

NONDISCRIMINATION IN DISTRICT PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

The Governing Board is committed to equal opportunity for all individuals in education. District programs, activities, and practices shall be free from discrimination based on race, color, ancestry, national origin, ethnic group identification, age, religion, marital or parental status, physical or mental disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity or expression, or genetic information; the perception of one or more of such characteristics; or association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics.

(cf. 4030 - Nondiscrimination in Employment)

(cf. 4032 - Reasonable Accommodation)

(cf. 4119.11/4219.11/4319.11 - Sexual Harassment)

(cf. 5131.2 - Bullying)

(cf. 5145.3 - Nondiscrimination/Harassment)

(cf. 5145.7 - Sexual Harassment)

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

(cf. 6145.2 - Athletic Competition)

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

(cf. 6164.6 - Identification and Education Under Section 504)

(cf. 6178 - Career Technical Education)

(cf. 6200 - Adult Education)

Pursuant to 34 CFR 104.8 and 34 CFR 106.9, the Superintendent or designee shall notify students, parents/guardians, employees, employee organizations, applicants for admission and employment, and sources of referral for applicants about the district's policy on nondiscrimination and related complaint procedures. Such notification shall be included in each announcement, bulletin, catalog, application form, or other recruitment materials distributed to these groups.

(cf. 1312.3 - Uniform Complaint Procedures)

(cf. 4031 - Complaints Concerning Discrimination in Employment)

(cf. 4112.9/4212.9/4312.9 - Employee Notifications)

(cf. 5145.6 - Parental Notifications)

The district's nondiscrimination policy and related informational materials shall be published in a format that parents/guardians can understand and, when required by law, in a language other than English.

Access for Individuals with Disabilities

District programs and facilities, viewed in their entirety, shall be in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and any implementing standards and/or regulations.

(cf. 6163.2 - Animals At School)

NONDISCRIMINATION IN DISTRICT PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES (continued)

(cf. 7110 - Facilities Master Plan)
(cf. 7111 - Evaluating Existing Buildings)

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that the district provides auxiliary aids and services when necessary to afford individuals with disabilities equal opportunity to participate in or enjoy the benefits of a service, program, or activity. These aids and services may include, but are not limited to, qualified interpreters or readers, assistive listening devices, notetakers, written materials, taped text, and Braille or large print materials.

(cf. 6020 - Parent Involvement)

Individuals with disabilities shall notify the Superintendent or principal if they have a disability that requires special assistance or services. Reasonable notification should be given prior to the school-sponsored function, program, or meeting.

(cf. 9320 - Meetings and Notices)
(cf. 9322 - Agenda/Meeting Materials)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

200-262.4 *Prohibition of discrimination*

48985 *Notices to parents in language other than English*

51007 *Legislative intent: state policy*

GOVERNMENT CODE

11000 *Definitions*

11135 *Nondiscrimination in programs or activities funded by state*

11138 *Rules and regulations*

12900-12996 *Fair Employment and Housing Act*

54953.2 *Brown Act compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act*

PENAL CODE

422.55 *Definition of hate crime*

422.6 *Interference with constitutional right or privilege*

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

4600-4687 *Uniform complaint procedures*

4900-4965 *Nondiscrimination in elementary and secondary education programs*

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 20

1400-1482 *Individuals with Disabilities in Education Act*

1681-1688 *Discrimination based on sex or blindness, Title IX*

2301-2415 *Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Applied Technology Act*

6311 *State plans*

6312 *Local education agency plans*

NONDISCRIMINATION IN DISTRICT PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES (continued)

Legal Reference: (continued)

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 29

794 *Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973*

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 42

2000d-2000d-7 *Title VI, Civil Rights Act of 1964*

2000e-2000e-17 *Title VII, Civil Rights Act of 1964 as amended*

2000h-2000h-6 *Title IX*

12101-12213 *Americans with Disabilities Act*

CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 28

35.101-35.190 *Americans with Disabilities Act*

36.303 *Auxiliary aids and services*

CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 34

100.1-100.13 *Nondiscrimination in federal programs, effectuating Title VI*

104.1-104.39 *Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973*

106.1-106.61 *Discrimination on the basis of sex, effectuating Title IX, especially:*

106.9 *Dissemination of policy*

Management Resources:

CSBA PUBLICATIONS

Safe Schools: Strategies for Governing Boards to Ensure Student Success, 2011

Providing a Safe, Nondiscriminatory School Environment for All Students, Policy Brief, April 2010

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS PUBLICATIONS

Notice of Non-Discrimination, January 1999

Protecting Students from Harassment and Hate Crime, January 1999

Nondiscrimination in Employment Practices in Education, August 1991

WEB SITES

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

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

Safe Schools Coalition: <http://www.casafeschoolscoalition.org>

Pacific ADA Center: <http://www.adapacific.org>

U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights:

<http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr>

PARENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Governing Board recognizes that parents/guardians of district students have certain rights as well as responsibilities related to the education of their children.

The Board believes that the education of the district's students is a shared responsibility. The Superintendent or designee shall work with parents/guardians, including parents/guardians of English learners, to determine appropriate roles and responsibilities of parents/guardians, school staff and students for continuing the intellectual, physical, emotional and social development and well-being of students at each school site, including the means by which the schools and parents/guardians can help students achieve academic and other standards of the school.

Within this framework, the school's primary responsibility shall be to provide a high-quality curriculum and instructional program in a supportive and effective learning environment that enables all students to meet the academic expectations of the school.

Parents/guardians shall have the opportunity to work with schools in a mutually supportive and respectful partnership and to help their children succeed in school. (Education Code 51100)

(cf. 5022 - Student and Family Privacy Rights)
(cf. 6020 - Parent Involvement)

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that district staff understand the rights of parents/guardians afforded by law and Board policy and follow acceptable practices that respect those rights.

(cf. 4131 - Staff Development)
(cf. 4231 - Staff Development)
(cf. 4331 - Staff Development)

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that parents/guardians receive notification regarding their rights in accordance with law.

(cf. 5145.6 - Parental Notifications)

The Superintendent or designee shall take all reasonable steps to ensure that all parents/guardians who speak a language other than English are properly notified in English, and in their home language of the rights and opportunities available to them pursuant to Education Code 48985. (Education Code 51101.1)

Legal Reference: (see next page)

PARENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES (continued)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

33126 School accountability report card

35291 Disciplinary rules

48070.5 Promotion and retention of students

48985 Notice to parent in language other than English

49091.10-49091.19 Parental review of curriculum and instruction

49602 Confidentiality of pupil information

51100-51102 Parent/guardian rights

51513 Personal beliefs

60510 Disposal of surplus instructional materials

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 20

1232g Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act

1232h Protection of pupil rights

Management Resources:

WEB SITES

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

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

PARENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Parent/Guardian Rights

The rights of parents/guardians of district students include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. To observe, within a reasonable period of time after making the request, the classroom(s) in which their child is enrolled or for the purpose of selecting the school in which their child will be enrolled (Education Code 51101)

Parents/guardians may observe instructional and other school activities that involve their child in accordance with Board policy and administrative regulations adopted to ensure the safety of students and staff, prevent undue interference with instruction or harassment of school staff, and provide reasonable accommodation to parents/guardians. Upon written request by a parent/guardian, the Superintendent or designee shall arrange for parental observation of a class or activity in a reasonable time frame and in accordance with Board policy and administrative regulations. (Education Code 49091.10)

(cf. 6116 - Classroom Interruptions)

2. To meet, within a reasonable time of their request, with their child's teacher(s) and the principal (Education Code 51101)
3. Under the supervision of district employees, to volunteer their time and resources for the improvement of school facilities and school programs, including, but not limited to, providing assistance in the classroom with the approval, and under the direct supervision, of the teacher (Education Code 51101)
4. To be notified on a timely basis if their child is absent from school without permission (Education Code 51101)

(cf. 5113 - Absences and Excuses)

5. To receive the results of their child's performance and the school's performance on standardized tests and statewide tests (Education Code 51101)

For parents/guardians of English learners, this right shall include the right to receive the results of their child's performance on the English language development test. (Education Code 51101.1)

(cf. 0500 - Accountability)

(cf. 0510 - School Accountability Report Card)

(cf. 6162.51 - Standardized Testing and Reporting Program)

(cf. 6162.52 - High School Exit Examination)

(cf. 6174 - Education for English Language Learners)

PARENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES (continued)

6. To request a particular school for their child and to receive a response from the district (Education Code 51101)

(cf. 5116.1 - Intradistrict Open Enrollment)

(cf. 5117 - Interdistrict Attendance)

7. To have a school environment for their child that is safe and supportive of learning (Education Code 51101)

(cf. 0450 - Comprehensive Safety Plan)

(cf. 3515 - Campus Security)

(cf. 5131 - Conduct)

(cf. 5137 - Positive School Climate)

(cf. 5142 - Safety)

8. To examine the curriculum materials of the class(es) in which their child is enrolled (Education Code 51101; 20 USC 1232h)

Parents/guardians may inspect, in a reasonable time frame, all primary supplemental instructional materials and assessments stored by the classroom teacher, including textbooks, teacher's manuals, films, tapes and software. (Education Code 49091.10)

Each school site shall make available to parents/guardians and others, upon request, a copy of the prospectus for each course, including the titles, descriptions and instructional aims of the course. (Education Code 49091.14)

The school may charge an amount not to exceed the cost of duplication. (Education Code 49091.14)

(cf. 1312.2 - Complaints Concerning Instructional Materials)

(cf. 1312.4 - Williams Uniform Complaint Procedures)

(cf. 6141 - Curriculum Development and Evaluation)

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

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

(cf. 6161.11 - Supplementary Instructional Materials)

9. To be informed of their child's progress in school and of the appropriate school personnel whom they should contact if problems arise with their child (Education Code 51101)

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

(cf. 6020 - Parent Involvement)

10. For parents/guardians of English learners, to support their child's advancement toward literacy (Education Code 51101.1)

PARENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES (continued)

The Superintendent or designee may make available, to the extent possible, surplus or undistributed instructional materials to parents/guardians pursuant to Education Code 60510. (Education Code 51101.1)

(cf. 3270 - Sale and Disposal of Books, Equipment and Supplies)

11. For parents/guardians of English learners, to be informed, through the school accountability report card, about statewide and local academic standards, testing programs, accountability measures and school improvement efforts (Education Code 51101.1)

(cf. 0520.2 - Title I Program Improvement Schools)

(cf. 0520.3 - Title I Program Improvement Districts)

12. To have access to the school records of their child (Education Code 51101)

(cf. 5125 - Student Records)

(cf. 5125.1 - Release of Directory Information)

13. To receive information concerning the academic performance standards, proficiencies or skills their child is expected to accomplish (Education Code 51101)

(cf. 6011 - Academic Standards)

(cf. 6146.1 - High School Graduation Requirements)

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

(cf. 6146.5 - Elementary/Middle School Graduation Requirements)

14. To be informed in advance about school rules, including disciplinary rules and procedures in accordance with Education Code 48980, attendance policies, dress codes and procedures for visiting the school (Education Code 51101)

(cf. 1250 - Visitors/Outsiders)

(cf. 5132 - Dress and Grooming)

(cf. 5144 - Discipline)

(cf. 5145.6 - Parental Notifications)

15. To be notified, as early in the school year as practicable pursuant to Education Code 48070.5, if their child is identified as being at risk of retention and of their right to consult with school personnel responsible for a decision to promote or retain their child and to appeal such a decision (Education Code 51101)

(cf. 5123 - Promotion/Acceleration/Retention)

16. To receive information about any psychological testing the school does involving their child and to deny permission to give the test (Education Code 51101)

PARENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES (continued)

(cf. 6164.2 - Guidance/Counseling Services)

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

(cf. 6164.6 - Identification and Education Under Section 504)

17. To refuse to submit or to participate in any assessment, analysis, evaluation or monitoring of the quality or character of the student's home life, any form of parental screening or testing, any nonacademic home-based counseling program, parent training, or any prescribed family education service plan and to inspect any survey collecting personal information (Education Code 49091.18; 20 USC 1232h)

(cf. 5022 - Student and Family Privacy Rights)

18. To participate as a member of a parent advisory committee, school site council or site-based management leadership team in accordance with any rules and regulations governing membership in these organizations (Education Code 51101)

For parents/guardians of English learners, this right shall include the right to participate in school and district advisory bodies in accordance with federal and state law and regulations. (Education Code 51101.1)

(cf. 0420 - School Plans/Site Councils)

(cf. 1220 - Citizen Advisory Committees)

(cf. 6171 - Title I Programs)

(cf. 6175 - Migrant Education Program)

19. To question anything in their child's record that the parent/guardian feels is inaccurate or misleading or is an invasion of privacy and to receive a response from the school (Education Code 51101)

(cf. 5125.3 - Challenging Student Records)

20. To provide informed, written parental consent before their child is tested for a behavioral, mental or emotional evaluation. A general consent, including medical consent used to approve admission to or involvement in a special education or remedial program or regular school activity, shall not constitute written consent for these purposes. (Education Code 49091.12)

(cf. 5131.6 - Alcohol and Other Drugs)

(cf. 5141.3 - Health Examinations)

Parent Responsibilities

Parents/guardians may support the learning environment of their child by: (Education Code 51101)

1. Monitoring attendance of their child

PARENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES (continued)

2. Ensuring that homework is completed and turned in on time

(cf. 6154 - Homework/Makeup Work)

3. Encouraging their child to participate in extracurricular and cocurricular activities

(cf. 6145 - Extracurricular and Cocurricular Activities)

4. Monitoring and regulating the television viewed by their child

5. Working with their child at home in learning activities that extend the classroom learning

6. Volunteering in their child's classroom(s) or for other school activities

(cf. 1240 - Volunteer Assistance)

7. Participating in decisions related to the education of their own child or the total school program as appropriate

UNIFORM COMPLAINT PROCEDURES

The Governing Board recognizes the district's that the district has the primary responsibility to ensure compliance with applicable state and federal laws and regulations governing educational programs. The district shall investigate and seek to resolve any complaints alleging failure to comply with such laws and/or alleging unlawful discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying in accordance with the uniform complaint procedures.

The district shall use the uniform complaint procedures to resolve any complaint alleging unlawful discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying in district programs and activities based on actual or perceived characteristics of race or ethnicity color, ancestry, nationality, national origin, ethnic group identification, age, religion, marital or parental status, physical or mental disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, gender expression, or genetic information, or any other characteristic identified in Education Code 200 or 220, Penal Code 422.55, or Government Code 11135, or based on association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics.

- (cf. 0410 - Nondiscrimination in District Programs and Activities)*
- (cf. 4030 – Nondiscrimination in Employment)*
- (cf. 4031 - Complaints Concerning Discrimination in Employment)*
- (cf. 5131.2 – Bullying)*
- (cf. 5145.3 – Nondiscrimination/Harassment)*
- (cf. 5145.7 – Sexual Harassment)*

Uniform complaint procedures shall also be used to address any complaint alleging the district's failure to comply with the prohibition against requiring students to pay fees, deposits, or other charges for participation in educational activities, the requirements for the development and adoption of a school safety plan, and state and/or federal laws in adult education programs, consolidated categorical aid programs, migrant education, career technical and technical education and training programs, child care and development programs, child nutrition programs, and special education programs.

- (cf. 0450 - Comprehensive Safety Plan)*
- (cf. 1312.1 - Complaints Concerning District Employees)*
- (cf. 1312.2 - Complaints Concerning Instructional Materials)*
- (cf. 3260 – Fees and Charges)*
- (cf. 3320 – Claims and Actions Against the District)*
- (cf. 3553 - Free and Reduced Price Meals)*
- (cf. 3555 - Nutrition Program Compliance)*
- (cf. 5141.4 - Child Abuse Prevention and Reporting)*
- (cf. 5148 - Child Care and Development)*
- (cf. 6159 - Individualized Education Program)*
- (cf. 6171 - Title I Programs)*
- (cf. 6174 - Education for English Language Learners)*
- (cf. 6175 - Migrant Education Program)*
- (cf. 6178 - Career Technical Education)*

UNIFORM COMPLAINT PROCEDURES (continued)

(cf. 6178.1 - Work-Based Learning)
(cf. 6178.2 - Regional Occupational Center/Program)
(cf. 6200 - Adult Education)

The Board prohibits any form of retaliation against any complainant in the complaint process. Participation in the complaint process shall not in any way affect the status, grades, or work assignments of the complainant.

The Board encourages the early, informal resolution of complaints at the site level whenever possible.

The Board recognizes that a neutral mediator can often suggest a compromise that is agreeable to all parties in a dispute. In accordance with uniform complaint procedures, whenever all parties to a complaint agree to try resolving the problem through mediation, the Superintendent or designee shall initiate that process. The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that the results are consistent with state and federal laws and regulations.

In investigating complaints, the confidentiality of the parties involved and the integrity of the process shall be protected. As appropriate for any complaint alleging discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying, the Superintendent or designee may keep the identity of a complainant confidential to the extent that the investigation of the complaint is not obstructed.

(cf. 4119.23/4219.23/4319.23 - Unauthorized Release of Confidential/Privileged Information)
(cf. 5125 - Student Records)
(cf. 9011 - Disclosure of Confidential/Privileged Information)

The district's Williams uniform complaint procedures, AR 1312.4, shall be used to investigate and resolve any complaint related to the following:

1. Sufficiency of textbooks or instructional materials
2. Emergency or urgent facilities conditions that pose a threat to the health or safety of students or staff
3. Teacher vacancies and misassignments
4. Deficiency in the district's provision of instruction and/or services to any student who, by the completion of grade 12, has not passed one or both parts of the high school exit examination

(cf. 1312.4 - Williams Uniform Complaint Procedures)
(cf. 6162.52 - High School Exit Examination)
(cf. 6179 - Supplemental Instruction)

Legal Reference: (see next page)

UNIFORM COMPLAINT PROCEDURES (continued)*Legal Reference:*EDUCATION CODE

200-262.4 *Prohibition of discrimination*
 8200-8498 *Child care and development programs*
 8500-8538 *Adult basic education*
 18100-18203 *School libraries*
 32289 *School safety plan, uniform complaint procedures*
 35186 *Williams uniform complaint procedures*
 37254 *Intensive instruction and services for students who have not passed exit exam*
 41500-41513 *Categorical education block grants*
 48985 *Notices in language other than English*
 49010-49013 *Student fees*
 49060-49079 *Student records*
 49490-49590 *Child nutrition programs*
 52160-52178 *Bilingual education programs*
 52300-52490 *Career technical education*
 52500-52616.24 *Adult schools*
 52800-52870 *School-based program coordination*
 54000-54028 *Economic impact aid programs*
 54100-54145 *Miller-Unruh Basic Reading Act*
 54400-54425 *Compensatory education programs*
 54440-54445 *Migrant education*
 54460-54529 *Compensatory education programs*
 56000-56867 *Special education programs*
 59000-59300 *Special schools and centers*
 64000-64001 *Consolidated application process*

GOVERNMENT CODE

11135 *Nondiscrimination in programs or activities funded by state*
 12900-12996 *Fair Employment and Housing Act*

PENAL CODE

422.55 *Hate crime; definition*
 422.6 *Interference with constitutional right or privilege*

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

3080 *Application of section*
 4600-4687 *Uniform complaint procedures*
 4900-4965 *Nondiscrimination in elementary and secondary education programs*

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 20

6301-6577 *Title I basic programs*
 6601-6777 *Title II preparing and recruiting high quality teachers and principals*
 6801-6871 *Title III language instruction for limited English proficient and immigrant students*
 7101-7184 *Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act*
 7201-7283g *Title V promoting informed parental choice and innovative programs*
 7301-7372 *Title V rural and low-income school programs*

UNIFORM COMPLAINT PROCEDURES (continued)

Management Resources: (continued)

WEB SITES

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

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

U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights:

<http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr>

Policy

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MORGAN HILL UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Morgan Hill, California

UNIFORM COMPLAINT PROCEDURES

Compliance Officers

Except as the Governing Board may otherwise specifically provide in other policies, the uniform complaint procedures shall be used only to investigate and resolve complaints alleging violations of federal or state laws or regulations governing specific educational programs, the prohibition against requiring students to pay fees, deposits, or other charges for participating in educational activities, and unlawful discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying, as specified in accompanying Board policy.

- (cf. 1312.1 – Complaints Concerning District Employees)*
- (cf. 1312.2 – Complaints Concerning Instructional Materials)*
- (cf. 1312.4 – Williams Uniform Complaint Procedures)*
- (cf. 4031 – Complaints Concerning Discrimination in Employment)*

The district’s uniform complaint procedures policy and administrative regulation shall be posted in all district schools and offices, including staff lounges and student government meeting rooms. If 15 percent or more of students enrolled in a particular district school speak a single primary language other than English, the district’s policy, regulation, forms, and notices concerning uniform complaint procedures shall be translated into that language. (Education Code 234.1, 48985)

- (cf. 5145.6 – Parental Notifications)*

Compliance Officers

The following compliance officer(s) shall receive and investigate complaints and shall ensure district compliance with law:

Assistant Superintendent Human Resources
15600 Concord Circle
Morgan Hill, CA 95037
408-201-6001

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that employees designated to investigate complaints are knowledgeable about the laws and programs for which they are responsible. Designated employees may have access to legal counsel as determined by the Superintendent or designee.

- (cf. 9124 - Attorney)*

UNIFORM COMPLAINT PROCEDURES (continued)

Notifications

The Superintendent or designee shall annually provide written notification of the district's uniform complaint procedures to students, employees, parents/guardians, the district advisory committee, school advisory committees, appropriate private school officials or representatives, and other interested parties. (Education Code 262.3, 49013; 5 CCR 4622)

(cf. 0420 - School Plans/Site Councils)

(cf. 1220 - Citizen Advisory Committees)

(cf. 3260 – Fees and Charges)

(cf. 4112.9/4212.9/4312.9 - Employee Notifications)

(cf. 5145.6 - Parental Notifications)

The notice shall:

1. Identify the person(s), position(s), or unit(s) responsible for receiving complaints
2. Advise the complainant of any civil law remedies that may be available to him/her under state or federal discrimination laws, if applicable
3. Advise the complainant of the appeal process, including, if applicable, the complainant's right to take a complaint directly to the California Department of Education (CDE) or to pursue remedies before civil courts or other public agencies
4. Include statements that:
 - a. The district has the primary responsibility to ensure compliance with applicable state and federal laws and regulations governing educational programs.
 - b. The complaint review shall be completed within 60 calendar days from the date of receipt of the complaint unless the complainant agrees in writing to an extension of the timeline.
 - c. A complaint alleging unlawful discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying must be filed not later than six months from the date it occurred, or six months from the date the complainant first obtained knowledge of the facts of the alleged discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying.
 - d. The complainant has a right to appeal the district's decision to the CDE by filing a written appeal within 15 calendar days of receiving the district's decision.

UNIFORM COMPLAINT PROCEDURES (continued)

- e. The appeal to the CDE must include a copy of the complaint filed with the district and a copy of the district's decision.
- f. Copies of the district's uniform complaint procedures are available free of charge.

Procedures

All complaints shall be investigated and resolved within 60 days of the district's receipt of the complaint. (5 CCR 4631)

Compliance officers shall maintain a record of each complaint and subsequent related actions, including all information required for compliance with 5 CCR 4631 and 4633.

All parties involved in allegations shall be notified when a complaint is filed, when a complaint meeting or hearing is scheduled, and when a decision or ruling is made.

Step 1: Filing of Complaint

Any individual, public agency, or organization may file a written complaint of the district's alleged noncompliance with federal or state laws or regulations governing educational programs. (5 CCR 4630)

A complaint concerning unlawful discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying may be filed only by a person who alleges that he/she personally suffered unlawful discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying or by a person who believes that an individual or any specific class of individuals has been subjected to it. The complaint shall be initiated no later than six months from the date when the alleged discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying occurred, or six months from the date when the complainant first obtained knowledge of the facts of the alleged discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying. However, upon written request by the complainant, the Superintendent or designee may extend the filing period for up to 90 days. (5 CCR 4630)

A complaint alleging noncompliance with the law regarding the prohibition against requiring students to pay student fees, deposits, and charges may be filed anonymously if the complaint provides evidence or information leading to evidence to support an allegation of noncompliance. (Education Code 49013)

UNIFORM COMPLAINT PROCEDURES (continued)

The complaint shall be presented to the compliance officer who shall maintain a log of complaints received, providing each with a code number and a date stamp.

If a complainant is unable to put a complaint in writing due to conditions such as a disability or illiteracy, district staff shall assist him/her in the filing of the complaint. (5 CCR 4600)

Step 2: Mediation

Within three days business days of receiving the complaint, the compliance officer may informally discuss with all the parties the possibility of using mediation. If the parties agree to mediation, the compliance officer shall make all arrangements for this process.

Before initiating the mediation of a complaint alleging discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying, the compliance officer shall ensure that all parties agree to make the mediator a party to related confidential information.

If the mediation process does not resolve the problem within the parameters of law, the compliance officer shall proceed with his/her investigation of the complaint.

The use of mediation shall not extend the district's timelines for investigating and resolving the complaint unless the complainant agrees in writing to such an extension of time. (5 CCR 4631)

Step 3: Investigation of Complaint

Within 10 calendar days of receiving the complaint, the compliance officer shall provide the complainant and/or his/her representative an opportunity to present the complaint and any evidence, or information leading to evidence, to support the allegations in the complaint. The compliance officer also shall collect all documents and interview all witnesses with information pertinent to the complaint.

A complainant's refusal to provide the district's investigator with documents or other evidence related to the allegations in the complaint, failure or refusal to cooperate in the investigation, or engagement in any other obstruction of the investigation may result in the dismissal of the complaint because of a lack of evidence to support the allegation. (5 CCR 4631)

In accordance with law, the district shall provide the investigator with access to records and/or other information related to the allegation in the complaint and shall not in any way obstruct the investigation. Failure or refusal of the district to cooperate in the investigation may result in a finding based on evidence collected that a violation has occurred and in the imposition of a remedy in favor of the complainant. (5 CCR 4631)

UNIFORM COMPLAINT PROCEDURES (continued)**Step 4: Response**

Within 30 calendar days of receiving the complaint, the compliance officer shall prepare and send to the complainant a written report of the district's investigation and decision, as described in Step #5 below. If the complainant is dissatisfied with the compliance officer's decision, he/she may, within five business days, file his/her complaint in writing with the Board.

The Board may 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. The Board may decide not to hear the complaint, in which case the compliance officer's decision shall be final.

If the Board hears the complaint, the compliance officer shall send the Board's decision 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)

Step 5: Final Written Decision

The district's decision shall be in writing and sent to the complainant. (5 CCR 4631)

The district's decision shall be written in English and, when required by Education Code 48985, in the complainant's primary language.

For all complaints, the decision shall include: (5 CCR 4631)

1. The findings of fact based on the evidence gathered
2. The conclusion(s) of law
3. Disposition of the complaint
4. Rationale for such disposition
5. Corrective actions, if any are warranted
6. Notice of the complainant's right to appeal the district's decision within 15 calendar days to the CDE and procedures to be followed for initiating such an appeal

In addition, any decision concerning a discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying complaint based on state law shall include a notice that the complainant must wait until 60 calendar days have elapsed from the filing of an appeal with the CDE before pursuing civil law remedies. (Education Code 262.3)

UNIFORM COMPLAINT PROCEDURES (continued)

If investigation of a complaint results in discipline to a student or an employee, the decision shall simply state that effective action was taken and that the student or employee was informed of district expectations. The report shall not give any further information as to the nature of the disciplinary action.

If a complaint alleging noncompliance with the laws regarding student fees, deposits, and other charges is found to have merit, the district shall provide a remedy to all affected students and parents/guardians, which were applicable, shall include reasonable efforts to ensure full reimbursement to them. (Education Code 49013)

Appeals to the California Department of Education

If dissatisfied with the district's decision, the complainant may appeal in writing to the CDE. (Education Code 49013; 5 CCR 4631)

The complainant shall file his/her appeal within 15 calendar days of receiving the district's decision and the appeal shall specify the basis for the appeal of the decision and whether the facts are incorrect and/or the law has been misapplied. The appeal shall be accompanied by a copy of the locally filed complaint and a copy of the district's decision. (5 CCR 4632)

Upon notification by the CDE that the complainant has appealed the district's decision, the Superintendent or designee shall forward the following documents to the CDE: (5 CCR 4633)

1. A copy of the original complaint
2. A copy of the decision
3. A summary of the nature and extent of the investigation conducted by the district, if not covered by the decision
4. A copy of the investigation file including, but not limited to, all notes, interviews, and documents submitted by the parties and gathered by the investigator
5. A report of any action taken to resolve the complaint
6. A copy of the district's uniform complaint procedures
7. Other relevant information requested by the CDE

The CDE may directly intervene in a complaint without waiting for action by the district when one of the conditions listed in 5 CCR 4650 exists, including when the district has

UNIFORM COMPLAINT PROCEDURES (continued)

not taken action within 60 calendar days of the date the complaint was filed with the district. (5 CCR 4650)

Civil Law Remedies

A complainant may pursue available civil law remedies outside of the district's complaint procedures. Complainants may seek assistance from mediation centers or public/private interest attorneys. Civil law remedies that may be imposed by a court include, but are not limited to, injunctions and restraining orders.

For complaints alleging discrimination, harassment, intimidation, and bullying based on state law, a complainant shall wait until 60 calendar days have elapsed from the filing of an appeal with the CDE before pursuing civil law remedies, provided the district has appropriately and in a timely manner apprised the complainant of his/her right to file a complaint in accordance with 5 CCR 4622. The moratorium does not apply to injunctive relief and to discrimination complaints based on federal law. (Education Code 262.3)

Regulation
approved: January 10, 2000
revised: April 11, 2006
revised: March 6, 2012
reviewed: November 13, 2012
revised: April 16, 2013

MORGAN HILL UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Morgan Hill, California

SEXUAL HARASSMENT

The Governing Board is committed to maintaining a safe school environment that is free from harassment and discrimination. The Board prohibits sexual harassment of students at school or at school-sponsored or school-related activities. The Board also prohibits retaliatory behavior or action against any person who files a complaint, testifies, or otherwise participates in district complaint processes.

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

(cf. 1312.3 - Uniform Complaint Procedures)

(cf. 4119.11/4219.11/4319.11 - Sexual Harassment)

(cf. 5131 - Conduct)

(cf. 5131.2 - Bullying)

(cf. 5137 - Positive School Climate)

(cf. 5145.3 - Nondiscrimination/Harassment)

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

Instruction/Information

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that all district students receive age-appropriate instruction and information on sexual harassment. Such instruction and information shall include:

1. What acts and behavior constitute sexual harassment, including the fact that sexual harassment could occur between people of the same sex and could involve sexual violence
2. A clear message that students do not have to endure sexual harassment
3. Encouragement to report observed instances of sexual harassment, even where the victim of the harassment has not complained
4. Information about the district's procedure for investigating complaints and the person(s) to whom a report of sexual harassment should be made
5. Information about the rights of students and parents/guardians to file a criminal complaint, as applicable

Complaint Process

Any student who feels that he/she is being or has been sexually harassed on school grounds or at a school-sponsored or school-related activity (e.g., by a visiting athlete or coach) shall immediately contact his/her teacher or any other employee. An employee who receives such a complaint shall report it in accordance with administrative regulation.

(cf. 1312.1 - Complaints Concerning District Employees)

(cf. 5141.4 - Child Abuse Prevention and Reporting)

SEXUAL HARASSMENT (continued)

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that any complaints regarding sexual harassment are immediately investigated in accordance with administrative regulation. When the Superintendent or designee has determined that harassment has occurred, he/she shall take prompt, appropriate action to end the harassment and to address its effects on the victim.

Disciplinary Actions

Any student who engages in sexual harassment or sexual violence at school or at a school-sponsored or school-related activity is in violation of this policy and shall be subject to disciplinary action. For students in grades 4-12, disciplinary action may include suspension and/or expulsion, provided that, in imposing such discipline, the entire circumstances of the incident(s) shall be taken into account.

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

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

Confidentiality and Record-Keeping

All complaints and allegations of sexual harassment shall be kept confidential except as necessary to carry out the investigation or take other subsequent necessary action. (5 CCR 4964)

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

(cf. 5125 - Student Records)

The Superintendent or designee shall maintain a record of all reported cases of sexual harassment to enable the district to monitor, address, and prevent repetitive harassing behavior in the schools.

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

200-262.4 *Prohibition of discrimination on the basis of sex*

48900 *Grounds for suspension or expulsion*

48900.2 *Additional grounds for suspension or expulsion; sexual harassment*

48904 *Liability of parent/guardian for willful student misconduct*

48980 *Notice at beginning of term*

CIVIL CODE

51.9 *Liability for sexual harassment; business, service and professional relationships*

1714.1 *Liability of parents/guardians for willful misconduct of minor*

SEXUAL HARASSMENT (continued)

GOVERNMENT CODE

12950.1 Sexual harassment training

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

4600-4687 Uniform complaint procedures

4900-4965 Nondiscrimination in elementary and secondary education programs

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 20

1681-1688 Title IX, discrimination

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 42

1983 Civil action for deprivation of rights

2000d-2000d-7 Title VI, Civil Rights Act of 1964

2000e-2000e-17 Title VII, Civil Rights Act of 1964 as amended

CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 34

106.1-106.71 Nondiscrimination on the basis of sex in education programs

COURT DECISIONS

Donovan v. Poway Unified School District, (2008) 167 Cal.App.4th 567

Flores v. Morgan Hill Unified School District, (2003, 9th Cir.) 324 F.3d 1130

Reese v. Jefferson School District, (2001, 9th Cir.) 208 F.3d 736

Davis v. Monroe County Board of Education, (1999) 526 U.S. 629

Gebser v. Lago Vista Independent School District, (1998) 524 U.S. 274

Oona by Kate S. v. McCaffrey, (1998, 9th Cir.) 143 F.3d 473

Doe v. Petaluma City School District, (1995, 9th Cir.) 54 F.3d 1447

Management Resources:

CSBA PUBLICATIONS

Safe Schools: Strategies for Governing Boards to Ensure Student Success, 2011

Providing a Safe, Nondiscriminatory School Environment for All Students, Policy Brief, April 2010

OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS PUBLICATIONS

Dear Colleague Letter: Sexual Violence, April 4, 2011

Sexual Harassment: It's Not Academic, September 2008

Revised Sexual Harassment Guidance, January 2001

WEB SITES

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

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

U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights:

<http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr>

SEXUAL HARASSMENT

Prohibited sexual harassment includes, but is not limited to, unwelcome sexual advances, unwanted requests for sexual favors, or other unwanted verbal, visual, or physical conduct of a sexual nature made against another person of the same or opposite sex in the educational setting, when made on the basis of sex and under any of the following conditions: (Education Code 212.5; 5 CCR 4916)

1. Submission to the conduct is explicitly or implicitly made a term or condition of a student's academic status or progress.
2. Submission to or rejection of the conduct by a student is used as the basis for academic decisions affecting the student.
3. The conduct has the purpose or effect of having a negative impact on the student's academic performance or of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive educational environment.
4. Submission to or rejection of the conduct by the student is used as the basis for any decision affecting the student regarding benefits and services, honors, programs, or activities available at or through any district program or activity.

(cf. 5131 - Conduct)

(cf. 5131.2 - Bullying)

(cf. 5137 - Positive School Climate)

(cf. 5145.3 - Nondiscrimination/Harassment)

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

Examples of types of conduct which are prohibited in the district and which may constitute sexual harassment include, but are not limited to:

1. Unwelcome leering, sexual flirtations, or propositions
2. Unwelcome sexual slurs, epithets, threats, verbal abuse, derogatory comments, or sexually degrading descriptions
3. Graphic verbal comments about an individual's body or overly personal conversation
4. Sexual jokes, derogatory posters, notes, stories, cartoons, drawings, pictures, obscene gestures, or computer-generated images of a sexual nature
5. Spreading sexual rumors
6. Teasing or sexual remarks about students enrolled in a predominantly single-sex class
7. Massaging, grabbing, fondling, stroking, or brushing the body
8. Touching an individual's body or clothes in a sexual way

SEXUAL HARASSMENT (continued)

9. Impeding or blocking movements or any physical interference with school activities when directed at an individual on the basis of sex
10. Displaying sexually suggestive objects
11. Sexual assault, sexual battery, or sexual coercion

School-Level Complaint Process/Grievance Procedure

Complaints of sexual harassment, or any behavior prohibited by the district's Nondiscrimination/Harassment policy - BP 5145.3, shall be handled in accordance with the following procedure:

1. **Notice and Receipt of Complaint:** Any student who believes he/she has been subjected to sexual harassment or who has witnessed sexual harassment may file a complaint with any school employee. Within 24 hours of receiving a complaint, the school employee shall report it to the district Coordinator for Nondiscrimination/Principal. In addition, any school employee who observes any incident of sexual harassment involving a student shall, within 24 hours, report this observation to the Coordinator/Principal, whether or not the victim files a complaint.

In any case of sexual harassment involving the Coordinator/Principal to whom the complaint would ordinarily be made, the employee who receives the student's report or who observes the incident shall instead report to the Superintendent or designee.

2. **Initiation of Investigation:** The Coordinator/Principal shall initiate an impartial investigation of an allegation of sexual harassment within five school days of receiving notice of the harassing behavior, regardless of whether a formal complaint has been filed. The district shall be considered to have "notice" of the need for an investigation upon receipt of information from a student who believes he/she has been subjected to harassment, the student's parent/guardian, an employee who received a complaint from a student, or any employee or student who witnessed the behavior.

If the Coordinator/Principal receives an anonymous complaint or media report about alleged sexual harassment, he/she shall determine whether it is reasonable to pursue an investigation considering the specificity and reliability of the information, the seriousness of the alleged incident, and whether any individuals can be identified who were subjected to the alleged harassment.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT (continued)

3. **Initial Interview with Student:** When a student or parent/guardian has complained or provided information about sexual harassment, the Coordinator/Principal shall describe the district's grievance procedure and discuss what actions are being sought by the student in response to the complaint. The student who is complaining shall have an opportunity to describe the incident, identify witnesses who may have relevant information, provide other evidence of the harassment, and put his/her complaint in writing. If the student requests confidentiality, he/she shall be informed that such a request may limit the district's ability to investigate.
4. **Investigation Process:** The Coordinator/Principal shall keep the complaint and allegation confidential, except as necessary to carry out the investigation or take other subsequent necessary action. (5 CCR 4964)

The Coordinator/Principal shall interview individuals who are relevant to the investigation, including, but not limited to, the student who is complaining, the person accused of harassment, anyone who witnessed the reported harassment, and anyone mentioned as having relevant information. The Coordinator/Principal may take other steps such as reviewing any records, notes, or statements related to the harassment or visiting the location where the harassment is alleged to have taken place.

When necessary to carry out his/her investigation or to protect student safety, the Coordinator/Principal also may discuss the complaint with the Superintendent or designee, the parent/guardian of the student who complained, the parent/guardian of the alleged harasser if the alleged harasser is a student, a teacher or staff member whose knowledge of the students involved may help in determining who is telling the truth, law enforcement and/or child protective services, and district legal counsel or the district's risk manager.

(cf. 5141.4 - Child Abuse Prevention and Reporting)

5. **Interim Measures:** The Coordinator/Principal shall determine whether interim measures are necessary during and pending the results of the investigation, such as placing students in separate classes or transferring a student to a class taught by a different teacher.
6. **Optional Mediation:** In cases of student-on-student harassment, when the student who complained and the alleged harasser so agree, the Coordinator/Principal may arrange for them to resolve the complaint informally with the help of a counselor, teacher, administrator, or trained mediator. The student who complained shall never be asked to work out the problem directly with the accused person unless such help is provided and both parties agree, and he/she shall be advised of the right to end the informal process at any time.

(cf. 5138 - Conflict Resolution)

SEXUAL HARASSMENT (continued)

7. **Factors in Reaching a Determination:** In reaching a decision about the complaint, the Coordinator/Principal may take into account:
- a. Statements made by the persons identified above
 - b. The details and consistency of each person's account
 - c. Evidence of how the complaining student reacted to the incident
 - d. Evidence of any past instances of harassment by the alleged harasser
 - e. Evidence of any past harassment complaints that were found to be untrue

To judge the severity of the harassment, the Coordinator/Principal may take into consideration:

- a. How the misconduct affected one or more students' education
 - b. The type, frequency, and duration of the misconduct
 - c. The identity, age, and sex of the harasser and the student who complained, and the relationship between them
 - d. The number of persons engaged in the harassing conduct and at whom the harassment was directed
 - e. The size of the school, location of the incidents, and context in which they occurred
 - f. Other incidents at the school involving different students
8. **Written Report on Findings and Follow-Up:** No more than 30 days after receiving the complaint, the Coordinator/Principal shall conclude the investigation and prepare a written report of his/her findings. This timeline may be extended for good cause. If an extension is needed, the Coordinator/Principal shall notify the student who complained and explain the reasons for the extension.

The report shall include the decision and the reasons for the decision and shall summarize the steps taken during the investigation. If it is determined that harassment occurred, the report shall also include any corrective actions that have or will be taken

SEXUAL HARASSMENT (continued)

to address the harassment and prevent any retaliation or further harassment. This report shall be presented to the student who complained, the person accused, the parents/guardians of the student who complained and the student who was accused, and the Superintendent or designee.

In addition, the Coordinator/Principal shall ensure that the harassed student and his/her parent/guardian are informed of the procedures for reporting any subsequent problems. The Coordinator/Principal shall make follow-up inquiries to see if there have been any new incidents or retaliation and shall keep a record of this information.

Enforcement of District Policy

The Superintendent or designee shall take appropriate actions to reinforce the district's sexual harassment policy. As needed, these actions may include any of the following:

1. Removing vulgar or offending graffiti

(cf. 5131.5 - Vandalism and Graffiti)

2. Providing training to students, staff, and parents/guardians about how to recognize harassment and how to respond

(cf. 4131 - Staff Development)

(cf. 4231 - Staff Development)

(cf. 4331 - Staff Development)

3. Disseminating and/or summarizing the district's policy and regulation regarding sexual harassment

4. Consistent with the laws regarding the confidentiality of student and personnel records, communicating the school's response to parents/guardians and the community

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

(cf. 5125 - Student Records)

5. Taking appropriate disciplinary action

In addition, disciplinary measures may be taken against any person who is found to have made a complaint of sexual harassment which he/she knew was not true.

(cf. 4118 - Suspension/Disciplinary Action)

(cf. 4218 - Dismissal/Suspension/Disciplinary Action)

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

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

SEXUAL HARASSMENT (continued)

Notifications

A copy of the district's sexual harassment policy and regulation shall:

1. Be included in the notifications that are sent to parents/guardians at the beginning of each school year (Education Code 48980; 5 CCR 4917)

(cf. 5145.6 - Parental Notifications)

2. Be displayed in a prominent location in the main administrative building or other area where notices of district rules, regulations, procedures, and standards of conduct are posted, including school web sites (Education Code 231.5)
3. Be provided as part of any orientation program conducted for new students at the beginning of each quarter, semester, or summer session (Education Code 231.5)
4. Appear in any school or district publication that sets forth the school's or district's comprehensive rules, regulations, procedures, and standards of conduct (Education Code 231.5)
5. Be included in the student handbook
6. Be provided to employees and employee organizations

NONDISCRIMINATION/HARASSMENT

The Governing Board desires to provide a safe school environment that allows all students equal access and opportunities in the district's academic and other educational support programs, services, and activities. The Board prohibits, at any district school or school activity, unlawful discrimination, harassment, intimidation, and bullying of any student based on the student's actual race, color, ancestry, national origin, ethnic group identification, age, religion, marital or parental status, physical or mental disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, or gender expression; the perception of one or more of such characteristics; or association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics.

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

(cf. 5131 - Conduct)

(cf. 5131.2 - Bullying)

(cf. 5137 - Positive School Climate)

(cf. 5145.9 - Hate-Motivated Behavior)

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

(cf. 6164.6 - Identification and Education Under Section 504)

Prohibited discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying includes physical, verbal, nonverbal, or written conduct based on one of the categories listed above that is so severe and pervasive that it affects a student's ability to participate in or benefit from an educational program or activity; creates an intimidating, threatening, hostile, or offensive educational environment; has the effect of substantially or unreasonably interfering with a student's academic performance; or otherwise adversely affects a student's educational opportunities.

The Board also prohibits any form of retaliation against any student who files a complaint or report regarding an incident of discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying.

The Superintendent or designee shall provide age-appropriate training and information to students, parents/guardians, and employees regarding discrimination, harassment, intimidation, and bullying, including, but not limited to, the district's nondiscrimination policy, what constitutes prohibited behavior, how to report incidents, and to whom such reports should be made.

(cf. 4131 - Staff Development)

(cf. 4231 - Staff Development)

(cf. 4331 - Staff Development)

In providing instruction, guidance, supervision, or other services to district students, employees and volunteers shall carefully guard against segregating or stereotyping students.

(cf. 1240 - Volunteer Assistance)

(cf. 6145 - Extracurricular and Cocurricular Activities)

(cf. 6145.2 - Athletic Competition)

(cf. 6164.2 - Guidance/Counseling Services)

NONDISCRIMINATION/HARASSMENT (continued)

The principal or designee shall develop a plan to provide students with appropriate accommodations when necessary for their protection from threatened or potentially harassing or discriminatory behavior.

Students who engage in discrimination, harassment, intimidation, bullying, or retaliation in violation of law, Board policy, or administrative regulation shall be subject to appropriate discipline, up to and including counseling, suspension, and/or expulsion. Any employee who permits or engages in prohibited discrimination, harassment, intimidation, bullying, or retaliation shall be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal.

(cf. 4118 - Suspension/Disciplinary Action)

(cf. 4119.21/4219.21/4319.21- Professional Standards)

(cf. 4218 - Dismissal/Suspension/Disciplinary Action)

(cf. 5131 - Conduct)

(cf. 5144 - Discipline)

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

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

(cf. 5145.2 - Freedom of Speech/Expression)

Grievance Procedures

The following position is designated Coordinator for Nondiscrimination to handle complaints regarding discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying, and to answer inquiries regarding the district's nondiscrimination policies:

Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources
15600 Concord Circle
Morgan Hill, CA 95037
408-201-6001

(cf. 1312.1 - Complaints Concerning District Employees)

(cf. 1312.3 - Uniform Complaint Procedures)

Any student who feels that he/she has been subjected to discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying should immediately contact the Coordinator, the principal, or any other staff member. In addition, any student who observes any such incident should report the incident to the Coordinator or principal, whether or not the victim files a complaint.

Any school employee who observes an incident of discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying shall report the incident to the Coordinator or principal, whether or not the victim files a complaint.

In addition, the employee shall immediately intervene when safe to do so. (Education Code 234.1)

NONDISCRIMINATION/HARASSMENT (continued)

Upon receiving a complaint of discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying, the Coordinator shall immediately investigate the complaint in accordance with the site-level grievance procedures specified in AR 5145.7 - Sexual Harassment.

(cf. 5145.7 - Sexual Harassment)

Within 30 days of receiving the district's report, the complainant may appeal to the Board if he/she disagrees with the resolution of the complaint. The Board shall make a decision at its next regular meeting and its decision shall be final.

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that the student handbook clearly describes the district's nondiscrimination policy, procedures for filing a complaint regarding discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying, and the resources that are available to students who feel that they have been the victim of any such behavior. The district's policy shall also be posted on the district web site or any other location that is easily accessible to students.

(cf. 1113 - District and School Web Sites)

(cf. 1114 - District-Sponsored Social Media)

(cf. 6163.4 - Student Use of Technology)

When required pursuant to Education Code 48985, complaint forms shall be translated into the student's primary language.

Legal Reference: (see next page)

NONDISCRIMINATION/HARASSMENT (continued)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

200-262.4 *Prohibition of discrimination*
48900.3 *Suspension or expulsion for act of hate violence*
48900.4 *Suspension or expulsion for threats or harassment*
48904 *Liability of parent/guardian for willful student misconduct*
48907 *Student exercise of free expression*
48950 *Freedom of speech*
48985 *Translation of notices*
49020-49023 *Athletic programs*
51500 *Prohibited instruction or activity*
51501 *Prohibited means of instruction*
60044 *Prohibited instructional materials*

CIVIL CODE

1714.1 *Liability of parents/guardians for willful misconduct of minor*

PENAL CODE

422.55 *Definition of hate crime*
422.6 *Crimes, harassment*

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

4600-4687 *Uniform Complaint Procedures*
4900-4965 *Nondiscrimination in elementary and secondary education programs*

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 20

1681-1688 *Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972*

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 42

2000d-2000e-17 *Title VI and Title VII Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended*
2000h-2-2000h-6 *Title IX of the Civil Rights Act of 1964*

CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 34

100.3 *Prohibition of discrimination on basis of race, color or national origin*
104.7 *Designation of responsible employee for Section 504*
106.8 *Designation of responsible employee for Title IX*
106.9 *Notification of nondiscrimination on basis of sex*

COURT DECISIONS

Donovan v. Poway Unified School District, (2008) 167 Cal.App.4th 567
Flores v. Morgan Hill Unified School District, (2003) 324 F.3d 1130

Management Resources: (see next page)

NONDISCRIMINATION/HARASSMENT (continued)

Management Resources:

CSBA PUBLICATIONS

Safe Schools: Strategies for Governing Boards to Ensure Student Success, 2011

Providing a Safe, Nondiscriminatory School Environment for All Students, Policy Brief, April 2010

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION LEGAL ADVISORIES

California Student Safety and Violence Prevention - Laws and Regulations, April 2004

FIRST AMENDMENT CENTER PUBLICATIONS

Public Schools and Sexual Orientation: A First Amendment Framework for Finding Common Ground, 2006

NATIONAL SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION PUBLICATIONS

Dealing with Legal Matters Surrounding Students' Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity, 2004

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS PUBLICATIONS

Dear Colleague Letter: Harassment and Bullying, October 2010

Notice of Non-Discrimination, January 1999

WEB SITES

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

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

California Safe Schools Coalition: <http://www.casafeschools.org>

First Amendment Center: <http://www.firstamendment.org>

National School Boards Association: <http://www.nsba.org>

U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights:

<http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr>

NONDISCRIMINATION/HARASSMENT

Sexual Orientation/Gender Identity Harassment

The Morgan Hill Unified School District is committed to maintaining a safe and supportive school environment in which all members of the school community are treated with dignity and respect. It is the policy of this district that harassment and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, including perceptions of a person's identity, appearance or behavior is expressly prohibited.

The Governing Board considers harassment and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity to be a major offense. The district shall investigate all complaints of discrimination and harassment, and take appropriate action against any student or employee who is found to have violated this policy.

Harassment of a student by another student in violation of this policy constitutes cause for disciplinary action. Students shall be advised that harassment and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity are unacceptable conduct and will not be tolerated. Students shall be informed that they should contact the school principal or designee if they experience such harassment or discrimination.

Harassment by an employee in violation of this policy constitutes cause for disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal.

The Superintendent shall adopt, and may periodically revise, administrative regulations necessary to implement and enforce this policy. The regulations shall provide an adequate description of this policy to parents/guardians, students and employees, provide appropriate complaint and resolution procedures, and establish due process for persons accused of harassment or discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. The Superintendent shall ensure that students receive age-appropriate information and education related to sexual orientation and gender identity. In addition, the Superintendent shall designate qualified individuals to provide appropriate training and educational programs on the issue of harassment and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

This policy is intended to supplement, and not replace, state and federal laws prohibiting sexual harassment. Complaints under those laws shall be processed through the procedures established by appropriate state and/or federal agencies.

The Morgan Hill Unified School District is committed to maintaining a safe and supportive school environment in which all members of the school community are treated with dignity and respect. It is the policy of this district that harassment and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, including perceptions of a person's identity, appearance or behavior is expressly prohibited.

NONDISCRIMINATION/HARASSMENT (continued)

The Board considers harassment and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity to be a major offense. The district shall investigate all complaints of discrimination and harassment, and take appropriate action against any student or employee who is found to have violated this policy.

Definitions

Sexual orientation describes whether a person is attracted to members of the same sex (gay or lesbian), to members of the opposite sex (heterosexuals), or to members of both sexes (bisexual).

Gender: is defined as "a person's sex or perceived sex and includes a person's perceived identity, appearance or behavior, whether or not that identity, appearance, or behavior is different from that traditionally associated with a person's sex at birth." 5 CCR 4910(k).

Gender characteristics include traits such as facial hair or vocal pitch. Gender expression refers to the way in which a person expresses his or her gender, through gestures, movement, dress, and grooming. Gender nonconformity refers to gender characteristics or identity that does not conform to others' expectations.

Gender Identity means a person's identity, expression, or physical characteristics, whether or not traditionally associated with one's biological sex or one's sex assigned at birth.

Transgendered describes people whose gender identity, characteristics, or expression do not conform to the identity, characteristics, or expression traditionally associated with their sex at birth, and includes transsexuals, cross-dressers, intersex people and other gender nonconforming individuals.

Harassment means verbal or physical conduct based on the student's actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity, or on the basis of association with others identified by these categories, that (1) substantially interferes with or will substantially interfere with a student's educational benefits, opportunities, or performance; or a student's physical or psychological well-being; or (2) creates an intimidating or hostile environment.

Examples

Examples of Sexual Orientation/Gender Identity harassment may include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Slurs, epithets, threats, verbal abuse, or derogatory comments based on sexual orientation or gender identity.

NONDISCRIMINATION/HARASSMENT (continued)

2. Jokes, stories, obscene letters, drawings, pictures or gestures based on sexual orientation or gender identity.
3. Spreading rumors regarding another's sexual orientation or gender identity.
4. Inappropriate touching or physical assault of another known or perceived to be gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender.
5. Limiting a student's access to educational tools based on the student's actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity.

The district takes seriously the importance of ending harassment based upon sexual orientation or gender identity, and acknowledges the importance of addressing the underlying biases that result in violence.

Notifications

A copy of the district's Policy on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity shall:

1. Be included in the notifications that are sent to parents/guardians at the beginning of each school year and given to new students/parents/guardians and employees upon entering the district.
2. Be displayed in a prominent location along with the name of the site Compliance Coordinator.
3. Appear in any school or district publication that sets forth the school or district's comprehensive rules, regulations, procedures and standards of conduct.
4. Be provided to employees and employee organizations.

The Superintendent or designee shall take appropriate actions to reinforce the district's Policy on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity. As needed, these actions may include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Removal of vulgar or offending graffiti.
2. Providing staff in-service and student instruction or counseling.
3. Notifying appropriate agency, i.e., child protective services, social services, law enforcement.
4. Notifying parents/guardians.

NONDISCRIMINATION/HARASSMENT (continued)

5. Taking appropriate disciplinary action.

Compliance Coordinators

Each district school shall have at least one designated Compliance Coordinator, who will be familiar with;

1. How to investigate and handle allegations of sexual orientation discrimination or harassment;
2. How to track, record, and report such incidents or complaints;
3. How to advise or work with other staff concerning incidents or harassment or discrimination.

The Compliance Coordinator will have ultimate responsibility at each school site for the receipt and investigation of complaints of sexual orientation/gender identity-based harassment or discrimination and for taking corrective action where necessary. The Compliance Coordinator will notify the site administrator or designee upon receipt of a complaint. The Compliance Coordinator will independently investigate and respond to all complaints of such harassment to determine whether school rules or district policies were violated, regardless of whether police are also conducting an investigation and regardless of the outcome of any such police investigation. Upon receipt of a written request by a police agency that is conducting its own investigation of an incident, the Compliance Coordinator may delay the school's investigation of and response to the incident until the police agency has completed its investigation.

The existence, role, and identity of the Compliance Coordinators shall be posted in at least one prominent location accessible to both students and staff in each district school.

The district web site and all school web sites shall describe the existence and role of the Compliance Coordinators and shall instruct students and parents that they should consult with principals or other administrators at their schools to learn the identity of site-specific Compliance Coordinators.

Disciplinary Action

Students who act in violation of this policy or the law are subject to discipline up to and including suspension or expulsion. Such disciplinary action shall be in accordance with district policy and, where appropriate, federal and state law.

NONDISCRIMINATION/HARASSMENT (continued)

Employees who act in violation of this policy and/or the law are subject to discipline up to and including dismissal. Such disciplinary action shall be in accordance with applicable policies, laws, and/or collective bargaining agreements.

Complaint Procedures

The Compliance Coordinator shall investigate all complaints of sexual orientation or gender identity discrimination or harassment in accordance with Board Policy and regulation. The Compliance Coordinator shall document all investigations and shall inform the complainant, as well as the alleged violator, of the decision regarding any complaint. Confidentiality shall be maintained to the highest degree possible.

Before a formal complaint is filed, an aggrieved student may discuss with the Compliance Coordinator whether the alleged conduct might constitute a violation of the district's policy and what options, besides filing a formal complaint, are available to the aggrieved individual. The Compliance Coordinator will assist the aggrieved student, or refer the student to another appropriate resource, to determine what action should be taken. Documentation of this meeting will be maintained by the Compliance Coordinator.

While complaints are encouraged to be in writing, any complaint received, whether or not anonymous or whether or not in writing, shall be accepted and investigated to the extent possible and appropriate.

An aggrieved student need not be someone who has been the specific target of harassment or discrimination. It might be any student who has been a target of retaliation as a result of a complaint or someone who has observed a violation or retaliation.

If the Compliance Coordinator is not of the same gender of the aggrieved student, the Compliance Coordinator shall inform the complainant that a Compliance Coordinator of the same gender may assist in taking the complaint, and shall assist the complainant in contacting a Compliance Coordinator of the same gender.

If the Compliance Coordinator is the alleged violator, the aggrieved student may report the alleged violation to any teacher or other staff member or file the complaint with another Compliance Coordinator or with the Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources.

In the event a student informs a teacher or other district employee about conduct which could constitute a violation of this policy, the teacher or other district employee is responsible for bringing the issue to the appropriate administrator. Documentation of this incident will be maintained by the Compliance Coordinator. Retaliation against a teacher or staff member who takes such action is strictly prohibited.

NONDISCRIMINATION/HARASSMENT (continued)

Retaliation for raising a complaint or for participating in the investigation of a complaint is strictly prohibited. If it is determined that retaliation has occurred, appropriate disciplinary action will be taken in accordance with the guidelines below.

Persons found to have knowingly made false allegations under the Policy on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity shall be subject to disciplinary action. Persons submitting an unsubstantiated good faith complaint or report under the policy shall not be subject to disciplinary action.

Investigation

1. Review and Disclosure of Complaint

The Compliance Coordinator shall review the complaint and notify the Superintendent's office or designee of the complaint. As soon as reasonably possible after receipt of the complaint, the student, employee, or other person who is accused of a policy violation shall be informed of the complaint. To the extent possible, and when appropriate, the identity of the complainant will not be revealed. The Compliance Coordinator shall confer with the parties within five working days of receipt of the complaint.

2. Complaints Against Students

Upon completion of the investigation of a complaint filed against a student, the Compliance Coordinator shall determine whether a policy violation has occurred and, if so, the appropriate corrective action. Corrective action may include counseling, warning, or the initiation of other disciplinary procedures against the student.

3. Complaints Against Employees

Upon completion of the investigation of a complaint filed against an employee, the Compliance Coordinator shall determine whether a policy violation has occurred and, if so, the appropriate corrective action. Corrective action may include counseling, warning, or the initiation of other disciplinary procedures against the employee in accordance with the relevant collective bargaining agreement and/or applicable state and/or federal law.

4. Safety

The Compliance Coordinator shall also be responsible for taking any appropriate actions, when indicated, to ensure the safety of all parties during the investigation process. The assessment and determination of such actions shall include, but not be limited to physical safety concerns, protection of confidentiality, and any other potential retaliation.

NONDISCRIMINATION/HARASSMENT (continued)

5. Incident Report

The Compliance Coordinator shall prepare a written record (hereafter referred to as an "Incident report") of the following verbal or written complaints of harassment of or discrimination against students on the basis of actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity: (a) each and every complaint of physical harassment reported by a student or by another person who witnessed or learned of such harassment; (b) each and every complaint of verbal harassment or discrimination reported by a student complainant; (c) two or more incidents or verbal harassment or discrimination reported by witnesses or persons who learned of such harassment at second hand. Each Incident Report shall include:

- a. The name of the person making the allegation and, if different, the name of the alleged victim;
- b. The nature of the allegation and the date of the alleged incident;
- c. The names of all persons alleged to have committed violations, if known;
- d. The names of all persons believed to have relevant information about the alleged incident;
- e. The statements of the complainant, the victim (if different from the complainant), the alleged perpetrator (if known), and any witnesses;
- f. The outcome of the investigation;
- g. Any action taken by Morgan Hill Unified School District;
- h. Attached copies of any documents supplied to the district or created during the investigation or complaint process.

The Compliance Coordinator shall complete the Incident Report no later than 15 school days after the date upon which the complaint is first made.

Confidentiality

The district will respect the confidentiality of the complainant and the individual(s) against whom the complaint is made as much as possible, consistent with the district's legal obligations and the need to investigate allegation of sexual orientation/gender identity harassment and take remedial and corrective action when the conduct has occurred.

NONDISCRIMINATION/HARASSMENT (continued)

Appeal and Disciplinary Procedures

All decisions made under this procedure may be appealed by the aggrieved student to the Superintendent or designee and thereafter, to the Board.

If the complaint is against a student, the complainant, before appealing to the Superintendent, should appeal to the Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources.

If the complaint is against an employee, the complainant, before appealing to the Superintendent, should appeal to the Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources. If the employee is a site employee and the Compliance Coordinator of the site has not heard the complaint, the complainant should appeal to the Compliance Coordinator before appealing to the Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources.

Established statutory and district procedures shall be used in the event the administrative review results in a decision that disciplinary action is necessary.

Since established personnel disciplinary procedures provide for Board-level review or decision-making, the Board will take no action on any complaint until it has been acted upon in accordance with this policy. In this way, employees shall be assured of their due process rights.

Within 15 school days of receiving the complaint, the district shall prepare and send to the complainant a written report summarizing the findings and disposition of the complaint, including corrective actions, if any, the rationale for such disposition, notice of the complainant's right to appeal such decision to the Morgan Hill Unified School District Board within 15 school days. The report will also include the requirement that an appeal to the State Department of Education must be made within 15 school days of the receipt of the final report.

If the complainant is dissatisfied with the district's written response, he/she may file within 15 school days of receipt of the written report his/her complaint with the Board in writing. The Board will consider the matter at its next regularly scheduled Board meeting or at a special meeting convened as soon thereafter as possible but no later than 45 calendar days after receipt of the complaint. If the Board decides not to hear the complaint, the district's decision shall be final. If the Board hears the complaint, the Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources shall send the Board's decision to the complainant within seven calendar days of the Board meeting, unless the complainant agrees in writing to extend the seven calendar day deadline.

If a complainant is dissatisfied with the resolution of his/her complaint by the Board, he/she may appeal to the State Department of Education within 15 school days of complainant's receipt of the district's final written report.

NONDISCRIMINATION/HARASSMENT (continued)

Time Limits

A complaint shall be submitted as soon as reasonably possible after the conduct in question has arisen. All complaints shall be promptly and thoroughly investigated in a manner as confidential as possible, given the specific circumstances surrounding the complaint. The investigation shall be completed within 15 school days. A written report summarizing the findings and disposition of the complaint will be provided to the complainant within 15 school days from receipt of the complaint. If it is not possible to provide a written report within the required time limits, the Compliance Coordinator shall provide a written indication of this fact to the complainant. In the event that school is not in session, causing a delay in meeting the time limits established in the regulation, the Compliance Coordinator shall notify the complainant of this fact.

Record Keeping

The Superintendent or Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources shall assure a record of any complaint and investigation of discrimination or harassment as well as the disposition of the complaint and any disciplinary or remedial action taken is maintained by the district in a confidential file. The investigator shall create and maintain a written record, including copies of interview notes and all written submissions by the parties and witnesses.

The Compliance Coordinator shall assure that the complainant is notified whether allegations of discrimination or harassment were found to be valid, whether a violation of the policy occurred, and whether action was taken as a result.

Policy
adopted: December 20, 2004
revised: October 26, 2005
reviewed: November 13, 2012

MORGAN HILL UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Morgan Hill, California

Students

BP 5131(a)

CONDUCT

The Governing Board believes that all students have the right to be educated in a positive learning environment free from disruptions. Students shall be expected to exhibit appropriate conduct that does not infringe upon the rights of others or interfere with the school program while on school grounds, going to or coming from school, at school activities, or using district transportation.

(cf. 0450 - Comprehensive Safety Plan)

(cf. 5131.1 - Bus Conduct)

(cf. 5137 - Positive School Climate)

(cf. 6145.2 - Athletic Competition)

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that each school develops standards of conduct and discipline consistent with Board policies and administrative regulations. Students and parents/guardians shall be notified of district and school rules related to conduct.

Prohibited student conduct includes, but is not limited to:

1. Conduct that endangers students, staff, or others, including, but not limited to, physical violence, possession of a firearm or other weapon, and terrorist threats

(cf. 5131.7 - Weapons and Dangerous Instruments)

(cf. 5142 - Safety)

2. Discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying of students or staff, including sexual harassment, hate-motivated behavior, cyberbullying, hazing or initiation activity, extortion, or any other verbal, written, or physical conduct that causes or threatens to cause violence, bodily harm, or substantial disruption

(cf. 5131.2 - Bullying)

(cf. 5145.3 - Nondiscrimination/Harassment)

(cf. 5145.7 - Sexual Harassment)

(cf. 5145.9 - Hate-Motivated Behavior)

3. Conduct that disrupts the orderly classroom or school environment

(cf. 5131.4 - Student Disturbances)

4. Willful defiance of staff's authority

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

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

(cf. 5131.5 - Vandalism and Graffiti)

CONDUCT (continued)

The district shall not be responsible for students' personal belongings which are brought on campus or to a school activity and are lost, stolen, or damaged.

6. Obscene acts or use of profane, vulgar, or abusive language

(cf. 5145.2 - Freedom of Speech/Expression)

7. Possession, use, or being under the influence of tobacco, alcohol, or other prohibited drugs

(cf. 5131.6 - Alcohol and Other Drugs)

(cf. 5131.62 - Tobacco)

(cf. 5131.63 - Steroids)

8. Possession or use of a laser pointer, unless for a valid instructional or other school-related purpose (Penal Code 417.27)

Prior to bringing a laser pointer on school premises for a valid instructional or school-related purpose, a student shall obtain permission from the principal or designee.

9. Use of a cellular/digital telephone, pager, or other mobile communications device during instructional time

Such devices shall be turned off in class, except when being used for a valid instructional or other school-related purpose as determined by the teacher or other district employee, and at any other time directed by a district employee. Any device with camera, video, or voice recording function shall not be used in any manner which infringes on the privacy rights of any other person.

No student shall be prohibited from possessing or using an electronic signaling device that is determined by a licensed physician or surgeon to be essential for the student's health and the use of which is limited to purposes related to the student's health. (Education Code 48901.5)

10. Plagiarism or dishonesty on school work or tests

(cf. 5131.9 - Academic Honesty)

(cf. 6162.54 - Test Integrity/Test Preparation)

(cf. 6162.6 - Use of Copyrighted Materials)

11. Inappropriate attire

(cf. 5132 - Dress and Grooming)

12. Tardiness or unexcused absence from school

(cf. 5113 - Absences and Excuses)

(cf. 5113.1 - Chronic Absence and Truancy)

CONDUCT (continued)

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

(cf. 5112.5 - Open/Closed Campus)

Employees are expected to provide appropriate supervision to enforce standards of conduct and, if they observe or receive a report of a violation of these standards, to immediately intervene or call for assistance. If an employee believes a matter has not been resolved, he/she shall refer the matter to his/her supervisor or an administrator for further investigation.

When a school official suspects that a search of a student or his/her belongings will turn up evidence of the student's violation of the law or school rules, such a search shall be conducted in accordance with BP/AR 5145.12 - Search and Seizure.

(cf. 5145.12 - Search and Seizure)

When a student uses any prohibited device, or uses a permitted device in any unethical or illegal activity, a district employee may confiscate the device. The employee shall store the item in a secure manner until an appropriate time.

Students who violate district or school rules and regulations may be subject to discipline including, but not limited to, suspension, expulsion, transfer to alternative programs, referral to a student success team or counseling services, or denial of participation in extracurricular or cocurricular activities or other privileges in accordance with Board policy and administrative regulation. The Superintendent or designee shall notify local law enforcement as appropriate.

(cf. 1020 - Youth Services)

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

(cf. 5020 - Parent Rights and Responsibilities)

(cf. 5127 - Graduation Ceremonies and Activities)

(cf. 5138 - Conflict Resolution/Peer Mediation)

(cf. 5144 - Discipline)

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

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

(cf. 6020 - Parent Involvement)

(cf. 6145 - Extracurricular and Cocurricular Activities)

(cf. 6159.4 - Behavioral Interventions for Special Education Students)

(cf. 6164.2 - Guidance/Counseling Services)

(cf. 6164.5 - Student Success Teams)

(cf. 6184 - Continuation Education)

(cf. 6185 - Community Day School)

Students also may be subject to discipline, in accordance with law, Board policy, or administrative regulation, for any off-campus conduct during nonschool hours which poses a threat or danger to the safety of students, staff, or district property, or substantially disrupts school activities.

Legal Reference: (see next page)

CONDUCT (continued)

BP 5131(d)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

200-262.4 Prohibition of discrimination

32280-32289 Comprehensive safety plan

35181 Governing board authority to set policy on responsibilities of students

35291-35291.5 Rules

44807 Duty concerning conduct of students

48900-48925 Suspension and expulsion

51512 Prohibition against electronic listening or recording device in classroom without permission

CIVIL CODE

1714.1 Liability of parents and guardians for willful misconduct of minor

PENAL CODE

288.2 Harmful matter with intent to seduce

313 Harmful matter

417.25-417.27 Laser scope or laser pointer

647 Use of camera or other instrument to invade person's privacy; misdemeanor

653.2 Electronic communication devices, threats to safety

VEHICLE CODE

23123-23124 Prohibitions against use of electronic devices while driving

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

300-307 Duties of students

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 42

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

COURT DECISIONS

J.C. v. Beverly Hills Unified School District, (2010) 711 F.Supp.2d 1094

LaVine v. Blaine School District, (2000, 9th Cir.) 257 F.3d 981

Emmett v. Kent School District No. 415, (2000) 92 F.Supp. 1088

Bethel School District No. 403 v. Fraser, (1986) 478 U.S. 675

New Jersey v. T.L.O., (1985) 469 U.S. 325

Tinker v. Des Moines Independent Community School District, (1969) 393 U.S. 503

Management Resources:

CSBA PUBLICATIONS

Safe Schools: Strategies for Governing Boards to Ensure Student Success, 2011

Providing a Safe, Nondiscriminatory School Environment for All Students, Policy Brief, April 2010

Cyberbullying: Policy Considerations for Boards, Policy Brief, July 2007

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PUBLICATIONS

Bullying at School, 2003

WEB SITES

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

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

Center for Safe and Responsible Internet Use: <http://cyberbully.org>

National School Boards Association: <http://www.nsba.org>

National School Safety Center: <http://www.schoolsafety.us>

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

Policy

adopted: November 13, 2012

MORGAN HILL UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Morgan Hill, California

SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION/DUE PROCESS

The Governing Board desires to provide district students access to educational opportunities in an orderly school environment that protects their safety and security, ensures their welfare and well-being, and promotes their learning and development. The Board shall develop rules and regulations setting the standards of behavior expected of district students and the disciplinary processes and procedures for addressing violations of those standards, including suspension and/or expulsion.

(cf. 5131 - Conduct)

(cf. 5144 - Discipline)

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

District staff shall enforce the rules concerning suspension and expulsion of students fairly, consistently, and in accordance with the district's nondiscrimination policies.

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

Except for single acts of a grave nature or offenses for which suspension or expulsion is required by law, suspension or expulsion shall be used only when the student involved has a history of misconduct and other means of correction have failed to bring about proper conduct or the student's presence causes a continuing danger to himself/herself or others.

To correct the behavior of students who are subject to discipline, the Superintendent or designee, to the extent allowed by law, shall use alternative disciplinary measures that keep students in school during the school day.

(cf. 1020 - Youth Services)

(cf. 5138 - Conflict Resolution/Peer Mediation)

(cf. 6142.4 - Service Learning/Community Service Classes)

(cf. 6164.2 - Guidance/Counseling Services)

(cf. 6164.5 - Student Success Teams)

Alternatives to suspension or expulsion also shall be used with students who are truant, tardy, or otherwise absent from assigned school activities.

(cf. 5113 - Absences and Excuses)

(cf. 5113.1 - Chronic Absence and Truancy)

Suspended or expelled students shall be denied the privilege of participation in all extracurricular activities during the period of suspension or expulsion.

(cf. 6145 - Extracurricular and Cocurricular Activities)

(cf. 6145.2 - Athletic Competition)

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

The Board shall provide for the fair and equitable treatment of students facing suspension and expulsion by affording them their due process rights under the law. The Superintendent or designee shall comply with procedures for notices, hearings, and appeals as specified in law and administrative regulation. (Education Code 48911, 48915, 48915.5)

(cf. 5119 - Students Expelled from Other Districts)

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

Removal from Class by a Teacher and Parental Attendance

When suspending a student from class for committing an obscene act, engaging in habitual profanity or vulgarity, disrupting school activities, or otherwise willfully defying valid staff authority, the teacher of the class may require any parent/guardian who lives with the student to attend a portion of the school day in the class from which the student is being suspended, to assist in resolving the classroom behavior problems. (Education Code 48900.1)

Teachers should reserve the option of required parental attendance for cases in which they have determined that it is the best strategy to promote positive interaction between the student and his/her parents/guardians and to improve classroom behavior.

Any teacher requiring parental attendance pursuant to this policy shall apply the policy uniformly to all students within the classroom. (Education Code 48900.1)

When a teacher requires parental attendance, the principal shall send a written notice to the parent/guardian stating that his/her attendance is required pursuant to law. (Education Code 48900.1)

A parent/guardian who has received a written notice shall attend class as specified in the notice. After completing the classroom visit and before leaving school premises, the parent/guardian also shall meet with the principal or designee. (Education Code 48900.1)

When a parent/guardian does not respond to the request to attend school, the principal or designee shall contact him/her by telephone, mail, or other means that maintains the confidentiality of the student's records.

(cf. 5125 - Student Records)

District regulations and school-site rules for student discipline shall include procedures for implementing parental attendance requirements. Parents/guardians shall be notified of this policy prior to its implementation. (Education Code 48900.1)

(cf. 5145.6 - Parental Notifications)

SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION/DUE PROCESS (continued)

Supervised Suspension Classroom

To ensure the proper supervision and ongoing learning of students who are suspended for any of the reasons enumerated in Education Code 48900 and 48900.2, but who pose no imminent danger or threat to anyone at school and for whom expulsion proceedings have not been initiated, the Superintendent or designee shall establish a supervised classroom suspension program which meets the requirements of law. The use of such alternatives does not preclude off-campus suspensions.

Decision Not to Enforce Expulsion Order

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

Legal Reference: (see next page)

SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION/DUE PROCESS (continued)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

212.5 *Sexual harassment*

1981 *Enrollment of students in community school*

17292.5 *Program for expelled students*

32261 *Interagency School Safety Demonstration Act of 1985*

35146 *Closed sessions (re suspensions)*

35291 *Rules (for government and discipline of schools)*

35291.5 *Rules and procedures on school discipline*

48660-48667 *Community day schools*

48900-48927 *Suspension and expulsion*

48950 *Speech and other communication*

49073-49079 *Privacy of student records*

CIVIL CODE

47 *Privileged communication*

48.8 *Defamation liability*

CODE OF CIVIL PROCEDURE

1985-1997 *Subpoenas; means of production*

GOVERNMENT CODE

11455.20 *Contempt*

54950-54963 *Ralph M. Brown Act*

HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE

11014.5 *Drug paraphernalia*

11053-11058 *Standards and schedules*

LABOR CODE

230.7 *Discharge or discrimination against employee for taking time off to appear in school on behalf of a child*

PENAL CODE

31 *Principal of a crime, defined*

240 *Assault defined*

241.2 *Assault fines*

242 *Battery defined*

243.2 *Battery on school property*

243.4 *Sexual battery*

245 *Assault with deadly weapon*

245.6 *Hazing*

261 *Rape defined*

266c *Unlawful sexual intercourse*

286 *Sodomy defined*

SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION/DUE PROCESS (continued)

- 288 *Lewd or lascivious acts with child under age 14*
- 288a *Oral copulation*
- 289 *Penetration of genital or anal openings*
- 626.2 *Entry upon campus after written notice of suspension or dismissal without permission*
- 626.9 *Gun-Free School Zone Act of 1995*
- 626.10 *Dirks, daggers, knives, razors or stun guns*
- 868.5 *Supporting person; attendance during testimony of witness*

WELFARE AND INSTITUTIONS CODE

729.6 *Counseling*

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 18

921 *Definitions, firearm*

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 20

7151 *Gun free schools*

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

Woodbury v. Dempsey (2003) 108 Cal. App. 4th 421

Board of Education of Sacramento City Unified School District v. Sacramento County

Board of Education and Kenneth H., (2001) 85 Cal.App.4th 1321

Garcia v. Los Angeles Board of Education (1991) 123 Cal.App.3d 807

Fremont Union High School District v. Santa Clara County Board (1991) 235 Cal. App. 3d 1182

John A. v. San Bernardino School District (1982) 33 Cal. 3d 301

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84 *Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen.* 146 (2001)

80 *Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen.* 91 (1997)

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PUBLICATIONS

Civil Rights Data Collection Summary, March 2012

WEB SITES

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

California Attorney General's Office: <http://www.oag.ca.gov>

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

U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights:

<http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/crdc-2012-data-summary.pdf>

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

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

SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION/DUE PROCESS**Definitions**

Suspension from school 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. Removal from a particular class shall 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)

Day means a calendar day unless otherwise specifically provided. (Education Code 48925)

School day means a day upon which the schools of the district are in session or weekdays during the summer recess. (Education Code 48925)

Student includes a student's parent/guardian or legal counsel. (Education Code 48925)

Principal's designee means one or more administrators or, if there is not a second administrator at one school site, a certificated person specifically designated by the principal, in writing, to assist with disciplinary procedures. Only one such person may be designated at any time as the principal's primary designee and only one such person may be designated as secondary designee for the school year. The names of such persons shall be on file in the principal's office. (Education Code 48911)

School property, for the purposes described in Education Code 48900, includes, but is not limited to, electronic files and databases. (Education Code 48900(u))

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)

(*cf.* 5144 - Discipline)

(*cf.* 5145.6 - Parental Notifications)

SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION/DUE PROCESS (continued)**Grounds for Suspension and Expulsion**

Any student, including a student with disabilities, may be subject to suspension or expulsion when it is determined that he/she:

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

1. Caused, attempted to cause, or threatened to cause physical injury to another person or willfully used force or violence upon another person, except in self-defense. (Education Code 48900(a))

A student who *aids* or *abets* the infliction or attempted infliction of physical injury on another person, as defined in Penal Code 31, may be suspended, but not expelled. However, such a student may be suspended or expelled pursuant to Education Code 48900(a) when he/she has been adjudged by a juvenile court to have committed, as an aider or abettor, a crime of physical violence in which the victim suffered great or serious bodily injury. (Education Code 48900(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))

(cf. 5131 - Conduct)

(cf. 5131.7 - Weapons and Dangerous Instruments)

3. Unlawfully possessed, used, sold, otherwise furnished, or was under the influence of, any controlled substance as defined in Health and Safety Code 11053-11058, alcoholic beverage, or intoxicant of any kind. (Education Code 48900(c))

(cf. 5131.6 - Alcohol and Other Drugs)

4. Unlawfully offered, arranged, or negotiated to sell any controlled substance as defined in Health and Safety Code 11053-11058, alcoholic beverage, or intoxicant of any kind, and then sold, delivered, or otherwise furnished to any person another liquid, substance, or material and represented same as such 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))

SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION/DUE PROCESS (continued)

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 his/her own prescription products. (Education Code 48900(h))

(cf. 5131.62 - Tobacco)

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. Disrupted school activities or otherwise willfully defied 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))

(cf. 5131.4 - Student Disturbances)

12. Knowingly received stolen school property or private property. (Education Code 48900(l))
13. 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))

14. Committed or attempted to commit a sexual assault as defined in Penal Code 261, 266c, 286, 288, 288a, or 289, or committed a sexual battery as defined in Penal Code 243.4. (Education Code 48900(n))
15. 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))
16. Unlawfully offered, arranged to sell, negotiated to sell, or sold the prescription drug Soma. (Education Code 48900(p))

SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION/DUE PROCESS (continued)

17. 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.

18. 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 in fear of harm to himself/herself or his/her property; cause the student to experience a substantially detrimental effect on his/her physical or mental health; or cause the student to experience substantial interferences with his/her academic performance or ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, or privileges provided by a school.

Bullying shall include any act of sexual harassment, hate violence, or harassment, threat, or intimidation, as defined in Education Code 48900.2, 48900.3, or 48900.4 (items #20-22 below), that has any of the effects described above on a reasonable student.

Electronic act means the transmission of a communication, including, but not limited to, a message, text, sound, image, or post on a social network Internet web site, by means of an electronic device, including, but not limited to, a telephone, wireless telephone, or other wireless communication device, computer, or pager. A post on a social network Internet web site shall include, but is not limited to, the posting or creation of a burn page or the creation of 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 his/her age, or for a person of his/her age with his/her disability. (Education Code 48900(r))

(*cf.* 1114 - District-Sponsored Social Media)

(*cf.* 5131.2 - Bullying)

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

(*cf.* 6164.6 - Identification and Education under Section 504)

SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION/DUE PROCESS (continued)

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 it out. (Education Code 48900.7)

A student in grades 4-12 is also subject to suspension or recommendation for expulsion when it is determined that he/she:

20. 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)

(*cf. 5145.7 - Sexual Harassment*)

21. 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)

(*cf. 5145.9 - Hate-Motivated Behavior*)

22. 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)

(*cf. 5145.3 - Nondiscrimination/Harassment*)

SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION/DUE PROCESS (continued)

A student may be suspended or expelled for any of the acts listed above if the act is related to school activity or school attendance occurring at any district school or within any other school district, at any time, including, but not limited to, the following: (Education Code 48900)

1. While on school grounds
2. While going to or coming from school

(cf. 5131.1 - Bus Conduct)

3. During the lunch period, whether on or off the school campus

(cf. 5112.5 - Open/Closed Campus)

4. During, going to, or coming from a school-sponsored activity

Removal from Class by a Teacher and Parental Attendance

A teacher may remove any student from his/her class for the remainder of the day and the following day for any act listed in "Grounds for Suspension and Expulsion" above. (Education Code 48910)

When removing a student from his/her 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, he/she shall be appropriately supervised during the class periods from which he/she has been removed. (Education Code 48910)

As soon as possible, the teacher shall ask the student's parent/guardian to attend a parent-teacher conference regarding the removal. 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 removed from class shall not be returned to class during the period of removal without the approval of the teacher of the class and the principal. (Education Code 48910)

A student removed from class shall not be placed in another regular class during the period of removal. However, if a student is assigned to more than one class per day, he/she may be placed in any other regular classes except those held at the same time as the class from which the student was removed. (Education Code 48910)

SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION/DUE PROCESS (continued)

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

Pursuant to Board policy, a teacher may require the parent/guardian of a student whom the teacher has removed to attend a portion of a school day in his/her child's classroom. When a teacher makes this request, the principal shall send the parent/guardian a written notice that the parent/guardian's attendance is requested pursuant to law. (Education Code 48900.1)

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

This notice shall also:

1. Inform the parent/guardian when his/her presence is expected and by what means he/she may arrange an alternate date
2. State that if the parent/guardian does not have a means of transportation to school, he/she may ride the school bus with the student
3. Ask the parent/guardian to meet with the principal after the visit and before leaving school, as required by Education Code 48900.1

Suspension by Superintendent, Principal, or Designee

The Superintendent, principal, or designee may suspend a student for any of the acts listed in "Grounds for Suspension and Expulsion" above. 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 in the student. (Education Code 48900.5)

However, the Superintendent, principal, or designee may impose a suspension upon a first offense if he/she determines that the student violated items #1-5 listed in "Grounds for Suspension and Expulsion" above or if the student's presence causes a danger to persons or property or threatens to disrupt the instructional process. (Education Code 48900.5)

In addition, the Superintendent, principal, or designee shall immediately suspend any student found at school or at a school activity to be: (Education Code 48915)

1. Possessing, as verified by a district employee, selling, or otherwise furnishing a firearm, unless the student had obtained prior written permission to possess the item from a certificated school employee, with the principal or designee's concurrence
2. Brandishing a knife as defined in Education Code 48915(g)

SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION/DUE PROCESS (continued)

3. Unlawfully selling a controlled substance listed in Health and Safety Code 11053-11058
4. Committing or attempting to commit a sexual assault or committing a sexual battery as defined in item #14 under "Grounds for Suspension and Expulsion" above
5. Possessing an explosive as defined in 18 USC 921

The Superintendent, principal, or designee may suspend a student from school for not more than five consecutive school days unless the suspension is extended pending expulsion. (Education Code 48911)

A student may be suspended from school for not more than 20 school days in any school year unless, for purposes of adjustment, the student enrolls in or is transferred to another regular school, an opportunity school, or continuation school or class, in which case suspension shall not exceed 30 days in any school year. However, this restriction on the number of days of suspension does not apply when the suspension is extended pending an expulsion. (Education Code 48903, 48911, 48912)

(cf. 6184 - Continuation Education)

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)

Suspensions shall be initiated according to 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, presented with the evidence against him/her, and given the opportunity to present his/her version and evidence in support of his/her 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, both the parent/guardian and student shall be notified of the student's right to return to school for the purpose of the conference. The conference shall be held within two school days, unless the student waives his/her 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. (Education Code 48911)

SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION/DUE PROCESS (continued)

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 by telephone or in person. Whenever a student is suspended, the parent/guardian shall 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)

In addition, the notice may state the date and time when the student may return to school. If school officials wish to ask the parent/guardian to confer regarding matters pertinent to the suspension, the notice may add that state law requires the parent/guardian to respond to such requests without delay.

4. **Parent/Guardian Conference:** Whenever a student is suspended, school officials may meet 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)

While the parent/guardian is required to respond without delay to a request for a conference about his/her child's behavior, no penalties may be imposed on the student for the failure of the parent/guardian to attend such a conference. The student may not be denied readmission solely because the parent/guardian failed to attend the conference. (Education Code 48911)

5. **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. (Education Code 48911)

Any extension of the original period of suspension shall be 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. Extension of the suspension may be made only if the Superintendent or

SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION/DUE PROCESS (continued)

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. (Education Code 48911)

Suspension by the Board

The Board may suspend a student for any of the acts listed in "Grounds for Suspension and Expulsion" above and within the limits specified in "Suspension by Superintendent, Principal, or Designee" above. (Education Code 48912)

The Board may suspend a student enrolled in a continuation school or class for a period not longer than the remainder of the semester if any of the acts listed in "Grounds for Suspension and Expulsion" occurred. The suspension shall meet the requirements of Education Code 48915. (Education Code 48912.5)

When the Board is considering a suspension, disciplinary action, or any other action (except expulsion) against any student, it shall hold closed sessions if a public hearing would lead to disclosure of information violating a student's right to privacy under Education Code 49073-49079. (Education Code 35146, 48912)

(cf. 9321 - Closed Session Purposes and Agendas)

The Board shall provide the student and his/her parent/guardian with written notice of the closed session by registered or certified mail or personal service. Upon receiving this notice, the student or parent/guardian may request a public meeting, and this request shall be granted if made in writing within 48 hours after receipt of the Board's notice. However, any discussion that conflicts with any other student's right to privacy still shall be held in closed session. (Education Code 35146, 48912)

Supervised Suspension Classroom

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

1. The supervised suspension classroom shall be staffed in accordance with law.
2. The student shall have access to appropriate counseling services.
3. The supervised suspension classroom shall promote completion of schoolwork and tests missed by the student during the suspension.

SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION/DUE PROCESS (continued)

4. Each student shall be responsible for contacting his/her 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 a supervised suspension classroom, the principal or designee shall notify the student's parent/guardian in person or by telephone. When the assignment is for longer than one class period, this notification shall be made in writing. (Education Code 48911.1)

Authority to Expel

A student may be expelled only by the Board. (Education Code 48918(j))

The Board shall expel, as required by law, any student found to have committed any offense listed below under "Mandatory Recommendation and Mandatory Expulsion." (Education Code 48915)

For all other grounds listed above under "Grounds for Suspension and Expulsion," the Board shall order a student expelled upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, principal, or designee, only if the Board makes a finding of either or both of the following: (Education Code 48915(b) and (e))

1. That other means of correction are not feasible or have repeatedly failed to bring about proper conduct
2. That due to the nature of the violation, the presence of the student causes a continuing danger to the physical safety of the student or others

Mandatory Recommendation for Expulsion

Unless the Superintendent, principal, or designee finds that expulsion is inappropriate due to particular circumstances, the Superintendent, principal, or designee shall recommend a student's expulsion for any of the following acts: (Education Code 48915(a))

1. Causing serious physical injury to another person, except in self-defense
2. Possession of any knife as defined in Education Code 48915(g), explosive, or other dangerous object of no reasonable use to the student

SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION/DUE PROCESS (continued)

3. Unlawful possession of any controlled substance, as listed in Health and Safety Code 11053-11058, except for the first offense for the possession of not more than one ounce of marijuana, other than concentrated cannabis
4. Robbery or extortion
5. Assault or battery, as defined in Penal Code 240 and 242, upon any school employee

Mandatory Recommendation and Mandatory Expulsion

The Superintendent, principal, or designee shall recommend that the Board expel any student found at school or at a school activity to be: (Education Code 48915(c))

1. Possessing, as verified by a district employee, selling, or otherwise furnishing a firearm, unless the student had obtained prior written permission to possess the firearm from a certificated school employee, with the principal or designee's concurrence
2. Brandishing a knife as defined in Education Code 48915(g) at another person
3. Unlawfully selling a controlled substance listed in Health and Safety Code 11053-11058
4. Committing or attempting to commit a sexual assault or committing a sexual battery as defined in item #14 under "Grounds for Suspension and Expulsion" above
5. Possessing an explosive as defined in 18 USC 921

Upon finding that the student committed any of the above acts, the Board shall expel the student. (Education Code 48915)

Student's Right to Expulsion Hearing

Any student recommended for expulsion shall be entitled to a hearing to determine whether he/she should be expelled. The hearing shall be held within 30 school days after the Superintendent, principal, or designee determines that the student has committed one of the acts listed under "Grounds for Suspension and Expulsion." (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))

SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION/DUE PROCESS (continued)

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))

After a determination that one of the grounds listed above under "Grounds for Suspension and Expulsion" has occurred, the Superintendent, principal, or designee shall offer the student and his/her parent/guardian the option to waive a hearing and stipulate to the expulsion. The stipulation agreement shall be in writing and shall be signed by the student and his/her parent/guardian.

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, he/she shall give the complaining witness a copy of the district's suspension and expulsion policy and regulation and shall advise the witness of his/her right to: (Education Code 48918.5)

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

SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION/DUE PROCESS (continued)

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).

(cf. 5119 - Students Expelled from Other Districts)

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 advisor.

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 advisor 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.

SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION/DUE PROCESS (continued)

Conduct of Expulsion Hearing

1. **Closed Session:** Notwithstanding the provisions of Government Code 54953 and 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 unless another student's privacy rights would be violated. (Education Code 48918(c))

Whether the expulsion hearing is held in closed or public session, the Board may meet in closed session to deliberate and determine whether or not 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 have his/her testimony heard 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, videotaped deposition or contemporaneous examination in another place communicated to the hearing room by closed-circuit television. (Education Code 48918(c))

2. **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))
3. **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 the 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))

SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION/DUE PROCESS (continued)

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 #4 below. (Education Code 48918(i))

4. **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" above. (Education Code 48918(h))

Findings of fact shall be based solely on the evidence at the hearing. While 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.

5. **Testimony by Complaining Witnesses:** The following procedures shall be observed when hearings involve 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 his/her 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 whom he/she finds 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.

SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION/DUE PROCESS (continued)

- 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.
 - (1) The district shall provide a room separate from the hearing room for the use of the complaining witness before and during breaks in testimony.
 - (2) 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 he/she may leave the hearing room.
 - (3) 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 the hours he/she is normally in school, 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
6. **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 his/her school of attendance, unless the student requests in writing that the decision be postponed. (Education Code 48918(a))

SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION/DUE PROCESS (continued)

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. Alternatively, the Board may 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(d))

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 its 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. The Superintendent or designee shall place the student in a classroom instructional program, any other instructional program, a rehabilitation program, or any combination of these programs after consulting with district staff, including the student's teachers, and with the student's parent/guardian. 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 for a period of one year. (Education Code 48917, 48918)

Final Action by the Board

Whether the expulsion hearing is conducted in closed or public session by the Board, a hearing officer, or an administrative panel, the final action to expel shall be taken by the Board at a public meeting. (Education Code 48918(j))

(cf. 9321.1 - Closed Session Actions and Reports)

SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION/DUE PROCESS (continued)

If the Board conducts the hearing and reaches a decision not to expel, this decision shall be final and the student shall be reinstated immediately.

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 act listed under "Mandatory Recommendation and Mandatory Expulsion" above, 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" (Education Code 48900.8)
2. The fact that a description of readmission procedures will be made available to the student and his/her parent/guardian (Education Code 48916)
3. Notice of the right to appeal the expulsion to the County Board of Education (Education Code 48918)

SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION/DUE PROCESS (continued)

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 Not to Enforce 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 his/her 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" 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)

SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION/DUE PROCESS (continued)

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 his/her 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)

Right to Appeal

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)

The student shall submit 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 also 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. In addition, law enforcement authorities shall be notified regarding any acts by students regarding the possession, sale, or furnishment 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)

SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION/DUE PROCESS (continued)

Within one school day after a student's suspension or expulsion, the principal or designee shall notify appropriate city or county 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)

Post-Expulsion Placements

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 such a site
3. Not housed at the school site attended by the student at the time of suspension

(cf. 6158 - Independent Study)

(cf. 6185 - Community Day School)

When the placement described above is not available and when the County Superintendent so certifies, students expelled for acts described in items #6-13 and #20-22 under "Grounds for Suspension and Expulsion" 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

Readmission procedures shall be as follows:

1. On the date set by the Board when it ordered the expulsion, the district shall consider readmission of the student. (Education Code 48916)
2. The Superintendent or designee shall hold a conference with the parent/guardian 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 parent/guardian shall be asked to indicate in writing their willingness to comply with these regulations.

SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION/DUE PROCESS (continued)

3. The Superintendent or designee shall transmit to the Board his/her recommendation regarding readmission. The Board shall consider this recommendation in closed session if information would be disclosed in violation of Education Code 49073-49079. If a written request for open session is received from the parent/guardian or adult student, it shall be honored.
4. If the readmission is granted, the Superintendent or designee shall notify the student and parent/guardian, by registered mail, of the Board's decision regarding readmission.
5. 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)
6. 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. (Education Code 48916)
7. The Board shall provide written notice to the expelled student and parent/guardian 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. (Education Code 48916)

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))

(cf. 5125 - Student Records)

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)

(cf. 5119 - Students Expelled from Other Districts)

SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION/DUE PROCESS (continued)

Outcome Data

The Superintendent or designee shall maintain the following data: (Education Code 48900.8, 48916.1)

1. The number of students recommended for expulsion
2. The specific grounds for each recommended expulsion
3. Whether the student was subsequently expelled
4. Whether the expulsion order was suspended
5. The type of referral made after the expulsion
6. The disposition of the student after the end of the expulsion period

Students

AR 5112.2(a)

EXCLUSIONS FROM ATTENDANCE

Students may be excluded from attendance at district schools if they:

1. Are under the legal age of attendance, except as otherwise provided by law. (Education Code 48210)

(cf. 5111 - Admission)

2. Do not present evidence of immunization from certain infectious diseases as required by law. A student shall not be excluded, however, if the parent/guardian, in writing, requests exemption from the immunization requirement on the basis of the student's physical condition or a conflict with the parent/guardian's religious beliefs. (Health and Safety Code 120335, 120365, 120370)

(cf. 5141.31 - Immunizations)

3. Are reasonably suspected of having active tuberculosis. (Health and Safety Code 121485, 121495, 121505)

(cf. 5141.26 - Tuberculosis Testing)

(cf. 5141.33 - Head Lice)

4. Are infected with any contagious or infectious disease. (Education Code 49451; 5 CCR 202)

(cf. 5141.22 - Infectious Diseases)

5. Reside where any contagious, infectious, or communicable disease subject to quarantine exists or has recently existed, unless written permission of the health officer is provided. (Health and Safety Code 120230)

6. Have not had the health screening, specified in Health and Safety Code 124040, before or within the first 90 days of attending first grade. Such students may be excluded for up to five days unless the parent/guardian has presented a waiver or the district has exempted the student from this requirement in accordance with law. (Health and Safety Code 124105)

(cf. 5141.32 - Health Screening for School Entry)

Notifications to Parents/Guardians

Prior to excluding a student from attendance, the Superintendent or designee shall send a notice to the student's parent/guardian stating the facts leading to the exclusion.

The Superintendent or designee may exclude a student without prior notice to the parent/guardian if the student is excluded because: (Education Code 48213)

EXCLUSIONS FROM ATTENDANCE (continued)

1. He/she resides in an area subject to quarantine pursuant to Health and Safety Code 120230
2. He/she is exempt from a medical examination but suffers from a contagious or infectious disease pursuant to Education Code 49451.
3. The Superintendent or designee determines that the presence of the student would constitute a clear and present danger to the safety or health of other students or school personnel.

However, in such cases, the Superintendent or designee shall send a notice as soon as reasonably possible after the exclusion. (Education Code 48213)

Appeals from Exclusion

Upon exclusion of his/her child, a parent/guardian may meet with the Superintendent or designee to discuss the exclusion. If the parent/guardian disagrees with the decision of the Superintendent or designee to exclude his/her child, he/she may appeal the decision to the Governing Board.

The parent/guardian shall have an opportunity to inspect all documents upon which the district is basing its decision, to challenge any evidence and question any witness presented by the district, to present oral and documentary evidence on the student's behalf, and to have one or more representatives present at the meeting.

Legal Reference: (see next page)

EXCLUSIONS FROM ATTENDANCE (continued)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

48210-48216 *Persons excluded*

49076 *Access to records by persons without written consent or under judicial order*

49408 *Information of use in emergencies*

49451 *Parent's refusal to consent*

HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE

120230 *Exclusion of persons from school*

120325-120380 *Educational and child care facility immunization requirements*

121475-121520 *Tuberculosis tests for students*

124025-124110 *Child Health and Disability Prevention Program*

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

202 *Exclusion of students with a contagious disease*

Management Resources:

WEB SITES

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

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

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

GRADES/EVALUATION OF STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

The Governing Board believes that grades serve a valuable instructional purpose by helping students and parents/guardians understand performance expectations and identifying the student's areas of strength and those areas needing improvement. Parents/guardians and students have the right to receive course grades that represent an accurate evaluation of the student's achievement.

(cf. 5020 - Parent Rights and Responsibilities)

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

The Superintendent or designee shall establish a uniform grading system based on standards that apply to all students in that course and grade level. Principals and teachers shall ensure that student grades conform to this system. Teachers shall inform students and parents/guardians how student achievement will be evaluated in the classroom.

A teacher shall base a student's grades on impartial, consistent observation of the quality of the student's work and his/her mastery of course content and district standards. Students shall have the opportunity to demonstrate this mastery through a variety of methods such as classroom participation, homework, tests, and portfolios.

(cf. 6011 - Academic Standards)

(cf. 6162.5 - Student Assessment)

The teacher of each course shall determine the student's grade. The grade assigned by the teacher shall not be changed by the Board or the Superintendent except as provided by law, Board policy, or administrative regulation. (Education Code 49066)

(cf. 5125.3 - Challenging Student Records)

When reporting student performance to parents/guardians, teachers may add narrative descriptions, observational notes, and/or samples of classroom work in order to better describe student progress in specific skills and subcategories of achievement.

A report card for a student with a disability may contain information about his/her disability, including whether that student received special education or related services, provided that the report card informs parents/guardians about their child's progress or level of achievement in specific classes, course content, or curriculum. However, transcripts that may be used to inform postsecondary institutions or prospective employers of the student's academic achievements shall not contain information disclosing the student's disability.

(cf. 5125 - Student Records)

(cf. 6159 - Individualized Education Program)

(cf. 6164.6 - Identification and Education Under Section 504)

GRADES/EVALUATION OF STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT (continued)

Effect of Absences on Grades

If a student misses class without an excuse and does not subsequently turn in homework, take a test, or fulfill another class requirement which he/she missed, the teacher may lower the student's grade for nonperformance.

(cf. 6154 - Homework/Makeup Work)

The Board believes that eight unexcused absences per semester grading period constitute excessive unexcused absences. Students with excessive unexcused absences may receive a failing grade and not receive credit for the class(es).

(cf. 5113 - Absences and Excuses)

Grade Point Average

The Superintendent or designee shall determine the methodology to be used in calculating students' grade point averages (GPA), including the courses to be included within the GPA and whether extra grade weighting shall be applied to Advanced Placement, honors, and/or concurrent postsecondary courses.

(cf. 6141.5 - Advanced Placement)

(cf. 6172 - Gifted and Talented Student Program)

(cf. 6172.1 - Concurrent Enrollment in College Classes)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

41505-41508 Pupil Retention Block Grant

48070 Promotion and retention

48205 Excused absences

48800-48802 Enrollment of gifted students in community college

48904-48904.3 Withholding grades, diplomas, or transcripts

49066 Grades; finalization; physical education class

49067 Mandated regulations regarding student's achievement

49069.5 Students in foster care, grades and credits

51242 Exemption from physical education based on participation in interscholastic athletics

76000-76002 Enrollment in community college

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

10060 Criteria for reporting physical education achievement, high schools

30008 Definition of high school grade point average for student aid eligibility

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 20

GRADES/EVALUATION OF STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT (continued)

1232g Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

6101-6251 School-to-Work Opportunities Act of 1994

CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 34

99.1-99.67 Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act

COURT DECISIONS

Owasso Independent School District v. Falvo, (2002) 534 U.S. 426

Las Virgenes Educators Association v. Las Virgenes Unified School District, (2001) 86 Cal.App.4th 1

Swany v. San Ramon Valley Unified School District, (1989) 720 F.Supp. 764

Johnson v. Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District Board of Education, (1986) 179 Cal.App.3d 593

Management Resources:

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PUBLICATIONS

Aiming High: High Schools for the 21st Century, 2002

Taking Center Stage: A Commitment to Standards-Based Education for California's Middle Grades Students, 2001

Elementary Makes the Grade!, 2000

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS

CORRESPONDENCE

Report Cards and Transcripts for Students with Disabilities, October 17, 2008

WEB SITES

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

California Student Aid Commission: <http://www.csac.ca.gov>

U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights:

<http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr>

GRADES/EVALUATION OF STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Written report cards displaying students' grades in each subject or course shall be distributed to parents/guardians at the end of each grading period. Parents/guardians shall be offered an opportunity to meet with their child's teacher(s) to discuss the grades and strategies to improve their child's performance.

(cf. 6020 - Parent Involvement)

For each student in grades 9-12, the Superintendent or designee shall maintain a transcript recording the courses taken, the term that each course was taken, credits earned, final grades, and date of graduation.

Grades for Achievement K-6

In grades K-6, teachers shall use content standards based report cards to indicate the student's level of achievement. Report cards are issued each trimester to indicate the student's level of achievement.

In grades 4-6 criteria for determining grades for achievement may include but are not limited to:

1. Preparation of assignments, including accuracy, legibility and promptness
2. Contribution to classroom discussions
3. Demonstrated understanding of concepts in tests and other assessments
4. Application of skills and principles to new situations
5. Organization and presentation of written and oral reports
6. Originality and reasoning ability when working through problems

Academic achievement in grades 4-6 shall be reported each trimester and shall reflect achievement of the grade level content standards.

A	(90-100%)	Outstanding achievement of standards	4.0 grade points
B	(80-89%)	Proficient achievement of standards	3.0 grade points
C	(70-79%)	Satisfactory achievement of standards	2.0 grade points
N	(69% or below)	Minimal to non-achievement of standards	0 grade points

GRADES/EVALUATION OF STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT (continued)**Grades for Achievement 7-12****Grades 7-8**

In grades 7-8, report cards are issued each semester to indicate the student's level of achievement.

In grades 7-8 criteria for determining grades for achievement may include but are not limited to:

1. Preparation of assignments, including accuracy, legibility and promptness
2. Contribution to classroom discussions
3. Demonstrated understanding of concepts in tests and other assessments
4. Application of skills and principles to new situations
5. Organization and presentation of written and oral reports
6. Originality and reasoning ability when working through problems

Academic achievement in grades 7- 8 shall be reported each semester and shall reflect course content standards.

A	(90-100%)	Outstanding achievement of standards	4.0 grade points
B	(80-89%)	Proficient achievement of standards	3.0 grade points
C	(70-79%)	Satisfactory achievement of standards	2.0 grade points
D	(60-69%)	Minimal achievement of standards	1.0 grade points
F	(0-59%)	Non-achievement of standards	0 grade points
I		Incomplete	0

Grades 9-12

Academic achievement in grades 9-12 shall be reported each semester and shall reflect students' demonstration of course content standards achievement. Teachers in grades 9-12 may, in their best professional judgment, assign plus and minus signs to grades.

A	(90-100%)	Outstanding achievement of standards	4.0 grade points
B	(80-89%)	Proficient achievement of standards	3.0 grade points
C	(70-79%)	Satisfactory achievement of standards	2.0 grade points
D	(60-69%)	Minimal achievement of standards	1.0 grade points
F	(59 and below)	Non-achievement of standards	0 grade points
I		Incomplete	0 grade points

GRADES/EVALUATION OF STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT (continued)

NC	No credit
NCA	No credit due to excessive absences
NM	No mark
NR	No record
P	Pass
W	Withdrawn
W/F	Withdraw/Fail

Whenever it becomes evident to a teacher that a student is in danger of failing a course, a conference shall be arranged with the student's parent/guardian or a written report will be sent to the parent/guardian by U.S. mail. (Education Code 49067)

(cf. 5123 Promotion /Acceleration/Retention)

An incomplete is given only when a student's work is not finished because of illness or other excused absence. If not made up within six weeks, the incomplete will become an F.

No grade of a student participating in a physical education class may be adversely affected due to the fact that the student, because of circumstances beyond his/her control, does not wear standardized physical education apparel. (Education Code 49066)

A teacher may, in his or her best professional judgment, assign grades which reflect, not completion of course work, but the student's demonstration of achievement of course content standards. Teachers are encouraged to allow for trends in the quality of student work. For example, when a student finishes a grading period doing high quality work, which requires skills acquired throughout the grading period, low grades at the beginning of the grading period need not diminish the appropriate evaluation of the student's achievement. Similarly, high grades at the beginning need not compensate for a downward trend in achievement.

Student performance in high school physical education courses shall be based upon evaluation of the student's individual progress, attainment of goals in each instructional area, tests designed to determine skill and knowledge, and physical performance tests. (5 CCR 10060)

Participation in Extra/Co-Curricular Activities (Grades 7-12)

Students in grades 7 through 12 must earn at least a 2.0 or C grade point average in the previous grading period in order to participate in extra/co-curricular activities. See Board Policy 6145. (Education Code 35160.5)

GRADES/EVALUATION OF STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT (continued)

To encourage and support academic excellence, the Board requires students in grades 7-8 to earn a minimum of a 2.0 grade point average on a 4.0 scale in order to participate in extra/co-curricular activities. To encourage and support academic excellence, the Board requires students in grades 9-12 to earn a minimum of a 2.0 or C grade point average on a 4.0 scale and maintain satisfactory progress toward graduation in order to participate in extra/co-curricular activities. See Board Policy 6145.

Honor Roll (Grades 7-12)

Each secondary school shall post an Honor Roll. All courses except Pass/Fail shall be counted in computing eligibility for the Honor Roll. To qualify for the Honor Roll, a student must receive no current grade below a C and have a grade point average of 3.5 or better.

Advanced Placement/Honors Courses (Grades 9-12)

The district wishes to encourage students to take advanced placement (AP) and honors courses. AP courses are developed by the College Board and approved by the University of California system. Honors courses are developed by the district and approved by the University of California. Because of the extra work involved, the evaluation system shall be weighted to reflect the more rigorous nature of these courses. Grades received in these courses will be counted on a weighted scale. All students who take an advanced placement (AP) course are expected to take the related College Board Advanced Placement Exam to receive the weighted grade point. The advanced placement course will be noted on the student's transcript.

Following is the weighted scale for honors courses and advanced placement courses for which a student takes the related advanced placement exam:

A	=	5 grade points
B	=	4 grade points
C	=	3 grade points
D	=	1 grade point
F	=	0 grade points

Pass/Fail Grading (Grades 9-12)

With parental approval, a student may elect to earn a *Pass* or *Fail* grade instead of an A-F grade in the following courses:

1. All courses taken in the Special Education Program
2. Students shall be graded Pass/Fail for classes in which they serve as student aides.

GRADES/EVALUATION OF STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT (continued)

Students who receive a *Pass* grade will acquire the appropriate semester units of credit for the course, and the grade will not be counted in determining class rank or grade point average and co-curricular eligibility. Students who receive a *Fail* grade will not receive credit for taking the course.

Repeated Classes (Grades 9-12)

With the prior approval of the principal or designee, a student may repeat a course in order to raise his/her grade. The student shall receive credit only for taking the course once.

Both grades received will be entered on the student's transcript with the highest grade receiving the credit. It should be noted that the University of California/California State University system will not accept repeat course grades if the student initially received a C or better. (California Code of Regulations Title V, section 58161)

Withdrawal from Classes (Grades 9-12)

A student who submits a *Request for Withdrawal Form* during the first two weeks of the semester may do so without any entry on his/her permanent record card. A student who drops a course after the first two weeks of the semester shall receive a W/F grade on his/her permanent record, unless otherwise decided by the principal or designee because of extenuating circumstances.

Unexcused Absences (Grades 9-12)

The student and parent/guardian shall be notified and informed of the district's policy regarding excessive unexcused absences. The student and parent/guardian shall have a reasonable opportunity to explain the absence. (Education Code 49067)

If the absence is not verified as excusable within three days, it shall be recorded as unexcused. The person receiving any explanation of the absence by the parent/guardian shall make a record of this explanation and the date when it was given.

Students with excessive unexcused absences (eight absences per semester grading period) may be given a failing grade and not receive credit for the course(s). Teachers may, in their best professional judgment, assign a failing grade to a student with excessive unexcused absences. The student or the student's parent/guardian shall be provided with an opportunity to explain the absences. The district shall notify the student's parent/guardian of this unexcused absence policy through an annual notice or through the teacher.

If a student receives a failing grade because of unexcused absences, school records shall specify that the grade was given because of excessive unexcused absences. (Education Code 49067)

GRADES/EVALUATION OF STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT (continued)

Grades for a student in foster care shall not be lowered if the student is absent from school 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 student's grades and credits shall be calculated as of the date the student left school
2. A verified court appearance or related court-ordered activity

Regulation
approved: June 19, 2003
revised: June 26, 2007
revised: September 13, 2011
reviewed: November 13, 2012

MORGAN HILL UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Morgan Hill, California

PROMOTION/ACCELERATION/RETENTION

Cautionary Notice: As added and amended by SBX3 4 (Ch. 12, Third Extraordinary Session, Statutes of 2009), ABX4 2 (Ch. 2, Fourth Extraordinary Session, Statutes of 2009), and SB 70 (Ch. 7, Statutes of 2011), Education Code 42605 grants districts flexibility in "Tier 3" categorical programs. The Morgan Hill Unified School District has accepted this flexibility and thus is deemed in compliance with the statutory or regulatory program and funding requirements for these programs for the 2008-09 through 2014-15 fiscal years. As a result, the district may temporarily suspend certain provisions of the following policy or regulation that reflect these requirements. For further information, please contact the Superintendent or designee.

Cautionary Notice: AB 1610 (Ch. 724, Statutes of 2010) amended Education Code 37252.2 and Government Code 17581.5 to relieve districts from the obligation, until July 1, 2013, to perform any activities that are deemed to be reimbursable state mandates under those sections. As a result certain provisions of the following policy or administrative regulation that reflect those requirements may be suspended.

The Governing Board expects students to progress through each grade level within one school year. To accomplish this, instruction should accommodate the variety of ways that students learn and include strategies for addressing academic deficiencies when needed.

Students shall progress through the grade levels by demonstrating growth in learning and meeting grade-level standards of expected student achievement.

(cf. 6011 - Academic Standards)

(cf. 6146.1 - High School Graduation Requirements)

(cf. 6146.5 - Elementary/Middle School Graduation Requirements)

(cf. 6162.52 - High School Exit Examination)

When high academic achievement is evident, the Superintendent or designee may recommend a student for acceleration into a higher grade level. The student's maturity level shall be taken into consideration in making a determination to accelerate a student.

As early as possible in the school year, the Superintendent or designee shall identify students who should be retained and who are at risk of being retained in accordance with law, Board policy, administrative regulation, and the following criteria.

Students shall be identified on the basis of the student's ability to pass the subjects and electives necessary to earn the required number of credits and the student's ability to meet the minimum levels of proficiency recommended by the State Board of Education and set by the Board.

(cf. 5149 - At-Risk Students)

(cf. 6162.5 - Student Assessment)

PROMOTION/ACCELERATION/RETENTION (continued)

(cf. 6162.51 - Standardized Testing and Reporting Program)

When any student in grades 2-9 is retained or recommended for retention, the Superintendent or designee shall offer programs of direct, systematic, and intensive supplemental instruction in accordance with Education Code 37252.2 and Board policy.

(cf. 6179 - Supplemental Instruction)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

37252-37254.1 *Supplemental instruction*
41505-41508 *Pupil Retention Block Grant*
46300 *Method of computing ADA*
48011 *Promotion/retention following one year of kindergarten*
48070-48070.5 *Promotion and retention*
48431.6 *Required systematic review of students and grading*
56345 *Elements of individualized education plan*
60641-60648 *Standardized Testing and Reporting Program*
60850-60859 *Exit examination*
CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5
200-202 *Admission and exclusion of students*

Management Resources:

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION MANAGEMENT ADVISORIES
0900.90 *Changes in Law Concerning Eligibility for Admission to Kindergarten 90-10*
CDE PUBLICATIONS
Performance Level Tables for the California Standards Tests and the California Alternative Performance Assessment
Parental Agreement Form: Agreement for Pupil to Continue in Kindergarten
LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S OPINION
Promotion and Retention #21610
WEB SITES
CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>
California Department of Education: <http://www.cde.ca.gov>

PROMOTION/ACCELERATION/RETENTION

Promotion

Students are expected to progress through the grade levels by demonstrating growth in learning and meeting state and district grade-level standards of expected student achievement.

Acceleration to First Grade

A student enrolled in kindergarten may be admitted to the first grade at the discretion of the Superintendent or designee and with the consent of the parent/guardian, upon determination that the child is ready for first-grade work. (Education Code 48011)

Admission shall be subject to the following minimum criteria: (5 CCR 200)

1. The student is at least five years of age.
2. The student has attended a public school kindergarten for a long enough time to enable school personnel to evaluate his/her ability.
3. The student is in the upper five percent of his/her age group in terms of general mental ability.
4. The physical development and social maturity of the student are consistent with his/her advanced mental ability.
5. The parent/guardian of the student has filed a written statement with the school district approving the placement in first grade.

Acceleration to Other Grade Levels

When the acceleration of a student is indicated, the teacher and/or school counselor shall immediately direct the case to the principal's attention. The principal shall convene a meeting with the parent, teacher and school counselor (if applicable), to discuss the relative merits and problems of acceleration. Consideration of alternatives will be explored. Whenever a decision is made to accelerate a student, the principal shall secure an agreement, signed by the parent/guardian, stating the conditions of the acceleration and the rationale for the decision. The principal shall assume responsibility for completing and filing a summary of all recommendations and actions taken relating to the decision to accelerate in the student's permanent record.

PROMOTION/ACCELERATION/RETENTION (continued)**Retention at the Kindergarten Level**

Students who have completed one year of kindergarten shall be admitted to first grade unless the parent/guardian and the Superintendent or designee agree that the student shall continue in kindergarten for not more than one additional school year. (Education Code 48011)

Whenever a student continues in kindergarten for an additional year, the Superintendent or designee shall secure an agreement, signed by the parent/guardian, stating that the student shall continue in kindergarten for not more than one additional school year. (Education Code 46300)

Retention at Other Grade Levels

Students may be retained at any grade level if, based upon test scores, grades, or other academic indicators, his or her teacher recommends retention. The Superintendent or designee shall identify students who should be retained or who are at risk of being retained at the following grade levels: (Education Code 48070.5)

1. Between grades 2 and 3
2. Between grades 3 and 4
3. Between grades 4 and 5
4. Between the end of the intermediate grades and the beginning of the middle school grades
5. Between the end of the middle school grades and the beginning of the high school grades

Students between grades 2 and 3 and grades 3 and 4 shall be identified primarily on the basis of their level of proficiency in reading; proficiency in reading, English language arts and mathematics shall be the basis for identifying students between grades 4 and 5; between intermediate and middle school grades, and between middle school grades and high school grades using the following criteria: (Education Code 48070.5)

Second to Third Grade (Reading only)

A student must meet at least one of the following applicable reading standards; otherwise, he or she shall be considered for retention in the second grade:

1. Running Record Level 18, or

PROMOTION/ACCELERATION/RETENTION (continued)

2. Below Basic on the California Standards Test (CST) in English/language arts, or
3. A student who has made satisfactory progress toward meeting his/her Individualized Education Program or 504 plan goals which are aligned to state and district standards when the handicapping condition is not related to the determination to retain, or
4. A designated English Language Learner who has made satisfactory progress toward acquiring English as measured by the Student English Learner Profile, test scores, grades, and/or other objective measures.

Third to Fourth Grade (Reading only)

A student must meet at least one of the following applicable reading standards; otherwise, he or she shall be considered for retention in the third grade:

1. Running Record Level 24, or
2. Twenty-fifth percentile on CAT 6 Reading Comprehension Sub Test, or
3. Below Basic on the California Standards Test (CST) in English/language arts, or
4. A student who has made satisfactory progress toward meeting his/her Individualized Education Program or 504 plan goals which are aligned to state and district standards when the handicapping condition is not related to the determination to retain, or
5. A designated English Language Learner who has made satisfactory progress toward acquiring English as measured by the Student English Learner Profile, test scores, grades, and/or other objective measures.

Fourth to Fifth Grade (Reading, Language Arts, and Mathematics)

A student must meet at least one of the following applicable standards in each of the three specified content areas of reading, language arts, and mathematics; otherwise, he or she shall be considered for retention in the fourth grade:

1. Reading
 - a. Running Record Level 26, or
 - b. Below Basic on the California Standards Test (CST) in English/language arts, or

PROMOTION/ACCELERATION/RETENTION (continued)

- c. A grade of C- or better in reading based on students meeting at least 60 percent of the standards, or
 - d. A student who has made satisfactory progress toward meeting his/her Individualized Education Program or 504 plan goals which are aligned to state and district standards when the handicapping condition is not related to the determination to retain, or
 - e. A designated English Language Learner who has made satisfactory progress toward acquiring English as measured by the Student English Learner Profile, test scores, grades, and/or other objective measures.
2. Language Arts
- a. Below Basic on the California Standards Test (CST) in English/language arts, or
 - b. A grade of C- or better in language based on students meeting at least 60 percent of the standards, or
 - c. A student who has made satisfactory progress toward meeting his/her Individualized Education Program or 504 plan goals which are aligned to state and district standards when the handicapping condition is not related to the determination to retain, or
 - d. A designated English Language Learner who has made satisfactory progress toward acquiring English as measured by the Student English Learner Profile, test scores, grades, and/or other objective measures.
3. Mathematics
- a. Below Basic on the California Standards Test (CST) in English/language arts, or
 - b. A grade of C- or better in mathematics based on student meeting at least 60 percent of the standards, or
 - c. A student who has made satisfactory progress toward meeting his/her Individualized Education Program or 504 plan goals which are aligned to state and district standards when the handicapping condition is not related to the determination to retain, or

PROMOTION/ACCELERATION/RETENTION (continued)

- d. A designated English Language Learner who has made satisfactory progress toward acquiring English as measured by the Student English Learner Profile, test scores, grades, and/or other objective measures.

Sixth to Seventh Grade (Reading, Language Arts, and Mathematics)

A student must meet at least one of the following applicable standards in each of the three specified content areas of reading, language arts, and mathematics; otherwise, he or she shall be considered for retention in the sixth grade:

1. Reading
 - a. Running Record Level 30, or
 - b. Below Basic on the California Standards Test (CST) in English/language arts, or
 - c. A grade of C- or better in reading based on student meeting at least 60 percent of the standards, or
 - d. A student who has made satisfactory progress toward meeting his/her Individualized Education Program or 504 plan goals which are aligned to state and district standards when the handicapping condition is not related to the determination to retain, or
 - e. A designated English Language Learner who has made satisfactory progress toward acquiring English as measured by the Student English Learner Profile, test scores, grades, and/or other objective measures.
2. Language Arts
 - a. Below Basic on the California Standards Test (CST) in English/language arts, or
 - b. A grade of C- or better in language based on student meeting at least 60 percent of the standards, or
 - c. A student who has made satisfactory progress toward meeting his/her Individualized Education Program or 504 plan goals which are aligned to state and district standards when the handicapping condition is not related to the determination to retain, or

PROMOTION/ACCELERATION/RETENTION (continued)

- d. A designated English Language Learner who has made satisfactory progress toward acquiring English as measured by the Student English Learner Profile, test scores, grades, and/or other objective measures.
3. Mathematics
 - a. Below Basic on the California Standards Test (CST) in Mathematics, or
 - b. A grade of C- or better based on student meeting at least 60 percent of the standards, or
 - c. A student who has made satisfactory progress toward meeting his/her Individualized Education Program or 504 plan goals which are aligned to state and district standards when the handicapping condition is not related to the determination to retain, or
 - d. A designated English Language Learner who has made satisfactory progress toward acquiring English as measured by the Student English Learner Profile, test scores, grades, and/or other objective measures.

Eighth to Ninth Grade (Reading, Language Arts, and Mathematics)

A student must meet at least one of the following applicable standards in each of the three specified content areas of reading, language arts, and mathematics; otherwise, he or she shall be considered for retention in the eighth grade:

1. Reading
 - a. Below Basic on the California Standards Test (CST) in English/language arts, or
 - b. A grade of C- or better based on student meeting at least 60 percent of the standards, or
 - c. A student who has made satisfactory progress toward meeting his/her Individualized Education Program or 504 plan goals which are aligned to state and district standards when the handicapping condition is not related to the determination to retain, or
 - d. A designated English Language Learner who has made satisfactory progress toward acquiring English as measured by the Student English Learner Profile, test scores, grades, and/or other objective measures.

PROMOTION/ACCELERATION/RETENTION (continued)

2. Language Arts
 - a. Below Basic on the California Standards Test (CST) in English/language arts, or
 - b. A grade of C- or better based on students meeting at least 60 percent of the standards, or
 - c. A student who has made satisfactory progress toward meeting his/her Individualized Education Program or 504 plan goals which are aligned to state and district standards when the handicapping condition is not related to the determination to retain, or
 - d. A designated English Language Learner who has made satisfactory progress toward acquiring English as measured by the Student English Learner Profile, test scores, grades, and/or other objective measures.

3. Mathematics
 - a. Below Basic on the California Standards Test (CST) in mathematics, or
 - b. A grade of C- or better based on students meeting at least 60 percent of the standards, or
 - c. A student who has made satisfactory progress toward meeting his/her Individualized Education Program or 504 plan goals which are aligned to state and district standards when the handicapping condition is not related to the determination to retain, or
 - d. A designated English Language Learner who has made satisfactory progress toward acquiring English as measured by the Student English Learner Profile, test scores, grades, and/or other objective measures

Right of Teacher to Waive Criteria

If a student is identified as performing below the minimum standard for promotion, the student shall be retained in his/her current grade level unless the student's regular classroom teacher determines, in writing, that retention is not the appropriate intervention for the student's academic deficiencies. This determination shall specify the reasons that retention is not appropriate for the student and shall include recommendations for interventions other than retention that, in the opinion of the teacher, are necessary to assist the student in attaining acceptable levels of academic achievement. (Education Code 48070.5)

PROMOTION/ACCELERATION/RETENTION (continued)

Similarly, if the student is determined to have met one or more of the promotion criteria the student shall be promoted to the next grade level unless the student's regular classroom teacher determine, in writing, that promotion is not warranted.

Conditional Promotion

If the teacher's recommendation to promote is contingent on the student's participation in a summer school or interim session remediation program, the student's academic performance shall be reassessed at the end of the remediation program, and the decision to retain or promote the student shall be reevaluated at that time. The teacher's evaluation shall be provided to and discussed with the student's parents/guardians and the principal before any final determination of retention or promotion. (Education Code 48070.5)

(cf. 6179 - Supplemental Instruction)

Designation of Responsible Teacher

If the student does not have a single regular classroom teacher, the principal or designee shall specify the teacher(s) responsible for the decision to promote or retain the student. (Education Code 48070.5)

Parent Notification

When a student is identified as being at risk of retention, the Superintendent or designee shall so notify the student's parent/guardian as early in the school year as practicable. Whenever possible, this notification shall occur at the elementary level no later than the fall parent/teacher conferences or the end of the first trimester reporting period. At the secondary level, this notification shall occur by the end of the first semester. The student's parent/guardian shall be provided an opportunity to consult with the teacher(s) responsible for the decision to promote or retain the student. (Education Code 48070.5)

(cf. 5145.6 - Parental Notifications)

The Superintendent or designee shall also provide a copy of the district's promotion/retention policy and administrative regulation to those parents/guardians who have been notified that their child is at risk of retention.

Parent/Guardian Appeal Process

The teacher's decision to promote or retain a student may be appealed consistent with Governing Board policy, administrative regulation and law.

PROMOTION/ACCELERATION/RETENTION (continued)

The burden shall be on the appealing party to show why the teacher's decision should be overruled. (Education Code 48070.5)

To appeal a teacher's decision, the appealing party shall submit a written request to the Superintendent or designee specifying the reasons that the teacher's decision should be overruled. The appeal must be initiated within 10 school days of the determination of retention or promotion. The teacher shall be provided an opportunity to state orally and/or in writing the criteria on which his/her decision was based.

Within 15 days of receiving the request, the Superintendent or designee shall determine whether or not to overrule the teacher's decision. Prior to making this determination, the Superintendent or designee may meet with the appealing party and the teacher. If the Superintendent or designee determines that the appealing party has overwhelmingly proven that the teacher's decision should be overruled, he/she shall overrule the teacher's decision.

The Superintendent or designee's determination may be appealed by submitting a written appeal to the Board within 10 school days. Within 30 calendar days of receipt of a written appeal, the Board shall meet in closed session to decide the appeal. The Board's decision may be made on the basis of documentation prepared as part of the appeal process or, at the discretion of the Governing Board, the Board may also meet with the appealing party, the teacher and the Superintendent/ designee to decide the appeal. The decision of the Board shall be final.

(cf. 9321 - Closed Session Purposes and Agendas)

If the decision of the Board is unfavorable to the appealing party, he/she shall have the right to submit a written statement of objections which shall become part of the student's record.

(cf. 1312.3 - Uniform Complaint Procedures)

(cf. 1312.4 - Williams Complaint Procedures)

(cf. 5125 - Student Records)

(cf. 5125.3 - Challenging Student Records)

Supplemental Instructional Programs

With the consent of the parent/guardian, the Superintendent or designee may require a student who has been recommended for retention or has been identified as being at risk of retention to participate in a supplemental instructional program. Such programs shall be offered during the summer, after school, on Saturdays and/or during intersessions. Services shall not be provided during the regular instructional day if it would result in the student being removed from classroom instruction in the core curriculum.

These services shall be provided to students in the following priority order:

1. Students who have been recommended for retention or who have been identified as being at risk of retention pursuant to Education Code 48070.5

PROMOTION/ACCELERATION/RETENTION (continued)

2. Students who have been identified as having a deficiency in mathematics, reading or written expression based on the results of the test administered under the STAR program
3. Other students

This supplemental instruction program shall be developed in accordance with the requirements of Education Code 37252.5

(cf. 6179 - Supplemental Instruction)

Regulation
approved: January 11, 1982
revised: May 24, 1999
revised: March 13, 2007
reviewed: November 13, 2012

MORGAN HILL UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Morgan Hill, California

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS**High School Graduation Requirements**

The Governing Board desires to prepare each student to obtain a diploma of high school graduation in order to provide students with opportunities for postsecondary education and/or employment.

In April 2012, the Morgan Hill Unified Board took action calling for the class of 2017 to meet all UC/CSU A-G requirements. This would mean that entering 9th graders in 2013 will have course work in place for them to meet this goal.

To qualify for a diploma of graduation, a student must satisfactorily complete 220 credits in grades 9-12. While all students will follow the program shown, the principal or his/her designee has the prerogative of adjusting individual student programs to meet specific personal and educational need. English learner students, special education students and those who can demonstrate academic need may qualify to request exemption status from the A-G graduation requirements.

Credit Requirements**Comprehensive High School (beginning with the class of 2017)**

Beginning with the class of 2017, to obtain a diploma of graduation from a comprehensive high school, students shall complete at least 220 credits including the following course credits in grades 9-12:

1. 40 English credits
2. 30 Social Studies credits including:
 - 10 World History
 - 10 United States History
 - 5 Civics
 - 5 Economics
3. 30 Mathematics credits
(At least one mathematics course shall meet or exceed state academic content standards for Algebra I. Up to 10 of the 30 credits required in math may be met by taking Algebra I and/or geometry in middle school. However these middle school courses cannot be used to meet the 220 high school credit graduation requirement.)
4. 20 Science Credits including:
 - 10 Physical Science
 - 10 Life Science
5. 20 Physical Education Credits

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS (continued)

6. 20 credits that are taken in World Language (up to 10 credits required in World language may be taken in middle school. However, these middle school courses cannot be used to meet the 220 high school credit graduation requirement)
7. 10 credits taken in Visual and Performing Arts
8. 10 credits taken in Career and Technical Education
9. 40 additional A-G or applied arts electives of the students choice

Comprehensive High School (from the class of 2009 through the class of 2016)

Beginning with the class of 2009 through the class of 2016, to obtain a diploma of graduation from a comprehensive high school, students shall complete at least 220 credits including the following course credits by grade 12:

1. 40 English credits
2. 30 Social Studies credits including:
 - 10 World History
 - 10 United States History
 - 5 Civics
 - 5 Economics
3. 30 Mathematics credits
(At least one mathematics course shall meet or exceed state academic content standards for Algebra I. Up to 10 of the 30 credits required in math may be met by taking Algebra I and/or geometry in middle school. However these middle school courses cannot be used to meet the 220 high school credit graduation requirement.)
4. 20 Science Credits including:
 - 10 Physical Science
 - 10 Life Science
5. 20 Physical Education Credits
6. 20 Credits that are a combination of any two of the three areas – Applied Arts, Visual and Performing Arts, World Language. (Up to 10 credits required in World Language may be taken in middle school. However, these middle school courses cannot be used to meet the 220 high school credit graduation requirement.)

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS (continued)

7. 60 Additional credits of the student's choice

In the case of a course that is listed in more than one subject area, a student may apply such a course to only one subject area requirement.

Continuation High School

Beginning with the class of 2009 to obtain a diploma of graduation from a continuation high school, students shall complete at least 220 credits including the following course credits by grade 12:

1. 40 English credits
2. 30 Social Studies credits including:
 - 10 World History
 - 10 United States History
 - 5 Civics
 - 5 Economics
3. 30 Mathematics credits
(At least one mathematics course shall meet or exceed state academic content standards for Algebra I. Up to 10 of the 30 credits required in math may be met by taking Algebra I and/or geometry in middle school. However these middle school courses cannot be used to meet the 220 high school credit graduation requirement.)
4. 20 Science Credits including:
 - 10 Physical Science
 - 10 Life Science
5. 20 Physical Education Credits
6. 20 Credits that are a combination of any two of the three areas – Applied Arts, Visual and Performing Arts, World Language. (Up to 10 credits required in World Language may be taken in middle school. However, these middle school courses cannot be used to meet the 220 high school credit graduation requirement.)
7. 60 Additional credits of the student's choice

In the case of a course that is listed in more than one subject area, a student may apply such a course to only one subject area requirement.

Student Class Designation

Students earn 5 units of credit per semester course passed. Students' class designation will be based upon earned credits:

1. 0-39 earned credits – Freshman

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS (continued)

2. 40-99 earned credits – Sophomore
3. 100-159 earned credits – Junior
4. 160-completion (220 required to graduate) – Senior

Course Load

All 9th, 10th, and 11th grade students at the comprehensive high schools are required to take 6 classes each semester. All 12th grade students at the comprehensive high schools are required to take a minimum of 5 classes each semester.

Conditions for Meeting Graduation Requirements

Courses taken in summer school may apply toward meeting course requirements.

Enrollment in physical education is required in grade 9. An additional 10 units is required in grades 10-12. Additional physical education courses may be taken for elective credit in grades 10-12.

220 units represent a minimum requirement. Students are encouraged to earn at least 240 units of credit prior to receiving a diploma.

Supplemental Methods of Earning Credit for Graduation

In addition to credits earned through attendance at district schools, full credit may be accepted (with principal approval) for comparable work successfully completed through the following:

1. Courses offered by other public high schools;
2. Portable Assisted Study Sequence (PASS) Program;
3. Courses offered by accredited private high schools;
4. Concurrent enrollment in community college or accredited college or university as provided for in the Education Code (Dual credit may be awarded);
5. Courses offered by regional occupational centers or programs;
6. University of California high school correspondence courses;
7. Courses offered by an accredited adult school; and/or

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS (continued)

8. Courses offered through the district's Independent Study program.

The Board shall grant to a pupil for the satisfactory completion of work experience education established under Education Code 51760 credit in an amount not to exceed a total of 40 semester credits made up of one or a combination of two or more of the following types:

1. For Exploratory Work Experience Education: 10 credits for each semester, with a maximum of 20 credits earned in two semesters.
2. For General Work Experience Education: 10 credits for each semester with a maximum of 40 credits.
3. For Vocational Work Experience Education: 10 credits for each semester with a maximum of 40 credits.

Alternative Means of Meeting Course Requirements

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.

Issuance of Diplomas

Students will receive a diploma from the district school in which they were last regularly enrolled and attending classes.

Students must complete all graduation requirements in order to participate in graduation exercises or receive a diploma. Students who do not meet all requirements after eight full semesters (grades 9-12) may complete their high school graduation requirements and receive a diploma from the last regular school of attendance by:

1. Enrollment in summer school immediately following the student's eighth semester, provided no more than 10 units are required for graduation;
2. Enrollment as a fifth-year student if less than 18 years of age at the time of enrollment, or if enrollment is in the semester which follows the student's eighth semester; or

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS (continued)

3. Completion of course work equivalent to that not completed at the high school by enrolling in and receiving credits from:
 - a community college,
 - an accredited adult school,
 - an accredited private school,
 - another public high school, and/or
 - University of California high school correspondence or online courses.

Exit Exam Beginning with the Class of 2006

Beginning in the 2005-2006 school year, each student completing grade 12 shall have successfully passed the state exit examination in language arts and mathematics as a condition of high school graduation. Supplemental instruction shall be offered to any student who does not demonstrate “sufficient progress,” as defined in Board policy, toward passing the exit examination. (See Board Policies 6162.52 - High School Exit Examination and 6179 - Supplemental Instruction.)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

35186 *Williams Uniform Complaint Procedures*

37252 *Supplemental instructional programs*

37254 *Supplemental instruction based on failure to pass exit exam by end of grade 12*

37254.1 *Required student participation in supplemental instruction*

47612 *Enrollment in charter school*

48200 *Compulsory attendance*

48412 *Certificate of proficiency*

48430 *Continuation education schools and classes*

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS (continued)

- 48645.5 Acceptance of coursework*
 - 48980 Required notification at beginning of term*
 - 49701 Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children*
 - 51224 Skills and knowledge required for adult life*
 - 51224.5 Algebra instruction*
 - 51225.3 Requirements for graduation*
 - 51225.5 Honorary diplomas; foreign exchange students*
 - 51228 Graduation requirements*
 - 51240-51246 Exemptions from requirements*
 - 51250-51251 Assistance to military dependents*
 - 51410-51412 Diplomas*
 - 51420-51427 High school equivalency certificates*
 - 51450-51455 Golden State Seal Merit Diploma*
 - 51745 Independent study restrictions*
 - 52378 Supplemental school counseling program*
 - 56390-56392 Recognition for educational achievement, special education*
 - 60850-60859 High school exit examination*
 - 66204 Certification of high school courses as meeting university admissions criteria*
- CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5
- 1600-1651 Graduation of students from grade 12 and credit toward graduation*
- COURT DECISIONS
- O'Connell v. Superior Court (Valenzuela), (2006) 141 Cal.App.4th 1452*

Management Resources:

WEB SITES

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

California Department of Education, High School: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/gs/hs>

University of California, List of Approved a-g Courses:

<http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/admissions/freshman/requirements>

Policy

adopted: June 6, 2005

revised: September 25, 2007

reviewed: November 13, 2012

MORGAN HILL UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Morgan Hill, California

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Notifications

Requirements for graduation and specified alternative means for completing the prescribed course of study shall be made available to students, parents/guardians, and the public. (Education Code 51225.3)

(cf. 6146.11 - Alternative Credits Toward Graduation)

(cf. 6145.6 - International Exchange)

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

DIFFERENTIAL GRADUATION AND COMPETENCY STANDARDS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

The Governing Board recognizes that students with disabilities are entitled to a course of study that provides them with a free appropriate public education (FAPE) and that modifications to the district's regular course may be needed on an individualized basis to provide FAPE. In accordance with law, each student's individualized education program (IEP) team shall determine the appropriate goals, as well as any appropriate individual accommodations necessary for measuring the academic achievement and functional performance of the student on state and districtwide assessments.

(cf. 6159 - Individualized Education Program)

(cf. 6159.1 - Procedural Safeguards and Complaints for Special Education)

(cf. 6162.51 - Standardized Testing and Reporting Program)

(cf. 6162.52 - High School Exit Examination)

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

Certificate of Educational Achievement or Completion

Instead of a high school diploma, a student with disabilities may be awarded a certificate or document of educational achievement or completion if the student has met one of the following requirements: (Education Code 56390)

1. Satisfactorily completed a prescribed alternative course of study approved by the board of the district in which the student attended school or the district with jurisdiction over the student as identified in his/her IEP
2. Satisfactorily met his/her IEP goals and objectives during high school as determined by the IEP team
3. Satisfactorily attended high school, participated in the instruction as prescribed in his/her IEP, and met the objectives of the statement of transition services

(cf. 6146.1 - High School Graduation Requirements)

A student with disabilities who meets any of the criteria specified above shall be eligible to participate in any graduation ceremony and any school activity related to graduation in which a graduating student of similar age without disabilities would be eligible to participate. (Education Code 56391)

(cf. 5127 - Graduation Ceremonies and Activities)

**DIFFERENTIAL GRADUATION AND COMPETENCY STANDARDS FOR
STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES** (continued)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

56341 Individualized education program team

56345 Elements of the IEP

56390-56392 Certificate of completion, special education

60850-60859 High school exit examination

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

3070 Graduation

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 20

1400-1482 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act

CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 34

300.1-300.818 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, especially:

300.320 Definition of IEP

Management Resources:

WEB SITES

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

U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services:

<http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/osers/index.html?src=mr>

INTRADISTRICT OPEN ENROLLMENT

The Governing Board desires to provide enrollment options that meet the diverse needs and interests of district students and parents/guardians, while also balancing enrollment in order to maximize the efficient use of district facilities. The Superintendent or designee shall establish procedures for the selection and transfer of students among district schools in accordance with law, Board policy, and administrative regulation.

(cf. 5117 - Interdistrict Attendance)

The parents/guardians of any student who resides within district boundaries may apply to enroll their child in any district school, regardless of the location of residence within the district. (Education Code 35160.5)

(cf. 5111.1 - District Residency)

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

(cf. 5111.13 - Residency for Homeless Children)

The Board shall annually review this policy. (Education Code 35160.5, 48980)

Enrollment Priorities

No student currently residing within a school's attendance area shall be displaced by another student transferring from outside the attendance area. (Education Code 35160.5)

(cf. 5116 - School Attendance Boundaries)

The Superintendent or designee shall grant priority to any district student to attend another district school, including a charter school, outside of his/her attendance area as follows:

1. Any student enrolled in a district school that has been identified on the state's Open Enrollment List. (Education Code 48354)

(cf. 5118 - Open Enrollment Act Transfers)

2. Any student enrolled in a district school receiving Title I funds that has been identified for program improvement (PI), corrective action, or restructuring. (20 USC 6316)

(cf. 0420.4 - Charter Schools)

(cf. 0520.2 - Title I Program Improvement Schools)

(cf. 6171 - Title I Programs)

3. Any student enrolled in a district school designated by the California Department of Education as "persistently dangerous." (20 USC 7912; 5 CCR 11992)

(cf. 0450 - Comprehensive Safety Plan)

INTRADISTRICT OPEN ENROLLMENT (continued)

4. Any student who is a victim of a violent crime while on school grounds. (20 USC 7912)
5. Upon a finding that special circumstances exist that might be harmful or dangerous to the student in the current attendance area. Special circumstances, include, but are not limited to, threats of bodily harm or threats to the emotional stability of the student. Any such student may transfer to a district school that is at capacity and otherwise closed to transfers.

To grant priority under these circumstances, the Superintendent or designee must have received either: (Education Code 35160.5)

- a. A written statement from a representative of an appropriate state or local agency, such as a law enforcement official, social worker, or a properly licensed or registered professional, such as a psychiatrist, psychologist, or marriage and family therapist
 - b. A court order, including a temporary restraining order and injunction
6. Any sibling of a student already in attendance in that school.
 7. Any student whose parent/guardian is an employee.

Application and Selection Process

In order to ensure that priorities for enrollment in district schools are implemented in accordance with law, applications for intradistrict open enrollment shall be submitted between the first Thursday of attendance in January through the twentieth day of the school year for which the request is being made. Parents who have not received notification of available space from the school of choice by October 1st must submit a new application during the next official open enrollment period.

The Superintendent or designee shall calculate each school's capacity in a nonarbitrary manner using student enrollment and available space. (Education Code 35160.5)

Except for priorities listed above, the Superintendent or designee shall use a random, unbiased selection process to determine who shall be admitted whenever the school receives admission requests that are in excess of the school's capacity. (Education Code 35160.5)

Enrollment decisions shall not be based on a student's academic or athletic performance, except that existing entrance criteria for specialized schools or programs may be used provided that the criteria are uniformly applied to all applicants. Academic performance may be used to determine eligibility for, or placement in, programs for gifted and talented students. (Education Code 35160.5)

INTRADISTRICT OPEN ENROLLMENT (continued)

(cf. 6172 - Gifted and Talented Student Program)

Transportation

Except as required by 20 USC 6316 for transfers out of Title I PI schools, the district shall not be obligated to provide transportation for students who attend school outside their attendance area.

(cf. 3250 - Transportation Fees)

(cf. 3540 - Transportation)

Legal Reference: (see next page)

INTRADISTRICT OPEN ENROLLMENT (continued)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

200 Prohibition against discrimination

35160.5 District policies; rules and regulations

35291 Rules

35351 Assignment of students to particular schools

46600-46611 Interdistrict attendance agreements

48200 Compulsory attendance

48204 Residency requirements for school attendance

48300-48316 Student attendance alternatives, school district of choice program

48350-48361 Open Enrollment Act

48980 Notice at beginning of term

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

11992-11994 Definition of persistently dangerous schools

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 20

6316 Transfers from program improvement schools

7912 Transfers from persistently dangerous schools

CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 34

200.36 Dissemination of information

200.37 Notice of program improvement status, option to transfer

200.39 Program improvement, transfer option

200.42 Corrective action, transfer option

200.43 Restructuring, transfer option

200.44 Public school choice, program improvement schools

200.48 Transportation funding for public school choice

COURT DECISIONS

Crawford v. Huntington Beach Union High School District, (2002) 98 Cal.App.4th 1275

ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINIONS

85 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 95 (2002)

Management Resources:

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION NONREGULATORY GUIDANCE

Public School Choice, January 2009

Unsafe School Choice Option, May 2004

WEB SITES

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

California Department of Education, Unsafe School Choice Option:

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/lr/ss/se/usco.asp>

U.S. Department of Education, No Child Left Behind: <http://www.nclb.gov>

Policy

adopted: November 13, 2012

MORGAN HILL UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Morgan Hill, California

INTRADISTRICT OPEN ENROLLMENT**Transfers for Victims of a Violent Criminal Offense**

Within a reasonable amount of time, not to exceed 14 days, after it has been determined that a student has been the victim of a violent criminal offense while on school grounds, the student's parents/guardians shall be offered an option to transfer their child to an eligible school identified by the Superintendent or designee. In making the determination that a student has been a victim of a violent criminal offense, the Superintendent or designee shall consider the specific circumstances of the incident and consult with local law enforcement as appropriate. Examples of violent criminal offenses include, but are not limited to, attempted murder, battery with serious bodily injury, assault with a deadly weapon, rape, sexual battery, robbery, extortion, or hate crimes.

The Superintendent or designee shall consider the needs and preferences of the affected student and his/her parent/guardian in making the offer. If the parent/guardian elects to transfer his/her child, the transfer shall be completed as soon as practicable.

Transfers from a "Persistently Dangerous" School

Upon receipt of notification from the California Department of Education (CDE) that a district school has been designated as "persistently dangerous," the Superintendent or designee shall provide parents/guardians of students attending the school with the following notifications:

1. Within 10 days of receipt of the notification from CDE, notice of the school's designation
2. Within 20 days of receipt of the notification from CDE, notice of the option to transfer their child

(cf. 0450 - Comprehensive Safety Plan)

Parents/guardians who desire to transfer their child out of a "persistently dangerous" school shall provide a written request to the Superintendent or designee and shall rank-order their preferences from among all schools identified by the Superintendent or designee as eligible to receive transfer students. The Superintendent or designee may establish a reasonable timeline, not to exceed seven school days, for the submission of parent/guardian requests.

The Superintendent or designee shall consider the needs and preferences of students and parents/guardians before making an assignment, but is not obligated to accept the parent/guardian's preference if the assignment is not feasible due to space constraints or other considerations. For students whose parents/guardians accept the offer, the transfer shall generally be made within 30 school days of receiving the notice of the school's designation from the CDE. If parents/guardians decline the assigned school, the student may remain in his/her current school.

INTRADISTRICT OPEN ENROLLMENT (continued)

The transfer shall remain in effect as long as the student's school of origin is identified as "persistently dangerous." The Superintendent or designee may choose to make the transfer permanent based on the educational needs of the student, parent/guardian preferences, and other factors affecting the student's ability to succeed if returned to the school of origin.

The Superintendent or designee shall cooperate with neighboring districts to develop an interdistrict transfer program in the event that space is not available in a district school.

(cf. 5117 - Interdistrict Attendance)

Other Intradistrict Open Enrollment

Except for transfers for victims of a violent crime and from a "persistently dangerous school," the following procedures shall apply to intradistrict open enrollment:

1. The Superintendent or designee shall identify those schools which may have space available for additional students. A list of those schools and open enrollment applications shall be available at each school site, the district office, and on the district's web site.
2. After the enrollment priorities have been applied in accordance with Board policy, if there are more requests for a particular school than there are spaces available, a random drawing shall be held from the applicant pool. A waiting list shall be established to indicate the order in which applicants may be accepted if openings occur during the year. Late applicants shall not be added to the waiting list for the current year but shall instead wait for a subsequent lottery.
3. The Superintendent or designee shall provide written notification to applicants as to whether their applications have been approved, denied, or placed on a waiting list. If the application is denied, the reasons for denial shall be stated.
4. Approved applicants must confirm their enrollment within 10 school days.

Once enrolled, a student shall not be required to reapply for readmission. However, the student may be subject to displacement due to excessive enrollment.

Any complaints regarding the open enrollment process shall be submitted in accordance with the applicable complaint procedure.

(cf. 1312.3 - Uniform Complaint Procedures)

INTRADISTRICT OPEN ENROLLMENT (continued)

Notifications

Notifications shall be sent to parents/guardians at the beginning of each school year describing all current statutory attendance options and local attendance options available in the district. Such notification shall include: (Education Code 35160.5, 48980)

1. All options for meeting residency requirements for school attendance

(cf. 5111.1 - District Residency)

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

(cf. 5111.13 - Residency for Homeless Children)

(cf. 5118 - Open Enrollment Act Transfers)

2. Program options offered within local attendance areas
3. A description of any special program options available on both an interdistrict and intradistrict basis
4. A description of the procedure for application for alternative attendance areas or programs and the appeals process available, if any, when a change of attendance is denied
5. A district application form for requesting a change of attendance
6. The explanation of attendance options under California law as provided by the CDE

(cf. 5145.6 - Parental Notifications)

ADMISSION

The Governing Board encourages the enrollment and appropriate placement of all school-aged children in school. The Superintendent or designee shall inform parents/guardians of students entering a district school at any grade level about admission requirements and shall assist them with enrollment procedures.

The Superintendent or designee shall verify the student's age, residency, and any other admission criteria specified in law and in Board policies and administrative regulations.

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

(cf. 5111.1 - District Residency)

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

(cf. 5119 - Students Expelled from Other Districts)

(cf. 5125 - Student Records)

(cf. 5141.3 - Health Examinations)

(cf. 5141.31 - Immunizations)

(cf. 5141.32 - Health Screening for School Entry)

(cf. 6173 - Education for Homeless Children)

(cf. 6173.1 - Education for Foster Youth)

(cf. 6173.2 - Education of Children of Military Families)

All resident students who are enrolling either in the school in their attendance area or in another district school shall be subject to the timelines established by the Board in BP/AR 5116.1 - Intradistrict Open Enrollment. Nonresident students may apply for interdistrict attendance in accordance with the timelines specified in applicable Board policies and administrative regulations.

(cf. 5116.1 - Intradistrict Open Enrollment)

(cf. 5117 - Interdistrict Attendance)

(cf. 5118 - Open Enrollment Act Transfers)

Legal Reference: (see next page)

ADMISSION (continued)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

- 46300 *Computation of average daily attendance, inclusion of kindergarten and transitional kindergarten*
- 46600 *Agreements for admission of students desiring interdistrict attendance*
- 48000 *Minimum age of admission (kindergarten)*
- 48002 *Evidence of minimum age required to enter kindergarten or first grade*
- 48010 *Minimum age of admission (first grade)*
- 48011 *Admission from kindergarten or other school; minimum age*
- 48050-48053 *Nonresidents*
- 48200 *Children between ages of 6 and 18 years (compulsory full-time education)*
- 48350-48361 *Open Enrollment Act*
- 48850-48859 *Educational placement of foster youth*
- 49076 *Access to records by persons without written consent or under judicial order*
- 49408 *Information of use in emergencies*
- 49700-49704 *Education of children of military families*

HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE

- 120325-120380 *Education and child care facility immunization requirements*
- 121475-121520 *Tuberculosis tests for students*

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

- 200 *Promotion from kindergarten to first grade*
- 201 *Admission to high school*

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 17

- 6000-6075 *School attendance immunization requirements*

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 42

- 11431-11435 *McKinney Homeless Assistance Act*

Management Resources:

CSBA PUBLICATIONS

Transitional Kindergarten, Issue Brief, July 2011

OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PUBLICATIONS

Dear Colleague Letter, May 6, 2011

WEB SITES

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

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

Office for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education:

<http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr>

Policy
adopted: November 13, 2012

MORGAN HILL UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Morgan Hill, California

ADMISSION

Age of Admittance to Grades K-1

A child shall be eligible for enrollment in kindergarten or first grade, at the beginning of the school year or at a later time in the same year, if the child has his/her fifth or sixth birthday, respectively, on or before one of the following dates: (Education Code 48000, 48010)

1. November 1 of the 2012-13 school year
2. October 1 of the 2013-14 school year
3. September 1 of the 2014-15 school year and each school year thereafter

Any child who will have his/her fifth birthday between the date listed above for the applicable school year and December 2 shall be offered a transitional kindergarten program in accordance with law and Board policy. (Education Code 48000)

(cf. 5123 - Promotion/Acceleration/Retention)

(cf. 6170.1 - Transitional Kindergarten)

Documentation of Age/Grade

Prior to the admission of a child to kindergarten or first grade, the parent/guardian shall present proof of the child's age. (Education Code 48002)

Evidence of the child's age may include: (Education Code 48002)

1. A certified copy of a birth certificate or a statement by the local registrar or county recorder certifying the date of birth
2. A duly attested baptism certificate
3. Passport

When none of the foregoing is obtainable, the parent/guardian may provide any other appropriate means of proving the age of the child. (Education Code 48002)

A student enrolling in a district school at any other grade level shall present records from his/her previous school district documenting his/her age and current grade level.

(cf. 5125 - Student Records)

(cf. 6146.3 - Reciprocity of Academic Credit)

STUDENT USE OF TECHNOLOGY**Student Use of Technology**

The Governing Board intends that technological resources provided by the district be used in a safe, responsible, and proper manner in support of the instructional program and for the advancement of student learning.

(cf. 4040 - Employee Use of Technology)

(cf. 5131 - Conduct)

The Superintendent or designee shall notify students and parents/guardians about authorized uses of district computers, user obligations and responsibilities, and consequences for unauthorized use and/or unlawful activities in accordance with district regulations and the district's Acceptable Use Agreement.

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

(cf. 5130 - Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process)

(cf. 5130.1 - Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process (Students with Disabilities))

Before a student is authorized to use the district's technological resources, the student and his/her parent/guardian shall sign and return the Morgan Hill Unified School District's Computer/Internet/Email Acceptable Use Agreement specifying user obligations and responsibilities. In that agreement, the student and his/her parent/guardian shall agree not to hold the district or any district staff responsible for the failure of any technology protection measures, materials acquired by the student on the system, violations of copyright restrictions, or user mistakes or negligence. They shall also agree to indemnify and hold harmless the district and district personnel for any damages or costs incurred.

(cf. 6161.2 - Use of Copyrighted Materials)

The Superintendent or designee shall regularly review and update this policy, the accompanying administrative regulation, and other relevant procedures to enhance the safety and security of students using the district's technological resources and to help ensure that the district adapts to changing technologies and circumstances. These shall ensure that users have no expectation of privacy and understand that district staff may monitor or examine all system activities to ensure proper use of the system. In addition, because the Internet contains an unregulated collection of resources, the district cannot guarantee the accuracy of the information or the appropriateness of any material that a student may encounter.

Students who fail to abide by these regulations shall be subject to disciplinary action, revocation of the user account, and legal action as appropriate.

STUDENT USE OF TECHNOLOGY (continued)**Use of District Computers for Online Services/Internet Access**

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that all district computers with Internet access have a technology protection measure that blocks or filters Internet access to visual depictions that are obscene, child pornography, or harmful to minors and that the operation of such measures is enforced. (20 USC 6777, 47 USC 254)

To reinforce these measures, the Superintendent or designee shall implement rules and procedures designed to restrict students' access to harmful or inappropriate matter on the Internet and to ensure that students do not engage in unauthorized or unlawful online activities. Staff shall supervise students while they are using online services and may have teacher aides, student aides, and volunteers assist in this supervision.

The Superintendent or designee also shall establish regulations to address the safety and security of students and student information when using email, chat rooms, and other forms of direct electronic communication.

The Superintendent or designee shall provide age-appropriate instruction regarding safe and appropriate behavior on social networking sites, chat rooms, and other internet services. Such instruction shall include, but not be limited to, the dangers of posting personal information online, misrepresentation by online predators, how to report inappropriate or offensive content or threats, behaviors that constitute cyberbullying, and how to respond when subjected to cyberbullying.

*Legal Reference:*EDUCATION CODE*51006 Computer education and resources**51007 Programs to strengthen technological skills**51870-51874 Education technology**60044 Prohibited instructional materials*PENAL CODE*313 Harmful matter**502 Computer crimes, remedies**632 Eavesdropping on or recording confidential communications**653.2 Electronic communication devices, threats to safety*UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 15*6501-6506 Children's Online Privacy Protection Act*UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 20*6751-6777 Enhancing Education Through Technology Act, Title II, Part D, especially:**6777 Internet safety*UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 47*254 Universal service discounts (E-rate)*

STUDENT USE OF TECHNOLOGY (continued)

CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 16

312.1-312.12 Children's Online Privacy Protection Act

CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 47

54.520 Internet safety policy and technology protection measures, E-rate discounts

Management Resources:

CSBA PUBLICATIONS

Cyberbullying: Policy Considerations for Boards, Policy Brief, July 2007

FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION PUBLICATIONS

How to Protect Kids' Privacy Online: A Guide for Teachers, December 2000

MY SPACE.COM PUBLICATIONS

The Official School Administrator's Guide to Understanding MySpace and Resolving Social Networking Issues

WEB SITES

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

American Library Association: <http://www.ala.org>

California Coalition for Children's Internet Safety: <http://www.cybersafety.ca.gov>

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

Center for Safe and Responsible Internet Use: <http://csriu.org>

Federal Communications Commission: <http://www.fcc.gov>

Federal Trade Commission, Children's Online Privacy Protection:

<http://www.ftc.gov/privacy/privacyinitiatives/childrens.html>

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

Web Wise Kids: <http://www.webwisekids.org>

Policy

adopted: April 21, 1997

revised: August 28, 2000

revised: June 26, 2012

reviewed: November 13, 2012

MORGAN HILL UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Morgan Hill, California

STUDENT USE OF TECHNOLOGY**Student Use of Technology**

At the beginning of each school year, parents/guardians shall sign a copy of the Morgan Hill Unified School District Computer System/Internet/E-Mail Acceptable Use Agreement informing them of user obligations and responsibilities.

The principal or designee shall oversee the maintenance of each school's technological resources and may establish guidelines and limits on their use. All instructional staff shall receive a copy of this administrative regulation, the accompanying Board policy, and the district's Acceptable Use Agreement describing expectations for appropriate use of the system and shall also be provided with information about the role of staff in supervising student use of technological resources. All students using these resources shall receive instruction in their proper and appropriate use.

(cf. 4040 - Employee Use of Technology)

Teachers, administrators, and/or library media specialists shall prescreen technological resources and online sites that will be used for instructional purposes to ensure that they are appropriate for the intended purpose and the age of the students.

Online/Internet Services: User Obligations and Responsibilities

Students are authorized to use district equipment to access the Internet or other online services in accordance with Board policy, the user obligations and responsibilities specified below, and the district's Acceptable Use Agreement.

1. The student in whose name an online services account is issued is responsible for its proper use at all times. Students shall keep personal account numbers and passwords private and shall only use the account to which they have been assigned.
2. Students shall use the district's system safely, responsibly, and primarily for educational purposes.
3. Students shall not access, post, submit, publish, or display harmful or inappropriate matter that is threatening, obscene, disruptive, or sexually explicit, or that could be construed as harassment or disparagement of others based on their race/ethnicity, national origin, sex, gender, sexual orientation, age, disability, religion, or political beliefs.

(cf. 5131 - Conduct)

Harmful matter includes matter, taken as a whole, which to the average person, applying contemporary statewide standards, appeals to the prurient interest and is matter which depicts or describes, in a patently offensive way, sexual conduct and which lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value for minors. (Penal Code 313)

STUDENT USE OF TECHNOLOGY (continued)

4. Unless otherwise instructed by school personnel, students shall not disclose, use, or disseminate personal identification information about themselves or others when using email, chat rooms, or other forms of direct electronic communication. Students also shall be cautioned not to disclose such information by other means to individuals contacted through the Internet without the permission of their parents/guardians.

Personal information includes the student's name, address, telephone number, Social Security number, or other personally identifiable information.

5. Students shall not use the system to encourage the use of drugs, alcohol, or tobacco, nor shall they promote unethical practices or any activity prohibited by law, Board policy, or administrative regulations.

(cf. 3513.3 - Tobacco-Free Schools)

6. Students shall not use the system to engage in commercial or other for-profit activities.
7. Students shall not use the system to threaten, intimidate, harass, or ridicule other students or staff.
8. Copyrighted material shall be posted online only in accordance with applicable copyright laws. Any materials utilized for research projects should be given proper credit as with any other printed source of information.

(cf. 5131.9 - Academic Honesty)

9. Students shall not intentionally upload, download, or create computer viruses and/or maliciously attempt to harm or destroy district equipment or materials or manipulate the data of any other user, including so-called "hacking."

(cf. 5131.5 - Vandalism and Graffiti)

10. Students shall not attempt to interfere with other users' ability to send or receive email, nor shall they attempt to read, delete, copy, modify, or use another individual's identity.
11. Students shall report any security problem or misuse of the services to the teacher or principal.

The district reserves the right to monitor use of the district's systems for improper use without advance notice or consent. Students shall be informed that computer files and electronic communications, including email, are not private and may be accessed by the district for the purpose of ensuring proper use.

STUDENT USE OF TECHNOLOGY (continued)

Whenever a student is found to have violated Board policy, administrative regulation, or the district's Acceptable Use Agreement, the principal or designee may cancel or limit a student's user privileges or increase supervision of the student's use of the district's technological resources, as appropriate. Inappropriate use also may result in disciplinary action and/or legal action in accordance with law and Board policy.

(cf. 5144 - Discipline)

(cf. 5130 - Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process)

(cf. 5130.2 - Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process (Students with Disabilities))

Regulation

approved: April 21, 1997

revised: August 28, 2000

revised: June 26, 2012

reviewed: November 13, 2012

MORGAN HILL UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Morgan Hill, California

COMMUNICATION WITH THE PUBLIC

The Governing Board recognizes the district's responsibility to keep the public informed regarding the goals, programs, achievements, and needs of the schools and district and to be responsive to the concerns and interests of the community. The Superintendent or designee shall establish strategies for effective two-way communications between the district and the public and shall consult with the Board regarding the role of Board members as advocates for the district's students, programs, and policies.

(cf. 5020 - Parent Rights and Responsibilities)

(cf. 9000 - Role of the Board)

The Superintendent or designee shall provide the Board and staff with communications protocols and procedures to assist the district in presenting a consistent, unified message on district issues. Such protocols and procedures may include, but are not limited to, identification of the spokesperson(s) authorized to speak to the media on behalf of the district, strategies for coordinating communications efforts and activities, and legal requirements pertaining to confidentiality as well as the public's right to access records.

(cf. 1112 - Media Relations)

(cf. 1340 - Access to District Records)

(cf. 2111 - Superintendent Governance Standards)

(cf. 3580 - District Records)

(cf. 5125 - Student Records)

(cf. 5125.1 - Release of Directory Information)

(cf. 9005 - Governance Standards)

(cf. 9010 - Public Statements)

(cf. 9011 - Disclosure of Confidential/Privileged Information)

The Superintendent or designee shall utilize a variety of communications methods in order to provide the public with access to information. Such methods may include, but are not limited to, district and school newsletters, web sites, social networking pages or other online communications technologies, direct email communications, mailings, notices sent home with students, recorded telephone messages for parent/guardian information, community forums and public events, news releases, meetings with education reporters and editorial boards, presentations at parent organization meetings, and meetings with representatives of local governments, community organizations, and businesses.

(cf. 0510 - School Accountability Report Card)

(cf. 1020 - Youth Services)

(cf. 1113 - District and School Web Sites)

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

(cf. 1700 - Relations Between Private Industry and the Schools)

In developing communications strategies, the Superintendent or designee shall take into account the needs of all members of the public, including individuals with disabilities and those whose primary language is not English.

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

COMMUNICATION WITH THE PUBLIC (continued)

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that staff members are responsive to requests by parents/guardians or members of the public for information or assistance and may provide staff with professional development in their "customer service" role as needed.

(cf. 4131 - Staff Development)

(cf. 4231 - Staff Development)

(cf. 4331 - Staff Development)

The Superintendent or designee shall provide multiple opportunities for members of the public to give input on district and school issues and operations. Community members are encouraged to become involved in school activities, participate on district and school committees, provide input at Board meetings, submit suggestions to district staff, and use the district's complaint procedures as appropriate.

(cf. 1220 - Citizen Advisory Committees)

(cf. 1230 - School-Connected Organizations)

(cf. 1240 - Volunteer Assistance)

(cf. 1250 - Visitors/Outsiders)

(cf. 1260 - Educational Foundation)

(cf. 1312.1 - Complaints Concerning District Employees)

(cf. 1312.2 - Complaints Concerning Instructional Materials)

(cf. 1312.3 - Uniform Complaint Procedures)

(cf. 1312.4 - Williams Uniform Complaint Procedures)

(cf. 3555 - Nutrition Program Compliance)

(cf. 6020 - Parent Involvement)

(cf. 9322 - Agenda/Meeting Materials)

(cf. 9323 - Meeting Conduct)

Prohibition against Mass Mailings at Public Expense

No newsletter or other mass mailing, as defined in Government Code 82041.5 and 2 CCR 18901, shall be sent by the district at public expense if such material aggrandizes one or more Board members. The name, signature, or photograph of a Board member may be included in such materials only as permitted by 2 CCR 18901. (Government Code 82041.5, 89001; 2 CCR 18901)

Any newsletter or mass mailing regarding ballot measures, candidates, legislative activities, or any other campaign activities shall be sent and distributed in accordance with law and Board policy.

(cf. 1160 - Political Processes)

COMMUNICATION WITH THE PUBLIC (continued)
Comprehensive Communications Plan

The Superintendent or designee may develop a written communications plan which establishes priorities for proactive community outreach to build support for district programs and issues. The plan shall identify specific communications goals aligned with the district's vision and goals for student learning. For each communications goal, the plan shall identify key messages, individuals or groups that can help the district achieve its goal, strategies tailored to each target audience, timelines, persons responsible for each activity, and budget implications.

(cf. 0200 - Goals for the School District)

As appropriate for each issue, target audiences may include parents/guardians, the media, local governmental agencies, businesses, community organizations and civic groups, postsecondary institutions, health care professionals, child care providers, community leaders, state or federal legislators or agencies, and/or other segments of the public.

The plan shall incorporate strategies for effective communications during a crisis or other emergency situation that may arise.

(cf. 0450 - Comprehensive Safety Plan)

(cf. 3516 - Emergencies and Disaster Preparedness Plan)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

7054 *Use of district property or funds re: ballot measures and candidates*

35145.5 *Board meetings, public participation*

35172 *Promotional activities*

38130-38138 *Civic Center Act*

48980-48985 *Parental notifications*

GOVERNMENT CODE

54957.5 *Meeting agendas and materials*

82041.5 *Mass mailing*

89001 *Newsletter or mass mailing*

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 2

18901 *Mass mailings sent at public expense*

18901.1 *Campaign-related mailings sent at public expense*

CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 28

35.101-35.190 *Americans with Disabilities Act*

Management Resources:

WEB SITES

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

California School Public Relations Association: <http://www.calspra.org>

Fair Political Practices Commission: <http://www.fppc.ca.gov>

ANIMALS AT SCHOOL

The Governing Board recognizes that animals can contribute to the district's instructional program by being effective teaching aids to students and by assisting individuals with disabilities to access district programs and activities. In addition, instruction related to the care and treatment of animals teaches students a sense of responsibility and promotes the humane treatment of living creatures.

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

(cf. 6142.4 - Service Learning/Community Service Classes)

(cf. 6159 - Individualized Education Program)

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

(cf. 6164.6 - Identification and Education Under Section 504)

The Superintendent or designee shall develop rules and procedures to ensure that when animals are brought to school, the health, safety, and welfare of students, staff, and the animals are protected. However, the district assumes no liability for the safety of animals allowed on district property.

(cf. 3320 - Claims and Actions Against the District)

(cf. 3530 - Risk Management/Insurance)

(cf. 5141.21 - Administering Medication and Monitoring Health Conditions)

(cf. 5141.23 - Asthma Management)

Legal Reference: (see next page)

ANIMALS AT SCHOOL (continued)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

233.5 *Instruction in kindness to pets and humane treatment of living creatures*

39839 *Transportation of guide dogs, signal dogs, service dogs*

51202 *Instruction in personal and public health and safety*

51540 *Safe and humane treatment of animals at school*

CIVIL CODE

54.1 *Access to public places*

54.2 *Guide, signal, or service dogs, right to accompany*

GOVERNMENT CODE

810-996.6 *California Tort Claims Act, especially:*

815 *Liability for injuries generally; immunity of public entity*

835 *Conditions of liability*

VEHICLE CODE

21113 *Public grounds*

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 13

1216 *Transportation of property*

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 20

1400-1482 *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act*

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 29

794 *Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Section 504*

CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 28

35.104 *Definitions*

35.136 *Service animals*

COURT DECISIONS

Sullivan v. Vallejo City USD, (1990) 731 F.Supp. 947

Management Resources:

FEDERAL REGISTER

Rules and Regulations, September 15, 2010, Vol. 75, Number 178, pages 56164-56236

CSBA PUBLICATIONS

Indoor Air Quality: Governing Board Actions for Creating Healthy School

Environments, Policy Brief, July 2008

Asthma Management in the Schools, Policy Brief, March 2008

WEB SITES:

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

American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals: <http://www.asPCA.org>

Humane Society of the United States: <http://www.hsus.org>

U.S. Department of Education, Office of Civil Rights:

<http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr>

Policy

adopted: November 13, 2012

MORGAN HILL UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Morgan Hill, California

ANIMALS AT SCHOOL**Use of Animals for Instructional Purposes**

All animals brought to school must be in good physical condition and must be appropriately immunized. The teacher shall ensure that the species of animal is appropriate for the instructional purpose and age and maturity of the students.

All animals brought to school shall be adequately fed, effectively controlled, humanely treated, and properly housed in cages or containers suitable for the species. The teacher shall ensure that cages and containers are cleaned regularly and that waste materials are removed and disposed of in an appropriate manner.

(cf. 5141 - Health Care and Emergencies)

(cf. 5142 - Safety)

The teacher shall ensure that students receive instructions regarding the proper handling of and personal hygiene around animals.

(cf. 5141.22 - Infectious Diseases)

Except for service animals, as defined below, all animals are prohibited on school transportation services. (Education Code 39839; 13 CCR 1216)

(cf. 3541.2 - Transportation for Students with Disabilities)

(cf. 5131.1 - Bus Conduct)

Use of Service Animals by Individuals with Disabilities

For an individual with a disability, *service animal* means any dog that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks related to the individual's disability and for his/her benefit. For example, for an individual who is blind or has low vision, a service animal would mean a dog

that helps him/her with vision, navigation, and other tasks; for an individual who is deaf or hard of hearing, a service animal would mean a dog that alerts him/her to the presence of people or sounds; and for an individual with psychiatric or neurological disabilities, a service animal would mean a dog that assists him/her by preventing or interrupting impulsive or destructive behaviors. (28 CFR 35.104)

Individuals with disabilities may be accompanied on school premises and on school transportation by service animals, including specially trained guide dogs, signal dogs, or service dogs. (Education Code 39839; Civil Code 54.2; 28 CFR 35.136)

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

(cf. 3541.2 - Transportation for Students with Disabilities)

(cf. 6159 - Individualized Education Program)

(cf. 6164.6 - Identification and Education Under Section 504)

ANIMALS AT SCHOOL (continued)

The Superintendent or designee may permit the use of a miniature horse as a service animal when the horse has been individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability, provided that: (28 CFR 35.136)

1. The district's facility can accommodate the type, size, and weight of the horse.
2. The individual has sufficient control of the horse.
3. The horse is housebroken.
4. The horse's presence in the specific facility does not compromise legitimate safety requirements of the facility.

The Superintendent or designee may ask any individual with a disability to remove his/her service animal from school premises or transportation if the animal is out of control and the individual does not take effective action to control it or the animal is not housebroken. When an individual's service animal is excluded, he/she shall be given an opportunity to participate in the service, program, or activity without having the service animal present. (Education Code 39839; Civil Code 54.2; 28 CFR 35.136)