

Policy 5138: Conflict Resolution/Peer Mediation

Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 07/01/1999 | **Last Revised Date:** 11/01/2025 | **Last Reviewed Date:** 11/01/2025

To promote student safety and contribute to the maintenance of a positive school climate, the Governing Board encourages the development of school-based conflict resolution and peer mediation programs designed to help students learn constructive ways of handling conflict. The Board believes that such programs can reduce violence and promote communication, personal responsibility, and problem-solving skills among students.

Conflict resolution and peer mediation programs may be considered as part of each school's comprehensive safety plan and incorporated into other district discipline procedures as appropriate. Such programs shall not supplant the authority of district staff to take appropriate action as necessary to prevent violence, ensure student safety, maintain order in the school, and institute disciplinary measures.

Such programs may incorporate peer mediation strategies in which selected student volunteers are specifically trained to work with their peers in resolving conflicts. This training may involve effective communication and listening, critical thinking, problem-solving processes, and the use of negotiation to find mutually acceptable solutions. Additionally, the training may address the ethical and social development of students, respect for diversity, and interpersonal and behavioral skills.

Participation in a peer mediation program by a student engaged in a conflict shall be voluntary and kept confidential by all parties involved.

In developing a conflict resolution and/or peer mediation program, school-site teams shall address, as appropriate:

1. The grade levels and courses in which the conflict resolution curriculum shall be delivered
2. Staff development related to the implementation of the curriculum and modeling of appropriate behaviors and communication skills
3. The selection of peer mediators involving, to the extent possible, a cross-section of students in terms of grade, gender, race, ethnicity, and socioeconomic status, and including some students who exhibit negative leadership among peers
4. Training and support for peer mediators, including training in mediation processes and in the skills related to understanding conflict, communicating effectively and listening
5. The process for identifying and referring students to the peer mediation program
6. The types of conflicts suitable for peer mediation

7. Expectation for confidentiality regarding who participated, what was discussed, and how any conflict was resolved
8. Scheduling and location of peer mediation sessions
9. Methods of obtaining and recording agreement from all disputants
10. The appropriate involvement of parents/guardians, the community, and staff, including counseling/guidance and security staff
11. Communications to students, parents/guardians, and staff regarding the availability of the program
12. Methods of following up with students to determine the effectiveness of the process
13. Development of assessment tools to periodically evaluate the success of the program including, but not limited to, measurements of whether there has been a reduction in violence at the school and whether the school's suspension rates have fallen since the program has been introduced
14. Selection of and requirements to train as peer mediators

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 Governing 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 32280-32289.5	School safety plans
Ed. Code 32295.5	Teen court programs
Ed. Code 35291-35291.5	Rules
Ed. Code 44807	Teachers' duty concerning conduct of students
Ed. Code 51240	Excuse from instruction due to religious beliefs
Management Resources	Description
Court Decision	S.E. v Grey 782 F.Supp.3d 939 (S.D. Cal 2025)
Court Decision	Mahmoud v. Taylor (2025) 606 U.S. ____ (2025 WL 1773627)
Website	CSBA District and County Office of Education Legal Services
Website	California Department of Education, Safe Schools

Cross References

Code	Description
0450	<u>Comprehensive Safety Plan</u>
0450	<u>Comprehensive Safety Plan</u>
1313	<u>Civility</u>
3515	<u>Campus Security</u>
3515	<u>Campus Security</u>
4131	<u>Staff Development</u>
4231	<u>Staff Development</u>
5116.2	<u>Involuntary Student Transfers</u>
5125	<u>Student Records</u>
5125	<u>Student Records</u>
5131	<u>Conduct</u>
5131.1	<u>Bus Conduct</u>
5131.1	<u>Bus Conduct</u>
5131.2	<u>Bullying</u>
5131.2	<u>Bullying</u>
5131.4	<u>Student Disturbances</u>
5131.4	<u>Student Disturbances</u>
5131.5	<u>Vandalism And Graffiti</u>
5131.7	<u>Weapons And Dangerous Instruments</u>
5131.7	<u>Weapons And Dangerous Instruments</u>
5136	<u>Gangs</u>
5136	<u>Gangs</u>
5137	<u>Positive School Climate</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>
5145.3	<u>Nondiscrimination/Harassment</u>
5145.3	<u>Nondiscrimination/Harassment</u>
5145.7	<u>Sexual Harassment</u>
5145.7	<u>Sexual Harassment</u>
5145.9	<u>Hate-Motivated Behavior</u>
6141.2	<u>Recognition Of Religious Beliefs And Customs</u>
6141.2	<u>Recognition Of Religious Beliefs And Customs</u>
6142.8	<u>Comprehensive Health Education</u>
6142.8	<u>Comprehensive Health Education</u>
6143	<u>Courses Of Study</u>
6143	<u>Courses Of Study</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>