

**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, including discriminatory harassment, intimidation, and bullying of any student based on the student's actual or perceived race, color, ancestry, national origin, nationality, ethnicity, ethnic group identification, age, religion, marital or parental status, physical or mental disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, or gender expression or association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics.

This policy shall apply to all acts related to school activity or to school attendance occurring within a district school. (*Education Code 234.1*)

*(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)*

Unlawful discrimination, including discriminatory harassment, intimidation, or bullying, includes physical, verbal, nonverbal, or written conduct based on any of the categories listed above. Unlawful discrimination also shall include the creation of a hostile environment when the prohibited conduct is so severe, persistent, or 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.

Unlawful discrimination also includes disparate treatment of students based on one of the categories above with respect to the provision of opportunities to participate in school programs or activities or the provision or receipt of educational benefits or services.

The Board also prohibits any form of retaliation against any individual who files or otherwise participates in the filing or investigation of a complaint or report regarding an incident of discrimination. Retaliation complaints shall be investigated and resolved in the same manner as a discrimination complaint.

The Superintendent or designee shall facilitate students' access to the educational program by publicizing the district's nondiscrimination policy and related complaint procedures to students, parents/guardians, and employees. He/she shall provide training and information on the scope and use of the policy and complaint procedures and take other measures designed to increase the school community's understanding of the requirements of law related to discrimination. The Superintendent or designee shall regularly review the implementation of the district's nondiscrimination policies and practices and, as necessary, shall take action to remove any identified barrier to student access to or participation in the educational program.

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He/she shall report his/her findings and recommendations to the Board after each review.

*(cf. 1312.3 - Uniform Complaint Procedures)*  
*(cf. 1330 - Use of Facilities)*  
*(cf. 4131 - Staff Development)*  
*(cf. 4231 - Staff Development)*  
*(cf. 4331 - Staff Development)*  
*(cf. 6145 - Extracurricular and Cocurricular Activities)*  
*(cf. 6145.2 - Athletic Competition)*  
*(cf. 6164.2 - Guidance/Counseling Services)*

Students who engage in unlawful discrimination, including discriminatory harassment, intimidation, retaliation, or bullying, in violation of law, Board policy, or administrative regulation shall be subject to appropriate consequence or discipline, which may include suspension or expulsion for behavior that is severe or pervasive as defined in Education Code 48900.4. Any employee who permits or engages in prohibited discrimination, including discriminatory harassment, intimidation, retaliation, or bullying, 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. 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)*

*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**

432 *Student record*  
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*

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*12101-12213 Title II equal opportunity for individuals with disabilities*

*UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 29*

*794 Section 504 of Rehabilitation Act of 1973*

*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*

*6101-6107 Age Discrimination Act of 1975*

*CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 28*

*35.107 Nondiscrimination on basis of disability; complaints*

*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:*

*CSBA PUBLICATIONS*

*Providing a Safe, Nondiscriminatory School Environment for Transgender and Gender-Nonconforming Students, Policy Brief, February 2014*

*Final Guidance Regarding Transgender Students, Privacy, and Facilities, March 2014*

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

*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: Title IX Coordinators, April 2015*

*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.firstamendmentcenter.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>*