

SERIES 1000

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

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CONCEPTS AND ROLES

The Board of Education desires to represent the community and provide leadership in addressing community issues related to education. In order to identify community concerns and enlist support for the schools, the Board shall establish effective two-way communication systems between schools and the community.

Schools, parents/guardians, community members and local organizations must continually collaborate as partners. The Board and the Superintendent or designee shall work together with city and county agencies and organizations to promote and facilitate coordinated services for children, and shall seek to develop partnerships with local businesses.

(cf. 1020 - Youth Services)

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

The Board recognizes that schools are an important community resource and encourages community members to make appropriate use of school facilities. Community members are also encouraged to attend Board meetings, participate in school activities, and take an active interest in issues that affect the schools. The Board and Superintendent or designee shall keep community members well informed about district needs and accomplishments and shall ensure that they have opportunities to share in developing educational policies, programs and evaluation processes.

(cf. 0420.5 - School-Based Decision Making)

(cf. 0510 - School Accountability Report Card)

(cf. 1220 - Citizen Advisory Committees)

(cf. 1240 - Volunteer Assistance)

(cf. 1330 - Use of School Facilities)

(cf. 6020 - Parent Involvement)

(cf. 6141 - Curriculum Development and Evaluation)

(cf. 9323 - Meeting Conduct)

The Board recognizes that its ability to fulfill the community's expectations for a high-quality educational program depends on the level of support provided by the state and federal government as well as the community. The Board therefore shall study legislative processes and issues, establish ongoing relationships with state and local leaders and the media, adopt positions on key issues, set priorities for advocacy, and collaborate with other organizations and coalitions in legislative and legal advocacy efforts.

(cf. 1112 - Media Relations)

(cf. 1160 - Political Processes)

(cf. 9000 - Role of the Board)

Legal Reference: (see next page)

CONCEPTS AND ROLES (continued)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

35160 Authority of governing boards

35172 Promotional activities

YOUTH SERVICES

The Board of Education realizes that the schools alone cannot meet children's complex individual needs. Parents/guardians, schools, local government, businesses, foundations and community-based organizations all must work together to assess needs, improve conditions for our community's youth, and ensure that the multiple services needed by children and families are coordinated so as to avoid gaps, duplication or delay.

The Board shall initiate or participate in collaborative relationships with city and county leaders to develop local policies and provide effective multi-agency programs that respond to the needs of children and families.

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

The Superintendent and staff shall contact and cooperate with public and private agencies to ensure the availability and effective implementation of child care, after-school, nutrition, health and other services for children. District staff shall have opportunities to learn collaborative skills that will enhance their participation in these efforts.

The Board shall regularly evaluate the progress of collaborative efforts and shall monitor district budget, facilities and personnel priorities for opportunities to promote community collaboration and youth services.

The Board shall advocate for local, state and national policies, legislation and programs designed to provide or better coordinate services for children and families.

The district shall provide support services for children and families to the extent possible.

(cf. 0450 - Comprehensive Safety Plan)

(cf. 1160 - Political Processes)

(cf. 1240 - Volunteer Assistance)

(cf. 3553 - Free and Reduced Price Meals)

(cf. 4131 - Staff Development)

(cf. 4231 - Staff Development)

(cf. 4331 - Staff Development)

(cf. 5136 - Gangs)

(cf. 5141.32 - Child Health and Disability Prevention Program)

(cf. 5141.4 - Child Abuse Prevention and Reporting)

(cf. 5141.6 - Student Health and Social Services)

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

(cf. 5148 - Child Care and Development)

(cf. 6020 - Parent Involvement)

(cf. 6164.2 - Guidance/Counseling Services)

(cf. 6171 - Title I Programs)

Legal Reference: (see next page)

YOUTH SERVICES (continued)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

35160 Authority of governing boards

35160.1 Broad authority of school districts

58700-58702 Tutoring and homework assistance program

WELFARE AND INSTITUTIONS CODE

18961.5 Computerized data base; families at risk for child abuse; sharing of information; multidisciplinary teams

18986.2-18986.30 Interagency Children's Services Act, especially:

18986.11-18986.15 County interagency collaboration

18986.40-18986.46 Integrated children's services programs

Management Resources:

CSBA PUBLICATIONS

Collaboration for Kids, March 1995

YOUTH LAW CENTER PUBLICATIONS

Model Form for Consent to Exchange Confidential Information among the Members of an Interagency Collaborative, Youth Law Center, San Francisco, 1995

COMMUNICATION WITH THE PUBLIC

The Board of Education appreciates the importance of community involvement and therefore shall strive to keep the community informed of developments within the school system in timely and understandable ways.

The Superintendent or designee shall use all available means of communication to keep the public aware of the goals, programs, achievements and needs of our schools. Members of the community shall have opportunities to become involved in the schools and to express their interests and concerns.

The district shall seek to communicate in ways that accommodate the needs of all members of the public, including the visually or hearing impaired, those who do not understand English and those who do not read.

(cf. 1340 - Access to District Records)
(cf. 5145.6 - Parental Notifications)
(cf. 9321- Closed Session Purposes and Agendas)

Mass Mailings or Distributions

The Board recognizes that state law prohibits mass mailings or distributions at public expense which aggrandize elected officers. The name, signature or photograph of an elected district officer may be included in such materials only as permitted by 2 CCR 18901.

In order to promote open communication between Board members and the public, district newsletters and other mass mailings shall include a roster of all Board members' names in accordance with law.

Legal Reference:
EDUCATION CODE
35172 Promotional activities
GOVERNMENT CODE
82041.5 Mass mailing
89001 Newsletter or mass mailing
CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 2
18901 Mass mailings sent at public expense

CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 2

18901. Mass Mailings Sent At Public Expense

- (a) Except as provided in subdivision (b), a mailing is prohibited by Section 89001 if all of the following criteria are met:
 - (1) Any item sent is delivered, by any means, to the recipient at his/her residence, place of employment or business, or post office box. For purposes of this subdivision (a)(1), the item delivered to the recipient must be a tangible item, such as a videotape, record, or button, or a written document.
 - (2) The item sent either:
 - (A) Features an elected officer affiliated with the agency which produces or sends the mailing, or
 - (B) Includes the name, office, photograph or other reference to an elected officer affiliated with the agency which produces or sends the mailing, and is prepared or sent in cooperation, consultation, coordination, or concern with the elected officer;
 - (3)
 - (A) Any of the costs of distribution is paid for with public moneys; or
 - (B) Costs of design, production and printing exceeding \$50 are paid with public moneys, and the design, production or printing is done with the intent of sending the item other than as permitted by this regulation.
 - (4) More than 200 substantially similar items are sent, in a single calendar month, excluding any item sent in response to an unsolicited request and any item described in subdivision (b);
- (b) Notwithstanding subdivision (a), mass mailing of the following items is not prohibited by Section 89001:
 - (1) Any item in which the elected officer's name appears only in the letterhead or logotype of the stationery, forms (including "For Your Information" or "Compliments of" cards), and envelopes of the agency sending the mailing, or a committee of the agency, or of the elected officer, or in a roster listing containing the names of all elected officers of the agency. In any such item, the names of all elected officers must appear in the same type size, typeface, type color, and location. Such item may not include the elected officer's photograph, signature or any other reference to the elected officer, except as specifically permitted in this subdivision (b)(1) or elsewhere in this regulation.
 - (2) A press release sent to members of the media;

CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 2 (continued)

- (3) Any item sent in the normal course of business from one governmental entity or officer to another governmental entity or officer;
- (4) Any intra-agency communication sent in the normal course of business to employees, officers, deputies and other staff;
- (5) Any item sent in connection with the payment or collection of funds by the agency sending the mailing, including tax bills, checks and similar documents, in any instance where use of the elected officer's name, office, title or signature is necessary to the payment or collection of the funds. Such item may not include the elected officer's photograph, signature or any other reference to the elected officer except as specifically permitted in this subdivision (b)(5) or elsewhere in this regulation.
- (6) Any item sent by an agency responsible for administering a government program, to persons subject to that program, in any instance where the mailing of such item is essential to the functioning of the program where the item does not include the elected officer's photograph; and where use of the elected officer's name, office, title or signature is necessary to the functioning of the program.
- (7) Any legal notice or other item sent as required by law, court order, or order adopted by an administrative agency pursuant to the Administrative Procedure Act, and in which use of the elected officer's name, title or signature is necessary in the notice or other mailing. For purposes of this subdivision (b)(7), inclusion of an elected officer's name on a ballot as a candidate for elective office, and inclusion of an elected officer's name and signature on a ballot argument, shall be considered necessary to such a notice or other item.
- (8) A telephone directory, organization chart, or similar listing or roster which includes the names of elected officers as well as other individuals in the agency sending the mailing, where the name of each elected officer and individual listed appears in the same type size, typeface, and type color. Such item may not include an elected officer's photograph, name, signature, or any other reference to an elected officer, except as specifically permitted in this subdivision (b)(8) or elsewhere in this regulation.
- (9) (A) An announcement of any meeting or event of the type listed in paragraphs (i) or (ii).

CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 2 (continued)

- (i) An announcement sent to an elected officer's constituents concerning a public meeting which is directly related to the elected officer's incumbent governmental duties, which is to be held by the elected officer, and which the elected officer intends to attend.
 - (ii) An announcement of any official agency event or events for which the agency is providing the use of its facilities or staff or other financial support.
 - (B) Any announcement provided for in this subdivision (9) shall not include the elected officer's photograph or signature and may include only a single mention of the elected officer's name except as permitted elsewhere in this regulation.
- (10) An agenda or other writing that is required to be made available pursuant to Sections 11125.1 and 54957.5 of the Government Code, or a bill, file, history, journal, committee analysis, floor analysis, agenda of an interim or special hearing of a committee of the Legislature, or index of legislation, published by the Legislature.
- (11) A business card which does not contain the elected officer's photograph or more than one mention of the elected officer's name.
- (c) The following definitions shall govern the interpretation of this regulation:
 - (1) "Elected officer affiliated with an agency" means an elected officer who is a member, officer or employee of the agency, or of a subunit thereof such as a committee, or who has supervisory control over the agency, or who appoints one or more members of the agency.
 - (2) "Features an elected officer" means that the item mailed includes the elected officer's photograph or signature, or singles out the elected officer by the manner of display of his/her name or office in the layout of the document, such as by headlines, captions, type size, typeface or type color.
 - (3) "Substantially similar" is defined as follows:
 - (A) Two items are "substantially similar" if any of the following applies:
 - (i) The items are identical, except for changes necessary to identify the recipient and his/her address.

CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 2 (continued)

- (ii) The items are intended to honor, commend, congratulate or recognize an individual or group, or individuals or groups, for the same event or occasion; are intended to celebrate or recognize the same holiday; or are intended to congratulate an individual or group, or individuals or groups, on the same type of event, such as birthdays or anniversaries.
 - (iii) Both of the following apply to the items mailed:
 - a. Most of the bills, legislation, governmental action, activities, events, or issues of public concern mentioned in one item are mentioned in the other.
 - b. Most of the information contained in one item is contained in the other.
 - (B) Enclosure of the same informational materials in two items mailed, such as copies of the same bill, public document, or report, shall not, by itself, mean that the two items are "substantially similar." Such informational materials may not include the elected officer's name, photograph, signature or any other reference to the elected officer except as permitted elsewhere in this regulation.
- (4) "Unsolicited request" is defined as follows:
- (A) A written or oral communication (including a petition) which specifically requests a response and which is not requested or induced by the recipient elected officer or by any third person acting at his/her behest. However, an unsolicited oral or written communication (including a petition) which contains no specific request for a response, will be deemed to constitute an unsolicited request for a single written response.
 - (B) An unsolicited request for continuing information on a subject shall be considered an unsolicited request for multiple responses directly related to that subject for a period of time not to exceed 24 months. An unsolicited request to receive a regularly published agency newsletter shall be deemed an unsolicited request for each issue of that newsletter.

CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 2 (continued)

- (C) A previously unsolicited request to receive an agency newsletter or mass mailing on an ongoing basis shall not be deemed to have become solicited by the sole fact that the requester responds to an agency notice indicating that, in the absence of a response, his/her name will be purged from the mailing list for that newsletter or mass mailing. A notice in the following language shall be deemed to meet this standard:
- "The law does not permit this office to use public funds to keep you updated on items of interest unless you specifically request that it do so."
- Inclusion of a similar notice in other items shall not constitute a solicitation under this regulation.
- (D) A communication sent in response to an elected officer's participation at a public forum or press conference, or to his/her issuance of a press release, shall be considered an unsolicited request.
- (E) A person who subscribes to newspapers or other periodicals published by persons other than elected officers shall be deemed to have made unsolicited requests for materials published in those subscription publications.

AUTHORITY: Government Code 83112

REFERENCE: Government Code 82041.5 and 89001

MEDIA RELATIONS

The Board of Education respects the public's right to information and recognizes that the media significantly influence the community's understanding of school programs. In order to develop and maintain positive media relations, the Board and the Superintendent desire to reasonably accommodate media requests for information and to provide accurate, reliable and timely information.

Media representatives are welcome at all Board meetings and shall receive meeting agendas upon request in accordance with Board policy.

(cf. 9322 - Agenda/Meeting Materials)

Media representatives, like all other visitors, shall register immediately upon entering any school building or grounds when school is in session.

(cf. 1250 - Visitors/Outsiders)

(cf. 3515.2 - Disruptions)

Staff may provide the media with student directory information, including, but not limited to, the name of a student, school of attendance, grade level, honors, and activities, unless the student's parent/guardian has submitted a written request that such information not be disclosed. The district shall not release information that is private or confidential as required by law, Board policy or administrative regulation. No other access to student records or personally identifiable student information may be provided without written parent/guardian permission.

(cf. 1340 - Access to District Records)

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

(cf. 5125 - Student Records)

(cf. 5125.1 - Release of Directory Information)

(cf. 9010 - Public Statements)

(cf. 9321.1 - Closed Session Actions and Reports)

Interviewing and Photographing Students

The district shall not impose restraints on students' right to speak freely with media representatives at those times which do not disrupt a student's educational program. However, interviews of students may not create substantial disorder or impinge on the rights of others. Therefore, in order to minimize possible disruption, media representatives who wish to interview students at school should make prior arrangements with the principal. At their discretion, parents/guardians may instruct their children not to communicate with media representatives.

(cf. 5145.2 - Freedom of Speech/Expression)

MEDIA RELATIONS (continued)

In order to protect the privacy and safety of students, a media representative who wishes to photograph students on school grounds should first make arrangements with the principal or designee.

When interviewing or photographing a special education student, he/she shall not be identified as a special education student without prior, written parent/guardian permission.

Media Communications Plan

In order to help develop strong relations with the media, the Superintendent or designee may develop a proactive media communications plan. This plan may include, but not be limited to, information related to district programs and needs, student awards, school accomplishments and events of special interest.

(cf. 0510 - School Accountability Report Card)

(cf. 1100 - Communication with the Public)

(cf. 1160 - Political Processes)

The plan shall specify the district's and/or site's primary media contact to whom all media inquiries shall be routed. Spokespersons designated to speak to the media on behalf of the district include the Board president, Superintendent and public information officer. Other Board members and staff may be asked by the Superintendent or designee to speak to the media on a case-by-case basis, depending on their expertise on an issue.

The Superintendent or designee shall provide training on effective media relations to all designated spokespersons.

(cf. 9240 - Board Development)

Crisis Communications Plan

During a disturbance or crisis situation, the first priority of school staff is to assure the safety of students and staff. However, the Board recognizes the need to provide timely and accurate information to parents/guardians and the community during a crisis. The Board also recognizes that the media have an important role to play in relaying this information to the public. In order to help ensure that the media and district work together effectively, the Superintendent or designee shall develop a crisis communications plan to identify communication strategies to be taken in the event of a crisis.

(cf. 0450 - Comprehensive Safety Plan)

(cf. 3516 - Emergency and Disaster Preparedness Plan)

MEDIA RELATIONS (continued)

The crisis communications plan may include but not be limited to identification of a media center location, development of both internal and external notification systems, and strategies for press conference logistics.

The Superintendent or designee shall include local law enforcement and media representatives in the crisis planning process.

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

32210-32212 *Willful disturbance of public school or meeting*

35144 *Special meetings*

35145 *Public meetings*

35160 *Authority of governing boards*

35172 *Promotional activities*

EVIDENCE CODE

1070 *Refusal to disclose news source*

PENAL CODE

627-627.10 *Access to school premises*

COURT DECISIONS

Lopez v. Tulare Joint Union High School District, (1995) 34 Cal.App.4th 1302

ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINIONS

95 *Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 509 (1996)*

Management Resources:

CSBA PUBLICATIONS

911: *A Manual for Schools and the Media During a Campus Crisis, 2001*

WEB SITES

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

DISTRICT AND SCHOOL WEB SITES

To enhance communication with students, parents/guardians, staff, and community members, the Governing Board encourages the development and ongoing maintenance of district and school web sites. Web sites shall be aligned with the district's plans for communications and media relations.

(cf. 0000 - Vision)

(cf. 0440 - District Technology Plan)

(cf. 1100 - Communication with the Public)

(cf. 1112 - Media Relations)

(cf. 1230 - School-Connected Organizations)

(cf. 1260 - Educational Foundation)

(cf. 4040 - Employee Use of Technology)

(cf. 6020 - Parent Involvement)

The Superintendent or designee may establish design standards for district and school web sites in order to maintain a consistent identity, professional appearance, and ease of use.

Content

The Superintendent or designee shall develop content guidelines for district and school web sites. These guidelines shall be consistent with law, Board policy, and administrative regulation.

Staff, students, or other persons may submit materials for web publication to the district or school webmaster who shall ensure that the content adheres to district guidelines and policies.

Principals and Department Directors are responsible for web content.

(cf. 6145.5 - Student Organization and Equal Access)

District and school web sites shall not include content that is obscene, libelous, or slanderous, or which creates a clear and present danger of inciting students to commit unlawful acts, violate school rules, or substantially disrupt the school's orderly operation.

(cf. 5145.2 - Freedom of Speech/Expression)

The Superintendent or designee should ensure that copyright laws are not violated in the use of material on district or school web sites.

(cf. 4132/4232/4332 - Publication or Creation of Materials)

(cf. 6162.6 - Use of Copyrighted Materials)

Any links to external web sites shall support the District's educational mission.

DISTRICT AND SCHOOL WEB SITES (continued)

Advertising on district or school web sites may be accepted under the same restrictions and conditions set forth in law, Board policy, and administrative regulations pertaining to advertising in district and school-sponsored publications.

(cf. 1325 - Advertising and Promotion)

(cf. 3312 - Contracts)

Privacy Rights

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that web site content protects the privacy rights of students, parents/guardians, staff, Board members, and other individuals.

(cf. 1340 - Access to District Records)

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

(cf. 5022 - Student and Family Privacy Rights)

(cf. 5125 - Student Records)

Phone numbers, home addresses, and email addresses of students or their parents/guardians shall not be published on a district or school web page.

(cf. 5125.1 - Release of Directory Information)

Because of the wide accessibility of the Internet and potential risk to students, photograph(s) of a student shall not be published with his/her name or other personally identifiable information without the prior written consent of the student's parent/guardian. Photographs of groups of students, such as at a school event, may be published provided that students' names are not included.

Home addresses or home telephone numbers of staff members shall not be posted.

No public safety official shall be required as a condition of employment to consent to the posting on the Internet of his/her photograph or identity as a public safety officer for any purpose if that officer reasonably believes that the disclosure may result in a threat, harassment, intimidation, or harm to the officer or his/her family. (Government Code 3307.5)

District and school web sites shall not post the home address or telephone number of any elected or appointed official including, but not limited to, a Board member or public safety official, without the prior written permission of that individual. (Government Code 3307.5, 6254.21, 6254.24)

(cf. 3515.3 - District Police/Security Department)

DISTRICT AND SCHOOL WEB SITES (continued)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

35182.5 *Contracts for advertising*

35258 *Internet access to school accountability report cards*

48907 *Exercise of free expression; rules and regulations*

48950 *Speech and other communication*

49061 *Definitions, directory information*

49073 *Release of directory information*

60048 *Commercial brand names, contracts or logos*

GOVERNMENT CODE

3307.5 *Publishing identity of public safety officers*

6254.21 *Publishing addresses and phone numbers of officials*

6254.24 *Definition of public safety official*

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 17

101-1101 *Federal copyright law*

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 20

1232g *Federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)*

CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 16

312.1-312.12 *Children's Online Privacy*

CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 34

99.1-99.67 *Family Educational Rights and Privacy*

COURT DECISIONS

Aaris v. Las Virgenes Unified School District, (1998) 64 Cal.App.4th 1112

Perry Education Association v. Perry Local Educators' Association, (1983) 460 U.S. 37

Board of Education, Island Trees Union Free School District, et.al. v. Pico, (1982) 457 U.S. 853

Management Resources:

CSBA PUBLICATIONS

Maximizing School Board Governance: Community Leadership, 1996

WEB SITES

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

California School Public Relations Association: <http://www.calspra.org>

National School Public Relations Association: <http://www.nspr.org>

DISTRICT AND SCHOOL WEB SITES

Content

District and school web sites shall provide current and useful information regarding district programs, activities and operations. Such information shall be appropriate for both internal and external audiences.

The content of web sites may include, but not be limited to, district or school news, district mission and goals, agendas and minutes of Board of Education meetings, policy information, messages from the Board or administrators, information about curriculum and instruction, school calendars, student projects, school clubs and activities, lunch menus, transportation schedules, school map, school handbook, parent conferences, educational resources, links to other educational sites and contacts for further information.

The Superintendent or designee shall make the information contained in the School Accountability Report Card accessible on the Internet and shall ensure that such information is updated annually. (Education Code 35258)

(cf. 0510 - School Accountability Report Card)

Student work may be published on a web site provided that both the student and his/her parent/guardian provide written permission or the work is part of an existing publication such as a newspaper or school newsletter.

Students, staff or other individuals may not use district or school web sites to provide access to their personal web pages or online services.

If any copyrighted material is posted on a district or school web site, the web site shall include a notice crediting the original producer of the material and noting how and when permission to reprint the material was granted.

(cf. 6162.6 - Use of Copyrighted Materials)

Roles and Responsibilities

The district webmaster shall be responsible for the content and publication of the district web site upon approval of the Superintendent or designee. He/she shall review all content before publication, upload content to the district web server, regularly check links for accuracy and appropriateness, keep the web server free of outdated or unused files, and provide technical assistance as needed to school webmasters.

The school webmaster shall perform similar duties related to the content and maintenance of the school's web site upon approval of the school principal. The principal or school webmaster shall notify the Superintendent or designee regarding the creating and updating of a school web site.

DISTRICT AND SCHOOL WEB SITES (continued)

Security

The web site host computer shall have security procedures that prohibit unauthorized persons from accessing system-level controls or making changes to web site content. To the extent possible, the host computer shall be in a lockable room with restricted access.

COMMENDATIONS AND AWARDS

The Board of Education believes that individuals and organizations deserve recognition when they provide contributions or long-standing service to the district. The Board believes that commending such service promotes increased community understanding and participation.

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

The Superintendent or designee shall establish procedures by which Board members, employees or members of the community may suggest persons or organizations for Board recognition. At the Board's discretion, letters of recognition, Board resolutions, plaques or awards may be presented.

The Board encourages similar forms of recognition for achievement or services as part of school-level commendation programs.

(cf. 4156.2/4256.2/4356.2 - Awards and Recognition)

(cf. 5126 - Awards for Achievement)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

35160 Authority of governing boards

35160.1 Broad authority of school districts

44015 Awards to employees and students

COMMENDATIONS AND AWARDS

Any Board of Education member, employee, parent/guardian, student or community member may submit the name of an individual or organization to the Superintendent or designee for Board recognition.

Persons proposing the recognition of an individual or organization shall also indicate a suggested type of recognition which may include, but is not limited to, the following:

1. **Plaques or awards** to be presented at a Board meeting, for providing the district or community with special, unusual or long-term assistance.
2. **Board Resolution** to be read at a Board meeting, for distinguished service to children and youth.
3. **Letter of Recognition** to be prepared by the Superintendent or designee on behalf of the Board, for significant achievement and/or service by groups such as the basketball team, choir, band, and parent/guardian/community organizations.
4. **Receptions and other informal recognition activities.**

POLITICAL PROCESSES

The Board of Education has a responsibility to actively advocate fiscal and public policy that supports the district's schools and the children in the community. To the extent possible, the Board shall be proactive in defining the district's advocacy agenda based on the needs of the district and the direction set forth in the district's vision and goals.

(cf. 0000 - Vision)

(cf. 0200 - Goals for the School District)

(cf. 9000 - Role of the Board)

(cf. 9010 - Public Statements)

The Board may establish reasonable regulations related to Board members and employees engaging in political activity during working hours and on district premises. (Education Code 7055)

(cf. 4119.25/4219.25/4319.25 - Political Activities of Employees)

Legislation

The Board's responsibility as an advocate for the district may include lobbying at the state and national levels.

Because local governments also make decisions which impact the district's schools, the Board and the Superintendent or designee shall work to establish ongoing relationships with city and county officials and agencies, and shall inform them of the potential effect of local issues on the schools.

(cf. 1020 - Youth Services)

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

(cf. 7131 - Relations with Local Agencies)

The Board shall identify issues that will affect its schools and the children in its community, establish goals and priorities for legislative advocacy, solicit community input and adopt legislative positions. The Superintendent or designee shall establish a coordinated plan for carrying out the advocacy agenda, including specific activities, target groups or individuals, staff responsibilities and timelines.

In order to strengthen legislative advocacy efforts, the district may work with organizations and coalitions and may join associations whose representatives lobby on behalf of their members.

As necessary, the Superintendent or designee may draft legislative proposals which serve the district's interests.

POLITICAL PROCESSES (continued)

The Board may provide fair and impartial information about legislative issues affecting schools and children and shall inform the community about its legislative advocacy activities. However, the Board shall not urge the public to lobby the legislature on behalf of the district.

(cf. 1100 - Communication with the Public)

(cf. 1112 - Media Relations)

Ballot Measures/Candidates

The Board may study the potential effect of ballot measures on the district's schools. Any Board discussion of the effect of such measures shall include an opportunity for Board members, staff and members of the public to speak on all sides of the issue. Following such study, the Board may adopt positions in support of or in opposition to ballot measures of importance to education.

The Board's positions shall be publicized only through normal district procedures for reporting Board actions and in a manner that does not attempt to influence voters.

(cf. 9323 - Meeting Conduct)

No district funds, services, supplies or equipment shall be used to urge the support or defeat of any ballot measure or candidate, including any candidate for election to the Board. (Education Code 7054)

District resources shall not be used to disseminate campaign literature or to purchase advertisements, bumper stickers, posters or similar promotional items that advocate an election result.

(cf. 1325 - Advertising and Promotion)

The Superintendent or designee may use district resources to provide students, parents/guardians and community members with fair and impartial information related to ballot measures, including information about the impact of ballot measures on the district. (Education Code 7054)

In preparing or distributing such information, the Superintendent or designee shall ensure that the totality of the circumstances, including language, style, tenor and timing, does not expressly advocate passage or defeat of a measure or candidate.

The Superintendent or designee may research, draft and prepare a bond measure or other initiative for the ballot, but shall not use district resources to secure signatures in order to qualify the measure for the ballot.

POLITICAL PROCESSES (continued)

Upon request, Board members and district administrators may appear at any time before a citizens' group to explain why the Board called for an election on a bond measure and to answer questions. (Education Code 7054.1)

If the presentation occurs during working hours, the district representative shall not urge a citizens' group to vote for or against the bond measure.

For informational purposes, the Superintendent or designee may conduct a poll related to a ballot issue. Such a poll shall not advocate a particular position on the issue.

Legal Advocacy

The Board recognizes that some issues are more appropriately addressed judicially rather than legislatively. When a legal issue is likely to set a state or national precedent, the district may join with other districts or parties in order to challenge the issue through litigation or other appropriate means.

(cf. 9124 - Attorney)

Political Forums

Forums on political issues may be held in district facilities as long as the forum is made available to all sides of the issue on an equitable basis. (Education Code 7058)

(cf. 1330 - Use of School Facilities)

Legal Reference: (see next page)

POLITICAL PROCESSES (continued)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

7054 *Use of district property*

7054.1 *Requested appearance*

7055 *Local rules*

7056 *Soliciting or receiving political funds*

7058 *Use of forum*

35160 *Authority of governing boards*

35172 *Promotional activities*

GOVERNMENT CODE

50023 *Attending legislature to support or oppose legislation*

53060.5 *Attendance at legislative body; expenses*

54953.5 *Right to record proceedings*

54953.6 *Broadcasts of proceedings*

81000-91015 *Political Reform Act*

COURT DECISIONS

Stanson v. Mott, (1976) 17 Cal. 3d 206

Miller v. Miller, (1978) 87 Cal.App.3d 762

League of Women Voters v. Countywide Criminal Justice Coordination Committee, (1988) 203

Cal.App.3d 529, 250 Cal. Rptr. 161, rev.den.

Choice-in-Education League et al v. Los Angeles Unified School District, (1993) 17 Cal.App.4th 415

Yes on Measure A v. City of Lake Forest, (1997) 60 Cal.App.4th 620

Scherer v. Buchanan, First Appellate District, Civil No. A076648

ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINIONS

73 *Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen.* 255 (1990)

Management Resources:

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL

Advice letter #7837, March 18, 1996 (use of public funds to publicize board positions)

FAIR POLITICAL PRACTICES COMMISSION

FPPC No. 93/345 (1996)

CSBA PUBLICATIONS

Political Activities of School Districts: Legal Issues, 1998

Maximizing School Board Leadership: Community Leadership, 1996

CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEES

The Governing Board recognizes that citizen advisory committees enable the Board to better understand the interests and concerns of the community.

The Board shall establish citizen advisory committees when required by law, to strengthen the effectiveness of district and school operations, or to enhance student learning. The purpose of any such committees shall be clearly defined and aligned to the district's vision, mission, and goals. The Board may dissolve any advisory committee not required by law when the committee has fulfilled its duties or at any time the Board deems it necessary.

- (cf. 0000 - Vision)*
- (cf. 0200 - Goals for the School District)*
- (cf. 0420 - School Plans/Site Councils)*
- (cf. 0420.1 - School-Based Program Coordination)*
- (cf. 0430 - Comprehensive Local Plan for Special Education)*
- (cf. 2230 - Representative and Deliberative Groups)*
- (cf. 3280 - Sale, Lease, Rental of District-Owned Real Property)*
- (cf. 5030 - Student Wellness)*
- (cf. 6020 - Parent Involvement)*
- (cf. 6174 - Education for English Language Learners)*
- (cf. 6175 - Migrant Education Program)*
- (cf. 6178 - Vocational Education)*
- (cf. 9130 - Board Committees)*

The Superintendent or designee may establish advisory committees which shall report to him/her in accordance with law, Board policy, and administrative regulation.

Citizen advisory committees shall serve in an advisory capacity; they may make recommendations, but their actions shall not be binding on the Board or Superintendent.

The membership of citizen advisory committees should reflect the diversity of the community and represent a diversity of viewpoints.

The Superintendent or designee shall provide training and information, as necessary, to enable committee members to understand the goals of the committee and to fulfill their role as committee members.

Within budget allocations, the Superintendent or designee may approve requests for committee travel and may reimburse committee members for expenses at the same rates and under the same conditions as those provided for district employees.

- (cf. 3350 - Travel Expenses)*

Legal Reference: (see next page)

CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEES (continued)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

8070 Career technical education advisory committee
11503 Parent involvement program
15278-15282 Citizens' oversight committee
15359.3 School facilities improvement districts
17387-17391 Advisory committees for use of excess school facilities
35147 School site councils and advisory committees
41505-41508 Pupil Retention Block Grant
41570-41573 School and Library Improvement Block Grant
44032 Travel expense payment
52176 Advisory committees, limited-English proficient students program
52852 Site council, school-based program coordination
54425 Advisory committees, compensatory education
54444.1-54444.2 Parent advisory councils, services to migrant children
56190-56194 Community advisory committee, special education
62002.5 Continuing parent advisory committees

REPEALED EDUCATION CODE FOR CATEGORICAL PROGRAMS

52012 School site council

GOVERNMENT CODE

810.2 Tort claims act, definition employee
810.4 Tort claims act, definition employment
815.2 Injuries by employees within scope of employment
820.9 Members of local public boards not vicariously liable
6250-6270 California Public Records Act
54950-54963 Brown Act

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 42

1751 Note Local wellness policy

COURT DECISIONS

Frazer v. Dixon Unified School District, (1993) 18 Cal.App.4th 781

Management Resources:

CSBA PUBLICATIONS

Maximizing School Board Leadership: Community Leadership, 1996

WEB SITES

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

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

CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEES

Committee Charge

When committees are appointed, committee members shall receive written information including, but not limited to:

1. The committee members' names
2. The procedure to be used in the selection of the committee chairperson and other committee officers
3. The name(s) and contact information of staff member(s) assigned to support the work of the committee
4. The goals and specific charge(s) of the committee, including its topic(s) for study
5. The specific period of time that the committee is expected to serve
6. Legal requirements regarding meeting conduct and public notifications
7. Resources available to help the committee perform its tasks
8. Timelines for progress reports and/or final report
9. Relevant Board policies and administrative regulations

Members of advisory committees are not vicariously liable for injuries caused by the act or omission of the district or a committee and are not liable for injuries caused by an act or omission of a committee member acting within the scope of his/her role as a member of the committee. However, a member may be liable for injury caused by his/her own wrongful conduct. (Government Code 815.2, 820.9)

(cf. 3530 - Risk Management/Insurance)

Committees Subject to Brown Act Requirements

The following committees shall comply with Brown Act requirements pertaining to open meetings, notices, and public participation, pursuant to Government Code 54950-54963:

1. Advisory committees established pursuant to Education Code 56190-56194 related to special education

(cf. 0430 - Comprehensive Local Plan for Special Education)

CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEES (continued)

2. Advisory committees established pursuant to Education Code 8070 related to career technical education

(cf. 6178 - Vocational Education)

3. Committees established to assist in development of a student wellness policy pursuant to 42 USC 1751 Note

(cf. 5030 - Student Wellness)

4. Committees established pursuant to Education Code 17387-17391 related to the use or disposition of excess real property

(cf. 3280 - Sale, Lease, Rental of District-Owned Real Property)

5. Citizens' oversight committees established to examine the expenditure of general obligation bond or schools facilities improvement bond revenues passed with a 55 percent majority of the voters pursuant to Education Code 15278 and 15359.3

(cf. 7213 - School Facilities Improvement Districts)

(cf. 7214 - General Obligation Bonds)

6. Other committees created by formal Governing Board action

(cf. 9130 - Board Committees)

(cf. 9320 - Meetings and Notices)

(cf. 9321 - Closed Session Purposes and Agendas)

(cf. 9321.1 - Closed Session Actions and Reports)

(cf. 9323 - Meeting Conduct)

Committees Not Subject to Brown Act Requirements

The following committees are exempt from the Brown Act but must conform with procedural meeting requirements established in Education Code 35147:

1. School site councils established pursuant to Education Code 41507, 41572, or 52852 related to student retention, school or library improvement, or school-based program coordination

(cf. 0420 - School Plans/Site Councils)

(cf. 0420.1 - School-Based Program Coordination)

2. District or school advisory committees established pursuant to Education Code 52176 related to programs for students of limited English proficiency

(cf. 6174 - Education for English Language Learners)

CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEES (continued)

3. School advisory committees established pursuant to Education Code 54425(b) related to compensatory education

(cf. 6171 - Title I Programs)

4. Any district advisory committee established pursuant to Education Code 54444.2 related to migrant education programs

(cf. 6175 - Migrant Education Program)

5. School site councils established pursuant to Education Code 62002.5 related to economic impact aid and bilingual education

6. School committees established pursuant to Education Code 11503 related to parent involvement

(cf. 6020 - Parent Involvement)

Meetings of the above councils or committees shall be open to the public. Any member of the public shall have the opportunity to address the council or committee during the meeting on any item within its jurisdiction. Notice of the meeting shall be posted at the school site or other appropriate accessible location at least 72 hours before the meeting, specifying the date, time, and location of the meeting and containing an agenda that describes each item of business to be discussed or acted upon. (Education Code 35147)

The above councils or committees shall not take action on any item not listed on the agenda unless all members present unanimously find that there is a need to take immediate action and that this need came to the council's or committee's attention after the agenda was posted. In addition to addressing items on the agenda, members of the council, committee, or public may ask questions or make brief statements that do not have a significant effect on district students or employees or that can be resolved solely by providing information. (Education Code 35147)

Councils or committees violating the above procedural requirements must, at the demand of any person, reconsider the item at the next meeting, first allowing for public input on the item. (Education Code 35147)

Any materials provided to a school site council shall be made available to any member of the public upon request pursuant to the California Public Records Act. (Education Code 35147; Government Code 6250-6270)

(cf. 1340 - Access to District Records)

CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEES (continued)

Committees created by the Superintendent or designee to advise the administration and which do not report to the Board are not subject to the requirements of the Brown Act or Education Code 35147.

(cf. 2230 - Representative and Deliberative Groups)

VOLUNTEER ASSISTANCE

The Board of Education encourages parents/guardians and other members of the community to share their time, knowledge and abilities with students. Volunteer assistance in schools enriches the educational program, enhances supervision of students and contributes to school safety while strengthening the schools' relationships with the community. The Board also encourages community members to serve as mentors providing support and motivation to students.

(cf. 1000 - Concepts and Roles)
(cf. 1700 - Relations Between Private Industry and the Schools)
(cf. 4127/4227/4327 - Temporary Athletic Team Coaches)
(cf. 4222 - Teacher Aides/Paraprofessionals)
(cf. 5020 - Parent Rights and Responsibilities)
(cf. 6020 - Parent Involvement)
(cf. 6171 - Title I Programs)

The Superintendent or designee shall develop and implement a plan for recruiting, screening and placing volunteers, including strategies for reaching underrepresented groups of parents/guardians and community members. He/she may also recruit community members to serve as mentors and/or make appropriate referrals to community organizations.

(cf. 1020 - Youth Services)
(cf. 1400 - Relations Between Other Governmental Agencies and the Schools)

The Superintendent or designee shall establish procedures to protect the safety of students and adults. These procedures shall include laws related to tuberculosis testing and may also include laws related to criminal record checks.

Volunteers shall be provided with information about school goals, programs and practices and shall receive an orientation and other training related to their specific responsibilities as appropriate. Employees who supervise volunteers shall ensure that volunteers are assigned meaningful responsibilities that capitalize on their skills and expertise and maximize their contribution to the educational program.

Volunteers shall act in accordance with district policies, regulations and school rules. At their discretion, employees who supervise volunteers may ask any volunteer who violates school rules to leave the campus. Employees also may confer with the principal or designee regarding any such volunteers. The Superintendent or designee shall be responsible for investigating and resolving complaints regarding volunteers.

(cf. 0410 - Nondiscrimination in District Programs and Activities)
(cf. 3515.2 - Disruptions)

VOLUNTEER ASSISTANCE (continued)

Volunteer maintenance work shall be limited to those projects that do not replace the normal maintenance duties of classified staff. The Board nevertheless encourages volunteers to work on short-term projects to the extent that they enhance the classroom or school, do not significantly increase maintenance workloads and comply with employee commitments and contracts.

Volunteer aides shall not be used to assist certificated staff in performing teaching or administrative responsibilities in place of regularly authorized classified employees who have been laid off. (Education Code 35021)

The Board encourages principals to develop a means for recognizing the contributions of each school's volunteers.

The Superintendent or designee shall periodically report to the Board regarding the district's volunteer assistance program.

Legal Reference: (see next page)

VOLUNTEER ASSISTANCE (continued)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

35021 *Volunteer aides*

35021.1 *Automated records check*

44010 *Sex offense; definition*

44227.5 *Classroom participation by college methodology faculty*

44814-44815 *Supervision of students during lunch and other nutrition periods*

45125 *Fingerprinting requirements*

45340-45349 *Instructional aides*

45360-45367 *Teacher aides*

49406 *Examination for tuberculosis*

GOVERNMENT CODE

3100-3109 *Oath or affirmation of allegiance*

3543.5 *Prohibited interference with employees' rights*

HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE

1596.871 *Fingerprints of individuals in contact with child day care facility clients*

LABOR CODE

3364.5 *Persons performing voluntary services for school districts*

PENAL CODE

290 *Registration of sex offenders*

290.4 *Information re sex offenders*

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 22

101170 *Criminal record clearance*

101216 *Health screening, volunteers in child care centers*

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 20

6319 *Qualifications and duties of paraprofessionals, Title I programs*

ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINIONS

62 *Ops. Cal. Atty. Gen. 325 (1979)*

COURT DECISIONS

Whisman Elementary School District, 15 Public Employee Reporter for California, 22043

Management Resources:

NATIONAL PTA PUBLICATIONS

National Standards for Parent/Family Involvement Programs, 1997

Building Successful Partnerships: A Guide for Developing Parent and Family Involvement Programs, 2000

WEB SITES

California PTA: <http://www.capta.org>

National PTA: <http://www.pta.org>

California Partners in Education: <http://www.capie.org>

National Coalition for Parent Involvement in Education: <http://www.ncpie.org>

U.S. Department of Education, Partnership for Family Involvement in Education: <http://pfie.ed.gov>

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

California Department of Justice, Megan's Law mapping: <http://www.meganslaw.ca.gov>

VOLUNTEER ASSISTANCE

Duties of Volunteers

Volunteers may assist certificated personnel in the performance of their duties, in the supervision of students, and in instructional tasks which, in the judgment of the certificated personnel to whom the instructional aide is assigned, may be performed by a person not licensed as a classroom teacher. These duties shall not include assignment of grades to students. (Education Code 45343, 45344, 45349)

(cf. 4222 - Teacher Aides/Paraprofessionals)

Volunteers may supervise students during lunch and/or breakfast periods or may serve as nonteaching aides under the immediate supervision and direction of certificated personnel to perform noninstructional work which assists certificated personnel in the performance of teaching and administrative responsibilities. (Education Code 35021, 44814, 44815)

Volunteers may work on short-term facilities projects pursuant to Board of Education policy and administrative regulation.

Qualifications of Volunteers

Volunteers providing supervision or instruction of students pursuant to Education Code 45349 shall give evidence of basic skills proficiency. (Education Code 45344.5, 45349)

(cf. 4212 - Appointment and Conditions of Employment)

A person who is required to register as a sex offender pursuant to Penal Code 290 shall not serve as a volunteer instructional aide or as a volunteer nonteaching aide under the direct supervision of a certificated employee. (Education Code 35021)

The Superintendent or designee shall verify by reasonable means that persons serving as volunteer instructional aides and nonteaching volunteer aides are not required to register as a sex offender pursuant to Penal Code 290.

(cf. 3515.5 - Sex Offender Notification)

No volunteer shall be assigned to provide supervision or instruction of students unless he/she has submitted evidence of an examination within the past 60 days to determine that he/she is free of active tuberculosis. Volunteers who skin test negative shall thereafter be required to take a tuberculosis test every four years in accordance with Education Code 49406. (Education Code 45106, 45347, 45349, 49406)

Volunteer Facilities Projects

All volunteer facilities projects shall have approximate start and completion dates and must be approved by the principal in advance.

VOLUNTEER ASSISTANCE (continued)

Projects approved by the principal shall also be approved in advance by the Superintendent or designee if they involve the following types of work:

1. Alterations, additions or repairs to buildings and grounds
2. Construction involving wall or roof penetration, drilling or nailing
3. Structural modifications
4. Electrical, electronic, plumbing, or heating and cooling work
5. Painting
6. Installation of carpet
7. Installation of playground equipment and benches
8. Installation of sprinkler systems
9. Paving
10. Installation of marquees and signs
11. Tree planting, pruning or removal

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that volunteers possess the appropriate license and/or have sufficient expertise appropriate to the project. He/she shall also ensure that such projects comply with building and safety codes and other applicable laws and collective bargaining agreements. The district shall provide on-site assistance and supervision for such projects as necessary. Projects shall be inspected upon completion to ensure that the work was done satisfactorily.

(cf. 3514 - Environmental Safety)
(cf. 3514.1 - Hazardous Substances)
(cf. 7111 - Evaluating Existing Buildings)
(cf. 7140 - Architectural and Engineering Services)

VISITORS/OUTSIDERS

The Board of Education encourages parents/guardians and interested members of the community to visit the schools and view the educational program.

To ensure minimum interruption of the instructional program, the Superintendent or designee shall establish procedures which facilitate visits during regular school days. Visits during school hours should be first arranged with the teacher and principal or designee. If a conference is desired, an appointment should be set with the teacher during noninstructional time.

Note: Penal Code 627.2 requires outsiders to register upon entering school grounds during school hours, and Penal Code 627.1 lists individuals who are not “outsiders for this purpose. The Attorney General (95 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 509 (1996)) holds that by directing school authorities to minimize classroom interruptions, Education Code 32212 gives them discretion to require media representatives to register and comply with other reasonable restrictions; see BP 1112 – Media Relations. It therefore appears that the district, pursuant to Education Code 32212 and 35160, could require all visitors, including parents/guardians and others listed in Penal Code 627.1, to register upon entering the school campus and comply with other reasonable restrictions.

Pursuant to Penal Code 627.9, the Board may exempt a class of outsiders, a school or class of schools, designated portions of school grounds or the district as a whole from the requirements under Penal Code 627.2 for outsider registration. In addition, the Board may authorize the principal to exempt individual outsiders, but the exemption must be in writing, signed, dated and specifying the person exempted and the expiration date of the exemption.

All outsiders as defined in law and administrative regulations shall register immediately upon entering any school building or grounds when school is in session. (Penal Code 627.2)

(cf. 5144 - Discipline)

For purposes of school safety and security, the principal or designee may design a visible means of identification for visitors while on school premises.

No electronic listening or recording device may be used by students or visitors in a classroom without the teacher and principal's permission. (Education Code 51512)

(cf. 1112 –Media Relations)

(cf. 3515.2 – Disruptions)

Legal Reference: (see next page)

VISITORS/OUTSIDERS (continued)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

32210 Willful disturbance of public school or meeting

32211 Threatened disruption or interference with classes; misdemeanor

32212 Classroom interruptions

35160 Authority of governing boards

35292 Visits to schools (board members)

51512 Prohibited use of electronic listening or recording device

EVIDENCE CODE

1070 Refusal to disclose news source

LABOR CODE

230.8 Discharge or discrimination for taking time off

PENAL CODE

626-626.10 Schools

627-627.10 Access to school premises, especially:

627.1 Definitions

627.2 Necessity of registration by outsider

627.7 Misdemeanors; punishment

ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINIONS

95 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 509 (1996)

EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

The Governing Board recognizes the importance of community support of district programs, including voluntary financial contributions, to assist the district in achieving its goals for student learning.

(cf. 0200 - Goals for the School District)
(cf. 1230 - School-Connected Organizations)
(cf. 5030 - Student Wellness)
(cf. 6020 - Parent Involvement)
(cf. 6145 - Extracurricular and Cocurricular Activities)
(cf. 6145.2 - Athletic Competition)

The Board desires to work cooperatively with educational foundations in determining the purposes for which funds may be used to meet the changing needs of the district and its students. The Board recognizes that educational foundations are a separate legal entity, independent of the district. However, the foundations are encouraged to provide regular reports to the Board on the status of its work and to communicate ways that the district can help support the foundations' activities.

(cf. 3290 - Gifts, Grants and Bequests)
(cf. 9140 - Board Representatives)

With the consent of the Superintendent or designee, educational foundations, as appropriate, may use the district's name, a school's name, a school team's name, or any logo attributable to a school or the district.

The Board supports foundation allocations that serve all district schools equitably.

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

Legal Reference: (see next page)

EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION (continued)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

38130-38138 *Civic Center Act, use of school property for public purposes*

BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONS CODE

12580-12599.7 *Fundraisers for Charitable Purposes Act*

17510-17510.95 *Solicitations for charitable purposes*

25608 *Alcohol on school property; use in connection with instruction*

PENAL CODE

319-329 *Lottery, raffle*

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 11

300-312.1 *Fundraising for charitable purposes*

COURT DECISIONS

Serrano v. Priest, (1976) 18 Cal. 3d 728

Management Resources:

WEB SITES

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

California Consortium of Education Foundations: <http://www.cceflink.org>

California Office of the Attorney General, charitable trust registry: <http://caag.state.ca.us/charities>

COMPLAINTS CONCERNING DISTRICT EMPLOYEES

The Board of Education accepts responsibility for providing a means by which the public can hold employees accountable for their actions. The Board desires that complaints be resolved expeditiously without disrupting the educational process.

The Superintendent or designee shall develop regulations which permit the public to submit complaints against district employees in an appropriate way. These regulations shall protect the rights of involved parties. The Board may serve as an appeals body if the complaint is not resolved.

(cf. 1312.2 - Complaints Concerning Instructional Materials)
(cf. 1312.3 - Uniform Complaint Procedures)
(cf. 3515.2 - Disruptions)

The Board prohibits retaliation against complainants. The Superintendent or designee at his/her discretion may keep a complainant's identity confidential, except to the extent necessary to investigate the complaint. The district will not investigate anonymous complaints unless it so desires.

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

33308.1 Guidelines on procedure for filing child abuse complaints

35146 Closed sessions

44031 Personnel file contents and inspection

44811 Disruption of public school activities

44932-44949 Resignation, dismissal and leaves of absence (rights of employee; procedures to follow)

48987 Child abuse guidelines

GOVERNMENT CODE

54957 Closed session; complaints re employees

54957.6 Closed session; salaries or fringe benefits

PENAL CODE

273 Cruelty or unjustifiable punishment of child

11164-11174.3 Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act

WELFARE AND INSTITUTIONS CODE

300 Minors subject to jurisdiction of juvenile court

Management Resources:

CDE LEGAL ADVISORIES

0910.93 Guidelines for parents to report suspected child abuse by school district employees or other persons against a pupil at school site (LO:4-93)

COMPLAINTS CONCERNING DISTRICT EMPLOYEES

The Superintendent or designee shall determine whether a complaint should be considered a complaint against the district and/or an individual employee, and whether it should be resolved by the district's process for complaints concerning personnel and/or other district procedures.

(cf. 1312.2 - Complaints Concerning Instructional Materials)

(cf. 1312.3 - Uniform Complaint Procedures)

(cf. 4144/4244/4344 - Complaints)

To promote prompt and fair resolution of the complaint, the following procedures shall govern the resolution of complaints against district employees:

1. Every effort should be made to resolve a complaint at the earliest possible stage. Whenever possible, the complainant should communicate directly to the employee in order to resolve concerns.
2. If a complainant is unable or unwilling to resolve the complaint directly with the employee, he/she may submit an oral or written complaint to the employee's immediate supervisor or the principal.
3. All complaints related to district personnel other than administrators shall be submitted in writing to the principal or immediate supervisor. If the complainant is unable to prepare the complaint in writing, administrative staff shall help him/her to do so. Complaints related to a principal or central office administrator shall be initially filed in writing with the Superintendent or designee. Complaints related to the Superintendent shall be initially filed in writing with the Board.
4. When a written complaint is received, the employee shall be notified within five days or in accordance with collective bargaining agreements.
5. A written complaint shall include:
 - a. The full name of each employee involved
 - b. A brief but specific summary of the complaint and the facts surrounding it
 - c. A specific description of any prior attempt to discuss the complaint with the employee and the failure to resolve the matter
6. Staff responsible for investigating complaints shall attempt to resolve the complaint to the satisfaction of the parties involved within 30 days.

COMPLAINTS CONCERNING DISTRICT EMPLOYEES (continued)

7. Both the complainant and the employee against whom the complaint was made may appeal a decision by the principal or immediate supervisor to the Superintendent or designee, who shall attempt to resolve the complaint to the satisfaction of the person involved within 30 days. Parties should consider and accept the Superintendent or designee's decision as final. However, the complainant, the employee, or the Superintendent or designee may ask to address the Board regarding the complaint.
8. Before any Board consideration of a complaint, the Superintendent or designee shall submit to the Board a written report concerning the complaint, including but not limited to:
 - a. The full name of each employee involved
 - b. A brief but specific summary of the complaint and the facts surrounding it, sufficient to inform the Board and the parties as to the precise nature of the complaint and to allow the parties to prepare a response
 - c. A copy of the signed original complaint
 - d. A summary of the action taken by the Superintendent or designee, together with his/her specific finding that the problem has not been resolved and the reasons
9. The Board may uphold the Superintendent's decision without hearing the complaint.
10. All parties to a complaint may be asked to attend a Board meeting in order to clarify the issue and present all available evidence.
11. A closed session may be held to hear the complaint in accordance with law.

(cf. 9321 - Closed Session Purposes and Agendas)
(cf. 9323 - Meeting Conduct)

12. The decision of the Board shall be final.

Any complaint of child abuse or neglect alleged against a district employee shall be reported to the appropriate local agencies in accordance with law, Board policy and administrative regulation.

(cf. 5141.4 - Child Abuse Prevention and Reporting)

COMPLAINTS CONCERNING INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

The Board of Education uses a comprehensive process to adopt district instructional materials that is based on selection criteria established by law and Board policy and includes opportunities for the involvement of parents/guardians and community members. Complaints concerning the content or use of instructional materials, including textbooks, supplementary instructional materials, library materials, or other instructional materials and equipment, shall be properly and fairly considered using established complaint procedures.

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

(cf. 6161.11 - Supplementary Instructional Materials)

(cf. 6163.1 - Library Media Centers)

Parents/guardians are encouraged to discuss any concerns regarding instructional materials with their child's teacher and/or the school principal. If the situation remains unresolved, a complaint may be filed using the process specified in the administrative regulation.

The district shall accept complaints concerning instructional materials only from staff, district residents, or the parents/guardians of children enrolled in a district school.

When deliberating upon challenged materials, the Superintendent and/or review committee shall consider the educational philosophy of the district, the professional opinions of teachers of the subject and of other competent authorities, reviews of the materials by reputable bodies, the teacher's stated objectives in using the materials, community standards, and the objections of the complainant.

Complainants are encouraged to accept the Superintendent's or review committee's decision. However, if the complainant finds that decision unsatisfactory, he/she may appeal the decision to the Board.

(cf. 9322 - Agenda/Meeting Materials)

The district's decision shall be based on educational suitability of the materials and the criteria established in Board policy and administrative regulation.

(cf. 6144 - Controversial Issues)

(cf. 9000 - Role of the Board)

(cf. 9005 - Governance Standards)

When any challenged instructional material is reviewed by the district, it shall not be subject to further reconsideration for 12 months, unless the Superintendent determines that reconsideration is warranted.

Complaints related to sufficiency of textbooks or instructional materials shall be resolved pursuant to the district's Williams uniform complaint procedure at AR 1312.4.

COMPLAINTS CONCERNING INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS (continued)

(cf. 1312.1 - Complaints Concerning District Employees)

(cf. 1312.3 - Uniform Complaint Procedures)

(cf. 1312.4 - Williams Uniform Complaint Procedures)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

18111 Exclusion of books by governing board

35010 Control of district; prescription and enforcement of rules

35186 Williams Uniform Complaint Procedures

44805 Enforcement of course of studies; use of textbooks, rules and regulations

51501 Subject matter reflecting on race, color, etc.

60000-60005 Instructional materials, legislative intent

60040-60048 Instructional requirements and materials

60119 Public hearing on sufficiency of materials

60200-60206 Elementary school materials

60226 Requirements for publishers and manufacturers

60400-60411 High school textbooks

60510-60511 Donation of sale of obsolete instructional materials

Management Resources:

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PROGRAM ADVISORIES

1002.90 Selection of Instructional Materials, CIL: 90/91-02

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PUBLICATIONS

Standards for Evaluation of Instructional Materials with Respect to Social Content, 1986 edition, revised 2001

WEB SITES

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

California Department of Education, Curriculum and Instruction: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ci>

COMPLAINTS CONCERNING INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

Step 1: Informal Complaint

If a staff member, district resident, or parent/guardian of a student enrolled in a district school has a complaint regarding the content or use of any specific instructional material, he/she shall informally discuss the material in question with the principal.

Step 2: Formal Complaint

If the complainant is not satisfied with the principal's initial response, he/she shall present a written complaint to the principal. Complaints regarding printed material shall name the author, title, and publisher and shall identify the objection by page and item numbers. In the case of nonprinted material, written information specifying the precise nature of the objection shall be given. Complainants shall sign all complaints and provide identifying information so that the district is able to make a proper reply. Anonymous complaints will not be accepted.

Upon receiving a complaint, the principal shall acknowledge its receipt and answer any questions regarding procedure. The principal then shall notify the Superintendent or designee and the teacher(s) involved of the complaint.

During the investigation of the complaint, the challenged material may remain in use until a final decision has been reached. However, upon request of the parent/guardian who has filed the complaint, his/her child may be excused from using challenged materials until a resolution has been reached. The teacher shall assign the student an alternate material of equal merit.

Step 3: Superintendent Determination

The Superintendent or designee shall determine whether a review committee should be convened to review the complaint.

If the Superintendent or designee determines that a review committee is not necessary, he/she shall issue a decision regarding the complaint.

Step 4: Review Committee

If the Superintendent or designee determines that a review committee is necessary, he/she shall appoint a committee composed of administrators and staff members selected from relevant instructional and administrative areas. The Superintendent or designee may also appoint community members to serve on the committee.

The review committee shall review the criteria specified in Board policy and shall determine the extent to which the challenged material supports the curriculum, the educational appropriateness of the material, and its suitability for the age level of the student.

COMPLAINTS CONCERNING INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS (continued)

Within 30 days of being convened, the review committee shall summarize its findings in a written report. The Superintendent or designee shall notify the complainant of the committee's decision within 15 days of receiving the committee's report.

Step 5: Appeal to the Board of Education

If the complainant remains unsatisfied, he/she may appeal the Superintendent's or the review committee's decision to the Board. The Board's decision shall be final.

(cf. 9322 - Agenda/Meeting Materials)

COMPLAINTS CONCERNING INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

**REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION OF
INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS**

This form is for use only by district employees, district residents, or parents/guardians of children enrolled in a district school to challenge the content or use of an instructional material. For complaints regarding sufficiency of instructional materials, please use the Williams Uniform Complaint Procedure complaint form.

Date: _____

Name of person filing complaint: _____
Anonymous complaints will not be accepted.

Group represented (if any): _____

Phone: _____ E-mail address, if any: _____

Address: _____

Material Being Challenged:

Title: _____

Author: _____

Publisher: _____ Date of Edition: _____

Name of school/classroom material was used: _____

1. Please specifically state the nature of your concern or objection and identify your objection by page, tape sequence, video frame, or words, as appropriate. You may use additional pages if necessary.

2. Did you read/view the entire selection?

3. For what age group would you recommend this material?

COMPLAINTS CONCERNING INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS (continued)

4. If not, what percentage did you read/view, or what parts?

5. What do you feel might be the result if a student reads/views this material?

6. What would you like the school to do about this material?
 - Do not assign it to my child
 - Withdraw it from all students
 - Reconsider it

Signature of complainant

For District Use:

Request received by: _____ Date: _____

Title: _____

Action taken: _____ Date: _____

UNIFORM COMPLAINT PROCEDURES

The Board of Education recognizes that the district is primarily responsible for complying with applicable state and federal laws and regulations governing educational programs. The district shall investigate complaints alleging failure to comply with such laws and/or alleging discrimination and shall seek to resolve those complaints in accordance with the district's uniform complaint procedures. (5 CCR 4620)

The district shall follow uniform complaint procedures when addressing complaints alleging unlawful discrimination against any protected group as identified under Education Code 200 and 220 and Government Code 11135, including actual or perceived sex, sexual orientation, gender, ethnic group identification, race, ancestry, national origin, religion, color, or mental or physical disability, or age, or on the basis of a person's association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics in any district program or activity that receives or benefits from state financial assistance. (5 CCR 4610)

Uniform complaint procedures shall also be used when addressing complaints alleging failure to comply with state and/or federal laws in adult education programs, consolidated categorical aid programs, migrant education, career technical and technical education and career technical and technical training programs, child care and development programs, child nutrition programs, and special education programs. (5 CCR 4610)

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

(cf. 1312.1 - Complaints Concerning District Employees)

(cf. 1312.2 - Complaints Concerning Instructional Materials)

(cf. 3553 - Free and Reduced Price Meals)

(cf. 4031 - Complaints Concerning Discrimination in Employment)

(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 - Vocational Education)

(cf. 6200 - Adult Education)

Complaints related to sufficiency of textbooks or instructional materials, emergency or urgent facilities conditions that pose a threat to the health or safety of students or staff, and teacher vacancies and misassignments shall be investigated pursuant to the district's Williams uniform complaint procedure (AR 1312.4).

(cf. 1312.4 - Williams Uniform Complaint Procedures)

UNIFORM COMPLAINT PROCEDURES (continued)

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

The Board acknowledges and respects every individual's right to privacy. Discrimination complaints shall be investigated in a manner that protects the confidentiality of the parties and the integrity of the process. This may include keeping the identity of the complainant confidential, as appropriate and except to the extent necessary to carry out the investigation or proceedings, as determined by the Superintendent or designee, on a case-by-case basis.

(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 Board prohibits any form of retaliation against any complainant in the complaint process, including but not limited to a complainant's filing of a complaint or the reporting of instances of discrimination. Such participation shall not in any way affect the status, grades, or work assignments of the complainant.

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 their 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.

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 procedure*
35186 *Williams uniform complaint procedure*
41500-41513 *Categorical education block grants*
48985 *Notices in language other than English*
49060-49079 *Student records*
49490-49590 *Child nutrition programs*
52160-52178 *Bilingual education programs*
52300-52499.6 *Career-technical education*
52500-52616.24 *Adult schools*
52800-52870 *School-based coordinated programs*
54000-54041 *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*
56000-56885 *Special education programs*
59000-59300 *Special schools and centers*
64000-64001 *Consolidated application process*

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

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

PENAL CODE

422.6 *Interference with constitutional right or privilege*

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*

Management Resources:

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/offices/OCR>

UNIFORM COMPLAINT PROCEDURES

Compliance Officers

The Board of Education designates the following compliance officer(s) to receive and investigate complaints and to ensure district compliance with law:

(title or position)

(address)

(telephone number)

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)

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. (5 CCR 4622)

The Superintendent or designee shall make available copies of the district's uniform complaint procedures free of charge. (5 CCR 4622)

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 pursuant to Education Code 262.3, including 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:

UNIFORM COMPLAINT PROCEDURES (continued)

- a. The district is primarily responsible for compliance with state and federal laws and regulations
- 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. An unlawful discrimination complaint must be filed not later than six months from the date the alleged discrimination occurs, or six months from the date the complainant first obtains knowledge of the facts of the alleged discrimination
- d. The complainant has a right to appeal the district's decision to the CDE by filing a written appeal within 15 days of receiving the district's decision
- 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

(cf. 5145.6 - Parental Notifications)

Procedures

The following procedures shall be used to address all complaints which allege that the district has violated federal or state laws or regulations governing educational programs. 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 alleged noncompliance by the district. (5 CCR 4630)

A complaint alleging unlawful discrimination shall be initiated no later than six months from the date when the alleged discrimination occurred, or six months from the date when the complainant first obtained knowledge of the facts of the alleged discrimination. A complaint may be filed by a person who alleges that he/she personally suffered unlawful discrimination or by a person who believes that an individual or any specific class of individuals has been subjected to unlawful discrimination. (5 CCR 4630)

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.

UNIFORM COMPLAINT PROCEDURES (continued)

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 of receiving the complaint, the compliance officer may informally discuss with the complainant the possibility of using mediation. If the complainant agrees to mediation, the compliance officer shall make all arrangements for this process.

Before initiating the mediation of a discrimination complaint, 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

The compliance officer is encouraged to hold an investigative meeting within five days of receiving the complaint or an unsuccessful attempt to mediate the complaint. This meeting shall provide an opportunity for the complainant and/or his/her representative to repeat the complaint orally.

The complainant and/or his/her representative shall have an opportunity to present the complaint and evidence or information leading to evidence to support the allegations in the complaint. (5 CCR 4631)

A complainant's refusal to provide the district's investigator with documents or other evidence related to the allegations in the complaint, or his/her failure or refusal to cooperate in the investigation or his/her 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)

The district's refusal to provide the investigator with access to records and/or other information related to the allegation in the complaint, or its failure or refusal to cooperate in the investigation or its engagement in any other obstruction of the investigation, may result in a finding, based on evidence collected, that a violation has occurred and may result in the imposition of a remedy in favor of the complainant. (5 CCR 4631)

UNIFORM COMPLAINT PROCEDURES (continued)

Step 4: Response

Unless extended by written agreement with the complainant, 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, within 60 days of the district's receipt of the complaint. (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 in the language of the complainant whenever feasible or as required by law.

The decision shall include:

1. The findings of fact based on the evidence gathered (5 CCR 4631)
2. The conclusion(s) of law (5 CCR 4631)
3. Disposition of the complaint (5 CCR 4631)
4. Rationale for such disposition (5 CCR 4631)
5. Corrective actions, if any are warranted (5 CCR 4631)
6. Notice of the complainant's right to appeal the district's decision within 15 days to the CDE and procedures to be followed for initiating such an appeal (5 CCR 4631)
7. For discrimination complaints, notice that the complainant must wait until 60 days have elapsed from the filing of an appeal with the CDE before pursuing civil law remedies (Education Code 262.3)

If an employee is disciplined as a result of the complaint, the decision shall simply state that effective action was taken and that the employee was informed of district expectations. The report shall not give any further information as to the nature of the disciplinary action.

Appeals to the California Department of Education

If dissatisfied with the district's decision, the complainant may appeal in writing to the CDE within 15 days of receiving the district's decision. When appealing to the CDE, the complainant must specify the basis for the appeal of the decision and whether the facts are

UNIFORM COMPLAINT PROCEDURES (continued)

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 complaint procedures
7. Other relevant information requested by the CDE

The CDE may directly intervene in the complaint without waiting for action by the district when one of the conditions listed in 5 CCR 4650 exists, including cases in which the district has not taken action within 60 days of the date the complaint was filed with the district.

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 discrimination complaints, however, a complainant must wait until 60 days have elapsed from the filing of an appeal with the CDE before pursuing civil law remedies. The moratorium does not apply to injunctive relief and is applicable only if 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.

WILLIAMS UNIFORM COMPLAINT PROCEDURES

Types of Complaints

The district shall use the following procedures to investigate and resolve complaints when the complainant alleges that any of the following has occurred: (Education Code 35186; 5 CCR 4681, 4682, 4683)

1. Textbooks and instructional materials
 - a. A student, including an English learner, does not have standards-aligned textbooks or instructional materials or state- or district-adopted textbooks or other required instructional materials to use in class.
 - b. A student does not have access to textbooks or instructional materials to use at home or after school.
 - c. Textbooks or instructional materials are in poor or unusable condition, have missing pages, or are unreadable due to damage.

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

2. Teacher vacancy or misassignment
 - a. A semester begins and a teacher vacancy exists.
 - b. A teacher who lacks credentials or training to teach English learners is assigned to teach a class with more than 20 percent English learner students in the class.

(cf. 4112.22 - Staff Teaching Students of Limited English Proficiency)

- c. A teacher is assigned to teach a class for which the teacher lacks subject matter competency.

Teacher vacancy means a position to which a single designated certificated employee has not been assigned at the beginning of the year for an entire year or, if the position is for a one-semester course, a position to which a single designated certificated employee has not been assigned at the beginning of the semester for an entire semester. (Education Code 35186; 5 CCR 4600)

Beginning of the year or semester means the first day classes necessary to serve all the students enrolled are established with a single designated certificated employee assigned for the duration of the class, but not later than 20 working days after the first day students attend classes for that semester. (5 CCR 4600)

WILLIAMS UNIFORM COMPLAINT PROCEDURES (continued)

Misassignment means the placement of a certificated employee in a teaching or services position for which the employee does not hold a legally recognized certificate or credential or the placement of a certificated employee in a teaching or services position that the employee is not otherwise authorized by statute to hold. (Education Code 35186; 5 CCR 4600)

(cf. 4112.2 - Certification)

(cf. 4113 - Assignment)

3. Facilities

- a. A condition poses an emergency or urgent threat to the health or safety of students or staff.

Emergency or urgent threat means structures or systems that are in a condition that poses a threat to the health and safety of students or staff while at school, including, but not limited to, gas leaks; nonfunctioning heating, ventilation, fire sprinklers, or air-conditioning systems; electrical power failure; major sewer stoppage; major pest or vermin infestation; broken windows or exterior doors or gates that will not lock and that pose a security risk; abatement of hazardous materials previously undiscovered that pose an immediate threat to students or staff; or structural damage creating a hazardous or uninhabitable condition. (Education Code 17592.72)

- b. A school restroom has not been cleaned, maintained, or kept open in accordance with Education Code 35292.5.

Clean or maintained school restroom means a school restroom has been cleaned or maintained regularly, is fully operational, or has been stocked at all times with toilet paper, soap, and paper towels or functional hand dryers. (Education Code 35292.5)

Open restroom means, except as necessary for student safety or to make repairs, the school has kept all restrooms open during school hours when students are not in classes and has kept a sufficient number of restrooms open during school hours when students are in classes. (Education Code 35292.5)

4. High school exit examination intensive instruction and services

A student, including an English learner, who has not passed the exit exam by the end of grade 12 was not provided the opportunity to receive intensive instruction and

WILLIAMS UNIFORM COMPLAINT PROCEDURES (continued)

services pursuant to Education Code 37254(d)(4) and (5) after completion of grade 12 for two consecutive academic years or until the student has passed both parts of the exam, whichever comes first. (Education Code 35186)

(cf. 6162.52 - High School Exit Examination)

(cf. 6179 - Supplemental Instruction)

Filing of Complaint

A complaint alleging any condition(s) specified in items #1-3 above shall be filed with the principal or designee at the school in which the complaint arises. The principal or designee shall forward a complaint about problems beyond his/her authority to the Superintendent or designee in a timely manner, but not to exceed 10 working days. (Education Code 35186; 5 CCR 4680)

A complaint alleging any deficiency specified in item #4 above shall be filed with a district official designated by the Superintendent. Such complaints may be filed at the district office or at a school site and shall be immediately forwarded to the Superintendent or designee. (Education Code 35186)

Investigation and Response

The principal or designee shall make all reasonable efforts to investigate any problem within his/her authority. He/she shall remedy a valid complaint within a reasonable time period not to exceed 30 working days from the date the complaint was received. (Education Code 35186; 5 CCR 4685)

Complaints may be filed anonymously. If the complainant has indicated on the complaint form that he/she would like a response to the complaint, the principal or designee shall report the resolution of the complaint to him/her within 45 working days of the initial filing of the complaint. If a response is requested, the response shall be made to the mailing address of the complainant as indicated on the complaint form. At the same time, the principal or designee shall report the same information to the Superintendent or designee. (Education Code 35186; 5 CCR 4680, 4685)

When Education Code 48985 is applicable and the complainant has requested a response, the response shall be written in English and in the primary language in which the complaint was filed. (Education Code 35186)

If a complainant is not satisfied with the resolution of a complaint, he/she has the right to describe the complaint to the Governing Board at a regularly scheduled meeting. (Education Code 35186; 5 CCR 4686)

WILLIAMS UNIFORM COMPLAINT PROCEDURES (continued)

For any complaint concerning a facilities condition that poses an emergency or urgent threat to the health or safety of students or staff as described in item #3a above, a complainant who is not satisfied with the resolution proffered by the principal or Superintendent or designee may file an appeal to the Superintendent of Public Instruction within 15 days of receiving the district's response. The complainant shall comply with the appeal requirements specified in 5 CCR 4632. (Education Code 35186; 5 CCR 4687)

All complaints and written responses shall be public records. (Education Code 35186; 5 CCR 4686)

(cf. 1340 - Access to District Records)

Reports

The Superintendent or designee shall report summarized data on the nature and resolution of all complaints to the Board and the County Superintendent of Schools on a quarterly basis. The report shall include the number of complaints by general subject area with the number of resolved and unresolved complaints. These summaries shall be publicly reported on a quarterly basis at a regularly scheduled Board meeting. (Education Code 35186; 5 CCR 4686)

Forms and Notices

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that the district's complaint form contains a space to indicate whether the complainant desires a response to his/her complaint and specifies the location for filing a complaint. A complainant may add as much text to explain the complaint as he/she wishes. However, complainants need not use the district's Williams complaint form in order to file a complaint. (Education Code 35186)

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that a notice is posted in each classroom in each school containing the components specified in Education Code 35186. (Education Code 35186)

Legal Reference: (see next page)

WILLIAMS UNIFORM COMPLAINT PROCEDURES (continued)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

1240 *County superintendent of schools, duties*

17592.72 *Urgent or emergency repairs, School Facility Emergency Repair Account*

33126 *School accountability report card*

35186 *Williams uniform complaint procedure*

35292.5 *Restrooms, maintenance and cleanliness*

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

48985 *Notice to parents in language other than English*

60119 *Hearing on sufficiency of instructional materials*

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

4600-4687 *Uniform complaint procedures, especially:*

4680-4687 *Williams complaints*

Management Resources:

WEB SITES

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

California County Superintendents Educational Services Association: <http://www.ccesa.org>

California Department of Education, Williams case: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/eo/ce/wc/index.asp>

State Allocation Board, Office of Public School Construction: <http://www.opsc.dgs.ca.gov>

CIVILITY

Members of the Pajaro Valley Unified School District staff will treat parents and other members of the public with respect and expect the same in return. The district is committed to maintaining orderly educational and administrative processes in keeping schools and administrative offices free from disruptions and preventing unauthorized persons from entering school/district grounds.

This policy promotes mutual respect, civility and orderly conduct among district employees, parents and the public. This policy is not intended to deprive any person of his/her right to freedom of expression, but only to maintain, to the extent possible and reasonable, a safe, harassment-free workplace for our students and staff. In the interest of presenting district employees as positive role models to the children of this district, as well as the community, the Pajaro Valley Unified School District encourages positive communication and discourages volatile, hostile or aggressive actions. The district seeks public cooperation with this endeavor.

Disruptions

Any individual who disrupts or threatens to disrupt school/office operations; threatens the health and safety of students or staff; willfully causes property damage; uses loud and/or offensive language which could provoke a violent reaction; or who has otherwise established a continued pattern of unauthorized entry on school district property, will be directed to leave school or school district property promptly by the Superintendent, principal or designee.

If any member of the public uses obscenities or speaks in a demanding, loud, abusive and/or demeaning manner, the administrator or employee to whom the marks are directed will calmly and politely admonish the speaker to communicate civilly. If corrective action is not taken by the abusing party, the district employee will verbally notify the abusing party that his/her participation in the meeting, conference or telephone conversation is terminated and, if the meeting or conference is on district premises, the offending person will be directed to leave promptly.

When an individual is directed to leave under the above circumstances, the Superintendent, principal or designee shall inform the person that he/she will be guilty of a misdemeanor in accordance with Californian Education Code 44811 and Penal Codes 415.5 and 626.7 if he/she reenters any district facility within 30 days after being directed to leave, or within seven days if the person is a parent/guardian of a student attending that school. If an individual refuses to leave upon request or returns before the applicable period of time, the Superintendent, principal or designee may notify law enforcement officials.

(cf. 5131.4 Campus Disturbance)

(cf. 9323 Meeting Conduct)

CIVILITY (continued)

Safety And Security

The Superintendent or designee will ensure that a safety and/or crisis intervention techniques program is provided in order to raise awareness on how to deal with these situations if and when they occur.

When violence is directed against an employee, or theft against property, employees shall promptly report the occurrence to their principal or supervisor and complete an Incident Report.

An employee whose person or property is injured or damaged by willful misconduct of a student may ask the district to pursue legal action against the student or the student's parent/guardian.

Documentation

When it is determined by staff that a member of the public is in the process of violating the provisions of this policy, an effort should be made by staff to provide a written copy of this policy, including applicable code provisions, at the time of occurrence.

Following any violation of the provisions of this policy, the employee will immediately notify his/her supervisor and provide a report of the incident on the attached form.

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

32210 Disturbing School

44014 Assault on personnel

44810 Person on school grounds

44811 Insult and abuses

PENAL CODE

243.5 Arrest on school grounds

413.5 Fighting on school grounds

626.8 Entry of school by person not on lawful business

627.7 Refusal to leave school grounds

SOLICITATION OF FUNDS FROM AND BY STUDENTS

The Board of Education recognizes that student participation in fund-raising activities for the schools and nonprofit, nonpartisan charitable organizations can help develop a sense of social responsibility in students, enhance the relationship between the school and community, and contribute to the improvement of the school program.

(cf. 1325 - Advertising and Promotion)
(cf. 4135/4235/4335 - Soliciting and Selling)
(cf. 5022 - Student and Family Privacy Rights)
(cf. 6142.4 - Learning through Community Service)

Whether solicitations are made on behalf of the school or on behalf of a charitable organization, students shall not be barred from an event or activity because they did not participate in fund-raising. Potential donors, including parents/guardians and members of the community, should not be unduly pressured to contribute to the school system or charitable organizations. Staff is expected to emphasize the fact that donations are always voluntary.

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that parents/guardians are informed of the purpose of fund-raisers.

Solicitations on Behalf of the School

With the prior written approval of the Superintendent or designee, official school-related organizations may organize fund-raising events involving students.

(cf. 0420 - School Plans/Site Councils)
(cf. 1230 - School-Connected Organizations)
(cf. 1260 - Educational Foundation)
(cf. 3290 - Gifts, Grants and Bequests)
(cf. 3554 - Other Food Sales)

After the fund-raiser has been held, parents/guardians shall be informed how much money was raised and how it was spent.

Solicitations on Behalf of Charities

When approved in advance by the Superintendent or designee, nonprofit, nonpartisan organizations that are properly chartered or licensed by state or federal law may solicit students on school grounds during school hours and within one hour before school has opened and one hour after school has closed. (Education Code 51520)

Legal Reference: (see next page)

SOLICITATION OF FUNDS FROM AND BY STUDENTS (continued)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

51520 Prohibited solicitations on school premises

51521 Unlawful solicitations of contribution or purchase of personal property for benefit of public school or student body; exception

BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONS CODE

17510-17510.95 Charitable solicitations

PENAL CODE

319-329 Raffles

REVENUE AND TAX CODE

6361 Sales tax exemption for certain sales

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 8

11706 Dangerous activities and occupations

Management Resources:

CSBA PUBLICATIONS

Healthy Food Policy Resource Guide, 2003

ATTORNEY GENERAL PUBLICATIONS

Guide to Charitable Solicitation, 1999

Attorney General's Guide for Charities, 1988

WEB SITES

Office of the Attorney General: <http://caag.state.ca.us>

SOLICITATION OF FUNDS FROM AND BY STUDENTS

The Superintendent or designee shall approve all fund-raising activities at least 15 days before the activity. If the event involves a contract with a commercial vendor, the Superintendent or designee shall review the contract.

In order to minimize interruptions to the educational program, staff shall limit fund-raising activities to appropriate time periods designated by the principal.

(cf. 6116 - Classroom Interruptions)

No student shall be required to raise a specified amount of money in order to participate in an activity sponsored by a school-related organization.

(cf. 1230 - School-Connected Organizations)

Students engaged in fund-raising activities on behalf of the school or for school-related projects are expected to be courteous and respectful towards all individuals and businesses.

Door-to-Door Sales

Students under 16 years old may engage in door-to-door sales of newspaper or magazine subscriptions, candy, cookies, flowers or other merchandise only under the following conditions:

1. The students shall work in pairs, as a team, on the same or opposite side of the street. (8 CCR 11706)
2. The students shall be supervised by an adult, with one adult for every crew of 10 or fewer students. (8 CCR 11706)
3. The students must be within the sight or sound of their adult supervisor at least once every 15 minutes. (8 CCR 11706)
4. The students shall be returned to their respective homes or meeting places after each day's work. (8 CCR 11706)
5. The students shall not engage in door-to-door sales after dark.
6. The students shall generally work inside their immediate neighborhood.
7. Students in grades K-2 shall not be involved in any door-to-door sales or solicitations.

ADVERTISING AND PROMOTION

The Board of Education desires to promote positive relationships between schools and the community in order to enhance community support and involvement in district schools. The Superintendent or designee may approve:

1. Distribution of noncommercial materials that publicize services, special events, public meetings or other items of interest to students or parents/guardians

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

(cf. 5145.2 - Freedom of Speech/Expression)

(cf. 6145.5 - Student Organizations and Equal Access)

(cf. 6162.8 - Research)

2. Distribution of promotional materials of a commercial nature to students or parents/guardians

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

3. Paid advertisements on school property, including but not limited to billboard advertisements

4. Paid advertisements in school-sponsored publications, yearbooks, announcements and other school communications

(cf. 1113 - District and School Web Sites)

5. Products and materials donated by commercial enterprises for use in the classroom, as long as they serve an educational purpose and do not unduly promote any commercial activity or products. Such materials may bear the name and/or logo of the donor.

(cf. 3290 - Gifts, Grants and Bequests)

(cf. 6161.11 - Supplementary Instructional Materials)

Prior to distribution or publication, the Superintendent, principal or designee shall review and approve all advertising copy and promotional materials to ensure compliance with Board policy.

The Superintendent, principal or designee may selectively approve or disapprove distribution of materials or publishing of copy based on the criteria listed below, but may not disapprove materials or copy in an arbitrary or capricious manner or in a way that discriminates against a particular viewpoint on a subject that would otherwise be allowed.

All materials to be distributed shall bear the name and contact information of the sponsoring entity.

ADVERTISING AND PROMOTION (continued)

The use of promotional materials or advertisements does not imply district endorsement of any identified products or services. Schools are encouraged to include a disclaimer in school publications and yearbooks stating that the school does not endorse any advertised products or services.

Criteria for Approval

The Superintendent, principal or designee shall not accept for distribution any materials or advertisements that:

1. Are obscene, libelous or slanderous (Education Code 48907)
2. Incite students to commit unlawful acts, violate school rules or disrupt the orderly operation of the schools (Education Code 48907)
3. Promote any particular political interest, candidate, party or ballot measure, unless such materials are being distributed at a forum in which candidates or advocates from all sides are presenting their views to the students during school hours or during events scheduled pursuant to the Civic Center Act

(cf. 1160 - Political Processes)

(cf. 1330 - Use of School Facilities)

(cf. 4119.25/4219.25/4319.25 - Political Activities of Employees)

4. Discriminate against, attack or denigrate any group on account of any unlawful consideration

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

5. Promote the use or sale of materials or services that are illegal or inconsistent with school objectives, including but not limited to materials or advertisements for tobacco, intoxicants, and movies or products unsuitable for children
6. Solicit funds or services for an organization, with the exception of solicitations authorized in Board policy

(cf. 1321 - Solicitation of Funds from and by Students)

7. Distribute unsolicited merchandise for which an ensuing payment is requested

The Superintendent or designee also may consider the educational value of the materials or advertisements, the age or maturity of students in the intended audience, and whether the materials or advertisements support the basic educational mission of the district, directly benefit the students or are of intrinsic value to the students or their parents/guardians.

ADVERTISING AND PROMOTION (continued)

(cf. 0000 - Vision)

Schools may establish additional criteria pertaining to the content of advertisements in school publications and yearbooks. Such criteria may limit advertisements to those that contain congratulatory or commemorative messages, curriculum-related content, advertisements for products or services of interest to students, noncontroversial content, and/or other content deemed appropriate by the school publication staff and adviser in accordance with law and Board policy.

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

7050-7058 *Political activities of school officers and employees*

35160 *Authority of governing boards*

35160.1 *Broad authority of school districts*

35172 *Promotional activities*

38130-38138 *Civic Center Act*

48907 *Student exercise of free expression*

BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONS CODE

25664 *Advertisements encouraging minors to drink*

U.S. CONSTITUTION

Amendment 1, Freedom of speech and expression

COURT CASES

DiLoreto v. Downey Unified School District, (1999) 196 F.3d 958

Yeo v. Town of Lexington, (1997) U.S. First Circuit Court of Appeals, No. 96-1623

Hemry v. School Board of Colorado Springs, (D.Col. 1991) 760 F.Supp. 856

Bright v. Los Angeles Unified School District, (1976) 134 Cal. Rptr. 639, 556 P.2d 1090, 18 Cal. 3d 350

Lehman v. Shaker Heights, (1974) 418 U.S. 298

USE OF SCHOOL FACILITIES

The Governing Board recognizes that district facilities and grounds are a community resource and authorizes their use by community groups for purposes provided for in the Civic Center Act when such use does not interfere with school activities. Any district facility that is subject to a joint powers agreement with another public agency is exempted from this Board policy.

(cf. 6145.5 - Student Organizations and Equal Access)

All school-related activities shall be given priority in the use of facilities and grounds under the Civic Center Act. Thereafter, the use shall be on a first-come, first-served basis.

The Superintendent or designee shall maintain procedures and regulations for the use of school facilities and grounds that: (Education Code 38133)

1. Aid, encourage, and assist groups desiring to use school facilities for approved activities
2. Preserve order in school buildings and on school grounds and protect school facilities, designating a person to supervise this task, if necessary

(cf. 0450 - Comprehensive School Safety Plan)

(cf. 3516 - Emergencies and Disaster Preparedness Plan)

3. Ensure that the use of school facilities or grounds is not inconsistent with their use for school purposes and does not interfere with the regular conduct of school work

Fees

The Board authorizes the use of school facilities or grounds without charge by nonprofit organizations, clubs, or associations organized to promote youth and school activities. In accordance with Education Code 38134(a), these groups include, but are not limited to, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, Camp Fire, Inc., parent-teacher associations, and school-community advisory councils. Other groups, including nonprofit groups not organized to promote youth and school activities or for-profit groups that request the use of school facilities under the Civic Center Act, shall be charged at least direct costs.

Groups shall be charged fair rental value when using school facilities or grounds for entertainment or meetings where admission is charged or contributions solicited and net receipts are not to be expended for charitable purposes or for the welfare of the district's students. (Education Code 38134)

Legal Reference: (see next page)

USE OF SCHOOL FACILITIES (continued)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

10900-10914.5 *Community recreation programs*

32282 *School safety plan*

37220 *School holidays*

38130-38138 *Civic Center Act, use of school property for public purposes*

BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONS CODE

25608 *Alcoholic beverage on school premises*

MILITARY AND VETERANS CODE

1800 *Definitions*

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 20

7905 *Equal access to public school facilities*

COURT DECISIONS

Good News Club v. Milford Central School, (2001) 533 U.S. 98

Lamb's Chapel v. Center Moriches Union Free School District, (1993) 508 U.S. 384

Cole v. Richardson, (1972) 405 U.S. 676

Connell v. Higgenbotham, (1971) 403 U.S. 207

ACLU v. Board of Education of Los Angeles, (1961) 55 Cal.2d 167

Ellis v. Board of Education, (1945) 27 Cal.2d 322

ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINIONS

82 *Ops. Cal. Atty. Gen.* 90 (1999)

79 *Ops. Cal. Atty. Gen.* 248 (1996)

Management Resources:

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION LEGAL ADVISORIES

1101.89 *School District Liability and "Hold Harmless" Agreements, LO: 4-89*

WEB SITES

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

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

USE OF SCHOOL FACILITIES

Application for Use of Facilities

Any persons applying for the use of any school facility or grounds on behalf of any society, group, or organization shall present written authorization from the group or organization to make the application.

Persons or organizations applying for the use of school facilities or grounds shall submit a statement of information indicating that the organization upholds the state and federal constitutions and does not intend to use school premises to commit unlawful acts.

Civic Center Use

Subject to district policies and regulations, school facilities and grounds shall be available to citizens and community groups as a civic center for the following purposes: (Education Code 32282, 38131)

1. Public, literary, scientific, recreational, educational, or public agency meetings
2. The discussion of matters of general or public interest
3. The conduct of religious services for temporary periods, on a one-time or renewable basis, by any church or religious organization
4. Child care programs to provide supervision and activities for children of preschool and elementary school age

(cf. 5148 - Child Care and Development)
(cf. 5148.2 - Before/After School Programs)
(cf. 6300 - Preschool/Early Childhood Education)

5. The administration of examinations for the selection of personnel or the instruction of precinct board members by public agencies
6. Supervised recreational activities including, but not limited to, sports league activities that are arranged for and supervised by entities, including religious organizations or churches, and in which youths may participate regardless of religious belief or denomination
7. A community youth center

(cf. 1020 - Youth Services)

USE OF SCHOOL FACILITIES (continued)

8. Mass care and welfare shelters during disasters or other emergencies affecting the public health and welfare

(cf. 0450 - Comprehensive Safety Plan)

(cf. 3516 - Emergencies and Disaster Preparedness Plan)

9. A ceremony, patriotic celebration, or related educational assembly conducted by a veterans' organization

A veterans' organization means the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Disabled American Veterans, United Spanish War Veterans, Grand Army of the Republic, or other duly recognized organization of honorably discharged soldiers, sailors, or marines of the United States, or any of their territories. (Military and Veterans Code 1800)

10. Other purposes deemed appropriate by the Governing Board

The district may grant the use of school facilities on those days on which the public school is closed. (Education Code 37220)

(cf. 6115 - Ceremonies and Observances)

Restrictions

School facilities or grounds shall not be used for any of the following activities:

1. Any use by an individual or group for the commission of any crime or any act prohibited by law
2. Any use which is inconsistent with the use of the school facility for school purposes or which interferes with the regular conduct of school or school work
3. Any use which involves the possession, consumption, or sale of alcoholic beverages or any restricted substances, including tobacco use

(cf. 3513.3 - Tobacco-Free Schools)

The district may exclude certain school facilities from non-school use for safety or security reasons.

USE OF SCHOOL FACILITIES (continued)

Damage and Liability

Groups, organizations, or persons using school facilities or grounds shall be liable for any property damages caused by the activity. The Board may charge the amount necessary to repair the damages and may deny the group further use of school facilities or grounds.

Any group or organization using school facilities or grounds shall be liable for any injuries resulting from its negligence during the use of district facilities or grounds. The group shall bear the cost of insuring against this risk and defending itself against claims arising from this risk. (Education Code 38134)

Groups or organizations shall provide the district with evidence of insurance against claims arising out of the group's own negligence. Groups or organizations shall also be required to include the district as an additional insured on their liability policies for claims arising out of the negligence of the group.

As permitted, the Superintendent or designee may require a hold harmless agreement and indemnification when warranted by the type of activity or the specific facility being used.

ACCESS TO DISTRICT RECORDS

The Board of Education recognizes the right of citizens to have access to public records of the district. The Board intends the district to provide any person reasonable access to the public records of the schools and district during normal business hours and within the requirements of state and federal law. Such records shall be examined in the presence of the staff member regularly responsible for their maintenance.

The district may charge for copies of public records or other materials requested by individuals or groups. The charge shall be based on actual costs of duplication, as determined by the Superintendent or designee and as specified in administrative regulation.

Public access shall not be given to records listed as exempt from public disclosure in the California Public Records Act or other statutes.

(cf. 3553 - Free and Reduced Price Meals)

(cf. 4112.6/4212.6/4312.6 - Personnel Files)

(cf. 4112.62/4212.62/4312.62 - Maintenance of Criminal Offender Records)

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

(cf. 5020 - Parent Rights and Responsibilities)

(cf. 5125 - Student Records)

(cf. 5125.1 - Release of Directory Information)

(cf. 6162.5 - Student Assessment)

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

(cf. 9321 - Closed Session Purposes and Agendas)

Legal Reference: (see next page)

ACCESS TO DISTRICT RECORDS (continued)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

35145 *Public meetings*

35170 *Authority to secure copyrights*

35250 *Duty to keep certain records and reports*

42103 *Publication of proposed budget; hearing*

44031 *Personnel file contents and inspections*

44839 *Medical certificates; periodic medical examination (re access to medical certificate in personnel file)*

49060-49079 *Pupil records*

49091.10 *Parental review of curriculum and instruction*

52850 *Applicability of article (School-based Program Coordination Plan availability)*

GOVERNMENT CODE

3547 *Proposals relating to representation*

6250-6270 *California Public Records Act*

6275-6276.48 *Other exemptions from disclosure*

53262 *Employment contracts*

54957.2 *Minute book record of closed sessions*

54957.5 *Agendas and other writings distributed for discussion or consideration*

81008 *Public records; inspection and reproduction*

CALIFORNIA CONSTITUTION

Article I, Section 3 Right of access to governmental information

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

430-438 *Individual pupil records*

COURT DECISIONS

Fairley v. Superior Court, 66 Cal.App. 4th 1414 (1998)

North County Parents Organization for Children with Special Needs v. Department of Education, 23 Cal.App. 4th 144 (1994)

ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINIONS

71 *Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen.* 235 (1988)

64 *Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen.* 186 (1981)

ACCESS TO DISTRICT RECORDS

Records Open to the Public

Public records include any writing containing information relating to the conduct of the district's business prepared, owned, used or retained by the district regardless of physical form or characteristics. (Government Code 6252)

Writing means any handwriting, typewriting, printing, photostating, photographing, transmitting by electronic mail or facsimile, and every other means of recording upon any tangible thing any form of communication or representation, including letters, words, pictures, sounds, or symbols or combinations thereof, and any record thereby created, regardless of the manner in which the record has been stored. (Government Code 6252)

A member of the public includes any person, except a member, agent, officer, or employee of the district acting within the scope of his/her office or employment. Board of Education members shall have the ability to access public records permitted by law in the administration of their duties. Notwithstanding, members of the Board are entitled to access to district public records on the same basis as any other person. (Government Code 6252, 6252.5)

Records to which the public shall have access include but are not limited to:

1. The proposed and approved budgets (Government Code 6252; Education Code 42103)

(cf. 3100 - Budget)

2. Statistical compilations (Government Code 6252)
3. Reports and memoranda (Government Code 6252)
4. Notices and bulletins (Government Code 6252)
5. Minutes of public meetings (Government Code 6252)

(cf. 9324 - Minutes and Recordings)

6. Meeting agendas (Government Code 6252, 54957.5)

(cf. 9322 - Agenda/Meeting Materials)

7. Official communications between governmental branches (Government Code 6252)
8. School-based program plans (Education Code 52850)

(cf. 0420.1 - School-Based Program Coordination)

ACCESS TO DISTRICT RECORDS (continued)

9. Information and data relevant to the evaluation and modification of school improvement plans
10. Initial proposals of exclusive employee representatives and of the district (Government Code 3547)

(cf. 4143.1/4243.1 - Public Notice - Personnel Negotiations)

11. Tort claims filed against the district and records pertaining to pending litigation which predate the filing of the litigation, unless protected by some other provision of law (Government Code 6254.25; Fairley v. Superior Court; 71 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 235 (1988))

(cf. 3320 - Claims and Actions Against the District)

12. Statements of economic interests required by the Conflict of Interest Code (Government Code 81008)

(cf. 9270 - Conflict of Interest)

13. Contracts of employment and settlement agreements (Government Code 53262)

(cf. 2121 - Superintendent's Contract)

(cf. 4117.5/4217.5/4317.5 - Termination Agreements)

(cf. 4141/4241 - Collective Bargaining Agreement)

Confidential Records

Records to which the general public shall not have access include but are not limited to:

1. Preliminary drafts, notes, interdistrict or intradistrict memoranda which are not retained by the district in the ordinary course of business, provided that the public interest in withholding these records clearly outweighs the public interest in disclosure (Government Code 6254)

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

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

2. Records specifically prepared for litigation to which the district is a party or to claims made pursuant to the Tort Claims Act, until the pending litigation or claim has been finally adjudicated or otherwise settled, unless the records are protected by some other provision of law (Government Code 6254; Fairley v. Superior Court; 71 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 235 (1988))

ACCESS TO DISTRICT RECORDS (continued)

3. Personnel records, medical records, student records, or similar materials, the disclosure of which would constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy (Government Code 6254)

(cf. 4112.6/4212.6/4312.6 - Personnel Files)

(cf. 4112.62/4212.62/4312.62 - Maintenance of Criminal Offender Records)

(cf. 5125 - Student Records)

(cf. 5125.1 - Release of Directory Information)

The home addresses and home telephone numbers of employees may be disclosed only as follows: (Government Code 6254.3)

- a. To an agent or a family member of the individual to whom the information pertains
 - b. To an officer or employee of a state agency or another school district or county office of education when necessary for the performance of official duties
 - c. To an employee organization pursuant to regulations and decisions of the Public Employment Relations Board, unless the employee performs law enforcement-related functions or requests in writing that the information not be disclosed
 - d. To an agent or employee of a health benefit plan providing health services or administering claims for health services to district employees and their enrolled dependents, for the purpose of providing the health services or administering claims for employees and their enrolled dependents
4. Test questions, scoring keys and other examination data except as provided by law (Government Code 6254)

(cf. 6162.51 - Standardized Testing and Reporting Program)

(cf. 6162.52 - High School Exit Examination)

5. Without affecting the law of eminent domain, the contents of real estate appraisals or engineering or feasibility estimates and evaluations made for or by the district relative to the acquisition of property, or to prospective public supply and construction contracts, until all of the property has been acquired or all of the contract agreement obtained (Government Code 6254)

ACCESS TO DISTRICT RECORDS (continued)

6. Information required from any taxpayer in connection with the collection of local taxes that is received in confidence and the disclosure of the information to other persons would result in unfair competitive disadvantage to the person supplying the information (Government Code 6254)
7. Library circulation records kept for the purpose of identifying the borrower of items available in the library (Government Code 6254)

(cf. 6163.1 - Library Media Centers)

8. Records for which the disclosure is exempted or prohibited pursuant to state or federal law, including, but not limited to, provisions of the Evidence Code relating to privilege (Government Code 6254)
9. Documents prepared by or for the district to assess its vulnerability to terrorist attack or other criminal acts intended to disrupt district operations and that are for distribution or consideration in closed session (Government Code 6254)

(cf. 3516 - Emergencies and Disaster Preparedness Plan)

10. Recall petitions or petitions for the reorganization of school districts (Government Code 6253.5)
11. Minutes of Board meetings held in closed session (Government Code 54957.2)

(cf. 9321 - Closed Session Purposes and Agendas)

12. Computer software developed by the district (Government Code 6254.9)
13. Written instructional textbooks or other materials for which providing a copy would infringe a copyright or would constitute an unreasonable burden on the operation of the district (65 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 185 (1981))

(cf. 5020 - Parent Rights and Responsibilities)

14. Any other records listed as exempt from public disclosure in the California Public Records Act or other statutes

Inspection of Records and Requests for Copies

Public records are open to inspection at all times during district office hours. Any reasonably segregable portion of a record shall be made available for inspection by every person requesting the record after deletion of the portions that are exempted by law. (Government Code 6253)

ACCESS TO DISTRICT RECORDS (continued)

Every person may request a copy of any district record open to the public and not exempt from disclosure. (Government Code 6253)

Within 10 days of receiving any request for a copy of records, the Superintendent or designee shall determine whether the request seeks copies of disclosable public records in the district's possession. The Superintendent or designee shall promptly inform the person making the request of his/her determination and the reasons for the decision. (Government Code 6253)

In unusual circumstances, the Superintendent or designee may extend the 10-day limit for up to 14 days by providing written notice to the requester and setting forth the reasons for the extension and the date on which a determination is expected to be made. Unusual circumstances include the following, but only to the extent reasonably necessary to properly process the request: (Government Code 6253)

1. The need to search for and collect the requested records from field facilities or other establishments that are separate from the office processing the request
2. The need to search for, collect and appropriately examine a voluminous amount of separate and distinct records which are demanded in a single request
3. The need for consultation, which shall be conducted with all practicable speed, with another agency having a substantial interest in the determination of the request or among two or more components of the district having substantial subject matter interest therein
4. The need to compile data, to write programming language or a computer program, or to construct a computer report to extract data

If the Superintendent or designee determines that the request seeks disclosable public records, the determination shall state the estimated date and time when the records will be made available. (Government Code 6253)

Upon request for a copy that reasonably describes an identifiable record, an exact copy shall be promptly provided unless it is impracticable to do so. (Government Code 6253)

The Superintendent or designee shall charge an amount for copies that reflects the direct costs of duplication. Written requests to waive the fee shall be submitted to the Superintendent or designee.

ACCESS TO DISTRICT RECORDS (continued)

If any person requests a public record be provided in an electronic format, the district shall make that record available in any electronic format in which it holds the information. The district shall provide a copy of the electronic record in the format requested as long as the requested format is one that has been used by the district to create copies for its own use or for use by other agencies. (Government Code 6253.9)

The cost of duplicating an electronic record shall be limited to the direct cost of producing a copy of the record in electronic format. However, the requester shall bear the cost of producing the copy of the electronic record, including the cost to construct the record and the cost of programming and computer services necessary to produce the copy, under the following circumstances: (Government Code 6253.9)

1. The electronic record is one that is produced only at otherwise regularly scheduled intervals
2. The request would require data compilation, extraction, or programming to produce the record

Assistance in Identifying Requested Records

If the Superintendent or designee denies a request for disclosable records, he/she shall assist the requester in making a focused and effective request that reasonably describes an identifiable record. To the extent reasonable under the circumstances, the Superintendent or designee shall do all of the following: (Government Code 6253.1)

1. Assist in identifying records and information responsive to the request or the purpose of the request, if specified

If after making a reasonable effort to elicit additional clarifying information from the requester to help identify the record, the Superintendent or designee is still unable to identify the information, this requirement will be deemed satisfied.

2. Describe the information technology and physical location in which the records exist
3. Provide suggestions for overcoming any practical basis for denying access to the records or information sought

Provisions of the Public Records Act shall not be construed so as to delay access for purposes of inspecting records open to the public. Any notification denying a request for public records shall state the name and title of each person responsible for the denial. (Government Code 6253)

RELATIONS BETWEEN OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES AND THE SCHOOLS

The Governing Board recognizes that agencies at all levels of government share its concern and responsibility for the health, safety, and welfare of youth. The Board and Superintendent or designee shall initiate and maintain good working relationships with representatives of these agencies in order to help district schools and students make use of the resources which governmental agencies can provide.

- (cf. 0450 - Comprehensive Safety Plan)*
- (cf. 1020 - Youth Services)*
- (cf. 1330 - Use of School Facilities)*
- (cf. 3515.2 - Disruptions)*
- (cf. 3515.3 - District Police/Security Department)*
- (cf. 3515.5 - Sex Offender Notification)*
- (cf. 3516 - Emergencies and Disaster Preparedness Plan)*
- (cf. 5030 - Student Wellness)*
- (cf. 5131.7 - Weapons and Dangerous Instruments)*
- (cf. 5141.22 - Infectious Diseases)*
- (cf. 5141.4 - Child Abuse Prevention and Reporting)*
- (cf. 5145.11 - Questioning and Apprehension)*
- (cf. 5145.12 - Search and Seizure)*
- (cf. 7131 - Relations with Local Agencies)*

The district may enter into agreements with other agencies which involve the exchange of funds or reciprocal services. Such agreements shall be approved by the Board and executed in writing.

Elections/Voter Registration

If a city or county elections official specifically requests the use of a school building as a polling place, the Board shall allow its use for such purpose. The Board may authorize the use of school buildings as polling places on any election day, and may also authorize the use of school buildings, without cost, for the storage of voting machines and other vote-tabulating devices. If school will be in session, the Superintendent or designee shall identify to elections officials the specific areas of the school buildings not occupied by school activities that will be allowed for use as polling places. (Elections Code 12283)

- (cf. 6111 - School Calendar)*

When a school is used as a polling place, the Superintendent or designee shall provide the elections official a site with an adequate amount of space that will allow the precinct board to perform its duties in a manner that will not impede, interfere, or interrupt the normal process of voting and shall make a telephone line for Internet access available for use by local elections officials if so requested. He/she shall make a reasonable effort to ensure that the site is accessible to disabled persons. (Elections Code 12283)

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

RELATIONS BETWEEN OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES AND THE SCHOOLS (continued)

The Superintendent or designee shall designate a contact person at each high school for the Secretary of State to contact in order to facilitate the distribution of voter registration forms to eligible students. The Superintendent or designee shall provide the address, phone number, and email address of each contact person to the Secretary of State. (Elections Code 2148)

To encourage students to participate in the elections process when they are eligible, the Superintendent or designee shall determine the most effective means of distributing the voter registration forms provided by the Secretary of State including, but not limited to, distributing the forms at the start of the school year, with orientation materials, at central locations, and/or with graduation materials.

(cf. 6142.3 - Civic Education)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

- 10900-10914.5 Cooperative community recreation programs
- 12400 Authority to receive and expend federal funds
- 12405 Authority to participate in federal programs
- 17050 Joint use of library facilities
- 17051 Joint use of park and recreational facilities
- 32001 Fire alarms and drills
- 32288 Notice of safety plan
- 35160 Authority of governing boards
- 35160.1 Broad authority of school districts
- 48902 Notification of law enforcement agencies
- 48909 District attorney may give notice student drug use, sale or possession
- 49305 Cooperation of police and California Highway Patrol
- 49402 Contracts with city, county or local health departments
- 49403 Cooperation in control of communicable disease and immunization
- 51202 Instruction in personal and public health and safety

ELECTIONS CODE

- 2145-2148 Distribution of voter registration forms
- 12283 Polling places: schools

WELFARE AND INSTITUTIONS CODE

- 828 Disclosure of information minors by law enforcement agency
- 828.1 School district police department; disclosure of juvenile criminal records

Management Resources:

WEB SITES

- CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>
- California Secretary of State: <http://www.ss.ca.gov>
- California Voter Foundation: <http://www.calvoter.org>
- Cities, Counties, and Schools Partnership: <http://www.ccspartnership.org>

WAIVERS

The Board of Education may request that the State Board of Education waive certain provisions of the Education Code, Title 5 regulations, or the federal law when such provisions prevent the district from offering its students the best possible educational program. The Superintendent or designee, advisory committees, or site councils shall identify the need for the Board to submit waiver requests and shall provide the Board with the necessary information to analyze the need for the waiver.

The Board shall hold a properly noticed public hearing on all waiver requests. (Education Code 33050)

(cf. 9320 - Meetings and Notices)

The Board shall include the exclusive employee representative in the development of the waiver.

(cf. 4140/4240 - Bargaining Units)

If the waiver affects a program that requires the existence of a school site council, the school site council shall first approve the request.

(cf. 0420 - School Plans/Site Councils)

(cf. 0420.1 - School-Based Program Coordination)

(cf. 1220 - Citizen Advisory Committees)

For general waivers, the request to the State Board of Education shall include a statement as to whether the exclusive employee representative participated in the development of the waiver and the exclusive employee representative's position on the waiver. General waiver requests shall include a written summary of any objections to the request by the councils or advisory committees. (Education Code 33050)

Legal Reference: (see next page)

WAIVERS (continued)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

5000-5033 *Governing board elections*
8750-8754 *Grants for conservation education*
10400-10407 *Cooperative improvement programs*
17047.5 *Facilities used by special education students*
17291 *Portable school buildings*
33050-33053 *General waiver authority*
37202 *Equity length of time*
41000-41360 *School finance*
41381 *Minimum school day*
41600-41854 *Computation of allowances*
41920-42842 *Budget requirements; local taxation by school districts*
44520-44534 *New program for careers*
44666-44669 *School-Based Management and Advanced Career Opportunities*
44681-44689 *Administrator Training and Evaluation*
45108.7 *Maximum number of senior management positions*
48660-48666 *Community day schools*
48800 *Attendance at community college*
49550-49560 *Meals for needy students*
51224.5 *Algebra instruction*
51745.6 *Charter school independent study ratio*
51870-51874 *Educational technology*
52053-52055.55 *Immediate Intervention for Underperforming Schools Program*
52055.600-52055.662 *High Priority Schools Grant Program*
52080-52090 *Class size reduction grade 9*
52122.6-52122.8 *Class size reduction - impacted school sites*
52160-52178 *Bilingual-Bicultural Education Act of 1976*
52180-52186 *Bilingual teacher waiver*
52200-52212 *Gifted and Talented Pupils Program*
52340-52346 *Career Guidance Centers*
52522 *Plans for adult education*
52850-52863 *School-Based Coordinated Program*
54000-54041 *Disadvantaged Youth Program*
54100-54145 *Miller-Unruh Basic Reading Program*
54407 *Waiver for compensatory education programs*
56000-56885 *Special education programs*
58407 *Waiver related to individualized instruction program*
58900-58928 *Restructuring demonstration programs*
60119 *Public hearing on sufficiency of instructional materials*
60422 *Instructional materials funding realignment program*

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

1032 *Academic Performance Index*
3100 *Resource specialist caseload waivers*
3945 *Cooperative programs*
9531 *Instructional materials funding*
11960 *Charter school attendance*
11963.4 *Charter school percentage funding*
13017 *Waivers*
13044 *Waivers*

Legal Reference continued: (see next page)

WAIVERS (continued)

Legal Reference continued:

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 20

1400-1482 *Individuals with Disabilities in Education Act*

7115 *Safe and Drug Free Schools, authorized activities*

Management Resources:

WEB SITES

California Department of Education, Waiver Office: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/re/lr/wr>

Commission on Teacher Credentialing: <http://www.ctc.ca.gov>

RELATIONS BETWEEN PRIVATE INDUSTRY AND THE SCHOOLS

The Board of Education encourages representatives of private industry to participate with the schools in preparing our students for challenges they will meet in the future. Working together as partners, business and the schools should seek to educate citizens who can contribute to the productive workforce on which our economy depends.

The Superintendent or designee shall invite local employers to serve on advisory committees, help design regular, vocational and technical programs, and provide needs assessments, program evaluations, and/or staff development for school managers and teachers. Businesses may also provide classroom assistance, individual tutoring, incentive and recognition programs, work experience opportunities, apprenticeship programs and employment opportunities. The Board recognizes that staff members need adequate time to plan these activities in cooperation with the business volunteers.

(cf. 1220 - Citizen Advisory Committees)

(cf. 1240 - Volunteer Assistance)

(cf. 6178 - Vocational Education)

The Board also encourages private industries to contribute funds and equipment to further the district's educational programs. To prepare for an increasingly technological job market, students especially need access to equipment that meets current business standards.

(cf. 1260 - Educational Foundation)

(cf. 3290 - Gifts, Grants and Bequests)

The Board urges employers to further support the schools by recognizing their employees' needs as parents, accommodating their needs for child care, and supporting their involvement with their children's schools.

(cf. 1250 - Visitors/Outsiders)

(cf. 6020 - Parent Involvement)

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that staff, students, and parents/guardians have the opportunity to periodically assess the support which local businesses provide our schools. The Superintendent or designee shall regularly report these evaluations to the Board and recommend those individuals and/or businesses whose contributions merit Board commendation.

(cf. 1150 - Commendations and Awards)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

35160 Authority of governing boards

35160.1 Broad authority of school districts

52376 High school vocational courses; requirements