

NICASIO SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board Policy

eries 5000

BP 5144.1

Students

SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION/DUE PROCESS

The Board of Trustees has established policies and standards of behavior in order to promote learning and protect the safety and well-being of all students. When these policies and standards are violated, it may be necessary to suspend or expel a student from regular classroom instruction.

(BP 5144 - Discipline)

Suspended or expelled students shall be excluded from all school-related extracurricular activities during the period of suspension or expulsion.

(BP 6145 - Extracurricular and Co-curricular Activities)

Except where suspension for a first offense is warranted in accordance with law, suspension shall be imposed only when other means of correction fail to bring about proper conduct. (Education Code 48900.5)

Expulsion is an action taken by the Board for severe or prolonged breaches of discipline by a student. Except for single acts of a grave nature, expulsion is used only when there is a history of misconduct, when other forms of discipline, including suspension, have failed to bring about proper conduct, or when the student's presence causes a continuing danger to him/herself or others. (Education Code 48915)

The grounds for suspension and expulsion and the procedures for considering, recommending and/or implementing suspension and expulsion shall be specified in administrative regulation.

The removal of potentially dangerous students from school campuses is a top priority. All students will receive fair and equal treatment in accordance with Board policy and the law.

Student Due Process

The Board shall provide for the fair and equitable treatment of students facing suspension and expulsion by affording them their due process rights under the law. The Superintendent or designee shall comply with procedures for notices and appeals as specified in administrative regulation and law. (Education Code 48911, 48915, 48915.5)

(BP 5144.2 - Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process (Individuals with Disabilities))

On-Campus Suspension Program

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The Board recognizes that students who are suspended from school often have no supervision or guidance during the school hours when they are off campus and may fall behind in the coursework. The Board believes that, in many cases, it would be better to manage the student's behavior by keeping the student at school and providing him/her with supervision that is separated from the regular classroom.

The Superintendent or designee shall establish a supervised in-house suspension program which meets the requirements of law for suspended students who pose no imminent danger or threat at school and for whom an expulsion action has not been initiated.

The Superintendent or designee shall examine alternatives to off-campus suspension and may establish a suspension program which involves progressive discipline during the school day on campus; use of conferences between staff, parents/guardians and students; detention; student study teams or other assessment-related teams; and/or referral to school support services staff. The use of such alternatives does not preclude off-campus suspensions.

Required Parental Attendance

The Board believes that parental involvement plays an important role in the resolution of classroom behavior problems. The Board expects that teachers will communicate with parents/guardians when behavior problems arise.

Whenever a student is removed from a class because he/she committed an obscene act, engaged in habitual profanity or vulgarity, disrupted school activities or otherwise willfully defied valid staff authority, the teacher of the class from which the student was removed may provide that the student's parent/guardian attend a portion of a school day in that class. After completing the classroom visit and before leaving school premises, the parent/guardian also shall meet with the principal or designee. (Education Code 48900.1)

The Board encourages teachers, before requiring parental attendance, to make reasonable efforts to have the parent/guardian visit the class voluntarily. The teacher also may inform the parent/guardian about available resources and parent education opportunities. Teachers should reserve the option of required parental attendance for cases in which they have determined that it is the best strategy to promote positive interaction between the student and the parent/guardian and to improve classroom behavior.

The teacher shall apply this policy uniformly to all students within the classroom. This policy shall apply only to a parent/guardian who lives with the student. (Education Code 48900.1)

Parental attendance may be requested on the day the student returns to class or within one week thereafter. The principal or designee shall contact any parents/guardians who do not respond to the request to attend school. The Board recognizes that parental compliance with this policy may be delayed, modified or prevented for reasons such as serious illness/injury/disability, absence from town,

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or inability to get release time from work. A student will not be penalized if a parent does not comply with the recommendation for visitation.

The Board will hold an expulsion hearing based on required education code guidelines as outlined in the Administrative Rules and Regulations 5144.1.

Authority to Expel

A student may be expelled only by the Board. The Board shall expel, as required by law, any student found to have committed certain offenses listed below under "Mandatory Recommendation and Mandatory Expulsion."

The Board may also order a student expelled for any of the acts listed above under "Grounds for Suspension and Expulsion" upon recommendation by the principal, Superintendent, hearing officer or administrative panel, based on finding either or both of the following: (Education Code 48915 (b) and (e))

1. That other means of correction are not feasible or have repeatedly failed to bring about proper conduct
2. That due to the nature of the violation, the presence of the student causes a continuing danger to the physical safety of the student or others

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Mandatory Recommendation for Expulsion

Unless the principal, Superintendent or designee finds that expulsion is inappropriate due to particular circumstances, the principal, Superintendent or designee shall recommend a student's expulsion for any of the following acts: (Education Code 48915 (a))

1. Causing serious physical injury to another person, except in self-defense
2. Possession of any knife as defined in Education Code 48915(g), explosive or other dangerous object of no reasonable use to the student
3. Unlawful possession of any controlled substance, as listed in Health and Safety Code 11053-11058, except for the first offense for the possession of not more than one ounce of marijuana, other than concentrated cannabis
4. Robbery or extortion
5. Assault or battery, as defined in Penal Code 240 and 242, upon any school employee

Mandatory Recommendation and Mandatory Expulsion

The principal, Superintendent or designee shall recommend that the Board expel any student found at school or at a school activity to be: (Education Code 48915(c))

1. Possessing, as verified by a district employee, or selling or otherwise furnishing a firearm, unless the student had obtained prior written permission to possess the item from a certificated school employee, with the principal or designee's concurrence
2. Brandishing a knife as defined in Education Code 48915(g) at another person
3. Unlawfully selling a controlled substance listed in Health and Safety Code 11053-11058
4. Committing or attempting to commit a sexual assault or committing a sexual battery as defined in item #14 under "Grounds for Suspension and Expulsion" above

Upon finding that the student committed any of the above acts, the Board shall expel the student. (Education Code 48915)

Decision not to Enforce Expulsion Order

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In cases where expulsion is mandatory pursuant to Education Code 48915(c), the enforcement of an expulsion order shall not be suspended by the Board. In all other cases of expulsion, the order for expulsion may be suspended by the Board, on case-by-case basis, pursuant to the requirements of law.

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

212.5 Sexual harassment
233 Hate violence reduction
1981 Enrollment of students
17292.5 Program for expelled students
35146 Closed sessions (re suspensions)
35291 Rules (for government and discipline of schools)
35291.5 Rules and procedures on school discipline
48660-48666 Community day schools
48900-48926 Suspension and expulsion
48950 Speech and other communication
49073-49079 Privacy of student records

CODE OF CIVIL PROCEDURE

1985-1997 Subpoenas; means of production

GOVERNMENT CODE

11455.20 Contempt
54950-54962 Ralph M. Brown Act (re closed sessions)

HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE

11014.5 Drug paraphernalia
11053-11058 Standards and schedules

LABOR CODE

230.7 Discharge or discrimination against employee for taking time off to appear in school on behalf of a child

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PENAL CODE

240 Assault defined
242 Battery defined
243.4 Sexual battery
245 Assault with deadly weapon
261 Rape defined
266c Unlawful sexual intercourse
286 Sodomy defined
288 Lewd or lascivious acts with child under age 14
288a Oral copulation
289 Penetration of genital or anal openings
417.25-417.27 Laser scope
422.6 Interference with civil rights; damaging property
422.7 Aggravating factors for punishment
422.75 Protected classes
626.2 Entry upon campus after written notice of suspension or dismissal without permission
626.9 Gun-Free School Zone Act of 1995
626.10 Dirks, daggers, knives, razors or stun guns
868.5 Supporting person; attendance during testimony of witness

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 20

6301 - 8962 Improving America's Schools Act, especially:
8921 - 8922 Gun-Free Schools Act of 1994

COURT DECISIONS

Garcia v. Los Angeles Board of Education (1991) 123 Cal.App.3d 807
Fremont Union High School District v. Santa Clara County Board (1991) 235 Cal. App. 3d 1182
John A. v. San Bernardino School District (1982) 33 Cal. 3d 301, 308

ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINIONS

80 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 347 (1997)
80 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 91 (1997)
80 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 85 (1997)

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