

Board Policy

Conduct

BP 5131

Students

The Board of Trustees believes that all students have the right to a public education in a positive learning environment free from disruptions. Students shall be expected to exhibit appropriate conduct that does not infringe upon the rights of others or interfere with the school program while on school grounds, while going to or coming from school, while at school activities, and while on district transportation.

Conduct is considered appropriate when students are diligent in study, careful with school property, courteous, and respectful towards their teachers, other staff, other students and volunteers.

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that each school site develops standards of conduct and discipline consistent with district policies and administrative regulations. Students and parents/guardians shall be notified of district and school rules related to conduct. In addition, parents/guardians and students may be provided information about early warning signs of harassing/intimidating behaviors, such as bullying, as well as prevention and intervention strategies.

Prohibited student conduct includes but is not limited to:

1. Conduct that endangers students, staff, or others
2. Conduct that disrupts the orderly classroom or school environment
3. Harassment of other students or staff, including bullying, intimidation, so-called "cyberbullying," hazing, initiation activity, ridicule, extortion, or any other verbal, written or physical conduct that causes or threatens to cause violence, bodily harm, substantial disruption or emotional suffering.

Bullying means any severe or pervasive physical or verbal act or conduct, including communications made in writing or by means of an electronic act, as defined, including, but not limited to, sexual harassment, hate violence, or harassment, threats, or intimidation, that has the effect or can reasonably be predicted to have the effect of placing a reasonable pupil, as defined, in fear of harm to that pupil's or those pupils' person or property, causing a reasonable pupil to experience a substantially detrimental effect on his or her physical or mental health, causing a reasonable pupil to experience substantial interference with his or her academic performance, or causing a reasonable pupil to experience substantial interference with his or

her ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, or privileges provided by a school.

Cyberbullying includes the posting of harassing messages, transmission of communications, direct threats, social cruelty, or other harmful text, sounds or images on the Internet, social networking sites, or other digital technologies, using a telephone, computer, or any wireless communication device, as well as breaking into another person's electronic account and assuming that person's identity in order to damage that person's reputation or friendships.

4. Damage to or theft of property belonging to the district, staff or other students

5. Possession, use, being under the influence, or sale of alcohol, tobacco or other drugs

6. Possession or use of laser pointers, unless used for a valid instructional or other school-related purpose, including employment (Penal Code 417.27)

Prior to bringing a laser pointer on school premises, students shall first obtain permission from the principal or designee. The principal or designee shall determine whether the requested use of the laser pointer is for a valid instructional or other school-related purpose.

7. Profane, vulgar or abusive language

8. Plagiarism or dishonesty in school work or on tests

9. Inappropriate dress

10. Tardiness and unexcused absence from school

11. Failure to remain on school premises in accordance with school rules

Employees are expected to provide appropriate supervision to enforce standards of conduct and, if they observe or receive a report of a violation of these standards, to immediately intervene or call for assistance. If an employee believes a matter has not been resolved, he/she shall refer the matter to his/her supervisor or administrator for further investigation.

Students who violate district or school rules and regulations may be subject to discipline including, but not limited to, suspension, expulsion, and transfer to alternative programs or denial of participation in extracurricular or co-curricular activities in accordance with Board policy and administrative regulation, and contact with local law enforcement as appropriate.

Students also may be subject to discipline in accordance with law, Board policy, and administrative regulation for any off-campus conduct during non-school hours which poses a threat or danger to the safety of students, staff, or district property or substantially disrupts the orderly delivery of the educational program of the district or any other district.

Possession of Cellular Phones and Other Mobile Communications Devices

No student shall be prohibited from possessing or using an electronic signaling device that is determined by a licensed physician or surgeon to be essential for the student's health and the use of which is limited to health-related purposes. (Education Code 48901.5)

In accordance with Education Code 48901.5 and under strict guidelines established herein, students may possess or use on school campus personal electronic signaling devices including but not limited to pagers, beepers, and cellular/digital phones, as well as other communications devices including but not limited to digital media players, personal digital assistants (PDAs), compact disc players, portable game consoles, cameras, digital scanners, and laptop computers, provided that such devices do not disrupt the educational program or school activity and are not used for illegal or unethical activities such as cheating on assignments or tests.

The district is committed to maintaining a secure instructional program free from disruptions and interruptions. Therefore, unless directed by the teacher during instructional periods, i.e. class time and assemblies, and all emergency preparedness activities/responses, electronic signaling devices are to be turned off completely (vibrate mode is not acceptable) and remain out of sight. Attaching the device to a belt or purse does not satisfy this requirement and will be considered a violation of this policy.

In accordance with the Board's policy and administrative regulation on search and seizure, a school official may search a student's mobile communications device, including, but not limited to, reviewing messages or viewing pictures.

Students shall not use mobile communications devices, even in hands-free mode, while driving on school grounds or to or from a school-related activity.

A student who violates this policy may be prohibited from possessing a mobile communications device at school or school-related events and/or may be subject to further discipline in accordance with Board policy and administrative regulation.

Bullying/Cyberbullying

The Board desires to prevent bullying by establishing a positive, collaborative school climate and clear rules for student conduct.

The district may provide students instruction, in the classroom or other educational settings, that promotes communication, social skills, and assertiveness skills and educates students about appropriate online behavior and strategies to prevent and respond to bullying and cyberbullying. This instruction may involve parents/guardians, staff, and community members.

School staff shall receive related professional development, including information about early warning signs of harassing/intimidating behaviors and effective prevention and intervention strategies. Parents/guardians and students also may be provided with similar information.

Students may submit a verbal or written complaint of conduct they consider to be bullying to a teacher or administrator and may also request that their name be kept in confidence. The Superintendent or designee may establish other processes for students to submit anonymous reports of bullying. Complaints of bullying or harassment shall be investigated and resolved in accordance with site-level grievance procedures specified in AR 5145.7 - Sexual Harassment.

When a student is suspected of or reported to be using electronic or digital communications to engage in cyberbullying against other students or staff or to threaten district property, the investigation shall include documentation of the activity, identification of the source, and a determination of the impact or potential impact on school activity, school attendance, or the targeted student's educational performance.

Students shall be encouraged to save and print any messages sent to them that they feel constitute cyberbullying and to notify a teacher, the principal, or other employee so that the matter may be investigated.

Any student who engages in cyberbullying on school premises, or off-campus in a manner that causes or is likely to cause substantial disruption of a school activity or school attendance shall be subject to discipline in accordance with district policies and regulations. If the student is using a social networking site or service that has terms of use that prohibit posting of harmful material, the Superintendent or designee also may file a complaint with the Internet site or service to have the material removed.

The district will assume no responsibility for loss of electronic signaling devices.

The use of electronic signaling devices in violation of Board Policy or Student Conduct Code will result in the immediate confiscation of the device in use and the appropriate disciplinary action as outlined in the Student Conduct Code. All confiscated devices will be released only to parents.

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

200-262.4 Prohibition of discrimination

32261 Bullying

35181 Governing board policy on responsibilities of students

35291-35291.5 Rules

44807 Duty concerning conduct of students
48900-48925 Suspension or expulsion, especially:
48908 Duties of students 51512 Prohibition against electronic listening or recording device in classroom without permission

CIVIL CODE

1714.1 Liability of parents and guardians for willful misconduct of minor

PENAL CODE

288.2 Harmful matter with intent to seduce

313 Harmful matter

417.25-417.27 Laser scope

647 Use of camera or other instrument to invade person's privacy; misdemeanor

647.7 Use of camera or other instrument to invade person's privacy; punishment

653.2 Electronic communication devices, threats to safety

VEHICLE CODE

23124 Use of cellular phones provisional license holders

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

300-307 Duties of pupils

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE

42 2000h-2000h6 Title IX, 1972 Education Act Amendments

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 47

254 Universal service discounts (e-rate)

COURT DECISIONS

J.C. v. Beverly Hills Unified School District, (2010) 711 F.Supp.2d 1094

LaVine v. Blaine School District, (2000, 9th Cir.) 257 F.3d 981

Emmett v. Kent School District No. 415, (2000) 92 F.Supp. 1088

Bethel School District No. 403 v. Fraser, (1986) 478 U.S. 675

Tinker v. Des Moines Independent Community School District, (1969) 393 U.S. 503

Management Resources:

CSBA PUBLICATIONS

Cyberbullying: Policy Considerations for Boards, Policy Brief, July 2007

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PUBLICATIONS

Bullying at School, 2003

NATIONAL SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION PUBLICATIONS

Digital Discipline: Off-Campus Student Conduct, the First Amendment and Web Sites, School Law in Review, 2001

NATIONAL SCHOOL SAFETY CENTER PUBLICATIONS

Bullying in School: Fighting the Bullying Battle, 2006

WEB SITES

CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>

California Cybersafety for Children: <http://www.cybersafety.ca.gov>

California Department of Education, Safe Schools Office: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/lr/ss>

Center for Safe and Responsible Internet Use: <http://cyberbully.org>

National School Boards Association: <http://www.nsba.org>
National School Safety Center: <http://www.schoolsafety.us>
U.S. Department of Education: <http://www.ed.gov>

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