

Community Relations

Civility

The Board of Education recognizes the impact that civility has on the effective operation of the District, including its role in creating a safe and positive school climate and enabling a focus on student well-being, learning, and achievement. The Board believes that each person should be treated with dignity and respect in their interactions within the school community.

Civil behavior is polite, courteous, and reasonable behavior, which is respectful to others and includes integrity, honesty, acceptance, timeliness, dependability, observance of laws and rules, and effective communication.

The Board and District staff shall model civil behavior as an example of behavior that is expected throughout the District. Practices that promote civil behavior include actively listening, giving full attention to the speaker, and refraining from interruptions; welcoming and encouraging participation, input, and feedback through stakeholder engagement; promptly responding to concerns; and embracing varying and diverse viewpoints. Such practices may be incorporated into governance standards adopted by the Board or Superintendent and/or professional standards or codes of conduct for employees as specified in District policies and regulations.

Students, staff, parents/guardians, and community members should be educated in the recognition, development, and demonstration of civil behavior. The Superintendent or designee may incorporate related concepts in the curriculum, provide staff development activities, and/or communicate this policy to the school community.

Students, staff, parents/guardians, and community members shall not communicate or behave in a manner that causes disruption; hinders the orderly conduct of district operations, the educational program, or any other District program or activity; or creates an unsafe learning or working environment. The Superintendent or designee may respond to disruptive, violent, or threatening behavior in accordance with law and as specified in BP/AR 3515.2 - Disruptions.

Behavior by students or staff that is discriminatory, harassing, or intimidating, including sexual harassment, bullying, and/or hate violence, or behavior that is in any other way unlawful, is prohibited and is subject to discipline in accordance with law and as specified in District policy and regulations.

Legal Reference: Education Code, Sections 200-264; 32210, 32211; 32212; 32280-32289.5; 35181; 35291-35291.5, 44050, 44807, 44810, 44811, 48900-48926, 48907, 49330-49335
CA Constitution, Article 1, Sections 2 and 28(c)

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Government Code, Sections 54954.3, 54957.9

California Penal Code, Sections 243.5, 415.5, 422.55, 422.6, 626-626.11,
627.10, 653.2, 653b

Civil Code, Section 51.7

Court Decisions:

Baca v. Moreno Valley Unified School District, (1996) 936 F. Supp. 719

Hazelwood School District v. Kuhlmeier, (1988) 108 S. Ct. 562

City of San Jose v. William Garbett, (2010) 190 Cal. App. 4th 526

Norse v. City of Santa Cruz, (9th Cir. 2010) 629 F3d 966

Policy Adopted: 03/21/2006

Policy Amended: 02/01/2011; 12/14/2021

(Formerly BP 1312.4; BP 1312.5)