

**SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION/DUE PROCESS**

The Governing Board has established policies and standards of behavior in order to promote learning and protect the safety and well-being of all students. When these policies and standards are violated, it may be necessary to suspend or expel a student from regular classroom instruction.

*(cf. 5144 - Discipline)*

Except where suspension for a first offense is warranted in accordance with law, suspension shall be imposed only when other means of correction fail to bring about proper conduct. (Education Code 48900.5)

Expulsion is an action taken by the Board for severe or prolonged breaches of discipline by a student. Except for single acts of a grave nature, expulsion shall be used only when there is a history of misconduct, when other forms of discipline, including suspension, have failed to bring about proper conduct, or when the student's presence causes a continuing danger to self or others.

The grounds for suspension and expulsion and the procedures for considering, recommending, and/or implementing suspension and expulsion shall be those specified in law and/or administrative regulation.

**Zero Tolerance**

The Board supports a zero tolerance approach to serious offenses in accordance with state and federal law. This approach makes the removal of potentially dangerous students from the classroom a top priority and ensures the standardized treatment of all students. Staff shall immediately report to the Superintendent or designee any incidence of offenses specified in law, Board policy, and administrative regulation as cause for suspension or expulsion.

The Superintendent or designee shall notify staff, students, and parent/guardians about the district's zero tolerance policy and the consequences that may result from student offenses. He/she shall also ensure strict enforcement of this policy.

**Student 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 and appeals as specified in administrative regulation and/or law. (Education Code 48911, 48915, 48915.5)

*(cf. 5119 - Students Expelled from Other Districts)*

*(cf. 5144.2 - Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process (Individuals with Disabilities))*

## **SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION/DUE PROCESS (continued)**

### **Supervised Suspension Classroom**

The Board recognizes that students who are suspended from school often have no supervision or guidance during the school hours when they are off campus and may fall behind in the coursework. The Board believes that, in many cases, it would be better to manage the student's behavior by keeping the student at school and providing him/her with supervision that is separated from the regular classroom.

The Superintendent or designee may establish a supervised classroom suspension program which meets the requirements of law for students suspended for any of the reasons enumerated in Education Code 48900 and 48900.2, who pose no imminent danger or threat at school, and for whom an expulsion action has not been initiated.

The Superintendent or designee shall examine alternatives to off-campus suspension and may establish a suspension program which involves progressive discipline during the school day on campus; use of conferences between staff, parents/guardians and students; detention; student study teams or other assessment-related teams; and/or referral to school support services staff. The use of such alternatives does not preclude off-campus suspensions.

### **Required Parental Attendance**

The Board believes that parental involvement plays an important role in the resolution of classroom behavior problems. The Board expects that staff communicate with parents/guardians when disruptive behavior problems arise.

Whenever a student is suspended from class by a teacher because he/she committed an obscene act, engaged in habitual profanity or vulgarity, disrupted school activities, or otherwise willfully defied valid staff authority, the teacher of the class from which the student was removed may provide that the student's parent/guardian attend a portion of a school day in the class from which the student was suspended. (Education Code 48900.1)

Before requiring parental attendance, the teacher shall make reasonable efforts to have the parent/guardian visit the class voluntarily. The teacher also may inform the parent/guardian about available resources and parent education opportunities. 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 student and the parent/guardian and to improve classroom behavior.

The teacher shall apply this policy uniformly to all students within the classroom. This policy shall apply only to a parent/guardian who lives with the student. (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 pursuant to law. (Education Code 48900.1)

**SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION/DUE PROCESS** (continued)

The notice shall specify that the attendance may be on either the date the student is scheduled to return to class or within one week thereafter.

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)

The principal or designee shall contact a parent/guardian who does not respond to the request to attend school. The Board recognizes that parent/guardian compliance with this policy may be delayed, modified, or prevented for reasons such as serious illness/injury/disability, absence from town, or inability to get release time from work.

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)

**Decision Not to Enforce Expulsion Order**

On a case-by-case basis, the enforcement of an expulsion order may be suspended by the Board pursuant to the requirements of law.

*Legal Reference: (see next page)*

**SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION/DUE PROCESS (continued)**

*Legal Reference:*

EDUCATION CODE

212.5 Sexual harassment  
1981 Enrollment of students in community school  
17292.5 Program for expelled students  
35146 Closed sessions (re suspensions)  
35291 Rules (for government and discipline of schools)  
35291.5 Rules and procedures on school discipline  
48660-48667 Community day schools  
48900-48927 Suspension and expulsion  
48950 Speech and other communication  
49073-49079 Privacy of student records

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

*Legal Reference continued: (see next page)*

**SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION/DUE PROCESS (continued)**

*Legal Reference: (continued)*

PENAL CODE (continued)

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

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

921 Definitions, firearm

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 20

7151 Gun free schools

COURT DECISIONS

T.H. v. San Diego Unified School District (2004) 122 Cal. App. 4<sup>th</sup> 1267

Woodbury v. Dempsey (2003) 108 Cal. App. 4<sup>th</sup> 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. 91 (1997)

80 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 85 (1997)

*Management Resources:*

WEB SITES

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

California Attorney General's Office: <http://www.caag.state.ca.us>

California Department of Education: <http://www.cde.ca.gov>

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

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