

Policy 5137: Positive School Climate

Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 03/01/1993 | **Last Revised Date:** 03/01/2008 | **Last Reviewed Date:** 03/01/2008

The Governing Board desires to enhance student learning by providing an orderly, caring, and nurturing educational and social environment in which all students can feel safe and take pride in their school and their achievements. The school environment should be characterized by positive interpersonal relationships among students and between students and staff.

All staff are expected to serve as role models for students by demonstrating positive, professional attitudes and respect toward each student and other staff members. Teachers shall use effective classroom management techniques based on clear expectations for student behavior.

Staff shall consistently enforce Board policies and regulations which establish rules for appropriate student conduct, including prohibitions against bullying, cyberbullying, harassment of students, hazing, other violence or threats of violence against students and staff, and drug, alcohol, and tobacco use.

The district's curriculum shall include age-appropriate character education which includes, but is not limited to, the principles of equality, human dignity, mutual respect, fairness, honesty, and citizenship. Teachers are encouraged to employ cooperative learning strategies that foster positive interactions in the classroom among students from diverse backgrounds.

The Superintendent or designee may develop other strategies to enhance students' feelings of connectedness with the schools, such as campus beautification projects, graffiti removal, development of extracurricular activities and after-school programs, pairing of adult mentors with individual students, recognition of student achievement, and encouragement of strong family and community involvement in the schools.

Students shall have opportunities to voice their concerns about school policies and practices and to share responsibility for solving problems that affect their school.

The schools shall promote nonviolent conflict resolution techniques in order to encourage attitudes and behaviors that foster harmonious relations. As part of this effort, students shall be taught the skills necessary to reduce violence, including communication skills, anger management, bias reduction, and mediation skills.

Staff shall receive professional development designed to improve classroom management, conflict resolution techniques, and communications with students and parents/guardians including persons of diverse backgrounds.

Policy Reference Disclaimer:

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

State	Description
CA Constitution Article 1, Section 28	Right to Safe Schools
Ed. Code 233-233.8	Hate violence prevention
Ed. Code 32280-32289.5	School safety plans
Ed. Code 32295.5	Teen court programs
Ed. Code 35181	Governing board authority to set policy on responsibilities of students
Ed. Code 35291-35291.5	Rules
Ed. Code 44807	Teachers' duty concerning conduct of students
Ed. Code 48900-48925	Suspension and expulsion
Management Resources	
California Department of Education Publication	Creating Safe and Drug-Free Schools: An Action Guide, 1996
California Department of Education Publication	Bullying at School, 2003
CSBA Publication	Cyberbullying: Policy Considerations for Boards, Policy Brief, July 2010
U.S. Department of Education Publication	Preventing Bullying: A Manual for Schools and Communities, 1998
Website	CSBA District and County Office of Education Legal Services
Website	California Department of Education, Learning Support
Website	National School Safety Center
Website	U.S. Department of Education, Office of Safe and Healthy Students
Website	CSBA

Cross References

Code	Description
0100	Philosophy
0415	Equity
0450	Comprehensive Safety Plan
0450	Comprehensive Safety Plan

0460	Local Control And Accountability Plan
0460	Local Control And Accountability Plan
1312.3	Uniform Complaint Procedures
1312.3	Uniform Complaint Procedures
1312.3-E(1)	Uniform Complaint Procedures
1312.3-E(2)	Uniform Complaint Procedures
1313	Civility
3515	Campus Security
3515	Campus Security
4131	Staff Development
4219.21	Professional Standards
4219.21-E(1)	Professional Standards
4231	Staff Development
4319.21	Professional Standards
4319.21-E(1)	Professional Standards
4331	Staff Development
5000	Concepts And Roles
5030	Student Wellness
5113.1	Chronic Absence And Truancy
5113.1	Chronic Absence And Truancy
5113.12	District School Attendance Review Board
5113.12	District School Attendance Review Board
5126	Awards For Achievement
5126	Awards For Achievement
5131	Conduct
5131.1	Bus Conduct
5131.1	Bus Conduct
5131.2	Bullying
5131.2	Bullying
5131.4	Student Disturbances

5131.4	<u>Student Disturbances</u>
5131.5	<u>Vandalism And Graffiti</u>
5131.6	<u>Alcohol And Other Drugs</u>
5131.6	<u>Alcohol And Other Drugs</u>
5131.7	<u>Weapons And Dangerous Instruments</u>
5131.7	<u>Weapons And Dangerous Instruments</u>
5131.8	<u>Mobile Communication Devices</u>
5131.9	<u>Academic Honesty</u>
5136	<u>Gangs</u>
5136	<u>Gangs</u>
5138	<u>Conflict Resolution/Peer Mediation</u>
5141.52	<u>Suicide Prevention</u>
5141.52	<u>Suicide Prevention</u>
5142	<u>Safety</u>
5142	<u>Safety</u>
5144	<u>Discipline</u>
5144	<u>Discipline</u>
5144.1	<u>Suspension And Expulsion/Due Process</u>
5144.1	<u>Suspension And Expulsion/Due Process</u>
5144.2	<u>Suspension And Expulsion/Due Process (Students With Disabilities)</u>
5145.2	<u>Freedom Of Speech/Expression</u>
5145.2	<u>Freedom Of Speech/Expression</u>
5145.3	<u>Nondiscrimination/Harassment</u>
5145.3	<u>Nondiscrimination/Harassment</u>
5145.7	<u>Sex Discrimination and Sex-Based Harassment</u>
5145.7	<u>Sex Discrimination and Sex-Based Harassment</u>
5145.9	<u>Hate-Motivated Behavior</u>
5147	<u>Dropout Prevention</u>
5148.2	<u>Before/After School Programs</u>

5148.2	<u>Before/After School Programs</u>
6116	<u>Classroom Interruptions</u>
6142.8	<u>Comprehensive Health Education</u>
6142.8	<u>Comprehensive Health Education</u>
6144	<u>Controversial Issues</u>
6145	<u>Extracurricular And Cocurricular Activities</u>
6145	<u>Extracurricular And Cocurricular Activities</u>
6145.2	<u>Athletic Competition</u>
6145.2	<u>Athletic Competition</u>
6145.8	<u>Assemblies And Special Events</u>
6164.2	<u>Guidance/Counseling Services</u>
6173.1	<u>Education For Foster Youth</u>
6173.1	<u>Education For Foster Youth</u>
6184	<u>Continuation Education</u>
6184	<u>Continuation Education</u>