

# **Santa Rosa City Schools**

## **Board Policy**

### **Conduct**

BP 5131

### **Students**

The Board of Education believes that all students have the right to be educated in a positive learning environment free from disruptions. Students shall be expected to exhibit appropriate conduct that does not infringe upon the rights of others or interfere with the school program while on school grounds, while going to or coming from school, while at school activities, and while on district transportation.

(cf. 5131.1 - Bus Conduct)

Conduct is considered appropriate when students are diligent in study, careful with school property, courteous, and respectful toward their teachers, other staff, students, and volunteers.

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that each school site develops standards of conduct and discipline consistent with district policies and administrative regulations. Students and parents/guardians shall be notified of district and school rules related to conduct.

Prohibited student conduct that is related to school attendance or school activities includes, but is not limited to:

1. Conduct that endangers students, staff, or others

(cf. 0450 - Comprehensive Safety Plan)

(cf. 5131.7 - Weapons and Dangerous Instruments) (cf. 5136 - Gangs)

(cf. 5142 - Safety)

2. Conduct that disrupts the orderly classroom or school environment. A behavioral intervention pyramid, student study team process, and process instruments are contained in administrative regulation 5131.

(cf. 5131.4 - Student Disturbances)

3. Harassment of students or staff, including bullying, "cyberbullying," intimidation, hazing or initiation activity, ridicule, extortion, or any other verbal, written, or physical conduct that causes or threatens to cause violence, bodily harm, emotional suffering or substantial disruption in accordance with the section entitled "Bullying/Cyberbullying" below.

Cyberbullying includes but is not limited to, the transmission of communications, posting of harassing messages, direct threats, social cruelty, or other harmful text, sounds, or images on the

Internet, social networking sites, or other digital technologies using a telephone, computer, or any wireless communication device. Cyberbullying also includes breaking into another person's electronic account and assuming that person's identity in order to damage that person's reputation, or actions that create a hostile environment, and/or the transmission of obscene words or images.

(cf. 5145.3 - Nondiscrimination/Harassment) (cf. 5145.7 - Sexual Harassment)  
(cf. 5145.9 - Hate-Motivated Behavior)

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

(cf. 3515.4 - Recovery for Property Loss or Damage) (cf. 5131.5 - Vandalism, Theft and Graffiti)

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

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

6. Use of profane, vulgar, or abusive language

(cf. 5145.2 - Freedom of Speech/Expression)

7. Plagiarism or dishonesty in school work or on tests

(cf. 5131.9 - Academic Honesty)  
(cf. 6162.54 - Test Integrity/Test Preparation)  
(cf. 6162.6 - Use of Copyrighted Materials)

8. Inappropriate attire as defined by published school site dress codes

(cf. 5132 - Dress and Grooming)

9. Tardiness or unexcused absence from school

(cf. 5113 - Absences and Excuses)  
(cf. 5113.1 - Truancy)

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

(cf. 5112.5 - Open/Closed Campus)

11. Possession, use, or being under the influence of tobacco, alcohol, or other prohibited drugs

(cf. 5131.6 - Alcohol and Other Drugs)  
(cf. 5131.62 - Tobacco)  
(cf. 5131.63 - Steroids)

Employees are expected to provide appropriate supervision to enforce standards of conduct and, if they observe or receive a report of a violation of these standards, to immediately intervene or call for assistance. If an employee believes a matter has not been resolved, he/she shall refer the matter to his/her supervisor or administrator for further investigation.

Students who violate district or school rules and regulations may be subject to discipline including, but not limited to, suspension, expulsion, transfer to alternative programs, and/or denial of participation in the extracurricular activities in accordance with Board policy and administrative regulation: The Superintendent or designee shall notify local law enforcement as appropriate.

(cf. 1020 - Youth Services)  
(cf. 1400 - Relations between Other Governmental Agencies and the Schools)  
(cf. 5020 - Parent Rights and Responsibilities)  
(cf. 5127 - Graduation Ceremonies and Activities)  
(cf. 5144 - Discipline)  
(cf. 5144.1 - Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process)  
(cf. 5144.2 - Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process (Students with Disabilities))  
(cf. 6020 - Parent Involvement)  
(cf. 6184 - Continuation Education)  
(cf. 6185 - Community Day School)

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

#### Possession of Cellular Phones and Other Mobile Communications Devices

No student shall be prohibited from possessing or using an electronic signaling device that is determined by a licensed physician or surgeon to be essential for the student's health and the use of which is limited to health-related purposes. (Education Code 48901.5)

During any state or classroom assessment, students may not use electronic devices nor have electronic devices on the desks or their person until all test materials have been collected by the test administrator. Students will stow all electronic devices in their backpacks or lockers during this time so that they are inaccessible until all test materials are collected and secure.

Grades K-6: All electronic devices are prohibited without prior approval of the school principal.

Grades 7-8: Students may possess but not use electronic devices during the school day in

accordance with published school rules. Hilliard Comstock Middle school will be allowed to pilot the cell phone policy permitted for grades 9-12 as a temporary modification.

Grades 9-12: Students may possess or use on school campus personal electronic signaling devices including, but not limited to, pagers and cellular/digital telephones, as well as other mobile communications devices including, but not limited to, digital media players, personal digital assistants (PDAs), compact disc players, portable game consoles, cameras, digital scanners, and laptop computers, provided that such devices are used in accordance with published school rules, do not disrupt the educational program or school activity, and are not used for illegal or unethical activities such as cheating on assignments or tests.

If a disruption occurs or a student uses any mobile communications device for improper activities, a school employee shall direct the student to turn off the device and/or shall confiscate it.

If a school employee finds it necessary to confiscate a device, he/she shall return it at the end of the class period or school day.

In accordance with the Board's policy and administrative regulation on search and seizure, a school official may search a student's mobile communications device, including, but not limited to, reviewing messages or viewing pictures.

(cf. 5145.12 - Search and Seizure)

Students shall not use mobile communications devices, even in hands-free mode, while driving on school grounds or to or from a school-related activity.

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

### Bullying/Cyberbullying

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

(cf. 5137 - Positive School Climate)

(cf. 5138 - Conflict Resolution/Peer Mediation)

(cf. 6164.2 - Guidance/Counseling Services)

The district will provide students with annual instruction, in the classroom or other educational settings, that promotes communication, social skills, and assertiveness skills and educates students about appropriate online behavior, Internet safety, risks, and strategies to prevent and respond to bullying and cyberbullying.

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### Legal Reference:

##### EDUCATION CODE

200-262.4 Prohibition of discrimination

32280-32289 Comprehensive safety plan

35181 Governing board authority to set policy on responsibilities of students

35291-35291.5 Rules

44807 Duty concerning conduct of students

48900-48925 Suspension and expulsion

51512 Prohibition against electronic listening or recording device in classroom without permission

##### CIVIL CODE

1714.1 Liability of parents and guardians for willful misconduct of minor

##### PENAL CODE

288.2 Harmful matter with intent to seduce  
313 Harmful matter  
417.25-417.27 Laser scope or laser pointer  
647 Use of camera or other instrument to invade person's privacy; misdemeanor  
653.2 Electronic communication devices, threats to safety

#### VEHICLE CODE

23123-23124 Prohibitions against use of electronic devices while driving

#### CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

300-307 Duties of students

#### UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 42

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

#### COURT DECISIONS

J.C. v. Beverly Hills Unified School District, (2010) 711 F.Supp.2d 1094

LaVine v. Blaine School District, (2000, 9th Cir.) 257 F.3d 981

Emmett v. Kent School District No. 415, (2000) 92 F.Supp. 1088

Bethel School District No. 403 v. Fraser, (1986) 478 U.S. 675

New Jersey v. T.L.O., (1985) 469 U.S. 325

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

#### Management Resources:

##### CSBA PUBLICATIONS

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

Providing a Safe, Nondiscriminatory School Environment for All Students, Policy Brief, April 2010

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

##### CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PUBLICATIONS

Bullying at School, 2003

##### WEB SITES

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

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

Center for Safe and Responsible Internet Use: <http://cyberbully.org>

National School Boards Association: <http://www.nsba.org>

National School Safety Center: <http://www.schoolsafety.us>

U.S. Department of Education: <http://www.ed.gov>

#### Policy SANTA ROSA CITY SCHOOLS

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