



Santa Ana Unified School District

BOARD POLICY NO: 5144

SUBJECT: Discipline

CATEGORY: Student

RESPONSIBLE OFFICE(S): Educational Services

EFFECTIVE: 9/2017

REVIEWED: 8/2017

SCOPE:

The Governing Board desires to provide students access to educational opportunities in an orderly school environment that protects their safety and security, ensure their welfare and well-being and promotes their learning and development.

POLICY:

The Governing Board is committed to maintaining safe schools and perceives this is possible by fostering positive school relationships, responsible citizenship, self-discipline, personal responsibility, and consistent application of the expected behaviors, which includes adherence to the disciplinary standards of the District. The Board believes that high expectations for student behavior, use of effective school and classroom management strategies, and parent involvement can minimize the need for discipline. When misconduct occurs, staff shall make every effort to identify and correct the causes of the student's behavior.

To assist in the achievement of safe schools, the Board supports clear communication with parents in their primary language regarding discipline policies, procedures and student/parent rights.

Board policies and regulations shall delineate acceptable student conduct and provide the basis for sound disciplinary practices. The Superintendent or designee shall design a complement of effective, age-appropriate strategies for maintaining a positive school climate and correcting student misbehavior at district schools. The strategies shall focus on providing students with needed supports; communicating clear, appropriate, and consistent expectations and consequences for student conduct; and ensuring equity and continuous improvement in the implementation of district discipline policies and practices. Each school shall develop disciplinary rules and procedures, to be updated at least every four years in accordance with law to meet the school's individual needs.

Staff shall enforce disciplinary rules fairly and consistently, and in accordance with the district's nondiscrimination policies. In addition, the Superintendent or designee's strategies shall reflect the Board's preference for the use of positive interventions and alternative disciplinary measures over exclusionary discipline measures as a means for correcting student misbehavior.

Disciplinary measures that may result in loss of instructional time or cause students to be disengaged from school, such as detention, suspension, and expulsion, shall be imposed only when required by law or when other means of correction have been documented to have failed. (Education Code 48900.5)

To maintain safe and orderly environments, the Board shall give employees all reasonable support with respect to student discipline. If a disciplinary strategy is ineffective, another strategy shall be employed. After these efforts, if it is found to be in the best educational interests of the student, students may be assigned to alternative programs or removed from their instructional program as determined by the principal/designee. (cf. 4158 – Employee Security) (cf. 5131 – Conduct) (cf. 5142 – Safety) (cf. 5144.1 – Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process)

To maintain a safe and orderly school environment, the Board supports for certain offenses, as noted in Education Code section 48915 (c). For specified serious offenses, as noted in Education Code section 48902 and including acts that involve firearms, deadly weapons, assault causing great bodily injury, or the possession or sale of controlled substances, schools may need to contact law enforcement for additional support.



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At all times, the safety of students and staff and the maintenance of an orderly school environment shall be priorities in determining appropriate discipline. When misconduct occurs, staff shall attempt to identify the causes of the student's behavior and implement appropriate discipline. When choosing between different disciplinary strategies, staff shall consider the effect of each option on the student's health, well-being, and opportunity to learn.

The Superintendent or designee shall provide, for each school level, a complement of effective, age-appropriate strategies for correcting student behavior. Such strategies may include, but are not limited to, conferences with students and their parents/guardians; use of study, guidance, or other intervention-related teams; enrollment in a program teaching prosocial behavior or anger management; and participation in a restorative justice program. Staff shall use preventative measures and positive conflict resolution techniques whenever possible. After multiple interventions to address behavior issues have not resulted in improved conduct, the student may be referred to the Pupil Placement Committee. Disciplinary measures that may result in loss of instructional time or cause students to be disengaged from school, such as suspension and expulsion, shall be imposed only when required by law and when other means of correction have failed.

The Superintendent or designee shall provide professional development as necessary to assist staff in developing the skills needed to effectively implement the disciplinary strategies adopted for district schools, including, but not limited to, consistent school and classroom management skills, effective accountability and positive intervention techniques, and development of strong, cooperative relationships with parents/guardians.

District goals for improving school climate, based on suspension and expulsion rates, surveys of students, staff, and parents/guardians regarding their sense of school safety, and other local measures, shall be included in the district's local control and accountability plan, as required by law.

Legal References:

EDUCATION CODE

32280-32288	School safety plans
35146	Closed sessions
35291	Rules
35291.5-35291.7	School-adopted discipline rules
35223	Weekend classes
44807.5	Restriction from recess
48900-48926	Suspension and expulsion
48980-48985	Notification of parent/guardian
49330-49335	Injurious objects
52060-52077	Local control and accountability plan



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CIVIL CODE

1714.1 Parental liability for child's misconduct

CODE OF REGULATION, TITLE 5

307 Participation in school activities until departure of bus

353 Detention after school

Adopted: (6-76 1-78 6-78 1-79 7-81 1-82 10-82 1-84 12-84 1-86 8-86 10-86
1-88 1-91 7-93 4-98) 9-17 Santa Ana, CA