

COMMUNICATION WITH PARENTS/GUARDIANS

Because parents/guardians have a right to be informed about their child's academic achievement and may use this information to support student learning, the Board of Trustees encourages frequent communication to parents/guardians about student progress. The principal and teacher may communicate by means of conferences, class newsletters, mail, telephone, and/or school visits by parents/guardians.

(cf. 1250 - Visitors/Outsiders)
(cf. 6020 - Parent Involvement)

As part of this communication, teachers shall send progress reports to parents/guardians at regular intervals and shall encourage parents/ guardians to communicate any concerns to the teacher. In addition, the district shall send parents/guardians all notifications required by law.

(cf. 5113 - Absences and Excuses)
(cf. 5121 - Grades/Evaluation of Student Achievement)
(cf. 5145.6 - Parental Notifications)
(cf. 6146.1 - High School Graduation Requirements)
(cf. 6146.5 - Elementary/Middle School Graduation Requirements)
(cf. 6162.5 - Student Assessment)

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that appropriate means of communication are established whenever he/she learns that a parent/ guardian, for any reason, may not be able to understand written communications from school or oral communications made during conferences related to the student's program, assessment, progress or school activities.

As needed, the Superintendent or designee shall use interpreters who are fully competent in the specialized method of communication needed for effective communication with disabled parents/guardians.

The Superintendent or designee shall also use interpreters for parents/guardians who do not understand English, shall provide progress reports in the primary language of the parent/guardian, and/or shall identify appropriate means of communication with such parents/ guardians.

(cf. 0410 - Nondiscrimination in District Programs and Activities)
(cf. 6174 - Education for English Language Learners)

The Superintendent or designee shall establish a procedure whereby parents/guardians may request an interpreter and shall inform parents/guardians about this procedure.

Legal Reference: (see next page)

COMMUNICATION WITH PARENTS/GUARDIANS (continued)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

48985 *Notices in language other than English*

49067 *Mandated regulations regarding student achievement*

49069 *Absolute right to access (parents' right of access to student records)*

GOVERNMENT CODE

11135 *State-funded programs or activities*

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 29

794 *Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Section 504*

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 42

2001d *et seq. Title VI, Civil Rights Act of 1964*

12101 *et seq. Americans With Disabilities Act*

CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 28

35.104 *Definitions; auxiliary aids and services*

35.130 *General prohibitions against discrimination*

35.160 *Communications*

CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 34

104.4 *Discrimination prohibited*

STUDENT RECORDS

The Board of Trustees recognizes the importance of keeping accurate, comprehensive student records as required by law. Procedures for maintaining the confidentiality of student records shall be consistent with state and federal law.

The Superintendent or designee shall establish regulations governing the identification, description and security of student records, as well as timely access for authorized persons. These regulations shall ensure parental rights to review, inspect and copy student records and shall protect the student and the student's family from invasion of privacy.

(cf. 3580 - District Records)

(cf. 4040 - Employee Use of Technology)

(cf. 5125.1 - Release of Directory Information)

(cf. 5125.2 - Withholding Grades, Diploma or Transcripts)

(cf. 5125.3 - Challenging Student Records)

The Superintendent or designee shall designate a certificated employee to serve as custodian of records, with responsibility for student records at the district level. At each school, the principal or a certificated designee shall act as custodian of records for students enrolled at that school. The custodian of records shall be responsible for implementing Board policy and administrative regulation regarding student records. (5 CCR 431)

Legal Reference: (see next page)

STUDENT RECORDS (continued)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

48201 Student records for transfer students who have been suspended/expelled

48904-48904.3 Withholding grades, diplomas, or transcripts of pupils causing property damage or injury; transfer of pupils to new school districts; notice to rescind decision to withhold

48918 Rules governing expulsion procedures

49060-49079 Pupil records

49091.14 Parental review of curriculum

CODE OF CIVIL PROCEDURE

1985.3 Subpoena duces tecum

FAMILY CODE

3025 Access to records by noncustodial parents

GOVERNMENT CODE

6252-6260 Inspection of public records

HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE

120440 Immunizations; disclosure of information

WELFARE AND INSTITUTIONS CODE

681 Truancy petitions

16010 Health and education records of a minor

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

430-438 Individual pupil records

16020-16027 Destruction of records of school districts

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 20

1232g Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act

CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 34

99.1-99.67 Family Educational Rights and Privacy

300.500 Definition of "personally identifiable"

300.501 Opportunity to examine records for parents of student with disability

300.573 Destruction of information

COURT DECISIONS

Falvo v. Owasso Independent School District, 220 F.3d. 1200 (10th Cir. 2000)

Management Resources:

WEB SITES

U.S. Department of Education, Family Policy Compliance Office: <http://www.ed.gov/offices/OM/fpco/>

STUDENT RECORDS

Definitions

Student records are any items of information other than directory information, gathered within or outside the district, that are directly related to an identifiable student and maintained by the district or required to be maintained by an employee in the performance of his/her duties. Any information maintained for the purpose of second-party review is considered a student record. A student record may be recorded in handwriting, print, computer media, video or audio tape, film, microfilm, microfiche or by other means. Student records include the student's health record. (Education Code 49061, 49062; 5 CCR 430; 34 CFR 99.3)

(cf. 5125.1 - Release of Directory Information)

Student records do not include: (Education Code 49061, 49062; 5 CCR 430; 34 CFR 99.3)

1. Informal notes compiled by a school officer or employee which remain in the sole possession of the maker, are used only as a personal memory aid, and are not accessible or revealed to any other person except a substitute
2. Records of the law enforcement unit of the district, subject to the provisions of 34 CFR 99.8

(cf. 3515.3 - District Police/Security Department)

Mandatory permanent student records are those records which are maintained in perpetuity and which schools have been directed to compile by state law, regulation or administrative directive. (5 CCR 430)

Mandatory interim student records are those records which the schools are directed to compile and maintain for stipulated periods of time and are then destroyed in accordance with state law, regulation or administrative directive. (5 CCR 430)

Permitted student records are those records having clear importance only to the current educational process of the student. (5 CCR 430)

Access means a personal inspection and review of a record, an accurate copy of a record or receipt of an accurate copy of a record, an oral description or communication of a record, and a request to release a copy of any record. (Education Code 49061)

Disclosure means to permit access to or the release, transfer, or other communication of personally identifiable information contained in education records, to any party, by any means including oral, written or electronic means. (34 CFR 99.3)

STUDENT RECORDS (continued)

Personally identifiable information includes but is not limited to the student's name, the name of the student's parent/guardian or other family member, the address of the student or student's family, a personal identifier such as the student's social security number or student number, and a list of personal characteristics or other information that would make the student's identity easily traceable. (34 CFR 99.3)

Adult student is a person who is or was enrolled in school and who is at least 18 years of age. (5 CCR 430)

Parent/guardian means a natural parent, an adopted parent, or legal guardian. (Education Code 49061)

School officials and employees are officials or employees whose duties and responsibilities to the district, whether routine or as a result of special circumstances, require that they have access to student records.

A legitimate educational interest is one held by officials or employees whose duties and responsibilities to the district, whether routine or as a result of special circumstances, require that they have access to student records.

County placing agency means the county social service department or county probation department. (Education Code 49061)

Changes to Student Records

No additions except routine updating shall be made to a student's record after high school graduation or permanent departure without prior consent of the parent/guardian or adult student. (5 CCR 437)

Only a parent/guardian having legal custody of the student or an adult student may challenge the content of a record or offer a written response to a record. (Education Code 49061)

(*cf.* 5125.3 - *Challenging Student Records*)

Retention and Destruction of Student Records

The following *mandatory permanent student records* shall be kept indefinitely: (5 CCR 432, 437)

1. Legal name of student

STUDENT RECORDS (continued)

2. Date and place of birth, and method of verifying birth date

(cf. 5111 - Admission)

3. Sex of student

4. Name and address of parent/guardian of minor student

- a. Address of minor student if different from the above

- b. Annual verification of parent/guardian's name and address and student's residence

(cf. 5111.1 - District Residency)

(cf. 5111.12 - Residency Based on Parent/Guardian Employment)

(cf. 5111.13 - Residency for Homeless Children)

5. Entrance and departure date of each school year and for any summer session or other extra session

6. Subjects taken during each year, half-year, summer session or quarter, and marks or credits given

(cf. 5121 - Grades/Evaluation of Student Achievement)

7. Verification of or exemption from required immunizations

(cf. 5141.31 - Immunizations)

8. Date of high school graduation or equivalent

Mandatory interim student records, unless forwarded to another district, shall be maintained subject to destruction during the third school year following a determination that their usefulness has ceased or the student has left the district. These records include: (Education Code 48918; 5 CCR 432, 437, 16027)

1. Expulsion orders and the causes therefore

(cf. 5144.1 - Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process)

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

2. A log identifying persons or agencies who request or receive information from the student record

STUDENT RECORDS (continued)

3. Health information, including Child Health and Disability Prevention Program verification or waiver

(cf. 5141.32 - Child Health and Disability Prevention Program)

4. Information on participation in special education programs, including required tests, case studies, authorizations, and evidence of eligibility for admission or discharge

(cf. 6159 - Individualized Education Program)

(cf. 6164.4 - Identification of Individuals for Special Education)

5. Language training records

(cf. 6174 - Education for English Language Learners)

6. Progress slips/notices required by Education Code 49066 and 49067

7. Parental restrictions/stipulations regarding access to directory information

8. Parent/guardian or adult student rejoinders to challenged records and to disciplinary action

9. Parent/guardian authorization or denial of student participation in specific programs

10. Results of standardized tests administered within the past three years

(cf. 6162.51 - Standardized Testing and Reporting Program)

(cf. 6162.52 - High School Exit Examination)

Permitted student records may be destroyed six months after the student completes or withdraws from the educational program, including: (5 CCR 432, 437)

1. Objective counselor/teacher ratings
2. Standardized test results older than three years
3. Routine disciplinary data

(cf. 5144 - Discipline)

4. Verified reports of relevant behavioral patterns
5. All disciplinary notices

STUDENT RECORDS (continued)

6. Supplementary attendance records

Records shall be destroyed in a way that assures they will not be available to possible public inspection in the process of destruction. (5 CCR 437)

Persons with Access to Student Records

Persons, agencies or organizations specifically granted access rights pursuant to law shall have access without written parental consent or judicial order. In addition, parental consent is not required when information is shared with other persons within educational institutions, agencies or organizations obtaining access, as long as those persons have a legitimate educational interest in the information. (Education Code 49076)

The following persons or agencies shall have absolute access to any and all student records in accordance with law:

1. Parents/guardians of students younger than age 18 (Education Code 49069)

Access to student records and information shall not be denied to a parent because he/she is not the child's custodial parent. (Family Code 3025)

2. An adult student age 18 or older or a student under the age of 18 who attends a postsecondary institution, in which case the student alone shall exercise rights related to his/her student records and grant consent for the release of records. (34 CFR 00.5)

3. Those so authorized in compliance with a court order or lawfully issued subpoena (Education Code 49077)

In addition, the following persons or agencies shall have access to those particular records that are relevant to the *legitimate educational interests* of the requester: (Education Code 49076)

1. Parents/guardians of a dependent student age 18 or older

2. Students 16 or older or who have completed the 10th grade

3. School officials and district employees

4. Members of a school attendance review board, and any volunteer aide age 18 or older who has been investigated, selected and trained by such a board to provide follow-up services to a referred student

(cf. 5113.1 - Truancy)

STUDENT RECORDS (continued)

5. Officials and employees of other public schools or school systems where the student intends or is directed to enroll, including local, county or state correctional facilities where educational programs leading to high school graduation are provided
6. Federal, state and local officials, as needed for program audits or compliance with law
7. Any district attorney who is participating in or conducting a truancy mediation program or participating in the presentation of evidence in a truancy petition
8. A prosecuting agency for consideration against a parent/guardian for failure to comply with compulsory education laws
9. Any probation officer or district attorney for the purposes of conducting a criminal investigation or an investigation in regards to declaring a person a ward of the court or involving a violation of a condition of probation
10. Any judge or probation officer for the purpose of conducting a truancy mediation program for a student, or for purposes of presenting evidence in a truancy petition pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code 681
11. Any county placing agency for the purpose of fulfilling educational case management responsibilities required by the juvenile court or by law pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code 16010 and to assist with the school transfer or enrollment of a student

(cf. 6173.1 - Education for Foster Youth)

Foster family agencies with jurisdiction over currently enrolled or former students may access those students' records of grades and transcripts, and any individualized education program (IEP) developed and maintained by the district with respect to such students. (Education Code 49069.3)

(cf. 6159 - Individualized Education Program)

The Superintendent or designee may release a student's immunization record information to local health departments operating countywide immunization information and reminder systems and the State Department of Health Services. The following information may be released: (Health and Safety Code 120440)

1. Name of the student and the student's parent/guardian
2. Types and dates of immunizations received
3. Manufacturer and lot number of the immunization received

STUDENT RECORDS (continued)

4. Adverse reaction to the immunization
5. Other non-medical information necessary to establish the student's unique identity and record
6. Current address and telephone number of the student and his/her parent/guardian
7. Student's sex and place of birth

When authorized by law to assist law enforcement in investigations of suspected kidnapping, the Superintendent or designee shall provide information about the identity and location of the student as it relates to the transfer of that student's records to another district or private school within the state. The information shall be released only to designated peace officers, federal criminal investigators and federal law enforcement officers whose names have been submitted in writing by their law enforcement agency. (Education Code 49076.5)

The Superintendent or designee may release information from student records to the following: (Education Code 49076)

1. Appropriate persons in an emergency if the health and safety of a student or other persons are at stake
2. Accrediting associations
3. Under the conditions specified in Education Code 49076, organizations conducting studies on behalf of educational institutions or agencies for the purpose of developing, validating or administering predictive tests, administering student aid programs or improving instruction
4. Officials and employees of private schools or school systems where the student is enrolled or intends to enroll
5. Agencies or organizations in connection with a student's application for or receipt of financial aid

However, information permitting the personal identification of a student or his/her parents/guardians for these purposes may be disclosed only as may be necessary to determine the eligibility of the student for financial aid, to determine the amount of financial aid, to determine the conditions which will be imposed regarding the financial aid, or to enforce the terms or conditions of the financial aid.

6. County elections officials for the purpose of identifying students eligible to register to vote and offering such students an opportunity to register

STUDENT RECORDS (continued)

Persons, agencies or organizations not afforded access rights pursuant to law may be granted access only through written permission of the parent/guardian or adult student, or by judicial order. (Education Code 49075)

Only a parent/guardian having legal custody of the student may consent to the release of records to others. Either parent may grant consent if both parents notify the district, in writing, that such an agreement has been made. (Education Code 49061)

(cf. 5021 - Noncustodial Parents)

Any person or agency granted access is prohibited from releasing information to another person or agency without written permission from the parent/guardian or adult student. (Education Code 49076)

Procedures for Access

Student records shall be maintained in a central file at the school attended by the student or, when records are maintained in different locations, a notation shall be placed in the central file indicating where other records may be found. Parents/guardians shall be notified of the location of student records if not centrally located. (Education Code 49060; 5 CCR 433)

To inspect, review or obtain copies of student records, authorized persons shall submit a request to the custodian of records.

Authorized persons from outside the school whose access requires consent from the parent/guardian or adult student shall submit their request, together with any required authorization, to the Superintendent or designee or the custodian of records. (5 CCR 435)

Within five days following the date of request, an authorized person shall be granted access to inspect, review and obtain copies of student records during regular school hours. (Education Code 49069; 5 CCR 431)

Qualified certificated personnel shall be available to interpret records when requested. (Education Code 49069)

The custodian of records shall be responsible for the security of student records and shall assure that access is limited to authorized persons. (5 CCR 433)

The custodian of records or the Superintendent or designee shall prevent the alteration, damage or loss of records during inspection. (5 CCR 435)

STUDENT RECORDS (continued)

Prior to disclosing a record pursuant to a court order, the Superintendent or designee shall, unless otherwise instructed by the order, give the parent/guardian or adult student at least three days' notice of the name of the requesting agency and the specific record requested if lawfully possible within the requirements of the judicial order. (5 CCR 435)

When the district discloses personally identifiable information to officials of another school, school system or postsecondary institution where the student seeks or intends to enroll, the Superintendent or designee shall make a reasonable attempt to notify the parent/guardian or adult student at his/her last known address, provide a copy of the record that was disclosed, and give him/her an opportunity for a hearing to challenge the record. (34 CFR 99.34)

Upon releasing student information to a judge or probation officer for the purpose of conducting a truancy mediation program or presenting evidence in a truancy petition, the Superintendent or designee shall inform, or provide written notification to, the student's parent/guardian within 24 hours. (Education Code 49076)

If the district is planning to release a student's immunization information to the county health department or state Department of Health Services, the Superintendent or designee shall inform the student's parents/guardians of the following: (Health and Safety Code 120440)

1. The type of information that will be shared
2. The name and address of the agency with which the district will share the information
3. That any shared information shall be treated as confidential and shall be used to share only with each other and, upon request, with health care providers, child care facilities, family child care homes, service providers for the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) food program, county welfare departments, and health care plans
4. That the information may be used only to provide immunization service; to provide or facilitate third-party payer payments for immunizations; to compile and disseminate statistical information on immunization status on groups of people, without identifying the student
5. That the parent/guardian has the right to examine any immunization-related information shared in this manner and to correct any errors
6. That the parent/guardian may refuse to allow this information to be shared

STUDENT RECORDS (continued)

Duplication of Student Records

To provide copies of any student record, the district shall charge a reasonable fee not to exceed the actual cost of furnishing the copies. No charge shall be made for providing up to two transcripts or up to two verifications of various records for any former student. No charge shall be made to locate or retrieve any student record. (Education Code 49065)

The Superintendent or designee shall set a fee and update the amount periodically if actual costs change.

(cf. 3260 - Fees and Charges)

Access Log

A log shall be maintained for each student's record which lists all persons, agencies or organizations requesting or receiving information from the records and the legitimate educational interest of the requester. (Education Code 49064)

In every instance of inspection by persons who do not have assigned educational responsibility, the school custodian of records shall make an entry in the log indicating the record inspected, the name of the person granted access, the reason access was granted, and the time and circumstances of inspection. (5 CCR 435)

The log does **not** need to record access by: (Education Code 49064)

1. Parents/guardians or adult students
2. Students 16 years of age or older who have completed the 10th grade
3. Parties obtaining district-approved directory information

(cf. 5125.1 - Release of Directory Information)

4. Parties who provide written parental consent, in which case the consent notice shall be filed with the record pursuant to Education Code 49075
5. School officials or employees who have a legitimate educational interest

The log shall be accessible only to the parent/guardian, adult student, dependent adult student, student age 16 years or older or who has completed the 10th grade, custodian of records, and certain state/federal officials. (Education Code 49064; 5 CCR 432)

STUDENT RECORDS (continued)**Transfer of Student Records**

If a student transfers into this district from any other school district or a private school, the Superintendent or designee shall inform the parent/guardian of his/her rights regarding student records, including the right to review, challenge and receive a copy of student records. (Education Code 49068; 5 CCR 438)

When a student transfers into this district from another, the Superintendent or designee shall request that the student's previous district provide any records, either maintained by that district in the ordinary course of business or received from a law enforcement agency, regarding acts committed by the transferring student that resulted in his/her suspension or expulsion. (Education Code 48201)

(cf. 4158/4258/4358 - *Employee Security*)

When a student transfers from this district to another school district or to a private school, the Superintendent or designee shall forward a copy of the student's *mandatory permanent* record as requested by the other district or private school. The original record or a copy shall be retained permanently by this district. If the transfer is to another California public school, the student's entire *mandatory interim* record shall be forwarded. If the transfer is out of state or to a private school, the *mandatory interim* record may be forwarded. *Permitted* student records may be forwarded to any other district or private school. (5 CCR 438)

Upon receiving a request from a county placing agency to transfer a student in foster care out of a district school, the Superintendent or designee shall transfer the student's records to the next educational placement within two business days. (Education Code 49069.5)

All student records shall be updated before they are transferred. (5 CCR 438)

Student records shall not be withheld from the requesting district because of any charges or fees owed by the student or parent/guardian. (5 CCR 438)

If the district is withholding grades, diploma or transcripts from the student because of his/her damage or loss of school property, this information shall be sent to the requesting district along with the student's records.

(cf. 5125.2 - *Withholding Grades, Diploma or Transcripts*)

Notification of Parents/Guardians

Upon students' initial enrollment and at the beginning of each year thereafter, the Superintendent or designee shall notify parents/guardians and eligible students, in writing, of their rights related to student records. Insofar as practicable, the district shall provide these notices in the student's home language and shall effectively notify parents/guardians or eligible students who are disabled. (Education Code 49063; 34 CFR 99.7)

STUDENT RECORDS (continued)

(cf. 5145.6 - Parental Notifications)

The notice shall include information about: (Education Code 49063; 34 CFR 99.7, 99.34)

1. The types of student records kept by the district and the information contained therein
2. The titles of the officials responsible for maintaining each type of record
3. The location of the log identifying those who request information from the records
4. District criteria for defining “school officials and employees” and for determining “legitimate educational interest”
5. District policies for reviewing and expunging student records
6. The right to inspect and review student records, and the procedures for doing so
7. The right to challenge and the procedures for challenging the content of a student record that the parent/guardian or student believes to be inaccurate, misleading or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy rights

(cf. 5125.3 - Challenging Student Records)

8. The cost, if any, charged for duplicating copies of records
9. The categories of information defined as directory information pursuant to Education Code 49073
10. The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's records except when disclosure without consent is authorized by law
11. The availability of the curriculum prospectus developed pursuant to Education Code 49091.14 containing the titles, descriptions and instructional aims of every course offered by the school

(cf. 5020 - Parent Rights and Responsibilities)

12. Any other rights and requirements set forth in Education Code 49060-49078, and the right of parents/guardians to file a complaint with the United States Department of Health, Education, and Welfare concerning an alleged failure by the district to comply with 20 USC 1232g

STUDENT RECORDS (continued)

13. The notification shall also include a statement that the district forwards education records to other agencies or institutions that have requested the records and in which the student seeks or intends to enroll.

RELEASE OF DIRECTORY INFORMATION

The Board of Trustees recognizes the importance of maintaining the confidentiality of directory information and therefore authorizes the release of such information only in accordance with law and Board policy.

The Superintendent or designee may release student directory information to representatives of the news media or nonprofit organizations in accordance with Board policy and administrative regulation.

(cf. 1112 - Media Relations)

The Superintendent or designee may limit or deny the release of specific directory information to any public or private nonprofit organization based on his/her determination of the best interest of the student. (Education Code 49073)

Employers and prospective employers, including military services representatives, shall not have access to directory information. (10 USC 503)

(cf. 6164.2 - Guidance/Counseling Services)

Under no circumstances shall directory information be disclosed to a private profit-making entity other than employers, prospective employers, and representatives of the news media. Private schools and colleges may be given the names and addresses of 12th-grade students and students who are no longer enrolled provided they use this information only for purposes directly related to the institution's academic or professional goals. (Education Code 49073)

(cf. 1113 - District and School Web Sites)

Legal Reference: (see next page)

RELEASE OF DIRECTORY INFORMATION (continued)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

49061 Definitions

49063 Notification of parents of their rights

49073 Release of directory information

49073.5 Directory information; military representatives; telephone numbers

49603 Public high schools; military recruiting

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 10

503 Military recruiter access to directory information

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 20

1232g Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act

7908 Armed forces recruiter access to students and student recruiting information

CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 34

99.1-99.67 Family Educational Rights and Privacy

Management Resources:

WEB SITES

United States Department of Education: <http://www.ed.gov>

RELEASE OF DIRECTORY INFORMATION

Definition

Directory information means information contained in an education record of a student that would not generally be considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if disclosed. Such student information includes: (34 CFR 99.3; Education Code 49061)

1. Name
2. Address
3. Telephone number
4. Electronic mail address
5. Photograph
6. Date and place of birth
7. Major field of study
8. Participation in officially recognized activities and sports
9. Weight and height of athletic team members
10. Dates of attendance
11. Degrees and awards received
12. Most recent previous school attended

Notification to Parents/Guardians

At the beginning of each school year, all parents/guardians shall be notified as to the categories of directory information the school or district plans to release and the recipients of the information. The notification shall also inform parents/guardians of their right to refuse to let the district designate any or all types of information as directory information and the period of time within which a parent/guardian must notify the district in writing that he/she does not want a certain category of information designated as directory information. (Education Code 49063, 49073; 34 CFR 99.37)

(cf. 5125 - Student Records)
(cf. 5145.6 - Parental Notifications)

RELEASE OF DIRECTORY INFORMATION (continued)

The Superintendent or designee shall notify parents/guardians that they may request that the district not release the name, address and telephone number of their child to military recruiters, employers or institutions of higher education without prior written consent. (20 USC 7908)

Parent/Guardian Consent

Directory information shall not be released regarding any student whose parent/guardian notifies the district in writing that such information may not be disclosed without the parent/guardian's prior consent. (Education Code 49073; 20 USC 1232g)

Military recruiters, employers or colleges shall not have access to a student's name, address and telephone number if the parent/guardian has notified the district in writing that such information shall not be released without his/her prior written consent. (20 USC 7908)

WITHHOLDING GRADES, DIPLOMA OR TRANSCRIPTS

When school property has been willfully damaged or not returned upon demand, the principal or designee shall inform the parent/guardian in writing of the responsible student's alleged misconduct and the reparation that may be due.

This notice shall include a statement that the district may withhold grades, diploma or transcripts from the student and parent/guardian until reparation is made.

(cf. 5131.5 - Vandalism, Theft and Graffiti)
(cf. 6161.2 - Damaged or Lost Instructional Materials)

If reparation is not made, the district shall afford the student his/her due process rights in conformance with Education Code expulsion procedures and may withhold the student's grades, diploma or transcripts.

(cf. 5144.1 - Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process)

If the student and parent/guardian are unable to pay for the damages or return the property, the principal or designee shall provide a program of voluntary work for the student to do. When this voluntary work is completed, the student's grades, diploma or transcripts shall be released. (Education Code 48904)

When a student from whom the district is withholding grades, diploma or transcripts transfers to another district, this information shall be sent to the new district with the student's records and a request that these items continue to be withheld until the new district receives notification that the debt has been cleared.

The Superintendent or designee shall notify the parent/guardian in writing that this district's decision to withhold grades, diploma or transcript will be enforced by the new district. (Education Code 48904.3)

The district shall withhold grades, diploma or transcripts from any student transferring into the district whose misconduct caused a previous district to withhold them. When informed by the previous district that its decision has been rescinded, the district shall release these documents. (Education Code 48904.3)

(cf. 5125 - Student Records)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

48904 Liability of parent

48904.3 Withholding grades, diplomas, or transcripts of pupils causing property damage or injury; transfer of pupils to new school districts; notice to rescind decision to withhold

48911 Suspension by principal, designee or superintendent

49069 Absolute right to access

CHALLENGING STUDENT RECORDS

The custodial parent/guardian of any student may submit to the Superintendent or designee a written request to correct or remove from his/her child's records any information concerning the child which he/she alleges to be any of the following: (Education Code 49070)

1. Inaccurate
2. An unsubstantiated personal conclusion or inference
3. A conclusion or inference outside of the observer's area of competence
4. Not based on the personal observation of a named person with the time and place of the observation noted
5. Misleading
6. In violation of the privacy or other rights of the student

(cf. 5121 - Grades/Evaluation of Student Achievement)

(cf. 5125 - Student Records)

When a student grade is challenged, the teacher who gave the grade shall be given an opportunity to state orally, in writing, or both, the reasons for which the grade was given. Insofar as practicable, he/she shall be included in all discussions related to any grade change. In the absence of clerical or mechanical error, fraud, bad faith or incompetency, the student's grade as determined by the teacher shall be final. (Education Code 49066)

Within 30 days of receiving a request to correct or remove information from a record, the Superintendent or designee shall meet with the parent/guardian and with the employee (if still employed) who recorded the information in question. The Superintendent shall then sustain or deny the allegations. (Education Code 49070)

If the parent/guardian's allegations are sustained, the Superintendent shall order the correction or removal and destruction of the information. (Education Code 49070)

If the Superintendent denies the allegations, the parent/guardian may write within 30 days to appeal the decision to the Board of Trustees. Within 30 days of receiving the written appeal, the Board shall meet in closed session with the parent/guardian and the employee (if still employed) who recorded the information in question. The Board shall then decide whether or not to sustain or deny the allegations. If it sustains any or all of the allegations, the Superintendent shall immediately correct or remove and destroy the information from the student's records. (Education Code 49070)

CHALLENGING STUDENT RECORDS (continued)

The decision of the Board shall be final. If the decision of the Superintendent or Board is unfavorable to the parent/guardian, the parent/guardian shall have the right to submit a written statement of objections. This statement shall become a part of the student's record. (Education Code 49070)

Both the Superintendent and the Board have the option of appointing a hearing panel to assist in making the decision. The hearing panel may be used at the discretion of the Superintendent or the Board provided that the parent/guardian consents to releasing record information to panel members. (Education Code 49070, 49071)

The right to challenge a record becomes the sole right of the student when the student becomes 18 or attends a postsecondary institution. (Education Code 49061)

At the beginning of each school year, parents/guardians shall be notified of the availability of the above procedures for challenging student records. (Education Code 49063)

(cf. 1312 - Complaints Concerning the Schools)

(cf. 5145.6 - Parental Notifications)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

49061 Definitions

49063 Notification of parents of their rights

49066 Grades; change of grade; physical education grade

49070 Challenging content of records

49071 Hearing panel

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 20

1232g Family Educational and Privacy Rights Act of 1974

AWARDS FOR ACHIEVEMENT

The Board of Trustees encourages excellence as a goal for all students and wishes to publicly recognize students for unique or exemplary achievements in academic, extracurricular or community service activities. The purpose of such awards shall be consistent with school goals.

(cf. 5121 - Grades/Evaluation of Student Achievement)

(cf. 5127 - Graduation Ceremonies and Activities)

Student awards may include verbal recognition, a letter, a certificate, a Board resolution, public ceremony, trophy, gift, plaque or cash gift.

The Superintendent or designee shall develop procedures for the appropriate selection of student award recipients.

Merit Diplomas

At graduation from high school, special recognition shall be awarded to those students whose academic achievements have been outstanding.

The Superintendent or designee shall identify high school students who have demonstrated mastery of the high school curriculum qualifying them for the Golden State Seal Merit Diploma. (Education Code 51454)

Scholarship and Loan Fund

The Board may maintain a scholarship and loan fund which may be used to provide interest-free loans for educational advancement, scholarship or grants-in-aid to bona fide organizations, students or graduates of district schools. (Education Code 35315)

(cf. 1260 - Educational Foundation)

(cf. 3290 - Gifts, Grants and Bequests)

Legal Reference: (see next page)

AWARDS FOR ACHIEVEMENT (continued)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

35160 Authority of governing boards

35310-35319 Scholarship and loan funds

44015 Awards to employees and students

51450-51455 Golden State Seal Merit Diploma

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

876 Golden State Seal Merit Diploma

Management Resources:

WEB SITES

California Department of Education, Golden State Seal Merit Diploma:

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/sr/meritdiploma.asp>

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

AWARDS FOR ACHIEVEMENT

The Superintendent or designee may appoint an awards committee at each school to consider student accomplishments. This committee may consist of school administrators, teachers, parents/guardians and/or community members.

The committee shall submit recommendations for student awards to the Superintendent or designee for approval.

Individual awards in excess of \$200 must be expressly approved by the Board of Trustees. (Education Code 44015)

Merit Diplomas

To be eligible to receive the Golden State Seal Merit Diploma upon graduation, students shall complete all requirements for a high school diploma and shall demonstrate a mastery of at least six subject areas, four of which shall be mathematics, English language arts, science and United States history, with the remaining two subject areas selected by the student. (Education Code 51451)

(cf. 6143 - Courses of Study)
(cf. 6146.1 - High School Graduation Requirements)
(cf. 6162.52 - High School Exit Examination)

To demonstrate mastery of these subject areas, students shall achieve the standards or achievement levels established by the State Board of Education. (Education Code 51452; 5 CCR 876)

(cf. 6162.51 - Standardized Testing and Reporting Program)

The Superintendent or designee shall affix an insignia to the diploma and transcript of each student awarded the merit diploma. (Education Code 51454)

(cf. 5125 - Student Records)

GRADUATION CEREMONIES AND ACTIVITIES

High school graduation ceremonies shall be held to recognize those students who have earned a diploma by successfully completing the required course of study, satisfying district standards, and passing any required assessments. The Board of Trustees believes that these students deserve a public celebration that recognizes the significance of their achievement and encourages them to continue the pursuit of learning throughout their lives.

(cf. 3260 - Fees and Charges)

(cf. 6011 - Academic Standards)

(cf. 6143 - Courses of Study)

(cf. 6146.1 - High School Graduation Requirements)

(cf. 6162.52 - High School Exit Examination)

(cf. 6146.4 - Differential Graduation and Competency Standards for Students with Disabilities)

At the discretion of the Superintendent or designee, a student who will complete graduation requirements during the summer may participate in graduation exercises without receiving his/her diploma. When the requirements have been satisfied, a diploma shall be sent to the student.

High school students who have passed the California High School Proficiency Examination or the General Education Development Test must also meet district graduation requirements in order to participate in graduation ceremonies.

(cf. 6146.2 - Certificate of Proficiency/High School Equivalency)

Invocations, prayers or benedictions shall not be included in graduation ceremonies. The school or district shall not sponsor other ceremonies or programs for graduates that include prayer.

Disciplinary Considerations

In order to encourage high standards of student conduct and behavior, the principal may deny a student the privilege of participating in graduation ceremonies and/or activities in accordance with school rules. School rules shall ensure that prior to denial of the privilege(s), the student, and where practicable his/her parent/guardian, is made aware of the grounds for such denial and that the student is given an opportunity to respond to the proposed denial. If privilege(s) are to be denied, the student and parent/guardian shall receive written notice of the denied privilege and the means whereby he/she may appeal this decision.

(cf. 5125.2 - Withholding Grades, Diploma or Transcripts)

(cf. 5144 - Discipline)

(cf. 6161.2 - Damaged or Lost Instructional Materials)

GRADUATION CEREMONIES AND ACTIVITIES (continued)

Honors and Awards

To honor superior academic achievement, graduation ceremonies shall include recognition of valedictorian(s) and salutatorian(s). The Superintendent or designee shall establish procedures that ensure a fair determination of the valedictorian(s) and salutatorian(s).

(cf. 5121 - Grades/Evaluation of Student Achievement)

The Superintendent or designee shall identify other school-sponsored awards which may be given during graduation exercises. A separate awards program may be held to recognize graduating students receiving other school and nonschool awards.

(cf. 5126 - Awards for Achievement)

Foreign exchange students may receive honorary diplomas during the graduation ceremony. (Education Code 51225.5)

(cf. 6145.6 - International Exchange)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

38119 *Lease of personal property; caps and gowns*

48904 *Liability of parent or guardian; withholding of grades, diplomas, transcripts*

51225.5 *Honorary diplomas; foreign exchange students*

51400-51403 *Elementary school diploma*

51410-51412 *Diplomas*

COURT DECISIONS

Cole v. Oroville Union High School District, (2000, 9th Cir.) 228 F.3d 1092

Santa Fe Independent School District v. Doe, (2000) 530 U.S. 290

Lee v. Weisman, (1992) 112 S.Ct. 2649

Sands v. Morongo Unified School District, (1991) 53 Cal. 3d 863

Lemon v. Kurtzman, (1971) 403 U.S. 602

Management Resources:

CDE PROGRAM ADVISORIES

0615.89 *Granting credit for passing GED, SPB:88/89-11*

WEB SITES

CDE: <http://www.cde.ca.gov>

CONDUCT

The Board of Trustees believes that all students have the right to be educated in a positive learning environment free from disruptions. On school grounds and at school activities, students shall be expected to exhibit appropriate conduct that does not infringe upon the rights of others or interfere with the school program.

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

(cf. 5131.1 - Bus Conduct)

(cf. 5137 - Positive School Climate)

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 and shall receive regular instruction regarding these rules. 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. Behavior that endangers staff and/or students

(cf. 0450 - Comprehensive Safety Plan)

(cf. 5131.7 - Weapons and Dangerous Instruments)

(cf. 5136 - Gangs)

(cf. 5142 - Safety)

2. Behavior that disrupts the orderly classroom or school environment

(cf. 5131.4 - Campus Disturbances)

3. Harassment of students or staff, including bullying, intimidation, hazing, or initiation activity or any other verbal, written or physical conduct that causes or threatens to cause bodily harm or emotional suffering

(cf. 5145.3 - Nondiscrimination/Harassment)

(cf. 5145.7 - Sexual Harassment)

(cf. 5145.9 - Hate-Motivated Behavior)

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

(cf. 3515.4 - Recovery for Property Loss or Damage)

(cf. 5131.5 - Vandalism, Theft and Graffiti)

CONDUCT (continued)

5. 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.

6. Profane, vulgar or abusive language

(cf. 5145.2 - Freedom of Speech/Expression)

7. Plagiarism or dishonesty in school work or on tests

(cf. 5131.9 - Academic Honesty)

(cf. 6162.54 - Test Integrity/Test Preparation)

(cf. 6162.6 - Use of Copyrighted Materials)

(cf. 6163.4 - Student Use of Technology)

8. Inappropriate dress

(cf. 5132 - Dress and Grooming)

9. Tardiness and unexcused absence from school

(cf. 5113 - Absences and Excuses)

(cf. 5113.1 - Truancy)

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

(cf. 5112.5 - Open/Closed Campus)

Possession of Cellular Phones and Other Personal Electronic Signaling 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)

Students may possess or use personal electronic signaling devices, including but not limited to pagers, beepers and cellular/digital telephones.

Permitted devices shall:

1. Be turned off during class time and at any other time directed by a district employee
2. Not disrupt the educational program or school activity

CONDUCT (continued)

If a disruption occurs, the employee shall direct the student to turn off the device and/or confiscate it. If a school employee finds it necessary to confiscate a device, he/she may either return it at the end of the class period or school day or keep it until the principal or designee has consulted with the student's parent/guardian.

A student who violates this policy may be prohibited from possessing a personal electronic signaling device at school or school-related events.

Enforcement of Standards

Employees are expected to provide appropriate supervision to enforce standards of conduct and, if they observe or become aware 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 or transfer to alternative programs in accordance with Board policy and administrative regulation. In addition, when the conduct involves intimidation, harassment, or other endangerment of a student or employee, the Superintendent or designee shall provide appropriate assistance as necessary for the victim and the offender or make appropriate referrals for such assistance.

(cf. 1020 - Youth Services)

(cf. 1400 - Relations Between Other Governmental Agencies and the Schools)

(cf. 5020 - Parent Rights and Responsibilities)

(cf. 5138 - Conflict Resolution/Peer Mediation)

(cf. 5144 - Discipline)

(cf. 5144.1 - Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process)

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

(cf. 6020 - Parent Involvement)

(cf. 6164.2 - Guidance/Counseling Services)

(cf. 6182 - Opportunity School/Class/Program)

(cf. 6184 - Continuation Education)

(cf. 6185 - Community Day School)

Legal Reference: (see next page)

CONDUCT (continued)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

32050 Hazing

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

CIVIL CODE

1714.1 Liability of parents and guardians for willful misconduct of minor

PENAL CODE

417.25-417.27 Laser scope

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

300-307 Duties of pupils

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 42

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

Management Resources:

CSBA PUBLICATIONS

Protecting Our Schools: Board of Trustees Strategies to Combat School Violence, 1999

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PUBLICATIONS

Preventing Bullying: A Manual for Schools and Communities, 1998

WEB SITES

California Department of Education, Safe Schools and Violence Prevention Office:

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/spbranch/safety>

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

BUS CONDUCT

Bus transportation is a privilege extended only to students who display good conduct while preparing to ride, riding or leaving the bus. Continued disorderly conduct or persistent refusal to submit to the authority of the driver shall be sufficient reason for a student to be denied transportation.

The Superintendent or designee shall establish regulations related to bus conduct, bus driver authority, and the suspension of riding privileges. The Board of Trustees shall make these rules available to parents/guardians and students. (5 CCR 14103)

(cf. 3540 - Transportation)
(cf. 3541.2 - Transportation for Students with Disabilities)
(cf. 3543 - Transportation Safety and Emergencies)

Video cameras may be used on school buses to monitor student behavior while traveling to and from school and school activities. The Board believes that such monitoring will deter misconduct and help to ensure the safety of students and staff. Students found to be in violation of the district's bus conduct rules shall be subject to discipline in accordance with district policy and regulations.

(cf. 3515.4 - Recovery for Property Loss or Damage)
(cf. 5144 - Discipline)

At the discretion of the Superintendent or designee, school bus video recordings also may be used to resolve complaints by students and/or parents/guardians and to help employees maintain discipline.

Legal Reference:

- EDUCATION CODE
- 35160 Authority of governing boards
- 39800 Transportation
- 44808 Duty to supervise conduct of students
- 48918 Expulsion procedures
- 49061 Definition of student records
- 49073-49079 Privacy of student records
- GOVERNMENT CODE
- 6253-6253.4 Public records open to inspection
- 6254 Records exempt from disclosure
- CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5
- 14103 Authority of the driver
- UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 20
- 1232g Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act

BUS CONDUCT

Because school bus passengers' behavior can directly affect their safety and the safety of others, the following regulations apply at all times when students are riding a school bus, including school activity trips.

1. Riders shall follow the instructions and directions of the bus driver at all times.

(cf. 3542 - School Bus Drivers)

2. Riders should arrive at the bus stop on time and stand in a safe place to wait quietly for the bus.
3. Riders shall enter the bus in an orderly manner and go directly to their seats.
4. Riders shall remain seated while the bus is in motion and shall not obstruct the aisle with their legs, feet, or other objects. When reaching their destination, riders shall remain seated until the bus stops and only then enter the aisle and go directly to the exit.
5. Riders should be courteous to the driver and to fellow passengers.
6. Because serious safety hazards can result from noise or behavior that distracts the driver, loud talking, laughing, yelling, singing, whistling, scuffling, throwing objects, smoking, eating, drinking, standing and changing seats are prohibited actions which may lead to suspension of riding privileges.
7. No part of the body, hands, arms or head should be put out of the window. Nothing should be thrown from the bus.
8. Riders shall help keep the bus and the area around the bus stop clean. Riders shall not damage or deface the bus or tamper with bus equipment.
9. No animals shall be allowed on the bus without express permission from the principal or designee.
10. Riders should be alert for traffic when leaving the bus.

Riders who fail to comply with the above rules shall be reported to the school principal, who shall determine the severity of the misconduct and take action accordingly. In all instances of misconduct, the rider and his/her parent/guardian shall be given notice and warning. In the case of a severe violation or repeated offenses, the rider may be denied transportation for a period of time determined by the principal, up to the remainder of the school year.

Bus drivers shall not deny transportation except as directed by the principal.

BUS CONDUCT (continued)

Video Camera Surveillance

The Superintendent or designee shall supervise the use and maintenance of video cameras.

Students and staff shall not tamper or interfere with video camera equipment on school buses.

Camera supports may be installed in all buses, and cameras may be rotated among the buses and activated at the discretion of the Superintendent or designee.

The Superintendent or designee shall notify students, parents/guardians and staff that video surveillance may occur on any school bus and that video recordings may be used in student disciplinary proceedings. This notification shall include a copy of the district's policy and regulation on bus conduct. In addition, a prominent notice shall be placed in each bus, stating that the bus is equipped with a video monitoring system.

The Superintendent or designee shall routinely review videotapes taken on school buses and shall document any evidence of student misconduct. Two weeks after this review, the Superintendent or designee may erase any tapes that do not show incidents of misconduct.

Tapes retained as part of an individual student's disciplinary record shall be maintained in accordance with law and Board policy governing the access, review and release of student records. Tapes retained as part of an expulsion record are nonprivileged, disclosable public records pursuant to Education Code 48918.

(cf. 5125 - Student Records)

Videotapes may be viewed by persons other than the Superintendent or designee under the following conditions:

1. When student misconduct is revealed as a result of a school bus videotape or reported to the Superintendent or designee by a student, staff member or parent/guardian, students involved in the incident and their parents/guardians may ask the Superintendent or designee for an opportunity to view the videotape.
 - a. Requests for viewing must be made within five school days of receiving notification that misconduct occurred.
 - b. A viewing shall be provided or denied within five days of the request.
 - c. Viewing will be limited to those frames containing the incident of misconduct.

BUS CONDUCT (continued)

2. Bus drivers and school administrators may ask to view a videotape in order to observe a specific problem and work toward its solution.
3. Viewing shall occur only at a school-related site and in the presence of the Superintendent or designee.
4. All persons who view a tape shall be identified in a written log.

CAMPUS DISTURBANCES

The Board of Trustees recognizes that all school staff must be prepared to cope with campus disturbances and to minimize the risks they entail. Staff should be especially sensitive to conditions that foster racial conflict, student protests, or gang intimidation and confrontations.

The Superintendent or designee shall establish at each school a disturbance response plan for curbing disruptions which create disorder and may lead to riots, violence or vandalism at school or school-sponsored events.

The Superintendent or designee shall consult with law enforcement authorities to plan for police support during school disruptions. Each school's disturbance response plan shall address the role of law enforcement. When a disturbance directly threatens students or staff, the Superintendent or designee has the authority to call in law enforcement personnel for assistance and may dismiss school.

Students who participate in disturbances may be subject to disciplinary action.

(cf. 3515 - Campus Security)

(cf. 5136 - Gangs)

(cf. 5144 - Discipline)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

32210 *Willful disturbance of public school or meeting*

32211 *Threatened disruption or interference with classes*

32280-32288 *School safety plans*

38000-38005 *Security patrols*

44810 *Willful interference with classroom conduct*

44811 *Disruption of classwork or extracurricular activities*

48907 *Student exercise of free expression*

PENAL CODE

403-420 *Crimes against the public peace, especially:*

415 *Fighting; noise; offensive words*

415.5 *Disturbance of peace of school*

416 *Assembly to disturb peace; refusal to disperse*

626-626.10 *Crimes on school grounds*

627-627.7 *Access to school premises*

CAMPUS DISTURBANCES

All school staff shall respond to campus disturbances in accordance with the school's response plan. Response plans shall describe:

1. The means which will be used to signal an emergency situation and maintain communication among staff and with the Superintendent or designee.
2. Each staff member's specific duties during a disturbance.
3. Procedures for ensuring the safety of students and staff.
4. Conditions, as prearranged with law enforcement authorities, under which the principal or designee shall:
 - a. Inform the police
 - b. Secure police assistance
 - c. Give the police responsibility for a specific crisis situation
5. Procedures for the orderly dismissal of school when authorized by the principal or designee.

All media inquiries during crisis situations shall be routed to the Superintendent or designee.

(cf. 1112 - Media Relations)

Extension of Class Period

During any disturbance in which additional students might become involved while changing classes, the principal or designee may notify all staff that the present class period will be extended until further notice. Upon receiving this notification:

1. Teachers shall ensure that all students in their charge remain in one location under their supervision.
2. Teachers shall ask any students who are in the halls to return to their classes at once.

Prohibited Activities

1. Disturbing the Peace

It is a misdemeanor to intentionally cause or attempt to cause a riot by engaging in conduct which urges a riot or urges others to act forcefully or violently, or to burn or destroy property under circumstances which produce a clear, present, and immediate danger of such acts occurring. (Penal Code 404.6)

CAMPUS DISTURBANCES (continued)

Anyone who, in a public place, fights, challenges another to fight, or uses offensive words likely to provoke a fight is guilty of a misdemeanor. (Penal Code 415)

2. Disruption of School Operations

Students shall be subject to disciplinary action for any exercise of free expression which so incites students as to create a clear and present danger of the commission of unlawful acts on school premises or the violation of lawful school regulations, or the substantial disruption of the orderly operation of the school, such as may occur when students:

- a. Organize or participate in unauthorized assemblies on school premises.
- b. Participate in sit-ins or stand-ins which deny students or employees normal access to school premises.

3. Refusal to Disperse

Persons who assemble for the purpose of disturbing the public peace or committing any unlawful act are severally guilty of a misdemeanor if they do not disperse when desired or commanded to do so by a public officer. (Penal Code 416)

Persons who remain present at the place of any riot, rout or unlawful assembly after being lawfully warned to disperse are guilty of a misdemeanor. (Penal Code 409)

4. Boycotts

Students participating in any protest that involves nonattendance at school or at a school activity where attendance is required shall be identified as truant, regardless of any parental approval of their act.

VANDALISM, THEFT AND GRAFFITI

The Board of Trustees considers vandalism a very serious matter. Vandalism includes the negligent, willful, or unlawful damaging or theft of any district-owned real or personal property, including the writing of graffiti.

(cf. 3515.4 - Recovery for Property Loss or Damage)

Any district student who commits an act of vandalism shall be subject to disciplinary action by the district and also may be prosecuted through other legal means. If reparation of damages is not made, the district also may withhold the student's grades, diploma and/or transcripts in accordance with law.

(cf. 5125.2 - Withholding Grades, Diploma or Transcripts)

(cf. 5144.1 - Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

48900 Grounds for suspension or expulsion

48904 Willful misconduct, limit of liability of parent or guardian

48904.3 Withholding grades, diplomas, or transcripts of pupils causing property damage or injury; transfer of pupils to new school districts; notice to rescind decision to withhold

CIVIL CODE

1714.1 Liability of parent or guardian for act of willful misconduct by a minor

GOVERNMENT CODE

53069.5 Reward for information concerning person causing death, injury, or property damage; liability for reward

PENAL CODE

594 Vandalism

640.5 Graffiti; facilities or vehicles of governmental entity

640.6 Graffiti

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

305 Pupil responsible for care of property

ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS

The Board of Trustees believes that the use of alcohol or other drugs adversely affects a student's ability to achieve academic success, is physically and emotionally harmful, and has serious social and legal consequences. The Board desires to keep district schools free of alcohol and other drugs in order to help prevent violence, promote school safety and create a well-disciplined environment conducive to learning.

The Superintendent or designee shall develop, implement and evaluate a comprehensive prevention and intervention program that is coordinated with other school and community-based services and programs. The district's program shall be scientifically based and designed to prevent or reduce alcohol or other drug use and the possession and distribution of illegal drugs. It shall include primary prevention activities such as decision-making skills and conflict management, instruction, referral to a rehabilitation program, enforcement/discipline, activities that promote the involvement of parents/guardians and coordination with appropriate community agencies and organizations.

(cf. 0450 - Comprehensive Safety Plan)

(cf. 1020 - Youth Services)

(cf. 4020 - Drug and Alcohol-Free Workplace)

(cf. 5138 - Conflict Resolution/Peer Mediation)

(cf. 6020 - Parent Involvement)

The Board and Superintendent shall agree upon performance measures that will be used to monitor and determine the effectiveness of the district's program in reducing drug and alcohol use. The Superintendent or designee shall develop and implement an evaluation process that includes ongoing assessment and analysis of objective data regarding the incidence of drug and alcohol use among district students, including discipline problems, and the prevalence of risk factors.

The Superintendent or designee shall consult with principals, teachers, other school personnel, students and parents/guardians when developing the district's program.

The Superintendent or designee shall clearly communicate to all students, staff and parents/guardians the district's policies, regulations and school rules related to the use of alcohol and other drugs on school campuses or at school activities. Information about program needs and goals shall be widely distributed in the community.

(cf. 5131.61 - Drug Testing)

(cf. 5131.62 - Tobacco)

(cf. 5131.63 - Anabolic Steroids)

Staff should encourage students to participate as responsible partners in efforts to maintain a safe, constructive school climate.

(cf. 5137 - Positive School Climate)

ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS (continued)

The Board encourages the establishment of site-level advisory groups to assist in promoting alcohol- and drug-free schools.

(cf. 1220 - Citizen Advisory Committees)

The district's drug education program shall augment county drug education services, if any. District staff shall take every opportunity to cooperate with county and county office of education staff in planning and implementing collaborative alcohol and drug prevention programs.

(cf. 1020 - Youth Services)

(cf. 1400 - Relations Between Other Governmental Agencies and the Schools)

Instruction

The district shall provide science-based preventative instruction which has been proven effective in helping students avoid the use of alcohol and other drugs.

(cf. 6142.1 - Sexual Health and HIV/AIDS Prevention Instruction)

(cf. 6142.8 - Comprehensive Health Education)

(cf. 6143 - Courses of Study)

All instruction and related materials shall consistently state that unlawful use of alcohol or other drugs is wrong and harmful. Instruction shall not include the concept of responsible use of drugs or alcohol when such use is illegal. (20 USC 7114, 7162; Health and Safety Code 11999.2)

The district shall offer staff development activities for staff who implement the comprehensive drug and alcohol prevention and intervention program.

(cf. 4131 - Staff Development)

Intervention, Referral and Student Assistance Programs

School staff, students and parents/guardians shall be informed about early warning signs which may indicate alcohol and other drug use and about appropriate agencies offering intervention programs, counseling, referral and other student assistance programs.

The Board strongly encourages any student who is using alcohol or drugs to discuss the matter with his/her parent/guardian or with any staff member. Students who disclose their use of alcohol or other drugs when seeking help from an intervention or recovery program shall not be disciplined for such use.

ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS (continued)

Enforcement/Discipline

The Superintendent or designee shall take appropriate action to eliminate possession, use or sale of alcohol and other drugs and related paraphernalia on school grounds or at school-sponsored activities.

(cf. 5131 - Conduct)

(cf. 5145.11 - Questioning and Apprehension)

(cf. 5145.12 - Search and Seizure)

Students possessing, using or selling alcohol or other drugs or related paraphernalia shall be subject to disciplinary procedures including suspension or expulsion and/or referral to law enforcement in accordance with law, Board policy and administrative regulation. In addition, such students may be referred to an appropriate counseling program, transferred to an alternative placement, and/or be restricted from extracurricular activities, including athletics.

(cf. 5144 - Discipline)

(cf. 5144.1 - Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process)

(cf. 6145 - Extracurricular and Cocurricular Activities)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

44049 *Known or suspected alcohol or drug abuse by student*

44645 *In-service training anabolic steroids*

48900 *Suspension or expulsion (grounds)*

48900.5 *Suspension, limitation on imposition; exception*

48901 *Smoking or use of tobacco prohibited*

48901.5 *Prohibition of electronic signaling devices*

48902 *Notification of law enforcement authorities; civil or criminal immunity*

48909 *Narcotics or other hallucinogenic drugs*

48915 *Expulsion; particular circumstances*

49602 *Confidentiality of pupil information*

51202 *Instruction in personal and public health and safety*

51203 *Instruction on alcohol, narcotics and restricted dangerous drugs*

51210 *Areas of study*

51220 *Areas of study, grades 7 to 12*

51260-51269 *Drug education*

60041 *Instructional materials*

60110-60115 *Instructional materials on alcohol and drug education*

BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONS CODE

25608 *Alcohol on school property; use in connection with instruction*

HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE

11032 *Narcotics, restricted dangerous drugs and marijuana*

11053-11058 *Standards and schedules*

11353.6 *Juvenile Drug Trafficking and Schoolyard Act*

Legal Reference: (see next page)

ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS (continued)

Legal Reference continued:

HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE (continued)

11357 Unauthorized possession of marijuana; possession in school or on school grounds

11361.5 Destruction of arrest or conviction records

11372.7 Drug program fund; uses

11802 Joint school-community alcohol abuse primary education and prevention program

11998-11998.3 Drug and Alcohol Abuse Master Plans

11999-11999.3 Alcohol and drug program funding; no unlawful use

124175-124200 Adolescent family life program (Department of Health Services)

PENAL CODE

13860-13864 Suppression of drug abuse in schools

VEHICLE CODE

13202.5 Drug and alcohol related offenses by person under age of 21, but aged 13 or over;

WELFARE AND INSTITUTIONS CODE

828 Disclosure of information re minors

828.1 Disclosure of criminal records; protection of vulnerable staff & students

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 20

5812 National education goals

7101-7184 Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act

Management Resources:

WEB SITES

California Department of Education, Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Prevention:

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/he/at>

California Healthy Kids: <http://www.californiahealthykids.org>

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

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

ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS

Instruction

The curriculum of all elementary and secondary schools shall include instruction on the effects upon the human body, as determined by science, of tobacco, alcohol, narcotics, dangerous drugs as defined in Health and Safety Code 11032, and other dangerous substances. Instruction shall be sequential in nature and suited to meet the needs of students at their respective grade level. (Education Code 51203, 51260)

(cf. 5131.62 - Tobacco)

In grades 1-6, instruction in drug education should be given in health courses required by Education Code 51210. (Education Code 51260)

In grades 7-12, instruction in drug education shall be conducted in health courses and in any other appropriate area of study required by Education Code 51220. (Education Code 51260)

(cf. 6142.8 - Comprehensive Health Education)

Secondary school instruction shall also include a study of the effects of alcohol and other drugs upon prenatal development. (Education Code 51203)

(cf. 6143 - Courses of Study)

Instruction shall be provided by appropriately trained instructors who have demonstrated competencies, as determined by the principal or designee, in the following areas: (Education Code 51260)

1. The ability to interact with students in a positive way
2. Knowledge of the properties and effects of tobacco, alcohol, narcotics, dangerous drugs, and shared drug apparatus
3. Effective teaching skills and competency in helping students to express opinions responsibly and to become aware of their values as they affect drug-use decisions

Intervention

District staff shall intervene whenever students use alcohol or other illegal drugs while on school property or under school jurisdiction. Staff members who have a reasonable suspicion that a student may be under the influence of alcohol or drugs shall immediately notify the principal or designee.

If the principal or designee, in his/her professional capacity or in the course of his/her employment, knows, observes or suspects that a student may be under the influence of alcohol or drugs, he/she may notify the parent/guardian. (Education Code 44049)

ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS (continued)

School staff shall not disclose confidential information provided during counseling by a student 12 years of age or older. A school counselor may report such information to the principal or parent/guardian only when he/she believes that disclosure is necessary to avert a clear and present danger to the health, safety or welfare of the student or other persons living in the school community. The school counselor shall not disclose such information to the parent/guardian if he/she believes that the disclosure would result in a clear and present danger to the student's health, safety or welfare. (Education Code 44049, 49602)

(cf. 5022 - Student and Family Privacy Rights)

(cf. 5141 - Health Care and Emergencies)

(cf. 6164.2 - Guidance/Counseling Services)

DRUG TESTING

The Board of Trustees is committed to maximizing the health and safety of district students and recognizes the district's role in helping to protect students from the dangers associated with illegal drug use and drug abuse. To support the district's substance abuse prevention efforts, the Board may establish a drug testing program in the district's high schools that will provide a deterrent from drug use and help refer drug users to appropriate counseling and rehabilitative services.

(cf. 5131.6 - Alcohol and Other Drugs)

(cf. 5131.63 - Anabolic Steroids)

The Superintendent or designee may establish and maintain a voluntary drug testing program. Participation in this program shall require the written consent of the student and his/her parents/guardians.

The Superintendent or designee may establish a nonvoluntary, random drug testing program for all students participating in athletics and extracurricular activities.

(cf. 3260 - Fees and Charges)

(cf. 6145 - Extracurricular and Cocurricular Activities)

(cf. 6145.2 - Athletic Competition)

Prior to implementing the drug testing program, the Superintendent or designee shall invite input from students, staff, parents/guardians, community leaders, and representatives of local healthcare agencies, community service agencies and businesses. The district's program shall be developed in consultation with drug treatment and prevention professionals, the laboratory contracted to conduct the tests, and district legal counsel.

The Superintendent or designee shall develop:

1. A drug testing consent form to be signed by the student and his/her parent/guardian prior to allowing the student to participate in any athletic or extracurricular activity listed above

The consent form shall indicate any prescription medication the student has been or is presently taking. The student shall present either a copy of the prescription or a physician's written verification of this fact with the consent form.

2. Procedures addressing how students will be selected, how often tests will be conducted, how samples will be collected and transported, and how results will be confirmed

Drug testing procedures shall ensure appropriate individual privacy while maintaining the viability of the process. If urinalysis testing is used, the supervisor collecting the specimen shall be the same gender as the student and the specimen shall be collected in a private facility behind a closed stall.

DRUG TESTING (continued)

Parents/guardians shall be notified after any positive test results are confirmed. Test results shall be kept separate from the student's other educational records and shall be disclosed only to school staff designated by the Superintendent or designee as responsible for program implementation. The district shall not release test results to law enforcement authorities.

(cf. 5125 - Student Records)

No disciplinary or punitive action shall be taken against any student who tests positive, other than removing him/her from participation in extracurricular activities. Students who test positive shall be encouraged to participate in an assistance program and may be required to take subsequent drug tests. A student who has been removed from participation in extracurricular activities may appeal that decision to the Superintendent or designee and then to the Board.

Students and parents/guardians shall receive a copy of the district's policy and procedures on drug testing. In addition, at the beginning of the school year and prior to the commencement of the drug testing program, the Superintendent or designee shall conduct an orientation session with students participating in athletics and extracurricular activities and their parents/guardians. This session shall explain the district's policy and outline the procedures for drug testing and the consequences if a positive result is obtained.

The Superintendent or designee shall provide training to principals, coaches and staff advisors regarding the district's drug testing program.

Legal Reference: (see next page)

DRUG TESTING (continued)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

44049 *Known or suspected alcohol or controlled substance abuse by student*

51262 *Use of anabolic steroids; legislative finding and declaration*

CALIFORNIA CONSTITUTION

Article 9, Section 5 *Common school system*

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

350 *Fees not permitted*

COURT DECISIONS

Board of Education of Independent School District No. 92 of Pottawatomie County v. Earls, (2002) 122 S.Ct. 2559

Vernonia School District v. Acton, (1995) 115 S.Ct. 2385

Hartzell v. Connell, (1984) 35 Cal. 3d 899

Management Resources:

OFFICE OF NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL POLICY PUBLICATIONS

What You Need To Know About Drug Testing in Schools, August 2002

WEB SITES

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

Office of National Drug Control Policy: <http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov>

National Institute on Drug Abuse: <http://www.nida.nih.gov>

Partnership for a Drug-Free America: <http://www.drugfreeamerica.org>

U.S. Department of Education: <http://www.ed.gov>

Students

BP 5131.62(a)

TOBACCO

The Board of Trustees recognizes that tobacco use presents serious health risks and desires to provide support and assistance in the prevention and intervention of tobacco use among youth.

(cf. 5131.6 - Alcohol and Other Drugs)

Students shall not smoke or use tobacco, or any product containing tobacco or nicotine, while on campus, while attending school-sponsored activities, or while under the supervision and control of district employees. (Education Code 48901)

(cf. 3513.3 - Tobacco-Free Schools)

(cf. 5144 - Discipline)

(cf. 5144.1 - Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process)

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

The district's comprehensive prevention/intervention program shall be based on an ongoing assessment of objective data regarding tobacco use in the schools and community and on research identifying strategies that have proven effective in preventing or reducing tobacco use among youth. The program shall be designed to meet a set of measurable goals and objectives and shall be periodically evaluated to assess progress.

(cf. 0500 - Accountability)

The district shall provide developmentally appropriate tobacco use prevention instruction for students in grades kindergarten through 12.

(cf. 6142.8 - Comprehensive Health Education)

(cf. 6143 - Courses of Study)

The Superintendent or designee also may provide students with counseling and other support services to assist in the prevention or reduction of tobacco use.

(cf. 6164.2 - Guidance/Counseling Services)

Because of the additional health risks of tobacco use for prenatal development, the district shall provide outreach, motivational and other support services to prevent or reduce tobacco use among pregnant and parenting minors.

(cf. 5146 - Married/Pregnant/Parenting Students)

Information about smoking cessation programs shall be made available and encouraged for students and staff. (Health and Safety Code 104420)

(cf. 4159/4259/4359 - Employee Assistance Programs)

TOBACCO (continued)

The Superintendent or designee shall coordinate prevention and cessation efforts with the local health department, other local agencies and community organizations and shall involve students, parents/guardians, families and the community in support of school-based programs.

(cf. 1020 - Youth Services)

(cf. 1400 - Relations Between Other Governmental Agencies and the Schools)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

48900 Suspension or expulsion (grounds)

48900.5 Suspension, limitation on imposition; exception

48901 Smoking or use of tobacco prohibited

51202 Instruction in personal and public health and safety

HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE

104350-104495 Tobacco use prevention education

PENAL CODE

308 Minimum age for tobacco possession

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 20

7111-7117 Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act

Management Resources:

CDE PUBLICATIONS

Getting Results: Developing Safe and Healthy Kids, 1998-99

CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL PUBLICATIONS

Guidelines Related to School Health Programs to Prevent Tobacco Use and Addiction, 1994

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE BOARDS OF EDUCATION PUBLICATIONS

Fit, Healthy, and Ready to Learn: A School Health Policy Guide, 2000

WEB SITES

CDE: <http://www.cde.ca.gov>

California Department of Health Services: <http://www.dhs.ca.gov>

U.S. Department of Education: <http://www.ed.gov>

U.S. Surgeon General: <http://www.surgeongeneral.gov>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: <http://www.cdc.gov>

National Association of State Boards of Education: <http://www.nasbe.org>

TOBACCO

Tobacco Use Prevention Education

Instruction for students in grades 4 through 8 shall address the following topics: (Health and Safety Code 104420)

1. Immediate and long-term undesirable physiologic, cosmetic and social consequences of tobacco use
2. Reasons that adolescents say they smoke or use tobacco
3. Peer norms and social influences that promote tobacco use
4. Refusal skills for resisting social influences that promote tobacco use

The district's program for grades 9 through 12 shall:

1. Target current smokers and students who are most at risk for beginning to use tobacco, including young women, low-achieving students, students from families whose members include tobacco users, and students who associate with peers who use tobacco
2. Offer or refer students to precessation readiness classes or cessation classes for current smokers
3. Utilize existing antismoking resources

(cf. 6142.8 - Comprehensive Health Education)

(cf. 6143 - Courses of Study)

ANABOLIC STEROIDS

The Board of Trustees recognizes that the use of anabolic steroids presents a serious health and safety hazard. As part of the district's drug prevention and intervention efforts, the Superintendent or designee and staff shall make every effort to ensure that students do not begin or continue the use of anabolic steroids.

(cf. 5131.6 - Alcohol and Other Drugs)
(cf. 5131.61 - Drug Testing)

Students participating in athletics are prohibited from using anabolic steroids or any other performance-enhancing drugs. Coaches shall inform students about this prohibition and the dangers of using such drugs.

(cf. 6145.2 - Athletic Competition)

The Superintendent or designee shall provide teachers and coaching staff with training in the symptoms and dangers of the use of performance-enhancing substances and strategies for helping students terminate the use of such substances.

(cf. 4131 - Staff Development)
(cf. 4231 - Staff Development)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

51262 Use of anabolic steroids; legislative finding and declaration

CIVIL CODE

1812.97 Warning statement; posting in athletic facilities

ANABOLIC STEROIDS

The following warning, shall be posted in every locker room of schools with classes in grades 7-12 and contained in any contracts for the lease or rental of the school's athletic facilities: (Civil Code 1812.97)

Warning: Use of steroids to increase strength or growth can cause serious health problems. Steroids can keep teenagers from growing to their full height; they can also cause heart disease, stroke, and damaged liver function. Men and women using steroids may develop fertility problems, personality changes, and acne. Men can also experience premature balding and development of breast tissue. These health hazards are in addition to the civil and criminal penalties for unauthorized sale, use, or exchange of anabolic steroids.

WEAPONS AND DANGEROUS INSTRUMENTS

The Board of Trustees desires students and staff to be free from the danger presented by firearms and other weapons.

(cf. 3515.3 - District Police/Security Department)

Possession of Weapons

The Board prohibits any person other than authorized law enforcement or security personnel from possessing weapons, imitation firearms, or dangerous instruments of any kind in school buildings, on school grounds or buses, or at a school-related or school-sponsored activity away from school, or while going to or coming from school.

Upon express written permission of the principal or designee, a student may possess a firearm on school grounds when necessary for a school-sponsored activity or class as part of the educational program. A student's parent/guardian shall give written permission for such possession. However, a student granted permission to possess a firearm may be suspended and/or expelled if he/she uses the weapon inappropriately.

The principal and/or a staff member with knowledge of firearm safety shall inspect the weapon to ensure that necessary safety precautions have been taken, including inspection to ensure that no live ammunition is present. The firearm shall be stored in a locked vehicle and in an appropriate, locked container before and after the educational activity.

Students possessing without permission or threatening others with a weapon, dangerous instrument or imitation firearm are subject to suspension and/or expulsion in accordance with law, Board policy and administrative regulations.

(cf. 5144.1 - Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process)

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

Under the power granted to the Board to maintain order and discipline in the schools and to protect the safety of students, staff and the public, any school employee is authorized to confiscate a weapon, dangerous instrument or imitation firearm from any person on school grounds.

(cf. 0450 - Comprehensive Safety Plan)

(cf. 4158/4258/4358 - Employee Security)

The principal or designee shall notify law enforcement authorities when any student possesses a weapon without permission or commits any act of assault with a firearm or other weapon. (20 USC 7151; Education Code 48902; Penal Code 245, 626.9, 626.10)

WEAPONS AND DANGEROUS INSTRUMENTS (continued)

Possession of Pepper Spray

To prevent potential misuse that may harm students or staff, students are prohibited from carrying tear gas or tear gas weapons such as pepper spray on campus or at school activities.

Reporting of Dangerous Objects

The Board encourages students to promptly report the presence of weapons, injurious objects or other suspicious activity to school authorities. The identity of a student who reports such activity shall remain confidential to the extent permitted by law.

(cf. 5125 - Student Records)

The Superintendent or designee shall develop strategies designed to facilitate student reporting of the presence of injurious objects on school grounds, such as tip hotlines, electronic transmissions, or other methods that preserve the student's anonymity. Incident reports and records shall not identify the student who reported the possession. The strategy shall also provide a method of informing staff, students and parents/guardians that students who report the presence of injurious objects on school campuses are to be protected and their identity shielded.

(cf. 5138 - Conflict Resolution/Peer Mediation)

Legal Reference: (see next page)

WEAPONS AND DANGEROUS INSTRUMENTS (continued)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

35291 *Governing board to prescribe rules for discipline of the schools*

48900 *Grounds for suspension/expulsion*

48902 *Notification of law enforcement authorities*

48915 *Required recommendation for expulsions*

48916 *Readmission*

49330-49335 *Injurious objects*

PENAL CODE

245 *Assault with deadly weapon*

417.4 *Imitation firearm; drawing or exhibiting*

626.9 *Gun-Free School Zone Act of 1995*

626.10 *Dirks, daggers, knives, razor or stun gun; bringing or possessing in school or on school grounds; exception*

653k *Soliciting a minor to commit certain felonies*

12001 *Control of deadly weapons*

12020-12036 *Unlawful carrying and possession of concealed weapons*

12220 *Unauthorized possession of a machinegun*

12401 *Tear gas*

12402 *Tear gas weapon*

12403.7 *Weapons approved for self defense*

12403.8 *Minors 16 or over; tear gas and tear gas weapons*

12555 *Imitation firearms*

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 20

6301-7941 *No Child Left Behind Act; especially:*

7151 *Gun-Free Schools Act*

Management Resources:

CDE COMMUNICATIONS

0401.01 *Protecting Student Identification in Reporting Injurious Objects*

CSBA PUBLICATIONS

911: A Manual for Schools and the Media During a Campus Crisis, 2001

Protecting Our Schools: Board of Trustees Strategies to Combat School Violence, 1999

WEB SITES

California Attorney General's Crime and Violence Prevention Center: <http://www.safestate.org>

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

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

National Alliance for Safe Schools: <http://www.safeschools.org>

National School Safety Center: <http://www.nssc1.org>

U.S. Department of Education, Safe Schools: <http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/opers/osep/gtss.html>

WEAPONS AND DANGEROUS INSTRUMENTS

Weapons and dangerous instruments include, but are not limited to:

1. Firearms: pistols, revolvers, shotguns, rifles, "zip guns," "stun guns," tasers, and any other device capable of propelling a projectile by the force of an explosion or other form of combustion
2. Knives: any dirks, daggers or other weapons with a fixed, sharpened blade fitted primarily for stabbing, weapons with a blade fitted primarily for stabbing, weapons with a blade longer than 3-1/2 inches, folding knives with a blade that locks into place, and razors with an unguarded blade (Education Code 48915)
3. Explosive and/or incendiary devices: pipe bombs, time bombs, cap guns, containers of inflammable fluids, and other hazardous devices
4. Any instrument that expels a metallic projectile, such as a BB or a pellet, through the force of air pressure, carbon dioxide pressure or spring action, or any spot marker gun (Penal Code 626.10)
5. Any other dangerous device, instrument or weapon, especially those defined in Penal Code 12020, including a blackjack, slingshot, billy, nunchaku, sandclub, sandbag, metal knuckles, or any metal plate with three or more radiating points with one or more sharp edges designed for use as a weapon
6. Any imitation firearm, defined as a replica of a firearm that is so substantially similar in physical properties to an existing firearm as to lead a reasonable person to conclude that the replica is a firearm (Education Code 48900)

If an employee knows that a student possesses any of the above devices, he/she shall use his/her own judgment as to the dangerousness of the situation and, based upon this analysis, shall do one of the following:

1. Confiscate the object and deliver it to the principal immediately
2. Immediately notify the principal, who shall take appropriate action
3. Immediately notify the local law enforcement agency and the principal

(cf. 4158/4258/4358 - Employee Security)

When informing the principal about the possession or seizure of a weapon or dangerous device, the employee shall report the name(s) of persons involved, witnesses, location, and the circumstances of any seizure.

WEAPONS AND DANGEROUS INSTRUMENTS (continued)

The principal shall report any possession of a weapon or dangerous instrument, including imitation firearm, to the student's parents/guardians by telephone or in person, and shall follow this notification with a letter.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

The Board of Trustees believes that academic honesty and personal integrity are fundamental components of a student's education and character development. The Board expects that students will not cheat, lie, plagiarize or commit other acts of academic dishonesty.

(cf. 5131 - Conduct)
(cf. 6162.6 - Use of Copyrighted Materials)

Students, parents/guardians, staff and administrators shall be responsible for creating and maintaining a positive school climate that encourages honesty. Students found to have committed an act of academic dishonesty shall be subject to district and school-site discipline rules.

(cf. 5137 - Positive School Climate)
(cf. 5144 - Discipline)

The Superintendent or designee may establish a committee comprised of students, parents/guardians, staff, administrators and members of the public to develop standards of academic honesty, measures of preventing dishonesty, and specific consequences for acts of dishonesty. Any recommendations for discipline shall be incorporated into the school's site level discipline rules.

(cf. 1220 - Citizen Advisory Committee)

Legal Reference:
EDUCATION CODE
35291-35291.5 Rules

DRESS AND GROOMING

The Board of Trustees believes that appropriate dress and grooming contribute to a productive learning environment. The Board expects students to give proper attention to personal cleanliness and to wear clothes that are suitable for the school activities in which they participate. Students' clothing must not present a health or safety hazard or a distraction which would interfere with the educational process.

(cf. 4119.22 - Dress and Grooming)

(cf. 5145.2 - Freedom of Speech/Expression)

Students, parents and guardians shall be notified of any change in dress or grooming standards in the school year prior to the changes taking effect in order to provide advanced notice as required under AR 5020(c) 14. A student who violates these standards shall be subjected to appropriate disciplinary action.

(cf. 5144 - Discipline)

Gang-Related Apparel

The principal, staff and parents/guardians at a school may establish a reasonable dress code that prohibits students from wearing gang-related apparel when there is evidence of a gang presence that disrupts or threatens to disrupt the school's activities. Such a dress code may be included as part of the school safety plan and must be presented to the Board for approval. The Board shall approve the plan upon determining that it is necessary to protect the health and safety of the school's students.

(cf. 0450 - Comprehensive Safety Plan)

(cf. 5136 - Gangs)

Uniforms

In order to promote student safety and discourage theft, peer rivalry and/or gang activity, the principal, staff and parents/guardians at a school may establish a reasonable dress code requiring students to wear uniforms. Such a dress code may be included as part of the school safety plan and must be presented to the Board for approval. The Board shall approve the plan upon determining that it is necessary to protect the health and safety of the school's students.

If a school's plan to require uniforms is adopted, the Superintendent or designee shall establish procedures whereby parents/guardians may choose to have their children exempted from the school uniform policy. Students shall not be penalized academically, otherwise discriminated against or denied attendance to school if their parents/guardians so decide. (Education Code 35183)

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that resources are identified to assist economically disadvantaged students in obtaining uniforms.

Legal Reference: (see next page)

DRESS AND GROOMING (continued)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

32281 School safety plans

35183 School dress codes; uniforms

35183.5 Sun-protective clothing

48907 Student exercise of free expression

49066 Grades; effect of physical education class apparel

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

302 Pupils to be neat and clean on entering school

COURT DECISIONS

Marvin H. Jeglin et al v. San Jacinto Unified School District et al. (C.D. Cal. 1993)

827 F.Supp. 1459

Arcadia Unified School District v. California Department of Education, (1992) 2 Cal. 4th 251

Hartzell v. Connell, (1984) 35 Cal. 3d 899

DRESS AND GROOMING

In cooperation with teachers, students and parents/guardians, the principal or designee shall establish school rules governing student dress and grooming which are consistent with law, Board of Trustees policy and administrative regulations. These school dress codes shall be regularly reviewed.

(cf. 0420 - School Plans/Site Councils)

Each school shall allow students to wear sun-protective clothing, including but not limited to hats, for outdoor use during the school day. (Education Code 35183.5)

In addition, the following guidelines shall apply to all regular school activities:

1. Shoes must be worn at all times. Sandals must have heel straps. Thongs or backless shoes or sandals are not acceptable.
2. Clothing, jewelry and personal items (backpacks, fanny packs, gym bags, water bottles etc.) shall be free of writing, pictures or any other insignia which are crude, vulgar, profane or sexually suggestive, which bear drug, alcohol or tobacco company advertising, promotions and likenesses, or which advocate racial, ethnic or religious prejudice.
3. Hats, caps and other head coverings shall not be worn indoors.
4. Clothes shall be sufficient to conceal undergarments at all times. See-through or fish-net fabrics, halter tops, off-the-shoulder or low-cut tops, bare midriffs and skirts or shorts shorter than mid-thigh are prohibited.
5. Gym shorts may not be worn in classes other than physical education.
6. Hair shall be clean and neatly groomed. Hair may not be an unnatural color.

Coaches and teachers may impose more stringent dress requirements to accommodate the special needs of certain sports and/or classes.

(cf. 3260 - Fees and Charges)

No grade of a student participating in a physical education class shall be adversely affected if the student does not wear standardized physical education apparel because of circumstances beyond the student's control. (Education Code 49066)

(cf. 5121 - Grades/Evaluation of Student Achievement)

The principal, staff, students and parent/guardians at each school may establish reasonable dress and grooming regulations for times when students are engaged in extracurricular or other special school activities.

DRESS AND GROOMING (continued)

Gang-Related Apparel

At individual schools that have a dress code prohibiting gang-related apparel at school or school activities, the principal, staff and parents/guardians participating in the development of the school safety plan shall define "gang-related apparel" and shall limit this definition to apparel that reasonably could be determined to threaten the health and safety of the school environment if it were worn or displayed on a school campus. (Education Code 32282)

Because gang-related symbols are constantly changing, definitions of gang-related apparel shall be reviewed at least once each semester and updated whenever related information is received.

GIFTS TO SCHOOL PERSONNEL

The Board of Trustees recognizes that students and parents/guardians may wish to express feelings of appreciation through personal gifts. District staff accepting gifts from students or parents/guardians should be sensitive to the feelings of other students and use discretion if gifts are opened in front of others.

(cf. 3452 - Student Activity Funds)

GANGS

The Board of Trustees desires to keep district schools free from the threats or harmful influence of any groups or gangs which exhibit drug use, violence or disruptive behavior. The Superintendent or designee shall take steps to deter gang intimidation of students and staff and confrontations between members of different gangs. He/she shall exchange information and establish mutually supportive efforts with local law enforcement authorities.

(cf. 5131.4 - Campus Disturbances)
(cf. 5131.7 - Weapons and Dangerous Instruments)

The Superintendent or designee shall provide inservice training which helps staff to identify gangs and gang symbols, recognize early manifestations of disruptive activities, and respond appropriately to gang behavior. Staff shall be informed about conflict management techniques and alerted to intervention measures and community resources.

The Board realizes that students become involved in gangs for many reasons, such as peer pressure, the need for a sense of belonging, and lack of refusal skills. Age-appropriate gang violence prevention education shall start with students in the early elementary grades and may start in kindergarten.

To further discourage the influence of gangs, the Superintendent or designee shall ensure that school rules of conduct and any school dress code prohibiting gang-related apparel are enforced consistently. If a student exhibits signs of gang affiliation, staff shall so inform the parent/guardian.

(cf. 0450 - Comprehensive Safety Plan)
(cf. 5132 - Dress and Grooming)
(cf. 6164.2 - Guidance/Counseling Services)

Legal Reference: (see next page)

GANGS (continued)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

32282 *School safety plans*

35183 *Gang-related apparel*

48907 *Student exercise of free expression*

51264 *Educational inservice training; CDE guidelines*

51265 *Gang violence and drug and alcohol abuse prevention inservice training*

51266-51266.5 *Model gang and substance abuse prevention curriculum*

58730-58736 *Gang Risk Intervention Programs*

PENAL CODE

186.22 *Participation in criminal street gang*

13826-13826.7 *Gang violence suppression*

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 20

7101-7184 *Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act*

Management Resources:

CDE PUBLICATIONS

On Alert: Gang Prevention in School and Inservice Guidelines, January 1994

CSBA PUBLICATIONS

Protecting Our Schools: Board of Trustees Strategies to Combat School Violence, 1995

GANGS

Prevention and Intervention Measures

In order to discourage the influence of gangs, school staff shall take the following measures:

1. Any student displaying behavior, gestures, apparel or paraphernalia indicative of gang affiliation shall be referred to the principal or designee.
 - a. The student's parent/guardian shall be contacted and may be asked to meet with school staff.
 - b. The student may be sent home to change clothes if necessary.

(cf. 5132 - Dress and Grooming)

2. Staff members shall be provided with the names of known gang members.
3. Students who seek help in rejecting gang associations may be referred to community-based gang suppression and prevention organizations.

(cf. 1020 - Youth Services)

4. Any gang graffiti on school premises shall be removed, washed down or painted over as soon as discovered.
 - a. Daily checks for graffiti shall be made throughout the campus.
 - b. Graffiti shall be photographed before it is removed. These photographs shall be shared with local law enforcement authorities and used in future disciplinary or criminal action against the offenders.

(cf. 3515 - Campus Security)

(cf. 5131.5 - Vandalism, Theft and Graffiti)

5. Classroom and after-school programs at each school shall be designed to enhance individual self-esteem, provide positive reinforcement for acceptable behavior, and foster interest in a variety of constructive activities. These programs shall also:
 - a. Explain the dangers of gang membership
 - b. Provide counseling for targeted at-risk students
 - c. Include lessons or role-playing workshops in gang avoidance skills and nonviolent conflict resolution, including communication skills, anger management, ethnic/cultural tolerance, and mediation skills

GANGS (continued)

- d. Assign individual gang members to cooperative learning groups in which they may work toward common goals with students who are not members of their gang
- e. Provide school-to-career instruction

(cf. 6030 - Integrated Academic and Vocational Instruction)

- f. Provide positive interaction with local law enforcement staff

(cf. 5137 - Positive School Climate)

Gang prevention lessons may be taught jointly by teachers and law enforcement staff.

- 6. Staff shall actively promote membership in authorized student organizations which can provide students companionship, safety, and a sense of purpose and belonging, including:
 - a. Positive sports and cultural activities and affiliations with the local community

(cf. 6145 - Extracurricular and Cocurricular Activities)
(cf. 6145.2 - Athletic Competition)

- b. Structured, goal-oriented community service projects

(cf. 6142.4 - Learning through Community Service)

Community Outreach

Gang prevention classes or counseling offered for parents/guardians shall address the following topics:

- 1. The dangers of gang membership
- 2. Warning signs which may indicate that children are at risk of becoming involved with gangs
- 3. The nature of local gang apparel and graffiti
- 4. Effective parenting techniques
- 5. Conflict resolution techniques

GANGS (continued)

Community programs shall address:

1. The scope and nature of local gang problems
2. Strategies by which each segment of the community may alleviate gang problems

POSITIVE SCHOOL CLIMATE

The Board of Trustees 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.

(cf. 0410 - Nondiscrimination in District Programs and Activities)

(cf. 5132 - Dress and Grooming)

(cf. 5144 - Discipline)

(cf. 5145.2 - Freedom of Speech/Expression)

(cf. 5145.3 - Nondiscrimination/Harassment)

(cf. 5145.7 - Sexual Harassment)

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 and counseling 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. 6141 - Curriculum Development and Evaluation)

(cf. 6141.6 - Multicultural Education)

(cf. 6161.1 - Selection and Evaluation of Instructional Materials)

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.

(cf. 5126 - Awards for Achievement)

(cf. 5131.4 - Campus Disturbances)

(cf. 5136 - Gangs)

(cf. 6142.4 - Learning through Community Service)

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 may receive training that implements and supports conflict resolution techniques, and training in conflict resolution techniques shall be available to parents/guardians and volunteers.

Legal Reference: (see next page)

POSITIVE SCHOOL CLIMATE (continued)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

233.5 Duty concerning instruction of students

35160 Authority of governing boards

35160.1 Broad authority of school districts

CONFLICT RESOLUTION/PEER MEDIATION

To promote student safety and contribute to the maintenance of a positive school climate, the Board of Trustees encourages the development of school-based conflict resolution programs designed to help students learn constructive ways of handling conflict. The Board believes that such programs can reduce violence and promote communication, personal responsibility and problem-solving skills among students.

Conflict resolution strategies shall be considered as part of each school's comprehensive safety plan and incorporated into other district discipline procedures as appropriate. Conflict resolution programs shall not supplant the authority of staff to take appropriate action as necessary to prevent violence, ensure student safety, maintain order in the school, and institute disciplinary measures.

(cf. 0450 - Comprehensive Safety Plan)
(cf. 5137 - Positive School Climate)
(cf. 5144 - Discipline)
(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)

Schoolwide programs may include curriculum in conflict resolution, including, but not limited to, instruction in effective communication and listening, critical thinking, problem-solving processes and the use of negotiation to find mutually acceptable solutions. In addition, the curriculum may address students' ethical and social development, respect for diversity, and interpersonal and behavioral skills.

(cf. 6141 - Curriculum Development and Evaluation)
(cf. 6141.6 - Multicultural Education)

Conflict resolution programs may incorporate peer mediation strategies in which selected students are specially trained to work with their peers in resolving conflicts.

Students' participation in any peer mediation program shall be voluntary and kept confidential by all parties involved.

(cf. 4119.23/4219.23/4319.23 - Unauthorized Release of Confidential/Privileged Information)
(cf. 5125 - Student Records)

In developing a conflict resolution and/or peer mediation program, school-site teams shall address, as appropriate:

1. The grade levels and courses in which the conflict resolution curriculum shall be delivered

(cf. 6143 - Courses of Study)

CONFLICT RESOLUTION/PEER MEDIATION (continued)

2. Staff development related to the implementation of the curriculum and modeling of appropriate behaviors and communication skills

(cf. 4131 - Staff Development)

3. The selection of peer mediators involving, to the extent possible, a cross-section of students in terms of grade, gender, race, ethnicity, and socioeconomic status, and including some students who exhibit negative leadership among peers
4. Training and support for peer mediators, including training in mediation processes and in the skills related to understanding conflict, communicating effectively and listening
5. The process for identifying and referring students to the peer mediation program
6. The types of conflicts suitable for peer mediation

(cf. 5131 - Conduct)

(cf. 5131.1 - Bus Conduct)

(cf. 5131.4 - Campus Disturbances)

(cf. 5136 - Gangs)

(cf. 5145.3 - Nondiscrimination/Harassment)

(cf. 5145.9 - Hate-Motivated Behavior)

(cf. 5145.7 - Sexual Harassment)

7. Scheduling and location of peer mediation sessions
8. Methods of obtaining and recording agreement from all disputants
9. The appropriate involvement of parents/guardians, the community and staff, including counseling/guidance and security staff

(cf. 1020 - Youth Services)

(cf. 1400 - Relations Between Other Governmental Agencies and the Schools)

(cf. 3515.3 - District Police/Security Department)

(cf. 6020 - Parent Involvement)

(cf. 6164.2 - Guidance/Counseling Services)

10. Communications to students, parents/guardians and staff regarding the availability of the program
11. Methods of following up with students to determine the effectiveness of the process

CONFLICT RESOLUTION/PEER MEDIATION (continued)

12. Development of assessment tools to periodically evaluate the success of the program including, but not limited to, measurements of whether there has been a reduction in violence at the school and whether the school's suspension rates have fallen since the program has been introduced

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

32280-32288 School safety plans

32295.5 Teen court programs

35291-35291.5 Rules

44807 Duty concerning conduct of students

CALIFORNIA CONSTITUTION

Article I, Section 28(c) Right to safe schools

Management Resources:

CSBA PUBLICATIONS

Protecting Our Children: Board of Trustees Strategies to Combat School Violence, revised 1999

CDE PUBLICATIONS

Safe Schools: A Planning Guide for Action, 1995

USDE PUBLICATIONS

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

WEB SITES

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

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

California Department of Education, Safe Schools and Violence Prevention Office:

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/spbranch/safety/>