Students DISCIPLINE

The County Superintendent and County Board are 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 County Superintendent and County Board believe that high expectations for student behavior, use of effective school and classroom management strategies, provision of appropriate intervention and support, and parent/guardian involvement can minimize the need for disciplinary measures that exclude students from instruction as a means for correcting student misbehavior.

The County Superintendent or designee shall develop effective, age-appropriate, program appropriate strategies for maintaining a positive school climate and correcting student misbehavior. 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 discipline policies and practices. County Superintendent staff shall use positive interventions and alternative disciplinary measures whenever possible to correct student misconduct. Disciplinary measures that may result in loss of instructional time or cause students to be disengaged from school shall be imposed only when required or permitted by law or when other means of correction have failed. (Education Code 48900.5)

County Superintendent 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 and shall not be used to correct student behavior except as permitted pursuant to Education Code 49005.4. (Education Code 49005.2)

The administrative staff of school sites may develop disciplinary rules to meet the school's particular needs consistent with law, County Superintendent/County Board policy, and administrative regulations. The County Superintendent and County Board may review, at an open meeting, the approved site-level discipline rules for consistency with County Superintendent/County Board policy and state law. Site-level disciplinary rules shall be included in the County Superintendent/County Board comprehensive safety plan. (Education Code 32282, 35291.5)

At all times, the safety of students and staff and the maintenance of an orderly school environment shall be priorities in determining appropriate discipline. When misconduct occurs, staff shall attempt to identify the causes of the student's behavior and implement appropriate discipline. 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.
When other means of correction have failed, students may be assigned to alternative programs, removed from school, or returned to their district of residence, in accordance with law, County Superintendent/County Board policy, and administrative regulation.

Staff shall enforce disciplinary rules fairly, consistently, and in accordance with the County Superintendent/County Board nondiscrimination policies.

The County 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, including, but not limited to, knowledge of school and classroom management skills and their consistent application, effective accountability and positive intervention techniques, and the tools to establish cooperative relationships with parents/guardians.

Adopted: 04/16/1998
Amended: 03/21/2013, 10/15/2020

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

Websites
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

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