PENAL CODE  (continued)
245.6  Hazing
260  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
UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 18
921  Definitions, firearm
UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 20
1415(K)  Placement in alternative educational setting
7961  Gun-free schools

Legal Reference continued:  (see next page)
SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION/DUE PROCESS  (continued)

Legal Reference:  (continued)

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 42
11432-11435  Education of homeless children and youths

COURT DECISIONS

ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINIONS

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:
U.S. Department of Education, Office of Safe and Healthy Students:
http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/oese/oshs

Policy
adopted:  February 23, 1999
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revised:  February 25, 2003
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VISALIA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  Visalia, California