

Santa Barbara Unified School District

Board Policy

Students

BP 5144

DISCIPLINE

The Governing Board is committed to providing a safe, supportive, and positive school environment which is conducive to student learning and achievement and desires to prepare students for responsible citizenship by fostering self-discipline and personal responsibility. The Board believes that high expectations for student behavior, use of effective positive behavior support strategies, provision of appropriate interventions, and parent/guardian involvement can minimize the need for responses to behavior that exclude students from instruction as a means for correcting student behavior.

(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 responding to student behavior 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.

(cf. 5138 - Conflict Resolution/Peer Mediation)
(cf. 6164.2 - Guidance/Counseling Services)

In addition, the Superintendent or designee's strategies for responding to student behavior shall reflect the Board's preference for the use of positive interventions and alternative responses to behavior over exclusionary 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)

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)

Seclusion and behavioral restraint are prohibited as a means of discipline 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)

(cf. 5131.41 - Use of Seclusion and Restraint)

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

The administrative staff at each school may develop policies to address student behavior that 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 policies for consistency with Board policy and state law. Site-level policies 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 responses to student behavior. When misconduct occurs, staff shall attempt to identify the causes of the student's behavior and implement appropriate responses. 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 policies fairly, consistently, and in accordance with the district's nondiscrimination policies.

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

(cf. 0415 - Equity)

(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 and equitably implement the disciplinary strategies adopted for district schools, including, but not limited to, knowledge of positive behavior intervention supports and their consistent application, effective accountability, and the tools to form strong, cooperative relationships with parents/guardians.

(cf. 4131 - Staff Development)

(cf. 4231 - Staff Development)

(cf. 4331 - Staff Development)

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.

(cf. 0460 - Local Control and Accountability Plan)

(cf. 3100 - Budget)

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 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

Management Resources:

CSBA PUBLICATIONS

Recent Legislation on Discipline: AB 240, Fact Sheet, March 2015
The Case for Reducing Out-of-School Suspensions and Expulsions, Fact Sheet, April 2014
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

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 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>

SANTA BARBARA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Santa Barbara, California

September 24, 2013; August 26, 2014; November 12, 2019