

**Students** BP 5131(a)

## **CONDUCT**

The Board of Education believes that all students have the right to be educated in a positive learning environment free from disruptions. On school grounds and at school activities, students shall be expected to exhibit appropriate conduct that does not infringe upon the rights of others or interfere with the school program.

Behavior is considered appropriate when students are diligent in study, careful with school property, courteous, and respectful towards their teachers, other staff, students and volunteers.

*(cf. 5131.1 - Bus Conduct)*  
*(cf. 5137 - Positive School Climate)*

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that each school site develops standards of conduct and discipline consistent with district policies and administrative regulations.

Students and parents/guardians shall be notified of district and school rules related to conduct and shall receive regular instruction regarding these rules. In addition, parents/guardians and students may be provided information about early warning signs of harassing/intimidating behaviors, such as bullying, as well as prevention and intervention strategies.

Prohibited student conduct includes but is not limited to:

1. Behavior that endangers staff and/or students

*(cf. 0450 - Comprehensive Safety Plan)*  
*(cf. 5131.7 - Weapons and Dangerous Instruments)*  
*(cf. 5136 - Gangs)*  
*(cf. 5142 - Safety)*

2. Behavior that disrupts the orderly classroom or school environment

*(cf. 5131.4 - Student Disturbances)*

3. Harassment of students or staff, including bullying, intimidation, hazing, or initiation activity or any other verbal, written or physical conduct that causes or threatens to cause bodily harm or emotional suffering

*(cf. 5145.3 - Nondiscrimination/Harassment)*  
*(cf. 5145.7 - Sexual Harassment)*  
*(cf. 5145.9 - Hate-Motivated Behavior)*

4. Damage to or theft of property belonging to the district, staff or students

*(cf. 3515.4 - Recovery for Property Loss or Damage)*  
*(cf. 5131.5 - Vandalism, Theft and Graffiti)*

5. Possession or use of laser pointers, unless used for a valid instructional or other school-related purpose, including employment (Penal Code 417.27)

Prior to bringing a laser pointer on school premises, students shall first obtain permission from the principal or designee. The principal or designee shall determine whether the requested use of the laser pointer is for a valid instructional or other school-related purpose.

6. Profane, vulgar or abusive language

*(cf. 5145.2 - Freedom of Speech/Expression)*

7. Plagiarism or dishonesty in school work or on tests

*(cf. 5131.9 - Academic Honesty)*  
*(cf. 6162.54 - Test Integrity/Test Preparation)*  
*(cf. 6162.6 - Use of Copyrighted Materials)*  
*(cf. 6163.4 - Student Use of Technology)*

8. Inappropriate dress

*(cf. 5132 - Dress and Grooming)*

9. Tardiness and unexcused absence from school

*(cf. 5113 - Absences and Excuses)*  
*(cf. 5113.1 - Truancy)*

10. Failure to remain on school premises in accordance with school rules

*(cf. 5112.5 - Open/Closed Campus)*

**Possession of Cellular Phones and Other Personal Electronic Signaling Devices**

No student shall be prohibited from possessing or using an electronic signaling device that is determined by a licensed physician or surgeon to be essential for the student's health and the use of which is limited to health-related purposes. (Education Code 48901.5)

Students may possess or use personal electronic signaling devices, including but not limited to pagers, beepers and cellular/digital telephones.

Permitted devices shall:

1. Be turned off during class time and at any other time directed by a district employee
2. Not disrupt the educational program or school activity

If a disruption occurs, the employee shall direct the student to turn off the device and/or confiscate it. If a school employee finds it necessary to confiscate a device, he/she may either return it at the end of the class period or school day or keep it until the principal or designee has consulted with the student's parent/guardian.

A student who violates this policy may be prohibited from possessing a personal electronic signaling device at school or school-related events.

### **Enforcement of Standards**

Employees are expected to provide appropriate supervision to enforce standards of conduct and, if they observe or become aware of a violation of these standards, to immediately intervene or call for assistance. If an employee believes a matter has not been resolved, he/she shall refer the matter to his/her supervisor or administrator for further investigation.

Students who violate district or school rules and regulations may be subject to discipline, including but not limited to suspension, expulsion or transfer to alternative programs in accordance with Board policy and administrative regulation. In addition, when the conduct involves intimidation, harassment, or other endangerment of a student or employee, the Superintendent or designee shall provide appropriate assistance as necessary for the victim and the offender or make appropriate referrals for such assistance.

(cf. 1020 - Youth Services)  
(cf. 1400 - Relations Between Other Governmental Agencies and the Schools)  
(cf. 5020 - Parent Rights and Responsibilities)  
(cf. 5138 - Conflict Resolution/Peer Mediation)  
(cf. 5144 - Discipline)  
(cf. 5144.1 - Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process)  
(cf. 5144.2 - Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process (Students with Disabilities))  
(cf. 6020 - Parent Involvement)  
(cf. 6164.2 - Guidance/Counseling Services)  
(cf. 6184 - Continuation Education)  
(cf. 6185 - Community Day School)

#### **Legal Reference:**

EDUCATION CODE  
35181 Governing board policy on responsibilities of students  
35291-35291.5 Rules  
44807 Duty concerning conduct of students  
48900-48925 Suspension or expulsion, especially:  
48908 Duties of students  
CIVIL CODE  
1714.1 Liability of parents and guardians for willful misconduct of minor  
PENAL CODE  
245.6 Hazing  
417.25-417.27 Laser scope  
CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5  
300-307 Duties of pupils  
UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 42  
2000h-2000h6 Title IX, 1972 Education Act Amendments

#### **Management Resources:**

CSBA PUBLICATIONS  
Protecting Our Schools: Governing Board Strategies to Combat School Violence, 1999  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PUBLICATIONS  
Preventing Bullying: A Manual for Schools and Communities, 1998  
WEB SITES  
California Department of Education, Safe Schools and Violence Prevention Office:  
<http://www.cde.ca.gov/spbranch/safety>  
CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>

Policy  
adopted: April 10, 2007

**SIERRA-PLUMAS JOINT UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
Sierraville, California