

**SECTION 5000
STUDENTS**

**BOARD POLICY
BP 5144.1**

SUSPENSION & EXPULSION DUE PROCESS

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.

(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 and 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 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
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 and Expulsion

Except when a student commits an act that violates Education Code [48900](#)(a)-(e) or 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.

Except when a student commits an act listed in Education Code [48915\(c\)](#), the Superintendent or designee shall have the discretion to determine whether to recommend to the Board that the student be expelled.

(cf. [5131.7](#) - Weapons and Dangerous Instruments)

To correct the behavior of any student who is subject to discipline, the Superintendent or designee shall, to the extent allowed by law, first use alternative disciplinary strategies specified in AR 5144 - Discipline. (Education Code [48900.5](#), [48900.6](#))

(cf. [1020](#) - Youth Services)

(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)

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)

District staff shall not suspend any student for disruption or willful defiance, unless the suspension is warranted by documented repetitive behavior of the student or the disruption or willful defiance occurred in conjunction with another violation for which the student may be suspended.

Note: The following optional paragraph may be revised to reflect district practice.

A student's parents/guardians shall be notified as soon as possible when there is an escalating pattern of misbehavior that could lead to classroom or school removal.

Due Process

The Board shall provide for the fair and equitable treatment of students facing suspension and 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))

Removal from Class by a Teacher and Parental Attendance

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When suspending a student from class for committing an obscene act, engaging in habitual profanity or vulgarity, disrupting school activities, or otherwise willfully defying valid staff authority, the teacher of the class may require any parent/guardian who lives with the student to attend a portion of the school day in the class from which the student is being suspended, to assist in resolving the classroom behavior problems. (Education Code [48900.1](#))

Teachers should reserve the option of required parental attendance for cases in which they have determined that it is the best strategy to promote positive interaction between the teacher and the student and his/her parents/guardians and to improve the student's behavior.

Any teacher requiring parental attendance pursuant to this policy shall apply the policy uniformly to all students within the classroom. (Education Code [48900.1](#))

When a teacher requires parental attendance, the principal shall send a written notice to the parent/guardian stating that his/her attendance is required pursuant to law and that, if there are reasonable factors that may prevent the parent/guardian from complying with the requirement, he/she should contact the school. (Education Code [48900.1](#))

(cf. [5145.6](#) - Parental Notifications)

A parent/guardian who has received a written notice shall attend class as specified in the notice. After completing the classroom visit and before leaving school premises, the parent/guardian also shall meet with the principal or designee. (Education Code [48900.1](#))

At the meeting with the student's parent/guardian, the principal or designee shall explain the district's and school's discipline policies, including the disciplinary strategies that may be used to achieve proper student conduct.

When a parent/guardian does not respond to the request to attend school, the principal or designee shall contact him/her by any method that maintains the confidentiality of the student's records.

(cf. [5125](#) - Student Records)

District regulations and school-site rules for student discipline shall include procedures for implementing parental attendance requirements. Parents/guardians shall be notified of this policy prior to its implementation. (Education Code [48900.1](#))

Supervised Suspension 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 Superintendent or designee shall establish a supervised suspension classroom program which meets the requirements of law.

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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](#))

Decision Not to Enforce Expulsion Order

Upon voting to expel a student, the Board may suspend enforcement of the expulsion order pursuant to the requirements of law and administrative regulation. (Education Code [48917](#))

Maintenance and Monitoring of Outcome Data

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.

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, and students with disabilities. The report also shall include information about 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](#) 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

[52060-52077](#) Local control and accountability plan

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CIVIL CODE

[47](#) Privileged communication

[48.8](#) 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](#) Discharge or discrimination against employee for taking 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

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 18

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921 Definitions, firearm

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 20

[1415](#)(K) Placement in alternative educational setting

[7151](#) Gun-free schools

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:

CSBA PUBLICATIONS

Safe Schools: Strategies for Governing Boards to Ensure Student Success, 2011

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 Drug-Free Schools:

<http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/osdfs>

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