

**Policy 0420.4: Charter School Authorization**

**Status:** DRAFT

**Original Adopted Date:** 05/01/2019 | **Last Revised Date:** 06/23/2021

The Governing Board recognizes that charter schools may assist the district in offering diverse learning opportunities for students. In considering any petition to establish a charter school within the district, the Board shall give thoughtful consideration to the potential of the charter school to provide students with a high-quality education that enables them to achieve to their fullest potential.

One or more persons may submit a petition to the Board for a charter school to be established within the district or for the conversion of an existing district school to a charter school. (Education Code 47605)

Any petition for a charter school shall include all components, signatures, and statements required by law, as specified in the accompanying administrative regulation. The proposed charter shall be attached to the petition. (Education Code 47605)

The Superintendent or designee shall consult with legal counsel, as appropriate, regarding compliance of the charter petition with legal requirements.

The Superintendent or designee may work with charter school petitioners prior to the formal submission of the petition in order to ensure compliance of the petition with legal requirements. As needed, the Superintendent or designee may also meet with the petitioners to establish workable plans for contracted services which the district may provide to the proposed charter school.

The Board shall not require any district student to attend the charter school nor shall it require any district employee to work at the charter school. (Education Code 47605)

#### **Timelines for Board Action**

Within 60 days of receiving a charter petition, the Board shall hold a public hearing on the charter provisions, at which time the Board shall consider the level of support for the petition by district teachers, other district employees, and parents/guardians. A petition is deemed received on the day the petitioner submits a petition to the district office, along with a signed certification that the petitioner deems the petition to be complete. (Education Code 47605)

The Board shall either grant or deny the petition at a public hearing held within 90 days of receiving the petition, or within 120 days with the consent of both the petitioner and the Board. (Education Code 47605)

At least 15 days before the public hearing at which the Board will grant or deny the charter, the district shall publish all staff recommendations regarding the petition, including any recommended findings and, if applicable, certification from the County Superintendent of Schools regarding the potential fiscal impact of the charter school on the district. During the public hearing, the petitioners shall have equal time and opportunity to present evidence and testimony in response to the staff recommendations and findings. (Education Code 47605)

The Superintendent or designee shall maintain accurate records, in relation to each charter petition, of documents submitted, the Board's proceedings, and the findings upon which the Board's decision is made.

#### **Approval of Petition**

A charter petition shall be granted only if the Board is satisfied that doing so is consistent with sound educational practice and the interests of the community in which the school is proposing to locate. In granting charters, the Board shall consider the academic needs of the students the charter school proposes to serve and shall give preference to petitions that demonstrate the capability to provide comprehensive learning experiences for students who are identified by the petitioner as academically low-achieving, based on standards established by California Department of Education (CDE). (Education Code 47605)

Prior to authorizing any charter, the Board shall verify that the charter includes adequate processes and measures for monitoring and holding the school accountable for fulfilling the terms of its charter and complying with all applicable laws, including Education Code 47604.1. Such processes and measures shall include, but are not limited to, fiscal accountability systems, multiple measures for evaluating the educational program, inspection and observations of any part of the charter school, and regular reports to the Board.

The approval or denial of a charter petition shall not be controlled by collective bargaining agreements nor subject to review or regulation by the Public Employment Relations Board. (Education Code 47611.5)

The Board may approve one or more memoranda of understanding to clarify the financial and operational agreements between the district and the charter school. Any such memorandum of understanding shall be annually reviewed by the Board and charter school governing body and amended as necessary.

The Board may initially grant a charter for a specified term not to exceed five years. (Education Code 47607)

When a petition is approved by the Board, it shall be the responsibility of the petitioners to provide written notice of the Board's approval and a copy of the petition to the County Superintendent of Schools, CDE, and the State Board of Education (SBE). (Education Code 47605)

### **Denial of Petition**

The Board shall summarily deny any charter petition that proposes to:

1. Operate a charter school as or by a for-profit corporation, a for-profit educational management organization, or a for-profit charter management organization (Education Code 47604)
2. Convert a private school to a charter school (Education Code 47602)
3. Serve students in a grade level that is not served by the district, unless the petition proposes to serve students in all the grade levels served by the district (Education Code 47605)
4. Offer nonclassroom-based instruction (Education Code 47612.7)

Regarding all other charter petitions, the Board shall deny a petition only if the Board makes written factual findings specific to the petition that one or more of the following conditions exist: (Education Code 47605; 5 CCR 11967.5.1)

1. The charter school presents an unsound educational program that has a likelihood of physical, educational, or psychological harm to, or which is not likely to provide an educational benefit for, the students to be enrolled in the charter school.
2. The petitioners are demonstrably unlikely to successfully implement the program set forth in the petition.
3. The petition does not contain the number of signatures required.
4. The petition does not contain a clear, unequivocal statement described in Education Code 47605(e), including that the charter school will be nonsectarian and that the school shall not charge tuition or discriminate against any student based on the characteristics specified in Education Code 220.
5. The petition does not contain reasonably comprehensive descriptions of the charter provisions in Education Code 47605(c).
6. The petition does not contain a declaration as to whether the charter school shall be deemed the exclusive public employer of the school's employees for purposes of collective bargaining pursuant to Government Code 3540-3549.3.
7. The charter school is demonstrably unlikely to serve the interests of the entire community in which the school is proposing to locate. Analysis of this finding shall include consideration of the fiscal impact of the proposed charter school. A written factual finding shall detail specific facts and circumstances that analyze and consider

the following factors:

- a. The extent to which the proposed charter school would substantially undermine existing services, academic offerings, or programmatic offerings
  - b. Whether the proposed charter school would duplicate a program currently offered within the district, when the existing program has sufficient capacity for the students proposed to be served within reasonable proximity to where the charter school intends to locate
8. The district is not positioned to absorb the fiscal impact of the proposed charter school. The district meets this criterion if it has a negative interim certification, has a qualified interim certification and the County Superintendent certifies that approving the charter school would result in the district having a negative interim certification, or is under state receivership.

The Board shall not deny a petition based on the actual or potential costs of serving students with disabilities, nor shall it deny a petition solely because the charter school might enroll students with disabilities who reside outside the special education local plan area in which the district participates. (Education Code 47605.7, 47647)

### **Appeals**

If the Board denies a petition, the petitioner may choose to submit the petition to the County Board of Education and, if then denied by the County Board, to SBE. (Education Code 47605)

At the request of the petitioner, the Board shall prepare the documentary record, including a transcript of the public hearing at which the Board denied the charter, no later than 10 business days after the petitioner makes the request. (Education Code 47605)

Within 30 days of receipt of an appeal submitted to SBE, the Board may submit a written opposition to SBE, which may include supporting documentation, detailing, with specific citations to the documentary record, how the Board did not abuse its discretion in denying the petition. (Education Code 47605)

If either the County Board or SBE remands the petition to the Board because the petition on appeal contains new or different material terms, the Board shall reconsider the petition and shall grant or deny the petition within 30 days. (Education Code 47605)

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**Regulation 0420.4: Charter School Authorization**

**Status:** DRAFT

**Original Adopted Date:** 10/01/2015 | **Last Revised Date:** 06/23/2021

### **Petition Signatures**

A petition for the establishment of a start-up charter school must be signed by either of the following: (Education Code 47605)

1. A number of parents/guardians equivalent to at least one-half of the number of students that the charter school estimates will enroll in the school for its first year of operation
2. A number of teachers equivalent to at least one-half of the total number of teachers that the charter school estimates will be employed at the school during its first year of operation

A petition that proposes to convert an existing public school to a charter school must be signed by at least 50 percent of the permanent status teachers currently employed at the school. (Education Code 47605)

Any petition circulated to collect signatures shall include a prominent statement explaining that a parent/guardian's signature means that the parent/guardian is meaningfully interested in having a child attend the charter school, or a teacher's signature means that the teacher is meaningfully interested in teaching at the charter school. (Education Code 47605)

### **Staff Advisory Committee**

The Superintendent or designee may establish a staff advisory committee to evaluate the completeness of a charter petition based on the requirements in Education Code 47605 and to identify any concerns that should be addressed by the petitioners.

### **Components of Charter Petition**

All charter petitions shall comply with the applicable requirements of Education Code 47605, other state and federal laws, and district policies.

The charter petition shall include affirmations that the charter school will be nonsectarian in its programs, admission policies, employment practices, and operations; will not charge tuition; and will not discriminate against a student on the basis of characteristics listed in Education Code 220. The petition shall also contain reasonably comprehensive descriptions of: (Education Code 47605)

1. The educational program of the proposed school, designed, among other things, to identify those whom the school is attempting to educate, what it means to be an "educated person" in the 21st century, and how learning best occurs. The goals identified in that program shall include the objective of enabling students to become self-motivated, competent, and lifelong learners.
2. The charter school's annual goals for all students and for each numerically significant subgroup of students identified pursuant to Education Code 52052, including ethnic subgroups, socioeconomically disadvantaged students, English learners, students with disabilities, foster youth, and homeless students. These goals shall be aligned with the state priorities listed in Education Code 52060 that apply to the grade levels served. The petition also shall describe specific annual actions to achieve those goals. The petition may identify additional priorities established for the proposed school, goals aligned with those priorities, and specific annual actions to achieve those goals.

If the proposed charter school will serve high school students, the petition shall describe the manner in which the school will inform parents/guardians about the transferability of courses to other public high schools and the eligibility of courses to meet college entrance requirements. Courses offered by the charter school that are accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges may be considered transferable, and courses approved by the University of California or the California State University as creditable under the "A-G" admissions criteria may be considered to meet college entrance requirements.

3. The measurable student outcomes identified for use by the charter school.

*Student outcomes* means the extent to which all students of the school demonstrate that they have attained the skills, knowledge, and attitudes specified as goals in the school's educational program, including outcomes that address increases in student academic achievement both schoolwide and for each numerically significant subgroup of students served by the charter school. The student outcomes shall align with the state priorities identified in Education Code 52060 that apply for the grade levels served by the charter school.

4. The method by which student progress in meeting the identified student outcomes is to be measured. To the extent practicable, the method for measuring student outcomes for state priorities shall be consistent with the way information is reported on a school accountability report card.
5. The governance structure of the charter school, including, but not limited to, the process to be followed by the school to ensure parent/guardian involvement.
6. The qualifications to be met by individuals to be employed by the charter school.
7. The procedures that the charter school will follow to ensure the health and safety of students and staff, including the following requirements:
  - a. Each charter school employee shall furnish the school with a criminal record summary as described in Education Code 44237.
  - b. The charter school shall develop a school safety plan which includes the topics listed in Education Code 32282(a)(2)(A)-(J).
  - c. The charter school's safety plan shall be reviewed and updated by March 1 each year.
8. The means by which the charter school will achieve a balance of racial and ethnic students, special education students, and English learner students, including redesignated fluent English proficient students, that is reflective of the general population residing within the district's territorial jurisdiction.
9. The charter school's student admission policy. The petition shall, in accordance with Education Code 47605(e), specify procedures for determining enrollment when the number of applicants exceeds the school's capacity, including requirements for the use of a public random drawing, admission preferences, and priority order of preferences as required by law and subject to Governing Board approval.
10. The manner in which annual, independent financial audits shall be conducted, which shall employ generally accepted accounting principles, and the manner in which audit exceptions and deficiencies shall be resolved to the Board's satisfaction.
11. The procedures by which students can be suspended or expelled for disciplinary reasons or otherwise involuntarily removed for any reason, including an explanation of how the charter school will comply with federal and state constitutional procedural and substantive due process requirements as specified in Education Code 47605.

Such procedures shall contain a clear statement that no student shall be involuntarily removed by the charter school for any reason unless written notice of the intent to remove the student is given to the student's parent/guardian at least five schooldays before the effective date of the removal. In the case of a homeless student or foster youth, the notice shall be given to the student's educational rights holder. Additionally, a foster youth's attorney and county social worker, and an Indian child's tribal social worker, and if applicable, the county social worker, shall be given such notice.

The notice shall inform the student, the student's parent/guardian, and any other specified individual, as applicable, of the right to initiate a hearing as described in Education Code 47605, before the effective date of the removal. The notice shall be provided in the student's parent/guardian's, or other applicable person's language, and, if such a hearing is initiated, shall include the student's right to remain enrolled in the charter school until a final decision is made by the charter school.

In addition, the procedures shall contain a statement pertaining to the provision of homework assignments to suspended students as specified in Education Code 47606.2.

Such procedures shall also include processes by which the charter school will notify the Superintendent of the district of the student's last known address and, upon request, provide the student's cumulative record to the district, when a student is expelled or leaves the charter school without graduating or completing the school year for any reason. In addition, the procedures shall describe the means by which the district can contact the charter school if the student is subsequently expelled or leaves the school district without graduating or completing the school year for any reason.

*Involuntarily removed* means disenrolled, dismissed, transferred, or terminated, but does not include suspensions. (Education Code 47605)

12. The manner by which staff members of the charter school will be covered by the State Teachers' Retirement System, the Public Employees' Retirement System, or federal social security.
13. The public school attendance alternatives for students residing within the district who choose to not attend the charter school.
14. A description of the rights of any district employee upon leaving district employment to work in the charter school and of any rights of return to the district after employment at the charter school.
15. The procedures to be followed by the charter school and the Board to resolve disputes relating to charter provisions.
16. A declaration as to whether the charter school will be deemed the exclusive public school employer of the school's employees for purposes of collective bargaining under Government Code 3540-3549.3.
17. Consistent with 5 CCR 11962, the procedures to be used if the charter school closes, including, but not limited to:
  - a. Designation of a responsible entity to conduct closure-related activities
  - b. Notification to parents/guardians, the Board, the county office of education, the special education local plan area in which the charter school participates, the retirement systems in which the school's employees participate, and the California Department of Education, providing at least the following information:
    - i. The effective date of the closure
    - ii. The name(s) and contact information of the person(s) to whom reasonable inquiries may be made regarding the closure
    - iii. The students' districts of residence
    - iv. The manner in which parents/guardians may obtain copies of student records, including specific information on completed courses and credits that meet graduation requirements
  - c. Provision of a list of students at each grade level, the classes they have completed, and their districts of residence to the responsible entity designated in accordance with Item #17a above
  - d. Transfer and maintenance of all student records, all state assessment results, and any special education records to the custody of the responsible entity designated in accordance with Item #17a above, except for records and/or assessment results that the charter may require to be transferred to a different entity
  - e. Transfer and maintenance of personnel records in accordance with applicable law
  - f. Completion of an independent final audit within six months after the closure of the charter school that may function as the annual audit, which includes an assessment of the disposition of any restricted funds received by or due to the school and an accounting of all financial assets and liabilities pursuant to 5 CCR 11962
  - g. Disposal of any net assets remaining after all liabilities of the charter school have been paid or otherwise

addressed pursuant to 5 CCR 11962h.

- h. Completion and filing of any annual reports required pursuant to Education Code 47604.33
- i. Identification of funding for the activities identified in Item #17a-g above

Charter school petitioners shall provide information to the Board regarding the proposed operation and potential effects of the school, including, but not limited to: (Education Code 47605)

1. The facilities to be used by the charter school, including where the school intends to locate
2. The manner in which administrative services of the charter school are to be provided
3. Potential civil liability effects, if any, upon the charter school and district
4. Financial statements that include a proposed first-year operational budget, including start-up costs and cash-flow and financial projections for the first three years of operation
5. If the charter school is to be operated by or as a nonprofit public benefit corporation, the names and relevant qualifications of all persons whom the petitioner nominates to serve on the governing body of the charter school

#### **Location of Charter School**

Unless otherwise exempted by law, the charter petition shall identify a single charter school that will operate within the geographic boundaries of the district. A charter school may propose to operate at multiple sites within the district as long as each location is identified in the petition. (Education Code 47605, 47605.1)

A charter school may establish a resource center, meeting space, or other satellite facility within the jurisdiction of the school district where the charter school is physically located if both of the following conditions are met: (Education Code 47605.1)

1. The facility is used exclusively for the educational support of students who are enrolled in nonclassroom-based independent study of the charter school.
  2. The charter school provides its primary educational services in, and a majority of the students it serves are residents of, the county in which the school is authorized.
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**Policy 3555: Nutrition Program Compliance**

**Status:** DRAFT

**Original Adopted Date:** 07/01/2010 | **Last Revised Date:** 06/23/2021

The Governing Board recognizes the district's responsibility to comply with state and federal nondiscrimination laws as they apply to the district's nutrition programs. The district shall not deny any individual the benefits or service of any nutrition program or discriminate on any basis prohibited by law.

**Compliance Coordinator**

The Board shall designate a compliance coordinator for nutrition programs, who may also be the compliance officer(s) specified in AR 1312.3 - Uniform Complaint Procedures, to ensure compliance with the laws governing the district's nutrition programs.

The responsibilities of the compliance coordinator include, but are not limited to:

1. Providing the name of the compliance coordinator, the Section 504 coordinator, and Title IX coordinator, if different from the compliance coordinator, to the California Department of Education (CDE) and other interested parties
2. Annually providing mandatory civil rights training to all frontline staff who interact with program applicants or participants and to those who supervise frontline staff

The subject matter of such training shall include, but not be limited to, collection and use of data, effective public notification systems, complaint procedures, compliance review techniques, resolution of noncompliance, requirements for reasonable accommodation of persons with disabilities, requirements for language assistance, conflict resolution, and customer service.

3. Establishing admission and enrollment procedures that do not restrict enrollment of students on the basis of race, ethnicity, national origin, or disability, including preventing staff from incorrectly denying applications and ensuring that such persons have equal access to all programs
4. Sending a public release announcing the availability of the child nutrition programs and/or changes in the programs to public media and to community and grassroots organizations that interact directly with eligible or potentially eligible participants
5. Communicating the program's nondiscrimination policy and applicable complaint procedures, as provided in the section "Notifications" below
6. Providing appropriate translation services when a significant number of persons in the surrounding population have limited English proficiency
7. Ensuring that every part of a facility is accessible to and usable by persons with disabilities and that participants with disabilities are not excluded from the benefits or services due to inaccessibility of facilities
8. Ensuring that special meals are made available to participants with disabilities who have a medical statement on file documenting that their disability restricts their diet
9. Implementing procedures to process and resolve civil rights complaints, including alleged discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability, and program-related complaints, including maintaining a complaint log, working with the appropriate person to resolve any complaint, and referring the complainant to the appropriate state or federal agency when necessary
10. Developing a method, which preferably uses self-identification or self-reporting, to collect racial and ethnic data for potentially eligible populations, applicants, and participants

**Notifications**



The compliance coordinator shall ensure that the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) "And Justice for All" civil rights poster, or a substitute poster approved by USDA's Food and Nutrition Service, is displayed in areas visible to the district's nutrition program participants, such as food service areas and school offices.

The compliance coordinator shall notify the public, all program applicants, participants, and potentially eligible persons of their rights and responsibilities and steps necessary to participate in the nutrition programs, including program requirements and program availability. Applicants, participants, and the public also shall be advised of their right to file a complaint, how to file a complaint, the complaint procedures, and that a complaint may be filed anonymously or by a third party.

In addition, the compliance coordinator shall ensure that all forms of communication available to the public regarding program availability shall contain, in a prominent location, the most current version of the nondiscrimination statement provided by USDA about the district's status as an equal opportunity provider and the address of the agency with responsibility to handle complaints made against the district.

Forms of communication requiring this nondiscrimination statement include, but are not limited to, web sites, public information releases, publications, and posters, but exclude items such as cups, buttons, magnets, menus, and pens that identify the program when the size or configuration makes it impractical. The nondiscrimination statement need not be included on every page of program information on the district's or school's web site, but the statement or a link to the statement shall be included on the home page of the program information.

A short version of the nondiscrimination statement, as provided by USDA, may be used on pamphlets, brochures, and flyers in the same print size as the rest of the text.

### **Complaints of Discrimination**

A complaint alleging discrimination in the district's nutrition program(s) on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, or disability shall, within 180 days of the alleged discriminatory act, be filed or referred to USDA at any of the following: (5 CCR 15582)

Mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410  
Phone: (866) 632-9992, (800) 877-8339 (Federal Relay Service - English, deaf, hard of hearing, or speech disabilities), (800) 845-6136 (Federal Relay Service - Spanish)  
Fax: (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442  
Email: program.intake@usda.gov

Complaints of discrimination on any other basis shall be investigated by the district using the process identified in AR 1312.3 - Uniform Complaint Procedures.

### **Complaints Regarding Noncompliance with Program Requirements**

Any complaint alleging that the district has not complied with program requirements pertaining to meal counting and claiming, reimbursable meals, eligibility of a child or adult, use of cafeteria funds and allowable expenses in relation to any child nutrition program specified in Education Code 49550-49564.5 shall be filed with or referred to CDE. (Education Code 49556; 5 CCR 15584)

Complaints against a program operator that is not an educational agency shall be filed with or referred to CDE. (5 CCR 15584)

Complaints of noncompliance with any other nutrition program requirements shall be submitted to and investigated by the district using the following procedures.

Complaints may be filed by a student or the student's duly authorized representative by phone, email, or letter. The complaint shall be submitted within one year from the date of the alleged violation and shall include the following: (5 CCR 15581)

1. A statement that the district has violated a law or regulation relating to its child nutrition program

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2. The facts on which the statement is based
3. The name of the district or the school against which the allegations are made
4. The complainant's contact information
5. The name of the student if alleging violations regarding a specific student

The district shall investigate and prepare a written report pursuant to 5 CCR 4631. (5 CCR 15583)

Unless extended by written agreement with the complainant, the district's compliance coordinator shall investigate the complaint and prepare a written report to be sent to the complainant within 30 calendar days of the district's receipt of the complaint. If the complainant is dissatisfied with the compliance coordinator's decision, the complainant may, within five business days, file the complaint in writing with the Board.

The Board shall consider the matter at its next regular Board meeting or at a special Board meeting convened in order to meet the 60-day time limit within which the complaint must be answered pursuant to 5 CCR 4631. When required by law, the matter shall be considered in closed session. The Board may decide not to consider the complaint, in which case the coordinator's decision shall be final.

If the Board considers the complaint, the Board's decision shall be sent to the complainant within 60 calendar days of the district's initial receipt of the complaint or within the time period that has been specified in a written agreement with the complainant. (5 CCR 4631)

If the complainant is not satisfied with the findings in the district's report, the complainant may appeal the decision to CDE by filing a written appeal within 30 days of receiving the decision. (5 CCR 4632)

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**Exhibit 3555-E(1): Nutrition Program Compliance**

**Status:** ADOPTED

**Original Adopted Date:** 07/01/2020 | **Last Revised Date:** 03/01/2023 | **Last Reviewed Date:** 03/01/2023

**NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT FOR NUTRITION PROGRAMS**

The following statement shall be included, in a prominent location, on all forms available to the public regarding the availability of the district's child nutrition programs:

"In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity.

Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, which can be obtained online at: <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/ad-3027.pdf>, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to the USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by:

- (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or
- (2) fax: (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or
- (3) email: [Program.Intake@usda.gov](mailto:Program.Intake@usda.gov)

This institution is an equal opportunity provider."

On pamphlets, brochures, and flyers, in the same print size as the rest of the text, the district may print a short version of the nondiscrimination statement, as follows:

"This institution is an equal opportunity provider."

**Policy Reference Disclaimer:** These references are not intended to be part of the policy itself, nor do they indicate the basis or authority for the board to enact this policy. Instead, they are provided as additional resources for those interested in the subject matter of the policy.

**State References**

5 CCR 15580-15584

**Description**

Child nutrition programs complaint procedures

5 CCR 3080

Applicability of uniform complaint procedures to complaints regarding students with disabilities

5 CCR 4600-4670

Uniform complaint procedures

5 CCR 4900-4965

Nondiscrimination in elementary and secondary educational programs receiving state or federal financial assistance

Ed. Code 200-262.4

Prohibition of discrimination - <https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/ytTLslshoozWGUAAbNL6kKkgxQ==>

Ed. Code 42238.01

Definitions for purposes of funding

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**Policy 4030: Nondiscrimination In Employment**

**Status:** DRAFT

**Original Adopted Date:** 05/01/2016 | **Last Revised Date:** 06/23/2021

The Governing Board is determined to provide a safe, positive environment where all district employees are assured of full and equal employment access and opportunities, protection from harassment and intimidation, and freedom from any fear of reprisal or retribution for asserting their employment rights in accordance with law. For purposes of this policy, employees include job applicants, interns, volunteers, and persons who contracted with the district to provide services, as applicable.

No district employee shall be discriminated against or harassed by any coworker, supervisor, manager, or other person with whom the employee comes in contact in the course of employment, on the basis of the employee's actual or perceived race, color, ancestry, national origin, age, religious creed, marital status, pregnancy, physical or mental disability, medical condition, genetic information, veteran or military status, sex, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, gender expression, or association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics.

Employers are also prohibited from discrimination against employees or job applicants on the basis of reproductive health decisionmaking, defined as a person's decision to use or access a particular drug, device, product, or medical service for reproductive health. (Government Code 12926, 12940)

The district shall not inquire into any employee's immigration status nor discriminate against an employee on the basis of immigration status, unless there is clear and convincing evidence that the district is required to do so in order to comply with federal immigration law. (2 CCR 11028)

Discrimination in employment based on the characteristics listed above is prohibited in all areas of employment and in all employment-related practices, including the following:

1. Hiring, compensation, terms, conditions, and other privileges of employment
2. Taking of adverse employment actions such as termination or denial of employment, promotion, job assignment, or training
3. Unwelcome conduct, whether verbal, physical, or visual, that is so severe or pervasive as to adversely affect an employee's employment opportunities or that has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with the employee's work performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive work environment
4. Actions and practices identified as unlawful or discriminatory pursuant to Government Code 12940 or 2 CCR 11006-11086, such as:
  - a. Sex discrimination based on an employee's pregnancy, childbirth, breastfeeding, or any related medical condition or on an employee's gender, gender expression, or gender identity, including transgender status
  - b. Religious creed discrimination based on an employee's religious belief or observance, including religious dress or grooming practices, or based on the district's failure or refusal to use reasonable means to accommodate an employee's religious belief, observance, or practice which conflicts with an employment requirement
  - c. Requiring medical or psychological examination of a job applicant or making an inquiry into whether a job applicant has a mental or physical disability or a medical condition or as to the severity of any such disability or condition, without the showing of a job-related need or business necessity
  - d. Failure to make reasonable accommodation for the known physical or mental disability of an employee or to engage in a timely, good faith, interactive process with an employee who has requested such accommodations in order to determine the effective reasonable accommodations, if any, to be provided to the employee

- e. Requiring an applicant or employee to disclose information relating to the employee's reproductive health decisionmaking

The Board also prohibits retaliation against any district employee who opposes any discriminatory employment practice by the district or its employees, agents, or representatives or who complains, reports an incident, testifies, assists, or in any way participates in the district's complaint process pursuant to this policy. No employee who requests an accommodation for any protected characteristic listed in this policy shall be subjected to any punishment or sanction, regardless of whether the request was granted. (Government Code 12940; 2 CCR 11028)

No employee shall, in exchange for a raise or bonus or as a condition of employment or continued employment, be required to sign a release of the employee's claim or right to file a claim against the district or a nondisparagement agreement or other document that has the purpose or effect of preventing the employee from disclosing information about harassment, discrimination, or other unlawful acts in the workplace, including any conduct that the employee has reasonable cause to believe is unlawful. (Government Code 12964.5)

Complaints concerning employment discrimination, harassment, or retaliation shall immediately be investigated in accordance with procedures specified in the accompanying administrative regulation.

Any supervisory or management employee who observes or has knowledge of an incident of prohibited discrimination or harassment, including harassment of an employee by a nonemployee, shall report the incident to the Superintendent or designated district coordinator as soon as practical after the incident. All other employees are encouraged to report such incidents to their supervisor immediately.

The Superintendent or designee shall use all appropriate means to reinforce the district's nondiscrimination policy, including providing training and information to employees about how to recognize harassment, discrimination, or other prohibited conduct, how to respond appropriately, and components of the district's policies and regulations regarding discrimination. The Superintendent or designee shall regularly review the district's employment practices and, as necessary, shall take action to ensure district compliance with the nondiscrimination laws.

Any district employee who engages in prohibited discrimination, harassment, or retaliation or who aids, abets, incites, compels, or coerces another to engage or attempt to engage in such behavior in violation of this policy shall be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal.

The district shall maintain and preserve all applications, personnel, membership, or employment referral records and files for at least four years after the records are initially created or received or, for an applicant or a terminated employee, for four years after the date the employment action was taken. However, when the district is notified that a complaint has been filed with the California Civil Rights Department, records related to the employee involved shall be maintained and preserved until the later of the first date after the time for filing a civil action has expired or the first date after the complaint has been fully and finally disposed of and all administrative proceedings, civil actions, appeals, or related proceedings have been terminated. (Government Code 12946)

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**Policy 4218: Dismissal/Suspension/Disciplinary Action**

**Status:** DRAFT

**Original Adopted Date:** 07/01/2019 | **Last Revised Date:** 06/23/2021

The Governing Board expects all employees to perform their jobs satisfactorily and to exhibit professional and appropriate conduct. A classified employee may be disciplined for unprofessional conduct or unsatisfactory performance in accordance with law or any applicable collective bargaining agreement, Board policy, or administrative regulation.

Disciplinary actions shall be based on the particular facts and circumstances involved and the severity of the employee's conduct or performance. An employee's private exercise of personal beliefs and activities, including religious, political, cultural, social, or other beliefs or activities, or lack thereof, shall not be grounds for disciplinary action against the employee, provided that the beliefs or activities do not involve coercion of students or any other violation of law, Board policy, or administrative regulation.

In addition, an employee shall not be suspended, disciplined, reassigned, transferred, dismissed, or otherwise retaliated against solely for acting to protect a student engaged in exercising any free speech or press right authorized by, or for refusing to infringe upon a student's conduct protected pursuant to, Education Code 48907 or 48950.

Disciplinary actions may include, but are not limited to, verbal and written warnings, involuntary reassignment, demotion, suspension without pay, reduction of pay step in class, compulsory leave, and dismissal.

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that disciplinary actions are taken in a consistent, nondiscriminatory manner and are appropriately documented.

A probationary classified employee may be dismissed without cause at any time prior to the expiration of the probationary period.

Permanent classified employees shall be subject to disciplinary action only for cause as specified in the accompanying administrative regulation. (Education Code 45113)

### **Procedures for Serious Disciplinary Proceedings**

The Superintendent or designee shall develop disciplinary procedures for use when dismissal, suspension, demotion, involuntary reassignment, or other serious disciplinary action is contemplated against an employee. The procedures for such discipline shall include an opportunity for an employee for whom any such disciplinary action is recommended to meet with, or respond in writing to, a designated district official (Skelly officer) who will determine whether the recommended discipline should proceed further or be modified or withdrawn.

After meeting with the employee or considering the employee's written response, if the Skelly officer determines that the recommended discipline should proceed, the Superintendent or designee shall send the employee a notice of the recommended disciplinary action, a statement of charges, and the results of the Skelly review process. The notice shall include a statement advising the employee of the right to request a Board hearing on the matter.

If the employee fails to request a hearing within the time specified in the notice, the employee is deemed to have waived the right to do so, and the Board may order the recommended disciplinary action into effect immediately.

If a timely request is submitted, a hearing shall be conducted by the Board. (Education Code 45113, 45312)

A classified employee who timely requests a hearing may only be suspended, demoted, or dismissed pending the outcome of the hearing in accordance with Education Code 45113, and as specified in the accompanying administrative regulation.

The hearing shall be held at the earliest convenient date, taking into consideration the established schedule of the Board and the availability of legal counsel and witnesses. The employee shall be notified of the time and place of the hearing.

The hearing shall be held in closed session, unless the employee requests that the matter be heard in an open session meeting. (Government Code 54957)

The employee shall be entitled to appear personally, produce evidence, and be represented by legal counsel.

The Board may use the services of its legal counsel in ruling upon procedural questions, objections to evidence, and issues of law. The Board may review and consider the records of any prior personnel action proceedings against the employee in which a disciplinary action was ultimately sustained, and any records contained in the employee's personnel files and introduced into evidence at the hearing. The Board shall not be bound by rules of evidence used in California courts. Informality in any such hearing shall not invalidate any order or decision made by the Board.

At any time before a matter is submitted to the Board for decision, the Superintendent or designee may, with the consent of the Board, serve on the employee and file with the Board an amended or supplemental recommendation of disciplinary action. If the amended or supplemental recommendation includes new causes or allegations, the employee shall be afforded a reasonable opportunity to prepare a defense. Any new causes or allegations shall be deemed controverted and any objections to the amended or supplemental causes or allegations may be made orally at the hearing and shall be noted on the record.

Following the hearing or, if the employee has not requested a hearing, after reviewing the Superintendent or designee's recommendation for disciplinary action, the Board shall affirm, modify, or reject the recommended disciplinary action. The decision of the Board shall be in writing and shall contain findings of fact and the disciplinary action approved, if any. The decision of the Board shall be final.

Within 10 working days of the Board's final decision, a copy of the decision shall be delivered to the employee and/or designated representative personally or by registered mail.

Except for an allegation of egregious misconduct in which a minor is involved, the Board may delegate the authority to determine whether sufficient cause exists for disciplinary action to an impartial third-party hearing officer. When a matter is heard by a third-party hearing officer, the Board shall review the determination and adopt or reject the recommended decision. (Education Code 45113)

When any matter involves an allegation of egregious misconduct as defined in Education Code 44932 and involves a witness who is a minor, the matter shall be referred to an administrative law judge to determine whether sufficient cause exists for disciplinary action against the employee. In such cases, the ruling of the administrative law judge shall be binding on the district and the employee. (Education Code 45113)

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**Regulation 4218: Dismissal/Suspension/Disciplinary Action**

**Status:** DRAFT

**Original Adopted Date:** 06/01/1994 | **Last Revised Date:** 06/23/2021

**Causes for Disciplinary Action**

A permanent classified employee may be subject to suspension, demotion, involuntary reassignment, or dismissal for one or more of the following causes:

1. Immoral conduct, including, but not limited to, egregious misconduct that is the basis for a sex offense as defined in Education Code 44010, a controlled substance offense as defined in Education Code 44011, or child abuse and neglect as described in Penal Code 11165.2-11165.6
2. Conduct that constitutes a violent or serious felony as defined in Penal Code 667.5(c) or 1192.7(c)
3. Unlawful discrimination, including harassment, against any student or other employee
4. Violation of or refusal to obey state or federal law or regulation, Board policy, or district or school procedure
5. Falsification of any information supplied to the district, including, but not limited to, information supplied on application forms, employment records, or any other school district records
6. Unsatisfactory performance
7. Unprofessional conduct
8. Dishonesty
9. Neglect of duty or absence without leave
10. Insubordination
11. Use of alcohol or a controlled substance while on duty or in such close time proximity thereto as to affect the employee's performance
12. Destruction or misuse of district property
13. Failure to fulfill any ongoing condition of employment including, but not limited to, maintenance of any license, certificate, or other similar requirement specified in the employee's class specification or otherwise necessary for the employee to perform the duties of the position
14. A physical or mental condition which precludes the employee from the proper performance of duties and responsibilities as determined by competent medical authority, except as otherwise provided by a contract or by law
15. Retaliation against any person who, in good faith, reports, discloses, divulges, or otherwise brings to the attention of any appropriate authority any information relative to an actual or suspected violation of state or federal law occurring on or directly related to the job
16. Violation of Education Code 45303 or Government Code 1028 prohibiting the advocacy or teaching of communism
17. Any other misconduct which is of such nature that it causes discredit or injury to the district or the employee's position

No disciplinary action shall be taken for any cause which arose before the employee became permanent, nor for any cause which arose more than two years before the date of the filing of the notice of cause unless this cause was concealed or not disclosed by the employee when it could be reasonably assumed that the employee would have disclosed the facts to the district. (Education Code 45113)



## **Initiation and Notification of Charges**

The Superintendent or designee shall provide notice to the employee of a recommendation for discipline, which includes the charges and materials upon which the recommendation is based. The notification shall identify an impartial district official (Skelly officer) with whom the employee may meet at a specified time and place or to whom the employee may provide a written response to the recommendation of discipline. After meeting with the employee or considering any response from the employee, the Skelly officer shall recommend to the Superintendent or designee whether to proceed with the recommendation for discipline.

The Superintendent or designee shall file any final recommendation for a disciplinary action in writing with the Governing Board. A copy of the recommendation shall be served upon the employee either personally or by registered or certified mail, return receipt requested, at the employee's last known address.

The notice shall, in ordinary and concise language, inform the employee of the specific charge(s) or cause(s) for the disciplinary action, the specific acts and omissions upon which the action is based, and, if applicable, the district rule or regulation that the employee has allegedly violated. In addition, the notice shall include the employee's right to a hearing on those charges, the time within which the hearing may be requested which shall be not less than five days after service of the notice to the employee, and a card or paper which the employee may sign and file to deny the charges and request a hearing. (Education Code 45113, 45116)

## **Request for Board Hearing**

Within the time specified in the notice of the recommendation of disciplinary action, the employee may request a hearing on the charges by signing and filing the card or paper included with the notice. (Education Code 45113)

Any other written document signed and appropriately filed within the specified time limit by the employee shall constitute a sufficient notice of the request for a hearing. The request shall be delivered to the office of the Superintendent or designee during normal work hours of that office. If mailed to the office of the Superintendent or designee, it must be received or postmarked no later than the time limit specified by the district. In cases where an order of suspension without pay has been issued in conjunction with a recommendation of dismissal, any request for a hearing on the dismissal shall also constitute a request to hear the suspension order, and the necessity of the suspension order shall be an issue in the hearing.

## **Employment Status Pending a Disciplinary Hearing**

A classified employee against whom a recommendation for disciplinary action has been issued may remain on active duty or may be placed on paid leave pending a hearing on the charges. The employee shall not be suspended without pay, suspended or demoted with a reduction in pay, or dismissed pending the outcome of a timely requested hearing, except as specified below. (Education Code 45113)

However, the disciplinary action may be imposed prior to the decision if the Board, or an impartial third-party hearing officer provided pursuant to a collective bargaining agreement, finds by a preponderance of the evidence that at the time discipline was imposed, the employee (1) engaged in criminal misconduct, (2) engaged in misconduct that presents a risk of harm to students, staff, or property, or (3) committed habitual violations of the district's policies or regulations. Such finding(s) must be made at the conclusion of the Skelly review process. (Education Code 45113)

In such cases where the disciplinary action is imposed prior to the decision, the employee shall be given written notice of the disciplinary action and the findings made at the conclusion of the Skelly review process. Such written notice shall be served upon the employee personally.

In addition, the district may cease paying the employee if a decision has not been rendered by an impartial third-party hearing officer, pursuant to a collective bargaining agreement, or the Board within 30 days of the date the hearing was requested. (Education Code 45113)

## **Compulsory Leave of Absence**

Upon being informed by law enforcement that a classified employee has been charged with a "mandatory leave of absence offense," the Superintendent or designee shall immediately place the employee on a leave of absence. A mandatory leave of absence offense includes:

1. Any sex offense as defined in Education Code 44010
2. Violation or attempted violation of Penal Code 187, prohibiting murder or attempted murder
3. Any offense involving the unlawful sale, use, or exchange to minors of controlled substances as listed in Health and Safety Code 11054, 11055, and 11056

The Superintendent or designee may place on an immediate compulsory leave of absence a classified employee who is charged with an "optional leave of absence offense," defined as a controlled substance offense specified in Education Code 44011 and Health and Safety Code 11357-11361, 11363, 11364, and 11370.1 except as it relates to marijuana, mescaline, peyote, or tetrahydrocannabinols.

An employee's compulsory leave for a mandatory or optional leave of absence offense may extend for not more than 10 days after the entry of judgment in the criminal proceedings. However, the compulsory leave may be extended if the Board gives notice, within 10 days after the entry of judgment in the proceedings, that the employee will be dismissed within 30 days from the date of service of the notice unless the employee demands a hearing on the dismissal.

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**Regulation 5113: Absences And Excuses**

**Status:** DRAFT

**Original Adopted Date:** 11/01/2011 | **Last Revised Date:** 06/23/2021

**Excused Absences**

Subject to any applicable limitation, condition, or other requirement specified in law, a student's absence shall be excused for any of the following reasons:

1. Personal illness, including absence for the benefit of the student's mental or behavioral health. (Education Code 48205)
2. Quarantine under the direction of a county or city health officer. (Education Code 48205)
3. Medical, dental, optometrical, or chiropractic service or appointment. (Education Code 48205)
4. Attendance at funeral services for a member of the student's immediate family. (Education Code 48205)

Such absence shall be limited to one day if the service is conducted in California or three days if the service is conducted out of state. (Education Code 48205)

5. Jury duty in the manner provided for by law. (Education Code 48205)
6. Illness or medical appointment of a child to whom the student is the custodial parent. (Education Code 48205)
7. Upon advance written request by the parent/guardian and the approval of the principal or designee, justifiable personal reasons including, but not limited to: (Education Code 48205)
  - a. Appearance in court
  - b. Attendance at a funeral service
  - c. Observance of a religious holiday or ceremony
  - d. Attendance at religious retreats for no more than four hours per semester
  - e. Attendance at an employment conference
  - f. Attendance at an educational conference on the legislative or judicial process offered by a nonprofit organization

8. Service as a member of a precinct board for an election pursuant to Elections Code 12302. (Education Code 48205)

9. To spend time with an immediate family member who is an active duty member of the uniformed services, as defined in Education Code 49701, and has been called to duty for deployment to a combat zone or a combat support position or is on leave from or has immediately returned from such deployment. (Education Code 48205)

Such absence shall be granted for a period of time to be determined at the discretion of the Superintendent or designee. (Education Code 48205)

10. Attendance at the student's naturalization ceremony to become a United States citizen. (Education Code 48205)

11. Participation in a cultural ceremony or event which relates to the habits, practices, beliefs, and traditions of a certain group of people. (Education Code 48205)

12. For a middle school or high school student, engagement in a civic or political event, provided that the student notifies the school ahead of the absence. Unless otherwise permitted by the Superintendent or designee,

students shall be limited to one such school day-long absence per school year. (Education Code 48205)

13. Participation in religious exercises or to receive moral and religious instruction at the student's place of worship or other suitable place away from school property as designated by the religious group, church, or denomination. (Education Code 46014)

Absence for student participation in religious exercises or instruction shall not be considered an absence for the purpose of computing average daily attendance if the student attends at least the minimum school day as specified in AR 6112 - School Day, and is not excused from school for this purpose on more than four days per school month. (Education Code 46014)

14. Work in the entertainment or allied industry. (Education Code 48225.5)

Work for a student who holds a work permit authorizing work in the entertainment or allied industries for a period of not more than five consecutive days. For this purpose, student absence shall be excused for a maximum of up to five absences per school year. (Education Code 48225.5)

15. Participation with a nonprofit performing arts organization in a performance for a public school audience. (Education Code 48225.5)

A student may be excused for up to five such absences per school year provided that the student's parent/guardian provides a written explanation of such absence to the school. (Education Code 48225.5)

16. Other reasons authorized at the discretion of the principal or designee based on the student's specific circumstances. (Education Code 48205, 48260)

For the purpose of the absences described above, immediate family means the student's parent/guardian, brother or sister, grandparent, or any other relative living in the student's household. (Education Code 48205)

### **Method of Verification**

Student absence to care for a child for whom the student is the custodial parent shall not require a physician's note. (Education Code 48205)

For other absences, the student shall, upon returning to school following the absence, present a satisfactory explanation, either in person or by written note, verifying the reason for the absence. Absences shall be verified by the student's parent/guardian, other person having charge or control of the student, or the student if age 18 or older. (Education Code 46012; 5 CCR 306)

When an absence is planned, the principal or designee shall be notified prior to the date of the absence when possible.

The following methods may be used to verify student absences:

1. Written note, fax, email, or voice mail from parent/guardian or parent representative.
2. Conversation, in person or by telephone, between the verifying employee and the student's parent/guardian or parent representative. The employee shall subsequently record the following:
  - a. Name of student
  - b. Name of parent/guardian or parent representative
  - c. Name of verifying employee
  - d. Date(s) of absence
  - e. Reason for absence
3. Visit to the student's home by the verifying employee, or any other reasonable method which establishes the fact that the student was absent for the reasons stated. The employee shall document the verification and

include the information specified in Item #2 above.

4. Physician's verification.

- a. When excusing students for confidential medical services or verifying such appointments, district staff shall not ask the purpose of such appointments but may request a note from the medical office to confirm the time of the appointment.
- b. If a student shows a pattern of chronic absenteeism due to illness, district staff may require physician verification of any further student absences.

**Parental Notifications**

At the beginning of each school year, the Superintendent or designee shall:

1. Notify parents/guardians of the right to excuse a student from school in order to participate in religious exercises or to receive moral and religious instruction at their places of worship, or at other suitable places away from school property designated by a religious group, church, or denomination. (Education Code 46014, 48980)
  2. Notify students in grades 7-12 and the parents/guardians of all students enrolled in the district that school authorities may excuse any student from school to obtain confidential medical services without the consent of the student's parent/guardian. (Education Code 46010.1)
  3. Notify parents/guardians that a student shall not have a grade reduced or lose academic credit for any excused absence if missed assignments and tests that can reasonably be provided are satisfactorily completed within a reasonable period of time. Such notice shall include the full text of Education Code 48205. (Education Code 48980)
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**Regulation 5131.41: Use Of Seclusion And Restraint**

**Status:** DRAFT

**Original Adopted Date:** 12/01/2018 | **Last Revised Date:** 06/23/2021

District staff shall enforce standards of appropriate student conduct in order to provide a safe and secure environment for students and staff on campus but are prohibited from using seclusion and behavioral restraint to control student behavior except as authorized by law when the behavior poses a clear and present danger of serious physical harm to the student, other students, or others on campus, and that cannot be immediately prevented by a less restrictive response.

**Definitions**

*Behavioral restraint* includes mechanical restraint or physical restraint used as an intervention when a student presents an immediate danger to self or to others. Behavioral restraint does not include postural restraints or devices used to improve a student's mobility and independent functioning rather than to restrict movement. (Education Code 49005.1)

*Mechanical restraint* means the use of a device or equipment to restrict a student's freedom of movement. Mechanical restraint does not include the use of devices as prescribed by an appropriate medical or related services professional, including, but not limited to, adaptive devices or mechanical supports used to achieve proper body position, balance, or alignment; vehicle safety restraints during the transport of a student; restraints for medical immobilization; or orthopedically prescribed devices which permit a student to participate in activities without risk of harm. Mechanical restraint also does not include the use of devices by peace officers or security personnel for detention or for public safety purposes. (Education Code 49005.1)

*Physical restraint* means a personal restriction that immobilizes or reduces the ability of a student to move the torso, arms, legs, or head freely. Physical restraint does not include a physical escort in which a staff member temporarily touches or holds the student's hand, wrist, arm, shoulder, or back for the purpose of inducing a student who is acting out to walk to a safe location. Physical restraint also does not include the use of force by peace officers or security personnel for detention or for public safety purposes. (Education Code 49005.1)

*Prone restraint* means the application of a behavioral restraint on a student in a facedown position. (Education Code 49005.1)

*Seclusion* means the involuntary confinement of a student alone in a room or an area from which the student is physically prevented from leaving. Seclusion does not include a timeout involving the monitored separation of the student in an unlocked setting, which is implemented for the purpose of calming the student. (Education Code 49005.1)

**Prohibitions**

Seclusion and behavioral restraint of students shall not be used in any form as a means of coercion, discipline, convenience, or retaliation. (Education Code 49005.8)

In addition, staff shall not take any of the following actions: (Education Code 49005.2, 49005.8)

1. Administer a drug that is not a standard treatment for a student's medical or psychiatric condition in order to control the student's behavior or restrict the student's freedom of movement
2. Use locked seclusion, unless it is in a facility otherwise licensed or permitted by state law to use as a locked room
3. Use a physical restraint technique that obstructs a student's respiratory airway or impairs a student's breathing or respiratory capacity, including a technique in which a staff member places pressure on the student's back or places the staff member's body weight against the student's torso or back
4. Use a behavioral restraint technique that restricts breathing, including, but not limited to, the use of a pillow, blanket, carpet, mat, or other item to cover a student's face
5. Place a student in a facedown position with the student's hands held or restrained behind the student's back

6. Use a behavioral restraint for longer than is necessary to contain the behavior that poses a clear and present danger of serious physical harm to the student or others

### **Limited Use of Seclusion or Restraint**

Staff shall avoid the use of seclusion and behavioral restraint of students whenever possible. Seclusion or behavioral restraint may be used only to control student behavior that poses a clear and present danger of serious physical harm to the student or others, which cannot be immediately prevented by a response that is less restrictive. (Education Code 49005.4, 49005.6, 49005.8)

When used, seclusion or restraint shall not be applied for longer than is necessary to contain the dangerous behavior. For any situation that requires a prolonged use of an emergency intervention, staff shall seek the assistance of the principal or law enforcement agency, as applicable to the situation. (Education Code 56521.1)

If a student is put in seclusion, the student shall be under constant, direct observation of a staff member. Such observation may be through a window or another barrier through which the staff member is able to make direct eye contact with the student, but shall not be made through indirect means such as a security camera or closed-circuit television. (Education Code 49005.8)

If a student is restrained, staff shall afford the student the least restrictive alternative and the maximum freedom of movement, and shall use the least number of restraint points, while ensuring the physical safety of the student and others. (Education Code 49005.8)

If a prone restraint technique is used on a student, a staff member shall observe the student for any signs of physical distress throughout the use of the restraint. Whenever possible, the staff member monitoring the student shall not be involved in restraining the student. (Education Code 49005.8)

Seclusion or restraint may only be applied to a student with disabilities in accordance with rules specified in AR 6159.4 Behavioral Interventions For Special Education Students. Staff may not apply seclusion or restraint to students with disabilities based on assumptions or stereotypes about disabilities or students with disabilities or for behavior that would not result in restraint or seclusion for students without disabilities.

The superintendent or designee shall provide training to staff in the safe and effective use of seclusion and restraint as appropriate.

### **Documentation of Seclusion and Restraint**

Parents/guardians and, if appropriate, residential care providers shall be notified within one school day whenever an emergency intervention is used or serious property damage occurs. (Education Code 56521.1)

A behavior emergency report shall be completed and forwarded to the Superintendent or designee for review. This report shall include: (Education Code 56521.1)

1. The name and age of the student
2. The setting and location of the incident
3. The name of the staff or other persons involved
4. A description of the incident and the emergency intervention used
5. A statement of whether the student is currently engaged in a systematic behavior intervention plan
6. Details of any injuries sustained by the student or others, including staff, as a result of the incident

### **Reports**

The Superintendent or designee shall annually collect data on the number of times that seclusion, mechanical

restraint, and physical restraint were used on students and the number of students subjected to such techniques. The data shall be disaggregated by race/ethnicity and gender, and reported for students with a Section 504 plan, students with an individualized education program, and all other students. This report shall be submitted to the California Department of Education no later than three months after the end of each school year, and shall be available as a public record pursuant to Government Code 6250-6270. (Education Code 49006)

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**Regulation 5144: Discipline**

**Status:** DRAFT

**Original Adopted Date:** 11/01/2012 | **Last Revised Date:** 06/23/2021

**Site-Level Rules**

Site-level rules shall be consistent with state law and Board policies and administrative regulations. In developing site-level disciplinary rules, the principal or designee shall solicit the participation, views, and advice of one representative selected by each of the following groups: (Education Code 35291.5)

1. Parents/guardians
2. Teachers
3. School administrators
4. School security personnel, if any
5. For junior high and high schools, students enrolled in the school

Annually, site-level discipline rules shall be reviewed and, if necessary, updated to align with any changes in state law, district discipline policies and regulations, and/or goals for school safety and climate as specified in the district's local control and accountability plan. A copy of the rules shall be filed with the Superintendent or designee for inclusion in the comprehensive safety plan.

School rules shall be communicated to students clearly and in an age-appropriate manner.

It shall be the duty of each employee of the school to enforce the school rules on student discipline. (Education Code 35291.5)

**Disciplinary Strategies**

To the extent possible, staff shall use disciplinary strategies that keep students in school and participating in the instructional program. Except when students' presence causes a danger to themselves or others or they commit a single act of a grave nature or an offense for which suspension or expulsion is required by law, suspension or expulsion shall be used only when other means of correction have failed to bring about proper conduct. Disciplinary strategies may include, but are not limited to:

1. Discussion or conference between school staff, the student, and the student's parents/guardians
2. Referral of the student to the school counselor or other school support service personnel for case management and counseling
3. Convening of a study team, guidance team, resource panel, or other intervention-related team to assess the behavior and develop and implement an individual plan to address the behavior in partnership with the student and the student's parents/guardians
4. When applicable, referral for a comprehensive psychosocial or psychoeducational assessment, including for purposes of creating an individualized education program or a Section 504 plan
5. Enrollment in a program for teaching prosocial behavior or anger management
6. Participation in a restorative justice program
7. A positive behavior support approach with tiered interventions that occur during the school day on campus
8. Participation in a social and emotional learning program that teaches students the ability to understand and manage emotions, develop caring and concern for others, make responsible decisions, establish positive relationships, and handle challenging situations capably

9. Participation in a program that is sensitive to the traumas experienced by students, focuses on students' behavioral health needs, and addresses those needs in a proactive manner
10. After-school programs that address specific behavioral issues or expose students to positive activities and behaviors, including, but not limited to, those operated in collaboration with local parent and community groups
11. Recess restriction as provided in the section below entitled "Recess Restriction"
12. Detention after school hours as provided in the section below entitled "Detention After School"
13. Community service as provided in the section below entitled "Community Service"
14. In accordance with Board policy and administrative regulation, restriction or disqualification from participation in extracurricular activities
15. Reassignment to an alternative educational environment
16. Suspension and expulsion in accordance with law, Board policy, and administrative regulation

When, by law or district policy, other means of correction are required to be implemented before a student could be suspended or expelled, any other means of correction implemented shall be documented and retained in the student's records. (Education Code 48900.5)

Staff shall enforce disciplinary rules fairly, consistently, and in accordance with the district's nondiscrimination policies.

When disciplining a student who has been identified for special education and related services, the procedures specified in Administrative Regulation 5144.2 - Suspension And Expulsion/Due Process (Students With Disabilities) shall be applied. If a student has not been identified as a student with a disability and the district suspects the behavior that resulted in discipline may be based in an unidentified disability, the district shall conduct an evaluation to determine if the student has a disability which requires an IEP or 504 plan. (U.S.C. 1412(a)(3))

### **Recess Restriction**

Teachers may restrict a student's recess time only when they believe that this action is the most effective way to bring about improved behavior. When recess restriction involves the withholding of physical activity from a student, teachers shall try other disciplinary measures before imposing the restriction. Recess restriction shall be subject to the following conditions:

1. The student shall be given adequate time to use the restroom and get a drink or eat lunch, as appropriate.
2. The student shall remain under a certificated employee's supervision during the period of restriction.
3. The student's teacher shall inform the principal of any recess restrictions imposed.

### **Detention After School**

Students may be detained for disciplinary reasons for up to one hour after the close of the maximum school day, or until the departure of the school bus to which they have been assigned if applicable. (5 CCR 307, 353)

The student shall not be detained unless the principal or designee notifies the parent/guardian.

Students shall remain under the supervision of a certificated employee during the period of detention.

Students may be offered the choice of serving their detention on Saturday rather than after school.

### **Community Service**

As part of or instead of disciplinary action, the Board, Superintendent, principal, or principal's designee may require a student to perform community service during nonschool hours on school grounds or, with written permission of the student's parent/guardian, off school grounds. Such service may include, but is not limited to, community or school outdoor beautification, community or campus betterment, and teacher, peer, or youth assistance programs. (Education Code 48900.6)

This community service option is not available for a student who has been suspended, pending expulsion, pursuant to Education Code 48915. However, if the recommended expulsion is not implemented or the expulsion itself is suspended, then the student may be required to perform community service for the resulting suspension. (Education Code 48900.6)

### **Notice to Parents/Guardians and Students**

At the beginning of the school year, the Superintendent or designee shall notify parents/guardians, in writing, about the availability of district rules related to discipline. (Education Code 35291, 48980)

The Superintendent or designee shall also provide written notice of disciplinary rules to transfer students at the time of their enrollment in the district.

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**Regulation 5144.1: Suspension And Expulsion/Due Process**

**Status:** DRAFT

**Original Adopted Date:** 12/01/2014 | **Last Revised Date:** 06/23/2021

**Definitions**

Suspension means removal of a student from ongoing instruction for adjustment purposes. However, suspension does not mean any of the following: (Education Code 48925)

1. Reassignment to another education program or class at the same school where the student will receive continuing instruction for the length of day prescribed by the Governing Board for students of the same grade level
2. Referral to a certificated employee designated by the principal to advise students
3. Removal from the class, but without reassignment to another class or program, for the remainder of the class period without sending the student to the principal or designee as provided in Education Code 48910, so long as removal from a particular class does not occur more than once every five school days.

*Expulsion* means removal of a student from the immediate supervision and control or the general supervision of school personnel. (Education Code 48925)

**Notice of Regulations**

At the beginning of each school year, the principal of each school shall ensure that all students and parents/guardians are notified in writing of all school rules related to discipline, including suspension and expulsion. (Education Code 35291, 48900.1, 48980)

**Grounds for Suspension and Expulsion: Grades K-12**

Acts for which a student, including a student with disabilities, may be suspended or expelled shall be only those specified as follows and in the sections "Additional Grounds for Suspension and Expulsion: Grades 4-12" and "Additional Grounds for Suspension and Expulsion: Grades 9-12" below:

1. Caused, attempted to cause, or threatened to cause physical injury to another person; willfully used force or violence upon another person, except in self-defense; or committed as an aider or abettor, as adjudged by a juvenile court, a crime of physical violence in which the victim suffered great or serious bodily injury (Education Code 48900(a) and (t))
2. Possessed, sold, or otherwise furnished any firearm, knife, explosive, or other dangerous object, unless, in the case of possession of any object of this type, the student had obtained written permission to possess the item from a certificated school employee, with the principal or designee's concurrence (Education Code 48900(b))
3. Unlawfully possessed, used, sold, otherwise furnished, or was under the influence of any controlled substance as defined in Health and Safety Code 11053-11059, alcoholic beverage, or intoxicant of any kind (Education Code 48900(c))
4. Unlawfully offered, arranged, or negotiated to sell any controlled substance as defined in Health and Safety Code 11053-11059, alcoholic beverage, or intoxicant of any kind, and then sold, delivered, or otherwise furnished to any person another liquid, substance, or material and represented the same as a controlled substance, alcoholic beverage, or intoxicant (Education Code 48900(d))
5. Committed or attempted to commit robbery or extortion (Education Code 48900(e))
6. Caused or attempted to cause damage to school property or private property (Education Code 48900(f))
7. Stole or attempted to steal school property or private property (Education Code 48900(g))
8. Possessed or used tobacco or products containing tobacco or nicotine products, including, but not limited to, cigars, cigarettes, miniature cigars, clove cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, snuff, chew packets, and betel, except that this restriction shall not prohibit a student from using or possessing prescription products (Education

Code 48900(h))

9. Committed an obscene act or engaged in habitual profanity or vulgarity (Education Code 48900(i))
10. Unlawfully possessed, offered, arranged, or negotiated to sell any drug paraphernalia, as defined in Health and Safety Code 11014.5 (Education Code 48900(j))
11. Knowingly received stolen school property or private property (Education Code 48900(l))
12. Possessed an imitation firearm (Education Code 48900(m))

*Imitation firearm* means 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(m))

13. Committed or attempted to commit a sexual assault as defined in Penal Code 261, 266c, 286, 287, 288, 289, or former 288a, or committed a sexual battery as defined in Penal Code 243.4 (Education Code 48900(n))
14. Harassed, threatened, or intimidated a student who is a complaining witness or witness in a school disciplinary proceeding for the purpose of preventing that student from being a witness and/or retaliating against that student for being a witness (Education Code 48900(o))
15. Unlawfully offered, arranged to sell, negotiated to sell, or sold the prescription drug Soma (Education Code 48900(p))
16. Engaged in, or attempted to engage in, hazing (Education Code 48900(q))

*Hazing* means a method of initiation or pre-initiation into a student organization or body, whether or not the organization or body is officially recognized by an educational institution, which is likely to cause serious bodily injury or personal degradation or disgrace resulting in physical or mental harm to a former, current, or prospective student. Hazing does not include athletic events or school-sanctioned events. (Education Code 48900(q))

17. Engaged in an act of bullying (Education Code 48900(r))

*Bullying* means any severe or pervasive physical or verbal act or conduct, including communications made in writing or by means of an electronic act, directed toward one or more students that has or can reasonably be predicted to have the effect of placing a reasonable student(s) in fear of harm to self or property; cause the student to experience a substantially detrimental effect on physical or mental health; or cause the student to experience substantial interferences with academic performance or ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, or privileges provided by a school. (Education Code 48900(r))

*Bullying* includes any act of sexual harassment, hate violence, or harassment, threat, or intimidation, as defined in Education Code 48900.2, 48900.3, or 48900.4 and below in the section "Additional Grounds for Suspension and Expulsion: Grades 4-12," that has any of the effects described above on a reasonable student.

*Bullying* also includes an act of cyber sexual bullying by a student through the dissemination of, or the solicitation or incitement to disseminate, a photograph or other visual recording that depicts a nude, semi-nude, or sexually explicit photograph or other visual recording of an identifiable minor, when such dissemination is to another student or to school personnel by means of an electronic act and has or can be reasonably predicted to have one or more of the effects of bullying described above. Cyber sexual bullying does not include a depiction, portrayal, or image that has any serious literary, artistic, educational, political, or scientific value or that involves athletic events or school-sanctioned activities.

*Electronic act* means the creation or transmission originated on or off the school site by means of an electronic device, including, but not limited to, a telephone, wireless telephone, or other wireless communication device, computer, or pager, of a communication including, but not limited to: (Education Code 48900(r))

- a. A message, text, sound, video, or image
- b. A post on a social network Internet web site, including, but not limited to, posting to or creating a burn page or creating a credible impersonation or false profile for the purpose of causing a reasonable student

any of the effects of bullying described above.

*Reasonable student* means a student, including, but not limited to, a student who has been identified as a student with a disability, who exercises average care, skill, and judgment in conduct for a person of the student's age, or for a person of the student's age and disability. (Education Code 48900(r))

*Burn page* means an internet web site created for the purpose of causing a reasonable student any of the effects of bullying described above. (Education Code 48900(r))

*Credible impersonation* means to knowingly and without consent impersonate a student for the purpose of bullying the student and such that the student would reasonably believe, or has reasonably believed, that the student was or is the student who was impersonated. (Education Code 48900(r))

*False profile* means a profile of a fictitious student or profile using the likeness or attributes of an actual student other than the student who created the false profile. (Education Code 48900(r))

An electronic act is not considered pervasive conduct solely on the basis that it has been transmitted to the internet or is currently posted on the internet. (Education Code 48900(r))

18. Aided or abetted the infliction or attempted infliction of physical injury on another person, as defined in Penal Code 31 (Education Code 48900(t))

19. Made terrorist threats against school officials and/or school property (Education Code 48900.7)

*A terrorist threat* includes any written or oral statement by a person who willfully threatens to commit a crime which will result in death or great bodily injury to another person or property damage in excess of \$1,000, with the specific intent that the statement is to be taken as a threat, even if there is no intent of actually carrying out the crime. (Education Code 48900.7)

#### **Additional Grounds for Suspension and Expulsion: Grades 4-12**

A student in grades 4-12 shall be subject to suspension or recommendation for expulsion when it is determined that the student:

1. Committed sexual harassment as defined in Education Code 212.5 (Education Code 48900.2)

*Sexual harassment* means conduct which, when considered from the perspective of a reasonable person of the same gender as the victim, is sufficiently severe or pervasive as to have a negative impact upon the victim's academic performance or to create an intimidating, hostile, or offensive educational environment. (Education Code 212.5, 48900.2)

2. Caused, attempted to cause, threatened to cause, or participated in an act of hate violence as defined in Education Code 233 (Education Code 48900.3)

*Hate violence* means any act punishable under Penal Code 422.6, 422.7, or 422.75. Such acts include injuring or intimidating a victim, interfering with the exercise of a victim's civil rights, or damaging a victim's property because of the victim's race, ethnicity, religion, nationality, disability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, or sexual orientation; a perception of the presence of any of those characteristics in the victim; or the victim's association with a person or group with one or more of those actual or perceived characteristics. (Education Code 233; Penal Code 422.55)

3. Intentionally engaged in harassment, threats, or intimidation against district personnel or students that is sufficiently severe or pervasive to have the actual and reasonably expected effect of materially disrupting classwork, creating substantial disorder, and invading the rights of school personnel or students by creating an intimidating or hostile educational environment. (Education Code 48900.4)

#### **Additional Grounds for Suspension and Expulsion: Grades 9-12**

Any student in grades 9-12 may be suspended, but not expelled, for disrupting school activities or otherwise willfully defying the valid authority of supervisors, teachers, administrators, other school officials, or other school personnel engaged in the performance of their duties. (Education Code 48900(k))

### **Suspension from Class by a Teacher**

A teacher may suspend a student from class for the remainder of the day and the following day for any of the acts specified in Education Code 48900 and listed as Items #1-19 under "Grounds for Suspension and Expulsion: Grades K-12" above or for disruption or willful defiance at any grade level, including grades K-8. (Education Code 48910)

When suspending a student from class, the teacher shall immediately report this action to the principal or designee and send the student to the principal or designee for appropriate action. If that action requires the continuing presence of the student at school, the student shall be appropriately supervised during the class periods from which the student has been suspended. (Education Code 48910)

As soon as possible after the teacher decides to suspend the student, the teacher shall ask the student's parent/guardian to attend a parent-teacher conference regarding the suspension. A counselor or psychologist may attend the conference if it is practicable, and a school administrator shall attend if either the parent/guardian or teacher so requests. (Education Code 48910)

A student suspended from class shall not be returned to class during the period of the suspension without the approval of the teacher of the class and the principal or designee. (Education Code 48910)

A student suspended from class shall not be placed in another regular class during the period of suspension. However, a student assigned to more than one class per day may continue to attend other regular classes except those held at the same time as the class from which the student was suspended. (Education Code 48910)

A teacher may also refer a student, for any of the acts specified above in Education Code 48900, to the principal or designee for consideration of a suspension from school. (Education Code 48910)

The teacher of any class from which a student is suspended may require the student to complete any assignments and tests missed during the removal. (Education Code 48913)

### **Suspension by Superintendent, Principal or Principal's Designee**

To implement disciplinary procedures at a school site, the principal may, in writing, designate as the principal's designee another administrator or, if the principal is the only administrator at the school site, a certificated employee. As necessary, the principal may, in writing, also designate another administrator or certificated employee as the secondary designee to assist with disciplinary procedures when the principal and the principal's primary designee are absent from the school site.

The Superintendent, principal, or designee shall immediately suspend any student found at school or at a school activity away from school to have committed any of the acts listed in the Board policy under "Authority to Expel" for which a recommendation of expulsion is required. (Education Code 48915(c))

The Superintendent, principal, or designee may impose a suspension for a first offense if it is determined that the student violated any of Items #1-5 listed under "Grounds for Suspension and Expulsion: Grades K-12" above or if the student's presence causes a danger to persons. (Education Code 48900.5)

For all other offenses, a student may be suspended only when the Superintendent or principal has determined that other means of correction have failed to bring about proper conduct. (Education Code 48900.5)

When other means of correction are implemented prior to imposing suspension upon a student, including supervised suspension, the Superintendent, principal, or designee shall document the other means of correction used and retain the documentation in the student's record. (Education Code 48900.5)

### **Length of Suspension**

The Superintendent, principal, or designee may suspend a student from school for not more than five consecutive school days. (Education Code 48911)

A student may be suspended from school for not more than 20 school days in any school year. However, if a student enrolls in or is transferred to another regular school, an opportunity school or class, or continuation school or class

for the purpose of adjustment, the student may be suspended for not more than 30 school days in a school year. The district may count suspensions that occur while a student is enrolled in another school district toward the maximum number of days for which the student may be suspended in any school year. (Education Code 48903, 48911, 48912)

These restrictions on the number of days of suspension shall not apply when the suspension is extended pending an expulsion. (Education Code 48911)

### **Due Process Procedures for Suspension**

Suspensions shall be imposed in accordance with the following procedures:

1. **Informal Conference:** Suspension shall be preceded by an informal conference conducted by the Superintendent, principal, or designee with the student and, whenever practicable, the teacher, supervisor, or school employee who referred the student to the principal. At the conference, the student shall be informed of the reason for the disciplinary action, including the other means of correction that were attempted before the suspension as required pursuant to Education Code 48900.5, and the evidence against the student, and shall be given the opportunity to present the student's version and evidence in the student's defense. (Education Code 48911)

This conference may be omitted if the Superintendent, principal, or designee determines that an emergency situation exists involving a clear and present danger to the lives, safety, or health of students or school personnel. If a student is suspended without this conference, the student, the student's parent/guardian, or if the student is a foster youth, the foster youth's educational rights holder, attorney, and county social worker, or if the student is an Indian child, the Indian child's tribal social worker and, if applicable, county social worker, shall be notified of the student's right to a conference and the right to return to school for the purpose of the conference. The conference shall be held within two school days, unless the student waives the right to it or is physically unable to attend for any reason. In such a case, the conference shall be held as soon as the student is physically able to return to school for the conference. (Education Code 48911)

2. **Administrative Actions:** All requests for student suspension are to be processed by the principal or designee. A school employee shall report the suspension, including the name of the student and the cause for the suspension, to the Superintendent or designee. (Education Code 48911)
3. **Notice to Parents/Guardians:** At the time of the suspension, a school employee shall make a reasonable effort to contact the parent/guardian, or if the student is a foster youth, the foster youth's educational rights holder, attorney, and county social worker, or if the student is an Indian child, the Indian child's tribal social worker, and, if applicable, the county social worker, in person, by email, or by telephone. Whenever a student is suspended, the parent/guardian, or, if applicable, the foster youth's educational rights holder, attorney, and county social worker, or the Indian child's tribal social worker and, if applicable, the county social worker, shall also be notified in writing of the suspension. (Education Code 48911)

This notice shall state the specific offense committed by the student. (Education Code 48900.8)

4. In addition, the notice may state the date and time when the student may return to school.
5. **Parent/Guardian Conference:** Whenever a student is suspended, school officials may conduct a meeting with the parent/guardian to discuss the cause(s) and duration of the suspension, the school policy involved, and any other pertinent matter. (Education Code 48914)

If school officials request to meet with the parent/guardian, a foster youth's educational rights holder, attorney, and county social worker, or an Indian child's tribal social worker, and, if applicable, the county social worker, the notice may state that the law requires such individuals to respond to the request without delay. However, the student shall not be penalized for the failure of the parent/guardian, a foster youth's educational rights holder, attorney, and county social worker, or an Indian child's tribal social worker, and, if applicable, the county social worker, to attend such a conference. The student may not be denied reinstatement solely because such individuals failed to attend the conference. (Education Code 48911)

6. **Extension of Suspension:** If the Board is considering the expulsion of a suspended student from any school or the suspension of a student for the balance of the semester from continuation school, the Superintendent or designee may, in writing, extend the suspension until such time as the Board has made a decision, provided the following requirements are followed: (Education Code 48911)



- a. The extension of the original period of suspension is preceded by notice of such extension with an offer to hold a conference concerning the extension, giving the student an opportunity to be heard. This conference may be held in conjunction with a meeting requested by the student or parent/guardian to challenge the original suspension.
- b. The Superintendent or designee determines, following a meeting in which the student and the student's parent/guardian were invited to participate, that the student's presence at the school or at an alternative school would endanger persons or property or threaten to disrupt the instructional process.
- c. If the student involved is a foster youth or Indian child, the Superintendent or designee shall notify the district's educational liaison of the need to invite the foster youth's educational rights holder, attorney and county social worker, or the Indian child's tribal social worker or, if applicable, the county social worker, to attend the meeting. (Education Code 48853.5, 48911, 48918.1)
- d. If the student involved is a homeless child or youth, the Superintendent or designee shall notify the district liaison for homeless students. (Education Code 48918.1)
- e. In lieu of or in addition to suspending a student, the Superintendent, principal, or designee may provide services or require the student to participate in an alternative disciplinary program designed to correct the behavior and keep the student in school.

### **On-Campus Suspension**

A student for whom an expulsion action has not been initiated and who poses no imminent danger or threat to the school, students, or staff may be assigned to on-campus suspension in a separate classroom, building, or site for the entire period of suspension. The following conditions shall apply: (Education Code 48911.1)

1. The on-campus suspension classroom shall be staffed in accordance with law.
2. The student shall have access to appropriate counseling services.
3. The on-campus suspension classroom shall promote completion of schoolwork and tests missed by the student during the suspension.
4. The student shall be responsible for contacting the student's teacher(s) to receive assignments to be completed in the supervised suspension classroom. The teacher(s) shall provide all assignments and tests that the student will miss while suspended. If no such work is assigned, the person supervising the suspension classroom shall assign schoolwork.

At the time a student is assigned to an on-campus suspension classroom, the principal or designee shall notify the student's parent/guardian, or if the student is a foster youth, the foster youth's educational rights holder, attorney, and county social worker, or, if the student is an Indian child, the Indian child's tribal social worker and, if applicable, county social worker, in person, by email, or by telephone. When the assignment is for longer than one class period, this notification shall be made in writing. (Education Code 48911.1)

### **Superintendent or Principal's Authority to Recommend Expulsion**

Unless the Superintendent or principal determines that expulsion should not be recommended under the circumstances or that an alternative means of correction would address the conduct, the Superintendent or principal shall recommend a student's expulsion for any of the following acts: (Education Code 48915)

1. Causing serious physical injury to another person, except in self-defense
2. Possession of any knife or other dangerous object of no reasonable use to the student
3. Unlawful possession of any controlled substance as listed in Health and Safety Code 11053-11059, except for:
  - a. The first offense for the possession of not more than one ounce of marijuana, other than concentrated cannabis
  - b. The student's possession of over-the-counter medication for use by the student for medical purposes

- c. Medication prescribed for the student by a physician
- 4. Robbery or extortion
- 5. Assault or battery, as defined in Penal Code 240 and 242, upon any school employee

In determining whether to recommend the expulsion of a student, the Superintendent, principal, or designee shall act as quickly as possible to ensure that the student does not lose instructional time. (Education Code 48915)

### **Student's Right to Expulsion Hearing**

Any student recommended for expulsion shall be entitled to a hearing to determine whether the student should be expelled. The hearing shall be held within 30 school days after the Superintendent, principal, or designee determines that the student has committed the act(s) that form the basis for the expulsion recommendation. (Education Code 48918(a))

The student is entitled to at least one postponement of an expulsion hearing for a period of not more than 30 calendar days. The request for postponement shall be in writing. Any subsequent postponement may be granted at the Board's discretion. (Education Code 48918(a))

If the Board finds it impractical during the regular school year to comply with these time requirements for conducting an expulsion hearing, the Superintendent or designee may, for good cause, extend the time period by an additional five school days. Reasons for the extension shall be included as a part of the record when the expulsion hearing is held. (Education Code 48918(a))

If the Board finds it impractical to comply with the time requirements of the expulsion hearing due to a summer recess of Board meetings of more than two weeks, the days during the recess shall not be counted as school days. The days not counted during the recess may not exceed 20 school days, as defined in Education Code 48925. Unless the student requests in writing that the expulsion hearing be postponed, the hearing shall be held not later than 20 calendar days prior to the first day of the next school year. (Education Code 48918(a))

Once the hearing starts, all matters shall be pursued with reasonable diligence and concluded without unnecessary delay. (Education Code 48918(a))

### **Stipulated Expulsion**

After a determination that a student has committed an offense for which the student may be expelled, the Superintendent, principal, or designee shall offer the student, the student's parent/guardian, or, when applicable, other person holding the right to make educational decisions for the student, the option to waive a hearing and stipulate to the expulsion or to a suspension of the expulsion under certain conditions. The offer shall be made only after written notice of the expulsion hearing pursuant to Education Code 48918 has been given.

The stipulation agreement shall be in writing and shall be signed by the student, the student's parent/guardian, or, when applicable, the person holding the right to make educational decisions for the student. The stipulation agreement shall include notice of all the rights that the student is waiving, including the waiving of the right to have a full hearing, to appeal the expulsion to the County Board of Education, and to consult legal counsel.

A stipulated expulsion agreed to by the student, the student's parent/guardian, or, when applicable, the person holding the right to make educational decisions for the student, shall be effective upon approval by the Board.

### **Rights of Complaining Witness**

An expulsion hearing involving allegations of sexual assault or sexual battery may be postponed for one school day in order to accommodate the special physical, mental, or emotional needs of a student who is the complaining witness. (Education Code 48918.5)

Whenever the Superintendent or designee recommends an expulsion hearing that addresses allegations of sexual assault or sexual battery, the Superintendent or designee shall give the complaining witness a copy of the district's suspension and expulsion policy and regulation and shall advise the witness of the right to: (Education Code 48918.5)

1. Receive five days' notice of the scheduled testimony at the hearing
2. Have up to two adult support persons present at the hearing at the time the witness testifies
3. Have a closed hearing during the time the witness testifies

Whenever any allegation of sexual assault or sexual battery is made, the Superintendent or designee shall immediately advise complaining witnesses and accused students to refrain from personal or telephone contact with each other during the time when an expulsion process is pending. (Education Code 48918.5)

### **Written Notice of the Expulsion Hearing**

Written notice of the expulsion hearing shall be forwarded to the student and the student's parent/guardian at least 10 calendar days before the date of the hearing. The notice shall include: (Education Code 48900.8, 48918(b))

1. The date and place of the hearing
2. A statement of the specific facts, charges, and offense upon which the proposed expulsion is based
3. A copy of district disciplinary rules which relate to the alleged violation
4. Notification of the student's or parent/guardian's obligation, pursuant to Education Code 48915.1, to provide information about the student's status in the district to any other district in which the student seeks enrollment

This obligation applies when a student is expelled for acts other than those described in Education Code 48915(a) or (c).

5. The opportunity for the student or the student's parent/guardian to appear in person or be represented by legal counsel or by a nonattorney adviser

Legal counsel means an attorney or lawyer who is admitted to the practice of law in California and is an active member of the State Bar of California.

Nonattorney adviser means an individual who is not an attorney or lawyer, but who is familiar with the facts of the case and has been selected by the student or student's parent/guardian to provide assistance at the hearing.

6. The right to inspect and obtain copies of all documents to be used at the hearing
7. The opportunity to confront and question all witnesses who testify at the hearing
8. The opportunity to question all evidence presented and to present oral and documentary evidence on the student's behalf, including witnesses

### **Additional Notice of Expulsion Hearing for Foster Youth, Homeless Students, and Indian Children**

If the student facing expulsion is a foster student or Indian child, the Superintendent or designee shall also send notice of the hearing to the foster youth's educational rights holder, attorney, and county social worker, or the Indian child's tribal social worker and, if applicable, county social worker, at least 10 calendar days prior to the hearing. (Education Code 48918.1)

If the student facing expulsion is a homeless student, the Superintendent or designee shall also send notice of the hearing to the district liaison for homeless students at least 10 calendar days prior to the hearing. (Education Code 48918.1)

Any notice for these purposes may be provided by the most cost-effective method possible, including by email or a telephone call. (Education Code 48918.1)

### **Conduct of Expulsion Hearing**

1. Closed Session: Notwithstanding Education Code 35145, the Board shall conduct a hearing to consider the expulsion of the student in a session closed to the public unless the student requests in writing at least five

days prior to the hearing that the hearing be a public meeting. If such a request is made, the meeting shall be public to the extent that privacy rights of other students are not violated. (Education Code 48918)

2. Whether the expulsion hearing is held in closed or public session, the Board may meet in closed session to deliberate and determine whether the student should be expelled. If the Board admits any other person to this closed session, the parent/guardian, the student, and the counsel of the student also shall be allowed to attend the closed session. (Education Code 48918(c))

If a hearing that involves a charge of sexual assault or sexual battery is to be conducted in public, a complaining witness shall have the right to testify in closed session when testifying in public would threaten serious psychological harm to the witness and when there are no alternative procedures to avoid the threatened harm, including, but not limited to, a videotaped deposition or contemporaneous examination in another place communicated to the hearing room by closed-circuit television. (Education Code 48918(c))

3. Record of Hearing: A record of the hearing shall be made and may be maintained by any means, including electronic recording, as long as a reasonably accurate and complete written transcription of the proceedings can be made. (Education Code 48918(g))
4. Subpoenas: Before commencing a student expulsion hearing, the Board may issue subpoenas, at the request of either the student or the Superintendent or designee, for the personal appearance at the hearing of any person who actually witnessed the action that gave rise to the recommendation for expulsion. After the hearing has commenced, the Board or the hearing officer or administrative panel may issue such subpoenas at the request of the student or the County Superintendent of Schools or designee. All subpoenas shall be issued in accordance with Code of Civil Procedure 1985-1985.2 and enforced in accordance with Government Code 11455.20. (Education Code 48918(i))

Any objection raised by the student or the Superintendent or designee to the issuance of subpoenas may be considered by the Board in closed session, or in open session if so requested by the student, before the meeting. The Board's decision in response to such an objection shall be final and binding. (Education Code 48918(i))

If the Board determines, or if the hearing officer or administrative panel finds and submits to the Board, that a witness would be subject to unreasonable risk of harm by testifying at the hearing, a subpoena shall not be issued to compel the personal attendance of that witness at the hearing. However, that witness may be compelled to testify by means of a sworn declaration as described in Item #6 below. (Education Code 48918(i))

5. Presentation of Evidence: Technical rules of evidence shall not apply to the expulsion hearing, but relevant evidence may be admitted and used as proof only if it is the kind of evidence on which reasonable persons can rely in the conduct of serious affairs. The decision of the Board to expel shall be supported by substantial evidence that the student committed any of the acts pursuant to Education Code 48900 and listed in "Grounds for Suspension and Expulsion: Grades K-12," "Additional Grounds for Suspension and Expulsion: Grades 4-12," and "Additional Grounds for Suspension and Expulsion: Grades 9-12" above. (Education Code 48918(h))
6. Findings of fact shall be based solely on the evidence at the hearing. Although no finding shall be based solely on hearsay, sworn declarations may be admitted as testimony from witnesses whose disclosure of their identity or testimony at the hearing may subject them to an unreasonable risk of physical or psychological harm. (Education Code 48918(f))

In cases where a search of a student's person or property has occurred, evidence describing the reasonableness of the search shall be included in the hearing record.

7. Testimony by Complaining Witnesses: The following procedures shall be observed when a hearing involves allegations of sexual assault or sexual battery by a student: (Education Code 48918, 48918.5)
  - a. Any complaining witness shall be given five days' notice before being called to testify.
  - b. Any complaining witness shall be entitled to have up to two adult support persons, including, but not limited to, a parent/guardian or legal counsel, present during the testimony.
  - c. Before a complaining witness testifies, support persons shall be admonished that the hearing is

confidential.

- d. The person presiding over the hearing may remove a support person who is disrupting the hearing.
- e. If one or both support persons are also witnesses, the hearing shall be conducted in accordance with Penal Code 868.5.
- f. Evidence of specific instances of prior sexual conduct of a complaining witness shall be presumed inadmissible and shall not be heard unless the person conducting the hearing determines that extraordinary circumstances require the evidence to be heard. Before such a determination is made, the complaining witness shall be given notice and an opportunity to oppose the introduction of this evidence. In the hearing on the admissibility of this evidence, the complaining witness shall be entitled to be represented by a parent/guardian, legal counsel, or other support person. Reputation or opinion evidence regarding the sexual behavior of a complaining witness shall not be admissible for any purpose.
- g. In order to facilitate a free and accurate statement of the experiences of the complaining witness and to prevent discouragement of complaints, the district shall provide a nonthreatening environment.
  - i. The district shall provide a room separate from the hearing room for the use of the complaining witness before and during breaks in testimony.
  - ii. At the discretion of the person conducting the hearing, the complaining witness shall be allowed reasonable periods of relief from examination and cross-examination during which the complaining witness may leave the hearing room.
  - iii. The person conducting the hearing may:
    - A. Arrange the seating within the hearing room so as to facilitate a less intimidating environment for the complaining witness
    - B. Limit the time for taking the testimony of a complaining witness to normal school hours, if there is no good cause to take the testimony during other hours
    - C. Permit one of the support persons to accompany the complaining witness to the witness stand

8. Decision: The Board's decision as to whether to expel a student shall be made within 40 school days after the student is removed from school, unless the student requests in writing that the decision be postponed. (Education Code 48918(a))

#### **Alternative Expulsion Hearing: Hearing Officer or Administrative Panel**

Instead of conducting an expulsion hearing itself, the Board may contract with the county hearing officer or with the Office of Administrative Hearings of the State of California for a hearing officer. The Board may also appoint an impartial administrative panel composed of three or more certificated personnel, none of whom shall be members of the Board or on the staff of the school in which the student is enrolled. (Education Code 48918)

A hearing conducted by the hearing officer or administrative panel shall conform to the same procedures applicable to a hearing conducted by the Board as specified above in "Conduct of Expulsion Hearing," including the requirement to issue a decision within 40 school days of the student's removal from school, unless the student requests that the decision be postponed. (Education Code 48918(a) and (d))

The hearing officer or administrative panel shall, within three school days after the hearing, determine whether to recommend expulsion of the student to the Board. If expulsion is not recommended, the expulsion proceeding shall be terminated and the student shall be immediately reinstated and permitted to return to the classroom instructional program from which the referral was made, unless another placement is requested in writing by the student's parent/guardian. Before the student's placement decision is made by the student's parent/guardian, the Superintendent or designee shall consult with the parent/guardian and district staff, including the student's teachers, regarding other placement options for the student in addition to the option to return to the classroom instructional program from which the student's expulsion referral was made. The decision to not recommend expulsion shall be final. (Education Code 48918(e))

If expulsion is recommended, findings of fact in support of the recommendation shall be prepared and submitted to the Board. All findings of fact and recommendations shall be based solely on the evidence presented at the hearing. The Board may accept the recommendation based either upon a review of the findings of fact and recommendations submitted or upon the results of any supplementary hearing the Board may order. (Education Code 48918(f))

In accordance with Board policy, the hearing officer or administrative panel may recommend that the Board suspend the enforcement of the expulsion. If the hearing officer or administrative panel recommends that the Board expel a student but suspend the enforcement of the expulsion, the student shall not be reinstated and permitted to return to the classroom instructional program from which the referral was made until the Board has ruled on the recommendation. (Education Code 48917, 48918)

### **Final Action by the Board**

Whether the expulsion hearing is conducted in closed or open session by the Board, a hearing officer, or an administrative panel or is waived through the signing of a stipulated expulsion agreement, the final action to expel shall be taken by the Board in public. (Education Code 48918(j))

The Board's decision is final. If the decision is to not expel, the student shall be reinstated immediately. If the decision is to suspend the enforcement of the expulsion, the student shall be reinstated under the conditions of the suspended expulsion.

Upon ordering an expulsion, the Board shall set a date when the student shall be reviewed for readmission to a school within the district. For a student expelled for any "mandatory recommendation and mandatory expulsion" act listed in the section "Authority to Expel" in the accompanying Board policy, this date shall be one year from the date the expulsion occurred, except that the Board may set an earlier date on a case-by-case basis. For a student expelled for other acts, this date shall be no later than the last day of the semester following the semester in which the expulsion occurred. If an expulsion is ordered during summer session or the intersession period of a year-round program, the Board shall set a date when the student shall be reviewed for readmission not later than the last day of the semester following the summer session or intersession period in which the expulsion occurred. (Education Code 48916)

At the time of the expulsion order, the Board shall recommend a plan for the student's rehabilitation, which may include: (Education Code 48916)

1. Periodic review, as well as assessment at the time of review, for readmission
2. Recommendations for improved academic performance, tutoring, special education assessments, job training, counseling, employment, community service, or other rehabilitative programs

With parent/guardian consent, students who have been expelled for reasons relating to controlled substances or alcohol may be required to enroll in a county-sponsored drug rehabilitation program before returning to school. (Education Code 48916.5)

### **Written Notice to Expel**

The Superintendent or designee shall send written notice of the decision to expel to the student or parent/guardian. This notice shall include the following:

1. The specific offense committed by the student for any of the causes for suspension or expulsion listed above under "Grounds for Suspension and Expulsion: Grades K-12," "Additional Grounds for Suspension and Expulsion: Grades 4-12," or "Additional Grounds for Suspension and Expulsion: Grades 9-12" (Education Code 48900.8)
2. The fact that a description of readmission procedures will be made available to the student and parent/guardian (Education Code 48916)
3. Notice of the right to appeal the expulsion to the County Board (Education Code 48918)
4. Notice of the alternative educational placement to be provided to the student during the time of expulsion (Education Code 48918)

5. Notice of the student's or parent/guardian's obligation to inform any new district in which the student seeks to enroll of the student's status with the expelling district, pursuant to Education Code 48915.1 (Education Code 48918)

### **Decision to Suspend Expulsion Order**

In accordance with Board policy, when deciding whether to suspend the enforcement of an expulsion order, the Board shall take into account the following criteria:

1. The student's pattern of behavior
2. The seriousness of the misconduct
3. The student's attitude toward the misconduct and willingness to follow a rehabilitation program

The suspension of the enforcement of an expulsion shall be governed by the following:

1. The Board may, as a condition of the suspension of enforcement, assign the student to a school, class, or program appropriate for the student's rehabilitation. This rehabilitation program may provide for the involvement of the student's parent/guardian in the student's education. However, a parent/guardian's refusal to participate in the rehabilitation program shall not be considered in the Board's determination as to whether the student has satisfactorily completed the rehabilitation program. (Education Code 48917)
2. During the period when enforcement of the expulsion order is suspended, the student shall be on probationary status. (Education Code 48917)
3. The suspension of the enforcement of an expulsion order may be revoked by the Board if the student commits any of the acts listed under "Grounds for Suspension and Expulsion: Grades K-12," "Additional Grounds for Suspension and Expulsion: Grades 4-12," or "Additional Grounds for Suspension and Expulsion: Grades 9-12" above or violates any of the district's rules and regulations governing student conduct. (Education Code 48917)
4. When the suspension of enforcement of an expulsion order is revoked, a student may be expelled under the terms of the original expulsion order. (Education Code 48917)
5. Upon satisfactory completion of the rehabilitation assignment, the Board shall reinstate the student in a district school. Upon reinstatement, the Board may order the expunging of any or all records of the expulsion proceedings. (Education Code 48917)
6. The Superintendent or designee shall send written notice of any decision to suspend the enforcement of an expulsion order during a period of probation to the student or parent/guardian. The notice shall inform the parent/guardian of the right to appeal the expulsion to the County Board, the alternative educational placement to be provided to the student during the period of expulsion, and the student's or parent/guardian's obligation to inform any new district in which the student seeks to enroll of the student's status with the expelling district, pursuant to Education Code 48915.1(b). (Education Code 48918(j))
7. Suspension of the enforcement of an expulsion order shall not affect the time period and requirements for the filing of an appeal of the expulsion order with the County Board. (Education Code 48917)

### **Appeal**

If a student is expelled from school, the student or parent/guardian is entitled to file an appeal of the Board's decision with the County Board. The appeal must be filed within 30 days of the Board's decision to expel, even if the expulsion order is suspended and the student is placed on probation. (Education Code 48919)

If the student submits a written request for a copy of the written transcripts and supporting documents from the district simultaneously with the filing of the notice of appeal with the County Board, the district shall provide the student with these documents within 10 school days following the student's written request. (Education Code 48919)

### **Notification to Law Enforcement Authorities**

Prior to the suspension or expulsion of any student, the principal or designee shall notify appropriate city or county law enforcement authorities of any student acts of assault which may have violated Penal Code 245. (Education Code 48902)

The principal or designee shall notify appropriate city or county law enforcement authorities of any student acts which may involve the possession or sale of narcotics or of a controlled substance, or of any student acts involving the possession, sale, or furnishing of firearms, explosives, or other dangerous weapons in violation of Education Code 48915(c)(1) or (5) or Penal Code 626.9 and 626.10. (Education Code 48902)

Within one school day after a student's suspension or expulsion, the principal or designee shall notify appropriate county or district law enforcement authorities, by telephone or other appropriate means, of any student acts which may violate Education Code 48900(c) or (d), relating to the possession, use, offering, or sale of controlled substances, alcohol, or intoxicants of any kind. (Education Code 48902)

### **Placement During Expulsion**

The Board shall refer expelled students to a program of study that is: (Education Code 48915, 48915.01)

1. Appropriately prepared to accommodate students who exhibit discipline problems
2. Not provided at a comprehensive middle, junior, or senior high school or at any elementary school, unless the program is offered at a community day school established at any of these
3. Not housed at the school site attended by the student at the time of suspension

When the placement described above is not available and when the County Superintendent so certifies, students expelled for only acts described in Items #6-12 under "Grounds for Suspension and Expulsion: Grades K-12" and Items #1-3 under "Additional Grounds for Suspension and Expulsion: Grades 4-12" above may be referred to a program of study that is provided at another comprehensive middle, junior, or senior high school or at an elementary school. (Education Code 48915)

The program for a student expelled from any of grades K-6 shall not be combined or merged with programs offered to students in any of grades 7-12. (Education Code 48916.1)

### **Readmission After Expulsion**

Prior to the date set by the Board for the student's readmission:

1. The Superintendent or designee shall hold a conference with the student's parent/guardian, or other person holding the right to make educational decisions for the student, and the student. At the conference, the student's rehabilitation plan shall be reviewed and the Superintendent or designee shall verify that the provisions of this plan have been met. School regulations shall be reviewed and the student and the student's parent/guardian or other person holding the right to make educational decisions for the student shall be asked to indicate in writing their willingness to comply with these regulations.
2. The Superintendent or designee shall transmit to the Board a recommendation regarding readmission. The Board shall consider this recommendation in closed session. If a written request for open session is received from the student's parent/guardian or other person holding the right to make educational decisions for the student, or adult student, it shall be honored to the extent that privacy rights of other students are not violated.
3. If the readmission is granted, the Superintendent or designee shall notify the student and the student's parent/guardian, or other person holding the right to make educational decisions for the student, by registered mail, of the Board's decision regarding readmission.
4. The Board may deny readmission only if it finds that the student has not satisfied the conditions of the rehabilitation plan or that the student continues to pose a danger to campus safety or to other district students or employees. (Education Code 48916)
5. If the Board denies the readmission of a student, the Board shall determine either to continue the student's placement in the alternative educational program initially selected or to place the student in another program that serves expelled students, including placement in a county community school.



6. The Board shall provide written notice to the expelled student and the student's parent/guardian, or other person holding the right to make educational decisions for the student, describing the reasons for denying readmittance into the regular program. This notice shall indicate the Board's determination of the educational program which the Board has chosen. The student shall enroll in that program unless the parent/guardian chooses to enroll the student in another school district.

No student shall be denied readmission into the district based solely on the student's arrest, adjudication by a juvenile court, formal or informal supervision by a probation officer, detention in a juvenile facility, enrollment in a juvenile court school, or other such contact with the juvenile justice system. (Education Code 48645.5)

#### **Maintenance of Records**

The district shall maintain a record of each suspension and expulsion, including its specific cause(s). (Education Code 48900.8)

Expulsion records of any student shall be maintained in the student's mandatory interim record and sent to any school in which the student subsequently enrolls upon written request by that school. (Education Code 48918(k))

The Superintendent or designee shall, within five working days, honor any other district's request for information about an expulsion from this district. (Education Code 48915.1)

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**Regulation 5144.2: Suspension And Expulsion/Due Process (Students With Disabilities)**

**Status:** DRAFT

**Original Adopted Date:** 11/01/2006 | **Last Revised Date:** 06/23/2021

A student identified as an individual with a disability pursuant to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), 20 USC 1400-1482, is subject to the same grounds and procedures for suspension and expulsion which apply to students without disabilities, except as otherwise specified in this administrative regulation.

Suspension or expulsion of a student with disabilities shall be in accordance with Board Policy 5144.1 - Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process and this administrative regulation.

When a student with disabilities exhibits behavior which impedes the student's own learning or that of others, the student's individualized education program (IEP) team shall consider positive behavioral interventions and supports, and other strategies, to address the behavior. (Education Code 56521.2; 20 USC 1414)

### **Suspension**

The Superintendent or designee may suspend a student with a disability for up to 10 consecutive school days for a single incident of misconduct, and for up to 20 cumulative school days in a school year as long as the pattern of suspension(s) does not constitute a change in placement pursuant to 34 CFR 300.536. (Education Code 48903; 34 CFR 300.530)

The Superintendent or designee shall determine, on a case-by-case basis, whether a pattern of removals of a student from the student's current educational placement for disciplinary reasons constitutes a change of placement. A change of placement shall be deemed to have occurred under either of the following circumstances: (34 CFR 300.536)

1. The removal is for more than 10 consecutive school days
2. The student has been subjected to a series of removals that constitute a pattern because of all of the following:
  - a. The series of removals total more than 10 school days in a school year
  - b. The student's behavior is substantially similar to the student's behavior in previous incidents that resulted in the series of removals
  - c. Additional factors, such as the length of each removal, the total amount of time the student has been removed, and the proximity of the removals to one another

If a student's removal is determined to be a change of placement as specified in Items #1-2 above, the student's IEP team shall determine the appropriate educational services. Such services shall be designed to enable the student to continue to participate in the general education curriculum in another setting, to progress toward meeting the goals set out in the student's IEP, and to address the student's behavior violation so that it does not recur. (20 USC 1412(a)(1)(A); 34 CFR 300.530)

If the IEP of a student with a disability requires the district to provide the student with transportation, the district shall provide the student with an alternative form of transportation at no cost to the student or the student's parent/guardian when, as a result of a suspension, the student is excluded from school bus transportation. (Education Code 48915.5)

The principal or designee shall monitor the number of days, including portions of days, in which a student with an IEP has been suspended during the school year.

### **Interim Alternative Educational Placement Due to Dangerous Behavior**

The district may unilaterally place a student with a disability in an appropriate interim alternative educational setting for up to 45 school days, without regard to whether the behavior is a manifestation of the student's disability, when the student commits one of the following acts while at school, going to or from school, or at a school-related function: (20 USC 1415(k)(1)(G); 34 CFR 300.530)

1. Carries or possesses a weapon, as defined in 18 USC 930
2. Knowingly possesses or uses illegal drugs
3. Sells or solicits the sale of a controlled substance as identified in 21 USC 812(c), Schedules I-V
4. Inflicts serious bodily injury upon another person as defined in 18 USC 1365

The student's interim alternative educational setting shall be determined by the student's IEP team. (20 USC 1415(k)(1)(G); 34 CFR 300.531)

On the date the decision to take disciplinary action is made, the student's parent/guardian shall be notified of the decision and provided the procedural safeguards notice pursuant to 34 CFR 300.504. (20 USC 1415(k)(1)(H); 34 CFR 300.530)

A student who has been removed from the student's current placement because of dangerous behavior shall receive services, although in another setting, to the extent necessary to allow the student to participate in the general education curriculum and to progress toward meeting the goals set out in the IEP. As appropriate, the student shall also receive a functional behavioral assessment and behavioral intervention services and modifications that are designed to address the behavior violation so that it does not recur. (20 USC 1415(k)(1)(D); 34 CFR 300.530)

### **Manifestation Determination**

The following procedural safeguards shall apply when a student with a disability is suspended for more than 10 consecutive school days, when a series of removals of a student constitutes a pattern, or when a change of placement of a student is contemplated due to a violation of the district's code of conduct:

1. Notice: On the date the decision to take disciplinary action is made, the student's parent/guardian shall be notified of the decision and provided the procedural safeguards notice pursuant to 34 CFR 300.504. If the student is a foster youth, the notice shall be given to the student's educational rights holder, attorney, and county social worker, and, if the student is an Indian child, the student's tribal social worker and, if applicable, county social worker. (Education Code 48853.5; 20 USC 1415(k)(1)(H); 34 CFR 300.530)
2. Manifestation Determination Review: Immediately if possible, but in no case later than 10 school days after the date the decision to take disciplinary action is made, a manifestation determination review shall be made of the relationship between the student's disability and the behavior subject to the disciplinary action. (20 USC 1415(k)(1)(E); 34 CFR 300.530)

If the student is a foster youth or Indian child, the foster youth's educational rights holder, attorney, or county social worker, or the Indian child's tribal social worker and, if applicable, county social worker, shall be invited to participate in the manifestation determination review. (Education Code 48915.5)

At the manifestation determination review, the district, the student's parent/guardian, and relevant members of the IEP team (as determined by the district and parent/guardian) shall review all relevant information in the student's file, including the student's IEP, any teacher observations, and any relevant information provided by the parents/guardians, to determine whether the conduct in question was either of the following: (20 USC 1415(k)(1)(E); 34 CFR 300.530)

- a. Caused by or had a direct and substantial relationship to the student's disability
- b. A direct result of the district's failure to implement the student's IEP, in which case the district shall take immediate steps to remedy those deficiencies

If the manifestation review team determines that either of the above conditions applies, the student's conduct shall then be determined to be a manifestation of the student's disability. (20 USC 1415(k)(1)(E); 34 CFR 300.530)

3. Determination that Behavior is a Manifestation of the Student's Disability: When the student's conduct has been determined to be a manifestation of the student's disability, the IEP team shall conduct a functional behavioral assessment, unless one had been conducted before the occurrence of the behavior that resulted in the change of placement, and shall implement a behavioral intervention plan for the student. If a behavioral intervention plan has already been developed, the IEP team shall review the behavioral intervention plan and

modify it as necessary to address the behavior. (20 USC 1415(k)(1)(F); 34 CFR 300.530)

The student shall be returned to the placement from which the student was removed, unless the parent/guardian and Superintendent or designee agree to a change of placement as part of the modification of the behavioral intervention plan. (20 USC 1415(k)(1)(F); 34 CFR 300.530)

4. Determination that Behavior is Not a Manifestation of the Student's Disability: When it has been determined that the student's conduct was not a manifestation of the disability, the student may be disciplined in accordance with the procedures for students without disabilities. However, the student's IEP team shall determine services necessary to enable the student to participate in the general education curriculum in another setting and to allow the student to progress toward meeting the goals set out in the IEP. (20 USC 1415(k)(1)(D); 34 CFR 300.530)

As appropriate, the student also shall receive a functional behavioral assessment and behavioral intervention services and modifications that are designed to address the behavior violation so that it does not recur. (20 USC 1415(k)(1)(D); 34 CFR 300.530)

### **Due Process Appeals**

If the parent/guardian disagrees with any district decision regarding placement under 34 CFR 300.530 (suspension and removal for dangerous circumstances), 34 CFR 300.531 (interim alternative placement), or the manifestation determination under 34 CFR 300.530(e), the parent/guardian may appeal the decision by requesting a hearing. The district may request a hearing if the district believes that maintaining the student's current placement is substantially likely to result in injury to the student or others. In order to request a due process hearing, the requesting party shall file a complaint pursuant to 34 CFR 300.507 and 300.508(a) and (b). (20 USC 1415(k)(3); 34 CFR 300.532)

Whenever a hearing is requested as specified above, the parent/guardian or the district shall have an opportunity for an expedited due process hearing consistent with requirements specified in 34 CFR 300.507, 300.508 (a)-(c), and 300.510-300.514.

If the student's parent/guardian or the district has initiated a due process hearing under 34 CFR 300.532 as detailed above, the student shall remain in the interim alternative educational setting pending the decision of the hearing officer or until the expiration of the 45-day time period, whichever occurs first, unless the parent/guardian and district agree otherwise. (20 USC 1415(k)(4); 34 CFR 300.533)

### **Readmission**

Readmission procedures for students with disabilities shall be the same as those adopted for students without disabilities. Upon readmission of a student with disabilities, an IEP team meeting shall be convened to review and, as necessary, modify the student's IEP.

### **Decision Not to Enforce Expulsion Order**

The Governing Board's criteria for suspending the enforcement of an expulsion order shall be applied to students with disabilities in the same manner as they are applied to all other students. (Education Code 48917)

### **Notification to Law Enforcement Authorities**

Law enforcement notification requirements involving students with disabilities shall be the same as those specified for all students in AR 5144.1 - Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process.

When giving any required notification concerning a student with disabilities to any law enforcement official, the principal or designee shall require the law enforcement official to certify in writing that the student's information or records will not be disclosed to any other person without the prior written consent of the student's parent/guardian. (Education Code 49076)

### **Report to County Superintendent of Schools**

The Superintendent or designee shall report to the County Superintendent of Schools when any special education student has been expelled or suspended for more than 10 school days. The report shall include the student's name, last known address, and the reason for the action. (Education Code 48203)

### **Procedures for Students Not Yet Eligible for Special Education Services**

A student who has not been determined to be eligible for special education and related services and who has violated the district's code of student conduct may nevertheless assert any of the protections under IDEA, if the district had knowledge of the student's disability. (20 USC 1415(k)(5); 34 CFR 300.534)

*Knowledge* means that, before the occurrence of the behavior that precipitated the disciplinary action, one of the following occurred: (20 USC 1415(k)(5); 34 CFR 300.534)

1. The parent/guardian, in writing, has expressed concern to district supervisory or administrative personnel, or to a teacher of the student, that the student is in need of special education or related services
2. The parent/guardian has requested an evaluation of the student for special education pursuant to 20 USC 1414(a)(1)(B) or 34 CFR 300.300-300.311
3. The teacher of the student or other district personnel has expressed specific concerns directly to the district's director of special education or other supervisory district personnel about a pattern of behavior demonstrated by the student

However, the district shall not be deemed to have knowledge of a student's disability if the student's parent/guardian has not allowed the student to be evaluated for special education services or has refused services or, after evaluating the student pursuant to 34 CFR 300.300-300.311, the district determined that the student was not an individual with a disability. (20 USC 1415(k)(5); 34 CFR 300.534)

When the district is deemed to not have knowledge of a student's disability, the student shall be disciplined in accordance with procedures established for students without disabilities who engage in comparable behavior. (20 USC 1415(k)(5); 34 CFR 300.534)

If a request is made for an evaluation of a student during the time period in which the student is subject to disciplinary measures pursuant to 34 CFR 300.530, the evaluation shall be conducted in an expedited manner. Until the evaluation is completed, the student shall remain in the educational placement determined by school authorities. (20 USC 1415(k)(5); 34 CFR 300.534)

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**Regulation 6115: Ceremonies And Observances**

**Status:** DRAFT

**Original Adopted Date:** 11/01/1999 | **Last Revised Date:** 06/23/2021

**Holidays**

District schools shall be closed on the following holidays: (Education Code 37220)

New Year's Day - January 1

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - Third Monday in January or the Monday or Friday of the week in which January 15 occurs

Lincoln Day - President's week as negotiated for both Lincoln and Washington's Birthdays

Washington Day - President's week as negotiated for both Lincoln and Washington's Birthdays

Memorial Day - Last Monday in May

Juneteenth National Independence Day- June 19

Independence Day - July 4

Labor Day - First Monday in September

Veterans Day - November 11

Thanksgiving Day - The Thursday in November designated by the President

Christmas Day - December 25

In addition, schools shall be closed on: (Education Code 37220)

1. Any day appointed by the Governor as a holiday or as a special or limited holiday on which the Governor provides that schools shall close
2. Any day appointed by the President as a holiday, including by executive order or by signing into law legislation that creates a nationwide federal holiday
3. Any other day designated as a holiday by the Governing Board and/or negotiated with employee organizations

Holidays which fall on a Sunday shall be observed the following Monday. Holidays which fall on a Saturday shall be observed the preceding Friday. If any of the above holidays occurs under federal law on a date different from that indicated above, the Governing Board may close the schools on the date recognized by federal law instead of on the date above. (Education Code 37220)

**Commemorative Exercises**

District schools shall hold exercises in accordance with law to commemorate the following special days: (Education Code 37220, 37221, 45460)

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - The Friday before the day schools are closed for this holiday

Abraham Lincoln's Birthday - The school day before the day schools are closed for this holiday

Susan B. Anthony Day - February 15

George Washington's Birthday - The Friday preceding the third Monday in February

Black American Day - March 5

Conservation, Bird, and Arbor Day - March 7

Classified Employee Week - Third week in May

U.S. Constitution and Citizenship Day - On or near September 17

Indigenous People's Day - Near October 10

Commemorative exercises shall be integrated into the regular educational program to the extent feasible.

### **Patriotic Exercises**

Each school shall conduct patriotic exercises daily, which may include the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States and/or instruction that promotes understanding of the concepts of "pledge," "allegiance," "republic," and "indivisible" and understanding of the importance of the pledge as an expression of patriotism, love of country, and pride in the United States. (Education Code 52720, 52730)

At elementary schools, such exercises shall be conducted at the beginning of each school day. (Education Code 52720)

At secondary schools, such exercises shall be conducted during the homeroom period.

A student may choose not to participate in the flag salute or Pledge of Allegiance for personal reasons.

### **Display of Flag**

The flag of the United States and the flag of California shall be displayed during business hours at the entrance or on the grounds of every district school and on or near the district office. At all times, the national flag shall be placed in the position of first honor. (Government Code 431, 436; 4 USC 6)

When displayed on a building or on a flagstaff in the open, the national flag shall be displayed only from sunrise to sunset unless properly illuminated during the hours of darkness. The flag should not be displayed during inclement weather unless an all-weather flag is used. (4 USC 6)

The national flag shall fly at half-staff on the following occasions: (4 USC 7)

1. For 30 days from the death of the President or a former President
2. For 10 days from the death of the Vice President, the Chief Justice or a retired Chief Justice, or the Speaker of the House of Representatives
3. From the day of death until interment of an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, a secretary of an executive or military department, former Vice President, or the Governor of a state
4. On the day of death and the following day for a Member of Congress
5. On Memorial Day, until noon only
6. On Peace Officers Memorial Day (May 15), unless it falls on Armed Forces Day
7. Upon a proclamation from the Governor in the event of the death of a present or former official of the state government or a member of the Armed Forces from the state who has died while serving on active duty
8. On other occasions by order of the President and in accordance with presidential instructions or orders

**Policy 6146.1: High School Graduation Requirements**

**Status:** DRAFT

**Original Adopted Date:** 12/01/2017 | **Last Revised Date:** 04/06/2022

The Governing Board desires to prepare all students to successfully complete the high school course of study and obtain a diploma that represents their educational achievement and increases their opportunities for postsecondary education and employment.

District students shall complete graduation course requirements as specified in Education Code 51225.3. Unless exempted as provided in "Exemptions from District-Adopted Graduation Requirements," district students shall also complete other course requirements adopted by the Board. Students who are exempted from district-adopted graduation requirements shall be eligible to participate in any graduation ceremony and school activity related to graduation in which other students are eligible to participate.

**Course Requirements**

To obtain a high school diploma, students shall complete the following courses in grades 9-12, with each course being one year unless otherwise specified:

1. Three courses in English (Education Code 51225.3)
2. Two courses in mathematics (Education Code 51225.3)

Students shall complete at least one mathematics course that meets the state academic content standards for Algebra I or Mathematics I. Students may complete such coursework prior to grade 9 provided that they also complete two mathematics courses in grades 9-12. (Education Code 51224.5)

3. Successful completion of an approved computer science course that is classified as a "category C" course based on the University of California (UC) and California State University (CSU) "A-G" admission requirements shall be counted toward the satisfaction of additional graduation requirements in mathematics. (Education Code 51225.3, 51225.35)
4. Two courses in science, including biological and physical sciences (Education Code 51225.3)
5. Three courses in social studies, including United States (U.S.) history and geography; world history, culture, and geography; a one-semester course in American government and civics; and a one-semester course in economics (Education Code 51225.3)
6. One course in visual or performing arts, world language, or career technical education (CTE). For purposes of this requirement, a course in American Sign Language shall be deemed a course in world language (Education Code 51225.3)

To be counted towards meeting graduation requirements, a CTE course shall be aligned to the CTE model curriculum standards and framework adopted by the State Board of Education. (Education Code 51225.3)

7. Two courses in physical education, unless the student has been otherwise exempted pursuant to other sections of the Education Code (Education Code 51225.3)
8. Beginning with the 2024-25 school year, a one-semester course in ethnic studies (Education Code 51225.3)
9. Community Service - 40 Hours Community and 10 Hours School Services

Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic and Distance Learning, Community Service requirements have been adjusted as follows:

Class of	Community Service Hours	School Service Hours
2023	10	2.5
2024	20	5
2025	30	7.5



Because the prescribed course of study may not accommodate the needs of some students, the Board shall provide alternative means for the completion of prescribed courses in accordance with law.

### **Exemptions from District-Adopted Graduation Requirements**

Prior to the beginning of grade 10, the individualized education program (IEP) team for each student with disabilities shall determine whether the student is eligible for exemption from all coursework and other requirements adopted by the Board in addition to the statewide course requirements for high school graduation, and if so, shall notify the student's parent/guardian of the exemption. A student with disabilities shall be eligible for the exemption, if the student's IEP provides for both of the following requirements: (Education Code 51225.31)

1. That the student take the alternate assessment aligned to alternate achievement standards in grade 11 as described in Education Code 60640
2. That the student complete state standards aligned coursework to meet the statewide coursework specified in Education Code 51225.3

In addition, a foster youth, student experiencing homelessness, former juvenile court school student, child of a military family, or migrant student who transfers into the district or between district schools any time after completing the second year of high school, or a newly arrived immigrant student who is in the third or fourth year of high school and is participating in a newcomer program, shall be exempted from any graduation requirements adopted by the Board that are in addition to statewide course requirements. This exemption shall not apply if the Superintendent or designee makes a finding that the student is reasonably able to complete the additional requirements in time to graduate by the end of the fourth year of high school.

Within 30 days of the transfer into a school by a foster youth, student experiencing homelessness, former juvenile court school student, child of a military family, migrant student, or a newly arrived immigrant student, or of the commencement of participation in a newcomer program, as applicable, the Superintendent or designee shall notify any eligible student, and others as required by law, of the availability of the exemption from local graduation requirements and whether the student qualifies for it. (Education Code 51225.1)

The Superintendent or designee shall not require or request a foster youth, student experiencing homelessness, former juvenile court school student, child of a military family, migrant student, or a newly arrived immigrant student participating in a newcomer program who is exempted from district-established graduation requirements and who completes the statewide coursework requirements before the end of the fourth year of high school, and would otherwise be entitled to remain in school, to graduate before the end of the student's fourth year of high school. (Education Code 51225.1)

If a foster youth, student experiencing homelessness, former juvenile court school student, child of a military family, migrant student, or a newly arrived immigrant student participating in a newcomer program was not properly notified of an exemption, declined the exemption, or was not previously exempted, the student or the person holding the right to make educational decisions for the student may request the exemption and the Superintendent or designee shall exempt the student within 30 days of the request. Any such student who at one time qualified for the exemption may request the exemption even if the student is no longer eligible. (Education Code 51225.1)

Annually, the Superintendent or designee shall report to the California Department of Education, in accordance with Education Code 51225.1, the number of student's graduating from the fourth or fifth year of high school who, for the prior school year, graduated with an exemption from district-established graduation requirements that are in addition to statewide coursework requirements.

### **Retroactive Diplomas**

Any student who completed grade 12 in the 2003-04 through 2014-15 school year and met all applicable graduation requirements other than the passage of the high school exit examination shall be granted a high school diploma.

(Education Code 51413)

In addition, the district may retroactively grant high school diplomas to former students who: (Education Code 48204.4, 51430, 51440)

1. Departed California against their will while in grade 12 and did not receive a diploma because the departure interrupted their education, provided that they were in good academic standing at the time of the departure

Persons may be considered to have departed California against their will if they were in custody of a government agency and were transferred to another state, were subject to a lawful order from a court or government agency that authorized their removal from California, were subject to a lawful order and were permitted to depart California before being removed from California pursuant to the lawful order, were removed or were permitted to depart voluntarily pursuant to the federal Immigration and Nationality Act, or departed due to other circumstances determined by the district that are consistent with the purposes of Education Code 48204.4.

In determining whether to award a diploma under these circumstances, the Superintendent or designee shall consider any coursework that may have been completed outside of the U.S. or through online or virtual courses.

2. Were interned by order of the federal government during World War II or are honorably discharged veterans of World War II, the Korean War, or the Vietnam War, provided that they were enrolled in a district high school immediately preceding the internment or military service and did not receive a diploma because their education was interrupted due to the internment or military service in those wars

Deceased former students who satisfy these conditions may be granted a retroactive diploma to be received by their next of kin.

3. Are veterans who entered the military service of the U.S. while in grade 12 and who had satisfactorily completed the first half of the work required for grade 12 in a district school
4. Were in their senior year of high school during the 2019-20 school year, were in good academic standing and on track to graduate at the end of the 2019-20 school year as of March 1, 2020, and were unable to complete the statewide graduation requirements as a result of the COVID-19 crisis

### **Honorary Diplomas**

The Board may grant an honorary high school diploma to: (Education Code 51225.5)

1. An international exchange student who has not completed the course of study ordinarily required for graduation and who is returning to the student's home country following the completion of one academic school year in the district
2. A student who is terminally ill

The honorary diploma shall be clearly distinguishable from the regular diploma of graduation awarded by the district. (Education Code 51225.5)

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**Policy 6173: Education For Homeless Children**

**Status:** DRAFT

**Original Adopted Date:** 07/01/2005 | **Last Revised Date:** 06/23/2021

The Governing Board believes that the identification of students experiencing homelessness is critical to improving the educational outcomes of such students and ensuring that students experiencing homelessness have access to the same free and appropriate public education provided to other students within the district. The district shall provide students experiencing homelessness with access to education and other services necessary for such students to meet the same challenging academic standards as other students.

When there are at least 15 students experiencing homelessness in the district or a district school, the district's local control and accountability plan (LCAP) shall include goals and specific actions to improve student achievement and other outcomes of students experiencing homelessness. (Education Code 52052, 52060, 52064)

The Superintendent or designee shall review district policies at least once every three years and recommend updates to ensure removal of any barriers to the education of homeless students and unaccompanied youth. Any such review shall address identification, enrollment, and retention of such students, including those barriers that are due to absences or outstanding fees or fines. (Education Code 48851.3, 42 USC 11432)

The Superintendent or designee shall designate an appropriate staff person to serve as a liaison for homeless children and youths. The district liaison for homeless students shall fulfill the duties specified in 42 USC 11432 to assist in identifying and supporting students experiencing homelessness to succeed in school, and as specified in Education Code 48851.3 related to trainings for district staff providing assistance to students experiencing homelessness.

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that each district school identifies all students experiencing homelessness and unaccompanied youths enrolled at the school. (Education Code 48851)

To ensure easy identification of students experiencing homelessness, the Superintendent or designee shall annually provide and administer a housing questionnaire developed by the California Department of Education (CDE) to all parents/guardians of students and all unaccompanied youths. (Education Code 48851)

If the primary language of a student's parent/guardian or an unaccompanied youth is not English, either the housing questionnaire shall be made available in the primary language of the student's parent/guardian or the unaccompanied youth pursuant to Education Code 48985, or an appropriate translation of the housing questionnaire shall be provided upon request of a student's parent/guardian or an unaccompanied youth. (Education Code 48851)

The Superintendent or designee shall report to CDE the number of students experiencing homelessness, including unaccompanied youths, enrolled in the district as identified from the housing questionnaire described above. (Education Code 48851)

In addition, the Superintendent or designee shall ensure that the district liaison's contact information and other information on homelessness, including, but not limited to, information regarding the educational rights and resources available to persons experiencing homelessness, are posted on the district and school web sites as specified in the accompanying administrative regulation. (Education Code 48852.6)

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that placement decisions for students experiencing homelessness are based on the student's best interest as defined in law and administrative regulation.

Each student experiencing homelessness shall be provided services that are comparable to services offered to other students in the school, including, but not limited to, transportation, educational programs for which the student meets the eligibility criteria (such as federal Title I services or similar state or local programs, programs for students with disabilities, and educational programs for English learners), career and technical education programs, programs for gifted and talented students, and school nutrition programs. (Education Code 48850; 42 USC 11432)

Students experiencing homelessness shall not be segregated into a separate school or program based on their status as homeless and shall not be stigmatized in any way. However, the Superintendent or designee may separate students experiencing homelessness on school grounds as necessary for short periods of time for health and safety emergencies or to provide temporary, special, and supplementary services to meet their unique needs. (42 USC 11432, 11433)

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that information and/or materials for students experiencing homelessness are provided in a manner and form understandable to the student's parents/guardians and to unaccompanied youths.

Information about the living situation of a student experiencing homelessness shall be considered part of a student's educational record, subject to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, shall not be deemed to be directory information as defined in 20 USC 1232g, and shall not be released without written consent. (42 USC 11432)

The Superintendent or designee shall coordinate with other agencies and entities to ensure that students experiencing homelessness are promptly identified, ensure that students experiencing homelessness have access to and are in reasonable proximity to available education and related support services, and raise the awareness of school personnel and service providers of the effects of short-term stays in a shelter and other challenges associated with homelessness. Toward these ends, the Superintendent or designee shall collaborate with local social services agencies, other agencies or entities providing services to students experiencing homelessness, and, if applicable, transitional housing facilities. In addition, the Superintendent or designee shall coordinate transportation, transfer of school records, and other interdistrict activities with other local educational agencies. As necessary, the Superintendent or designee shall coordinate, within the district and with other involved local educational agencies, services for students experiencing homelessness and services for students with disabilities. (42 USC 11432)

At least annually, the district liaison and other appropriate staff shall participate in professional development and other technical assistance activities to assist them in identifying and meeting the needs of students experiencing homelessness. Such professional development and technical assistance shall include, but are not limited to, training on the district's homeless education program policies, definitions of terms related to homelessness, recognition of signs that students are experiencing or are at risk of experiencing homelessness, the steps that should be taken once a potentially homeless student is identified, and how to connect students experiencing homelessness with appropriate housing and service providers. (Education Code 48851.3, 48852.5; 42 USC 11432)

At least annually, the Superintendent or designee shall report to the Board on the identification of and outcomes for students experiencing homelessness, which may include, but are not limited to, the housing questionnaire responses, school attendance, student achievement test results, promotion and retention rates by grade level, graduation rates, suspension/expulsion rates, and other outcomes related to any goals and specific actions identified in the LCAP. Based on the evaluation data, the district shall revise its strategies as needed to more effectively identify and support the education of students experiencing homelessness.

Annually, the Superintendent or designee shall report to CDE, in accordance with Education Code 51225.1, the number of students experiencing homelessness graduating from the fourth or fifth year of high school who, for the prior school year, graduated with an exemption from district-established graduation requirements that are in addition to statewide coursework requirements.

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**Regulation 6173: Education For Homeless Children**

**Status:** DRAFT

**Original Adopted Date:** 12/01/2014 | **Last Revised Date:** 06/23/2021

**Definitions**

*Homeless students or students experiencing homelessness* means students who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence and includes: (Education Code 48859; 42 USC 11434a)

1. Students who are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason; are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations; are living in emergency or transitional shelters; or are abandoned in hospitals
2. Students who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as regular sleeping accommodations for human beings
3. Students who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings
4. Migratory children who qualify as homeless because they are living in conditions described in items #1-3 above

*Unaccompanied youth* includes a homeless child or youth not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian. (Education Code 48859; 42 USC 11434a)

*School of origin* means the school that the student experiencing homelessness attended when permanently housed or the school in which the student was last enrolled, including a preschool. If the school the student experiencing homelessness attended when permanently housed is different from the school in which the student was last enrolled, or if there is some other school that the student attended within the preceding 15 months and with which the student is connected, the district liaison for homeless students, in consultation with and with the agreement of the student experiencing homelessness and the person holding the right to make educational decisions for the student, shall determine which school is, in the best interests of the student experiencing homelessness, deemed the school of origin. (Education Code 48852.7; 42 USC 11432)

*Best interest* means that, in making educational and school placement decisions for a student experiencing homelessness, consideration is given to, among other factors, educational stability, the opportunity to be educated in the least restrictive educational setting necessary to achieve academic progress, and the student's access to academic resources, services, and extracurricular and enrichment activities that are available to all district students. (Education Code 48850, 48853; 42 USC 11432)

**District Liaison**

The Superintendent designates the following staff person as the district liaison for homeless students: (42 USC 11432)

School Counselor  
Arena Elementary/Point Arena High  
707-882-2131/707-882-2848

The district's liaison for homeless students shall: (Education Code 48851.3, 48851.5, 48852.5; 42 USC 11432)

1. Ensure that students experiencing homelessness are identified by school personnel through outreach and coordination activities with other entities and agencies
2. Ensure that students experiencing homelessness are enrolled in, and have a full and equal opportunity to succeed in, district schools

3. Ensure that families and students experiencing homelessness have access to and receive educational services for which they are eligible, including services through Head Start and Early Head Start programs, early intervention services under Part C of the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, and other preschool programs administered by the district
4. Ensure that families and students experiencing homelessness receive referrals to health care services, dental services, mental health and substance abuse services, housing services, and other appropriate services
5. Inform parents/guardians of the educational and related opportunities available to their children and ensure that they are provided with meaningful opportunities to participate in the education of their children
6. Disseminate public notice of the educational rights of students experiencing homelessness in locations frequented by parents/guardians of students experiencing homelessness and by unaccompanied youth, including schools, shelters, public libraries, and hunger relief agencies (soup kitchens). The rights shall be presented in a manner and form understandable to the parents/guardians of homeless students and unaccompanied youth.
7. Mediate enrollment disputes in accordance with law and the section "Resolving Enrollment Disputes" below
8. Fully inform parents/guardians of students experiencing homelessness and unaccompanied youth of all transportation services, including transportation to the school of origin, and assist them in accessing transportation to the school of choice
9. Offer annual training related to the district's homeless education program policies to school personnel who provide services to students experiencing homelessness, including principals and other school leaders, attendance officers, teachers, enrollment personnel, and specialized instructional support personnel, to ensure that such employees are informed of available training, professional development, and other support, and the services provided by the district liaison for homeless students
10. Ensure that unaccompanied youth are enrolled in school, have opportunities to meet the same challenging state academic standards established for other students, and are informed of their status as independent students under 20 USC 1087vv and that they may receive assistance from the district liaison to receive verification of their independent student status for purposes of applying for federal student aid pursuant to 20 USC 1090
11. Coordinate and collaborate with state coordinators and community and school personnel responsible for the provision of education and related services to students experiencing homelessness, including the collection and provision of comprehensive data to the state coordinator as required by law

In addition, when notified pursuant to Education Code 48918.1, the district liaison shall assist, facilitate, or represent a student experiencing homelessness who is undergoing a disciplinary proceeding that could result in the student's expulsion. When notified pursuant to Education Code 48915.5, the district liaison shall participate in an individualized education program (IEP) team meeting to make a manifestation determination regarding the behavior of a student with a disability.

The Superintendent or designee shall inform students experiencing homelessness, their parents/guardians, school personnel, service providers, and advocates working with homeless families of the duties of the district's liaison. The Superintendent or designee shall also provide the name and contact information of the district's liaison to the California Department of Education (CDE) for publishing on CDE's web site. (42 USC 11432)

### **Enrollment**

The district shall make placement decisions for students experiencing homelessness based on the student's best interest. (Education Code 48850; 42 USC 11432)

In determining a student's best interest, a student experiencing homelessness shall, to the extent feasible, be placed in the school of origin, unless the student's parent/guardian or the unaccompanied youth requests otherwise. (Education Code 48852.7; 42 USC 11432)

When determining the best interest of any student experiencing homelessness, the district shall give priority to the request of the student's parent/guardian, or in the case of an unaccompanied youth, the request of the student. The student's educational stability and opportunity to be educated in the least restrictive educational setting necessary to achieve academic progress and other student-centered factors related to the student's best interest, including the impact of mobility on the student's achievement, education, health, and safety, shall also be considered. (Education Code 48850; 42 USC 11432)

Such factors may include, but are not limited to, the age of the student, the distance of the commute and the impact it may have on the student's education, personal safety issues, the student's need for special instruction, the length of anticipated stay in the temporary shelter or other temporary location, likely area of future housing, school placement of siblings, and the time remaining in the school year.

However, placement decisions shall not be based on whether a student experiencing homelessness lives with the student's homeless parent/guardian or has been temporarily placed elsewhere. (42 USC 11432)

In the case of an unaccompanied youth, the district liaison shall assist in placement or enrollment decisions, give priority to the views of the student, and provide notice to the student of the right to appeal. (42 USC 11432)

Once a placement decision has been made, the principal or designee shall immediately enroll the student in the school of choice. The student shall be enrolled even if the student: (Education Code 48850, 48852.7; 42 USC 11432)

1. Has outstanding fees, fines, textbooks, or other items or monies due to the school last attended
2. Does not have clothing normally required by the school, such as school uniforms
3. Is unable to produce records normally required for enrollment, such as previous academic records, proof of residency, and records of immunization and other required health records
4. Has missed application or enrollment deadlines during any period of homelessness

The principal or designee shall immediately contact the school last attended by the student to obtain the relevant records. If the student needs to obtain immunizations or does not possess immunization or other required health records, the principal or designee shall immediately refer the parent/guardian to the district liaison for homeless students. The district liaison shall assist the parent/guardian, or the student if the student is an unaccompanied youth, in obtaining the necessary immunizations, screenings, or records for the student. (42 USC 11432)

If the student is placed at a school other than the school of origin or the school requested by the student's parent/guardian or the student, if an unaccompanied youth, the Superintendent or designee shall provide the parent/guardian or the unaccompanied youth with a written explanation of the reasons for the decision, including why placement in the student's school of origin or requested school is not in the student's best interest, along with a statement regarding the right to appeal the placement decision. The written explanation shall be in a manner and form understandable to such parent/guardian or unaccompanied youth. (42 USC 11432)

At the point of any change or subsequent change in the residence of a student experiencing homelessness, the student may continue attending the student's school of origin for the duration of the homelessness. (Education Code 48852.7; 42 USC 11432)

To ensure that the student experiencing homelessness has the benefit of matriculating with the student's peers in accordance with the established feeder patterns, the following shall apply: (Education Code 48852.7; 42 USC 11432)

1. If the student is transitioning between grade levels, the student shall be allowed to continue in the same attendance area
2. If the student is transitioning to a middle school or high school, and the school designated for matriculation is in another school district, the student shall be allowed to continue to the school designated for matriculation in that district

If the student's housing status changes before the end of the school year so that the student is no longer experiencing homelessness, the student shall be allowed to stay in the school of origin: (Education Code 48852.7)

1. Through the duration of the school year if the student is in grades K-8
2. Through graduation if the student is in high school

### **Resolving Enrollment Disputes**

If a dispute arises over student eligibility, school selection, or enrollment in a particular school, the matter shall be referred to the district liaison, who shall carry out the dispute resolution process as expeditiously as possible. (42 USC 11432)

The parent/guardian or unaccompanied youth shall be provided with a written explanation of any decisions related to eligibility, school selection, or enrollment and of the right of the parent/guardian or unaccompanied youth to appeal such decisions. (42 USC 11432)

The written explanation shall include:

1. A description of the action proposed or refused by the district
2. An explanation of why the action is proposed or refused
3. A description of any other options the district considered and the reasons that any other options were rejected
4. A description of any other factors relevant to the district's decision and information related to the eligibility or best interest determination including the facts, witnesses, and evidence relied upon and their sources
5. Appropriate timelines to ensure any relevant deadlines are not missed
6. Contact information for the district liaison and state coordinator, and a brief description of those roles

The written explanation shall be complete, as brief as possible, simply stated, and provided in language that the parent/guardian or student can understand.

The district liaison may use an informal process as an alternative to formal dispute resolution procedures, provided that the parents/guardians or unaccompanied youth have access to the more formal process if informal resolution is not successful in resolving the matter.

In working with a student's parents/guardians or unaccompanied youth to resolve an enrollment dispute, the district liaison shall:

1. Inform the student's parents/guardians or unaccompanied youth that written and/or oral documentation to support their position may be provided
2. Inform the student's parents/guardians or unaccompanied youth that they may seek the assistance of social services, advocates, and/or service providers in having the dispute resolved
3. Provide a simple form that they may use and turn in to the school to initiate the dispute resolution process
4. Provide a copy of the dispute form they submit for their records
5. Provide the outcome of the dispute for their records

When a student's parent/guardian or an unaccompanied youth involved in the enrollment dispute is an English learner, Items #1-5 shall be provided either in the native language of the parent/guardian or unaccompanied youth or through an interpreter. Any additional support needed because of a disability of that parent/guardian or unaccompanied youth shall be made available without a charge.



If a parent/guardian or unaccompanied youth disagrees with the district liaison's enrollment decision, the decision may be appealed to the Superintendent. The Superintendent shall make a determination within five working days.

If the parent/guardian chooses to appeal the district's placement decision, the district liaison shall forward all written documentation and related paperwork to the liaison for homeless students at the county office of education.

Pending final resolution of the dispute, including all available appeals, the student shall be immediately enrolled in the school in which enrollment is sought and shall be allowed to attend classes and participate fully in school activities. (42 USC 11432, 11434a)

### **Transportation**

The district shall provide transportation for a student experiencing homelessness to and from the student's school of origin when the student is residing within the district and the parent/guardian, or the district liaison in the case of an unaccompanied youth, requests that such transportation be provided. If the student moves outside of district boundaries, but continues to attend the student's school of origin within this district, the Superintendent or designee shall consult with the superintendent of the district in which the student is now residing to agree upon a method to apportion the responsibility and costs of the transportation. (42 USC 11432)

Any fees that the district charges for home-to-school transportation and other transportation as expressly provided by law shall be waived for students experiencing homelessness. (Education Code 39807.5)

The district shall not be obligated to provide transportation to students who continue attending their school of origin after they secure permanent housing, unless the formerly homeless student has an IEP that includes transportation as a necessary related service for the student. (Education Code 48852.7)

### **Transfer of Coursework and Credits**

When a student experiencing homelessness transfers into a district school, the district will receive an official transcript from the transferring school or district which reflects full and partial credits and grades earned by the student and includes: (Education Code 51225.2)

1. A determination of the days of enrollment and/or seat time, if applicable, for all full and partial credits earned based on any measure of full or partial coursework being satisfactorily completed

*Partial coursework satisfactorily completed* includes any portion of an individual course, even if the student did not complete the entire course

2. Separate listings for credits and grades earned at each school and local educational agency so it is clear where credits and grades were earned

3. A complete record of the student's seat time, including both period attendance and days of enrollment

The district shall transfer the credits and grades from the transferring school's transcript onto an official district transcript in the same manner as described in Item #2, above. (Education Code 51225.2)

If the Principal or designee has knowledge that the transcript from the transferring school may not include certain credits or grades, the Principal or designee shall contact the prior school within two business days to request that the full or partial credits be issued, which shall then be issued and provided by the prior school within two business days of the request. (Education Code 51225.2)

The district shall accept and issue full credit for any coursework that the student has satisfactorily completed while attending another public school, a juvenile court school, a charter school, a school in a country other than the United States, or a nonpublic, nonsectarian school. (Education Code 51225.2)

If the entire course was completed, the district shall not require the student to retake the course. (Education Code 51225.2)

If the entire course was not completed at the previous school, the student shall be issued partial credit for the coursework completed and shall be required to take the uncompleted portion of the course. However, the district may require the student to retake the portion of the course completed if, in consultation with the holder of educational rights for the student, the district finds that the student is reasonably able to complete the requirements in time to graduate from high school. Whenever partial credit is issued to a student in any particular course, the student shall be enrolled in the same or equivalent course, if applicable, so that the student may continue and complete the entire course. (Education Code 51225.2)

Partial credits shall be awarded on the basis of 0.5 credits for every seven class periods attended per subject. If the school is on a block schedule, each block schedule class period attended shall be equal to two regular class periods per subject. Partial credits and grades earned by a student shall be included on the student's official transcript within two business days of the district's notification of the student's transfer, as required under Education Code 49069.5.

In no event shall the district prevent a student experiencing homelessness from taking or retaking a course to meet the eligibility requirements for admission to the California State University or the University of California. (Education Code 51225.2)

### **Applicability of Graduation Requirements**

To obtain a high school diploma, a student experiencing homelessness shall complete all courses required by Education Code 51225.3 and fulfill any additional graduation requirements established by the Governing Board.

However, when a student experiencing homelessness who has completed the second year of high school transfers into the district from another school district or transfers between high schools within the district, the student shall be exempted from all district-established coursework and other district-established graduation requirements, unless the district makes a finding that the student is reasonably able to complete the additional requirements in time to graduate from high school by the end of the fourth year of high school. Within 30 calendar days of the student's transfer, the Superintendent or designee shall notify the student, the person holding the right to make educational decisions for the student, and the district liaison for homeless students of the availability of the exemption and whether the student qualifies. If the Superintendent or designee fails to provide this notification, the student shall be eligible for the exemption once notified, even if the notification occurs after the student is no longer homeless. (Education Code 51225.1)

To determine whether a student is in the third or fourth year of high school, the district shall use either the number of credits the student has earned as of the date of the transfer, the length of school enrollment, or, for a student with significant gaps in school attendance, the student's age as compared to the average age of students in the third or fourth year of high school, whichever qualifies the student for the exemption. (Education Code 51225.1)

If a student experiencing homelessness was not properly notified of an exemption, declined the exemption, or was not previously exempted, the student or the person holding the right to make educational decisions for the student may request the exemption and the Superintendent or designee shall exempt the student within 30 days of the request. A student may request the exemption even if the student is no longer a student experiencing homelessness. (Education Code 51225.1)

When the Superintendent or designee determines that a student who transferred into a district school is reasonably able to complete district-established graduation requirements by the end of the student's fourth year of high school, the student shall not be exempted from those requirements. Within 30 calendar days of the following academic year, the student shall be reevaluated based on the student's course completion status at the time, to determine if the student continues to be reasonably able to complete the district-established graduation requirements in time to graduate by the end of the student's fourth year of high school. Written notice as to whether the student then qualifies for exemption shall be provided to the student, the person holding the right to make educational decisions for the student, and if applicable, to the student's social worker or probation officer. (Education Code 51225.1)

If, upon reevaluation, it is determined that the student experiencing homelessness is not reasonably able to complete the district-established graduation requirements in time to graduate from high school by the end of the student's fourth year of high school, the Superintendent or designee shall provide the student with the option to receive an exemption from district-established graduation requirements or stay in school for a fifth year to complete the district-established graduation requirements upon agreement with the student, or if under 18 years of age, the person holding the right to make educational decisions for the student, and provide notifications in accordance with Education Code 51225.1. (Education Code 51225.1)

When a student experiencing homelessness is exempted from district-established graduation requirements, the Superintendent or designee shall consult with the student and the person holding the right to make educational decisions for the student about the following: (Education Code 51225.1)

1. Discussion of how any requirements that are waived may affect the student's postsecondary education or vocation plans, including the ability to gain admission to a postsecondary educational institution
2. Discussion and information about other options available to the student, including, but not limited to, a fifth year of high school, possible credit recovery, and any transfer opportunities available through the California Community Colleges
3. Consideration of the student's academic data and any other information relevant to making an informed decision on whether to accept the exemption

The district shall not require or request a student experiencing homelessness to transfer schools in order to qualify for an exemption and shall not grant any request made by a student experiencing homelessness, the person holding the right to make educational decisions for the student, or the district liaison on behalf of the student, for a transfer solely to qualify for an exemption. (Education Code 51225.1)

The Superintendent or designee shall not require a student experiencing homelessness who is eligible for an exemption from district-established graduation requirements, and would otherwise be entitled to remain in attendance at the school, to accept the exemption or be denied enrollment in, or the ability to complete, courses for which the student is otherwise eligible, including courses necessary to attend an institution of higher education, regardless of whether such courses are required for statewide graduation requirements. (Education Code 51225.1)

If a student experiencing homelessness is exempted from district-established graduation requirements, the exemption shall not be revoked. Additionally, the exemption shall continue to apply after the student is no longer experiencing homelessness or if the student transfers to another school, including a charter school, or school district. (Education Code 51225.1)

The Superintendent or designee shall not require or request a student experiencing homelessness who is exempted from district-established graduation requirements and who completes the statewide coursework requirements before the end of the fourth year of high school, and would otherwise be entitled to remain in school, to graduate before the end of the student's fourth year of high school. (Education Code 51225.1)

Upon making a finding that a student experiencing homelessness is reasonably able to complete district-established graduation requirements within the fifth year of high school, the Superintendent or designee shall: (Education Code 51225.1)

1. Consult with the student and, if under 18 years of age, the person holding the right to make educational decisions for the student, of the option to remain in school for a fifth year to complete the district-established graduation requirements and how that will affect the student's ability to gain admission to a postsecondary educational institution
2. Consult with and provide information to the student about transfer opportunities available through the California Community Colleges
3. Upon agreement with the student or with the person holding the right to make educational decisions for the

student if under 18 years of age, permit the student to stay in school for a fifth year to complete the district-established graduation requirements

4. Consult with the student or with the person holding the right to make educational decisions for the student of the option to remain in the student's school of origin

When a student experiencing homelessness who has completed the second year of high school transfers into the district from another school district or transfers between high schools within the district, and is not reasonably able to complete the district-established graduation requirements within the student's fifth year of high school but is reasonably able to complete the statewide coursework requirements within the fifth year of high school, the student shall be exempted from all district-established graduation requirements and be provided with the option to remain in school for a fifth year to complete the statewide requirements. In such situations, the Superintendent or designee shall consult with the student and the person holding the right to make educational decisions for the student, regarding the following: (Education Code 51225.1)

1. The student's option to remain in school for a fifth year to complete statewide coursework requirements
2. The effect of waiving the district-established requirements and remaining in school for a fifth year on the student's postsecondary education or vocation plans, including the ability to gain admission to an institution of higher education
3. Other options available to the student, including, but not limited to, possible credit recovery, and any transfer opportunities available through the California Community Colleges
4. The student's academic data and any other information relevant to making an informed decision on whether to accept the exemption and option to remain in school for a fifth year to complete the statewide coursework requirements

#### **Eligibility for Extracurricular Activities**

A student experiencing homelessness who enrolls in any district school shall have access to extracurricular and enrichment activities that are available to all students in the school, including but not limited to, interscholastic sports administered by the California Interscholastic Federation. (Education Code 48850)

#### **Notification, Complaints, and Posting Requirements**

Information regarding the educational rights of students experiencing homelessness, as specified in Education Code 51225.1 and 51225.2, shall be included in the annual uniform complaint procedures notification distributed to students, parents/guardians, employees, and other interested parties pursuant to 5 CCR 4622. (Education Code 51225.1, 51225.2)

Any complaint that the district has not complied with requirements regarding the education of students experiencing homelessness, as specified in Education Code 51225.1 or 51225.2, may be filed in accordance with the district's procedures in AR 1312.3 - Uniform Complaint Procedures.

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that a list of the district's liaison(s) and the contact information for such liaison(s), as well as specific information on homelessness, including, but not limited to, information regarding the educational rights and resources available to students experiencing homelessness, are posted on the district's web site. (Education Code 48852.6)

Each district school that has a web site shall also post the contact information for the district liaison and the name and contact information of any employee or other person under contract with the school who assists the district liaison in completing the liaison's duties pursuant to 42 USC 11432. (Education Code 48852.6)

**Policy 6173.1: Education For Foster Youth**

**Status:** DRAFT

**Original Adopted Date:** 03/01/2008 | **Last Revised Date:** 06/23/2021

The Governing Board recognizes that foster youth may face significant barriers to achieving academic success due to their family circumstances, disruption to their educational program, and their emotional, social, and other health needs that may be addressed with the provision of a safe, positive learning environment that is free from discrimination and harassment and that promotes students' self-esteem and academic achievement.

The Superintendent or designee shall provide foster youth with full access to the district's educational program and implement strategies necessary for the improvement of the academic achievement of foster youth as identified in the district's local control and accountability plan (LCAP). The Superintendent or designee shall also develop strategies to build a foster youth's feeling of connectedness with school, including, but not limited to, strategies that promote positive discipline and conflict resolution, the development of resiliency and interpersonal skills, and the involvement of foster parents, group home administrators, and/or other caretakers in school programs and activities.

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that placement decisions for foster youth are based on the students' best interests as defined in law and as specified in the accompanying administrative regulation. To that end, the Superintendent or designee shall designate a staff person as the district liaison for foster youth to help facilitate the enrollment, placement, and transfer of foster youth.

The Superintendent or designee and district liaison shall ensure that all appropriate staff, including, but not limited to, each principal, school registrar, and attendance clerk, receive training on the enrollment, placement, and transfer of foster youth and other related rights.

To address the needs of foster youth and help ensure the maximum utilization of available funds, the Superintendent or designee shall collaborate with local agencies and officials including, but not limited to, the county placing agency, social services, probation officers, and juvenile court officers. The Superintendent or designee shall explore the feasibility of entering into agreements with these groups to coordinate services and protect the rights of foster youth.

At least annually and in accordance with the established timelines, the Superintendent or designee shall report to the Board on the outcomes for foster youth regarding the goals and specific actions identified in the LCAP, including, but not limited to, school attendance, student achievement test results, promotion and retention rates by grade level, graduation rates, and suspension/expulsion rates. As necessary, evaluation data shall be used to determine and recommend revisions to the LCAP for improving or increasing services for foster youth.

Annually, the Superintendent or designee shall report to the California Department of Education, in accordance with Education Code 51225.1, the number of foster youth graduating from the fourth or fifth year of high school who, for the prior school year, graduated with an exemption from district-established graduation requirements that are in addition to statewide coursework requirements.

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**Regulation 6173.1: Education For Foster Youth**

**Status:** DRAFT

**Original Adopted Date:** 12/01/2013 | **Last Revised Date:** 06/23/2021

**Definitions**

Foster youth, foster child, or student in foster care means any of the following: (Education Code 42238.01, 48853.5)

1. A child who is the subject of a petition filed pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code 300, whether or not the child has been removed from the child's home by the juvenile court pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code 319 or 361
2. A child who is the subject of a petition filed pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code 602, whether or not the child has been removed from the child's home
3. A child who is the subject of a petition filed pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code 602, has been removed from the child's home by the juvenile court pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code 727, and is in foster care as defined by Welfare and Institutions Code 727.4(d)
4. A nonminor who is under the transition jurisdiction of a juvenile court, as described in Welfare and Institutions Code 450, and satisfies the criteria specified in Education Code 42238.01
5. A child who has been removed from the youth's home pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code 309
6. A dependent child of the court of an Indian tribe, consortium of tribes, or tribal organization who is the subject of a petition filed in the tribal court pursuant to the court's jurisdiction in accordance with the tribe's law
7. A child who is the subject of a voluntary placement agreement, as defined in Welfare and Institutions Code 11400(p)

*Person holding the right to make educational decisions* means a responsible adult appointed by a court pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code 361 or 726.

*School of origin* means the school that the foster youth attended when permanently housed or the school in which the foster youth was last enrolled. If the school the foster youth attended when permanently housed is different from the school in which the foster youth was last enrolled, or if there is another school that the foster youth attended with which the foster youth is connected and that the foster youth attended within the preceding 15 months, the district liaison, in consultation with, and with the agreement of, the foster youth and the person holding the right to make educational decisions for the foster youth shall determine, in the best interests of the foster youth, the school that shall be deemed the school of origin. (Education Code 48853.5)

*Best interests of a foster youth* means that, in making educational and school placement decisions for a foster youth, consideration is given to, among other factors, the proximity to the school at the time of placement, appropriateness of the educational setting, educational stability, the opportunity to be educated in the least restrictive educational setting necessary to achieve academic progress, and the foster youth's access to academic resources, services, and extracurricular and enrichment activities that are available to all district students. (Education Code 48850, 48853; 20 USC 6311)

**District Liaison**

The Superintendent designates the following position as the district's liaison for foster youth: (Education Code 48853.5)

School Counselors  
Arena Elementary/Point Arena Joint Union High School  
707-882-2131/707-882-2134

The liaison for foster youth shall:

1. Ensure and facilitate the proper educational placement, enrollment in school, and checkout from school of students in foster care (Education Code 48853.5)
2. Ensure proper transfer of credits, records, and grades when students in foster care transfer from one school to another or from one district to another (Education Code 48645.5, 48853.5)

When a student in foster care is enrolling in a district school, the liaison shall contact, within two business days of the student's request for enrollment, the school last attended by the student to obtain all academic and other records. When a foster youth is transferring to a new school, the liaison shall provide the student's records to the new school within two business days of receiving the new school's request. (Education Code 48853.5)

3. Notify a foster youth's educational rights holder, attorney, and county social worker when a foster youth is undergoing any expulsion or other disciplinary proceeding including a manifestation determination for a foster youth who is a student with a disability, prior to a change in the foster youth's placement. (Education Code 48853.5, 48911, 48915.5, 48918.1)
4. As needed, make appropriate referrals to ensure that students in foster care receive necessary special education services and services under Section 504 of the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973
5. As needed, ensure that students in foster care receive appropriate school-based services, such as counseling and health services, supplemental instruction, and after-school services
6. Develop protocols and procedures for creating awareness for district staff, including principals, school registrars, and attendance clerks, of the requirements for the proper enrollment, placement, and transfer of foster youth
7. Collaborate with the county office of education, county placing agency, county child welfare agency, county probation department, juvenile court, and other appropriate agencies to help coordinate instruction, counseling, tutoring, mentoring vocational training, and other related services for the district's foster youth
8. Monitor the educational progress of foster youth and provide reports to the Superintendent or designee and the Governing Board based on indicators identified in the district's local control and accountability plan

The Superintendent or designee shall regularly monitor the liaison's caseload, as well as additional duties outside of the foster youth program, to ensure that adequate time and resources are provided to meet the needs of foster youth in the district.

### **Enrollment**

A student placed in a licensed children's institution or foster family home within the district shall attend programs operated by the district unless one of the following circumstances applies: (Education Code 48853, 48853.5)

1. The student has an individualized education program requiring placement in a nonpublic, nonsectarian school or agency or in another local educational agency
2. The parent/guardian or other person holding the right to make educational decisions for the student determines that it is in the best interests of the student to be placed in another education program and submits a written statement to the district indicating that determination and an awareness of the following:
  - a. The student has a right to attend a regular public school in the least restrictive environment
  - b. The alternate education program is a special education program, if applicable
  - c. The decision to unilaterally remove the student from the district school and to place the student in an alternate education program may not be financed by the district
  - d. Any attempt to seek reimbursement for the alternate education program may be at the expense of the

parent/guardian or other person holding the right to make educational decisions for the student

3. At the initial placement or any subsequent change in placement, the student exercises the right to continue in the school of origin, as defined above. In any such circumstance, the following shall apply:
  - a. The student may continue in the school of origin for the duration of the court's jurisdiction
  - b. If the court's jurisdiction over a grade K-8 student is terminated prior to the end of a school year, the student may continue in the school of origin for the remainder of the school year
  - c. If the court's jurisdiction is terminated while the student is in high school, the student may continue in the school of origin through graduation
  - d. If the student is transitioning between school grade levels, the student shall be allowed to continue in the district in the same attendance area to provide the student the benefit of matriculating with the student's peers in accordance with the established feeder patterns of school in the district. A student who is transitioning to a middle school or high school shall be allowed to enroll in the school designated for matriculation in another school district.

The role of the liaison shall be advisory with respect to placement decisions and determination of the school of origin. (Education Code 48853.5)

The district liaison may, in consultation with and with the agreement of the foster youth and the person holding the right to make educational decisions for the foster youth, recommend that the foster youth's right to attend the school of origin be waived and the foster youth be enrolled in any school that students living in the attendance area in which the foster youth resides are eligible to attend. All decisions shall be made in accordance with the foster youth's best interests. (Education Code 48853.5)

Prior to making any recommendation to move a foster youth from the school of origin, the liaison shall provide the foster youth and the person holding the right to make educational decisions for the youth with a written explanation of the basis for the recommendation and how the recommendation serves the youth's best interests. (Education Code 48853.5)

If the liaison, in consultation with the foster youth and the person holding the right to make educational decisions for the foster youth, agrees that the best interests of the foster youth would be served by a transfer to a school other than the school of origin, the principal or designee of the new school shall immediately enroll the foster youth, regardless of whether the foster youth: (Education Code 48853.5)

1. Has outstanding fees, fines, textbooks, or other items or monies due to the school last attended
2. Does not have clothing normally required by the school, such as school uniforms
3. Is unable to produce records normally required for enrollment, such as previous academic records, proof of residency, and medical records, including, but not limited to, immunization records or other documentation

If the foster youth or a person holding the right to make educational decisions for the foster youth disagrees with the liaison's enrollment recommendation, an appeal may be filed with the Superintendent. The Superintendent shall make a determination within 30 calendar days of receipt of the appeal. Within 30 calendar days of receipt of the Superintendent's decision, the foster youth or the person holding the right to make educational decisions for the foster youth may appeal that decision to the Board. The Board shall consider the issue at its next regularly scheduled meeting. The Board's decision shall be final.

If any dispute arises regarding the request of a foster youth to remain in the school of origin, the foster youth has the right to remain in the school of origin pending resolution of the dispute. (Education Code 48853.5)

## **Transportation**

The Superintendent or designee shall collaborate with the local child welfare agency to determine how transportation will be provided, arranged, and funded in a cost-effective manner to enable a foster youth to remain in



the school of origin, for the duration of the time spent in foster care, when it is in the foster youth's best interest to do so. Such transportation costs may be paid by either the child welfare agency or the district, or shared by both. (20 USC 6312)

Any fees that the district charges for home-to-school transportation and other transportation as expressly provided by law shall be waived for foster youth. (Education Code 39807.5)

### **Effect of Absences on Grades**

The grades of a student in foster care shall not be lowered for any absence from school that is due to either of the following circumstances: (Education Code 49069.5)

1. A decision by a court or placement agency to change the student's placement, in which case the grades shall be calculated as of the date the student left school
2. A verified court appearance or related court-ordered activity

### **Transfer of Coursework and Credits**

When a foster youth transfers into a district school, the district will receive an official transcript from the transferring school or district which reflects full and partial credits and grades earned by the foster youth and includes: (Education Code 51225.2)

1. A determination of the days of enrollment and/or seat time, if applicable for all full and partial credits earned based on any measure of full or partial coursework being satisfactorily completed  
*Partial coursework satisfactorily completed* includes any portion of an individual course, even if the student did not complete the entire course
2. Separate listings for credits and grades earned at each school and local educational agency so it is clear where credits and grades were earned
3. A complete record of the student's seat time, including both period attendance and days of enrollment

The district shall transfer the credits and grades from the transferring school's transcript onto an official district transcript in the same manner as described in Item #2, above. (Education Code 51225.2)

If the Principal or designee has knowledge that the transcript from the transferring school may not include certain credits or grades, the Principal or designee shall contact the prior school within two business days to request that the full or partial credits be issued, which shall then be issued and provided by the prior school within two business days of the request. (Education Code 51225.2)

The district shall accept and issue full or partial credit for any coursework that the foster youth has satisfactorily completed while attending another public school, a juvenile court school, a charter school, a school in a country other than the United States, or a nonpublic, nonsectarian school or agency. (Education Code 51225.2)

If the entire course was completed, the district shall not require the foster youth to retake the course. (Education Code 51225.2)

If the entire course was not completed at the previous school, the foster youth shall be issued partial credit for the coursework completed and shall be required to take the uncompleted portion of the course. However, the district may require the foster youth to retake the portion of the course completed if, in consultation with the holder of educational rights for the foster youth, the district finds that the foster youth is reasonably able to complete the requirements in time to graduate from high school. Whenever partial credit is issued to a foster youth in any particular course, the foster youth shall be enrolled in the same or equivalent course, if applicable, to enable the completion of the entire course. (Education Code 51225.2)

Partial credits shall be awarded on the basis of 0.5 credits for every seven class periods attended per subject. If the

school is on a block schedule, each block schedule class period attended shall be equal to two regular class periods per subject. Partial credits and grades earned by a student shall be included on the student's official transcript within two business days of the district's notification of the student's transfer, as required under Education Code 49069.5.

In no event shall the district prevent a foster youth from taking or retaking a course to meet the eligibility requirements for admission to the California State University or the University of California. (Education Code 51225.2)

### **Applicability of Graduation Requirements**

To obtain a high school diploma, a foster youth shall complete all courses required by Education Code 51225.3 and fulfill any additional graduation requirements prescribed by the Board.

However, when a foster youth who has completed the second year of high school transfers into the district from another school district or transfers between high schools within the district, the foster youth shall be exempted from all district-established coursework and other district-established graduation requirements, unless the district makes a finding that the student is reasonably able to complete the additional requirements in time to graduate from high school by the end of the fourth year of high school. Within 30 calendar days of the foster youth's transfer, the Superintendent or designee shall notify the foster youth, the person holding the right to make educational decisions for the foster youth, and the foster youth's social worker of the availability of the exemption and whether the foster youth qualifies for it. If the Superintendent or designee fails to provide this notification, the student shall be eligible for the exemption once notified, even if the notification occurs after the student is no longer a foster youth. (Education Code 51225.1)

To determine whether a foster youth is in the third or fourth year of high school, the district shall use either the number of credits the foster youth has earned as of the date of the transfer, the length of school enrollment, or for a foster youth with significant gaps in school attendance, the foster youth's age as compared to the average age of students in the third or fourth year of high school, whichever qualifies the foster youth for the exemption. (Education Code 51225.1)

If a foster youth was not properly notified of an exemption, declined the exemption, or was not previously exempted, the foster youth or the person holding the right to make educational decisions for the foster youth may request the exemption and the Superintendent or designee shall exempt the foster youth within 30 days of the request. A student who at one time qualified for the exemption may request the exemption even if the student is no longer eligible. (Education Code 51225.1)

When the Superintendent or designee determines that a foster youth who transferred into a district school is reasonably able to complete district-established graduation requirements by the end of the foster youth's fourth year of high school, the foster youth shall not be exempted from those requirements. Within 30 calendar days of the following academic year, the foster youth shall be reevaluated based on the foster youth's course completion status at the time, to determine if the student continues to be reasonably able to complete the district-established graduation requirements in time to graduate by the end of the foster youth's fourth year of high school. Written notice as to whether the foster youth then qualifies for the exemption shall be provided to the foster youth, the person holding the right to make educational decisions for the foster youth, and if applicable, to the foster youth's social worker or probation officer. (Education Code 51225.1)

If, upon reevaluation, it is determined that the foster youth is not reasonably able to complete the district-established graduation requirements in time to graduate from high school by the end of the foster youth's fourth year of high school, the Superintendent or designee shall provide the foster youth with the option to receive an exemption from district-established graduation requirements or stay in school for a fifth year to complete the district-established graduation requirements upon agreement with the foster youth, or if under 18 years of age, the person holding the right to make educational decisions for the foster youth, and provide notifications in accordance with Education Code 51225.1. (Education Code 51225.1)

When a foster youth is exempted from district-established graduation requirements, the Superintendent or designee shall consult with the foster youth and the person holding the right to make educational decisions for the foster

youth about the following: (Education Code 512251.)

1. Discussion of how any requirements that are waived may affect the foster youth's postsecondary education or vocation plans, including the ability to gain admission to a postsecondary educational institution
2. Discussion and information about other options available to the student, including, but not limited to, a fifth year of high school, possible credit recovery, and any transfer opportunities available through the California Community Colleges
3. Consideration of the foster youth's academic data and any other information relevant to making an informed decision on whether to accept the exemption

The district shall not require or request a foster youth to transfer schools in order to qualify for an exemption and shall not grant any request made by a foster youth or any person acting on behalf of a foster youth for a transfer solely to qualify the foster youth for an exemption. (Education Code 51225.1)

The Superintendent or designee shall not require a foster youth who is eligible for an exemption from district-established graduation requirements, and would otherwise be entitled to remain in attendance at the school, to accept the exemption or be denied enrollment in, or the ability to complete, courses for which the foster youth is otherwise eligible, including courses necessary to attend an institution of higher education, regardless of whether such courses are required for statewide graduation requirements. (Education Code 51225.1)

If a foster youth is exempted from district-established graduation requirements the exemption shall not be revoked. Additionally, the exemption shall continue to apply after the termination of the court's jurisdiction over the student while still enrolled in school or if the foster youth transfers to another school or school district. (Education Code 51225.1)

The Superintendent or designee shall not require or request a foster youth who is exempted from district-established graduation requirements and who completes the statewide coursework requirements before the end of the fourth year of high school, and would otherwise be entitled to remain in school, to graduate before the end of the foster youth's fourth year of high school. (Education Code 51225.1)

Upon making a finding that a foster youth is reasonably able to complete district-established graduation requirements within the fifth year of high school, the Superintendent or designee shall: (Education Code 51225.1)

1. Consult with the foster youth and the person holding the right to make educational decisions for the foster youth of the option to remain in school for a fifth year to complete the district-established graduation requirements and how that will affect the foster youth's ability to gain admission to a postsecondary educational institution
2. Consult with and provide information to the foster youth about transfer opportunities available through the California Community Colleges
3. Upon agreement with the foster youth or, if under 18 years of age, the person holding the right to make educational decisions for the foster youth, permit the foster youth to stay in school for a fifth year to complete the district-established graduation requirements
4. Consult with the foster youth and the person holding the right to make educational decisions for the foster youth of the option to remain in the foster youth's school of origin

When a foster youth who has completed the second year of high school transfers into the district from another school district or transfers between high schools within the district, and is not reasonably able to complete the district-established graduation requirements within the foster youth's fifth year of high school but is reasonably able to complete the statewide coursework requirements within the fifth year of high school, the foster youth shall be exempted from all district-established graduation requirements and provided with the option to remain in school for a fifth year to complete the statewide requirements. In such situations, the Superintendent or designee shall consult with the foster youth and the person holding the right to make educational decisions for the foster youth, regarding

the following: (Education Code 51225.1)

1. The foster youth's option to remain in school for a fifth year to complete statewide coursework requirements
2. The effect of waiving the district-established requirements and remaining in school for a fifth year on the foster youth's postsecondary education or vocation plans, including the ability to gain admission to an institution of higher education
3. Other options available to the foster youth, including but not limited to, possible credit recovery, and any transfer opportunities available through the California Community Colleges
4. The foster youth's academic data and any other information relevant to making an informed decision on whether to accept the exemption and option to remain in school for a fifth year to complete the statewide coursework requirements

### **Eligibility for Extracurricular Activities**

A foster youth whose residence changes pursuant to a court order or decision of a child welfare worker shall be immediately deemed to meet all residency requirements for participation in interscholastic sports or other extracurricular activities. (Education Code 48850)

### **Notification and Complaints**

Information regarding the educational rights of foster youth shall be included in the annual uniform complaint procedures notification distributed to students, parents/guardians, employees, and other interested parties pursuant to 5 CCR 4622. (Education Code 48853, 48853.5, 49069.5, 51225.1, 51225.2)

Any complaint alleging that the district has not complied with requirements regarding the education of foster youth may be filed in accordance with the district's procedures in AR 1312.3 - Uniform Complaint Procedures. If the district finds merit in a complaint, the district shall provide a remedy to the affected student. A complainant not satisfied with the district's decision may appeal the decision to the California Department of Education (CDE) and shall receive a written decision regarding the appeal within 60 days of CDE's receipt of the appeal. If CDE finds merit in an appeal, the district shall provide a remedy to the affected student. (Education Code 48853, 48853.5, 49069.5, 51225.1, 51225.2)

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**Policy 6177: Summer Learning Programs**

**Status:** DRAFT

**Original Adopted Date:** 04/01/2013 | **Last Revised Date:** 06/23/2021

The Governing Board recognizes that an extended break from the instructional program may result in significant learning loss, especially among disadvantaged and low-achieving students, and desires to provide opportunities during the summer for students to practice essential skills, make academic progress, and develop social, emotional, and physical needs and interests through hands-on engaging learning experiences.

Summer programs offered by the district shall be aligned with the district's local control and accountability plan (LCAP), other applicable district and school plans, and the educational program provided during the school year. When feasible, summer programs shall blend high-quality academic instruction in core curricular and/or elective subjects with recreation, nutrition programs, social and emotional development, and support services that encourage attendance, student engagement in learning, and student wellness.

**Summer School**

The Superintendent or designee, with Board approval, may establish summer school day and/or evening classes.

The district's summer school program may be used to provide supplemental instruction to students needing remediation and/or enrichment in core academic subjects.

As appropriate, priority for enrollment in summer school programs shall be given to district students who:

1. Need course credits in order to graduate from high school before the beginning of the next school year
2. Have been retained or are at risk of being retained at their grade level
3. Demonstrate academic deficiencies in core curriculum areas
4. Are in targeted student groups identified in the district's LCAP as needing increased or improved services to succeed in the educational program
5. Are in grades transitional kindergarten (TK)-6 and are required to be offered or provided access to Expanded Learning Opportunities Programs pursuant to Education Code 46120 and BP/AR 5184.2 - Before/After School Programs

**Regulation 6184: Continuation Education**

**Status:** DRAFT

**Original Adopted Date:** 06/01/1989 | **Last Revised Date:** 06/23/2021

**Program Components**

The district's continuation education program shall include the following components:

1. Curriculum that prepares students to meet the course requirements for graduation prescribed in Education Code 51224-51225.3 (5 CCR 11004)
2. A plan to coordinate instruction and training in the continuation education program with the student's home, employment, and other agencies (5 CCR 11003)
3. Instruction based on individual student needs as determined by counseling and coordination services (5 CCR 11002)
4. Personal guidance in matters affecting students' personal, social, and educational adjustment (5 CCR 11001)
5. Occupational guidance to prepare students for future employment opportunities (5 CCR 11001)
6. Placement in suitable employment whenever students can benefit from such employment, and follow-up visitations at places of employment to determine the effectiveness of the guidance and placement services (5 CCR 11001)
7. Regular home contacts and parent conferences when students are not succeeding in the continuation program (5 CCR 11001)
8. Regular contacts with students enrolled for only four hours per week and all students suspended from continuation education, with the intent of eventually returning them to the full-time continuation education program (5 CCR 11001)
9. Regular communication with all parents/guardians regarding their child's progress in the educational program
10. Opportunities for parent/guardian and community involvement in school activities and program planning
11. Student support services that may include, but are not limited to, academic support services, health services or referrals, child care and development services for the children of enrolled students, and/or prevention and intervention services for alcohol or substance abuse
12. Professional development that includes opportunities for teachers to continually improve their instructional and classroom management skills
13. Efforts to ensure school safety and promote a positive school climate

**Involuntary Transfer**

A decision to transfer a student involuntarily into continuation education classes shall be based on a finding that the student: (Education Code 48432.5)

1. Committed an act enumerated in Education Code 48900
2. Has been habitually truant or irregular in attendance from instruction the student is lawfully required to attend.

Involuntary transfer to a continuation school shall be made only when other means fail to bring about student improvement. However, a student may be involuntarily transferred the first time an act enumerated in Education Code 48900 is committed if the principal determines that the student's presence causes a danger to persons or property or threatens to disrupt the instructional process. (Education Code 48432.5)

Prior to an involuntary transfer, the student and the student's parent/guardian, or a foster youth's educational rights holder, attorney and social worker, or an Indian child's tribal social worker, and if applicable, county social worker, shall be given written notice that a meeting may be requested with the Superintendent or designee. (Education Code 48432.5)

At the meeting, the student and the student's parent/guardian, or, if the student is a foster youth, the foster youth's educational rights holder, attorney, and county social worker, or, if the student is an Indian child, the Indian child's tribal social worker, or, if applicable, county social worker, shall be informed of the specific facts and reasons for the proposed transfer, and have the opportunity to inspect all documents relied upon, question any evidence and witnesses presented, and present evidence on the student's behalf. The student may designate one or more representatives and witnesses to be present with the student at the meeting. (Education Code 48432.5)

A written decision to transfer, stating the facts and reasons for the decision, shall be sent to the student and the student's parent/guardian or, if the student is a foster youth, the foster youth's educational rights holder, attorney, and county social worker, or, if the student is an Indian child, the Indian child's tribal social worker, or, if applicable, county social worker. It shall indicate whether the decision is subject to periodic review and the procedure for such review. (Education Code 48432.5)

The persons making the final decision for involuntary transfer shall not be members of the staff of the school in which the student is enrolled at the time. (Education Code 48432.5)

No involuntary transfer to a continuation school shall extend beyond the end of the semester following the semester when the acts leading to the involuntary transfer occurred. (Education Code 48432.5)

### **Voluntary Enrollment**

As space permits, students who meet the eligibility criteria specified in Board policy may voluntarily enroll in a continuation school. A student may be considered for placement in the continuation school whenever the student's parent/guardian submits a written request to the Superintendent or designee or the student is referred by a counselor or school administrator.

Approval of a student's voluntary transfer shall be based on a finding that the placement will promote the educational interests of the student. (Education Code 48432.3)

Voluntary enrollment shall be subject to the following conditions: (Education Code 48432.3, 48432.5)

1. A student's voluntary placement in continuation education shall not be used as an alternative to expulsion unless alternative means of correction have been attempted pursuant to Education Code 48900.5.
2. The district shall strive to ensure that no specific group of students, including a group based on race, ethnicity, language status, or special needs, is disproportionately enrolled in continuation education within the district.
3. The Superintendent or designee shall annually review disaggregated student enrollment data and report such data to the Governing Board. If it is determined that one or more student groups are enrolled in continuation education at a significantly higher level than their proportional enrollment in the district, the Superintendent or designee shall conduct a review of enrollment criteria and procedures to determine the reason for the disproportionate enrollment.
4. A copy of this administrative regulation and accompanying Board policy shall be provided to a student whose voluntary transfer to a continuation school is under consideration and to the student's parent/guardian.
5. Before a student is transferred and upon request by the student's parent/guardian, the parent/guardian may meet with a counselor, principal, or administrator from both the school that the student is currently attending and the continuation school to determine if transferring is the best option for the student.
6. To the extent possible, voluntary transfer to a continuation school shall occur within the first four weeks of each semester.

7. The transfer is voluntary, and the student has a right to return to the student's previous school.
8. A student who is voluntarily enrolled in continuation education may return to the regular high school at the beginning of the following school year, or at any other time with the consent of the Superintendent or designee.

### **Intake and Orientation**

Upon voluntary or involuntary transfer to a continuation education program, an intake meeting shall be conducted with each student and the student's parent/guardian. At this meeting, the principal or counselor shall provide information about each course and the number of credits that the student needs to complete in order to graduate and shall develop an individualized academic plan for the student. The student, and the student's parent/guardian as appropriate, shall sign a contract indicating their commitment to these objectives.

In addition, at the beginning of each school year, the district coordinator for continuation education, school counselor(s), or other designee(s) shall provide an orientation session for all incoming students and their parents/guardians in order to explain the credit recovery process and establish expectations for student conduct and participation. As appropriate, extended orientation sessions may be provided to assist students in developing academic, social, communication, anger management, or other skills necessary to success in school.

### **Minimum Attendance Requirement**

In continuation high schools and classes, a day of attendance shall be at least 180 minutes. (Education Code 46170)

Each student shall attend classes for not less than 15 hours per week. However, if a student gives satisfactory proof of regular employment, the student may attend classes for not less than four hours per week for the regular school term. These requirements may be met by any combination of attendance in a continuation education class and/or regional occupational center or program. (Education Code 46170, 48402, 48400)

### **Reenrollment**

Any person age 16 or 17 years who terminated enrollment in continuation school after obtaining a certificate of proficiency may reenroll in the district once without prejudice. If the student leaves a second time, the Superintendent or designee may deny reenrollment until the beginning of the next semester. (Education Code 48414)

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**Bylaw 9270: Conflict Of Interest**

**Status:** DRAFT

**Original Adopted Date:** 07/01/2010 | **Last Revised Date:** 06/23/2021

The Governing Board desires to maintain the highest ethical standards and help ensure that decisions are made in the best interest of the district and the public. Accordingly, no Board member, district employee, or other person in a designated position shall participate in the making of any decision for the district when the decision will or may be affected by the Board member's, district employee's, or other designated persons financial, family, or other personal interest or consideration.

Even if a prohibited conflict of interest does not exist, a Board member shall abstain from voting on personnel matters that uniquely affect the Board member's relatives. However, a Board member may vote on collective bargaining agreements and personnel matters that affect a class of employees to which the Board member's relative belongs. Relative means an adult who is related to the Board member by blood or affinity within the third degree, as determined by the common law, or an individual in an adoptive relationship within the third degree. (Education Code 35107)

A relationship within the third degree includes an individual's parents, grandparents, great-grandparents, children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, brothers, sisters, aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, and the similar family of the individual's spouse/registered domestic partner unless the individual is widowed or divorced.

The Board shall adopt for the district a conflict of interest code that incorporates the provisions of 2 CCR 18730 by reference, specifies the district's designated positions, and provides the disclosure categories required for each position. The conflict of interest code shall be submitted to the district's code reviewing body for approval, in accordance with Government Code 87303 and within the deadline for submission established by the code reviewing body. (Government Code 87303)

Upon direction by the code reviewing body, the Board shall review the district's conflict of interest code and submit any changes to the code reviewing body or, if no change is required, the Board shall submit a written statement to that effect. (Government Code 87306.5)

When a change in the district's conflict of interest code is necessitated due to changed circumstances, such as the creation of new designated positions, changes to the duties assigned to existing positions, amendments, or revisions, the amended code shall be submitted to the code reviewing body within 90 days after the changed circumstances necessitating the amendments have become apparent. (Government Code 87306)

When reviewing and preparing the district's conflict of interest code, the Superintendent or designee shall provide officers, employees, consultants, and members of the community adequate notice and a fair opportunity to present their views. (Government Code 87311)

Board members and designated employees shall annually file a Statement of Economic Interest/Form 700 in accordance with the disclosure categories specified in the district's conflict of interest code. A Board member who leaves office or a designated employee who leaves district employment shall, within 30 days, file a revised statement covering the period of time between the closing date of the last required statement and the date of leaving office or district employment. (Government Code 87302, 87302.6)

**Conflict of Interest under the Political Reform Act**

A district official, including a Board member, designated employee, or other person in a designated position shall not make, participate in making, or in any way use or attempt to use an official position to influence a governmental decision in which the district official knows or has reason to know that there is a disqualifying conflict of interest. A disqualifying conflict of interest exists if the decision will have a "reasonably foreseeable material financial effect," which is distinguishable from the effect on the public generally, on the district official, the district official's immediate family, or any financial interest described in 2 CCR 18700. (Government Code 87100, 87101, 87103; 2 CCR 18700-18707)

A district official makes a governmental decision when, within the authority of the office or position, the district

official authorizes or directs any action on a matter, votes or provides information or opinion on it, contacts or appears before another district official for the purpose of affecting the decision, or takes any other action specified in 2 CCR 18704.

However, a district official shall participate in the making of a contract in which the district official has a financial interest if such participation is required by the rule of necessity or legally required participation pursuant to Government Code 87101 and 2 CCR 18705.

### **Conflict of Interest from Campaign Contributions**

To avoid improper influence over the Board's decision-making involving the issuance of a license, permit, or other entitlements for use, including a contract, district officers, which includes Board members or agency heads, shall comply with Government Code 84308, including the following: (Government Code 84308)

1. A district officer is prohibited from accepting, soliciting, or directing a contribution of more than \$250 from any party or participant to a proceeding involving a license, permit, or other entitlement for use, including a contract, or from that person's agent, while the proceeding is pending before the Board and for 12 months following the date a final decision is rendered in the proceeding, if the Board member knows or has reason to know that the party or participant has a financial interest in the Board's decision.
2. Any district officer who received a contribution of more than \$250 from a party or participant in the preceding 12 months shall disclose that fact on the record of the proceeding prior to the Board rendering a decision in the proceeding. If the district officer willfully or knowingly received the contribution and knows or has reason to know that the participant has a financial interest in the Board's decision, the district officer shall not make, participate in making, or in any way attempt to use the official position to influence the Board's decision.
3. A district officer who receives a contribution that would otherwise require disqualification as described in Item #2 above may participate in the proceeding if the contribution is returned within 30 days from the time the district officer knows or should have known about the contribution and the proceeding.
4. A district officer who unknowingly accepts, solicits, or directs a contribution of more than \$250 during the 12 months after the date of the Board's final decision on the proceeding may cure the violation by returning the contribution, or the portion exceeding \$250, within 14 days of accepting, soliciting, or directing the contribution, provided the district officer did not knowingly or willfully accept, solicit, or direct the prohibited contribution. The district officer shall maintain records of curing the violation.

The provisions in Government Code 84308 as specified above do not apply to labor contracts, competitively bid contracts, and personal employment contracts. (Government Code 84308)

### **Conflict of Interest under Government Code 1090 - Financial Interest in a Contract**

Board members, employees, or district consultants shall not be financially interested in any contract made by the Board on behalf of the district, including in the development, preliminary discussions, negotiations, compromises, planning, reasoning, and specifications and solicitations for bids. If a Board member has such a financial interest in a contract made by the Board, the contract is void. (Government Code 1090)

A Board member shall not be considered to be financially interested in a contract in which there is only a "remote interest," as specified in Government Code 1091, if the interest is disclosed during a Board meeting and noted in the official Board minutes. The affected Board member shall not vote or debate on the matter or attempt to influence any other Board member or district official to enter into the contract. (Government Code 1091)

In addition, a Board member shall not be considered to be financially interested in a contract in which the interest is a "noninterest" as defined in Government Code 1091.5. Noninterest includes a Board member's interest in being reimbursed for actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of official duties, in the employment of a spouse/registered domestic partner who has been a district employee for at least one year prior to the Board member's election or appointment, or in any other applicable circumstance specified in Government Code 1091.5.

## **Common Law Doctrine Against Conflict of Interest**

A Board member shall abstain from any official action in which the Board member's private or personal interest may conflict with official duties.

## **Incompatible Offices and Activities**

Board members shall not engage in any employment or activity or hold any office which is inconsistent with, incompatible with, in conflict with, or inimical to the Board member's duties as an officer of the district. (Government Code 1099, 1126)

## **Gifts**

Board members and designated employees may accept gifts only under the conditions and limitations specified in Government Code 89503 and 2 CCR 18730.

The limitation on gifts does not apply to wedding gifts and gifts exchanged between individuals on birthdays, holidays, and other similar occasions, provided that the gifts exchanged are not substantially disproportionate in value. (Government Code 89503)

In addition, the limitation on gifts does not apply to informational materials such as books, reports, pamphlets, calendars, and periodicals. (Government Code 82028)

Gifts of travel and related lodging and subsistence shall be subject to the current gift limitation, except when: (Government Code 89506)

1. The travel is in connection with a speech given by a Board member or designated employee, provided the lodging and subsistence expenses are limited to the day immediately preceding, the day of, and the day immediately following the speech and the travel is within the United States.
2. The travel is provided by a person or agency specified in Government Code 89506, including a government, governmental agency or authority, bona fide public or private educational institution, as defined in Revenue and Taxation Code 203, or nonprofit organization exempt from taxation under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Gifts of travel exempted from the gift limitation, as described in Items #1 and 2 above, shall nevertheless be reportable on the recipient's Statement of Economic Interest/Form 700 as required by law.

A gift of travel does not include travel provided by the district for Board members and designated employees. (Government Code 89506)

## **Honoraria**

Board members and designated employees shall not accept any honorarium, which is defined as any payment made in consideration for any speech given, article published, or attendance at any public or private conference, convention, meeting, social event, meal, or like gathering. (Government Code 89501, 89502)

The term honorarium does not include: (Government Code 89501)

1. Earned income for personal services customarily provided in connection with a bona fide business, trade, or profession, unless the sole or predominant activity of the business, trade, or profession is making speeches
2. Any honorarium which is not used and, within 30 days after receipt, is either returned to the donor or delivered to the district for donation into the general fund without being claimed as a deduction from income for tax purposes

**Bylaw 9320: Meetings And Notices**

**Status:** DRAFT

**Original Adopted Date:** 03/01/2008 | **Last Revised Date:** 06/23/2021

Meetings of the Governing Board are conducted for the purpose of accomplishing district business. In accordance with state open meeting laws (Brown Act), the Board shall hold its meetings in public and shall conduct closed sessions during such meetings only as authorized by law. To encourage community involvement in the schools, Board meetings shall provide opportunities for questions and comments by members of the public. All meetings shall be conducted in accordance with law and the Board's bylaws, policies, and administrative regulations.

A Board meeting exists whenever a majority of Board members gather at the same time and location, including teleconference location as permitted by Government Code 54953, to hear, discuss, deliberate, or take action upon any item within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Board. (Government Code 54952.2)

A majority of the Board shall not, outside of an authorized meeting, use a series of communications of any kind, directly or through intermediaries, including social media and other electronic communications, to discuss, deliberate, or take action on any item that is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Board. (Government Code 54952.2)

However, an employee or district official may engage in separate conversations or communications with Board members in order to answer questions or provide information regarding an item within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Board, as long as that employee or district official does not communicate the comments or position of any Board members to other Board members. (Government Code 54952.2)

In order to help ensure the participation of individuals with disabilities at Board meetings, the Superintendent or designee shall provide appropriate disability-related accommodations or modifications upon request in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Any doubt about a request for accommodation shall be resolved in favor of accessibility. (Government Code 54953, 54953.2, 54954.1, 54954.2)

Notice of the procedure for receiving and resolving requests for accommodation described above shall be given in each instance in which notice of the time of a meeting is otherwise given or the agenda for the meeting is otherwise posted. (Government Code 54953)

### **Regular Meetings**

The Board shall hold   1   regular meeting each month. Regular meetings shall be held at 4:30 p.m. on the 2nd Thursday at the Point ARena High School Library.

At least 72 hours prior to a regular meeting, the agenda shall be posted at one or more locations freely accessible to members of the public and on the district's web site. (Government Code 54954.2)

Whenever agenda materials relating to an open session of a regular meeting are distributed to the Board less than 72 hours before the meeting, the Superintendent or designee shall make the materials available for public inspection at a public office or location designated for that purpose or on the district web site, consistent with Government Code 54957.5, at the time the materials are distributed to all or a majority of the Board. (Government Code 54957.5)

### **Special Meetings**

Special meetings of the Board may be called at any time by the presiding officer or a majority of the Board members. However, a special meeting shall not be called regarding the salary, salary schedule, or other compensation of the Superintendent, assistant superintendent, or other management employee as described in Government Code 3511.1. (Government Code 54956)

Written notice of special meetings shall be delivered personally or by any other means to all Board members and the local media who have requested such notice in writing. The notice also shall be posted on the district's web site. The

notice shall be received at least 24 hours before the time of the meeting. The notice shall also be posted at least 24 hours before the meeting in a location freely accessible to the public. The notice shall specify the time and location of the meeting and the business to be transacted or discussed. No other business shall be considered at this meeting. (Education Code 35144; Government Code 54956)

Any Board member may waive the 24-hour written notice requirement prior to the time of the meeting by filing a written waiver of notice with the clerk or secretary of the Board or by being present at the meeting at the time it convenes. (Education Code 35144; Government Code 54956)

Every notice of a special meeting shall provide an opportunity for members of the public to directly address the Board concerning any item that has been described in the meeting notice, before or during the item's consideration. (Government Code 54954.3)

### **Emergency Meetings**

In the case of an emergency situation for which prompt action is necessary due to the disruption or threatened disruption of public facilities, the Board may hold an emergency meeting without complying with the 24-hour notice and/or 24-hour posting requirement for special meetings pursuant to Government Code 54956. The Board shall comply with all other requirements for special meetings during an emergency meeting. (Government Code 54956.5)

*An emergency situation* means either of the following: (Government Code 54956.5)

1. An emergency, which shall be defined as a work stoppage, crippling activity, or other activity that severely impairs public health and/or safety as determined by a majority of the members of the Board
2. A dire emergency, which shall be defined as a crippling disaster, mass destruction, terrorist act, or threatened terrorist activity that poses peril so immediate and significant that requiring the Board to provide one-hour notice before holding an emergency meeting may endanger the public health and/or safety as determined by a majority of the members of the Board

Except in the case of a dire emergency, the Board president or designee shall give notice of the emergency meeting by telephone at least one hour before the meeting to the local media that have requested notice of special meetings. All telephone numbers provided by the media in the most recent request for notification shall be exhausted. If telephone services are not functioning, the notice requirement of one hour is waived and, as soon after the meeting as possible, the Board shall notify those media representatives of the meeting and shall describe the purpose of the meeting and any action taken by the Board. In the case of a dire emergency, the Board president or designee shall give such notice at or near the time notification is given to the other members of the Board about the meeting. (Government Code 54956.5)

The minutes of the meeting, a list of persons the Board president or designee notified or attempted to notify, a copy of the roll call vote, and any actions taken at the meeting shall be posted for at least 10 days in a public place as soon after the meeting as possible. (Government Code 54956.5)

### **Adjourned/Continued Meetings**

The Board may adjourn/continue any regular or special meeting to a later time and location that shall be specified in the order of adjournment. Less than a quorum of the Board may adjourn such a meeting. If no Board members are present, the secretary or the clerk may declare the meeting adjourned to a later time and place and shall give notice in the same manner required for special meetings. (Government Code 54955)

Within 24 hours after the time of adjournment, a copy of the order or notice of adjournment/continuance shall be conspicuously posted on or near the door of the place where the meeting was held. (Government Code 54955)

### **Study Sessions, Retreats, Public Forums, and Discussion Meetings**

The Board may occasionally convene a study session or public forum to study an issue in more detail or to receive information from staff or feedback from members of the public.

The Board may also convene a retreat or discussion meeting to discuss Board roles and relationships.

Public notice shall be given in accordance with law when a quorum of the Board is attending a study session, retreat, public forum, or discussion meeting. All such meetings shall comply with the Brown Act and shall be held in open session and within district boundaries. Action items shall not be included on the agenda for these meetings.

### **Other Gatherings**

Attendance by a majority of Board members at any of the following events is not subject to the Brown Act provided that a majority of the Board members do not discuss specific district business among themselves other than as part of the scheduled program: (Government Code 54952.2)

1. A conference or similar public gathering open to the public that involves a discussion of issues of general interest to the public or to school board members
2. An open, publicized meeting organized by a person or organization other than the district to address a topic of local community concern
3. An open and noticed meeting of another body of the district
4. An open and noticed meeting of a legislative body of another local agency
5. A purely social or ceremonial occasion
6. An open and noticed meeting of a standing committee of the Board, provided that the Board members who are not members of the standing committee attend only as observers

Individual contacts or conversations between a Board member and any other person are not subject to the Brown Act. (Government Code 54952.2)

### **Location of Meetings**

Meetings shall not be held in a facility that prohibits the admittance of any person on the basis of ancestry or any characteristic listed in Government Code 11135. In addition, meetings shall not be held in a facility which is inaccessible to individuals with disabilities or where members of the public must make a payment or purchase in order to be admitted. (Government Code 54961)

Meetings shall be held within district boundaries, except to do any of the following: (Government Code 54954)

1. Comply with state or federal law or court order or attend a judicial or administrative proceeding to which the district is a party
2. Inspect real or personal property which cannot conveniently be brought into the district, provided that the topic of the meeting is limited to items directly related to the property
3. Participate in meetings or discussions of multiagency significance, provided these meetings are held within one of the other agencies' boundaries, with all participating agencies giving the notice required by law
4. Meet in the closest meeting facility if the district has no meeting facility within its boundaries or if its principal office is located outside the district
5. Meet with elected or appointed state or federal officials when a local meeting would be impractical, solely to discuss legislative or regulatory issues affecting the district over which the state or federal officials have jurisdiction
6. Meet in or near a facility owned by the district but located outside the district, provided the meeting agenda is limited to items directly related to that facility
7. Visit the office of the district's legal counsel for a closed session on pending litigation, when doing so would reduce legal fees or costs
8. Attend conferences on nonadversarial collective bargaining techniques
9. Interview residents of another district regarding the Board's potential employment of an applicant for

Superintendent of the district

10. Interview a potential employee from another district

Meetings exempted from the boundary requirements, as specified in Items #1-10 above, shall still be subject to the notice and open meeting requirements for regular and special meetings when a quorum of the Board attends the meeting.

If a fire, flood, earthquake, or other emergency renders the regular meeting place unsafe, meetings shall be held for the duration of the emergency at a location designated by the Board president or designee, who shall so inform all news media who have requested notice of special meetings by the most rapid available means of communication. (Government Code 54954)

**Traditional Teleconferencing**

A teleconference is a meeting of the Board in which Board members are in different locations, connected by electronic means through audio and/or video. (Government Code 54953)

All teleconferenced meetings shall be conducted in a manner that protects the statutory and constitutional rights of the parties or the public appearing before the Board. (Government Code 54953)

The Board may use teleconferences for all purposes in connection with any meeting within the Board's subject matter jurisdiction.

All votes taken during a teleconference meeting shall be by roll call. (Government Code 54953)

During the teleconference, at least a quorum of the members of the Board shall participate from locations within district boundaries. (Government Code 54953)

Unless a Board member participates by teleconference pursuant to the provisions described in the sections "Teleconferencing During a Personal Emergency," "Teleconferencing For 'Just Cause'" or "Teleconferencing During a Proclaimed State of Emergency" below, agendas shall be posted at all teleconference locations and shall list all teleconference locations whenever they are posted elsewhere.

All teleconference locations shall be accessible to the public and the public shall have the right to address the Board directly at each teleconference location. Additional teleconference locations may be provided to the public. (Government Code 54953)

**Teleconferencing During a Personal Emergency**

Until January 1, 2026, with approval from the majority of the Board, a Board member may be permitted to participate in a meeting remotely when a physical or family medical emergency prevents the Board member from attending in person. The Board member requesting to appear remotely shall notify the Board of the emergency situation as soon as possible, and provide a concise general description of the circumstances relating to the Board member's need to appear remotely. The Board member shall not be required to disclose any disability, medical diagnosis, or personal medical information exempt under existing law. (Government Code 54953)

A Board member may not appear remotely under emergency circumstances for more than 20 percent of the Board's regular meetings or for more than three consecutive months. If the Board meets less than 10 times in a calendar year, a Board member may not appear remotely under emergency circumstances for more than two meetings. (Government Code 54953)

When a Board member is approved to participate remotely due to emergency circumstances, the Board member is not required to participate from a location which is accessible to the public and the location does not need to be identified on the agenda. (Government Code 54953)

If permitted to participate remotely, the Board member shall utilize both audio and visual technology and publicly disclose, before any action is taken, whether any other individuals 18 years or older are present in the remote location with the Board member, and the general nature of the member's relationship with such individuals. (Government Code 54953)

The district shall also provide public access to the meeting via a two-way audiovisual platform or a two-way audio service and a live webcast, with public comment being allowed via the remote platform as well as in person and the public shall be able to offer comments in real time. The agenda shall include information describing how members of the public can access the platform. (Government Code 54953)

If a disruption prevents broadcasting the meeting to members of the public using the call-in option or internet-based service option, or a disruption that is within the Board's control prevents members of the public from offering public comments using the call-in option or internet-based service option, the Board shall not take action on agenda items until public access to the meeting is restored. (Government Code 54953)

### **Teleconferencing for "Just Cause"**

A Board member may be permitted to appear remotely, pursuant to the provisions below, for just cause for no more than two meetings per calendar year. A Board member appearing for just cause shall notify the Board at the earliest possible opportunity of the need to participate in the meeting remotely, including at the start of a regular meeting. (Government Code 54953)

*Just Cause* may exist for any of the following: (Government Code 54953)

1. A childcare or caregiving need of a child, parent, grandparent, grandchild, sibling, spouse, or domestic partner that requires a Board member to participate remotely
2. A contagious illness prevents a Board member from attending in person
3. A Board member has a need related to a physical or mental disability not otherwise reasonably accommodated
4. A Board member is traveling while on official business of the Board or another state or local agency

When a Board member participates remotely for just cause, the Board member is not required to participate from a location which is accessible to the public and the location does not need to be identified on the agenda. (Government Code 54953)

If the Board member participates remotely, the Board member shall utilize both audio and visual technology and publicly disclose, before any action is taken, whether any other individuals 18 years or older are present in the remote location with the Board member, and the general nature of the member's relationship with such individuals. (Government Code 54953)

The district shall also provide public access to the meeting via a two-way audiovisual platform or a two-way audio service and a live webcast, with public comment being allowed via the remote platform as well as in person and the public shall be able to offer comments in real time. The agenda shall include information describing how members of the public can access the platform. (Government Code 54953)

If a disruption prevents broadcasting the meeting to members of the public using the call-in option or internet-based service option, or a disruption that is within the Board's control prevents members of the public from offering public comments using the call-in option or internet-based service option, the Board shall not take action on agenda items until public access to the meeting is restored. (Government Code 54953)

### **Teleconferencing During a Proclaimed State of Emergency**

Until January 1, 2024, the Board may conduct Board meetings by teleconference without posting agendas at all teleconference locations, identifying teleconference locations in meeting notices and agendas, allowing public access to each teleconference location, providing an opportunity for members of the public to address the Board directly at each teleconference location, and ensuring that at least a quorum of the Board participate from locations within district boundaries, during a proclaimed state of emergency pursuant to Government Code 8625-8629 in any of the following circumstances: (Government Code 54953)

1. State or local officials have imposed or recommended measures to promote social distancing
2. For the purpose of determining, by majority vote, whether as the result of the emergency meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees



3. When it has been determined, by majority vote as described in Item #2 above, that as a result of the emergency meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees

To conduct a teleconference meeting for these purposes the following requirements shall be satisfied: (Government Code 54953)

1. The notice and agenda shall be given and posted as otherwise required by the Brown Act
2. The notice and agenda of the meeting shall specify the means by which members of the public may access the meeting and offer public comments, including via a call-in or internet-based service option

Members of the public may be required to register to log in to a meeting when making public comments through an internet web site or other online platform that is operated by a third-party and not under the control of the Board.

3. Members of the public shall be allowed to access the meeting, and the agenda shall provide an opportunity for members of the public to address the Board directly pursuant to Government Code 54954.3
4. Members of the public shall not be required to submit public comments in advance of a Board meeting and shall be provided an opportunity to address the Board and offer comments in real time
5. Public comment periods shall not be closed until the timed public comment period, if such is offered by the Board, has elapsed or, if not timed, until a reasonable amount of time per agenda item has been allowed
6. If during a Board meeting a disruption occurs which prevents the district from broadcasting the meeting to members of the public using the call-in option or internet-based service option, or in the event of a disruption within the district's control that prevents members of the public from offering public comments, the Board shall take no further action on any agenda item until public access via the call-in or internet-based service option to the meeting is restored

The district may, in its discretion, provide a physical location from which the public may attend or comment. (Government Code 54953)

The Board may continue to conduct meetings by teleconference, as specified above for teleconferencing during proclaimed states of emergency, by a majority vote finding within 30 days after teleconferencing for the first time, and every 30 days thereafter, that either: (Government Code 54953)

1. The state of emergency continues to directly impact the ability of the Board to meet safely in person
  2. State or local officials continue to impose or recommend measures to promote social distancing
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