

**SAFETY**

The Governing Board places a high priority on safety and on the prevention of student injury. Principals and staff are responsible for the conduct and safety of students from the time they come under school supervision until they leave school supervision, whether on school premises or not. The Superintendent or designee shall establish regulations and procedures as necessary to protect students from dangerous situations.

- (cf. 3514 - Environmental Safety)
- (cf. 3515 - School Safety and Security)
- (cf. 3515.2 - Intruders on Campus)
- (cf. 5112.6 - Parental Notification - Absences)
- (cf. 5131.1 - Bus Conduct)
- (cf. 5141 - Health Care and Emergencies)
- (cf. 5141.1 - Accidents)
- (cf. 5142.2 - Crossing Guards)
- (cf. 5144 - Discipline)
- (cf. 6114 - Emergencies and Disaster Preparedness Plan)
- (cf. 6145.2 - Interscholastic Competition)
- (cf. 6161.3 - Toxic Art Supplies)

**Playgrounds**

Playground equipment shall be carefully selected and installed, so that it minimizes accidents and present no unseen hazards. Safety shall receive prime consideration whenever playgrounds are planned or upgraded.

The principal or designee shall ensure that playgrounds and other school facilities are regularly inspected, well maintained, and adequately supervised whenever in use by students during the school day or at school-sponsored activities. The principal or designee shall establish playground safety rules.

- (cf. 6143 - Courses of Study)

**Legal Reference:**

- EDUCATION CODE
- 17280-17315 Approvals (Field Act)
- 32000-32004 School safety: uniform fire signals
- 32020 School gates; entrances for emergency vehicles
- 32030-32034 School eye safety
- 32040 First aid equipment
- 32050 Hazing
- 38139 Missing children; posting of information
- 44807 Duty of teachers concerning conduct of pupils to hold them accountable for conduct to and from schools, on playgrounds, and during recess
- 44808 Exemption from liability when students are not on school property

**SAFETY (continued)**

Legal Reference: (continued)

44808.5 Permission for pupils to leave school grounds; notice (high school)

49068.5 Missing children; transfers

49341 Need for safety in school science laboratories

51202 Instruction in personal and public health and safety

GOVERNMENT CODE

810-996.6 California Tort Claims Act, especially:

815 Liability for injuries generally; immunity of public entity

835 Conditions of liability

4450-4458 Access to public buildings by physically handicapped persons

HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE

115725-115750 Playground Safety

115775-115800 Wooden Playground Equipement

PENAL CODE

14200-14213 Violent crime information center

PUBLIC RESOURCES CODE

5411 Purchase of equipment usable by physically handicapped persons

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

202 Exclusion of pupils with a contagious disease

5531 Supervision of social activities

5552 Playground supervision

5570 When school shall be open and teachers present

14103 Bus driver; authority over pupils

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 24

4-314 Construction on school sites

Dailey v. Los Angeles Unified School District (1970) 2 Cal 3d 741, 747

Perna v. Conejo Valley Unified School District (1983) 143 Cal. App. 3d 292

Hoyem v. Manhattan Beach City School District (1978) 22 Cal. 3d 508

Management Resources:

OFFICE OF THE STATE ARCHITECT ADVISORIES

0400.90 Death and Injury from Collapse of Free-Standing Walls

**SAFETY****Supervision**

The principal of each school shall ensure that certificated employees, teacher aides or yard aides supervise the conduct and safety, and direct the play, of students of the school who are on school grounds before and after school, during recess, and during other intermissions.

The principal or designee shall:

1. Clearly identify supervision zones on the playground and require that supervisors remain outside at a location from which they can observe their entire zone of supervision.
2. Require that all individuals supervising students remain alert in spotting dangerous conditions and report any such conditions to the principal or designee promptly and in writing.
3. Establish emergency procedures that ensure swift response to accidents, fighting, and situations that could become dangerous, such as overcrowding or unusual gatherings of students.

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that teachers, teacher aides, yard aides and volunteers who supervise students receive training in the above safety practices and in supervisory techniques which will help them to forestall problems and resolve conflicts.

When determining the ratio of playground supervisors to students, the Superintendent or designee shall consider the size of the playground area, the number of blind spots that are not immediately visible, the age and gender of the students, and the general nature of their behavior.

**Release of Student to Adult**

Students shall be released during the school day in the custody of an adult only if:

1. The adult is the student's parent/legal guardian with custody.

(cf. 5021 - Noncustodial Parents)

2. The adult is a properly authorized law officer acting in accordance with law.

(cf. 5145.11 - Questioning and Apprehension)

3. The adult is taking the student to emergency medical care, at the request of the principal or designee.

**SAFETY (continued)**

4. The adult is listed on the student's emergency card or current registration.

(cf. 5141.4 - Child Abuse and Neglect (Reporting Procedures))

**Eye Protection Devices**

The district shall provide eye protection devices in accordance with law.

Staff shall ensure that all students, teachers and visitors wear eye protective devices when they are engaged in or observing an activity or using hazardous substances likely to cause injury to the eyes. (Education Code 32030, 32031)

The Board shall provide a first pair of the eye safety devices required by law at district expense. If these devices are lost or damaged, students and teachers may obtain replacements for an amount not exceeding their actual cost to the district.

**Missing Children**

In order to enable district staff to assist in locating missing children, the Superintendent or designee shall ensure that Department of Justice information on missing children is posted at every school. In schools maintaining elementary grades, this information shall be posted in areas restricted to adult use. (Education Code 38139)

Elementary school principals are urged to review missing children's pictures whenever a new student enrolls or transfers into the school. (Education Code 49068.5)

**Playground Design, Equipment and Maintenance**

Teachers, teacher aides, maintenance staff, parents/guardians and students are encouraged to contribute their ideas for making the playground as safe as possible.

Playgrounds should be designed for ease of supervision and should have:

1. Clearly defined entry and exit routes that lead to and from play areas without crossing other major activities.
2. Fences or other barriers limiting vehicle access to play areas.
3. Proper water drainage.
4. Bicycle racks that are fenced and located where easily visible.
5. Safety rules posted at the entrance and near play equipment.

**SAFETY** (continued)

Playgrounds shall provide access for the handicapped in accordance with law.

The age, size and ability of the students who will use playground equipment shall determine the choice of equipment, the height of platforms and slides, and the diameter of climbing bars. Par courses and other adult equipment that is inappropriate for student use shall not be placed at elementary schools.

Playground equipment shall be installed by the manufacturer, by the manufacturer's representative, or by district maintenance staff under the direct supervision of the manufacturer's representative. A signed statement shall be secured from the manufacturer's representative stating that the equipment has been properly installed in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications.