

POSITIVE SCHOOL CLIMATE

The Governing Board desires to provide an orderly, caring, and nondiscriminatory learning environment in which all students can feel comfortable and take pride in their school and their achievements.

The Board encourages staff to teach students the meaning of equality, human dignity, and mutual respect and to employ cooperative learning strategies that foster positive interactions in the classroom among students from diverse backgrounds. The district shall provide instruction designed to promote positive racial and ethnic identity, help students understand diverse cultures, teach them to think critically about racial bias, and show them how to deal with discriminatory behavior in appropriate ways.

(cf. 5131.4 - Student Disturbances)
(cf. 5145.3 - Nondiscrimination/Harassment)

Students shall have opportunities to voice their concerns about school policies and practices and to share responsibility for solving problems that affect their school. The Superintendent or designee may initiate student courts, campus beautification projects, buddy systems, vandalism prevention campaigns, and other similar programs. Staff shall encourage and reward success and achievement, participation in community projects, and positive student conduct.

The schools shall promote nonviolent conflict resolution techniques in order to encourage attitudes and behaviors that foster harmonious relations. As part of this effort, students shall be taught the skills necessary to reduce violence, including communication skills, anger management, bias reduction, and mediation skills. Staff shall receive training that implements and supports conflict resolution techniques, and training in conflict resolution techniques shall be available to parents/guardians and volunteers.

(cf. 5138 - Conflict Resolution/Peer Mediation)

Legal References: (see next page)

POSITIVE SCHOOL CLIMATE (continued)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

233-233.8 Hate violence prevention

32280-32289 School safety plans

32295.5 Teen court programs

35181 Governing board policy on responsibilities of students

35291-35291.5 Rules

44807 Teachers' duty concerning conduct of students

48900-48925 Suspension and expulsion

Management Resources:

CSBA PUBLICATIONS

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

Protecting Our Schools: Governing Board Strategies to Combat School Violence, rev. 1999

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PUBLICATIONS

Bullying at School, 2003

Creating Safe and Drug-Free Schools: An Action Guide, 1996

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PUBLICATIONS

Preventing Bullying: A Manual for Schools and Communities, 1998

WEB SITES

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

California Department of Education, Learning Support: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ls>

National School Safety Center: <http://www.schoolsafety.us>

U.S. Department of Education, Office of Safe and Drug-Free Schools:

<http://www.ed.gov/offices/OESE/SDFS>