

CENTRAL UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board Policy

BP 5131 (a)

Students

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, while going to or coming from school, while at school activities, and while on District transportation.

(cf. 5131.1 - Bus Conduct)

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that each school site develops standards of conduct and discipline consistent with District 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

(cf. 0450 - Comprehensive Safety Plan)

(cf. 5131.7 - Weapons and Dangerous Instruments)

(cf. 5142 - Safety)

2. Conduct that disrupts the orderly classroom or school environment

3. Harassment or bullying of students or staff, including but not limited to, "cyberbullying," intimidation, 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, in accordance with the section entitled "Bullying/Cyberbullying" below.

"Cyberbullying" includes the transmission of communications, posting of harassing messages, direct threats, or other harmful texts, sounds, or images on the Internet, social networking sites, or other digital technologies using a telephone, computer, or any wireless communication device. Cyberbullying also includes breaking into another person's electronic account and assuming that person's identity in order to damage that person's reputation.

(cf. 5145.3 - Nondiscrimination/Harassment)

(cf. 5145.7 - Sexual Harassment)

(cf. 5145.9 - Hate-Motivated Behavior)

4. Damage to or theft of property belonging to students, staff, or the District

(cf. 5131.5 - Vandalism, Theft and Graffiti)

5. Possession or use of laser pointers on school premises, unless used for a valid instructional or other school-related purpose, including employment (*Penal Code 417.27*)

Prior to bringing a laser pointer on school premises, students shall first obtain permission from the principal or designee. The principal or designee shall determine whether the requested use of the laser pointer is for a valid instructional or other school-related purpose.

6. Use of profane, vulgar, or abusive language
7. Plagiarism or dishonesty in school work or on tests
(cf. 6162.54 - Test Integrity/Test Preparation)

8. Inappropriate attire
(cf. 5132-Dress and Grooming)

9. Tardiness or unexcused absence from school
(cf. 5113 - Absences and Excuses)
(cf. 5113.1 - Truancy)

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

11. Possession, use, or being under influence of tobacco, alcohol or other prohibited drugs
(cf. 5131.6-Alcohol and other drugs)

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 administrator for further investigation.

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 in accordance with Board policy and administrative regulation, and contact with local law enforcement as appropriate.

- (cf. 5020 - Parent Rights and Responsibilities)
(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 Co Curricular Activities)

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

Possession of Cellular Phones and Other Mobile Communications Devices

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 health-related purposes. (*Education Code 48901.5*)

Students shall be permitted to have in their possession an electronic signaling device. All devices shall be kept out of sight and should not disrupt the educational program or school activity are not used for illegal or unethical activities such as cheating on assignments or tests. During the school day, electronic signaling devices, including but not limited to pagers, beepers, and cellular digital telephones must be turned off. Programming such devices to vibrate rather than ring does not fulfill the “off” requirements. Use of devices during instructional day may be granted by a staff member.

Notwithstanding the rules set forth above, cellular radio telecommunication devices may be used at any time to respond to or report an emergency situation.

If a disruption occurs or a student uses any mobile communications device for improper activities, a school employee shall direct the student to turn off the device and/or shall confiscate it. If a school employee finds it necessary to confiscate a device, he/she shall return it at the end of the class period or school day.

A student who violates this policy may be prohibited from possessing a mobile communications device at school or school-related events and/or may be subject to discipline in accordance with Board policy and administrative regulation.

Bullying/Cyberbullying

The Board desires to prevent bullying by establishing a positive, collaborative school climate and clear rules for student conduct.

(cf. 5137- Positive School Climate)
(cf. 6164.2 - Guidance/Counseling Services)

The District may provide students instruction in the classroom or other educational settings that promotes communication, social skills, and assertiveness skills and educates students about appropriate online behavior and strategies to prevent and respond to bullying and “Cyberbullying”.

(cf. 1220 - Citizen Advisory Committees)
(cf. 6163.4 – Student Use of Technology)

School staff shall receive related professional development, including information about early warning signs of harassing/intimidating behaviors and effective prevention and intervention strategies. Parents/guardians and students also may be provided with similar information.

(cf. 4131 - Staff Development)

Students may submit a verbal or written complaint of conduct they consider to be bullying to a teacher or administrator and may also request that their name be kept in confidence. The Superintendent or designee may establish other processes whereby students may submit anonymous reports of bullying. Complaints of bullying or harassment shall be investigated and resolved in accordance with site-level grievance procedures specified in AR 5145.7 - Sexual Harassment.

When a student is suspected of or reported to be using electronic or digital communications to engage in cyberbullying against other students or staff, or to threaten District property, the investigation shall include documentation of the activity, identification of the source, and specific facts or circumstances that explain the impact or potential impact on school activity, school attendance, or the targeted student's educational performance.

Students shall be encouraged to save and print any messages sent to them that they feel constitute cyberbullying and to notify a teacher, the principal, or other employees so that the matter may be investigated.

Any student who engages in cyberbullying on school premises, or off campus in a manner that causes or is likely to cause a substantial disruption of a school activity or school attendance, shall be subject to discipline in accordance with district policies and regulations. If the student is using a social networking site or service that has terms of use that prohibit posting of harmful material, the Superintendent or designee also may file a complaint with the Internet site or service to have the material removed.

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

200-262.4 Prohibition of discrimination

32261 Bullying

35181 Governing board policy on responsibilities of students

35291-35291.5 Rules

44807 Duty concerning conduct of students

48900-48925 Suspension or expulsion, especially:

48908 Duties of students

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

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

647.7 Use of camera or other instrument to invade person's privacy; punishment

653.2 Electronic communication devices, threats to safety

VEHICLE CODE

23124 Use of cellular phones provisional license holders

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

300-307 Duties of pupils

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 42

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

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 47

254 Universal service discounts (e-rate)

COURT DECISIONS

J.C. v. Beverly Hills Unified School District, 2009 (CV 08-03824 SVW)

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

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

Management Resources:

CSBA PUBLICATIONS

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

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PUBLICATIONS

Bullying at School, 2003

NATIONAL SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION PUBLICATIONS

Digital Discipline: Off-Campus Student Conduct, the First Amendment and Web Sites, School Law in Review, 2001

NATIONAL SCHOOL SAFETY CENTER PUBLICATIONS

Bullying in School: Fighting the Bullying Battle, 2006

WEB SITES

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

California Cybersafety for Children: <http://www.cybersafety.ca.gov>

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

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Central Union School District

Lemoore, California 93245