

## **Students**

### **FREEDOM OF SPEECH/EXPRESSION**

#### **On-Campus Expression**

Students shall have the right to exercise freedom of speech and of the press including, but not limited to, the use of bulletin boards; the distribution of printed materials or petitions; the wearing of buttons, badges, and other insignia; and the right of expression in official publications. (Education Code 48907)

Students are prohibited from making any expressions or distributing or posting any materials that are obscene, libelous, or slanderous. Students also are prohibited from making any expressions that so incites students as to create a clear and present danger of the commission of unlawful acts on school premises, the violation of school rules, or substantial disruption of the school's orderly operation. (Education Code 48907)

*(cf. 5145.7 – Sexual Harassment)*

*(cf. 5145.9 – Hate-Motivated Behavior)*

The use of “fighting words” or epithets is prohibited in those instances where the speech is abusive and insulting, rather than a communication of ideas, and the speech is used in an abusive manner in a situation that presents an actual danger that it will cause a breach of the peace.

The Superintendent or designee shall not discipline any student solely on the basis of speech or other communication that would be constitutionally protected when engaged in outside of school, but may impose discipline for harassment, threats, or intimidation unless constitutionally protected. (Education Code 48950)

*(cf. 5137 – Positive School Climate)*

*(cf. 5144 – Discipline)*

*(cf. 5144.1 – Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process)*

*(cf. 5144.2 – Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process: Students with Disabilities)*

#### **Off-Campus Expression**

A student shall be subject to discipline for off-campus expression, including expression on off-campus Internet web sites, when such expression poses a threat to the safety of other students, staff, or school property, or substantially disrupts the educational program. The Superintendent or designee shall document the impact the expression had or could be expected to have on the school program.

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Legal Reference: Education Code  
*48907 Exercise of free expression; rules and regulations*  
*48950 Speech and other communication*  
*51520 Prohibited solicitations on school premises*  
CALIFORNIA CONSTITUTION  
*Article 1, Section 2 Freedom of speech and expression*  
U.S. CONSTITUTION  
*Amendment 1 Freedom of speech and expression*  
WEB SITE  
CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>  
California Department of Education: <http://www.cde.ca.gov>