

CIVILITY

The Governing Board recognizes the impact that civility has on the effective operation of the district, including its role in creating a safe and positive school climate and enabling a focus on student well-being, learning, and achievement. The Board believes that each person should be treated with dignity and respect in their interactions within the school community.

The Board expects that all speech and expression will agree with norms of civil behavior on district grounds, in district facilities, during district activities or events, and in the use of district electronic/digital systems and platforms.

Civil behavior is polite, courteous, and reasonable behavior which is respectful of others. The Board and district staff shall model civil behavior as an example of behavior that is expected throughout the district.

Practices that promote civil behavior include actively listening, giving full attention to the speaker, and refraining from interruptions; welcoming and encouraging participation, input, and feedback through stakeholder engagement; promptly responding to concerns; and embracing varying and diverse viewpoints.

Students, staff, parents/guardians, and community members shall not communicate or behave in a manner that causes disruption; hinders the orderly conduct of district operations, the educational program, or any other district program or activity; or creates an unsafe learning or working environment. The Superintendent or designee may respond to disruptive, violent, or threatening behavior in accordance with law and as specified in BP/AR 3515.2 - Disruptions.

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Legal Reference:

CA Constitution Article I
Section 2 Freedom of speech and expression
Section 28(c) Right to Safe Schools
Civ. Code 51.7
Freedom from violence or intimidation
Education Code
200-264 Educational equity
32210 Willful disturbance of public school or meeting
32211 Threatened disruption or interference with classes
32212 Classroom interruptions
32280-32289.5 School safety plans
35181 Governing board authority to set policy on responsibilities of students
35291-35291.5 Rules
44050 Employee code of conduct; interaction with students
44807 Teachers' duty concerning conduct of students
44810 Willful interference with classroom conduct
44811 Disruption of classwork or extracurricular activities
48900-48926 Suspension and expulsion
48907 Exercise of free expression; time, place and manner rules and regulations
48950 Speech and other communication
49330-49335 Injurious objects
Government Code
54954.3 Opportunity for public to address legislative body
54957.9 Disorderly conduct of general public during meeting; clearing of room
Penal Code
243.5 Assault or battery on school property
415.5 Disturbance of peace of school
422.55 Definition of hate crime
422.6 Crimes, harassment
626-626.11 School crimes
627-627.10 Access to school premises
653.2 Electronic communication devices, threats to safety
653b Loitering about schools or public places
Management Resources
California Department of Education Publication
California's Social and Emotional Learning: Guiding Principles, 2018
Social and Emotional Learning in California: A Guide to Resources, 2018
Commission on Teacher Credentialing Publication
California Professional Standards for Educational Leaders, February 2014
Court Decision
Baca v. Moreno Valley Unified School District, (1996) 936 F. Supp. 719
Hazelwood School District v. Kuhlmeier, (1988) 108 S. Ct. 562
City of San Jose v. William Garbett, (2010) 190 Cal. App. 4th 526
Norse v. City of Santa Cruz, (9th Cir. 2010) 629 F3d 966
CSBA Publication
Professional Governance Standards for School Boards
Superintendent Governance Standards
Nat'l Policy Board For Educational Administration
Professional Standards for Educational Leaders, October 2015
Websites
CSBA District and County Office of Education Legal Services
National Policy Board for Educational Administration
National School Safety Center
Center for Safe and Responsible Internet Use
California Office of the Attorney General
National Council for the Social Studies
Commission on Teacher Credentialing
CSBA
California Department of Education
U.S. Department of Education
U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission