

COMMUNITY RELATIONS
DISTRICT AND SCHOOL WEB SITES

Note: The following optional policy is for use by districts that maintain their own web site(s) and may be revised to reflect district practice. District strategies for effective use of web sites may be incorporated into the district's comprehensive communications plan; see BP 1100 - Communication with the Public.

To enhance communication with students, parents/guardians, staff, and community members, the Board of Trustees encourages the superintendent or designee to develop and maintain District and school web sites. The use of District and school web sites shall support the District's vision and goals and shall be coordinated with other District communications strategies.

(cf. 0000 - Vision)

(cf. 0440 - District Technology Plan)

(cf. 1100 - Communication with the Public)

(cf. 1112 - Media Relations)

(cf. 1114 - District-Sponsored Social Media)

(cf. 6020 - Parent Involvement)

Design Standards

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

Note: Pursuant to Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (42 USC 12131-12134) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 USC 705, 794; 34 CFR 104.1-104.39), districts have an obligation to provide an equal opportunity to individuals with disabilities to participate in and receive the benefits of the educational program, and must provide accommodations or modifications when necessary to ensure equal treatment. Such obligations have been interpreted by the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights (OCR) to include the requirement that district web sites be accessible to individuals with disabilities. See the OCR's June 2010 and May 2011 Dear Colleague Letters. Thus, districts must consider the needs of individuals with disabilities and identify features that would enable such persons to access all the information on district and school web sites.

Note: A U.S. Department of Justice technical assistance publication, Accessibility of State and Local Government Websites to People with Disabilities, states that an agency with a web site that is otherwise inaccessible to individuals with disabilities may meet its legal obligations by providing an alternative accessible way for them to use the programs or services (e.g., a staffed telephone information line), but points out that these alternatives are unlikely to provide an equal degree of access in terms of hours of operation or range of options and programs available. See the accompanying administrative regulation for accessibility guidelines.

The District's design standards shall address the accessibility of ~~District-sponsored~~ **district and school** web sites to individuals with disabilities, including compatibility with commonly used assistive technologies.

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

COMMUNITY RELATIONS
DISTRICT AND SCHOOL WEB SITES

~~Guidelines for Content~~ Web Site Content

The Superintendent or designee shall develop content guidelines for district and school web sites and assign staff to review and approve content prior to posting.

Note: The following optional paragraph ensures consistency of district policies regarding advertising and may be revised to reflect district practice.

Board Policy pertaining to advertising in district and school publications, as specified in BP 1325 - Advertising and Promotion, shall also apply to advertising on District and school web sites.

(cf. 1325 - Advertising and Promotion)

Privacy Rights

The superintendent or designee shall ensure that the privacy rights of students, parents/guardians, staff, Board Members, and other individuals are protected on District and school web sites.

(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)

Telephone numbers and home and email addresses of students and/or their parents/guardians shall not be published on District or school web sites.

(cf. 5125.1 - Release of Directory Information)

Note: The following options address the use of students' photographs on district or school web sites. Option 1 is for use by districts that, pursuant to Education Code 49061 and 34 CFR 99.3, include photographs in the definition of directory information, as specified in AR 5125.1 - Release of Directory Information, and publish student photographs along with their names unless a parent/guardian requested in writing that no photographs of their child be released without their prior written consent. Option 2 is for use by districts that do not allow students' photographs to be published along with their names unless specific consent for such publication is received from the parent/guardian.

Photographs of individual students ~~may~~ shall not be published, ~~together with their names, except when their parent/guardian has notified the district in writing to not release the student's photograph without prior written consent in accordance with BP/AR 5125.1 - Release of Directory Information.~~ on district or school web sites accompanied by the student's 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.~~

Note: The remainder of this policy is for use by all districts.

~~If students' names are not included, photographs of individual students or groups of students, such as at a school event, may be published on school or district web sites.~~

***Note: The following optional paragraph may be revised to reflect district practice. It is recommended

COMMUNITY RELATIONS
DISTRICT AND SCHOOL WEB SITES

that districts not post employees' home addresses, personal telephone numbers, or personal email addresses on district or school web sites, in order to maintain employee privacy and safety. If such information is posted, employees should be informed that using a personal account or device to receive communications regarding district business does not categorically exclude these records from disclosure upon request under the California Public Records Act (Government Code 6250-6270), pursuant to the California Supreme Court's decision in City of San Jose v. Superior Court. See BP 1340 - Access to District Records, AR 3580 - District Records, and BB 9012 - Board Member Electronic Communications.***

Staff members' **Employees'** home addresses or telephone numbers, **and personal email addresses** shall not be posted on District or school web sites.

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

No public safety official shall be required 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)

(cf. 3515.3 - District Police/Security Department)

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

BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONS CODE

22580-22582 Digital privacy
 22584-22585 Student Online Personal Information Protection Act
 22586 Preschool and prekindergarten privacy

GOVERNMENT CODE

3307.5 Publishing identity of public safety officers
 6254.21 Publishing addresses and telephone numbers of officials
 6254.24 Definition of public safety official
 11135 Nondiscrimination; accessibility to state web sites

PENAL CODE

14029.5 Prohibition against publishing personal information of person in witness protection program

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 17

101-1101 Federal copyright law
 504 Penalties for copyright infringement

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 20

1232g Federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 29

794 Section 503 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; accessibility to federal web sites

COMMUNITY RELATIONS
DISTRICT AND SCHOOL WEB SITES

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 42

12101-12213 Americans with Disabilities Act

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

104.1-104.61 Nondiscrimination on the basis of disability

COURT DECISIONS

City of San Jose v. Superior Court, (2017) 2 Cal.5th 608

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

Management Resources:

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS PUBLICATIONS

Dear Colleague Letter, May 26, 2011

Joint Dear Colleague Letter: Electronic Book Readers, June 2010

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE PUBLICATIONS

Accessibility of State and Local Government Websites to People with Disabilities, June 2003

WORLD WIDE WEB CONSORTIUM PUBLICATIONS

Web Content Accessibility Guidelines, December 2008

WEB SITES

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

California Department of Education, Web Accessibility Standards: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/re/di/ws/webaccessstds.asp>

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

U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights: <http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr>

U.S. Department of Justice, Americans with Disabilities Act: <http://www.ada.gov>

World Wide Web Consortium, Web Accessibility Initiative: <http://www.w3.org/wai>

POLICY ADOPTION:

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(Policy Share/BP 1113)