

DISCIPLINE

The County Board of Education desires to provide a safe, supportive, and positive school environment conducive to student learning and to prepare students for responsible citizenship by fostering self-discipline and personal responsibility. The County Board believes that high expectations for student behavior, use of effective school and classroom management strategies, and parent involvement can minimize the need for discipline.

The County Superintendent of Schools or designee shall approve for each school, a complement of effective, age-appropriate strategies for correcting student behavior. Such strategies may include, but are not limited to, conferences with students and their parents/guardians; use of study, guidance, or other intervention-related teams; enrollment in a program teaching pro-social behavior or anger management; and participation in a restorative justice program. Staff shall use preventative measures and positive conflict resolution techniques whenever possible. Disciplinary measures that may result in loss of instructional time or cause students to be disengaged from school, such as suspension and expulsion, shall be imposed only when required by law and when other means of correction have failed. (Education Code 48900.5)

County Board policies and administrative regulations shall outline acceptable student conduct and provide the basis for sound disciplinary practices.

The administrative staff at each school may develop disciplinary rules to meet the school's particular needs. However, the rules shall be consistent with law, County Board policy, and administrative regulations. The County Board may review, at an open meeting, the approved school discipline rules for consistency with County Board policy and state law. (Education Code 35291.5)

At all times, the safety of students and staff and maintenance of an orderly school environment shall be priorities in determining appropriate discipline. When misconduct occurs, staff shall attempt to identify the causes of the student's behavior and implement appropriate discipline. When choosing between different disciplinary strategies, staff shall consider the effect of each option on the student's health and opportunity to learn.

Staff shall enforce disciplinary rules fairly, consistently, and in accordance with the Santa Cruz County Office of Education's nondiscrimination policies.

The County Superintendent or designee shall provide professional development as necessary to assist staff in developing consistent classroom management skills,

implementing effective disciplinary techniques, and establishing cooperative relationships with parents/guardians.

The County Superintendent or designee may report to the County Board regarding disciplinary strategies used in each school in the immediately preceding school and their effect on student learning.

Corporal Punishment

Corporal punishment shall not be used as a disciplinary measure against any student. Corporal punishment includes the willful infliction of, or willfully causing the infliction of, physical pain on a student. (Education Code 49901)

However, corporal punishment does not include any pain or discomfort suffered by a student as a result of his/her voluntary participation in an athletic or other recreational competition or activity. In addition, an employee's use of force that is reasonable and necessary to protect himself/herself, students, staff, or other persons, to prevent damage to property, or to obtain possession of weapons or other dangerous objects within the control of the student is not corporal punishment (Education Code 49901)

Adopted: 10/16/2014