

Arcadia USD

Board Policy

Students

BP 5137

Positive School Climate

The Governing Board desires to provide an orderly and caring learning environment in which students feel safe, and comfortable, share responsibility for maintaining a positive school climate, and take pride in their school and their achievements. It is the intent of the Board to promote harmonious relationships that enable students to gain a true understanding of the civil rights and social responsibilities of people in our society. The Board encourages classroom use of learning strategies that foster positive social interactions among students from diverse backgrounds.

(cf. 0410 – Nondiscrimination in District Programs and Activities)

(cf. 5126 - Awards for Achievement)

(cf. 6161 - Curriculum Development and Evaluation)

(cf. 6161.1 - Selection and Evaluation of Instructional Materials)

(cf. 6141.6 - Multicultural Education)

The district shall encourage attitudes and behaviors that promote mutual respect and harmonious relations. All staff are expected to serve as role models for students by demonstrating positive, professional attitudes and respect toward each student and other staff members. Teachers shall use effective classroom management techniques based on clear expectations for student behavior.

The district shall provide instruction and counseling designed to promote positive racial and ethnic identity, help students understand diverse cultures, teach them to think critically about racial bias, and show them how to deal with discriminatory behavior in appropriate ways. The schools shall promote nonviolent conflict resolution techniques and provide students opportunities to voice their concerns about school policies and practices. The schools may initiate student courts, campus beautification projects, buddy systems, peer counseling, vandalism prevention campaigns, and other programs in which students may identify and solve problems that affect their school. Schools may initiate programs which promote, encourage and recognize participation and achievement in community and school projects, positive school conduct and personal responsibility.

(cf. 6142.4 - Community Service)

(cf. 5131.4 - Campus Disturbances)

(cf. 5136 - Gangs)

The Board affirms the right of every student to be protected from bullying, extortion, threatening or hate-motivated behavior. Staff shall consistently enforce Board policies and regulations which establish rules for appropriate student conduct, including prohibitions

against bullying, cyberbullying, harassment of students, hazing, other violence or threats of violence against students and staff, and drug, alcohol, and tobacco use.

Students shall not threaten, extort, or bully other students. Students shall not use vulgar, obscene or fighting words. Behavior or statements that degrade an individual on the basis of his/her race, ethnicity, culture, heritage, sex and gender (including gender identity, gender expression, gender transition, transgender status, and nonconformity with sex stereotypes), sexual orientation, physical/mental attributes, religious beliefs or practices shall not be tolerated. Students who exhibit any of these prohibited behaviors shall be subject to appropriate discipline and/or counseling.

(cf. 0410 - Nondiscrimination in District Programs and Activities)

(cf. 0450 - Comprehensive Safety Plan)

(cf. 3515.4 - Recovery for Property Loss or Damage)

(cf. 5131.5 - Vandalism, Theft and Graffiti)

(cf. 5136 - Gangs)

(cf. 5137 - Positive School Climate)

(cf. 5145.3 - Nondiscrimination/Harassment)

(cf. 5145.7 - Sexual Harassment)

(cf. 6141.6 - Multicultural Education)

Any student who feels that he/she is a victim of bullying, extortion, threatening or hate-motivated behavior shall immediately contact the principal or designee. If the student believes that the situation has not been remedied by the principal or designee, he/she may file a complaint in accordance with district complaint procedures.

(cf. 1312.1 – Complaint Procedures)

(cf. 1312.3 - Uniform Complaint Procedures)

Staff who receive notice of or personally observe any such behaviors shall notify the principal, Superintendent or designee, or law enforcement, as appropriate.

(cf. 3515.3 - District Police/Security Department)

(cf. 4158/4258/4358 - Employee Security)

(cf. 5144 - Discipline)

(cf. 5144.1 - Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process)

(cf. 5144.2 - Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process (Students with Disabilities))

(cf. 5145.2 - Freedom of Speech/Expression: Publications Code)

(cf. 5145.7 - Sexual Harassment)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

233-233.8 Hate violence prevention

32280-32289 School safety plans

32295.5 Teen court programs

35181 Governing board policy on responsibilities of students

35291-35291.5 Rules

44807 Teachers' duty concerning conduct of students
48900-48925 Suspension and expulsion

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 42
2000c Title IV of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. 2000c et seq.

Management Resources:

CSBA PUBLICATIONS

Cyberbullying: Policy Considerations for Boards, Policy Brief, July 2007

Protecting Our Schools: Governing Board Strategies to Combat School Violence, rev. 1999

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PUBLICATIONS

Bullying at School, 2003

Creating Safe and Drug-Free Schools: An Action Guide, 1996

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PUBLICATIONS

Preventing Bullying: A Manual for Schools and Communities, 1998

WEB SITES

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

California Department of Education, Learning Support: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ls>

National School Safety Center: <http://www.schoolsafety.us>

U.S. Department of Education, Office of Safe and Drug-Free Schools:
<http://www.ed.gov/offices/OESE/SDFS>