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OAKLAND UNIFIED  
SCHOOL DISTRICT

Community Schools, Thriving Students

# Memo

To Board of Education  
 From Jacqueline Minor, General Counsel  
 Board Meeting Date April 1, 2015  
 Subject Amendments to Board Policy BP 5144.1

**Action Requested** Approval by the Board of Education of modifications in Board Policy 5144.1

**Background** Staff is recommending approval of changes in Board Policy 5144.1 to conform to changes in State law.

**Discussion** Effective January 1, 2015, California Education Code section 48900(k) was modified to provide no student enrolled in grades kindergarten through third grade may be suspended or expelled for disrupting school activities or willfully defying the authority of school personnel (“disruption and willful defiance”). The changes in the Board Policy conform with changes in State law.

**Recommendation** Approval by the Board of Education of modifications in Board Policy 5144.1

**Fiscal Impact** N/A

**Attachments**

- Redline of Board Policy 5144.1

# OAKLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

## Board Policy

BP 5144.1

### Students

#### Suspension and Expulsion / Due Process

The Governing Board has established policies and standards of behavior in order to promote learning and protect the safety and well-being of all students. In response to serious or repeated violations of established policies and standards, it may be necessary to suspend or expel a student from regular classroom instruction.

(cf. 5144 - Discipline)

The Board does not support a zero tolerance approach to discipline. The Board recognizes the importance of providing schoolwide positive supports, using discipline strategies that keep students in school and in the classroom, and supporting students in learning to behave appropriately and solve conflicts peacefully.

Before subjecting a student to disciplinary sanctions that result in a loss of instructional time, the Superintendent or designee shall, to the extent allowed by law, first use alternative strategies as described in AR 5144 - Discipline. Except where suspension for a first offense is permitted by 48900.5, as further described in AR 5144.1, in-school and out-of-school suspension shall be imposed only when other means of correction fail to bring about proper conduct or the student's presence causes a danger to persons. (Education Code 48900.5) Expulsion is an action taken by the Board only for severe breaches of discipline by a student.

(cf. 1020 - Youth Services)

(cf. 5138 - Conflict Resolution/Peer Mediation)

(cf. 5144 - Discipline)

(cf. 6142.4 - Service Learning/Community Service Classes)

(cf. 6164.2 - Guidance/Counseling Services)

(cf. 6164.5 - Student Success Teams)

Suspension and expulsion may not be imposed for truancy, tardiness, or absence. Alternatives to suspension or expulsion shall be used with students who are truant, tardy, or otherwise absent from assigned school activities.

(cf. 5113 - Absences and Excuses)

(cf. 5113.1 - Chronic Absence and Truancy)

Effective January 1, 2015, as provided in California Education Code section 48900(k), no student enrolled in grades kindergarten through third grade may be suspended or expelled for

disrupting school activities or willfully defying the authority of school personnel ("disruption and willful defiance")

The grounds for suspension and expulsion and the procedures for considering, recommending, and/or implementing suspension and expulsion shall be specified by administrative regulation and must be consistent with the requirements set forth here.

The Superintendent, Certificated Deputy Superintendent, or Certificated Associate Superintendents may involuntarily transfer a student to another school based on a finding that a student committed a violation of Education Code Section 48900. The Superintendent will develop fair and equitable procedures to govern the involuntary transfer process that recognize the use of a positive approach to student behavior and maximize instructional time for every student. An involuntary transfer to a continuation school must be made pursuant to Education Code section 48432.5.

District staff shall enforce the rules concerning suspension and expulsion of students fairly, consistently, and in accordance with the district's nondiscrimination policies.

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

### **Due Process**

The Board shall provide for the fair and equitable treatment of students facing suspension and expulsion by affording them their due process rights under the law. The Superintendent or designee shall comply with procedures for notices, hearings, and appeals as specified in law and administrative regulation. (Education Code 48911, 48915, 48915.5)

(cf. 5119 - Students Expelled from Other Districts)

(cf. 5144.2 - Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process (Students with Disabilities))

### **Supervised Suspension Classroom**

Supervised suspension shall be imposed only when other means of correction have failed to bring about proper conduct. (Education Code 48900.5)

The Board recognizes that students who are suspended from school often have no supervision or guidance during the school hours when they are off campus and may fall behind in the coursework. The Board believes that, in many cases, it would be better to manage the student's behavior by keeping the student at school and providing him/her with supervision that is separated from the regular classroom.

To ensure the proper supervision and ongoing learning of students who are suspended for any of the reasons enumerated in Education Code 48900 and 48900.2, but who pose no imminent danger or threat to anyone at school and for whom expulsion proceedings have not been initiated, the Superintendent or designee shall establish a supervised suspension classroom program which



meets the requirements of law.

### **Decision Not to Enforce Expulsion Order**

On a case-by-case basis, the enforcement of an expulsion order may be suspended by the Board pursuant to the requirements of law and administrative regulation. (Education Code 48917)

### **Monitoring the Use of Suspension and Expulsion**

The Superintendent or designee shall present a report to the Board on a bi-annual basis (in August and February) regarding the use of suspension and expulsion in district schools with the goal of determining whether revisions to Board policies and procedures must be made or training and support provided to reduce and eliminate disproportionate rates of discipline of African-American students. The report shall include, but is not limited to, outcome data which the district is required by law to collect and data related to the effect of suspension and/or expulsion on the district's under-served populations, including African American, Latino, and English Language Learner students as well as students with disabilities.

(cf. 9320 - Meetings and Notices)

Effective July 1, 2014

#### Legal Reference:

#### EDUCATION CODE

212.5 Sexual harassment

233 Hate violence

1981 Enrollment of students in community school

17292.5 Program for expelled students

32261 Interagency School Safety Demonstration Act of 1985

35145 Open board meetings

35146 Closed sessions (regarding suspensions)

35291 Rules (for government and discipline of schools)

35291.5 Rules and procedures on school discipline

48645.5 Readmission; contact with juvenile justice system

48660-48667 Community day schools

48853.5 Foster youth

48900-48927 Suspension and expulsion

48950 Speech and other communication

48980 Parental notifications

49073-49079 Privacy of student records

#### CIVIL CODE

47 Privileged communication

48.8 Defamation liability

#### CODE OF CIVIL PROCEDURE

1985-1997 Subpoenas; means of production

#### GOVERNMENT CODE

11455.20 Contempt  
54950-54963 Ralph M. Brown Act  
HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE  
11014.5 Drug paraphernalia  
11053-11058 Standards and schedules  
LABOR CODE  
230.7 Discharge or discrimination against employee for taking time off to appear in school on behalf of a child  
PENAL CODE  
31 Principal of a crime, defined  
240 Assault defined  
241.2 Assault fines  
242 Battery defined  
243.2 Battery on school property  
243.4 Sexual battery  
245 Assault with deadly weapon  
245.6 Hazing  
261 Rape defined  
266c Unlawful sexual intercourse  
286 Sodomy defined  
288 Lewd or lascivious acts with child under age 14  
288a Oral copulation  
289 Penetration of genital or anal openings  
417.27 Laser pointers  
422.55 Hate crime defined  
422.6 Interference with exercise of civil rights  
422.7 Aggravating factors for punishment  
422.75 Enhanced penalties for hate crimes  
626.2 Entry upon campus after written notice of suspension or dismissal without permission  
626.9 Gun-Free School Zone Act of 1995  
626.10 Dirks, daggers, knives, razors, or stun guns  
868.5 Supporting person; attendance during testimony of witness  
WELFARE AND INSTITUTIONS CODE  
729.6 Counseling  
UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 18  
921 Definitions, firearm  
UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 20  
1415(K) Placement in alternative educational setting  
7151 Gun-free schools  
COURT DECISIONS  
T.H. v. San Diego Unified School District (2004) 122 Cal. App. 4th 1267  
Woodbury v. Dempsey (2003) 108 Cal. App. 4th 421  
Board of Education of Sacramento City Unified School District v. Sacramento County Board of Education and Kenneth H. (2001) 85 Cal.App.4th 1321  
Garcia v. Los Angeles Board of Education (1991) 123 Cal. App. 3d 807  
Fremont Union High School District v. Santa Clara County Board (1991) 235 Cal. App. 3d 1182

John A. v. San Bernardino School District (1982) 33 Cal. 3d 301  
ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINIONS  
84 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 146 (2001)  
80 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 91 (1997)  
80 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 85 (1997)

Management Resources:

CSBA PUBLICATIONS

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

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PUBLICATIONS

Office for Civil Rights' (OCR) April 2011 Dear Colleague Letter: Sexual Violence

Civil Rights Data Collection Summary, March 2012

WEB SITES

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

California Attorney General's Office: <http://www.oag.ca.gov>

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

U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights:  
<http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/crdc-2012-data-summary.pdf>

U.S. Department of Education, Office of Safe and Drug-Free Schools:  
<http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/osdfs>

7/14/04; 4/23/14