

**STUDENT DISTURBANCES**

The Governing Board desires to provide orderly campuses that create a positive school environment and are conducive to learning. When students initiate or are involved in a campus disturbance that has the potential to threaten the safety of students or staff, the Superintendent or designee may request law enforcement assistance.

The Superintendent or designee and the principal of each school shall establish a school disturbance response plan that is intended to curb disruptions which may lead to riots, violence, or vandalism at school or at school-sponsored events. In developing each school's plan, the Superintendent or designee shall consult with local law enforcement authorities to create guidelines for law enforcement support and intervention.

*(cf. 0450 - Comprehensive Safety Plan)*  
*(cf. 3516 - Emergencies and Disaster Preparedness Plan)*  
*(cf. 5131.5 - Vandalism and Graffiti)*

Staff are encouraged to be alert to conditions at school that may lead to a disturbance, such as racial or cultural conflict, student protests, or gang intimidation and confrontations. Staff who believe that a disturbance is imminent, or who see a disturbance occurring, shall immediately contact the principal and invoke the school disturbance response plan.

*(cf. 4131 - Staff Development)*  
*(cf. 5136 - Gangs)*  
*(cf. 5145.2 - Freedom of Speech/Expression)*  
*(cf. 5145.9 - Hate-Motivated Behavior)*

Students who participate in a campus disturbance shall be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with Board policy and administrative regulations.

*(cf. 3515 - Campus Security)*  
*(cf. 5144 - Discipline)*  
*(cf. 5144.1 - Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process)*  
*(cf. 5144.2 - Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process (Students with Disabilities))*

*Legal Reference: (see next page)*

**STUDENT DISTURBANCES** (continued)

*Legal Reference:*

EDUCATION CODE

32210 *Willful disturbance of public school or meeting*  
32211 *Threatened disruption or interference with classes*  
32280-32288 *School safety plans*  
35160 *Authority of governing boards*  
38000-38005 *Security patrols*  
44810 *Willful interference with classroom conduct*  
44811 *Disruption of classwork or extracurricular activities*  
48900 *Grounds for suspension or expulsion*  
48907 *Student exercise of free expression*  
51512 *Prohibited use of electronic listening or recording device*

PENAL CODE

243.5 *Assault or battery on school property*  
403-420 *Crimes against the public peace, especially:*  
415 *Fighting; noise; offensive words*  
415.5 *Disturbance of peace of school*  
416 *Assembly to disturb peace; refusal to disperse*  
626-626.10 *Crimes on school grounds*  
627-627.7 *Access to school premises*  
653b *Loitering about schools or public places*

*Management Resources:*

CSBA PUBLICATIONS

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

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PUBLICATIONS

*Practical Information on Crisis Planning: A Guide for Schools and Communities, May 2003*

WEB SITES

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

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

U.S. Department of Education, Emergency Planning:

<http://www.ed.gov/admins/lead/safety/emergencyplan>

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All school staff shall respond to campus disturbances in accordance with the school's response plan. Response plans shall describe:

1. The means which will be used to signal an emergency situation and maintain communication among staff and with the Superintendent or designee.
2. Each staff member's specific duties during a disturbance.
3. Procedures for ensuring the safety of students and staff.
4. Conditions, as prearranged with law enforcement authorities, under which the principal or designee shall:
  - a. Inform the police.
  - b. Secure police assistance.
  - c. Give the police responsibility for a specific crisis situation.
5. Procedures for the orderly dismissal of school when authorized by the principal or designee.

All media inquiries during crisis situations shall be routed to the Superintendent or designee.

*(cf. 1112 - Media Relations)*

**Extension of Class Period**

During any disturbance in which additional students might become involved while changing classes, the principal or designee may notify all staff that the present class period will be extended until further notice. Upon receiving this notification:

1. Teachers shall ensure that all students in their charge remain in one location under their supervision.
2. Teachers shall ask any students who are in the halls to return to their classes at once.

**Prohibited Activities**

1. Disturbing the Peace

It is a misdemeanor to intentionally cause or attempt to cause a riot by engaging in conduct which urges a riot or urges others to act forcefully or violently, or to burn or destroy property under circumstances which produce a clear, present, and immediate danger of such acts occurring. (Penal Code 404.6)

**STUDENT DISTURBANCES** (continued)

Anyone who, in a public place, fights, challenges another to fight, or uses offensive words likely to provoke a fight is guilty of a misdemeanor. (Penal Code 415)

2. Disruption of School Operations

Students shall be subject to disciplinary action for any exercise of free expression which so incites students as to create a clear and present danger of the commission of unlawful acts on school premises or the violation of lawful school regulations, or the substantial disruption of the orderly operation of the school, such as may occur when students:

- a. Organize or participate in unauthorized assemblies on school premises.
- b. Participate in sit-ins or stand-ins which deny students or employees normal access to school premises.

3. Refusal to Disperse

Persons who assemble for the purpose of disturbing the public peace or committing any unlawful act are severally guilty of a misdemeanor if they do not disperse when desired or commanded to do so by a public officer. (Penal Code 416)

Persons who remain present at the place of any riot, rout or unlawful assembly after being lawfully warned to disperse are guilty of a misdemeanor. (Penal Code 409)

4. Boycotts

Students participating in any protest that involves nonattendance at school or at a school activity where attendance is required shall be identified as truant, regardless of any parental approval of their act.