

**DISCIPLINE**

The Governing Board is committed to providing a safe, supportive, and positive school environment which is conducive to student learning and achievement and to preparing students for responsible citizenship by fostering self-discipline and personal responsibility. The Board believes 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.

*(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 correcting student misbehavior 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 correcting student misconduct shall reflect the Board's preference for the use of positive interventions and alternative disciplinary measures over exclusionary discipline 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)*

**DISCIPLINE (continued)**

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 may 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 disciplinary rules to meet the school's particular needs consistent with law, Board policy, and district regulations. The Board, at an open meeting, may review the approved school discipline rules for consistency with Board policy and state law. Site-level disciplinary rules shall be included in the district's comprehensive safety plan. (Education Code 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 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 and opportunity to learn.

Staff shall enforce disciplinary rules 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 implement the disciplinary strategies adopted for district schools, including, but not limited to, knowledge of school and classroom management skills and their consistent application, effective accountability and positive intervention techniques, and development of 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.

**DISCIPLINE (continued)**

(cf. 0460 - Local Control and Accountability Plan)  
 (cf. 3100 - Budget)

At the beginning of each school year, the Superintendent or designee may report to the Board regarding disciplinary strategies used in district schools in the immediately preceding school year and their effect on student learning.

**Corporal Punishment**

Corporal punishment shall not be used as a disciplinary measure against any student. Corporal punishment includes the willful infliction of, or willfully causing the infliction of, physical pain on a student. (Education Code 49001)

However, corporal punishment does not include any pain or discomfort suffered by a student as a result of his/her voluntary participation in an athletic or other recreational competition or activity. In addition, an employee's use of force that is reasonable and necessary to protect himself/herself, students, staff, or other persons, to prevent damage to property, or to obtain possession of weapons or other dangerous objects within the control of the student is not corporal punishment. (Education Code 49001)

(cf. 4158/4258/4358 - Employee Security)  
 (cf. 5131.7 - Weapons and Dangerous Instruments)  
 (cf. 6145.2 - Athletic Competition)

*Legal Reference:*EDUCATION CODE

32280-32288 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  
 49000-49001 Prohibition of corporal punishment  
 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

**DISCIPLINE (concluded)**

*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 Boards of Trustees to Ensure Student Success, October 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: <http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr>*

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Adopted: 07/17/84

Reviewed: 09/10/19

**WRIGHT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
Santa Rosa, California

**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; and

*(cf. 3515.3 - District Police/Security Department)*

5. For junior 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:

1. Discussion or conference between school staff and the student and parents/guardians;

**DISCIPLINE (continued)**

*(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;
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)*

**DISCIPLINE (continued)**

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; and

*(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:

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; and

**DISCIPLINE (concluded)**

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.

**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)

**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.