INFORMATION SHEET 09/08/15 TRUSTEES' MEETING

Item: 5.4

To: Board of Trustees

From: Grace Merritt

Re: Revised BP & AR 5144.1, Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process

BP/AR revised - Mandated policy updated to reflect NEW LAW (AB 420) which prohibits districts from expelling any student, and from suspending students in grades K-3, for disruption or willful defiance. Policy also revised to include material formerly in AR related to board authority to expel and to delete material related to requiring parents/guardians to attend a portion of the school day when their child is removed from class for specified behaviors.

Mandated regulation updated to reflect NEW LAW (AB 420) which prohibits districts from expelling any student, and from suspending students in grades K-3, for disruption or willful defiance. Updated regulation reflects NEW LAW (AB 1806) which requires notification of the district's liaison for homeless students when the student being considered for expulsion is a homeless student and NEW LAW (SB 1111) which provides that, if a hearing officer or administrative panel does not recommend expulsion, a student must be permitted to return to the classroom instructional program from which the expulsion referral was made. Regulation deletes material related to requiring parents/guardians to attend a portion of the school day when their child is removed from class for specified behaviors.

The numerous minor changes made it difficult to combine the revised and current BP and AR into one redline edited document. CSBA recommended sample BP and AR are provided along with the current district BP and AR.

Students

Suspension And Expulsion/Due Process BP 5144.1

***Note: Education Code 35291 requires the Governing Board to prescribe rules and regulations for maintaining discipline in the schools under its jurisdiction. In addition, Education Code 48918 mandates the setting of rules and regulations for student expulsion as specified in this Board policy and the accompanying administrative regulation. ***

***Note: While recognizing that suspension or expulsion of students is sometimes necessary, legislative, administrative, regulatory, civic, and educational leaders are united in the belief that instructional time should be used for student learning purposes and that school discipline should be imposed in a way that, as much as possible, would not exclude students from school or limit their ability or opportunity to learn. Pursuant to Education Code 48900.5, a district is not authorized to suspend a student for certain specified violations unless other means of correction have failed to bring about proper conduct. Such other means of correction include, but are not limited to, conferences between school personnel and the student and his/her parents/guardians; use of study, guidance, or other intervention teams to develop a plan to address the behavior in partnership with the student; and participation in a restorative justice program. Education Code 48900.5 also authorizes a district to document in a student's records the alternative means of correction used to address the student's behavior. For further information about specific disciplinary strategies, including alternatives to class or school removals, see BP/AR 5144 - Discipline. ***

***Note: In addition, the U.S. Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division (DOJ) and the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights (OCR), in their joint January 2014 Dear Colleague Letter on the Nondiscriminatory Administration of School Discipline, state that studies have suggested a correlation between exclusionary discipline policies and practices (such as suspension and expulsion) and an array of serious educational, economic, and social problems, including school avoidance and diminished educational engagement, decreased academic achievement, increased behavior problems, and increased likelihood of dropping out, substance abuse, and involvement with the juvenile justice system. Consequently, they recommend that districts adopt alternative disciplinary measures that provide students with appropriate interventions and supports as a means for preventing and addressing student misbehaviors. ***

***Note: The need to implement means of correction other than suspension and expulsion is underscored by Education Code 52060-52077, which require districts to adopt and annually update a local control and accountability plan (LCAP) including descriptions of the district's and each school's goals for improving student engagement and school climate, as measured by rates of student absenteeism, suspension and expulsion, and other relevant measures identified by the Board. ***

The Governing Board desires to provide district students access to educational opportunities in an orderly school environment that protects their safety and security, ensures their welfare and well-being, and promotes their learning and development. The Board shall develop rules and regulations setting the standards of behavior expected of district students and the disciplinary

processes and procedures for addressing violations of those standards, including suspension and/or expulsion.

(cf. 5131 - Conduct)
(cf. 5131.1 - Bus Conduct)
(cf. 5131.2 - Bullying)

The grounds for suspension and expulsion and the procedures for considering, recommending, and/or implementing suspension and expulsion shall be only those specified in law, in this policy, and in the accompanying administrative regulation.

***Note: Pursuant to Education Code 48900(s), a student may be subject to discipline only when the violation is related to a school activity or school attendance as specified below. A student may also be disciplined for violations committed away from school if it is related to a school activity or to school attendance. For example, Education Code 48900 defines bullying by means of an electronic act as including an act that originates off campus; see the accompanying administrative regulation and BP/AR 5131.2 - Bullying. Another example is the hostile school environment which a victim may suffer from sexual harassment that occurs off campus; see BP/AR 5145.7 - Sexual Harassment. ***

Except when otherwise permitted by law, a student may be suspended or expelled only when his/her behavior is related to a school activity or school attendance occurring within any district school or another school district, regardless of when it occurs, including, but not limited to, the following: (Education Code 48900(s))

1. While on school grounds

2. While going to or coming from school

3. During the lunch period, whether on or off the school campus

(cf. 5112.5 - Open/Closed Campus)

4. During, going to, or coming from a school-sponsored activity

***Note: The following paragraph addresses the problem of unlawful discrimination in the administration of student discipline. In their joint January 2014 Dear Colleague Letter on the Nondiscriminatory Administration of School Discipline, the DOJ and OCR noted that, based on the civil rights data collection conducted by OCR, students of certain racial or ethnic groups tended to be disciplined more, and sometimes more harshly, than their similarly situated peers in violation of federal nondiscrimination laws. The letter warned that any district determined to have engaged in unlawful discrimination could be subject to OCR investigation and significant remedial action. ***

District staff shall enforce the rules concerning suspension and expulsion of students fairly, consistently, equally, and in accordance with the district's nondiscrimination policies.

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

Appropriate Use of Suspension Authority

***Note: Education Code 48900.5 requires districts to use other means of correction instead of suspension or expulsion except when a student commits certain enumerated offenses. The following section reflects legislative intent regarding appropriate use of suspension as a means of disciplining students and may be modified to reflect district practice. ***

Except when a student's act violates Education Code 48900(a)-(e), as listed in items #1-5 under "Grounds for Suspension and Expulsion: Grades K-12" of the accompanying administrative regulation, or when his/her presence causes a danger to others, suspension shall be used only when other means of correction have failed to bring about proper conduct. (Education Code 48900.5, 48900.6)

(cf. 1020 - Youth Services)
(cf. 5138 - Conflict Resolution/Peer Mediation)
(cf. 5144 - Discipline)
(cf. 6142.4 - Service Learning/Community Service Classes)
(cf. 6164.2 - Guidance/Counseling Services)
(cf. 6164.5 - Student Success Teams)

***Note: The following optional paragraph may be revised to reflect district practice. ***

A student's parents/guardians shall be notified as soon as possible when there is an escalating pattern of misbehavior that could lead to on-campus or off-campus suspension.

***Note: Education Code 48900(k), as amended by AB 420 (Ch. 660, Statutes of 2014), prohibits a district from suspending students in grades K-3 for disruption or willful defiance. As amended, Education Code 48900(k) authorizes but does not require a district to suspend students in grades 4-12 for disruption or willful defiance. Even with this authority, districts should be careful in using these grounds, as available data have indicated a disproportionate use with certain student subgroups. Option 1 below is for use by any district that chooses to suspend students in grades 4-12 for disruption and/or willful defiance as authorized pursuant to Education Code 48900(k). Any district that chooses to eliminate disruption and willful defiance as reasons for suspending any of its students from school should select Option 2 below. Such districts should also delete the first paragraph in the section titled "Additional Grounds for Suspension and Expulsion: Grades 4-12," in the accompanying administrative regulation. ***

***Note: Each option below reflects an exception granted to teachers pursuant to Education Code 48910 to suspend students, including a K-3 student, from class; see section "Suspension from Class by a Teacher" in the accompanying administrative regulation. ***

OPTION 1: No student in grades K-3 may be suspended for disruption or willful defiance, except by a teacher pursuant to Education Code 48910. (Education Code 48900)

OPTION 2: No student may be suspended for disruption or willful defiance, except by a teacher pursuant to Education Code 48910. (Education Code 48900)

***Note: The following optional paragraph reflects the Legislature's intent, expressed in

Education Code 48900, concerning disciplinary actions against truant, tardy, or absent students. Since these are not enumerated offenses, a district does not have the authority to suspend or expel students for committing any of these acts. ***

Students shall not be suspended or expelled for truancy, tardiness, or absenteeism from assigned school activities.

(cf. 5113 - Absences and Excuses)
(cf. 5113.1 - Chronic Absence and Truancy)

On-Campus Suspension

***Note: As an alternative to off-campus suspension, Education Code 48911.1 authorizes a supervised suspension classroom program for students who pose no imminent danger to anyone at school and who have not been recommended for expulsion, as specified below. Education Code 48911.2 states that, if the number of students suspended during the prior year exceeds 30 percent of the school's enrollment, the district should consider implementing this program and/or another program of on-campus progressive discipline. However, Education Code 48900.5 requires a district to try other means of correction and document that those means have failed to bring about proper conduct before imposing a supervised suspension. ***

***Note: The following optional section is for use by districts implementing a supervised suspension classroom program. Such districts may continue to claim funding apportionments for students so assigned, provided they meet specific criteria which are set forth under "Supervised Suspension Classroom" in the accompanying administrative regulation. A district does not receive funding for off-campus suspensions. ***

To ensure the proper supervision and ongoing learning of students who are suspended for any of the reasons enumerated in Education Code 48900 and 48900.2, but who pose no imminent danger or threat to anyone at school and for whom expulsion proceedings have not been initiated, the Superintendent or designee shall establish a supervised suspension classroom program which meets the requirements of law.

Except where a supervised suspension is permitted by law for a student's first offense, supervised suspension shall be imposed only when other means of correction have failed to bring about proper conduct. (Education Code 48900.5)

Authority to Expel

A student may be expelled only by the Board. (Education Code 48918(j))

As required by law, the Superintendent or principal shall recommend expulsion and the Board shall expel any student found to have committed any of the following "mandatory recommendation and mandatory expulsion" acts at school or at a school activity off school grounds: (Education Code 48915)

1. Possessing a firearm which is not an imitation firearm, as verified by a certificated employee, unless the student had obtained prior written permission to possess the item from a

certificated school employee, with the principal or designee's concurrence

(cf. 5131.7 - Weapons and Dangerous Instruments)

2. Selling or otherwise furnishing a firearm

3. Brandishing a knife at another person

4. Unlawfully selling a controlled substance listed in Health and Safety Code 11053-11058

5. Committing or attempting to commit a sexual assault as defined in Penal Code 261, 266c, 286, 288, 288a, or 289, or committing a sexual battery as defined in Penal Code 243.4

6. Possessing an explosive as defined in 18 USC 921

For all other violations listed in the accompanying administrative regulation under "Grounds for Suspension and Expulsion: Grades K-12" and "Additional Grounds for Suspension and Expulsion: Grades 4-12," the Superintendent or principal shall have the discretion to recommend expulsion of a student. If expulsion is recommended, the Board shall order the student expelled only if it makes a finding of 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

A vote to expel a student shall be taken in a public session.

***Note: Pursuant to Education Code 48917, the Board may decide to suspend the enforcement of an order for expulsion as long as a student satisfies specific conditions. See the accompanying administrative regulation for criteria. In addition, the Attorney General opined in 80 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 85 (1997) that the enforcement of an expulsion order may be suspended even in those cases where the student has committed an offense for which expulsion is required by law. Legal counsel should be consulted as appropriate. ***

The Board may vote to suspend the enforcement of the expulsion order pursuant to the requirements of law and the accompanying administrative regulation. (Education Code 48917)

***Note: Education Code 48900(k), as amended by AB 420 (Ch. 660, Statutes of 2014), prohibits a district from expelling any student for disruption or willful defiance. ***

No student shall be expelled for disruption or willful defiance. (Education Code 48900)

Due Process

The Board shall provide for the fair and equitable treatment of students facing suspension and/or expulsion by affording them their due process rights under the law. The Superintendent or designee shall comply with procedures for notices, hearings, and appeals as specified in law and administrative regulation. (Education Code 48911, 48915, 48915.5, 48918)

(cf. 5119 - Students Expelled from Other Districts)
(cf. 5144.2 - Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process (Students with Disabilities))

Maintenance and Monitoring of Outcome Data

***Note: Pursuant to Education Code 48900.8 and 48916.1, the district is required to maintain data related to suspensions and expulsions and to report such data to the Superintendent of Public Instruction. In addition, pursuant to Education Code 52060, a district is required to address school climate in its LCAP, by including an assessment of baseline data regarding suspension and expulsion rates by student subgroups and schools and setting goals for improving those rates and other related factors. The DOJ and OCR, in their joint January 2014 Dear Colleague Letter on the Nondiscriminatory Administration of School Discipline, recommend that districts maintain disaggregated discipline information to ensure transparency and facilitate community discussion. ***

The Superintendent or designee shall annually present to the Board a report of the outcome data which the district is required to collect pursuant to Education Code 48900.8 and 48916.1, including the number of students recommended for expulsion, the grounds for each recommended expulsion, the actions taken by the Board, the types of referral made after each expulsion, and the disposition of the students after the expulsion period.

The report shall be disaggregated by school and by numerically significant student subgroups, including, but not limited to, ethnic subgroups, socioeconomically disadvantaged students, English learners, foster youth, and students with disabilities. The report also shall include information about whether and how the district is meeting its goals for improving school climate as specified in its local control and accountability plan.

(cf. 0460 - Local Control and Accountability Plan)

Legal Reference:
EDUCATION CODE
212.5 Sexual harassment
233 Hate violence
1981-1981.5 Enrollment of students in community school
17292.5 Program for expelled students
32261 Interagency School Safety Demonstration Act of 1985
35145 Open board meetings
35146 Closed sessions (regarding suspensions)
35291 Rules (for government and discipline of schools)
35291.5 Rules and procedures on school discipline
48645.5 Readmission; contact with juvenile justice system
48660-48666 Community day schools
48853.5 Foster youth
48900-48927 Suspension and expulsion

48950 Speech and other communication
48980 Parental notifications
49073-49079 Privacy of student records
52060-52077 Local control and accountability plan
CIVIL CODE
47 Privileged communication
48.8 Defamation liability
CODE OF CIVIL PROCEDURE
1985-1997 Subpoenas; means of production
GOVERNMENT CODE
11455.20 Contempt
54950-54963 Ralph M. Brown Act
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
PENAL CODE
31 Principal of a crime, defined
240 Assault defined
241.2 Assault fines
242 Battery defined
243.2 Battery on school property
243.4 Sexual battery
245 Assault with deadly weapon
245.6 Hazing
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
417.27 Laser pointers
422.55 Hate crime defined
422.6 Interference with exercise of civil rights
422.7 Aggravating factors for punishment
422.75 Enhanced penalties for hate crimes
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
WELFARE AND INSTITUTIONS CODE
729.6 Counseling
UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 18
921 Definitions, firearm
UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 20
1415(K) Placement in alternative educational setting
7151 Gun-free schools
UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 42
11432-11435 Education of homeless children and youths
COURT DECISIONS
T.H. v. San Diego Unified School District (2004) 122 Cal. App. 4th 1267
Woodbury v. Dempsey (2003) 108 Cal. App. 4th 421
Board of Education of Sacramento City Unified School District v. Sacramento County Board of Education and Kenneth H. (2001) 85 Cal.App.4th 1321
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
ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINIONS
84 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 146 (2001)
80 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 348 (1997)
80 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 91 (1997)
80 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 85 (1997)

Management Resources:
CSBA PUBLICATIONS
Safe Schools: Strategies for Governing Boards to Ensure Student Success, 2011
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS PUBLICATIONS
Dear Colleague Letter on the Nondiscriminatory Administration of School Discipline, January 2014
WEB SITES
CSBA: http://www.csba.org
California Attorney General's Office: http://www.oag.ca.gov
California Department of Education: http://www.cde.ca.gov
U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights:
http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/crdc-2012-data-summary.pdf
U.S. Department of Education, Office of Safe and Drug-Free Schools: http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/osdfs

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Students

Suspension And Expulsion/Due Process AR 5144.1

***Note: CSBA recommends that this administrative regulation be approved by the Governing Board, regardless of district practice. ***

***Note: Education Code 35291 requires the Board to adopt rules and regulations, which are not inconsistent with law or rules adopted by the State Board of Education, for the government and discipline of the schools under its jurisdiction. In addition, Education Code 48918 and 48918.5 mandate that districts adopt rules concerning the due process rights of students in expulsion situations, and Education Code 48916 mandates procedures for filing and processing requests for readmission. Specific language complying with these mandates is included throughout this administrative regulation. ***

***Note: The acts for which students may be suspended or expelled are specified in law and in the sections below titled "Grounds for Suspension and Expulsion: Grades K-12" and "Additional Grounds for Suspension and Expulsion: Grades 4-12." The Board does not have authority to add to those enumerated acts. However, the Board has authority to prohibit suspension or expulsion for certain acts for which suspension or expulsion is permissible rather than mandatory. The Board may consider limiting the use of suspension and expulsion for such offenses as part of the district plan to address school climate within the local control and accountability plan required pursuant to Education Code 52060. In addition, pursuant to Education Code 48900.5, a district is not authorized to suspend a student for certain specified violations unless other means of correction have failed to bring about proper conduct. ***

Definitions

Suspension means removal of a student from ongoing instruction for adjustment purposes. However, suspension does not mean any of the following: (Education Code 48925)

1. Reassignment to another education program or class at the same school where the student will receive continuing instruction for the length of day prescribed by the Governing Board for students of the same grade level

2. Referral to a certificated employee designated by the principal to advise students

3. Removal from the class, but without reassignment to another class or program, for the remainder of the class period without sending the student to the principal or designee as provided in Education Code 48910

Expulsion means removal of a student from the immediate supervision and control or the general supervision of school personnel. (Education Code 48925)

Notice of Regulations

At the beginning of each school year, the principal of each school shall ensure that all students

and parents/guardians are notified in writing of all school rules related to discipline, including suspension and expulsion. (Education Code 35291, 48900.1, 48980)

(cf. 5144 - Discipline)
(cf. 5145.6 - Parental Notifications)

Grounds for Suspension and Expulsion: Grades K-12

Acts for which a student, including a student with disabilities, may be suspended or expelled shall be only those specified as follows:

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

1. Caused, attempted to cause, or threatened to cause physical injury to another person; willfully used force or violence upon another person, except in self-defense; or committed as an aider or abettor, as adjudged by a juvenile court, a crime of physical violence in which the victim suffered great or serious bodily injury (Education Code 48900(a) and (t))

***Note: The Attorney General, in 80 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 91 (1997), determined that a student may be expelled for "possession" of a firearm if the student knowingly and voluntarily had direct control over the firearm. The only exceptions are when the student has permission from school officials to possess the firearm (pursuant to Education Code 48900 and 48915) or when the possession is brief and solely for the purpose of disposing of the firearm, such as handing it to school officials. Note that "firearm" does not include "imitation firearm" which is listed separately in item #12 below. See BP 5131.7 - Weapons and Dangerous Instruments. ***

***Note: Pursuant to Penal Code 417.27, students are prohibited from possessing a laser pointer on school premises, except for a valid instructional or other school-related purpose. See BP 5131 - Conduct. ***

2. Possessed, sold, or otherwise furnished any firearm, knife, explosive, or other dangerous object, unless, in the case of possession of any object of this type, the student had obtained written permission to possess the item from a certificated school employee, with the principal or designee's concurrence (Education Code 48900(b))

(cf. 5131 - Conduct)
(cf. 5131.7 - Weapons and Dangerous Instruments)

3. Unlawfully possessed, used, sold, otherwise furnished, or was under the influence of any controlled substance as defined in Health and Safety Code 11053-11058, alcoholic beverage, or intoxicant of any kind (Education Code 48900(c))

(cf. 5131.6 - Alcohol and Other Drugs)

4. Unlawfully offered, arranged, or negotiated to sell any controlled substance as defined in Health and Safety Code 11053-11058, alcoholic beverage, or intoxicant of any kind, and then sold, delivered, or otherwise furnished to any person another liquid, substance, or material and represented same as such controlled substance, alcoholic beverage, or intoxicant (Education Code 48900(d))

5. Committed or attempted to commit robbery or extortion (Education Code 48900(e))

6. Caused or attempted to cause damage to school property or private property (Education Code 48900(f))

7. Stole or attempted to steal school property or private property (Education Code 48900(g))

8. Possessed or used tobacco or products containing tobacco or nicotine products, including, but not limited to, cigars, cigarettes, miniature cigars, clove cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, snuff, chew packets, and betel, except that this restriction shall not prohibit a student from using or possessing his/her own prescription products (Education Code 48900(h))

(cf. 5131.62 - Tobacco)

9. Committed an obscene act or engaged in habitual profanity or vulgarity (Education Code 48900(i))

10. Unlawfully possessed, offered, arranged, or negotiated to sell any drug paraphernalia, as defined in Health and Safety Code 11014.5 (Education Code 48900(j))

11. Knowingly received stolen school property or private property (Education Code 48900(l))

12. Possessed an imitation firearm (Education Code 48900(m))

Imitation firearm means a replica of a firearm that is so substantially similar in physical properties to an existing firearm as to lead a reasonable person to conclude that the replica is a firearm. (Education Code 48900(m))

13. Committed or attempted to commit a sexual assault as defined in Penal Code 261, 266c, 286, 288, 288a, or 289, or committed a sexual battery as defined in Penal Code 243.4 (Education Code 48900(n))

14. Harassed, threatened, or intimidated a student who is a complaining witness or witness in a school disciplinary proceeding for the purpose of preventing that student from being a witness and/or retaliating against that student for being a witness (Education Code 48900(o))

15. Unlawfully offered, arranged to sell, negotiated to sell, or sold the prescription drug Soma (Education Code 48900(p))

16. Engaged in, or attempted to engage in, hazing (Education Code 48900(q))

Hazing means a method of initiation or pre-initiation into a student organization or body, whether or not the organization or body is officially recognized by an educational institution, which is likely to cause serious bodily injury or personal degradation or disgrace resulting in physical or mental harm to a former, current, or prospective student. Hazing does

not include athletic events or school-sanctioned events. (Education Code 48900(q))

***Note: Education Code 48900(r) defines "bullying" as "any severe or pervasive physical or verbal act or conduct, including communications made in writing or by means of electronic act," which is directed toward a student and which would have serious detrimental consequences upon a reasonable student. Pursuant to Education Code 48900, a student may be disciplined for bullying by means of electronic act even when the act originated off campus. See also BP 5131.2 - Bullying. ***

17. Engaged in an act of bullying (Education Code 48900(r))

Bullying means any severe or pervasive physical or verbal act or conduct, including communications made in writing or by means of an electronic act, directed toward one or more students that has or can reasonably be predicted to have the effect of placing a reasonable student in fear of harm to himself/herself or his/her property; cause the student to experience a substantially detrimental effect on his/her physical or mental health; or cause the student to experience substantial interferences with his/her academic performance or ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, or privileges provided by a school. (Education Code 48900(r))

***Note: "Bullying" also would include any act of sexual harassment, hate violence, or harassment, threat, or intimidation committed by a student of any grade level, as set forth in Education Code 48900.2, 48900.3, or 48900.4, when the act results in harm to a reasonable student as specified in the above paragraph. However, when bullying is found under these circumstances, students below grade 4 may be disciplined for the "bullying" but not for the underlying act of sexual harassment, hate violence, or harassment, threat, or intimidation as specified below in items #1-3 of "Additional Grounds for Suspension and Expulsion: Grades 4-12." ***

Bullying shall include any act of sexual harassment, hate violence, or harassment, threat, or intimidation, as defined in Education Code 48900.2, 48900.3, or 48900.4 and below in items #1-3 of "Additional Grounds for Suspension and Expulsion: Grades 4-12," that has any of the effects described above on a reasonable student.

Electronic act means the creation or transmission of a communication originated on or off school site, including, but not limited to, a message, text, sound, image, or post on a social network Internet web site, by means of an electronic device, including, but not limited to, a telephone, wireless telephone, or other wireless communication device, computer, or pager. A post on a social network Internet web site shall include, but is not limited to, the posting or creation of a burn page or the creation of a credible impersonation or false profile for the purpose of causing a reasonable student any of the effects of bullying described above. (Education Code 48900(r))

Reasonable student means a student, including, but not limited to, a student who has been identified as a student with a disability, who exercises average care, skill, and judgment in conduct for a person of his/her age, or for a person of his/her age with his/her disability. (Education Code 48900(r))

(cf. 1114 - District-Sponsored Social Media)
(cf. 5131.2 - Bullying)
(cf. 6163.4 - Student Use of Technology)
(cf. 6164.4 - Identification and Evaluation of Individuals for Special Education)
(cf. 6164.6 - Identification and Education under Section 504)

***Note: Education Code 48900 allows for the suspension, but not expulsion, of a student who "aids or abets," as defined in Penal Code 31, the infliction or attempted infliction of physical injury to another person. The term "aiding or abetting," is a complex legal term and requires that, at the time he/she committed the crime, the aider or abettor was aware of the crime and specifically intended to commit the crime. Because of the complexities of criminal law, legal counsel should be consulted as appropriate. ***

18. Aided or abetted the infliction or attempted infliction of physical injury on another person, as defined in Penal Code 31 (Education Code 48900(t))

19. Made terrorist threats against school officials and/or school property (Education Code 48900.7)

A terrorist threat includes any written or oral statement by a person who willfully threatens to commit a crime which will result in death or great bodily injury to another person or property damage in excess of $1,000, with the specific intent that the statement is to be taken as a threat, even if there is no intent of actually carrying it out. (Education Code 48900.7)

Additional Grounds for Suspension and Expulsion: Grades 4-12

***Note: The following section applies only to students in grades 4-12 and may be revised to reflect grade levels offered by the district. ***

***Note: Education Code 48900, as amended by AB 420 (Ch. 667, Statutes of 2014), prohibits the use of disruption and/or willful defiance as reasons for expelling any student. As amended, Education Code 48900 also restricts their use as a basis for suspending students in grades 4-12 from school. Since districts are authorized but not required to suspend students in grades 4-12 based on these grounds, a district may choose, consistent with Option 2 in accompanying Board policy, to prohibit the use of these reasons for suspending its students. Any district that chooses to do so should delete the following paragraph. ***

Any student in grades 4-12 may be suspended, but not expelled, for disrupting school activities or otherwise willfully defying the valid authority of supervisors, teachers, administrators, other school officials, or other school personnel engaged in the performance of their duties. (Education Code 48900(k))

(cf. 5131.4 - Student Disturbances)

***Note: As discussed in item #17 of "Grounds for Suspension and Expulsion: Grades K-12" above, although Education Code 48900(r) defines bullying to include acts involving items #1-3 below, only students in grades 4-12 may be suspended or expelled for the individual acts that constitute sexual harassment, hate violence, and harassment. The interplay between "bullying" and items #1-3 can raise complex legal issues. Districts should consult legal

counsel as appropriate. ***

A student in grades 4-12 shall be subject to suspension or recommendation for expulsion when it is determined that he/she:

1. Committed sexual harassment as defined in Education Code 212.5 (Education Code 48900.2)

Sexual harassment means conduct which, when considered from the perspective of a reasonable person of the same gender as the victim, is sufficiently severe or pervasive as to have a negative impact upon the victim's academic performance or to create an intimidating, hostile, or offensive educational environment. (Education Code 212.5, 48900.2)

(cf. 5145.7 - Sexual Harassment)

2. Caused, attempted to cause, threatened to cause, or participated in an act of hate violence as defined in Education Code 233 (Education Code 48900.3)

Hate violence means any act punishable under Penal Code 422.6, 422.7, or 422.75. Such acts include injuring or intimidating a victim, interfering with the exercise of a victim's civil rights, or damaging a victim's property because of the victim's race, ethnicity, religion, nationality, disability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, or sexual orientation; a perception of the presence of any of those characteristics in the victim; or the victim's association with a person or group with one or more of those actual or perceived characteristics. (Education Code 233; Penal Code 422.55)

(cf. 5145.9 - Hate-Motivated Behavior)

3. Intentionally engaged in harassment, threats, or intimidation against district personnel or students that is sufficiently severe or pervasive to have the actual and reasonably expected effect of materially disrupting classwork, creating substantial disorder, and invading the rights of school personnel or students by creating an intimidating or hostile educational environment (Education Code 48900.4)

(cf. 5145.3 - Nondiscrimination/Harassment)

Suspension from Class by a Teacher

***Note: The following section is optional and may be revised to reflect district practice. While Education Code 48900(k), as amended by AB 420 (Ch. 660, Statutes of 2014), prohibits a district from suspending students in grades K-3 for disruption or willful defiance, it still allows for a teacher to suspend a K-3 student on these grounds. ***

A teacher may suspend a student, including a grade K-3 student, from class for the remainder of the day and the following day for disruption, willful defiance, or any of the other acts specified in Education Code 48900 and listed as items #1-18 under "Grounds for Suspension and Expulsion: Grades K-12" above. (Education Code 48910)

When suspending a student from class, the teacher shall immediately report this action to the principal or designee and send the student to the principal or designee for appropriate action. If that action requires the continuing presence of the student at school, he/she shall be appropriately supervised during the class periods from which he/she has been suspended. (Education Code 48910)

As soon as possible after the teacher decides to suspend the student, he/she shall ask the student's parent/guardian to attend a parent-teacher conference regarding the suspension. A counselor or psychologist may attend the conference if it is practicable, and a school administrator shall attend if either the parent/guardian or teacher so requests. (Education Code 48910)

A student suspended from class shall not be returned to class during the period of the suspension without the approval of the teacher of the class and the principal or designee. (Education Code 48910)

A student suspended from class shall not be placed in another regular class during the period of suspension. However, a student assigned to more than one class per day may continue to attend other regular classes except those held at the same time as the class from which he/she was suspended. (Education Code 48910)

The teacher of any class from which a student is suspended may require the student to complete any assignments and tests missed during the removal. (Education Code 48913)

Suspension by Superintendent, Principal or Principal's Designee

To implement disciplinary procedures at a school site, the principal may, in writing, designate as the principal's designee another administrator or, if the principal is the only administrator at the school site, a certificated employee. As necessary, the principal may, in writing, also designate another administrator or certificated employee as the secondary designee to assist with disciplinary procedures when the principal and the principal's primary designee are absent from the school site.

The Superintendent, principal, or designee shall immediately suspend any student found at school or at a school activity to have committed any of the acts listed in the Board policy under "Authority to Expel" and for which he/she is required to recommend expulsion. (Education Code 48915(c))

***Note: Education Code 48900.5 limits situations warranting suspension for a first offense to when the violation involves Education Code 48900(a)-(e) or the student's presence causes a danger to persons. ***

The Superintendent, principal, or designee may impose a suspension for a first offense if he/she determines that the student violated any of items #1-5 listed under "Grounds for Suspension and Expulsion: Grades K-12" above or if the student's presence causes a danger to persons. (Education Code 48900.5)

***Note: Pursuant to Education Code 48900 and 48915, except for certain egregious acts or

offenses for which suspension is permissible or mandatory, as specified above pursuant to Education Code 48915(a) or (c), the Superintendent or principal is authorized to use his/her discretion to provide an alternative, age-appropriate disciplinary measure that is tailored to correct a student's specific misbehavior. In addition, the U.S. Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division (DOJ) and the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights (OCR), in their joint January 2014 Dear Colleague Letter on the Nondiscriminatory Administration of School Discipline, recommend that effective alternatives to suspension and expulsion be implemented for correcting student misbehavior. For a list of appropriate alternatives, see AR 5144 - Discipline. ***

For all other offenses, a student may be suspended only when the Superintendent or principal has determined that other means of correction have failed to bring about proper conduct in the student. (Education Code 48900.5)

When other means of correction are implemented prior to imposing suspension or supervised suspension upon a student, the Superintendent, principal, or designee shall document the other means of correction used and retain them in the student's record. (Education Code 48900.5)

(cf. 5125 - Student Records)

Length of Suspension

The Superintendent, principal, or designee may suspend a student from school for not more than five consecutive school days. (Education Code 48911)

A student may be suspended from school for not more than 20 school days in any school year. However, if a student enrolls in or is transferred to another regular school, an opportunity school, or continuation school or class for the purpose of adjustment, he/she may be suspended for not more than 30 school days in a school year. The district may count suspensions that occur while a student is enrolled in another school district toward the maximum number of days for which the student may be suspended in any school year. (Education Code 48903, 48911, 48912)

(cf. 6184 - Continuation Education)

These restrictions on the number of days of suspension shall not apply when the suspension is extended pending an expulsion. (Education Code 48911)

Due Process Procedures for Suspension

Suspensions shall be imposed in accordance with the following procedures:

1. Informal Conference: Suspension shall be preceded by an informal conference conducted by the Superintendent, principal, or designee with the student and, whenever practicable, the teacher, supervisor, or school employee who referred the student to the principal. At the conference, the student shall be informed of the reason for the disciplinary action, presented with the available evidence against him/her, and given the opportunity to present his/her version and evidence in support of his/her defense. (Education Code 48911)

This conference may be omitted if the Superintendent, principal, or designee determines that an emergency situation exists involving a clear and present danger to the lives, safety, or health of students or school personnel. If a student is suspended without this conference, both the parent/guardian and student shall be notified of the student's right to return to school for the purpose of the conference and the conference shall be held within two school days, unless the student waives his/her right to it or is physically unable to attend for any reason. In such a case, the conference shall be held as soon as the student is physically able to return to school. (Education Code 48911)

***Note: Item #2 below should be revised to reflect the district's processing and reporting procedures. ***

2. Administrative Actions: All requests for student suspension are to be processed by the principal or designee. A school employee shall report the suspension, including the name of the student and the cause for the suspension, to the Superintendent or designee. (Education Code 48911)

3. Notice to Parents/Guardians: At the time of the suspension, a school employee shall make a reasonable effort to contact the parent/guardian by telephone or in person. Whenever a student is suspended, the parent/guardian shall also be notified in writing of the suspension. (Education Code 48911)

This notice shall state the specific offense committed by the student. (Education Code 48900.8)

***Note: The following optional paragraph may be revised to reflect district practice. ***

In addition, the notice may state the date and time when the student may return to school.

4. Parent/Guardian Conference: Whenever a student is suspended, school officials may request a meeting with the parent/guardian to discuss the cause(s) and duration of the suspension, the school policy involved, and any other pertinent matter. (Education Code 48914)

If school officials request to meet with the parent/guardian, the notice may state that the law requires the parent/guardian to respond to such requests without delay. However, no penalties may be imposed on the student for the failure of the parent/guardian to attend such a conference. The student may not be denied reinstatement solely because the parent/guardian failed to attend the conference. (Education Code 48911)

5. Extension of Suspension: If the Board is considering the expulsion of a suspended student from any school or the suspension of a student for the balance of the semester from continuation school, the Superintendent or designee may, in writing, extend the suspension until such time as the Board has made a decision, provided the following requirements are followed: (Education Code 48911)

a. The extension of the original period of suspension is preceded by notice of such extension with an offer to hold a conference concerning the extension, giving the student an opportunity to be heard. This conference may be held in conjunction with a meeting requested by the student or parent/guardian to challenge the original suspension.

b. The Superintendent or designee determines, following a meeting in which the student and the student's parent/guardian were invited to participate, that the student's presence at the school or at an alternative school would endanger persons or property or threaten to disrupt the instructional process. (Education Code 48911)

***Note: When the student being considered for expulsion is a foster youth, Education Code 48911 and 48918.1 require the district to invite the student's attorney and an appropriate county child welfare agency representative to the meeting specified above. To ensure such invitation, the following paragraph provides that the district liaison for foster youth be notified. However, any district that has designated another position to carry out this responsibility may modify the paragraph to specify that position. For designation of the liaison for foster youth, see AR 6173.1 - Education for Foster Youth. ***

c. If the student involved is a foster youth, the Superintendent or designee shall notify the district liaison for foster youth of the need to invite the student's attorney and a representative of the appropriate county child welfare agency to attend the meeting. (Education Code 48853.5, 48911, 48918.1)

(cf. 6173.1 - Education for Foster Youth)

***Note: Pursuant to Education Code 48918.1, as amended by AB 1806 (Ch. 767, Statutes of 2014), the district's liaison for homeless students must be notified when the student being considered for expulsion is a homeless student. See the section below titled "Additional Notice of Expulsion Hearing for Foster Youth and Homeless Students." ***

d. If the student involved is a homeless child or youth, the Superintendent or designee shall notify the district liaison for homeless students. (Education Code 48918.1)

(cf. 6173 - Education for Homeless Children)

***Note: The following optional paragraph may be revised to reflect district practice. Since Education Code 48900 and 48900.5 require a district, under certain circumstances, to use alternative disciplinary measures prior to imposing suspension, including supervised suspension, the district may, as necessary, provide services that would address the student's specific misbehavior along with the suspension program. For example, the district may require the student to enroll in a program that teaches prosocial behavior or anger management even while the student is suspended. ***

In lieu of or in addition to suspending a student, the Superintendent, principal, or designee may provide services or require the student to participate in an alternative disciplinary program designed to correct his/her behavior and keep him/her in school.

Suspension by the Board

***Note: The following optional section reflects the Board's authority to suspend students from school pursuant to Education Code 48912. In practice, it is impractical for boards to directly exercise this authority since circumstances warranting suspension usually require quick and sometimes immediate action which may not be possible for a board due to legal requirements for taking board actions, such as having a meeting. ***

The Board may suspend a student for any of the acts listed under "Grounds for Suspension and Expulsion: Grades K-12" and "Additional Grounds for Suspension and Expulsion: Grades 4-12" above and within the limits specified under "Suspension by Superintendent, Principal, or Designee" above. (Education Code 48912)

The Board may suspend a student enrolled in a continuation school or class for a period not longer than the remainder of the semester. The suspension shall meet the requirements of Education Code 48915. (Education Code 48912.5)

When the Board is considering a suspension, disciplinary action, or any other action (except expulsion) against any student, it shall hold a closed session if a public hearing would lead to disclosure of information violating a student's right to privacy under Education Code 49073-49079. (Education Code 35146, 48912)

(cf. 9321 - Closed Session Purposes and Agendas)

The Board shall provide the student and his/her parent/guardian with written notice of the closed session by registered or certified mail or personal service. Upon receiving this notice, the student or parent/guardian may request a public meeting, and this request shall be granted if made in writing within 48 hours after receipt of the Board's notice. However, any discussion that conflicts with any other student's right to privacy still shall be held in closed session. (Education Code 35146, 48912)

On-Campus Suspension

***Note: The following optional section is for use by any district establishing an on-campus suspension program pursuant to Education Code 48911.1. However, pursuant to Education Code 48900.5, such a district is required to use other means of correcting a student's behavior before imposing a supervised suspension, unless such a supervised suspension is otherwise permitted by law for a student's first offense. Use of a supervised suspension classroom program does not in any way limit the district's ability to transfer a student to an opportunity school or class or a continuation education school or class in accordance with law. ***

A student for whom an expulsion action has not been initiated and who poses no imminent danger or threat to the school, students, or staff may be assigned to on-campus suspension in a separate classroom, building, or site for the entire period of suspension. The following conditions shall apply: (Education Code 48911.1)

1. The on-campus suspension classroom shall be staffed in accordance with law.

2. The student shall have access to appropriate counseling services.

3. The on-campus suspension classroom shall promote completion of schoolwork and tests missed by the student during the suspension.

4. The student shall be responsible for contacting his/her teacher(s) to receive assignments to be completed in the supervised suspension classroom. The teacher(s) shall provide all assignments and tests that the student will miss while suspended. If no such work is assigned, the person supervising the suspension classroom shall assign schoolwork.

At the time a student is assigned to an on-campus suspension classroom, the principal or designee shall notify the student's parent/guardian in person or by telephone. When the assignment is for longer than one class period, this notification may be made in writing. (Education Code 48911.1)

Superintendent or Principal's Authority to Recommend Expulsion

Unless the Superintendent or principal determines that expulsion should not be recommended under the circumstances or that an alternative means of correction would address the conduct, he/she shall recommend a student's expulsion for any of the following acts: (Education Code 48915)

1. Causing serious physical injury to another person, except in self-defense

2. Possession of any knife 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 (a) the first offense for the possession of not more than one ounce of marijuana, other than concentrated cannabis, or (b) the student's possession of over-the-counter medication for his/her use or other medication prescribed for him/her by a physician

4. Robbery or extortion

5. Assault or battery, as defined in Penal Code 240 and 242, upon any school employee

In determining whether or not to recommend the expulsion of a student, the Superintendent, principal, or designee shall act as quickly as possible to ensure that the student does not lose instructional time. (Education Code 48915)

Student's Right to Expulsion Hearing

***Note: Education Code 48918 mandates that the Board establish rules and regulations governing procedures for the expulsion of students. The timelines of Education Code 48918 must be strictly followed; failure to do so may result in loss of the district's power to act (Garcia v. Los Angeles Board of Education). In calculating timelines, the district should also be aware of the difference between the calculation of "school days" and "calendar days" under Education Code 48918. ***

Any student recommended for expulsion shall be entitled to a hearing to determine whether

he/she should be expelled. The hearing shall be held within 30 school days after the Superintendent, principal, or designee determines that the student has committed the act(s) that form the basis for the expulsion recommendation. (Education Code 48918(a))

The student is entitled to at least one postponement of an expulsion hearing for a period of not more than 30 calendar days. The request for postponement shall be in writing. Any subsequent postponement may be granted at the Board's discretion. (Education Code 48918(a))

If the Board finds it impractical during the regular school year to comply with these time requirements for conducting an expulsion hearing, the Superintendent or designee may, for good cause, extend the time period by an additional five school days. Reasons for the extension shall be included as a part of the record when the expulsion hearing is held. (Education Code 48918(a))

If the Board finds it impractical to comply with the time requirements of the expulsion hearing due to a summer recess of Board meetings of more than two weeks, the days during the recess shall not be counted as school days. The days not counted during the recess may not exceed 20 school days, as defined in Education Code 48925. Unless the student requests in writing that the expulsion hearing be postponed, the hearing shall be held not later than 20 calendar days prior to the first day of the next school year. (Education Code 48918(a))

Once the hearing starts, all matters shall be pursued with reasonable diligence and concluded without unnecessary delay. (Education Code 48918(a))

Stipulated Expulsion

***Note: The following section is optional and may be revised to reflect district practice. "Stipulated expulsion" is for districts that have adopted an expedited procedure which allows a student to waive his/her right to a pre-expulsion hearing in exchange for an agreement as to the terms of the expulsion. Such waivers are not specifically addressed in law and districts should ensure that the due process rights of students are included in the stipulated agreement and are clearly explained to them before the agreement is signed. Districts should consult legal counsel as appropriate. ***

After a determination that a student has committed an expellable offense, the Superintendent, principal, or designee shall offer the student and his/her parent/guardian the option to waive a hearing and stipulate to the expulsion or to a suspension of the expulsion under certain conditions. The offer shall be made only after the student or his/her parent/guardian has been given written notice of the expulsion hearing pursuant to Education Code 48918.

The stipulation agreement shall be in writing and shall be signed by the student and his/her parent/guardian. The stipulation agreement shall include notice of all the rights that the student is waiving, including the waiving of his/her right to have a full hearing, to appeal the expulsion to the County Board of Education, and to consult legal counsel.

A stipulated expulsion agreed to by the student and his/her parent/guardian shall be effective upon approval by the Board.

Rights of Complaining Witness

***Note: Education Code 48918.5 mandates the following rights related to the treatment of witnesses alleging acts of sexual assault or sexual battery. Other procedures related to complaining witnesses also may be added as desired by the district. Additional mandated procedures related to the rights and treatment of complaining witnesses are included where appropriate throughout this regulation. ***

An expulsion hearing involving allegations of sexual assault or sexual battery may be postponed for one school day in order to accommodate the special physical, mental, or emotional needs of a student who is the complaining witness. (Education Code 48918.5)

Whenever the Superintendent or designee recommends an expulsion hearing that addresses allegations of sexual assault or sexual battery, he/she shall give the complaining witness a copy of the district's suspension and expulsion policy and regulation and shall advise the witness of his/her right to: (Education Code 48918.5)

1. Receive five days' notice of his/her scheduled testimony at the hearing

2. Have up to two adult support persons of his/her choosing present at the hearing at the time he/she testifies

3. Have a closed hearing during the time he/she testifies

Whenever any allegation of sexual assault or sexual battery is made, the Superintendent or designee shall immediately advise complaining witnesses and accused students to refrain from personal or telephone contact with each other during the time when an expulsion process is pending. (Education Code 48918.5)

Written Notice of the Expulsion Hearing

***Note: Education Code 48918 mandates the Board to adopt procedures that include the following items. ***

Written notice of the expulsion hearing shall be forwarded to the student and the student's parent/guardian at least 10 calendar days before the date of the hearing. The notice shall include: (Education Code 48900.8, 48918(b))

1. The date and place of the hearing

2. A statement of the specific facts, charges, and offense upon which the proposed expulsion is based

3. A copy of district disciplinary rules which relate to the alleged violation

4. Notification of the student's or parent/guardian's obligation, pursuant to Education Code 48915.1, to provide information about the student's status in the district to any other district in which the student seeks enrollment

This obligation applies when a student is expelled for acts other than those described in Education Code 48915(a) or (c).

(cf. 5119 - Students Expelled from Other Districts)

5. The opportunity for the student or the student's parent/guardian to appear in person or be represented by legal counsel or by a nonattorney adviser

Legal counsel means an attorney or lawyer who is admitted to the practice of law in California and is an active member of the State Bar of California.

Nonattorney adviser means an individual who is not an attorney or lawyer, but who is familiar with the facts of the case and has been selected by the student or student's parent/guardian to provide assistance at the hearing.

6. The right to inspect and obtain copies of all documents to be used at the hearing

7. The opportunity to confront and question all witnesses who testify at the hearing

8. The opportunity to question all evidence presented and to present oral and documentary evidence on the student's behalf, including witnesses

Additional Notice of Expulsion Hearing for Foster Youth and Homeless Students

***Note: Prior to conducting an expulsion hearing to determine whether a foster youth should be expelled, Education Code 48918.1 requires the district to notify the student's attorney and a representative of an appropriate county child welfare agency, provided that the violation does not require a mandatory recommendation for expulsion. Pursuant to Education Code 48918.1, as amended by AB 1806 (Ch. 767, Statutes of 2014), such additional notice must be given to the district liaison for homeless students when the student involved is a homeless child or youth and the violation does not require a mandatory recommendation for expulsion. While such a notice is not required if the offense requires a mandatory recommendation for expulsion, it is nonetheless recommended and the following section reflects this recommendation. ***

If the student facing expulsion is a foster student, the Superintendent or designee shall also send notice of the hearing to the student's attorney and a representative of an appropriate child welfare agency at least 10 days prior to the hearing. (Education Code 48918.1)

If the student facing expulsion is a homeless student, the Superintendent or designee shall also send notice of the hearing to the district liaison for homeless students at least 10 days prior to the hearing. (Education Code 48918.1)

Any notice for these purposes may be provided by the most cost-effective method possible, including by email or a telephone call. (Education Code 48918.1)

Conduct of Expulsion Hearing

***Note: Education Code 48918 mandates that the Board adopt procedures that include the following items. ***

***Note: Instead of the Board conducting an expulsion hearing, it may appoint a hearing officer or an impartial administrative panel to conduct the hearing; see section "Alternative Expulsion Hearing: Hearing Officer or Administrative Panel" below. Even if the district conducts all expulsion hearings in this manner, the requirements of Education Code 48918 pertaining to the conduct of the hearing must be met. ***

1. Closed Session: Notwithstanding Education Code 35145, the Board shall conduct a hearing to consider the expulsion of the student in a session closed to the public unless the student requests in writing at least five days prior to the hearing that the hearing be a public meeting. If such a request is made, the meeting shall be public to the extent that privacy rights of other students are not violated. (Education Code 48918)

***Note: For the purpose of Board deliberations during the closed session described below, the presence of any person other than the Board members, including the Superintendent, necessitates allowing the presence of the parent/guardian, student, and student's counsel. ***

Whether the expulsion hearing is held in closed or public session, the Board may meet in closed session to deliberate and determine whether or not the student should be expelled. If the Board admits any other person to this closed session, the parent/guardian, the student, and the counsel of the student also shall be allowed to attend the closed session. (Education Code 48918(c))

If a hearing that involves a charge of sexual assault or sexual battery is to be conducted in public, a complaining witness shall have the right to have his/her testimony heard in closed session when testifying in public would threaten serious psychological harm to the witness and when there are no alternative procedures to avoid the threatened harm, including, but not limited to, videotaped deposition or contemporaneous examination in another place communicated to the hearing room by closed-circuit television. (Education Code 48918(c))

2. Record of Hearing: A record of the hearing shall be made and may be maintained by any means, including electronic recording, as long as a reasonably accurate and complete written transcription of the proceedings can be made. (Education Code 48918(g))

***Note: Education Code 48918 authorizes the Board to issue subpoenas for the personal appearance of percipient witnesses at an expulsion hearing. In Woodbury v. Dempsey, the court held that a district's authority to determine whether to issue subpoenas is discretionary, but a district could not have a blanket policy denying the issuance of subpoenas in all cases. ***

***Note: In accordance with Code of Civil Procedure 1987, the subpoena must be served at least 10 days before the time required for attendance unless the court prescribes a shorter time. Unless they are parties to the hearing or are district or government employees, witnesses who appear pursuant to a subpoena receive fees equal to those prescribed for witnesses in civil actions in a superior court, and all witnesses other than the parties to the hearing receive mileage; these fees and mileage must be paid by the party requesting the subpoena. ***

3. Subpoenas: Before commencing a student expulsion hearing, the Board may issue subpoenas, at the request of either the student or the Superintendent or designee, for the personal appearance at the hearing of any person who actually witnessed the action that gave rise to the recommendation for expulsion. After the hearing has commenced, the Board or the hearing officer or administrative panel may issue such subpoenas at the request of the student or the County Superintendent of Schools or designee. All subpoenas shall be issued in accordance with Code of Civil Procedure 1985-1985.2 and enforced in accordance with Government Code 11455.20. (Education Code 48918(i))

Any objection raised by the student or the Superintendent or designee to the issuance of subpoenas may be considered by the Board in closed session, or in open session if so requested by the student, before the meeting. The Board's decision in response to such an objection shall be final and binding. (Education Code 48918(i))

If the Board determines, or if the hearing officer or administrative panel finds and submits to the Board, that a witness would be subject to unreasonable risk of harm by testifying at the hearing, a subpoena shall not be issued to compel the personal attendance of that witness at the hearing. However, that witness may be compelled to testify by means of a sworn declaration as described in item #4 below. (Education Code 48918(i))

4. Presentation of Evidence: Technical rules of evidence shall not apply to the expulsion hearing, but relevant evidence may be admitted and used as proof only if it is the kind of evidence on which reasonable persons can rely in the conduct of serious affairs. The decision of the Board to expel shall be supported by substantial evidence that the student committed any of the acts pursuant to Education Code 48900 and listed in "Grounds for Suspension and Expulsion: Grades K-12" and "Additional Grounds for Suspension and Expulsion: Grades 4-12" above. (Education Code 48918(h))

***Note: Findings of fact made by the Board or a hearing panel must not be based on hearsay alone. "Hearsay" is evidence of an oral or written statement made by a person who is not present at the hearing which is offered to establish a fact as being true. Some exceptions to the hearsay rule exist under the Evidence Code and Education Code; the district should consult legal counsel as appropriate. ***

Findings of fact shall be based solely on the evidence at the hearing. Although no finding shall be based solely on hearsay, sworn declarations may be admitted as testimony from witnesses whose disclosure of their identity or testimony at the hearing may subject them to an unreasonable risk of physical or psychological harm. (Education Code 48918(f))

In cases where a search of a student's person or property has occurred, evidence describing the reasonableness of the search shall be included in the hearing record.

***Note: Education Code 48918.6 provides that testimony by a student witness at an expulsion hearing is privileged and thus protected from liability for defamation pursuant to Civil Code 47(b). ***

5. Testimony by Complaining Witnesses: The following procedures shall be observed when a hearing involves allegations of sexual assault or sexual battery by a student:

(Education Code 48918, 48918.5)

a. Any complaining witness shall be given five days' notice before being called to testify.

b. Any complaining witness shall be entitled to have up to two adult support persons, including, but not limited to, a parent/guardian or legal counsel, present during his/her testimony.

c. Before a complaining witness testifies, support persons shall be admonished that the hearing is confidential.

d. The person presiding over the hearing may remove a support person whom he/she finds is disrupting the hearing.

e. If one or both support persons are also witnesses, the hearing shall be conducted in accordance with Penal Code 868.5.

f. Evidence of specific instances of prior sexual conduct of a complaining witness shall be presumed inadmissible and shall not be heard unless the person conducting the hearing determines that extraordinary circumstances require the evidence to be heard. Before such a determination is made, the complaining witness shall be given notice and an opportunity to oppose the introduction of this evidence. In the hearing on the admissibility of this evidence, the complaining witness shall be entitled to be represented by a parent/guardian, legal counsel, or other support person. Reputation or opinion evidence regarding the sexual behavior of a complaining witness shall not be admissible for any purpose.

g. In order to facilitate a free and accurate statement of the experiences of the complaining witness and to prevent discouragement of complaints, the district shall provide a nonthreatening environment.

(1) The district shall provide a room separate from the hearing room for the use of the complaining witness before and during breaks in testimony.

(2) At the discretion of the person conducting the hearing, the complaining witness shall be allowed reasonable periods of relief from examination and cross-examination during which he/she may leave the hearing room.

(3) The person conducting the hearing may:

(a) Arrange the seating within the hearing room so as to facilitate a less intimidating environment for the complaining witness

(b) Limit the time for taking the testimony of a complaining witness to the hours he/she is normally in school, if there is no good cause to take the testimony during other hours

(c) Permit one of the support persons to accompany the complaining witness to the witness stand

6. Decision: The Board's decision as to whether to expel a student shall be made within 40 school days after the student is removed from his/her school of attendance, unless the student requests in writing that the decision be postponed. (Education Code 48918(a))

Alternative Expulsion Hearing: Hearing Officer or Administrative Panel

***Note: For districts that use a hearing officer or administrative panel, Education Code 48918 mandates that the Board adopt procedures that include the following section. ***

Instead of conducting an expulsion hearing itself, the Board may contract with the county hearing officer or with the Office of Administrative Hearings of the State of California for a hearing officer. The Board may also appoint an impartial administrative panel composed of three or more certificated personnel, none of whom shall be members of the Board or on the staff of the school in which the student is enrolled. (Education Code 48918)

A hearing conducted by the hearing officer or administrative panel shall conform to the same procedures applicable to a hearing conducted by the Board as specified above in "Conduct of Expulsion Hearing," including the requirement to issue a decision within 40 school days of the student's removal from school, unless the student requests that the decision be postponed. (Education Code 48918(a) and (d))

***Note: Pursuant to Education Code 48918, as amended by SB 1111 (Ch. 837, Statutes of 2014), if the hearing officer or administrative panel does not recommend expulsion, a student must be permitted to return to the classroom instructional program from which the expulsion referral was made, unless the student's parent/guardian requests a different placement. As amended, Education Code 48918 also states that a student who is found to have committed any of the violations listed in "Authority to Expel" in the accompanying Board policy but for whom expulsion is not recommended may be referred to his/her prior school. However, the hearing officer or administrative panel, like the Board, must recommend expulsion or a suspended expulsion under Education Code 48915, if it finds that a student committed any such violation that mandates expulsion. District should consult legal counsel to resolve this apparent discrepancy. ***

The hearing officer or administrative panel shall, within three school days after the hearing, determine whether to recommend expulsion of the student to the Board. If expulsion is not recommended, the expulsion proceeding shall be terminated and the student shall be immediately reinstated and permitted to return to the classroom instructional program from which the referral was made, unless another placement is requested in writing by the student's parent/guardian. Before the student's placement decision is made by his/her parent/guardian, the Superintendent or designee shall consult with the parent/guardian and district staff, including the student's teachers, regarding other placement options for the student in addition to the option to return to the classroom instructional program from which the student's expulsion referral was made. The decision to not recommend expulsion shall be final. (Education Code 48918(e))

If expulsion is recommended, findings of fact in support of the recommendation shall be prepared and submitted to the Board. All findings of fact and recommendations shall be based solely on the evidence presented at the hearing. The Board may accept the recommendation

based either upon a review of the findings of fact and recommendations submitted or upon the results of any supplementary hearing the Board may order. (Education Code 48918(f))

In accordance with Board policy, the hearing officer or administrative panel may recommend that the Board suspend the enforcement of the expulsion. If the hearing officer or administrative panel recommends that the Board expel a student but suspend the enforcement of the expulsion, the student shall not be reinstated and permitted to return to the classroom instructional program from which the referral was made until the Board has ruled on the recommendation. (Education Code 48917, 48918)

Final Action by the Board

***Note: Education Code 48918 mandates that the Board adopt procedures that include the following paragraph. ***

Whether the expulsion hearing is conducted in closed or public session by the Board, a hearing officer, or an administrative panel or is waived through the signing of a stipulated expulsion agreement, the final action to expel shall be taken by the Board in public. (Education Code 48918(j))

(cf. 9321.1 - Closed Session Actions and Reports)

The Board's decision is final. If the decision is to not expel, the student shall be reinstated immediately. If the decision is to suspend the enforcement of the expulsion, the student shall be reinstated under the conditions of the suspended expulsion.

***Note: The Gun-Free Schools Act, 20 USC 7151, requires that information in the following paragraph be sent to the California Department of Education (CDE) for assurances of compliance with federal and state law. For other language that must be submitted to the CDE, see section below entitled "Notifications to Law Enforcement Authorities." ***

Upon ordering an expulsion, the Board shall set a date when the student shall be reviewed for readmission to a school within the district. For a student expelled for any act listed under "Mandatory Recommendation and Mandatory Expulsion" above, this date shall be one year from the date the expulsion occurred, except that the Board may set an earlier date on a case-by-case basis. For a student expelled for other acts, this date shall be no later than the last day of the semester following the semester in which the expulsion occurred. If an expulsion is ordered during summer session or the intersession period of a year-round program, the Board shall set a date when the student shall be reviewed for readmission not later than the last day of the semester following the summer session or intersession period in which the expulsion occurred. (Education Code 48916)

At the time of the expulsion order, the Board shall recommend a plan for the student's rehabilitation, which may include: (Education Code 48916)

1. Periodic review, as well as assessment at the time of review, for readmission

2. Recommendations for improved academic performance, tutoring, special education

assessments, job training, counseling, employment, community service, or other rehabilitative programs

***Note: The following paragraph is optional. Education Code 48916.5 authorizes, but does not mandate, the Board to make the following requirement of certain expelled students. ***

With parent/guardian consent, students who have been expelled for reasons relating to controlled substances or alcohol may be required to enroll in a county-sponsored drug rehabilitation program before returning to school. (Education Code 48916.5)

Written Notice to Expel

The Superintendent or designee shall send written notice of the decision to expel to the student or parent/guardian. This notice shall include the following:

1. The specific offense committed by the student for any of the causes for suspension or expulsion listed above under "Grounds for Suspension and Expulsion: Grades K-12" or "Additional Grounds for Suspension and Expulsion: Grades 4-12" (Education Code 48900.8)

2. The fact that a description of readmission procedures will be made available to the student and his/her parent/guardian (Education Code 48916)

3. Notice of the right to appeal the expulsion to the County Board (Education Code 48918)

4. Notice of the alternative educational placement to be provided to the student during the time of expulsion (Education Code 48918)

5. Notice of the student's or parent/guardian's obligation to inform any new district in which the student seeks to enroll of the student's status with the expelling district, pursuant to Education Code 48915.1 (Education Code 48918)

Decision to Suspend Expulsion Order

***Note: Pursuant to Education Code 48917, the Board's criteria for suspending the enforcement of expulsions must be applied uniformly to all students. Items #1-3 below are optional and should be revised to reflect district criteria. ***

In accordance with Board policy, when deciding whether to suspend the enforcement of an expulsion order, the Board shall take into account the following criteria:

1. The student's pattern of behavior

2. The seriousness of the misconduct

3. The student's attitude toward the misconduct and his/her willingness to follow a rehabilitation program

The suspension of the enforcement of an expulsion shall be governed by the following:

1. The Board may, as a condition of the suspension of enforcement, assign the student to a school, class, or program appropriate for the student's rehabilitation. This rehabilitation program may provide for the involvement of the student's parent/guardian in the student's education. However, a parent/guardian's refusal to participate in the rehabilitation program shall not be considered in the Board's determination as to whether the student has satisfactorily completed the rehabilitation program. (Education Code 48917)

2. During the period when enforcement of the expulsion order is suspended, the student shall be on probationary status. (Education Code 48917)

3. The suspension of the enforcement of an expulsion order may be revoked by the Board if the student commits any of the acts listed under "Grounds for Suspension and Expulsion: Grades K-12" or "Additional Grounds for Suspension and Expulsion: Grades 4-12" above or violates any of the district's rules and regulations governing student conduct. (Education Code 48917)

4. When the suspension of enforcement of an expulsion order is revoked, a student may be expelled under the terms of the original expulsion order. (Education Code 48917)

5. Upon satisfactory completion of the rehabilitation assignment, the Board shall reinstate the student in a district school. Upon reinstatement, the Board may order the expunging of any or all records of the expulsion proceedings. (Education Code 48917)

6. The Superintendent or designee shall send written notice of any decision to suspend the enforcement of an expulsion order during a period of probation to the student or parent/guardian. The notice shall inform the parent/guardian of the right to appeal the expulsion to the County Board, the alternative educational placement to be provided to the student during the period of expulsion, and the student's or parent/guardian's obligation to inform any new district in which the student seeks to enroll of his/her status with the expelling district, pursuant to Education Code 48915.1(b). (Education Code 48918(j))

7. Suspension of the enforcement of an expulsion order shall not affect the time period and requirements for the filing of an appeal of the expulsion order with the County Board. (Education Code 48917)

Appeal

The student or parent/guardian is entitled to file an appeal of the Board's decision with the County Board. The appeal must be filed within 30 days of the Board's decision to expel, even if the expulsion order is suspended and the student is placed on probation. (Education Code 48919)

If the student submits a written request for a copy of the written transcripts and supporting documents from the district simultaneously with the filing of the notice of appeal with the County Board, the district shall provide the student with these documents within 10 school days following the student's written request. (Education Code 48919)

Notification to Law Enforcement Authorities

***Note: The Gun-Free Schools Act, 20 USC 7151, requires that information in the following two paragraphs be sent to the CDE for assurances of compliance with federal and state law. ***

***Note: In addition, Education Code 48902 requires the principal or designee to notify law enforcement authorities when a student or nonstudent possesses a firearm or explosive or sells or furnishes a firearm at school. However, when the student involved in such a case is a student with a disability, Education Code 49076 requires any law enforcement authority to which student information is disclosed to certify that those records will not be disclosed to another party without the prior written consent of the student's parent/guardian or other person invested with the student's educational right; see AR 5144.2 - Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process (Students with Disabilities). ***

Prior to the suspension or expulsion of any student, the principal or designee shall notify appropriate city or county law enforcement authorities of any student acts of assault which may have violated Penal Code 245. (Education Code 48902)

The principal or designee also shall notify appropriate city or county law enforcement authorities of any student acts which may involve the possession or sale of narcotics or of a controlled substance. In addition, law enforcement authorities shall be notified regarding any acts by students regarding the possession, sale, or furnishing of firearms, explosives, or other dangerous weapons in violation of Education Code 48915(c)(1) or (5) or Penal Code 626.9 and 626.10. (Education Code 48902)

Within one school day after a student's suspension or expulsion, the principal or designee shall notify appropriate city or county law enforcement authorities, by telephone or other appropriate means, of any student acts which may violate Education Code 48900(c) or (d), relating to the possession, use, offering, or sale of controlled substances, alcohol, or intoxicants of any kind. (Education Code 48902)

Placement During Expulsion

***Note: Education Code 48915 requires the Board to refer all expelled students to a program of study that is prepared to accommodate students with discipline problems and that is not located at the school the student currently attends or at any regular elementary, middle, junior, or senior high school. However, students expelled for the acts described in Education Code 48900(f) through (m) or Education Code 48900.2, 48900.3, or 48900.4 may be referred to a program of study that is at another elementary, middle, junior, or senior high school if the County Superintendent of Schools certifies that an alternative program is not available at a site away from such a school. ***

***Note: Education Code 48915.01 states that if the Board has established a community day school pursuant to Education Code 48661 on the same site as an elementary, middle, junior, or senior high school, expelled students may be referred to the community day school at that site. Although Education Code 48663 prohibits the use of independent study in community day schools, Education Code 48916.1 does not in any way restrict the district from offering

independent study as a voluntary alternative placement option for expelled students. ***

The Board shall refer expelled students to a program of study that is: (Education Code 48915, 48915.01)

1. Appropriately prepared to accommodate students who exhibit discipline problems

2. Not provided at a comprehensive middle, junior, or senior high school or at any elementary school, unless the program is offered at a community day school established at any of these

3. Not housed at the school site attended by the student at the time of suspension

(cf. 6158 - Independent Study)
(cf. 6185 - Community Day School)

When the placement described above is not available and when the County Superintendent so certifies, students expelled for only acts described in items #6-12 under "Grounds for Suspension and Expulsion: Grades K-12" and items #1-3 under "Additional Grounds for Suspension and Expulsion: Grades 4-12" above may be referred to a program of study that is provided at another comprehensive middle, junior, or senior high school or at an elementary school. (Education Code 48915)

The program for a student expelled from any of grades K-6 shall not be combined or merged with programs offered to students in any of grades 7-12. (Education Code 48916.1)

Readmission After Expulsion

***Note: Education Code 48916 mandates that the Board adopt rules and regulations establishing a procedure for filing and processing requests for readmission and a process for Board review of all expelled students for readmission. Items #1-2 below should be revised to reflect district practice. ***

Prior to the date set by the Board for the student's readmission:

1. The Superintendent or designee shall hold a conference with the parent/guardian and the student. At the conference, the student's rehabilitation plan shall be reviewed and the Superintendent or designee shall verify that the provisions of this plan have been met. School regulations shall be reviewed and the student and parent/guardian shall be asked to indicate in writing their willingness to comply with these regulations.

2. The Superintendent or designee shall transmit to the Board his/her recommendation regarding readmission. The Board shall consider this recommendation in closed session. If a written request for open session is received from the parent/guardian or adult student, it shall be honored to the extent that privacy rights of other students are not violated.

3. If the readmission is granted, the Superintendent or designee shall notify the student and parent/guardian, by registered mail, of the Board's decision regarding readmission.

4. The Board may deny readmission only if it finds that the student has not satisfied the conditions of the rehabilitation plan or that the student continues to pose a danger to campus safety or to other district students or employees. (Education Code 48916)

5. If the Board denies the readmission of a student, the Board shall determine either to continue the student's placement in the alternative educational program initially selected or to place the student in another program that serves expelled students, including placement in a county community school.

6. The Board shall provide written notice to the expelled student and parent/guardian describing the reasons for denying readmittance into the regular program. This notice shall indicate the Board's determination of the educational program which the Board has chosen. The student shall enroll in that program unless the parent/guardian chooses to enroll the student in another school district. (Education Code 48916)

No student shall be denied readmission into the district based solely on the student's arrest, adjudication by a juvenile court, formal or informal supervision by a probation officer, detention in a juvenile facility, enrollment in a juvenile court school, or other such contact with the juvenile justice system. (Education Code 48645.5)

Maintenance of Records

The district shall maintain a record of each suspension and expulsion, including its specific cause(s). (Education Code 48900.8)

Expulsion records of any student shall be maintained in the student's mandatory interim record and sent to any school in which the student subsequently enrolls upon written request by that school. (Education Code 48918(k))

***Note: Education Code 48915.1 requires that, when an expelled student asks to enroll in another district, the receiving district must hold a hearing to determine whether the student poses a danger to its students or staff. The receiving district then may either deny or permit the enrollment. Upon request from another district, the expelling district must provide information about the expulsion within five days. ***

The Superintendent or designee shall, within five working days, honor any other district's request for information about an expulsion from this district. (Education Code 48915.1)

(cf. 5119 - Students Expelled from Other Districts)

Students

Suspension And Expulsion/Due Process BP 5144.1

***Note: Education Code 35291 requires the Governing Board to prescribe rules and regulations for maintaining discipline in the schools under its jurisdiction. In addition, Education Code 48918 mandates the setting of rules and regulations for student expulsion as specified in this Board policy and the accompanying administrative regulation. ***

***Note: While recognizing that suspension or expulsion of students is sometimes necessary, legislative, administrative, regulatory, civic, and educational leaders are united in the belief that instructional time should be used for student learning purposes and that school discipline should be imposed in a way that, as much as possible, would not exclude students from school or limit their ability or opportunity to learn. Pursuant to Education Code 48900.5, a district is not authorized to suspend a student for certain specified violations unless other means of correction have failed to bring about proper conduct. Such other means of correction include, but are not limited to, conferences between school personnel and the student and his/her parents/guardians; use of study, guidance, or other intervention teams to develop a plan to address the behavior in partnership with the student; and participation in a restorative justice program. Education Code 48900.5 also authorizes a district to document in a student's records the alternative means of correction used to address the student's behavior. For further information about specific disciplinary strategies, including alternatives to class or school removals, see BP/AR 5144 - Discipline. ***

***Note: In addition, the U.S. Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division (DOJ) and the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights (OCR), in their joint January 2014 Dear Colleague Letter on the Nondiscriminatory Administration of School Discipline, state that studies have suggested a correlation between exclusionary discipline policies and practices (such as suspension and expulsion) and an array of serious educational, economic, and social problems, including school avoidance and diminished educational engagement, decreased academic achievement, increased behavior problems, and increased likelihood of dropping out, substance abuse, and involvement with the juvenile justice system. Consequently, they recommend that districts adopt alternative disciplinary measures that provide students with appropriate interventions and supports as a means for preventing and addressing student misbehaviors. ***

***Note: The need to implement means of correction other than suspension and expulsion is underscored by Education Code 52060-52077, which require districts to adopt and annually update a local control and accountability plan (LCAP) including descriptions of the district's and each school's goals for improving student engagement and school climate, as measured by rates of student absenteeism, suspension and expulsion, and other relevant measures identified by the Board. ***

The Governing Board desires to provide district students access to educational opportunities in an orderly school environment that protects their safety and security, ensures their welfare and well-being, and promotes their learning and development. The Board shall develop rules and regulations setting the standards of behavior expected of district students and the disciplinary

processes and procedures for addressing violations of those standards, including suspension and/or expulsion.

(cf. 5131 - Conduct)
(cf. 5131.1 - Bus Conduct)
(cf. 5131.2 - Bullying)

The grounds for suspension and expulsion and the procedures for considering, recommending, and/or implementing suspension and expulsion shall be only those specified in law, in this policy, and in the accompanying administrative regulation.

***Note: Pursuant to Education Code 48900(s), a student may be subject to discipline only when the violation is related to a school activity or school attendance as specified below. A student may also be disciplined for violations committed away from school if it is related to a school activity or to school attendance. For example, Education Code 48900 defines bullying by means of an electronic act as including an act that originates off campus; see the accompanying administrative regulation and BP/AR 5131.2 - Bullying. Another example is the hostile school environment which a victim may suffer from sexual harassment that occurs off campus; see BP/AR 5145.7 - Sexual Harassment. ***

Except when otherwise permitted by law, a student may be suspended or expelled only when his/her behavior is related to a school activity or school attendance occurring within any district school or another school district, regardless of when it occurs, including, but not limited to, the following: (Education Code 48900(s))

1. While on school grounds

2. While going to or coming from school

3. During the lunch period, whether on or off the school campus

(cf. 5112.5 - Open/Closed Campus)

4. During, going to, or coming from a school-sponsored activity

***Note: The following paragraph addresses the problem of unlawful discrimination in the administration of student discipline. In their joint January 2014 Dear Colleague Letter on the Nondiscriminatory Administration of School Discipline, the DOJ and OCR noted that, based on the civil rights data collection conducted by OCR, students of certain racial or ethnic groups tended to be disciplined more, and sometimes more harshly, than their similarly situated peers in violation of federal nondiscrimination laws. The letter warned that any district determined to have engaged in unlawful discrimination could be subject to OCR investigation and significant remedial action. ***

District staff shall enforce the rules concerning suspension and expulsion of students fairly, consistently, equally, and in accordance with the district's nondiscrimination policies.

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

Appropriate Use of Suspension Authority

***Note: Education Code 48900.5 requires districts to use other means of correction instead of suspension or expulsion except when a student commits certain enumerated offenses. The following section reflects legislative intent regarding appropriate use of suspension as a means of disciplining students and may be modified to reflect district practice. ***

Except when a student's act violates Education Code 48900(a)-(e), as listed in items #1-5 under "Grounds for Suspension and Expulsion: Grades K-12" of the accompanying administrative regulation, or when his/her presence causes a danger to others, suspension shall be used only when other means of correction have failed to bring about proper conduct. (Education Code 48900.5, 48900.6)

(cf. 1020 - Youth Services)
(cf. 5138 - Conflict Resolution/Peer Mediation)
(cf. 5144 - Discipline)
(cf. 6142.4 - Service Learning/Community Service Classes)
(cf. 6164.2 - Guidance/Counseling Services)
(cf. 6164.5 - Student Success Teams)

***Note: The following optional paragraph may be revised to reflect district practice. ***

A student's parents/guardians shall be notified as soon as possible when there is an escalating pattern of misbehavior that could lead to on-campus or off-campus suspension.

***Note: Education Code 48900(k), as amended by AB 420 (Ch. 660, Statutes of 2014), prohibits a district from suspending students in grades K-3 for disruption or willful defiance. As amended, Education Code 48900(k) authorizes but does not require a district to suspend students in grades 4-12 for disruption or willful defiance. Even with this authority, districts should be careful in using these grounds, as available data have indicated a disproportionate use with certain student subgroups. Option 1 below is for use by any district that chooses to suspend students in grades 4-12 for disruption and/or willful defiance as authorized pursuant to Education Code 48900(k). Any district that chooses to eliminate disruption and willful defiance as reasons for suspending any of its students from school should select Option 2 below. Such districts should also delete the first paragraph in the section titled "Additional Grounds for Suspension and Expulsion: Grades 4-12," in the accompanying administrative regulation. ***

***Note: Each option below reflects an exception granted to teachers pursuant to Education Code 48910 to suspend students, including a K-3 student, from class; see section "Suspension from Class by a Teacher" in the accompanying administrative regulation. ***

OPTION 1: No student in grades K-3 may be suspended for disruption or willful defiance, except by a teacher pursuant to Education Code 48910. (Education Code 48900)

OPTION 2: No student may be suspended for disruption or willful defiance, except by a teacher pursuant to Education Code 48910. (Education Code 48900)

***Note: The following optional paragraph reflects the Legislature's intent, expressed in

Education Code 48900, concerning disciplinary actions against truant, tardy, or absent students. Since these are not enumerated offenses, a district does not have the authority to suspend or expel students for committing any of these acts. ***

Students shall not be suspended or expelled for truancy, tardiness, or absenteeism from assigned school activities.

(cf. 5113 - Absences and Excuses)
(cf. 5113.1 - Chronic Absence and Truancy)

On-Campus Suspension

***Note: As an alternative to off-campus suspension, Education Code 48911.1 authorizes a supervised suspension classroom program for students who pose no imminent danger to anyone at school and who have not been recommended for expulsion, as specified below. Education Code 48911.2 states that, if the number of students suspended during the prior year exceeds 30 percent of the school's enrollment, the district should consider implementing this program and/or another program of on-campus progressive discipline. However, Education Code 48900.5 requires a district to try other means of correction and document that those means have failed to bring about proper conduct before imposing a supervised suspension. ***

***Note: The following optional section is for use by districts implementing a supervised suspension classroom program. Such districts may continue to claim funding apportionments for students so assigned, provided they meet specific criteria which are set forth under "Supervised Suspension Classroom" in the accompanying administrative regulation. A district does not receive funding for off-campus suspensions. ***

To ensure the proper supervision and ongoing learning of students who are suspended for any of the reasons enumerated in Education Code 48900 and 48900.2, but who pose no imminent danger or threat to anyone at school and for whom expulsion proceedings have not been initiated, the Superintendent or designee shall establish a supervised suspension classroom program which meets the requirements of law.

Except where a supervised suspension is permitted by law for a student's first offense, supervised suspension shall be imposed only when other means of correction have failed to bring about proper conduct. (Education Code 48900.5)

Authority to Expel

A student may be expelled only by the Board. (Education Code 48918(j))

As required by law, the Superintendent or principal shall recommend expulsion and the Board shall expel any student found to have committed any of the following "mandatory recommendation and mandatory expulsion" acts at school or at a school activity off school grounds: (Education Code 48915)

1. Possessing a firearm which is not an imitation firearm, as verified by a certificated employee, unless the student had obtained prior written permission to possess the item from a

certificated school employee, with the principal or designee's concurrence

(cf. 5131.7 - Weapons and Dangerous Instruments)

2. Selling or otherwise furnishing a firearm

3. Brandishing a knife at another person

4. Unlawfully selling a controlled substance listed in Health and Safety Code 11053-11058

5. Committing or attempting to commit a sexual assault as defined in Penal Code 261, 266c, 286, 288, 288a, or 289, or committing a sexual battery as defined in Penal Code 243.4

6. Possessing an explosive as defined in 18 USC 921

For all other violations listed in the accompanying administrative regulation under "Grounds for Suspension and Expulsion: Grades K-12" and "Additional Grounds for Suspension and Expulsion: Grades 4-12," the Superintendent or principal shall have the discretion to recommend expulsion of a student. If expulsion is recommended, the Board shall order the student expelled only if it makes a finding of 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

A vote to expel a student shall be taken in a public session.

***Note: Pursuant to Education Code 48917, the Board may decide to suspend the enforcement of an order for expulsion as long as a student satisfies specific conditions. See the accompanying administrative regulation for criteria. In addition, the Attorney General opined in 80 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 85 (1997) that the enforcement of an expulsion order may be suspended even in those cases where the student has committed an offense for which expulsion is required by law. Legal counsel should be consulted as appropriate. ***

The Board may vote to suspend the enforcement of the expulsion order pursuant to the requirements of law and the accompanying administrative regulation. (Education Code 48917)

***Note: Education Code 48900(k), as amended by AB 420 (Ch. 660, Statutes of 2014), prohibits a district from expelling any student for disruption or willful defiance. ***

No student shall be expelled for disruption or willful defiance. (Education Code 48900)

Due Process

The Board shall provide for the fair and equitable treatment of students facing suspension and/or expulsion by affording them their due process rights under the law. The Superintendent or designee shall comply with procedures for notices, hearings, and appeals as specified in law and administrative regulation. (Education Code 48911, 48915, 48915.5, 48918)

(cf. 5119 - Students Expelled from Other Districts)
(cf. 5144.2 - Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process (Students with Disabilities))

Maintenance and Monitoring of Outcome Data

***Note: Pursuant to Education Code 48900.8 and 48916.1, the district is required to maintain data related to suspensions and expulsions and to report such data to the Superintendent of Public Instruction. In addition, pursuant to Education Code 52060, a district is required to address school climate in its LCAP, by including an assessment of baseline data regarding suspension and expulsion rates by student subgroups and schools and setting goals for improving those rates and other related factors. The DOJ and OCR, in their joint January 2014 Dear Colleague Letter on the Nondiscriminatory Administration of School Discipline, recommend that districts maintain disaggregated discipline information to ensure transparency and facilitate community discussion. ***

The Superintendent or designee shall annually present to the Board a report of the outcome data which the district is required to collect pursuant to Education Code 48900.8 and 48916.1, including the number of students recommended for expulsion, the grounds for each recommended expulsion, the actions taken by the Board, the types of referral made after each expulsion, and the disposition of the students after the expulsion period.

The report shall be disaggregated by school and by numerically significant student subgroups, including, but not limited to, ethnic subgroups, socioeconomically disadvantaged students, English learners, foster youth, and students with disabilities. The report also shall include information about whether and how the district is meeting its goals for improving school climate as specified in its local control and accountability plan.

(cf. 0460 - Local Control and Accountability Plan)

Legal Reference:
EDUCATION CODE
212.5 Sexual harassment
233 Hate violence
1981-1981.5 Enrollment of students in community school
17292.5 Program for expelled students
32261 Interagency School Safety Demonstration Act of 1985
35145 Open board meetings
35146 Closed sessions (regarding suspensions)
35291 Rules (for government and discipline of schools)
35291.5 Rules and procedures on school discipline
48645.5 Readmission; contact with juvenile justice system
48660-48666 Community day schools
48853.5 Foster youth
48900-48927 Suspension and expulsion

48950 Speech and other communication
48980 Parental notifications
49073-49079 Privacy of student records
52060-52077 Local control and accountability plan
CIVIL CODE
47 Privileged communication
48.8 Defamation liability
CODE OF CIVIL PROCEDURE
1985-1997 Subpoenas; means of production
GOVERNMENT CODE
11455.20 Contempt
54950-54963 Ralph M. Brown Act
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
PENAL CODE
31 Principal of a crime, defined
240 Assault defined
241.2 Assault fines
242 Battery defined
243.2 Battery on school property
243.4 Sexual battery
245 Assault with deadly weapon
245.6 Hazing
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
417.27 Laser pointers
422.55 Hate crime defined
422.6 Interference with exercise of civil rights
422.7 Aggravating factors for punishment
422.75 Enhanced penalties for hate crimes
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
WELFARE AND INSTITUTIONS CODE
729.6 Counseling
UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 18
921 Definitions, firearm
UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 20
1415(K) Placement in alternative educational setting
7151 Gun-free schools
UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 42
11432-11435 Education of homeless children and youths
COURT DECISIONS
T.H. v. San Diego Unified School District (2004) 122 Cal. App. 4th 1267
Woodbury v. Dempsey (2003) 108 Cal. App. 4th 421
Board of Education of Sacramento City Unified School District v. Sacramento County Board of Education and Kenneth H. (2001) 85 Cal.App.4th 1321
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
ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINIONS
84 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 146 (2001)
80 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 348 (1997)
80 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 91 (1997)
80 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 85 (1997)

Management Resources:
CSBA PUBLICATIONS
Safe Schools: Strategies for Governing Boards to Ensure Student Success, 2011
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS PUBLICATIONS
Dear Colleague Letter on the Nondiscriminatory Administration of School Discipline, January 2014
WEB SITES
CSBA: http://www.csba.org
California Attorney General's Office: http://www.oag.ca.gov
California Department of Education: http://www.cde.ca.gov
U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights:
http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/crdc-2012-data-summary.pdf
U.S. Department of Education, Office of Safe and Drug-Free Schools: http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/osdfs

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Students

Suspension And Expulsion/Due Process AR 5144.1

***Note: CSBA recommends that this administrative regulation be approved by the Governing Board, regardless of district practice. ***

***Note: Education Code 35291 requires the Board to adopt rules and regulations, which are not inconsistent with law or rules adopted by the State Board of Education, for the government and discipline of the schools under its jurisdiction. In addition, Education Code 48918 and 48918.5 mandate that districts adopt rules concerning the due process rights of students in expulsion situations, and Education Code 48916 mandates procedures for filing and processing requests for readmission. Specific language complying with these mandates is included throughout this administrative regulation. ***

***Note: The acts for which students may be suspended or expelled are specified in law and in the sections below titled "Grounds for Suspension and Expulsion: Grades K-12" and "Additional Grounds for Suspension and Expulsion: Grades 4-12." The Board does not have authority to add to those enumerated acts. However, the Board has authority to prohibit suspension or expulsion for certain acts for which suspension or expulsion is permissible rather than mandatory. The Board may consider limiting the use of suspension and expulsion for such offenses as part of the district plan to address school climate within the local control and accountability plan required pursuant to Education Code 52060. In addition, pursuant to Education Code 48900.5, a district is not authorized to suspend a student for certain specified violations unless other means of correction have failed to bring about proper conduct. ***

Definitions

Suspension means removal of a student from ongoing instruction for adjustment purposes. However, suspension does not mean any of the following: (Education Code 48925)

1. Reassignment to another education program or class at the same school where the student will receive continuing instruction for the length of day prescribed by the Governing Board for students of the same grade level

2. Referral to a certificated employee designated by the principal to advise students

3. Removal from the class, but without reassignment to another class or program, for the remainder of the class period without sending the student to the principal or designee as provided in Education Code 48910

Expulsion means removal of a student from the immediate supervision and control or the general supervision of school personnel. (Education Code 48925)

Notice of Regulations

At the beginning of each school year, the principal of each school shall ensure that all students

and parents/guardians are notified in writing of all school rules related to discipline, including suspension and expulsion. (Education Code 35291, 48900.1, 48980)

(cf. 5144 - Discipline)
(cf. 5145.6 - Parental Notifications)

Grounds for Suspension and Expulsion: Grades K-12

Acts for which a student, including a student with disabilities, may be suspended or expelled shall be only those specified as follows:

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

1. Caused, attempted to cause, or threatened to cause physical injury to another person; willfully used force or violence upon another person, except in self-defense; or committed as an aider or abettor, as adjudged by a juvenile court, a crime of physical violence in which the victim suffered great or serious bodily injury (Education Code 48900(a) and (t))

***Note: The Attorney General, in 80 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 91 (1997), determined that a student may be expelled for "possession" of a firearm if the student knowingly and voluntarily had direct control over the firearm. The only exceptions are when the student has permission from school officials to possess the firearm (pursuant to Education Code 48900 and 48915) or when the possession is brief and solely for the purpose of disposing of the firearm, such as handing it to school officials. Note that "firearm" does not include "imitation firearm" which is listed separately in item #12 below. See BP 5131.7 - Weapons and Dangerous Instruments. ***

***Note: Pursuant to Penal Code 417.27, students are prohibited from possessing a laser pointer on school premises, except for a valid instructional or other school-related purpose. See BP 5131 - Conduct. ***

2. Possessed, sold, or otherwise furnished any firearm, knife, explosive, or other dangerous object, unless, in the case of possession of any object of this type, the student had obtained written permission to possess the item from a certificated school employee, with the principal or designee's concurrence (Education Code 48900(b))

(cf. 5131 - Conduct)
(cf. 5131.7 - Weapons and Dangerous Instruments)

3. Unlawfully possessed, used, sold, otherwise furnished, or was under the influence of any controlled substance as defined in Health and Safety Code 11053-11058, alcoholic beverage, or intoxicant of any kind (Education Code 48900(c))

(cf. 5131.6 - Alcohol and Other Drugs)

4. Unlawfully offered, arranged, or negotiated to sell any controlled substance as defined in Health and Safety Code 11053-11058, alcoholic beverage, or intoxicant of any kind, and then sold, delivered, or otherwise furnished to any person another liquid, substance, or material and represented same as such controlled substance, alcoholic beverage, or intoxicant (Education Code 48900(d))

5. Committed or attempted to commit robbery or extortion (Education Code 48900(e))

6. Caused or attempted to cause damage to school property or private property (Education Code 48900(f))

7. Stole or attempted to steal school property or private property (Education Code 48900(g))

8. Possessed or used tobacco or products containing tobacco or nicotine products, including, but not limited to, cigars, cigarettes, miniature cigars, clove cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, snuff, chew packets, and betel, except that this restriction shall not prohibit a student from using or possessing his/her own prescription products (Education Code 48900(h))

(cf. 5131.62 - Tobacco)

9. Committed an obscene act or engaged in habitual profanity or vulgarity (Education Code 48900(i))

10. Unlawfully possessed, offered, arranged, or negotiated to sell any drug paraphernalia, as defined in Health and Safety Code 11014.5 (Education Code 48900(j))

11. Knowingly received stolen school property or private property (Education Code 48900(l))

12. Possessed an imitation firearm (Education Code 48900(m))

Imitation firearm means a replica of a firearm that is so substantially similar in physical properties to an existing firearm as to lead a reasonable person to conclude that the replica is a firearm. (Education Code 48900(m))

13. Committed or attempted to commit a sexual assault as defined in Penal Code 261, 266c, 286, 288, 288a, or 289, or committed a sexual battery as defined in Penal Code 243.4 (Education Code 48900(n))

14. Harassed, threatened, or intimidated a student who is a complaining witness or witness in a school disciplinary proceeding for the purpose of preventing that student from being a witness and/or retaliating against that student for being a witness (Education Code 48900(o))

15. Unlawfully offered, arranged to sell, negotiated to sell, or sold the prescription drug Soma (Education Code 48900(p))

16. Engaged in, or attempted to engage in, hazing (Education Code 48900(q))

Hazing means a method of initiation or pre-initiation into a student organization or body, whether or not the organization or body is officially recognized by an educational institution, which is likely to cause serious bodily injury or personal degradation or disgrace resulting in physical or mental harm to a former, current, or prospective student. Hazing does

not include athletic events or school-sanctioned events. (Education Code 48900(q))

***Note: Education Code 48900(r) defines "bullying" as "any severe or pervasive physical or verbal act or conduct, including communications made in writing or by means of electronic act," which is directed toward a student and which would have serious detrimental consequences upon a reasonable student. Pursuant to Education Code 48900, a student may be disciplined for bullying by means of electronic act even when the act originated off campus. See also BP 5131.2 - Bullying. ***

17. Engaged in an act of bullying (Education Code 48900(r))

Bullying means any severe or pervasive physical or verbal act or conduct, including communications made in writing or by means of an electronic act, directed toward one or more students that has or can reasonably be predicted to have the effect of placing a reasonable student in fear of harm to himself/herself or his/her property; cause the student to experience a substantially detrimental effect on his/her physical or mental health; or cause the student to experience substantial interferences with his/her academic performance or ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, or privileges provided by a school. (Education Code 48900(r))

***Note: "Bullying" also would include any act of sexual harassment, hate violence, or harassment, threat, or intimidation committed by a student of any grade level, as set forth in Education Code 48900.2, 48900.3, or 48900.4, when the act results in harm to a reasonable student as specified in the above paragraph. However, when bullying is found under these circumstances, students below grade 4 may be disciplined for the "bullying" but not for the underlying act of sexual harassment, hate violence, or harassment, threat, or intimidation as specified below in items #1-3 of "Additional Grounds for Suspension and Expulsion: Grades 4-12." ***

Bullying shall include any act of sexual harassment, hate violence, or harassment, threat, or intimidation, as defined in Education Code 48900.2, 48900.3, or 48900.4 and below in items #1-3 of "Additional Grounds for Suspension and Expulsion: Grades 4-12," that has any of the effects described above on a reasonable student.

Electronic act means the creation or transmission of a communication originated on or off school site, including, but not limited to, a message, text, sound, image, or post on a social network Internet web site, by means of an electronic device, including, but not limited to, a telephone, wireless telephone, or other wireless communication device, computer, or pager. A post on a social network Internet web site shall include, but is not limited to, the posting or creation of a burn page or the creation of a credible impersonation or false profile for the purpose of causing a reasonable student any of the effects of bullying described above. (Education Code 48900(r))

Reasonable student means a student, including, but not limited to, a student who has been identified as a student with a disability, who exercises average care, skill, and judgment in conduct for a person of his/her age, or for a person of his/her age with his/her disability. (Education Code 48900(r))

(cf. 1114 - District-Sponsored Social Media)
(cf. 5131.2 - Bullying)
(cf. 6163.4 - Student Use of Technology)
(cf. 6164.4 - Identification and Evaluation of Individuals for Special Education)
(cf. 6164.6 - Identification and Education under Section 504)

***Note: Education Code 48900 allows for the suspension, but not expulsion, of a student who "aids or abets," as defined in Penal Code 31, the infliction or attempted infliction of physical injury to another person. The term "aiding or abetting," is a complex legal term and requires that, at the time he/she committed the crime, the aider or abettor was aware of the crime and specifically intended to commit the crime. Because of the complexities of criminal law, legal counsel should be consulted as appropriate. ***

18. Aided or abetted the infliction or attempted infliction of physical injury on another person, as defined in Penal Code 31 (Education Code 48900(t))

19. Made terrorist threats against school officials and/or school property (Education Code 48900.7)

A terrorist threat includes any written or oral statement by a person who willfully threatens to commit a crime which will result in death or great bodily injury to another person or property damage in excess of $1,000, with the specific intent that the statement is to be taken as a threat, even if there is no intent of actually carrying it out. (Education Code 48900.7)

Additional Grounds for Suspension and Expulsion: Grades 4-12

***Note: The following section applies only to students in grades 4-12 and may be revised to reflect grade levels offered by the district. ***

***Note: Education Code 48900, as amended by AB 420 (Ch. 667, Statutes of 2014), prohibits the use of disruption and/or willful defiance as reasons for expelling any student. As amended, Education Code 48900 also restricts their use as a basis for suspending students in grades 4-12 from school. Since districts are authorized but not required to suspend students in grades 4-12 based on these grounds, a district may choose, consistent with Option 2 in accompanying Board policy, to prohibit the use of these reasons for suspending its students. Any district that chooses to do so should delete the following paragraph. ***

Any student in grades 4-12 may be suspended, but not expelled, for disrupting school activities or otherwise willfully defying the valid authority of supervisors, teachers, administrators, other school officials, or other school personnel engaged in the performance of their duties. (Education Code 48900(k))

(cf. 5131.4 - Student Disturbances)

***Note: As discussed in item #17 of "Grounds for Suspension and Expulsion: Grades K-12" above, although Education Code 48900(r) defines bullying to include acts involving items #1-3 below, only students in grades 4-12 may be suspended or expelled for the individual acts that constitute sexual harassment, hate violence, and harassment. The interplay between "bullying" and items #1-3 can raise complex legal issues. Districts should consult legal

counsel as appropriate. ***

A student in grades 4-12 shall be subject to suspension or recommendation for expulsion when it is determined that he/she:

1. Committed sexual harassment as defined in Education Code 212.5 (Education Code 48900.2)

Sexual harassment means conduct which, when considered from the perspective of a reasonable person of the same gender as the victim, is sufficiently severe or pervasive as to have a negative impact upon the victim's academic performance or to create an intimidating, hostile, or offensive educational environment. (Education Code 212.5, 48900.2)

(cf. 5145.7 - Sexual Harassment)

2. Caused, attempted to cause, threatened to cause, or participated in an act of hate violence as defined in Education Code 233 (Education Code 48900.3)

Hate violence means any act punishable under Penal Code 422.6, 422.7, or 422.75. Such acts include injuring or intimidating a victim, interfering with the exercise of a victim's civil rights, or damaging a victim's property because of the victim's race, ethnicity, religion, nationality, disability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, or sexual orientation; a perception of the presence of any of those characteristics in the victim; or the victim's association with a person or group with one or more of those actual or perceived characteristics. (Education Code 233; Penal Code 422.55)

(cf. 5145.9 - Hate-Motivated Behavior)

3. Intentionally engaged in harassment, threats, or intimidation against district personnel or students that is sufficiently severe or pervasive to have the actual and reasonably expected effect of materially disrupting classwork, creating substantial disorder, and invading the rights of school personnel or students by creating an intimidating or hostile educational environment (Education Code 48900.4)

(cf. 5145.3 - Nondiscrimination/Harassment)

Suspension from Class by a Teacher

***Note: The following section is optional and may be revised to reflect district practice. While Education Code 48900(k), as amended by AB 420 (Ch. 660, Statutes of 2014), prohibits a district from suspending students in grades K-3 for disruption or willful defiance, it still allows for a teacher to suspend a K-3 student on these grounds. ***

A teacher may suspend a student, including a grade K-3 student, from class for the remainder of the day and the following day for disruption, willful defiance, or any of the other acts specified in Education Code 48900 and listed as items #1-18 under "Grounds for Suspension and Expulsion: Grades K-12" above. (Education Code 48910)

When suspending a student from class, the teacher shall immediately report this action to the principal or designee and send the student to the principal or designee for appropriate action. If that action requires the continuing presence of the student at school, he/she shall be appropriately supervised during the class periods from which he/she has been suspended. (Education Code 48910)

As soon as possible after the teacher decides to suspend the student, he/she shall ask the student's parent/guardian to attend a parent-teacher conference regarding the suspension. A counselor or psychologist may attend the conference if it is practicable, and a school administrator shall attend if either the parent/guardian or teacher so requests. (Education Code 48910)

A student suspended from class shall not be returned to class during the period of the suspension without the approval of the teacher of the class and the principal or designee. (Education Code 48910)

A student suspended from class shall not be placed in another regular class during the period of suspension. However, a student assigned to more than one class per day may continue to attend other regular classes except those held at the same time as the class from which he/she was suspended. (Education Code 48910)

The teacher of any class from which a student is suspended may require the student to complete any assignments and tests missed during the removal. (Education Code 48913)

Suspension by Superintendent, Principal or Principal's Designee

To implement disciplinary procedures at a school site, the principal may, in writing, designate as the principal's designee another administrator or, if the principal is the only administrator at the school site, a certificated employee. As necessary, the principal may, in writing, also designate another administrator or certificated employee as the secondary designee to assist with disciplinary procedures when the principal and the principal's primary designee are absent from the school site.

The Superintendent, principal, or designee shall immediately suspend any student found at school or at a school activity to have committed any of the acts listed in the Board policy under "Authority to Expel" and for which he/she is required to recommend expulsion. (Education Code 48915(c))

***Note: Education Code 48900.5 limits situations warranting suspension for a first offense to when the violation involves Education Code 48900(a)-(e) or the student's presence causes a danger to persons. ***

The Superintendent, principal, or designee may impose a suspension for a first offense if he/she determines that the student violated any of items #1-5 listed under "Grounds for Suspension and Expulsion: Grades K-12" above or if the student's presence causes a danger to persons. (Education Code 48900.5)

***Note: Pursuant to Education Code 48900 and 48915, except for certain egregious acts or

offenses for which suspension is permissible or mandatory, as specified above pursuant to Education Code 48915(a) or (c), the Superintendent or principal is authorized to use his/her discretion to provide an alternative, age-appropriate disciplinary measure that is tailored to correct a student's specific misbehavior. In addition, the U.S. Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division (DOJ) and the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights (OCR), in their joint January 2014 Dear Colleague Letter on the Nondiscriminatory Administration of School Discipline, recommend that effective alternatives to suspension and expulsion be implemented for correcting student misbehavior. For a list of appropriate alternatives, see AR 5144 - Discipline. ***

For all other offenses, a student may be suspended only when the Superintendent or principal has determined that other means of correction have failed to bring about proper conduct in the student. (Education Code 48900.5)

When other means of correction are implemented prior to imposing suspension or supervised suspension upon a student, the Superintendent, principal, or designee shall document the other means of correction used and retain them in the student's record. (Education Code 48900.5)

(cf. 5125 - Student Records)

Length of Suspension

The Superintendent, principal, or designee may suspend a student from school for not more than five consecutive school days. (Education Code 48911)

A student may be suspended from school for not more than 20 school days in any school year. However, if a student enrolls in or is transferred to another regular school, an opportunity school, or continuation school or class for the purpose of adjustment, he/she may be suspended for not more than 30 school days in a school year. The district may count suspensions that occur while a student is enrolled in another school district toward the maximum number of days for which the student may be suspended in any school year. (Education Code 48903, 48911, 48912)

(cf. 6184 - Continuation Education)

These restrictions on the number of days of suspension shall not apply when the suspension is extended pending an expulsion. (Education Code 48911)

Due Process Procedures for Suspension

Suspensions shall be imposed in accordance with the following procedures:

1. Informal Conference: Suspension shall be preceded by an informal conference conducted by the Superintendent, principal, or designee with the student and, whenever practicable, the teacher, supervisor, or school employee who referred the student to the principal. At the conference, the student shall be informed of the reason for the disciplinary action, presented with the available evidence against him/her, and given the opportunity to present his/her version and evidence in support of his/her defense. (Education Code 48911)

This conference may be omitted if the Superintendent, principal, or designee determines that an emergency situation exists involving a clear and present danger to the lives, safety, or health of students or school personnel. If a student is suspended without this conference, both the parent/guardian and student shall be notified of the student's right to return to school for the purpose of the conference and the conference shall be held within two school days, unless the student waives his/her right to it or is physically unable to attend for any reason. In such a case, the conference shall be held as soon as the student is physically able to return to school. (Education Code 48911)

***Note: Item #2 below should be revised to reflect the district's processing and reporting procedures. ***

2. Administrative Actions: All requests for student suspension are to be processed by the principal or designee. A school employee shall report the suspension, including the name of the student and the cause for the suspension, to the Superintendent or designee. (Education Code 48911)

3. Notice to Parents/Guardians: At the time of the suspension, a school employee shall make a reasonable effort to contact the parent/guardian by telephone or in person. Whenever a student is suspended, the parent/guardian shall also be notified in writing of the suspension. (Education Code 48911)

This notice shall state the specific offense committed by the student. (Education Code 48900.8)

***Note: The following optional paragraph may be revised to reflect district practice. ***

In addition, the notice may state the date and time when the student may return to school.

4. Parent/Guardian Conference: Whenever a student is suspended, school officials may request a meeting with the parent/guardian to discuss the cause(s) and duration of the suspension, the school policy involved, and any other pertinent matter. (Education Code 48914)

If school officials request to meet with the parent/guardian, the notice may state that the law requires the parent/guardian to respond to such requests without delay. However, no penalties may be imposed on the student for the failure of the parent/guardian to attend such a conference. The student may not be denied reinstatement solely because the parent/guardian failed to attend the conference. (Education Code 48911)

5. Extension of Suspension: If the Board is considering the expulsion of a suspended student from any school or the suspension of a student for the balance of the semester from continuation school, the Superintendent or designee may, in writing, extend the suspension until such time as the Board has made a decision, provided the following requirements are followed: (Education Code 48911)

a. The extension of the original period of suspension is preceded by notice of such extension with an offer to hold a conference concerning the extension, giving the student an opportunity to be heard. This conference may be held in conjunction with a meeting requested by the student or parent/guardian to challenge the original suspension.

b. The Superintendent or designee determines, following a meeting in which the student and the student's parent/guardian were invited to participate, that the student's presence at the school or at an alternative school would endanger persons or property or threaten to disrupt the instructional process. (Education Code 48911)

***Note: When the student being considered for expulsion is a foster youth, Education Code 48911 and 48918.1 require the district to invite the student's attorney and an appropriate county child welfare agency representative to the meeting specified above. To ensure such invitation, the following paragraph provides that the district liaison for foster youth be notified. However, any district that has designated another position to carry out this responsibility may modify the paragraph to specify that position. For designation of the liaison for foster youth, see AR 6173.1 - Education for Foster Youth. ***

c. If the student involved is a foster youth, the Superintendent or designee shall notify the district liaison for foster youth of the need to invite the student's attorney and a representative of the appropriate county child welfare agency to attend the meeting. (Education Code 48853.5, 48911, 48918.1)

(cf. 6173.1 - Education for Foster Youth)

***Note: Pursuant to Education Code 48918.1, as amended by AB 1806 (Ch. 767, Statutes of 2014), the district's liaison for homeless students must be notified when the student being considered for expulsion is a homeless student. See the section below titled "Additional Notice of Expulsion Hearing for Foster Youth and Homeless Students." ***

d. If the student involved is a homeless child or youth, the Superintendent or designee shall notify the district liaison for homeless students. (Education Code 48918.1)

(cf. 6173 - Education for Homeless Children)

***Note: The following optional paragraph may be revised to reflect district practice. Since Education Code 48900 and 48900.5 require a district, under certain circumstances, to use alternative disciplinary measures prior to imposing suspension, including supervised suspension, the district may, as necessary, provide services that would address the student's specific misbehavior along with the suspension program. For example, the district may require the student to enroll in a program that teaches prosocial behavior or anger management even while the student is suspended. ***

In lieu of or in addition to suspending a student, the Superintendent, principal, or designee may provide services or require the student to participate in an alternative disciplinary program designed to correct his/her behavior and keep him/her in school.

Suspension by the Board

***Note: The following optional section reflects the Board's authority to suspend students from school pursuant to Education Code 48912. In practice, it is impractical for boards to directly exercise this authority since circumstances warranting suspension usually require quick and sometimes immediate action which may not be possible for a board due to legal requirements for taking board actions, such as having a meeting. ***

The Board may suspend a student for any of the acts listed under "Grounds for Suspension and Expulsion: Grades K-12" and "Additional Grounds for Suspension and Expulsion: Grades 4-12" above and within the limits specified under "Suspension by Superintendent, Principal, or Designee" above. (Education Code 48912)

The Board may suspend a student enrolled in a continuation school or class for a period not longer than the remainder of the semester. The suspension shall meet the requirements of Education Code 48915. (Education Code 48912.5)

When the Board is considering a suspension, disciplinary action, or any other action (except expulsion) against any student, it shall hold a closed session if a public hearing would lead to disclosure of information violating a student's right to privacy under Education Code 49073-49079. (Education Code 35146, 48912)

(cf. 9321 - Closed Session Purposes and Agendas)

The Board shall provide the student and his/her parent/guardian with written notice of the closed session by registered or certified mail or personal service. Upon receiving this notice, the student or parent/guardian may request a public meeting, and this request shall be granted if made in writing within 48 hours after receipt of the Board's notice. However, any discussion that conflicts with any other student's right to privacy still shall be held in closed session. (Education Code 35146, 48912)

On-Campus Suspension

***Note: The following optional section is for use by any district establishing an on-campus suspension program pursuant to Education Code 48911.1. However, pursuant to Education Code 48900.5, such a district is required to use other means of correcting a student's behavior before imposing a supervised suspension, unless such a supervised suspension is otherwise permitted by law for a student's first offense. Use of a supervised suspension classroom program does not in any way limit the district's ability to transfer a student to an opportunity school or class or a continuation education school or class in accordance with law. ***

A student for whom an expulsion action has not been initiated and who poses no imminent danger or threat to the school, students, or staff may be assigned to on-campus suspension in a separate classroom, building, or site for the entire period of suspension. The following conditions shall apply: (Education Code 48911.1)

1. The on-campus suspension classroom shall be staffed in accordance with law.

2. The student shall have access to appropriate counseling services.

3. The on-campus suspension classroom shall promote completion of schoolwork and tests missed by the student during the suspension.

4. The student shall be responsible for contacting his/her teacher(s) to receive assignments to be completed in the supervised suspension classroom. The teacher(s) shall provide all assignments and tests that the student will miss while suspended. If no such work is assigned, the person supervising the suspension classroom shall assign schoolwork.

At the time a student is assigned to an on-campus suspension classroom, the principal or designee shall notify the student's parent/guardian in person or by telephone. When the assignment is for longer than one class period, this notification may be made in writing. (Education Code 48911.1)

Superintendent or Principal's Authority to Recommend Expulsion

Unless the Superintendent or principal determines that expulsion should not be recommended under the circumstances or that an alternative means of correction would address the conduct, he/she shall recommend a student's expulsion for any of the following acts: (Education Code 48915)

1. Causing serious physical injury to another person, except in self-defense

2. Possession of any knife 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 (a) the first offense for the possession of not more than one ounce of marijuana, other than concentrated cannabis, or (b) the student's possession of over-the-counter medication for his/her use or other medication prescribed for him/her by a physician

4. Robbery or extortion

5. Assault or battery, as defined in Penal Code 240 and 242, upon any school employee

In determining whether or not to recommend the expulsion of a student, the Superintendent, principal, or designee shall act as quickly as possible to ensure that the student does not lose instructional time. (Education Code 48915)

Student's Right to Expulsion Hearing

***Note: Education Code 48918 mandates that the Board establish rules and regulations governing procedures for the expulsion of students. The timelines of Education Code 48918 must be strictly followed; failure to do so may result in loss of the district's power to act (Garcia v. Los Angeles Board of Education). In calculating timelines, the district should also be aware of the difference between the calculation of "school days" and "calendar days" under Education Code 48918. ***

Any student recommended for expulsion shall be entitled to a hearing to determine whether

he/she should be expelled. The hearing shall be held within 30 school days after the Superintendent, principal, or designee determines that the student has committed the act(s) that form the basis for the expulsion recommendation. (Education Code 48918(a))

The student is entitled to at least one postponement of an expulsion hearing for a period of not more than 30 calendar days. The request for postponement shall be in writing. Any subsequent postponement may be granted at the Board's discretion. (Education Code 48918(a))

If the Board finds it impractical during the regular school year to comply with these time requirements for conducting an expulsion hearing, the Superintendent or designee may, for good cause, extend the time period by an additional five school days. Reasons for the extension shall be included as a part of the record when the expulsion hearing is held. (Education Code 48918(a))

If the Board finds it impractical to comply with the time requirements of the expulsion hearing due to a summer recess of Board meetings of more than two weeks, the days during the recess shall not be counted as school days. The days not counted during the recess may not exceed 20 school days, as defined in Education Code 48925. Unless the student requests in writing that the expulsion hearing be postponed, the hearing shall be held not later than 20 calendar days prior to the first day of the next school year. (Education Code 48918(a))

Once the hearing starts, all matters shall be pursued with reasonable diligence and concluded without unnecessary delay. (Education Code 48918(a))

Stipulated Expulsion

***Note: The following section is optional and may be revised to reflect district practice. "Stipulated expulsion" is for districts that have adopted an expedited procedure which allows a student to waive his/her right to a pre-expulsion hearing in exchange for an agreement as to the terms of the expulsion. Such waivers are not specifically addressed in law and districts should ensure that the due process rights of students are included in the stipulated agreement and are clearly explained to them before the agreement is signed. Districts should consult legal counsel as appropriate. ***

After a determination that a student has committed an expellable offense, the Superintendent, principal, or designee shall offer the student and his/her parent/guardian the option to waive a hearing and stipulate to the expulsion or to a suspension of the expulsion under certain conditions. The offer shall be made only after the student or his/her parent/guardian has been given written notice of the expulsion hearing pursuant to Education Code 48918.

The stipulation agreement shall be in writing and shall be signed by the student and his/her parent/guardian. The stipulation agreement shall include notice of all the rights that the student is waiving, including the waiving of his/her right to have a full hearing, to appeal the expulsion to the County Board of Education, and to consult legal counsel.

A stipulated expulsion agreed to by the student and his/her parent/guardian shall be effective upon approval by the Board.

Rights of Complaining Witness

***Note: Education Code 48918.5 mandates the following rights related to the treatment of witnesses alleging acts of sexual assault or sexual battery. Other procedures related to complaining witnesses also may be added as desired by the district. Additional mandated procedures related to the rights and treatment of complaining witnesses are included where appropriate throughout this regulation. ***

An expulsion hearing involving allegations of sexual assault or sexual battery may be postponed for one school day in order to accommodate the special physical, mental, or emotional needs of a student who is the complaining witness. (Education Code 48918.5)

Whenever the Superintendent or designee recommends an expulsion hearing that addresses allegations of sexual assault or sexual battery, he/she shall give the complaining witness a copy of the district's suspension and expulsion policy and regulation and shall advise the witness of his/her right to: (Education Code 48918.5)

1. Receive five days' notice of his/her scheduled testimony at the hearing

2. Have up to two adult support persons of his/her choosing present at the hearing at the time he/she testifies

3. Have a closed hearing during the time he/she testifies

Whenever any allegation of sexual assault or sexual battery is made, the Superintendent or designee shall immediately advise complaining witnesses and accused students to refrain from personal or telephone contact with each other during the time when an expulsion process is pending. (Education Code 48918.5)

Written Notice of the Expulsion Hearing

***Note: Education Code 48918 mandates the Board to adopt procedures that include the following items. ***

Written notice of the expulsion hearing shall be forwarded to the student and the student's parent/guardian at least 10 calendar days before the date of the hearing. The notice shall include: (Education Code 48900.8, 48918(b))

1. The date and place of the hearing

2. A statement of the specific facts, charges, and offense upon which the proposed expulsion is based

3. A copy of district disciplinary rules which relate to the alleged violation

4. Notification of the student's or parent/guardian's obligation, pursuant to Education Code 48915.1, to provide information about the student's status in the district to any other district in which the student seeks enrollment

This obligation applies when a student is expelled for acts other than those described in Education Code 48915(a) or (c).

(cf. 5119 - Students Expelled from Other Districts)

5. The opportunity for the student or the student's parent/guardian to appear in person or be represented by legal counsel or by a nonattorney adviser

Legal counsel means an attorney or lawyer who is admitted to the practice of law in California and is an active member of the State Bar of California.

Nonattorney adviser means an individual who is not an attorney or lawyer, but who is familiar with the facts of the case and has been selected by the student or student's parent/guardian to provide assistance at the hearing.

6. The right to inspect and obtain copies of all documents to be used at the hearing

7. The opportunity to confront and question all witnesses who testify at the hearing

8. The opportunity to question all evidence presented and to present oral and documentary evidence on the student's behalf, including witnesses

Additional Notice of Expulsion Hearing for Foster Youth and Homeless Students

***Note: Prior to conducting an expulsion hearing to determine whether a foster youth should be expelled, Education Code 48918.1 requires the district to notify the student's attorney and a representative of an appropriate county child welfare agency, provided that the violation does not require a mandatory recommendation for expulsion. Pursuant to Education Code 48918.1, as amended by AB 1806 (Ch. 767, Statutes of 2014), such additional notice must be given to the district liaison for homeless students when the student involved is a homeless child or youth and the violation does not require a mandatory recommendation for expulsion. While such a notice is not required if the offense requires a mandatory recommendation for expulsion, it is nonetheless recommended and the following section reflects this recommendation. ***

If the student facing expulsion is a foster student, the Superintendent or designee shall also send notice of the hearing to the student's attorney and a representative of an appropriate child welfare agency at least 10 days prior to the hearing. (Education Code 48918.1)

If the student facing expulsion is a homeless student, the Superintendent or designee shall also send notice of the hearing to the district liaison for homeless students at least 10 days prior to the hearing. (Education Code 48918.1)

Any notice for these purposes may be provided by the most cost-effective method possible, including by email or a telephone call. (Education Code 48918.1)

Conduct of Expulsion Hearing

***Note: Education Code 48918 mandates that the Board adopt procedures that include the following items. ***

***Note: Instead of the Board conducting an expulsion hearing, it may appoint a hearing officer or an impartial administrative panel to conduct the hearing; see section "Alternative Expulsion Hearing: Hearing Officer or Administrative Panel" below. Even if the district conducts all expulsion hearings in this manner, the requirements of Education Code 48918 pertaining to the conduct of the hearing must be met. ***

1. Closed Session: Notwithstanding Education Code 35145, the Board shall conduct a hearing to consider the expulsion of the student in a session closed to the public unless the student requests in writing at least five days prior to the hearing that the hearing be a public meeting. If such a request is made, the meeting shall be public to the extent that privacy rights of other students are not violated. (Education Code 48918)

***Note: For the purpose of Board deliberations during the closed session described below, the presence of any person other than the Board members, including the Superintendent, necessitates allowing the presence of the parent/guardian, student, and student's counsel. ***

Whether the expulsion hearing is held in closed or public session, the Board may meet in closed session to deliberate and determine whether or not the student should be expelled. If the Board admits any other person to this closed session, the parent/guardian, the student, and the counsel of the student also shall be allowed to attend the closed session. (Education Code 48918(c))

If a hearing that involves a charge of sexual assault or sexual battery is to be conducted in public, a complaining witness shall have the right to have his/her testimony heard in closed session when testifying in public would threaten serious psychological harm to the witness and when there are no alternative procedures to avoid the threatened harm, including, but not limited to, videotaped deposition or contemporaneous examination in another place communicated to the hearing room by closed-circuit television. (Education Code 48918(c))

2. Record of Hearing: A record of the hearing shall be made and may be maintained by any means, including electronic recording, as long as a reasonably accurate and complete written transcription of the proceedings can be made. (Education Code 48918(g))

***Note: Education Code 48918 authorizes the Board to issue subpoenas for the personal appearance of percipient witnesses at an expulsion hearing. In Woodbury v. Dempsey, the court held that a district's authority to determine whether to issue subpoenas is discretionary, but a district could not have a blanket policy denying the issuance of subpoenas in all cases. ***

***Note: In accordance with Code of Civil Procedure 1987, the subpoena must be served at least 10 days before the time required for attendance unless the court prescribes a shorter time. Unless they are parties to the hearing or are district or government employees, witnesses who appear pursuant to a subpoena receive fees equal to those prescribed for witnesses in civil actions in a superior court, and all witnesses other than the parties to the hearing receive mileage; these fees and mileage must be paid by the party requesting the subpoena. ***

3. Subpoenas: Before commencing a student expulsion hearing, the Board may issue subpoenas, at the request of either the student or the Superintendent or designee, for the personal appearance at the hearing of any person who actually witnessed the action that gave rise to the recommendation for expulsion. After the hearing has commenced, the Board or the hearing officer or administrative panel may issue such subpoenas at the request of the student or the County Superintendent of Schools or designee. All subpoenas shall be issued in accordance with Code of Civil Procedure 1985-1985.2 and enforced in accordance with Government Code 11455.20. (Education Code 48918(i))

Any objection raised by the student or the Superintendent or designee to the issuance of subpoenas may be considered by the Board in closed session, or in open session if so requested by the student, before the meeting. The Board's decision in response to such an objection shall be final and binding. (Education Code 48918(i))

If the Board determines, or if the hearing officer or administrative panel finds and submits to the Board, that a witness would be subject to unreasonable risk of harm by testifying at the hearing, a subpoena shall not be issued to compel the personal attendance of that witness at the hearing. However, that witness may be compelled to testify by means of a sworn declaration as described in item #4 below. (Education Code 48918(i))

4. Presentation of Evidence: Technical rules of evidence shall not apply to the expulsion hearing, but relevant evidence may be admitted and used as proof only if it is the kind of evidence on which reasonable persons can rely in the conduct of serious affairs. The decision of the Board to expel shall be supported by substantial evidence that the student committed any of the acts pursuant to Education Code 48900 and listed in "Grounds for Suspension and Expulsion: Grades K-12" and "Additional Grounds for Suspension and Expulsion: Grades 4-12" above. (Education Code 48918(h))

***Note: Findings of fact made by the Board or a hearing panel must not be based on hearsay alone. "Hearsay" is evidence of an oral or written statement made by a person who is not present at the hearing which is offered to establish a fact as being true. Some exceptions to the hearsay rule exist under the Evidence Code and Education Code; the district should consult legal counsel as appropriate. ***

Findings of fact shall be based solely on the evidence at the hearing. Although no finding shall be based solely on hearsay, sworn declarations may be admitted as testimony from witnesses whose disclosure of their identity or testimony at the hearing may subject them to an unreasonable risk of physical or psychological harm. (Education Code 48918(f))

In cases where a search of a student's person or property has occurred, evidence describing the reasonableness of the search shall be included in the hearing record.

***Note: Education Code 48918.6 provides that testimony by a student witness at an expulsion hearing is privileged and thus protected from liability for defamation pursuant to Civil Code 47(b). ***

5. Testimony by Complaining Witnesses: The following procedures shall be observed when a hearing involves allegations of sexual assault or sexual battery by a student:

(Education Code 48918, 48918.5)

a. Any complaining witness shall be given five days' notice before being called to testify.

b. Any complaining witness shall be entitled to have up to two adult support persons, including, but not limited to, a parent/guardian or legal counsel, present during his/her testimony.

c. Before a complaining witness testifies, support persons shall be admonished that the hearing is confidential.

d. The person presiding over the hearing may remove a support person whom he/she finds is disrupting the hearing.

e. If one or both support persons are also witnesses, the hearing shall be conducted in accordance with Penal Code 868.5.

f. Evidence of specific instances of prior sexual conduct of a complaining witness shall be presumed inadmissible and shall not be heard unless the person conducting the hearing determines that extraordinary circumstances require the evidence to be heard. Before such a determination is made, the complaining witness shall be given notice and an opportunity to oppose the introduction of this evidence. In the hearing on the admissibility of this evidence, the complaining witness shall be entitled to be represented by a parent/guardian, legal counsel, or other support person. Reputation or opinion evidence regarding the sexual behavior of a complaining witness shall not be admissible for any purpose.

g. In order to facilitate a free and accurate statement of the experiences of the complaining witness and to prevent discouragement of complaints, the district shall provide a nonthreatening environment.

(1) The district shall provide a room separate from the hearing room for the use of the complaining witness before and during breaks in testimony.

(2) At the discretion of the person conducting the hearing, the complaining witness shall be allowed reasonable periods of relief from examination and cross-examination during which he/she may leave the hearing room.

(3) The person conducting the hearing may:

(a) Arrange the seating within the hearing room so as to facilitate a less intimidating environment for the complaining witness

(b) Limit the time for taking the testimony of a complaining witness to the hours he/she is normally in school, if there is no good cause to take the testimony during other hours

(c) Permit one of the support persons to accompany the complaining witness to the witness stand

6. Decision: The Board's decision as to whether to expel a student shall be made within 40 school days after the student is removed from his/her school of attendance, unless the student requests in writing that the decision be postponed. (Education Code 48918(a))

Alternative Expulsion Hearing: Hearing Officer or Administrative Panel

***Note: For districts that use a hearing officer or administrative panel, Education Code 48918 mandates that the Board adopt procedures that include the following section. ***

Instead of conducting an expulsion hearing itself, the Board may contract with the county hearing officer or with the Office of Administrative Hearings of the State of California for a hearing officer. The Board may also appoint an impartial administrative panel composed of three or more certificated personnel, none of whom shall be members of the Board or on the staff of the school in which the student is enrolled. (Education Code 48918)

A hearing conducted by the hearing officer or administrative panel shall conform to the same procedures applicable to a hearing conducted by the Board as specified above in "Conduct of Expulsion Hearing," including the requirement to issue a decision within 40 school days of the student's removal from school, unless the student requests that the decision be postponed. (Education Code 48918(a) and (d))

***Note: Pursuant to Education Code 48918, as amended by SB 1111 (Ch. 837, Statutes of 2014), if the hearing officer or administrative panel does not recommend expulsion, a student must be permitted to return to the classroom instructional program from which the expulsion referral was made, unless the student's parent/guardian requests a different placement. As amended, Education Code 48918 also states that a student who is found to have committed any of the violations listed in "Authority to Expel" in the accompanying Board policy but for whom expulsion is not recommended may be referred to his/her prior school. However, the hearing officer or administrative panel, like the Board, must recommend expulsion or a suspended expulsion under Education Code 48915, if it finds that a student committed any such violation that mandates expulsion. District should consult legal counsel to resolve this apparent discrepancy. ***

The hearing officer or administrative panel shall, within three school days after the hearing, determine whether to recommend expulsion of the student to the Board. If expulsion is not recommended, the expulsion proceeding shall be terminated and the student shall be immediately reinstated and permitted to return to the classroom instructional program from which the referral was made, unless another placement is requested in writing by the student's parent/guardian. Before the student's placement decision is made by his/her parent/guardian, the Superintendent or designee shall consult with the parent/guardian and district staff, including the student's teachers, regarding other placement options for the student in addition to the option to return to the classroom instructional program from which the student's expulsion referral was made. The decision to not recommend expulsion shall be final. (Education Code 48918(e))

If expulsion is recommended, findings of fact in support of the recommendation shall be prepared and submitted to the Board. All findings of fact and recommendations shall be based solely on the evidence presented at the hearing. The Board may accept the recommendation

based either upon a review of the findings of fact and recommendations submitted or upon the results of any supplementary hearing the Board may order. (Education Code 48918(f))

In accordance with Board policy, the hearing officer or administrative panel may recommend that the Board suspend the enforcement of the expulsion. If the hearing officer or administrative panel recommends that the Board expel a student but suspend the enforcement of the expulsion, the student shall not be reinstated and permitted to return to the classroom instructional program from which the referral was made until the Board has ruled on the recommendation. (Education Code 48917, 48918)

Final Action by the Board

***Note: Education Code 48918 mandates that the Board adopt procedures that include the following paragraph. ***

Whether the expulsion hearing is conducted in closed or public session by the Board, a hearing officer, or an administrative panel or is waived through the signing of a stipulated expulsion agreement, the final action to expel shall be taken by the Board in public. (Education Code 48918(j))

(cf. 9321.1 - Closed Session Actions and Reports)

The Board's decision is final. If the decision is to not expel, the student shall be reinstated immediately. If the decision is to suspend the enforcement of the expulsion, the student shall be reinstated under the conditions of the suspended expulsion.

***Note: The Gun-Free Schools Act, 20 USC 7151, requires that information in the following paragraph be sent to the California Department of Education (CDE) for assurances of compliance with federal and state law. For other language that must be submitted to the CDE, see section below entitled "Notifications to Law Enforcement Authorities." ***

Upon ordering an expulsion, the Board shall set a date when the student shall be reviewed for readmission to a school within the district. For a student expelled for any act listed under "Mandatory Recommendation and Mandatory Expulsion" above, this date shall be one year from the date the expulsion occurred, except that the Board may set an earlier date on a case-by-case basis. For a student expelled for other acts, this date shall be no later than the last day of the semester following the semester in which the expulsion occurred. If an expulsion is ordered during summer session or the intersession period of a year-round program, the Board shall set a date when the student shall be reviewed for readmission not later than the last day of the semester following the summer session or intersession period in which the expulsion occurred. (Education Code 48916)

At the time of the expulsion order, the Board shall recommend a plan for the student's rehabilitation, which may include: (Education Code 48916)

1. Periodic review, as well as assessment at the time of review, for readmission

2. Recommendations for improved academic performance, tutoring, special education

assessments, job training, counseling, employment, community service, or other rehabilitative programs

***Note: The following paragraph is optional. Education Code 48916.5 authorizes, but does not mandate, the Board to make the following requirement of certain expelled students. ***

With parent/guardian consent, students who have been expelled for reasons relating to controlled substances or alcohol may be required to enroll in a county-sponsored drug rehabilitation program before returning to school. (Education Code 48916.5)

Written Notice to Expel

The Superintendent or designee shall send written notice of the decision to expel to the student or parent/guardian. This notice shall include the following:

1. The specific offense committed by the student for any of the causes for suspension or expulsion listed above under "Grounds for Suspension and Expulsion: Grades K-12" or "Additional Grounds for Suspension and Expulsion: Grades 4-12" (Education Code 48900.8)

2. The fact that a description of readmission procedures will be made available to the student and his/her parent/guardian (Education Code 48916)

3. Notice of the right to appeal the expulsion to the County Board (Education Code 48918)

4. Notice of the alternative educational placement to be provided to the student during the time of expulsion (Education Code 48918)

5. Notice of the student's or parent/guardian's obligation to inform any new district in which the student seeks to enroll of the student's status with the expelling district, pursuant to Education Code 48915.1 (Education Code 48918)

Decision to Suspend Expulsion Order

***Note: Pursuant to Education Code 48917, the Board's criteria for suspending the enforcement of expulsions must be applied uniformly to all students. Items #1-3 below are optional and should be revised to reflect district criteria. ***

In accordance with Board policy, when deciding whether to suspend the enforcement of an expulsion order, the Board shall take into account the following criteria:

1. The student's pattern of behavior

2. The seriousness of the misconduct

3. The student's attitude toward the misconduct and his/her willingness to follow a rehabilitation program

The suspension of the enforcement of an expulsion shall be governed by the following:

1. The Board may, as a condition of the suspension of enforcement, assign the student to a school, class, or program appropriate for the student's rehabilitation. This rehabilitation program may provide for the involvement of the student's parent/guardian in the student's education. However, a parent/guardian's refusal to participate in the rehabilitation program shall not be considered in the Board's determination as to whether the student has satisfactorily completed the rehabilitation program. (Education Code 48917)

2. During the period when enforcement of the expulsion order is suspended, the student shall be on probationary status. (Education Code 48917)

3. The suspension of the enforcement of an expulsion order may be revoked by the Board if the student commits any of the acts listed under "Grounds for Suspension and Expulsion: Grades K-12" or "Additional Grounds for Suspension and Expulsion: Grades 4-12" above or violates any of the district's rules and regulations governing student conduct. (Education Code 48917)

4. When the suspension of enforcement of an expulsion order is revoked, a student may be expelled under the terms of the original expulsion order. (Education Code 48917)

5. Upon satisfactory completion of the rehabilitation assignment, the Board shall reinstate the student in a district school. Upon reinstatement, the Board may order the expunging of any or all records of the expulsion proceedings. (Education Code 48917)

6. The Superintendent or designee shall send written notice of any decision to suspend the enforcement of an expulsion order during a period of probation to the student or parent/guardian. The notice shall inform the parent/guardian of the right to appeal the expulsion to the County Board, the alternative educational placement to be provided to the student during the period of expulsion, and the student's or parent/guardian's obligation to inform any new district in which the student seeks to enroll of his/her status with the expelling district, pursuant to Education Code 48915.1(b). (Education Code 48918(j))

7. Suspension of the enforcement of an expulsion order shall not affect the time period and requirements for the filing of an appeal of the expulsion order with the County Board. (Education Code 48917)

Appeal

The student or parent/guardian is entitled to file an appeal of the Board's decision with the County Board. The appeal must be filed within 30 days of the Board's decision to expel, even if the expulsion order is suspended and the student is placed on probation. (Education Code 48919)

If the student submits a written request for a copy of the written transcripts and supporting documents from the district simultaneously with the filing of the notice of appeal with the County Board, the district shall provide the student with these documents within 10 school days following the student's written request. (Education Code 48919)

Notification to Law Enforcement Authorities

***Note: The Gun-Free Schools Act, 20 USC 7151, requires that information in the following two paragraphs be sent to the CDE for assurances of compliance with federal and state law. ***

***Note: In addition, Education Code 48902 requires the principal or designee to notify law enforcement authorities when a student or nonstudent possesses a firearm or explosive or sells or furnishes a firearm at school. However, when the student involved in such a case is a student with a disability, Education Code 49076 requires any law enforcement authority to which student information is disclosed to certify that those records will not be disclosed to another party without the prior written consent of the student's parent/guardian or other person invested with the student's educational right; see AR 5144.2 - Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process (Students with Disabilities). ***

Prior to the suspension or expulsion of any student, the principal or designee shall notify appropriate city or county law enforcement authorities of any student acts of assault which may have violated Penal Code 245. (Education Code 48902)

The principal or designee also shall notify appropriate city or county law enforcement authorities of any student acts which may involve the possession or sale of narcotics or of a controlled substance. In addition, law enforcement authorities shall be notified regarding any acts by students regarding the possession, sale, or furnishing of firearms, explosives, or other dangerous weapons in violation of Education Code 48915(c)(1) or (5) or Penal Code 626.9 and 626.10. (Education Code 48902)

Within one school day after a student's suspension or expulsion, the principal or designee shall notify appropriate city or county law enforcement authorities, by telephone or other appropriate means, of any student acts which may violate Education Code 48900(c) or (d), relating to the possession, use, offering, or sale of controlled substances, alcohol, or intoxicants of any kind. (Education Code 48902)

Placement During Expulsion

***Note: Education Code 48915 requires the Board to refer all expelled students to a program of study that is prepared to accommodate students with discipline problems and that is not located at the school the student currently attends or at any regular elementary, middle, junior, or senior high school. However, students expelled for the acts described in Education Code 48900(f) through (m) or Education Code 48900.2, 48900.3, or 48900.4 may be referred to a program of study that is at another elementary, middle, junior, or senior high school if the County Superintendent of Schools certifies that an alternative program is not available at a site away from such a school. ***

***Note: Education Code 48915.01 states that if the Board has established a community day school pursuant to Education Code 48661 on the same site as an elementary, middle, junior, or senior high school, expelled students may be referred to the community day school at that site. Although Education Code 48663 prohibits the use of independent study in community day schools, Education Code 48916.1 does not in any way restrict the district from offering

independent study as a voluntary alternative placement option for expelled students. ***

The Board shall refer expelled students to a program of study that is: (Education Code 48915, 48915.01)

1. Appropriately prepared to accommodate students who exhibit discipline problems

2. Not provided at a comprehensive middle, junior, or senior high school or at any elementary school, unless the program is offered at a community day school established at any of these

3. Not housed at the school site attended by the student at the time of suspension

(cf. 6158 - Independent Study)
(cf. 6185 - Community Day School)

When the placement described above is not available and when the County Superintendent so certifies, students expelled for only acts described in items #6-12 under "Grounds for Suspension and Expulsion: Grades K-12" and items #1-3 under "Additional Grounds for Suspension and Expulsion: Grades 4-12" above may be referred to a program of study that is provided at another comprehensive middle, junior, or senior high school or at an elementary school. (Education Code 48915)

The program for a student expelled from any of grades K-6 shall not be combined or merged with programs offered to students in any of grades 7-12. (Education Code 48916.1)

Readmission After Expulsion

***Note: Education Code 48916 mandates that the Board adopt rules and regulations establishing a procedure for filing and processing requests for readmission and a process for Board review of all expelled students for readmission. Items #1-2 below should be revised to reflect district practice. ***

Prior to the date set by the Board for the student's readmission:

1. The Superintendent or designee shall hold a conference with the parent/guardian and the student. At the conference, the student's rehabilitation plan shall be reviewed and the Superintendent or designee shall verify that the provisions of this plan have been met. School regulations shall be reviewed and the student and parent/guardian shall be asked to indicate in writing their willingness to comply with these regulations.

2. The Superintendent or designee shall transmit to the Board his/her recommendation regarding readmission. The Board shall consider this recommendation in closed session. If a written request for open session is received from the parent/guardian or adult student, it shall be honored to the extent that privacy rights of other students are not violated.

3. If the readmission is granted, the Superintendent or designee shall notify the student and parent/guardian, by registered mail, of the Board's decision regarding readmission.

4. The Board may deny readmission only if it finds that the student has not satisfied the conditions of the rehabilitation plan or that the student continues to pose a danger to campus safety or to other district students or employees. (Education Code 48916)

5. If the Board denies the readmission of a student, the Board shall determine either to continue the student's placement in the alternative educational program initially selected or to place the student in another program that serves expelled students, including placement in a county community school.

6. The Board shall provide written notice to the expelled student and parent/guardian describing the reasons for denying readmittance into the regular program. This notice shall indicate the Board's determination of the educational program which the Board has chosen. The student shall enroll in that program unless the parent/guardian chooses to enroll the student in another school district. (Education Code 48916)

No student shall be denied readmission into the district based solely on the student's arrest, adjudication by a juvenile court, formal or informal supervision by a probation officer, detention in a juvenile facility, enrollment in a juvenile court school, or other such contact with the juvenile justice system. (Education Code 48645.5)

Maintenance of Records

The district shall maintain a record of each suspension and expulsion, including its specific cause(s). (Education Code 48900.8)

Expulsion records of any student shall be maintained in the student's mandatory interim record and sent to any school in which the student subsequently enrolls upon written request by that school. (Education Code 48918(k))

***Note: Education Code 48915.1 requires that, when an expelled student asks to enroll in another district, the receiving district must hold a hearing to determine whether the student poses a danger to its students or staff. The receiving district then may either deny or permit the enrollment. Upon request from another district, the expelling district must provide information about the expulsion within five days. ***

The Superintendent or designee shall, within five working days, honor any other district's request for information about an expulsion from this district. (Education Code 48915.1)

(cf. 5119 - Students Expelled from Other Districts)

Suspension And Expulsion/Due Process

***Note: Education Code 35291 requires the Governing Board to prescribe rules and regulations for maintaining discipline in the schools under its jurisdiction. In addition, Education Code 48918 mandates the setting of rules and regulations for student expulsion as specified in this Board policy and the accompanying administrative regulation. ***

***Note: While recognizing that suspension or expulsion of students is sometimes necessary, legislative, administrative, regulatory, civic, and educational leaders are united in the belief that instructional time should be used for student learning purposes and that school discipline should be imposed in a way that, as much as possible, would not exclude students from school or limit their ability or opportunity to learn. Pursuant to Education Code 48900.5, a district is not authorized to suspend a student for certain specified violations unless other means of correction have failed to bring about proper conduct. Such other means of correction include, but are not limited to, conferences between school personnel and the student and his/her parents/guardians; use of study, guidance, or other intervention teams to develop a plan to address the behavior in partnership with the student; and participation in a restorative justice program. Education Code 48900.5 also authorizes a district to document in a student's records the alternative means of correction used to address the student's behavior. For further information about specific disciplinary strategies, including alternatives to class or school removals, see BP/AR 5144 - Discipline. ***

***Note: In addition, the U.S. Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division (DOJ) and the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights (OCR), in their joint January 2014 Dear Colleague Letter on the Nondiscriminatory Administration of School Discipline, state that studies have suggested a correlation between exclusionary discipline policies and practices (such as suspension and expulsion) and an array of serious educational, economic, and social problems, including school avoidance and diminished educational engagement, decreased academic achievement, increased behavior problems, and increased likelihood of dropping out, substance abuse, and involvement with the juvenile justice system. Consequently, they recommend that districts adopt alternative disciplinary measures that provide students with appropriate interventions and supports as a means for preventing and addressing student misbehaviors. ***

***Note: The need to implement means of correction other than suspension and expulsion is underscored by Education Code 52060-52077, which require districts to adopt and annually update a local control and accountability plan (LCAP) including descriptions of the district's and each school's goals for improving student engagement and school climate, as measured by rates of student absenteeism, suspension and expulsion, and other relevant measures identified by the Board. ***

The Governing Board desires to provide district students access to educational opportunities in an orderly school environment that protects their safety and security, ensures their welfare and

well-being, and promotes their learning and development. The Board shall develop rules and regulations setting the standards of behavior expected of district students and the disciplinary processes and procedures for addressing violations of those standards, including suspension and/or expulsion.

(cf. 5131 - Conduct)
(cf. 5131.1 - Bus Conduct)
(cf. 5131.2 - Bullying)

The grounds for suspension and expulsion and the procedures for considering, recommending, and/or implementing suspension and expulsion shall be only those specified in law, in this policy, and in the accompanying administrative regulation.

***Note: Pursuant to Education Code 48900(s), a student may be subject to discipline only when the violation is related to a school activity or school attendance as specified below. A student may also be disciplined for violations committed away from school if it is related to a school activity or to school attendance. For example, Education Code 48900 defines bullying by means of an electronic act as including an act that originates off campus; see the accompanying administrative regulation and BP/AR 5131.2 - Bullying. Another example is the hostile school environment which a victim may suffer from sexual harassment that occurs off campus; see BP/AR 5145.7 - Sexual Harassment. ***

Except when otherwise permitted by law, a student may be suspended or expelled only when his/her behavior is related to a school activity or school attendance occurring within any district school or another school district, regardless of when it occurs, including, but not limited to, the following: (Education Code 48900(s))

1. While on school grounds

2. While going to or coming from school

3. During the lunch period, whether on or off the school campus

(cf. 5112.5 - Open/Closed Campus)

4. During, going to, or coming from a school-sponsored activity

***Note: The following paragraph addresses the problem of unlawful discrimination in the administration of student discipline. In their joint January 2014 Dear Colleague Letter on the Nondiscriminatory Administration of School Discipline, the DOJ and OCR noted that, based on the civil rights data collection conducted by OCR, students of certain racial or ethnic groups tended to be disciplined more, and sometimes more harshly, than their similarly situated peers in violation of federal nondiscrimination laws. The letter warned that any district determined to have engaged in unlawful discrimination could be subject to OCR investigation and significant remedial action. ***

District staff shall enforce the rules concerning suspension and expulsion of students fairly, consistently, equally, and in accordance with the district's nondiscrimination policies.

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

Appropriate Use of Suspension Authority

***Note: Education Code 48900.5 requires districts to use other means of correction instead of suspension or expulsion except when a student commits certain enumerated offenses. The following section reflects legislative intent regarding appropriate use of suspension as a means of disciplining students and may be modified to reflect district practice. ***

Except when a student's act violates Education Code 48900(a)-(e), as listed in items #1-5 under "Grounds for Suspension and Expulsion: Grades K-12" of the accompanying administrative regulation, or when his/her presence causes a danger to others, suspension shall be used only when other means of correction have failed to bring about proper conduct. (Education Code 48900.5, 48900.6)

(cf. 1020 - Youth Services)
(cf. 5138 - Conflict Resolution/Peer Mediation)
(cf. 5144 - Discipline)
(cf. 6142.4 - Service Learning/Community Service Classes)
(cf. 6164.2 - Guidance/Counseling Services)
(cf. 6164.5 - Student Success Teams)

***Note: The following optional paragraph may be revised to reflect district practice. ***

A student's parents/guardians shall be notified as soon as possible when there is an escalating pattern of misbehavior that could lead to on-campus or off-campus suspension.

***Note: Education Code 48900(k), as amended by AB 420 (Ch. 660, Statutes of 2014), prohibits a district from suspending students in grades K-3 for disruption or willful defiance. As amended, Education Code 48900(k) authorizes but does not require a district to suspend students in grades 4-12 for disruption or willful defiance. Even with this authority, districts should be careful in using these grounds, as available data have indicated a disproportionate use with certain student subgroups. Option 1 below is for use by any district that chooses to suspend students in grades 4-12 for disruption and/or willful defiance as authorized pursuant to Education Code 48900(k). Any district that chooses to eliminate disruption and willful defiance as reasons for suspending any of its students from school should select Option 2 below. Such districts should also delete the first paragraph in the section titled "Additional Grounds for Suspension and Expulsion: Grades 4-12," in the accompanying administrative regulation. ***

***Note: Each option below reflects an exception granted to teachers pursuant to Education Code 48910 to suspend students, including a K-3 student, from class; see section "Suspension from Class by a Teacher" in the accompanying administrative regulation. ***

OPTION 1: No student in grades K-3 may be suspended for disruption or willful defiance,

except by a teacher pursuant to Education Code 48910. (Education Code 48900)

OPTION 2: No student may be suspended for disruption or willful defiance, except by a teacher pursuant to Education Code 48910. (Education Code 48900)

***Note: The following optional paragraph reflects the Legislature's intent, expressed in Education Code 48900, concerning disciplinary actions against truant, tardy, or absent students. Since these are not enumerated offenses, a district does not have the authority to suspend or expel students for committing any of these acts. ***

Students shall not be suspended or expelled for truancy, tardiness, or absenteeism from assigned school activities.

(cf. 5113 - Absences and Excuses)
(cf. 5113.1 - Chronic Absence and Truancy)

On-Campus Suspension

***Note: As an alternative to off-campus suspension, Education Code 48911.1 authorizes a supervised suspension classroom program for students who pose no imminent danger to anyone at school and who have not been recommended for expulsion, as specified below. Education Code 48911.2 states that, if the number of students suspended during the prior year exceeds 30 percent of the school's enrollment, the district should consider implementing this program and/or another program of on-campus progressive discipline. However, Education Code 48900.5 requires a district to try other means of correction and document that those means have failed to bring about proper conduct before imposing a supervised suspension. ***

***Note: The following optional section is for use by districts implementing a supervised suspension classroom program. Such districts may continue to claim funding apportionments for students so assigned, provided they meet specific criteria which are set forth under "Supervised Suspension Classroom" in the accompanying administrative regulation. A district does not receive funding for off-campus suspensions. ***

To ensure the proper supervision and ongoing learning of students who are suspended for any of the reasons enumerated in Education Code 48900 and 48900.2, but who pose no imminent danger or threat to anyone at school and for whom expulsion proceedings have not been initiated, the Superintendent or designee shall establish a supervised suspension classroom program which meets the requirements of law.

Except where a supervised suspension is permitted by law for a student's first offense, supervised suspension shall be imposed only when other means of correction have failed to bring about proper conduct. (Education Code 48900.5)

Authority to Expel

A student may be expelled only by the Board. (Education Code 48918(j))

As required by law, the Superintendent or principal shall recommend expulsion and the Board shall expel any student found to have committed any of the following "mandatory recommendation and mandatory expulsion" acts at school or at a school activity off school grounds: (Education Code 48915)

1. Possessing a firearm which is not an imitation firearm, as verified by a certificated employee, unless the student had obtained prior written permission to possess the item from a certificated school employee, with the principal or designee's concurrence

(cf. 5131.7 - Weapons and Dangerous Instruments)

2. Selling or otherwise furnishing a firearm

3. Brandishing a knife at another person

4. Unlawfully selling a controlled substance listed in Health and Safety Code 11053-11058

5. Committing or attempting to commit a sexual assault as defined in Penal Code 261, 266c, 286, 288, 288a, or 289, or committing a sexual battery as defined in Penal Code 243.4

6. Possessing an explosive as defined in 18 USC 921

For all other violations listed in the accompanying administrative regulation under "Grounds for Suspension and Expulsion: Grades K-12" and "Additional Grounds for Suspension and Expulsion: Grades 4-12," the Superintendent or principal shall have the discretion to recommend expulsion of a student. If expulsion is recommended, the Board shall order the student expelled only if it makes a finding of 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

A vote to expel a student shall be taken in a public session.

***Note: Pursuant to Education Code 48917, the Board may decide to suspend the enforcement of an order for expulsion as long as a student satisfies specific conditions. See the accompanying administrative regulation for criteria. In addition, the Attorney General opined in 80 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 85 (1997) that the enforcement of an expulsion order may be suspended even in those cases where the student has committed an offense for which expulsion is required by law. Legal counsel should be consulted as appropriate. ***

The Board may vote to suspend the enforcement of the expulsion order pursuant to the

requirements of law and the accompanying administrative regulation. (Education Code 48917)

***Note: Education Code 48900(k), as amended by AB 420 (Ch. 660, Statutes of 2014), prohibits a district from expelling any student for disruption or willful defiance. ***

No student shall be expelled for disruption or willful defiance. (Education Code 48900)

Due Process

The Board shall provide for the fair and equitable treatment of students facing suspension and/or expulsion by affording them their due process rights under the law. The Superintendent or designee shall comply with procedures for notices, hearings, and appeals as specified in law and administrative regulation. (Education Code 48911, 48915, 48915.5, 48918)

(cf. 5119 - Students Expelled from Other Districts)
(cf. 5144.2 - Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process (Students with Disabilities))

Maintenance and Monitoring of Outcome Data

***Note: Pursuant to Education Code 48900.8 and 48916.1, the district is required to maintain data related to suspensions and expulsions and to report such data to the Superintendent of Public Instruction. In addition, pursuant to Education Code 52060, a district is required to address school climate in its LCAP, by including an assessment of baseline data regarding suspension and expulsion rates by student subgroups and schools and setting goals for improving those rates and other related factors. The DOJ and OCR, in their joint January 2014 Dear Colleague Letter on the Nondiscriminatory Administration of School Discipline, recommend that districts maintain disaggregated discipline information to ensure transparency and facilitate community discussion. ***

The Superintendent or designee shall annually present to the Board a report of the outcome data which the district is required to collect pursuant to Education Code 48900.8 and 48916.1, including the number of students recommended for expulsion, the grounds for each recommended expulsion, the actions taken by the Board, the types of referral made after each expulsion, and the disposition of the students after the expulsion period.

The report shall be disaggregated by school and by numerically significant student subgroups, including, but not limited to, ethnic subgroups, socioeconomically disadvantaged students, English learners, foster youth, and students with disabilities. The report also shall include information about whether and how the district is meeting its goals for improving school climate as specified in its local control and accountability plan.

(cf. 0460 - Local Control and Accountability Plan)

Legal Reference:
EDUCATION CODE

212.5 Sexual harassment
233 Hate violence
1981-1981.5 Enrollment of students in community school
17292.5 Program for expelled students
32261 Interagency School Safety Demonstration Act of 1985
35145 Open board meetings
35146 Closed sessions (regarding suspensions)
35291 Rules (for government and discipline of schools)
35291.5 Rules and procedures on school discipline
48645.5 Readmission; contact with juvenile justice system
48660-48666 Community day schools
48853.5 Foster youth
48900-48927 Suspension and expulsion
48950 Speech and other communication
48980 Parental notifications
49073-49079 Privacy of student records
52060-52077 Local control and accountability plan
CIVIL CODE
47 Privileged communication
48.8 Defamation liability
CODE OF CIVIL PROCEDURE
1985-1997 Subpoenas; means of production
GOVERNMENT CODE
11455.20 Contempt
54950-54963 Ralph M. Brown Act
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
PENAL CODE
31 Principal of a crime, defined
240 Assault defined
241.2 Assault fines
242 Battery defined
243.2 Battery on school property
243.4 Sexual battery
245 Assault with deadly weapon
245.6 Hazing
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
417.27 Laser pointers
422.55 Hate crime defined
422.6 Interference with exercise of civil rights
422.7 Aggravating factors for punishment
422.75 Enhanced penalties for hate crimes
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

WELFARE AND INSTITUTIONS CODE
729.6 Counseling
UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 18
921 Definitions, firearm
UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 20
1415(K) Placement in alternative educational setting
7151 Gun-free schools
UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 42
11432-11435 Education of homeless children and youths
COURT DECISIONS
T.H. v. San Diego Unified School District (2004) 122 Cal. App. 4th 1267
Woodbury v. Dempsey (2003) 108 Cal. App. 4th 421
Board of Education of Sacramento City Unified School District v. Sacramento County Board of Education and Kenneth H. (2001) 85 Cal.App.4th 1321
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
ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINIONS
84 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 146 (2001)
80 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 348 (1997)
80 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 91 (1997)
80 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 85 (1997)

Management Resources:
CSBA PUBLICATIONS
Safe Schools: Strategies for Governing Boards to Ensure Student Success, 2011
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS PUBLICATIONS
Dear Colleague Letter on the Nondiscriminatory Administration of School Discipline, January 2014
WEB SITES
CSBA: http://www.csba.org
California Attorney General's Office: http://www.oag.ca.gov
California Department of Education: http://www.cde.ca.gov
U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights:
http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/crdc-2012-data-summary.pdf
U.S. Department of Education, Office of Safe and Drug-Free Schools:
http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/osdfs

Suspension And Expulsion/Due Process

***Note: CSBA recommends that this administrative regulation be approved by the Governing Board, regardless of district practice. ***

***Note: Education Code 35291 requires the Board to adopt rules and regulations, which are not inconsistent with law or rules adopted by the State Board of Education, for the government and discipline of the schools under its jurisdiction. In addition, Education Code 48918 and 48918.5 mandate that districts adopt rules concerning the due process rights of students in expulsion situations, and Education Code 48916 mandates procedures for filing and processing requests for readmission. Specific language complying with these mandates is included throughout this administrative regulation. ***

***Note: The acts for which students may be suspended or expelled are specified in law and in the sections below titled "Grounds for Suspension and Expulsion: Grades K-12" and "Additional Grounds for Suspension and Expulsion: Grades 4-12." The Board does not have authority to add to those enumerated acts. However, the Board has authority to prohibit suspension or expulsion for certain acts for which suspension or expulsion is permissible rather than mandatory. The Board may consider limiting the use of suspension and expulsion for such offenses as part of the district plan to address school climate within the local control and accountability plan required pursuant to Education Code 52060. In addition, pursuant to Education Code 48900.5, a district is not authorized to suspend a student for certain specified violations unless other means of correction have failed to bring about proper conduct. ***

Definitions

Suspension means removal of a student from ongoing instruction for adjustment purposes. However, suspension does not mean any of the following: (Education Code 48925)

1. Reassignment to another education program or class at the same school where the student will receive continuing instruction for the length of day prescribed by the Governing Board for students of the same grade level

2. Referral to a certificated employee designated by the principal to advise students

3. Removal from the class, but without reassignment to another class or program, for the remainder of the class period without sending the student to the principal or designee as provided in Education Code 48910

Expulsion means removal of a student from the immediate supervision and control or the general supervision of school personnel. (Education Code 48925)

Notice of Regulations

At the beginning of each school year, the principal of each school shall ensure that all students and parents/guardians are notified in writing of all school rules related to discipline, including suspension and expulsion. (Education Code 35291, 48900.1, 48980)

(cf. 5144 - Discipline)
(cf. 5145.6 - Parental Notifications)

Grounds for Suspension and Expulsion: Grades K-12

Acts for which a student, including a student with disabilities, may be suspended or expelled shall be only those specified as follows:

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

1. Caused, attempted to cause, or threatened to cause physical injury to another person; willfully used force or violence upon another person, except in self-defense; or committed as an aider or abettor, as adjudged by a juvenile court, a crime of physical violence in which the victim suffered great or serious bodily injury (Education Code 48900(a) and (t))

***Note: The Attorney General, in 80 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 91 (1997), determined that a student may be expelled for "possession" of a firearm if the student knowingly and voluntarily had direct control over the firearm. The only exceptions are when the student has permission from school officials to possess the firearm (pursuant to Education Code 48900 and 48915) or when the possession is brief and solely for the purpose of disposing of the firearm, such as handing it to school officials. Note that "firearm" does not include "imitation firearm" which is listed separately in item #12 below. See BP 5131.7 - Weapons and Dangerous Instruments. ***

***Note: Pursuant to Penal Code 417.27, students are prohibited from possessing a laser pointer on school premises, except for a valid instructional or other school-related purpose. See BP 5131 - Conduct. ***

2. Possessed, sold, or otherwise furnished any firearm, knife, explosive, or other dangerous object, unless, in the case of possession of any object of this type, the student had obtained written permission to possess the item from a certificated school employee, with the principal or designee's concurrence (Education Code 48900(b))

(cf. 5131 - Conduct)
(cf. 5131.7 - Weapons and Dangerous Instruments)

3. Unlawfully possessed, used, sold, otherwise furnished, or was under the influence of any controlled substance as defined in Health and Safety Code 11053-11058, alcoholic beverage, or intoxicant of any kind (Education Code 48900(c))

(cf. 5131.6 - Alcohol and Other Drugs)

4. Unlawfully offered, arranged, or negotiated to sell any controlled substance as defined in Health and Safety Code 11053-11058, alcoholic beverage, or intoxicant of any kind, and then sold, delivered, or otherwise furnished to any person another liquid, substance, or material and represented same as such controlled substance, alcoholic beverage, or intoxicant (Education Code 48900(d))

5. Committed or attempted to commit robbery or extortion (Education Code 48900(e))

6. Caused or attempted to cause damage to school property or private property (Education Code 48900(f))

7. Stole or attempted to steal school property or private property (Education Code 48900(g))

8. Possessed or used tobacco or products containing tobacco or nicotine products, including, but not limited to, cigars, cigarettes, miniature cigars, clove cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, snuff, chew packets, and betel, except that this restriction shall not prohibit a student from using or possessing his/her own prescription products (Education Code 48900(h))

(cf. 5131.62 - Tobacco)

9. Committed an obscene act or engaged in habitual profanity or vulgarity (Education Code 48900(i))

10. Unlawfully possessed, offered, arranged, or negotiated to sell any drug paraphernalia, as defined in Health and Safety Code 11014.5 (Education Code 48900(j))

11. Knowingly received stolen school property or private property (Education Code 48900(l))

12. Possessed an imitation firearm (Education Code 48900(m))

Imitation firearm means a replica of a firearm that is so substantially similar in physical properties to an existing firearm as to lead a reasonable person to conclude that the replica is a firearm. (Education Code 48900(m))

13. Committed or attempted to commit a sexual assault as defined in Penal Code 261, 266c, 286, 288, 288a, or 289, or committed a sexual battery as defined in Penal Code 243.4 (Education Code 48900(n))

14. Harassed, threatened, or intimidated a student who is a complaining witness or witness in a school disciplinary proceeding for the purpose of preventing that student from being a witness and/or retaliating against that student for being a witness (Education Code 48900(o))

15. Unlawfully offered, arranged to sell, negotiated to sell, or sold the prescription drug

Soma (Education Code 48900(p))

16. Engaged in, or attempted to engage in, hazing (Education Code 48900(q))

Hazing means a method of initiation or pre-initiation into a student organization or body, whether or not the organization or body is officially recognized by an educational institution, which is likely to cause serious bodily injury or personal degradation or disgrace resulting in physical or mental harm to a former, current, or prospective student. Hazing does not include athletic events or school-sanctioned events. (Education Code 48900(q))

***Note: Education Code 48900(r) defines "bullying" as "any severe or pervasive physical or verbal act or conduct, including communications made in writing or by means of electronic act," which is directed toward a student and which would have serious detrimental consequences upon a reasonable student. Pursuant to Education Code 48900, a student may be disciplined for bullying by means of electronic act even when the act originated off campus. See also BP 5131.2 - Bullying. ***

17. Engaged in an act of bullying (Education Code 48900(r))

Bullying means any severe or pervasive physical or verbal act or conduct, including communications made in writing or by means of an electronic act, directed toward one or more students that has or can reasonably be predicted to have the effect of placing a reasonable student in fear of harm to himself/herself or his/her property; cause the student to experience a substantially detrimental effect on his/her physical or mental health; or cause the student to experience substantial interferences with his/her academic performance or ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, or privileges provided by a school. (Education Code 48900(r))

***Note: "Bullying" also would include any act of sexual harassment, hate violence, or harassment, threat, or intimidation committed by a student of any grade level, as set forth in Education Code 48900.2, 48900.3, or 48900.4, when the act results in harm to a reasonable student as specified in the above paragraph. However, when bullying is found under these circumstances, students below grade 4 may be disciplined for the "bullying" but not for the underlying act of sexual harassment, hate violence, or harassment, threat, or intimidation as specified below in items #1-3 of "Additional Grounds for Suspension and Expulsion: Grades 4-12." ***

Bullying shall include any act of sexual harassment, hate violence, or harassment, threat, or intimidation, as defined in Education Code 48900.2, 48900.3, or 48900.4 and below in items #1-3 of "Additional Grounds for Suspension and Expulsion: Grades 4-12," that has any of the effects described above on a reasonable student.

Electronic act means the creation or transmission of a communication originated on or off school site, including, but not limited to, a message, text, sound, image, or post on a social network Internet web site, by means of an electronic device, including, but not limited to, a telephone,

wireless telephone, or other wireless communication device, computer, or pager. A post on a social network Internet web site shall include, but is not limited to, the posting or creation of a burn page or the creation of a credible impersonation or false profile for the purpose of causing a reasonable student any of the effects of bullying described above. (Education Code 48900(r))

Reasonable student means a student, including, but not limited to, a student who has been identified as a student with a disability, who exercises average care, skill, and judgment in conduct for a person of his/her age, or for a person of his/her age with his/her disability. (Education Code 48900(r))

(cf. 1114 - District-Sponsored Social Media)
(cf. 5131.2 - Bullying)
(cf. 6163.4 - Student Use of Technology)
(cf. 6164.4 - Identification and Evaluation of Individuals for Special Education)
(cf. 6164.6 - Identification and Education under Section 504)

***Note: Education Code 48900 allows for the suspension, but not expulsion, of a student who "aids or abets," as defined in Penal Code 31, the infliction or attempted infliction of physical injury to another person. The term "aiding or abetting," is a complex legal term and requires that, at the time he/she committed the crime, the aider or abettor was aware of the crime and specifically intended to commit the crime. Because of the complexities of criminal law, legal counsel should be consulted as appropriate. ***

18. Aided or abetted the infliction or attempted infliction of physical injury on another person, as defined in Penal Code 31 (Education Code 48900(t))

19. Made terrorist threats against school officials and/or school property (Education Code 48900.7)

A terrorist threat includes any written or oral statement by a person who willfully threatens to commit a crime which will result in death or great bodily injury to another person or property damage in excess of $1,000, with the specific intent that the statement is to be taken as a threat, even if there is no intent of actually carrying it out. (Education Code 48900.7)

Additional Grounds for Suspension and Expulsion: Grades 4-12

***Note: The following section applies only to students in grades 4-12 and may be revised to reflect grade levels offered by the district. ***

***Note: Education Code 48900, as amended by AB 420 (Ch. 667, Statutes of 2014), prohibits the use of disruption and/or willful defiance as reasons for expelling any student. As amended, Education Code 48900 also restricts their use as a basis for suspending students in grades 4-12 from school. Since districts are authorized but not required to suspend students in grades 4-12 based on these grounds, a district may choose, consistent with Option 2 in accompanying Board policy, to prohibit the use of these reasons for suspending its students. Any district that chooses to do so should delete the following paragraph. ***

Any student in grades 4-12 may be suspended, but not expelled, for disrupting school activities or otherwise willfully defying the valid authority of supervisors, teachers, administrators, other school officials, or other school personnel engaged in the performance of their duties. (Education Code 48900(k))

(cf. 5131.4 - Student Disturbances)

***Note: As discussed in item #17 of "Grounds for Suspension and Expulsion: Grades K-12" above, although Education Code 48900(r) defines bullying to include acts involving items #1-3 below, only students in grades 4-12 may be suspended or expelled for the individual acts that constitute sexual harassment, hate violence, and harassment. The interplay between "bullying" and items #1-3 can raise complex legal issues. Districts should consult legal counsel as appropriate. ***

A student in grades 4-12 shall be subject to suspension or recommendation for expulsion when it is determined that he/she:

1. Committed sexual harassment as defined in Education Code 212.5 (Education Code 48900.2)

Sexual harassment means conduct which, when considered from the perspective of a reasonable person of the same gender as the victim, is sufficiently severe or pervasive as to have a negative impact upon the victim's academic performance or to create an intimidating, hostile, or offensive educational environment. (Education Code 212.5, 48900.2)

(cf. 5145.7 - Sexual Harassment)

2. Caused, attempted to cause, threatened to cause, or participated in an act of hate violence as defined in Education Code 233 (Education Code 48900.3)

Hate violence means any act punishable under Penal Code 422.6, 422.7, or 422.75. Such acts include injuring or intimidating a victim, interfering with the exercise of a victim's civil rights, or damaging a victim's property because of the victim's race, ethnicity, religion, nationality, disability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, or sexual orientation; a perception of the presence of any of those characteristics in the victim; or the victim's association with a person or group with one or more of those actual or perceived characteristics. (Education Code 233; Penal Code 422.55)

(cf. 5145.9 - Hate-Motivated Behavior)

3. Intentionally engaged in harassment, threats, or intimidation against district personnel or students that is sufficiently severe or pervasive to have the actual and reasonably expected effect of materially disrupting classwork, creating substantial disorder, and invading the rights of school personnel or students by creating an intimidating or hostile educational environment (Education Code 48900.4)

(cf. 5145.3 - Nondiscrimination/Harassment)

Suspension from Class by a Teacher

***Note: The following section is optional and may be revised to reflect district practice. While Education Code 48900(k), as amended by AB 420 (Ch. 660, Statutes of 2014), prohibits a district from suspending students in grades K-3 for disruption or willful defiance, it still allows for a teacher to suspend a K-3 student on these grounds. ***

A teacher may suspend a student, including a grade K-3 student, from class for the remainder of the day and the following day for disruption, willful defiance, or any of the other acts specified in Education Code 48900 and listed as items #1-18 under "Grounds for Suspension and Expulsion: Grades K-12" above. (Education Code 48910)

When suspending a student from class, the teacher shall immediately report this action to the principal or designee and send the student to the principal or designee for appropriate action. If that action requires the continuing presence of the student at school, he/she shall be appropriately supervised during the class periods from which he/she has been suspended. (Education Code 48910)

As soon as possible after the teacher decides to suspend the student, he/she shall ask the student's parent/guardian to attend a parent-teacher conference regarding the suspension. A counselor or psychologist may attend the conference if it is practicable, and a school administrator shall attend if either the parent/guardian or teacher so requests. (Education Code 48910)

A student suspended from class shall not be returned to class during the period of the suspension without the approval of the teacher of the class and the principal or designee. (Education Code 48910)

A student suspended from class shall not be placed in another regular class during the period of suspension. However, a student assigned to more than one class per day may continue to attend other regular classes except those held at the same time as the class from which he/she was suspended. (Education Code 48910)

The teacher of any class from which a student is suspended may require the student to complete any assignments and tests missed during the removal. (Education Code 48913)

Suspension by Superintendent, Principal or Principal's Designee

To implement disciplinary procedures at a school site, the principal may, in writing, designate as the principal's designee another administrator or, if the principal is the only administrator at the school site, a certificated employee. As necessary, the principal may, in writing, also designate another administrator or certificated employee as the secondary designee to assist with disciplinary procedures when the principal and the principal's primary designee are absent from the school site.

The Superintendent, principal, or designee shall immediately suspend any student found at school or at a school activity to have committed any of the acts listed in the Board policy under "Authority to Expel" and for which he/she is required to recommend expulsion. (Education Code 48915(c))

***Note: Education Code 48900.5 limits situations warranting suspension for a first offense to when the violation involves Education Code 48900(a)-(e) or the student's presence causes a danger to persons. ***

The Superintendent, principal, or designee may impose a suspension for a first offense if he/she determines that the student violated any of items #1-5 listed under "Grounds for Suspension and Expulsion: Grades K-12" above or if the student's presence causes a danger to persons. (Education Code 48900.5)

***Note: Pursuant to Education Code 48900 and 48915, except for certain egregious acts or offenses for which suspension is permissible or mandatory, as specified above pursuant to Education Code 48915(a) or (c), the Superintendent or principal is authorized to use his/her discretion to provide an alternative, age-appropriate disciplinary measure that is tailored to correct a student's specific misbehavior. In addition, the U.S. Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division (DOJ) and the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights (OCR), in their joint January 2014 Dear Colleague Letter on the Nondiscriminatory Administration of School Discipline, recommend that effective alternatives to suspension and expulsion be implemented for correcting student misbehavior. For a list of appropriate alternatives, see AR 5144 - Discipline. ***

For all other offenses, a student may be suspended only when the Superintendent or principal has determined that other means of correction have failed to bring about proper conduct in the student. (Education Code 48900.5)

When other means of correction are implemented prior to imposing suspension or supervised suspension upon a student, the Superintendent, principal, or designee shall document the other means of correction used and retain them in the student's record. (Education Code 48900.5)

(cf. 5125 - Student Records)

Length of Suspension

The Superintendent, principal, or designee may suspend a student from school for not more than five consecutive school days. (Education Code 48911)

A student may be suspended from school for not more than 20 school days in any school year. However, if a student enrolls in or is transferred to another regular school, an opportunity school, or continuation school or class for the purpose of adjustment, he/she may be suspended for not more than 30 school days in a school year. The district may count suspensions that occur while

a student is enrolled in another school district toward the maximum number of days for which the student may be suspended in any school year. (Education Code 48903, 48911, 48912)

(cf. 6184 - Continuation Education)

These restrictions on the number of days of suspension shall not apply when the suspension is extended pending an expulsion. (Education Code 48911)

Due Process Procedures for Suspension

Suspensions shall be imposed in accordance with the following procedures:

1. Informal Conference: Suspension shall be preceded by an informal conference conducted by the Superintendent, principal, or designee with the student and, whenever practicable, the teacher, supervisor, or school employee who referred the student to the principal. At the conference, the student shall be informed of the reason for the disciplinary action, presented with the available evidence against him/her, and given the opportunity to present his/her version and evidence in support of his/her defense. (Education Code 48911)

This conference may be omitted if the Superintendent, principal, or designee determines that an emergency situation exists involving a clear and present danger to the lives, safety, or health of students or school personnel. If a student is suspended without this conference, both the parent/guardian and student shall be notified of the student's right to return to school for the purpose of the conference and the conference shall be held within two school days, unless the student waives his/her right to it or is physically unable to attend for any reason. In such a case, the conference shall be held as soon as the student is physically able to return to school. (Education Code 48911)

***Note: Item #2 below should be revised to reflect the district's processing and reporting procedures. ***

2. Administrative Actions: All requests for student suspension are to be processed by the principal or designee. A school employee shall report the suspension, including the name of the student and the cause for the suspension, to the Superintendent or designee. (Education Code 48911)

3. Notice to Parents/Guardians: At the time of the suspension, a school employee shall make a reasonable effort to contact the parent/guardian by telephone or in person. Whenever a student is suspended, the parent/guardian shall also be notified in writing of the suspension. (Education Code 48911)

This notice shall state the specific offense committed by the student. (Education Code 48900.8)

***Note: The following optional paragraph may be revised to reflect district practice. ***

In addition, the notice may state the date and time when the student may return to school.

4. Parent/Guardian Conference: Whenever a student is suspended, school officials may request a meeting with the parent/guardian to discuss the cause(s) and duration of the suspension, the school policy involved, and any other pertinent matter. (Education Code 48914)

If school officials request to meet with the parent/guardian, the notice may state that the law requires the parent/guardian to respond to such requests without delay. However, no penalties may be imposed on the student for the failure of the parent/guardian to attend such a conference. The student may not be denied reinstatement solely because the parent/guardian failed to attend the conference. (Education Code 48911)

5. Extension of Suspension: If the Board is considering the expulsion of a suspended student from any school or the suspension of a student for the balance of the semester from continuation school, the Superintendent or designee may, in writing, extend the suspension until such time as the Board has made a decision, provided the following requirements are followed: (Education Code 48911)

a. The extension of the original period of suspension is preceded by notice of such extension with an offer to hold a conference concerning the extension, giving the student an opportunity to be heard. This conference may be held in conjunction with a meeting requested by the student or parent/guardian to challenge the original suspension.

b. The Superintendent or designee determines, following a meeting in which the student and the student's parent/guardian were invited to participate, that the student's presence at the school or at an alternative school would endanger persons or property or threaten to disrupt the instructional process. (Education Code 48911)

***Note: When the student being considered for expulsion is a foster youth, Education Code 48911 and 48918.1 require the district to invite the student's attorney and an appropriate county child welfare agency representative to the meeting specified above. To ensure such invitation, the following paragraph provides that the district liaison for foster youth be notified. However, any district that has designated another position to carry out this responsibility may modify the paragraph to specify that position. For designation of the liaison for foster youth, see AR 6173.1 - Education for Foster Youth. ***

c. If the student involved is a foster youth, the Superintendent or designee shall notify the district liaison for foster youth of the need to invite the student's attorney and a representative of the appropriate county child welfare agency to attend the meeting. (Education Code 48853.5, 48911, 48918.1)

(cf. 6173.1 - Education for Foster Youth)

***Note: Pursuant to Education Code 48918.1, as amended by AB 1806 (Ch. 767, Statutes of 2014), the district's liaison for homeless students must be notified when the student being considered for expulsion is a homeless student. See the section below titled "Additional Notice

of Expulsion Hearing for Foster Youth and Homeless Students." ***

d. If the student involved is a homeless child or youth, the Superintendent or designee shall notify the district liaison for homeless students. (Education Code 48918.1)

(cf. 6173 - Education for Homeless Children)

***Note: The following optional paragraph may be revised to reflect district practice. Since Education Code 48900 and 48900.5 require a district, under certain circumstances, to use alternative disciplinary measures prior to imposing suspension, including supervised suspension, the district may, as necessary, provide services that would address the student's specific misbehavior along with the suspension program. For example, the district may require the student to enroll in a program that teaches prosocial behavior or anger management even while the student is suspended. ***

In lieu of or in addition to suspending a student, the Superintendent, principal, or designee may provide services or require the student to participate in an alternative disciplinary program designed to correct his/her behavior and keep him/her in school.

Suspension by the Board

***Note: The following optional section reflects the Board's authority to suspend students from school pursuant to Education Code 48912. In practice, it is impractical for boards to directly exercise this authority since circumstances warranting suspension usually require quick and sometimes immediate action which may not be possible for a board due to legal requirements for taking board actions, such as having a meeting. ***

The Board may suspend a student for any of the acts listed under "Grounds for Suspension and Expulsion: Grades K-12" and "Additional Grounds for Suspension and Expulsion: Grades 4-12" above and within the limits specified under "Suspension by Superintendent, Principal, or Designee" above. (Education Code 48912)

The Board may suspend a student enrolled in a continuation school or class for a period not longer than the remainder of the semester. The suspension shall meet the requirements of Education Code 48915. (Education Code 48912.5)

When the Board is considering a suspension, disciplinary action, or any other action (except expulsion) against any student, it shall hold a closed session if a public hearing would lead to disclosure of information violating a student's right to privacy under Education Code 49073-49079. (Education Code 35146, 48912)

(cf. 9321 - Closed Session Purposes and Agendas)

The Board shall provide the student and his/her parent/guardian with written notice of the closed session by registered or certified mail or personal service. Upon receiving this notice, the student or parent/guardian may request a public meeting, and this request shall be granted if made in

writing within 48 hours after receipt of the Board's notice. However, any discussion that conflicts with any other student's right to privacy still shall be held in closed session. (Education Code 35146, 48912)

On-Campus Suspension

***Note: The following optional section is for use by any district establishing an on-campus suspension program pursuant to Education Code 48911.1. However, pursuant to Education Code 48900.5, such a district is required to use other means of correcting a student's behavior before imposing a supervised suspension, unless such a supervised suspension is otherwise permitted by law for a student's first offense. Use of a supervised suspension classroom program does not in any way limit the district's ability to transfer a student to an opportunity school or class or a continuation education school or class in accordance with law. ***

A student for whom an expulsion action has not been initiated and who poses no imminent danger or threat to the school, students, or staff may be assigned to on-campus suspension in a separate classroom, building, or site for the entire period of suspension. The following conditions shall apply: (Education Code 48911.1)

1. The on-campus suspension classroom shall be staffed in accordance with law.

2. The student shall have access to appropriate counseling services.

3. The on-campus suspension classroom shall promote completion of schoolwork and tests missed by the student during the suspension.

4. The student shall be responsible for contacting his/her teacher(s) to receive assignments to be completed in the supervised suspension classroom. The teacher(s) shall provide all assignments and tests that the student will miss while suspended. If no such work is assigned, the person supervising the suspension classroom shall assign schoolwork.

At the time a student is assigned to an on-campus suspension classroom, the principal or designee shall notify the student's parent/guardian in person or by telephone. When the assignment is for longer than one class period, this notification may be made in writing. (Education Code 48911.1)

Superintendent or Principal's Authority to Recommend Expulsion

Unless the Superintendent or principal determines that expulsion should not be recommended under the circumstances or that an alternative means of correction would address the conduct, he/she shall recommend a student's expulsion for any of the following acts: (Education Code 48915)

1. Causing serious physical injury to another person, except in self-defense

2. Possession of any knife 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 (a) the first offense for the possession of not more than one ounce of marijuana, other than concentrated cannabis, or (b) the student's possession of over-the-counter medication for his/her use or other medication prescribed for him/her by a physician

4. Robbery or extortion

5. Assault or battery, as defined in Penal Code 240 and 242, upon any school employee

In determining whether or not to recommend the expulsion of a student, the Superintendent, principal, or designee shall act as quickly as possible to ensure that the student does not lose instructional time. (Education Code 48915)

Student's Right to Expulsion Hearing

***Note: Education Code 48918 mandates that the Board establish rules and regulations governing procedures for the expulsion of students. The timelines of Education Code 48918 must be strictly followed; failure to do so may result in loss of the district's power to act (Garcia v. Los Angeles Board of Education). In calculating timelines, the district should also be aware of the difference between the calculation of "school days" and "calendar days" under Education Code 48918. ***

Any student recommended for expulsion shall be entitled to a hearing to determine whether he/she should be expelled. The hearing shall be held within 30 school days after the Superintendent, principal, or designee determines that the student has committed the act(s) that form the basis for the expulsion recommendation. (Education Code 48918(a))

The student is entitled to at least one postponement of an expulsion hearing for a period of not more than 30 calendar days. The request for postponement shall be in writing. Any subsequent postponement may be granted at the Board's discretion. (Education Code 48918(a))

If the Board finds it impractical during the regular school year to comply with these time requirements for conducting an expulsion hearing, the Superintendent or designee may, for good cause, extend the time period by an additional five school days. Reasons for the extension shall be included as a part of the record when the expulsion hearing is held. (Education Code 48918(a))

If the Board finds it impractical to comply with the time requirements of the expulsion hearing due to a summer recess of Board meetings of more than two weeks, the days during the recess shall not be counted as school days. The days not counted during the recess may not exceed 20 school days, as defined in Education Code 48925. Unless the student requests in writing that the expulsion hearing be postponed, the hearing shall be held not later than 20 calendar days prior to the first day of the next school year. (Education Code 48918(a))

Once the hearing starts, all matters shall be pursued with reasonable diligence and concluded without unnecessary delay. (Education Code 48918(a))

Stipulated Expulsion

***Note: The following section is optional and may be revised to reflect district practice. "Stipulated expulsion" is for districts that have adopted an expedited procedure which allows a student to waive his/her right to a pre-expulsion hearing in exchange for an agreement as to the terms of the expulsion. Such waivers are not specifically addressed in law and districts should ensure that the due process rights of students are included in the stipulated agreement and are clearly explained to them before the agreement is signed. Districts should consult legal counsel as appropriate. ***

After a determination that a student has committed an expellable offense, the Superintendent, principal, or designee shall offer the student and his/her parent/guardian the option to waive a hearing and stipulate to the expulsion or to a suspension of the expulsion under certain conditions. The offer shall be made only after the student or his/her parent/guardian has been given written notice of the expulsion hearing pursuant to Education Code 48918.

The stipulation agreement shall be in writing and shall be signed by the student and his/her parent/guardian. The stipulation agreement shall include notice of all the rights that the student is waiving, including the waiving of his/her right to have a full hearing, to appeal the expulsion to the County Board of Education, and to consult legal counsel.

A stipulated expulsion agreed to by the student and his/her parent/guardian shall be effective upon approval by the Board.

Rights of Complaining Witness

***Note: Education Code 48918.5 mandates the following rights related to the treatment of witnesses alleging acts of sexual assault or sexual battery. Other procedures related to complaining witnesses also may be added as desired by the district. Additional mandated procedures related to the rights and treatment of complaining witnesses are included where appropriate throughout this regulation. ***

An expulsion hearing involving allegations of sexual assault or sexual battery may be postponed for one school day in order to accommodate the special physical, mental, or emotional needs of a student who is the complaining witness. (Education Code 48918.5)

Whenever the Superintendent or designee recommends an expulsion hearing that addresses allegations of sexual assault or sexual battery, he/she shall give the complaining witness a copy of the district's suspension and expulsion policy and regulation and shall advise the witness of his/her right to: (Education Code 48918.5)

1. Receive five days' notice of his/her scheduled testimony at the hearing

2. Have up to two adult support persons of his/her choosing present at the hearing at the time he/she testifies

3. Have a closed hearing during the time he/she testifies

Whenever any allegation of sexual assault or sexual battery is made, the Superintendent or designee shall immediately advise complaining witnesses and accused students to refrain from personal or telephone contact with each other during the time when an expulsion process is pending. (Education Code 48918.5)

Written Notice of the Expulsion Hearing

***Note: Education Code 48918 mandates the Board to adopt procedures that include the following items. ***

Written notice of the expulsion hearing shall be forwarded to the student and the student's parent/guardian at least 10 calendar days before the date of the hearing. The notice shall include: (Education Code 48900.8, 48918(b))

1. The date and place of the hearing

2. A statement of the specific facts, charges, and offense upon which the proposed expulsion is based

3. A copy of district disciplinary rules which relate to the alleged violation

4. Notification of the student's or parent/guardian's obligation, pursuant to Education Code 48915.1, to provide information about the student's status in the district to any other district in which the student seeks enrollment

This obligation applies when a student is expelled for acts other than those described in Education Code 48915(a) or (c).

(cf. 5119 - Students Expelled from Other Districts)

5. The opportunity for the student or the student's parent/guardian to appear in person or be represented by legal counsel or by a nonattorney adviser

Legal counsel means an attorney or lawyer who is admitted to the practice of law in California and is an active member of the State Bar of California.

Nonattorney adviser means an individual who is not an attorney or lawyer, but who is familiar with the facts of the case and has been selected by the student or student's parent/guardian to provide assistance at the hearing.

6. The right to inspect and obtain copies of all documents to be used at the hearing

7. The opportunity to confront and question all witnesses who testify at the hearing

8. The opportunity to question all evidence presented and to present oral and documentary evidence on the student's behalf, including witnesses

Additional Notice of Expulsion Hearing for Foster Youth and Homeless Students

***Note: Prior to conducting an expulsion hearing to determine whether a foster youth should be expelled, Education Code 48918.1 requires the district to notify the student's attorney and a representative of an appropriate county child welfare agency, provided that the violation does not require a mandatory recommendation for expulsion. Pursuant to Education Code 48918.1, as amended by AB 1806 (Ch. 767, Statutes of 2014), such additional notice must be given to the district liaison for homeless students when the student involved is a homeless child or youth and the violation does not require a mandatory recommendation for expulsion. While such a notice is not required if the offense requires a mandatory recommendation for expulsion, it is nonetheless recommended and the following section reflects this recommendation. ***

If the student facing expulsion is a foster student, the Superintendent or designee shall also send notice of the hearing to the student's attorney and a representative of an appropriate child welfare agency at least 10 days prior to the hearing. (Education Code 48918.1)

If the student facing expulsion is a homeless student, the Superintendent or designee shall also send notice of the hearing to the district liaison for homeless students at least 10 days prior to the hearing. (Education Code 48918.1)

Any notice for these purposes may be provided by the most cost-effective method possible, including by email or a telephone call. (Education Code 48918.1)

Conduct of Expulsion Hearing

***Note: Education Code 48918 mandates that the Board adopt procedures that include the following items. ***

***Note: Instead of the Board conducting an expulsion hearing, it may appoint a hearing officer or an impartial administrative panel to conduct the hearing; see section "Alternative Expulsion Hearing: Hearing Officer or Administrative Panel" below. Even if the district conducts all expulsion hearings in this manner, the requirements of Education Code 48918 pertaining to the conduct of the hearing must be met. ***

1. Closed Session: Notwithstanding Education Code 35145, the Board shall conduct a hearing to consider the expulsion of the student in a session closed to the public unless the student requests in writing at least five days prior to the hearing that the hearing be a public

meeting. If such a request is made, the meeting shall be public to the extent that privacy rights of other students are not violated. (Education Code 48918)

***Note: For the purpose of Board deliberations during the closed session described below, the presence of any person other than the Board members, including the Superintendent, necessitates allowing the presence of the parent/guardian, student, and student's counsel. ***

Whether the expulsion hearing is held in closed or public session, the Board may meet in closed session to deliberate and determine whether or not the student should be expelled. If the Board admits any other person to this closed session, the parent/guardian, the student, and the counsel of the student also shall be allowed to attend the closed session. (Education Code 48918(c))

If a hearing that involves a charge of sexual assault or sexual battery is to be conducted in public, a complaining witness shall have the right to have his/her testimony heard in closed session when testifying in public would threaten serious psychological harm to the witness and when there are no alternative procedures to avoid the threatened harm, including, but not limited to, videotaped deposition or contemporaneous examination in another place communicated to the hearing room by closed-circuit television. (Education Code 48918(c))

2. Record of Hearing: A record of the hearing shall be made and may be maintained by any means, including electronic recording, as long as a reasonably accurate and complete written transcription of the proceedings can be made. (Education Code 48918(g))

***Note: Education Code 48918 authorizes the Board to issue subpoenas for the personal appearance of percipient witnesses at an expulsion hearing. In Woodbury v. Dempsey, the court held that a district's authority to determine whether to issue subpoenas is discretionary, but a district could not have a blanket policy denying the issuance of subpoenas in all cases. ***

***Note: In accordance with Code of Civil Procedure 1987, the subpoena must be served at least 10 days before the time required for attendance unless the court prescribes a shorter time. Unless they are parties to the hearing or are district or government employees, witnesses who appear pursuant to a subpoena receive fees equal to those prescribed for witnesses in civil actions in a superior court, and all witnesses other than the parties to the hearing receive mileage; these fees and mileage must be paid by the party requesting the subpoena. ***

3. Subpoenas: Before commencing a student expulsion hearing, the Board may issue subpoenas, at the request of either the student or the Superintendent or designee, for the personal appearance at the hearing of any person who actually witnessed the action that gave rise to the recommendation for expulsion. After the hearing has commenced, the Board or the hearing officer or administrative panel may issue such subpoenas at the request of the student or the County Superintendent of Schools or designee. All subpoenas shall be issued in accordance with Code of Civil Procedure 1985-1985.2 and enforced in accordance with Government Code 11455.20. (Education Code 48918(i))

Any objection raised by the student or the Superintendent or designee to the issuance of subpoenas may be considered by the Board in closed session, or in open session if so requested by the student, before the meeting. The Board's decision in response to such an objection shall be final and binding. (Education Code 48918(i))

If the Board determines, or if the hearing officer or administrative panel finds and submits to the Board, that a witness would be subject to unreasonable risk of harm by testifying at the hearing, a subpoena shall not be issued to compel the personal attendance of that witness at the hearing. However, that witness may be compelled to testify by means of a sworn declaration as described in item #4 below. (Education Code 48918(i))

4. Presentation of Evidence: Technical rules of evidence shall not apply to the expulsion hearing, but relevant evidence may be admitted and used as proof only if it is the kind of evidence on which reasonable persons can rely in the conduct of serious affairs. The decision of the Board to expel shall be supported by substantial evidence that the student committed any of the acts pursuant to Education Code 48900 and listed in "Grounds for Suspension and Expulsion: Grades K-12" and "Additional Grounds for Suspension and Expulsion: Grades 4-12" above. (Education Code 48918(h))

***Note: Findings of fact made by the Board or a hearing panel must not be based on hearsay alone. "Hearsay" is evidence of an oral or written statement made by a person who is not present at the hearing which is offered to establish a fact as being true. Some exceptions to the hearsay rule exist under the Evidence Code and Education Code; the district should consult legal counsel as appropriate. ***

Findings of fact shall be based solely on the evidence at the hearing. Although no finding shall be based solely on hearsay, sworn declarations may be admitted as testimony from witnesses whose disclosure of their identity or testimony at the hearing may subject them to an unreasonable risk of physical or psychological harm. (Education Code 48918(f))

In cases where a search of a student's person or property has occurred, evidence describing the reasonableness of the search shall be included in the hearing record.

***Note: Education Code 48918.6 provides that testimony by a student witness at an expulsion hearing is privileged and thus protected from liability for defamation pursuant to Civil Code 47(b). ***

5. Testimony by Complaining Witnesses: The following procedures shall be observed when a hearing involves allegations of sexual assault or sexual battery by a student: (Education Code 48918, 48918.5)

a. Any complaining witness shall be given five days' notice before being called to testify.

b. Any complaining witness shall be entitled to have up to two adult support persons, including, but not limited to, a parent/guardian or legal counsel, present during his/her testimony.

c. Before a complaining witness testifies, support persons shall be admonished that the hearing is confidential.

d. The person presiding over the hearing may remove a support person whom he/she finds is disrupting the hearing.

e. If one or both support persons are also witnesses, the hearing shall be conducted in accordance with Penal Code 868.5.

f. Evidence of specific instances of prior sexual conduct of a complaining witness shall be presumed inadmissible and shall not be heard unless the person conducting the hearing determines that extraordinary circumstances require the evidence to be heard. Before such a determination is made, the complaining witness shall be given notice and an opportunity to oppose the introduction of this evidence. In the hearing on the admissibility of this evidence, the complaining witness shall be entitled to be represented by a parent/guardian, legal counsel, or other support person. Reputation or opinion evidence regarding the sexual behavior of a complaining witness shall not be admissible for any purpose.

g. In order to facilitate a free and accurate statement of the experiences of the complaining witness and to prevent discouragement of complaints, the district shall provide a nonthreatening environment.

(1) The district shall provide a room separate from the hearing room for the use of the complaining witness before and during breaks in testimony.

(2) At the discretion of the person conducting the hearing, the complaining witness shall be allowed reasonable periods of relief from examination and cross-examination during which he/she may leave the hearing room.

(3) The person conducting the hearing may:

(a) Arrange the seating within the hearing room so as to facilitate a less intimidating environment for the complaining witness

(b) Limit the time for taking the testimony of a complaining witness to the hours he/she is normally in school, if there is no good cause to take the testimony during other hours

(c) Permit one of the support persons to accompany the complaining witness to the witness stand

6. Decision: The Board's decision as to whether to expel a student shall be made within 40 school days after the student is removed from his/her school of attendance, unless the student requests in writing that the decision be postponed. (Education Code 48918(a))

Alternative Expulsion Hearing: Hearing Officer or Administrative Panel

***Note: For districts that use a hearing officer or administrative panel, Education Code 48918 mandates that the Board adopt procedures that include the following section. ***

Instead of conducting an expulsion hearing itself, the Board may contract with the county hearing officer or with the Office of Administrative Hearings of the State of California for a hearing officer. The Board may also appoint an impartial administrative panel composed of three or more certificated personnel, none of whom shall be members of the Board or on the staff of the school in which the student is enrolled. (Education Code 48918)

A hearing conducted by the hearing officer or administrative panel shall conform to the same procedures applicable to a hearing conducted by the Board as specified above in "Conduct of Expulsion Hearing," including the requirement to issue a decision within 40 school days of the student's removal from school, unless the student requests that the decision be postponed. (Education Code 48918(a) and (d))

***Note: Pursuant to Education Code 48918, as amended by SB 1111 (Ch. 837, Statutes of 2014), if the hearing officer or administrative panel does not recommend expulsion, a student must be permitted to return to the classroom instructional program from which the expulsion referral was made, unless the student's parent/guardian requests a different placement. As amended, Education Code 48918 also states that a student who is found to have committed any of the violations listed in "Authority to Expel" in the accompanying Board policy but for whom expulsion is not recommended may be referred to his/her prior school. However, the hearing officer or administrative panel, like the Board, must recommend expulsion or a suspended expulsion under Education Code 48915, if it finds that a student committed any such violation that mandates expulsion. District should consult legal counsel to resolve this apparent discrepancy. ***

The hearing officer or administrative panel shall, within three school days after the hearing, determine whether to recommend expulsion of the student to the Board. If expulsion is not recommended, the expulsion proceeding shall be terminated and the student shall be immediately reinstated and permitted to return to the classroom instructional program from which the referral was made, unless another placement is requested in writing by the student's parent/guardian. Before the student's placement decision is made by his/her parent/guardian, the Superintendent or designee shall consult with the parent/guardian and district staff, including the student's teachers, regarding other placement options for the student in addition to the option to return to the classroom instructional program from which the student's expulsion referral was made. The decision to not recommend expulsion shall be final. (Education Code 48918(e))

If expulsion is recommended, findings of fact in support of the recommendation shall be prepared and submitted to the Board. All findings of fact and recommendations shall be based solely on the evidence presented at the hearing. The Board may accept the recommendation based either upon a review of the findings of fact and recommendations submitted or upon the results of any supplementary hearing the Board may order. (Education Code 48918(f))

In accordance with Board policy, the hearing officer or administrative panel may recommend that the Board suspend the enforcement of the expulsion. If the hearing officer or administrative panel recommends that the Board expel a student but suspend the enforcement of the expulsion, the student shall not be reinstated and permitted to return to the classroom instructional program from which the referral was made until the Board has ruled on the recommendation. (Education Code 48917, 48918)

Final Action by the Board

***Note: Education Code 48918 mandates that the Board adopt procedures that include the following paragraph. ***

Whether the expulsion hearing is conducted in closed or public session by the Board, a hearing officer, or an administrative panel or is waived through the signing of a stipulated expulsion agreement, the final action to expel shall be taken by the Board in public. (Education Code 48918(j))

(cf. 9321.1 - Closed Session Actions and Reports)

The Board's decision is final. If the decision is to not expel, the student shall be reinstated immediately. If the decision is to suspend the enforcement of the expulsion, the student shall be reinstated under the conditions of the suspended expulsion.

***Note: The Gun-Free Schools Act, 20 USC 7151, requires that information in the following paragraph be sent to the California Department of Education (CDE) for assurances of compliance with federal and state law. For other language that must be submitted to the CDE, see section below entitled "Notifications to Law Enforcement Authorities." ***

Upon ordering an expulsion, the Board shall set a date when the student shall be reviewed for readmission to a school within the district. For a student expelled for any act listed under "Mandatory Recommendation and Mandatory Expulsion" above, this date shall be one year from the date the expulsion occurred, except that the Board may set an earlier date on a case-by-case basis. For a student expelled for other acts, this date shall be no later than the last day of the semester following the semester in which the expulsion occurred. If an expulsion is ordered during summer session or the intersession period of a year-round program, the Board shall set a date when the student shall be reviewed for readmission not later than the last day of the semester following the summer session or intersession period in which the expulsion occurred. (Education Code 48916)

At the time of the expulsion order, the Board shall recommend a plan for the student's rehabilitation, which may include: (Education Code 48916)

1. Periodic review, as well as assessment at the time of review, for readmission

2. Recommendations for improved academic performance, tutoring, special education

assessments, job training, counseling, employment, community service, or other rehabilitative programs

***Note: The following paragraph is optional. Education Code 48916.5 authorizes, but does not mandate, the Board to make the following requirement of certain expelled students. ***

With parent/guardian consent, students who have been expelled for reasons relating to controlled substances or alcohol may be required to enroll in a county-sponsored drug rehabilitation program before returning to school. (Education Code 48916.5)

Written Notice to Expel

The Superintendent or designee shall send written notice of the decision to expel to the student or parent/guardian. This notice shall include the following:

1. The specific offense committed by the student for any of the causes for suspension or expulsion listed above under "Grounds for Suspension and Expulsion: Grades K-12" or "Additional Grounds for Suspension and Expulsion: Grades 4-12" (Education Code 48900.8)

2. The fact that a description of readmission procedures will be made available to the student and his/her parent/guardian (Education Code 48916)

3. Notice of the right to appeal the expulsion to the County Board (Education Code 48918)

4. Notice of the alternative educational placement to be provided to the student during the time of expulsion (Education Code 48918)

5. Notice of the student's or parent/guardian's obligation to inform any new district in which the student seeks to enroll of the student's status with the expelling district, pursuant to Education Code 48915.1 (Education Code 48918)

Decision to Suspend Expulsion Order

***Note: Pursuant to Education Code 48917, the Board's criteria for suspending the enforcement of expulsions must be applied uniformly to all students. Items #1-3 below are optional and should be revised to reflect district criteria. ***

In accordance with Board policy, when deciding whether to suspend the enforcement of an expulsion order, the Board shall take into account the following criteria:

1. The student's pattern of behavior

2. The seriousness of the misconduct

3. The student's attitude toward the misconduct and his/her willingness to follow a

rehabilitation program

The suspension of the enforcement of an expulsion shall be governed by the following:

1. The Board may, as a condition of the suspension of enforcement, assign the student to a school, class, or program appropriate for the student's rehabilitation. This rehabilitation program may provide for the involvement of the student's parent/guardian in the student's education. However, a parent/guardian's refusal to participate in the rehabilitation program shall not be considered in the Board's determination as to whether the student has satisfactorily completed the rehabilitation program. (Education Code 48917)

2. During the period when enforcement of the expulsion order is suspended, the student shall be on probationary status. (Education Code 48917)

3. The suspension of the enforcement of an expulsion order may be revoked by the Board if the student commits any of the acts listed under "Grounds for Suspension and Expulsion: Grades K-12" or "Additional Grounds for Suspension and Expulsion: Grades 4-12" above or violates any of the district's rules and regulations governing student conduct. (Education Code 48917)

4. When the suspension of enforcement of an expulsion order is revoked, a student may be expelled under the terms of the original expulsion order. (Education Code 48917)

5. Upon satisfactory completion of the rehabilitation assignment, the Board shall reinstate the student in a district school. Upon reinstatement, the Board may order the expunging of any or all records of the expulsion proceedings. (Education Code 48917)

6. The Superintendent or designee shall send written notice of any decision to suspend the enforcement of an expulsion order during a period of probation to the student or parent/guardian. The notice shall inform the parent/guardian of the right to appeal the expulsion to the County Board, the alternative educational placement to be provided to the student during the period of expulsion, and the student's or parent/guardian's obligation to inform any new district in which the student seeks to enroll of his/her status with the expelling district, pursuant to Education Code 48915.1(b). (Education Code 48918(j))

7. Suspension of the enforcement of an expulsion order shall not affect the time period and requirements for the filing of an appeal of the expulsion order with the County Board. (Education Code 48917)

Appeal

The student or parent/guardian is entitled to file an appeal of the Board's decision with the County Board. The appeal must be filed within 30 days of the Board's decision to expel, even if the expulsion order is suspended and the student is placed on probation. (Education Code 48919)

If the student submits a written request for a copy of the written transcripts and supporting documents from the district simultaneously with the filing of the notice of appeal with the County Board, the district shall provide the student with these documents within 10 school days following the student's written request. (Education Code 48919)

Notification to Law Enforcement Authorities

***Note: The Gun-Free Schools Act, 20 USC 7151, requires that information in the following two paragraphs be sent to the CDE for assurances of compliance with federal and state law. ***

***Note: In addition, Education Code 48902 requires the principal or designee to notify law enforcement authorities when a student or nonstudent possesses a firearm or explosive or sells or furnishes a firearm at school. However, when the student involved in such a case is a student with a disability, Education Code 49076 requires any law enforcement authority to which student information is disclosed to certify that those records will not be disclosed to another party without the prior written consent of the student's parent/guardian or other person invested with the student's educational right; see AR 5144.2 - Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process (Students with Disabilities). ***

Prior to the suspension or expulsion of any student, the principal or designee shall notify appropriate city or county law enforcement authorities of any student acts of assault which may have violated Penal Code 245. (Education Code 48902)

The principal or designee also shall notify appropriate city or county law enforcement authorities of any student acts which may involve the possession or sale of narcotics or of a controlled substance. In addition, law enforcement authorities shall be notified regarding any acts by students regarding the possession, sale, or furnishing of firearms, explosives, or other dangerous weapons in violation of Education Code 48915(c)(1) or (5) or Penal Code 626.9 and 626.10. (Education Code 48902)

Within one school day after a student's suspension or expulsion, the principal or designee shall notify appropriate city or county law enforcement authorities, by telephone or other appropriate means, of any student acts which may violate Education Code 48900(c) or (d), relating to the possession, use, offering, or sale of controlled substances, alcohol, or intoxicants of any kind. (Education Code 48902)

Placement During Expulsion

***Note: Education Code 48915 requires the Board to refer all expelled students to a program of study that is prepared to accommodate students with discipline problems and that is not located at the school the student currently attends or at any regular elementary, middle, junior, or senior high school. However, students expelled for the acts described in Education Code 48900(f) through (m) or Education Code 48900.2, 48900.3, or 48900.4 may be referred to a program of study that is at another elementary, middle, junior, or senior high school if the County Superintendent of Schools certifies that an alternative program is not available at a site

away from such a school. ***

***Note: Education Code 48915.01 states that if the Board has established a community day school pursuant to Education Code 48661 on the same site as an elementary, middle, junior, or senior high school, expelled students may be referred to the community day school at that site. Although Education Code 48663 prohibits the use of independent study in community day schools, Education Code 48916.1 does not in any way restrict the district from offering independent study as a voluntary alternative placement option for expelled students. ***

The Board shall refer expelled students to a program of study that is: (Education Code 48915, 48915.01)

1. Appropriately prepared to accommodate students who exhibit discipline problems

2. Not provided at a comprehensive middle, junior, or senior high school or at any elementary school, unless the program is offered at a community day school established at any of these

3. Not housed at the school site attended by the student at the time of suspension

(cf. 6158 - Independent Study)
(cf. 6185 - Community Day School)

When the placement described above is not available and when the County Superintendent so certifies, students expelled for only acts described in items #6-12 under "Grounds for Suspension and Expulsion: Grades K-12" and items #1-3 under "Additional Grounds for Suspension and Expulsion: Grades 4-12" above may be referred to a program of study that is provided at another comprehensive middle, junior, or senior high school or at an elementary school. (Education Code 48915)

The program for a student expelled from any of grades K-6 shall not be combined or merged with programs offered to students in any of grades 7-12. (Education Code 48916.1)

Readmission After Expulsion

***Note: Education Code 48916 mandates that the Board adopt rules and regulations establishing a procedure for filing and processing requests for readmission and a process for Board review of all expelled students for readmission. Items #1-2 below should be revised to reflect district practice. ***

Prior to the date set by the Board for the student's readmission:

1. The Superintendent or designee shall hold a conference with the parent/guardian and the student. At the conference, the student's rehabilitation plan shall be reviewed and the Superintendent or designee shall verify that the provisions of this plan have been met. School regulations shall be reviewed and the student and parent/guardian shall be asked to indicate in

writing their willingness to comply with these regulations.

2. The Superintendent or designee shall transmit to the Board his/her recommendation regarding readmission. The Board shall consider this recommendation in closed session. If a written request for open session is received from the parent/guardian or adult student, it shall be honored to the extent that privacy rights of other students are not violated.

3. If the readmission is granted, the Superintendent or designee shall notify the student and parent/guardian, by registered mail, of the Board's decision regarding readmission.

4. The Board may deny readmission only if it finds that the student has not satisfied the conditions of the rehabilitation plan or that the student continues to pose a danger to campus safety or to other district students or employees. (Education Code 48916)

5. If the Board denies the readmission of a student, the Board shall determine either to continue the student's placement in the alternative educational program initially selected or to place the student in another program that serves expelled students, including placement in a county community school.

6. The Board shall provide written notice to the expelled student and parent/guardian describing the reasons for denying readmittance into the regular program. This notice shall indicate the Board's determination of the educational program which the Board has chosen. The student shall enroll in that program unless the parent/guardian chooses to enroll the student in another school district. (Education Code 48916)

No student shall be denied readmission into the district based solely on the student's arrest, adjudication by a juvenile court, formal or informal supervision by a probation officer, detention in a juvenile facility, enrollment in a juvenile court school, or other such contact with the juvenile justice system. (Education Code 48645.5)

Maintenance of Records

The district shall maintain a record of each suspension and expulsion, including its specific cause(s). (Education Code 48900.8)

Expulsion records of any student shall be maintained in the student's mandatory interim record and sent to any school in which the student subsequently enrolls upon written request by that school. (Education Code 48918(k))

***Note: Education Code 48915.1 requires that, when an expelled student asks to enroll in another district, the receiving district must hold a hearing to determine whether the student poses a danger to its students or staff. The receiving district then may either deny or permit the enrollment. Upon request from another district, the expelling district must provide information about the expulsion within five days. ***

The Superintendent or designee shall, within five working days, honor any other district's request for information about an expulsion from this district. (Education Code 48915.1)

(cf. 5119 - Students Expelled from Other Districts)

SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION/DUE PROCESS

The Governing Board desires to provide district students access to educational opportunities in an orderly school environment that protects their safety and security, ensures their welfare and well-being, and promotes their learning and development. The Board shall develop rules and regulations setting the standards of behavior expected of district students and the disciplinary processes and procedures for addressing violations of those standards, including suspension and/or expulsion.

(cf. 5131 - Conduct)
(cf. 5131.1 - Bus Conduct)
(cf. 5131.2 - Bullying)

To correct the behavior of any student who is subject to discipline, the Superintendent or designee shall, to the extent allowed by law, first use alternative disciplinary strategies specified in AR 5144 - Discipline. (Education Code 48900.5)

(cf. 1020 - Youth Services)
(cf. 5138 - Conflict Resolution/Peer Mediation)
(cf. 5144 - Discipline)
(cf. 6142.4 - Service Learning/Community Service Classes)
(cf. 6164.2 - Guidance/Counseling Services)
(cf. 6164.5 - Student Success Teams)

Alternatives to suspension or expulsion also shall be used with students who are truant, tardy, or otherwise absent from assigned school activities.

(cf. 5113 - Absences and Excuses)
(cf. 5113.1 - Chronic Absence and Truancy)

Except for single acts of a grave nature or offenses for which suspension or expulsion is required by law, suspension or expulsion shall be used only when other means of correction have failed to bring about proper conduct or the student's presence causes a continuing danger to himself/herself or others.

(cf. 5131.7 - Weapons and Dangerous Instruments)

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

District staff shall enforce the rules concerning suspension and expulsion of students fairly, consistently, and in accordance with the district's nondiscrimination policies.

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

SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION/DUE PROCESS (continued)

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, hearings, and appeals as specified in law and administrative regulation. (Education Code 48911, 48915, 48915.5)

(cf. 5119 - Students Expelled from Other Districts)
(cf. 5144.2 - Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process (Students with Disabilities))

Removal from Class by a Teacher and Parental Attendance

When suspending a student from class for committing an obscene act, engaging in habitual profanity or vulgarity, disrupting school activities, or otherwise willfully defying valid staff authority, the teacher of the class may require any parent/guardian who lives with the student to attend a portion of the school day in the class from which the student is being suspended, to assist in resolving the classroom behavior problems. (Education Code 48900.1)

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 teacher and the student and his/her parents/guardians and to improve the student's behavior.

Any teacher requiring parental attendance pursuant to this policy shall apply the policy uniformly to all students within the classroom. (Education Code 48900.1)

When a teacher requires parental attendance, the principal shall send a written notice to the parent/guardian stating that his/her attendance is required pursuant to law. (Education Code 48900.1)

(cf. 5145.6 - Parental Notifications)

A parent/guardian who has received a written notice shall attend class as specified in the notice. 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)

At the meeting with the student's parent/guardian, the principal or designee shall explain the district's and school's discipline policies, including the disciplinary strategies that may be used to achieve proper student conduct.

When a parent/guardian does not respond to the request to attend school, the principal or designee shall contact him/her by telephone, mail, or other method that maintains the confidentiality of the student's records.

(cf. 5125 - Student Records)

SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION/DUE PROCESS (continued)

District regulations and school-site rules for student discipline shall include procedures for implementing parental attendance requirements. Parents/guardians shall be notified of this policy prior to its implementation. (Education Code 48900.1)

Supervised Suspension Classroom

To ensure the proper supervision and ongoing learning of students who are suspended for any of the reasons enumerated in Education Code 48900 and 48900.2, but who pose no imminent danger or threat to anyone at school and for whom expulsion proceedings have not been initiated, the Superintendent or designee shall establish a supervised suspension classroom program which meets the requirements of law.

Except where a supervised suspension is permitted by law for a student's first offense, supervised suspension shall be imposed only when other means of correction have failed to bring about proper conduct. (Education Code 48900.5)

Decision Not to Enforce Expulsion Order

On a case-by-case basis, the enforcement of an expulsion order may be suspended by the Board pursuant to the requirements of law and administrative regulation. (Education Code 48917)

Monitoring the Use of Suspension and Expulsion

At the end of each school year, the Superintendent or designee shall present a report to the Board regarding the use of suspension and/or expulsion in district schools. The report shall include, but is not limited to, outcome data which the district is required by law to collect and data related to the effect of suspension and/or expulsion on the district's minority student populations or groupings.

(cf. 9320 - Meetings and Notices)

Legal Reference:
EDUCATION CODE
212.5 Sexual harassment
233 Hate violence
1981 Enrollment of students in community school
17292.5 Program for expelled students
32261 Interagency School Safety Demonstration Act of 1985
35145 Open board meetings
35146 Closed sessions (regarding suspensions)
35291 Rules (for government and discipline of schools)
35291.5 Rules and procedures on school discipline
48645.5 Readmission; contact with juvenile justice system
48660-48667 Community day schools
48853.5 Foster youth
48900-48927 Suspension and expulsion

SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION/DUE PROCESS (continued)

48950 Speech and other communication
48980 Parental notifications
49073-49079 Privacy of student records
CIVIL CODE
47 Privileged communication
48.8 Defamation liability
CODE OF CIVIL PROCEDURE
1985-1997 Subpoenas; means of production
GOVERNMENT CODE
11455.20 Contempt
54950-54963 Ralph M. Brown Act
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
PENAL CODE
31 Principal of a crime, defined
240 Assault defined
241.2 Assault fines
242 Battery defined
243.2 Battery on school property
243.4 Sexual battery
245 Assault with deadly weapon
245.6 Hazing
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
417.27 Laser pointers
422.55 Hate crime defined
422.6 Interference with exercise of civil rights
422.7 Aggravating factors for punishment
422.75 Enhanced penalties for hate crimes
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
WELFARE AND INSTITUTIONS CODE
729.6 Counseling
UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 18
921 Definitions, firearm
UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 20
1415(K) Placement in alternative educational setting
7151 Gun-free schools
COURT DECISIONS
T.H. v. San Diego Unified School District (2004) 122 Cal. App. 4th 1267
Woodbury v. Dempsey (2003) 108 Cal. App. 4th 421
Board of Education of Sacramento City Unified School District v. Sacramento County Board of Education and Kenneth H. (2001) 85 Cal.App.4th 1321
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

SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION/DUE PROCESS (continued)

John A. v. San Bernardino School District (1982) 33 Cal. 3d 301
ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINIONS
84 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 146 (2001)
80 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 91 (1997)
80 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 85 (1997)

Management Resources:
CSBA PUBLICATIONS
Safe Schools: Strategies for Governing Boards to Ensure Student Success, 2011
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PUBLICATIONS
Civil Rights Data Collection Summary, March 2012
WEB SITES
CSBA: http://www.csba.org
California Attorney General's Office: http://www.oag.ca.gov
California Department of Education: http://www.cde.ca.gov
U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights: http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/crdc-2012-data-summary.pdf
U.S. Department of Education, Office of Safe and Drug-Free Schools: http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/osdfs

SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION/DUE PROCESS

Definitions

Suspension from school means removal of a student from ongoing instruction for adjustment purposes. However, suspension does not mean any of the following: (Education Code 48925)

1. Reassignment to another education program or class at the same school where the student will receive continuing instruction for the length of day prescribed by the Governing Board for students of the same grade level.

2. Referral to a certificated employee designated by the principal to advise students.

3. Removal from the class, but without reassignment to another class or program, for the remainder of the class period without sending the student to the principal or designee as provided in Education Code 48910. Removal from a particular class shall not occur more than once every five school days.

Expulsion means removal of a student from the immediate supervision and control, or the general supervision, of school personnel. (Education Code 48925)

Day means a calendar day unless otherwise specifically provided. (Education Code 48925)

School day means a day upon which the schools of the district are in session or weekdays during the summer recess. (Education Code 48925)

Student includes a student's parent/guardian or legal counsel. (Education Code 48925)

Principal's designee means one or more administrators or, if there is not a second administrator at one school site, a certificated person specifically designated by the principal, in writing, to assist with disciplinary procedures. Only one such person may be designated at any time as the principal's primary designee and only one such person may be designated as secondary designee for the school year. The names of such persons shall be on file in the principal's office. (Education Code 48911)

School property, for the purposes described in Education Code 48900, includes, but is not limited to, electronic files and databases. (Education Code 48900(u))

Notice of Regulations

At the beginning of each school year, the principal of each school shall ensure that all students and parents/guardians are notified in writing of all school rules related to discipline, including suspension and expulsion. (Education Code 35291, 48900.1, 48980)

(cf. 5144 - Discipline)
(cf. 5145.6 - Parental Notifications)

SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION/DUE PROCESS (continued)

Grounds for Suspension and Expulsion

Any student, including a student with disabilities, may be subject to suspension or expulsion when it is determined that he/she:

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

1. Caused, attempted to cause, or threatened to cause physical injury to another person or willfully used force or violence upon another person, except in self-defense (Education Code 48900(a))

A student who aids or abets the infliction or attempted infliction of physical injury on another person, as defined in Penal Code 31, may be suspended, but not expelled. However, such a student may be suspended or expelled pursuant to Education Code 48900(a) when he/she has been adjudged by a juvenile court to have committed, as an aider or abettor, a crime of physical violence in which the victim suffered great or serious bodily injury. (Education Code 48900(t))

2. Possessed, sold, or otherwise furnished any firearm, knife, explosive, or other dangerous object, unless, in the case of possession of any object of this type, the student had obtained written permission to possess the item from a certificated school employee, with the principal or designee's concurrence (Education Code 48900(b))

(cf. 5131 - Conduct)
(cf. 5131.7 - Weapons and Dangerous Instruments)

3. Unlawfully possessed, used, sold, otherwise furnished, or was under the influence of any controlled substance as defined in Health and Safety Code 11053-11058, alcoholic beverage, or intoxicant of any kind (Education Code 48900(c))

(cf. 5131.6 - Alcohol and Other Drugs)

4. Unlawfully offered, arranged, or negotiated to sell any controlled substance as defined in Health and Safety Code 11053-11058, alcoholic beverage, or intoxicant of any kind, and then sold, delivered, or otherwise furnished to any person another liquid, substance, or material and represented same as such controlled substance, alcoholic beverage, or intoxicant (Education Code 48900(d))

5. Committed or attempted to commit robbery or extortion (Education Code 48900(e))

6. Caused or attempted to cause damage to school property or private property (Education Code 48900(f))

7. Stole or attempted to steal school property or private property (Education Code 48900(g))

SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION/DUE PROCESS (continued)

8. Possessed or used tobacco or products containing tobacco or nicotine products, including, but not limited to, cigars, cigarettes, miniature cigars, clove cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, snuff, chew packets, and betel, except that this restriction shall not prohibit a student from using or possessing his/her own prescription products (Education Code 48900(h))

(cf. 5131.62 - Tobacco)

9. Committed an obscene act or engaged in habitual profanity or vulgarity (Education Code 48900(i))

10. Unlawfully possessed, offered, arranged, or negotiated to sell any drug paraphernalia, as defined in Health and Safety Code 11014.5 (Education Code 48900(j))

11. Disrupted school activities or otherwise willfully defied the valid authority of supervisors, teachers, administrators, other school officials, or other school personnel engaged in the performance of their duties (Education Code 48900(k))

(cf. 5131.4 - Student Disturbances)

12. Knowingly received stolen school property or private property (Education Code 48900(l))

13. Possessed an imitation firearm (Education Code 48900(m))

Imitation firearm means a replica of a firearm that is so substantially similar in physical properties to an existing firearm as to lead a reasonable person to conclude that the replica is a firearm. (Education Code 48900(m))

14. Committed or attempted to commit a sexual assault as defined in Penal Code 261, 266c, 286, 288, 288a, or 289, or committed a sexual battery as defined in Penal Code 243.4 (Education Code 48900(n))

15. Harassed, threatened, or intimidated a student who is a complaining witness or witness in a school disciplinary proceeding for the purpose of preventing that student from being a witness and/or retaliating against that student for being a witness (Education Code 48900(o))

16. Unlawfully offered, arranged to sell, negotiated to sell, or sold the prescription drug Soma (Education Code 48900(p))

17. Engaged in, or attempted to engage in, hazing (Education Code 48900(q))
Hazing means a method of initiation or pre-initiation into a student organization or body, whether or not the organization or body is officially recognized by an educational institution, which is likely to cause serious bodily injury or personal degradation or disgrace resulting in physical or mental harm to a former, current, or prospective student. Hazing does not include athletic events or school-sanctioned events.

SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION/DUE PROCESS (continued)

18. Engaged in an act of bullying (Education Code 48900(r)),

Bullying means any severe or pervasive physical or verbal act or conduct, including communications made in writing or by means of an electronic act, directed toward one or more students that has or can reasonably be predicted to have the effect of placing a reasonable student in fear of harm to himself/herself or his/her property; cause the student to experience a substantially detrimental effect on his/her physical or mental health; or cause the student to experience substantial interferences with his/her academic performance or ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, or privileges provided by a school.

Electronic act means the transmission of a communication, including, but not limited to, a message, text, sound, image, or post on a social network Internet web site, by means of an electronic device, including, but not limited to, a telephone, wireless telephone, or other wireless communication device, computer, or pager. A post on a social network Internet web site shall include, but is not limited to, the posting or creation of a burn page or the creation of a credible impersonation or false profile for the purpose of causing a reasonable student any of the effects of bullying described above.

Reasonable student means a student, including, but not limited to, a student who has been identified as a student with a disability, who exercises average care, skill, and judgment in conduct for a person of his/her age, or for a person of his/her age with his/her disability. (Education Code 48900(r))

(cf. 1114 - District-Sponsored Social Media)
(cf. 5131.2 - Bullying)
(cf. 6164.4 - Identification and Evaluation of Individuals for Special Education)
(cf. 6164.6 - Identification and Education under Section 504)

19. Made terrorist threats against school officials and/or school property. (Education Code 48900.7)

A terrorist threat includes any written or oral statement by a person who willfully threatens to commit a crime which will result in death or great bodily injury to another person or property damage in excess of $1,000, with the specific intent that the statement is to be taken as a threat, even if there is no intent of actually carrying it out. (Education Code 48900.7)

A student in grades 4-12 is also subject to suspension or recommendation for expulsion when it is determined that he/she:

20. Committed sexual harassment as defined in Education Code 212.5 (Education Code 48900.2)

SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION/DUE PROCESS (continued)

Sexual harassment means conduct which, when considered from the perspective of a reasonable person of the same gender as the victim, is sufficiently severe or pervasive as to have a negative impact upon the victim's academic performance or to create an intimidating, hostile, or offensive educational environment. (Education Code 212.5, 48900.2)

(cf. 5145.7 - Sexual Harassment)

21. Caused, attempted to cause, threatened to cause, or participated in an act of hate violence as defined in Education Code 233 (Education Code 48900.3)

Hate violence means any act punishable under Penal Code 422.6, 422.7, or 422.75. Such acts include injuring or intimidating a victim, interfering with the exercise of a victim's civil rights, or damaging a victim's property because of the victim's race, ethnicity, religion, nationality, disability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, or sexual orientation; a perception of the presence of any of those characteristics in the victim; or the victim's association with a person or group with one or more of those actual or perceived characteristics. (Education Code 233; Penal Code 422.55)

(cf. 5145.9 - Hate-Motivated Behavior)

22. Intentionally engaged in harassment, threats, or intimidation against district personnel or students that is sufficiently severe or pervasive to have the actual and reasonably expected effect of materially disrupting classwork, creating substantial disorder, and invading the rights of school personnel or students by creating an intimidating or hostile educational environment (Education Code 48900.4)

(cf. 5145.3 - Nondiscrimination/Harassment)

A student may be suspended or expelled for any of the acts listed above if the act is related to school activity or school attendance occurring at any district school or within any other school district, at any time, including, but not limited to, the following: (Education Code 48900(s))

1. While on school grounds

2. While going to or coming from school

(cf. 5131.1 - Bus Conduct)

3. During the lunch period, whether on or off the school campus

(cf. 5112.5 - Open/Closed Campus)

4. During, going to, or coming from a school-sponsored activity

SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION/DUE PROCESS (continued)

Removal from Class by a Teacher and Parental Attendance

A teacher may remove any student from his/her class for the remainder of the day and the following day for any act listed in "Grounds for Suspension and Expulsion" above. (Education Code 48910)

When removing a student from his/her class, the teacher shall immediately report this action to the principal or designee and send the student to the principal or designee for appropriate action. If that action requires the continuing presence of the student at school, he/she shall be appropriately supervised during the class periods from which he/she has been removed. (Education Code 48910)

As soon as possible, the teacher shall ask the student's parent/guardian to attend a parent-teacher conference regarding the removal. A counselor or psychologist may attend the conference if it is practicable, and a school administrator shall attend if either the parent/guardian or teacher so requests. (Education Code 48910)

A student removed from class shall not be returned to class during the period of removal without the approval of the teacher of the class and the principal. (Education Code 48910)

A student removed from class shall not be placed in another regular class during the period of removal. However, if a student is assigned to more than one class per day, he/she may be placed in any other regular classes except those held at the same time as the class from which the student was removed. (Education Code 48910)

The teacher of any class from which a student is removed may require the student to complete any assignments and tests missed during the removal. (Education Code 48913)

Pursuant to Board policy, a teacher may require the parent/guardian of a student whom the teacher has removed to attend a portion of a school day in his/her child's classroom. When a teacher makes this request, the principal shall send the parent/guardian a written notice that the parent/guardian's attendance is requested pursuant to law. (Education Code 48900.1)

The notice shall specify that the attendance may be on either the date the student is scheduled to return to class or within one week thereafter.

This notice shall also:

1. Inform the parent/guardian when his/her presence is expected and by what means he/she may arrange an alternate date

SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION/DUE PROCESS (continued)

2. State that if the parent/guardian does not have a means of transportation to school, he/she may ride the school bus with the student

3. Ask the parent/guardian to meet with the principal after the visit and before leaving school, as required by Education Code 48900.1

Suspension by Superintendent, Principal, or Designee

The Superintendent, principal, or designee may suspend a student for any of the acts listed in "Grounds for Suspension and Expulsion" above. A student may be suspended only when the Superintendent or principal has determined that other means of correction have failed to bring about proper conduct in the student. (Education Code 48900.5)

When other means of correcting a student's behavior are implemented prior to imposing suspension upon the student, including supervised suspension, the Superintendent, principal, or designee shall document the other means of correction used and retain them in the student's record. (Education Code 48900.5)

(cf. 5125 - Student Records)

However, the Superintendent, principal, or designee may impose a suspension upon a first offense if he/she determines that the student violated any of items #1-5 listed in "Grounds for Suspension and Expulsion" above or if the student's presence causes a danger to persons. (Education Code 48900.5)

In addition, the Superintendent, principal, or designee shall immediately suspend any student found at school or at a school activity to be: (Education Code 48915)

1. Possessing, as verified by a district employee, 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)

3. Unlawfully selling a controlled substance listed in Health and Safety Code 11053-11058

4. Committing or attempting to commit a sexual assault as defined in Penal Code 261, 266c, 286, 288, 288a, or 289, or committing a sexual battery as defined in Penal Code 243.4

5. Possessing an explosive as defined in 18 USC 921

SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION/DUE PROCESS (continued)

The Superintendent, principal, or designee may suspend a student from school for not more than five consecutive school days unless the suspension is extended pending expulsion. (Education Code 48911)

A student may be suspended from school for not more than 20 school days in any school year unless, for purposes of adjustment, the student enrolls in or is transferred to another regular school, an opportunity school, or continuation school or class, in which case suspension shall not exceed 30 days in any school year. However, this restriction on the number of days of suspension does not apply when the suspension is extended pending an expulsion. (Education Code 48903, 48911, 48912)

(cf. 6184 - Continuation Education)

The district may count suspensions that occur while a student is enrolled in another school district toward the maximum number of days for which the student may be suspended in any school year. (Education Code 48903)
Suspensions shall be initiated according to the following procedures:

1. Informal Conference: Suspension shall be preceded by an informal conference conducted by the Superintendent, principal, or designee with the student and, whenever practicable, the teacher, supervisor, or school employee who referred the student to the principal. At the conference, the student shall be informed of the reason for the disciplinary action, presented with the evidence against him/her, and given the opportunity to present his/her version and evidence in support of his/her defense. (Education Code 48911)

This conference may be omitted if the Superintendent, principal, or designee determines that an emergency situation exists involving a clear and present danger to the lives, safety, or health of students or school personnel. If a student is suspended without this conference, both the parent/guardian and student shall be notified of the student's right to return to school for the purpose of the conference. The conference shall be held within two school days, unless the student waives his/her right to it or is physically unable to attend for any reason. In such a case, the conference shall be held as soon as the student is physically able to return to school. (Education Code 48911)

2. Administrative Actions: All requests for student suspension are to be processed by the principal or designee. A school employee shall report the suspension, including the name of the student and the cause for the suspension, to the Superintendent or designee. (Education Code 48911)
3. Notice to Parents/Guardians: At the time of the suspension, a school employee shall make a reasonable effort to contact the parent/guardian by telephone or in person. Whenever a student is suspended, the parent/guardian shall be notified in writing of the suspension. (Education Code 48911)

SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION/DUE PROCESS (continued)

This notice shall state the specific offense committed by the student. (Education Code 48900.8)

In addition, the notice may state the date and time when the student may return to school. If school officials wish to ask the parent/guardian to confer regarding matters pertinent to the suspension, the notice may add that state law requires the parent/guardian to respond to such requests without delay.

4. Parent/Guardian Conference: Whenever a student is suspended, school officials may meet with the parent/guardian to discuss the cause(s) and duration of the suspension, the school policy involved, and any other pertinent matter. (Education Code 48914)

Although the parent/guardian is required to respond without delay to a request for a conference about his/her child's behavior, no penalties may be imposed on the student for the failure of the parent/guardian to attend such a conference. The student may not be denied readmission solely because the parent/guardian failed to attend the conference. (Education Code 48911)

5. Extension of Suspension: If the Board is considering the expulsion of a suspended student from any school or the suspension of a student for the balance of the semester from continuation school, the Superintendent or designee may, in writing, extend the suspension until such time as the Board has made a decision. (Education Code 48911)

Any extension of the original period of suspension shall be preceded by notice of such extension with an offer to hold a conference concerning the extension, giving the student an opportunity to be heard. This conference may be held in conjunction with a meeting requested by the student or parent/guardian to challenge the original suspension. Extension of the suspension may be made only if the Superintendent or designee determines, following a meeting in which the student and the student's parent/guardian were invited to participate, that the student's presence at the school or at an alternative school would endanger persons or property or threaten to disrupt the instructional process. (Education Code 48911)

If the student involved is a foster youth, the Superintendent or designee shall notify the district liaison for foster youth of the need to invite the student's attorney and a representative of the appropriate county child welfare agency to attend the meeting. (Education Code 48853.5, 48911, 48918.1)

(cf. 6173.1 - Education for Foster Youth)

In addition to suspending a student, the Superintendent, principal, or designee may provide services or require the student to participate in an alternative disciplinary program designed to correct his/her behavior and keep him/her in school.

SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION/DUE PROCESS (continued)

Suspension by the Board

The Board may suspend a student for any of the acts listed in "Grounds for Suspension and Expulsion" above and within the limits specified in "Suspension by Superintendent, Principal, or Designee" above. (Education Code 48912)

The Board may suspend a student enrolled in a continuation school or class for a period not longer than the remainder of the semester if any of the acts listed in "Grounds for Suspension and Expulsion" occurred. The suspension shall meet the requirements of Education Code 48915. (Education Code 48912.5)

When the Board is considering a suspension, disciplinary action, or any other action (except expulsion) against any student, it shall hold a closed session if a public hearing would lead to disclosure of information violating a student's right to privacy under Education Code 49073-49079. (Education Code 35146, 48912)

(cf. 9321 - Closed Session Purposes and Agendas)

The Board shall provide the student and his/her parent/guardian with written notice of the closed session by registered or certified mail or personal service. Upon receiving this notice, the student or parent/guardian may request a public meeting, and this request shall be granted if made in writing within 48 hours after receipt of the Board's notice. However, any discussion that conflicts with any other student's right to privacy still shall be held in closed session. (Education Code 35146, 48912)

Supervised Suspension Classroom

A students for whom an expulsion action has not been initiated and who poses no imminent danger or threat to the school, students, or staff may be assigned to a supervised suspension classroom in a separate classroom, building, or site for the entire period of suspension. The following conditions shall apply: (Education Code 48911.1)

1. The supervised suspension classroom shall be staffed in accordance with law.

2. The student shall have access to appropriate counseling services.

3. The supervised suspension classroom shall promote completion of schoolwork and tests missed by the student during the suspension.

4. The student shall be responsible for contacting his/her teacher(s) to receive assignments to be completed in the supervised suspension classroom. The teacher(s) shall provide all assignments and tests that the student will miss while suspended. If no such work is assigned, the person supervising the suspension classroom shall assign schoolwork.

SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION/DUE PROCESS (continued)

At the time a student is assigned to a supervised suspension classroom, the principal or designee shall notify the student's parent/guardian in person or by telephone. When the assignment is for longer than one class period, this notification shall be made in writing. (Education Code 48911.1)

Authority to Expel

A student may be expelled only by the Board. (Education Code 48918(j))

The Board shall expel, as required by law, any student found to have committed any offense listed below under "Mandatory Recommendation and Mandatory Expulsion." (Education Code 48915)

For all other grounds listed above under "Grounds for Suspension and Expulsion," the Board shall order a student expelled upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, principal, or designee, only if the Board makes a finding of 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

Mandatory Recommendation for Expulsion

Unless the Superintendent, principal, or designee determines that expulsion should not be recommended under the circumstances or that an alternative means of correction would address the conduct, he/she 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 (a) the first offense for the possession of not more than one ounce of marijuana, other than concentrated cannabis, or (b) the student's possession of over-the-counter medication for his/her use or other medication prescribed for him/her by a physician

4. Robbery or extortion

5. Assault or battery, as defined in Penal Code 240 and 242, upon any school employee

SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION/DUE PROCESS (continued)

In determining whether or not to recommend the expulsion of a student, the Superintendent, principal, or designee shall act as quickly as possible to ensure that the student does not lose instructional time. (Education Code 48915)

Mandatory Recommendation and Mandatory Expulsion

The Superintendent, principal, 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, selling, or otherwise furnishing a firearm, unless the student had obtained prior written permission to possess the firearm from a certificated school employee, with the principal or designee's concurrence

However, possession of an imitation firearm, as defined in Education Code 48900(m), shall not be regarded as an offense requiring a mandatory recommendation for expulsion and mandatory expulsion.

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 as defined in Penal Code 261, 266c, 286, 288, 288a, or 289, or committing a sexual battery as defined in Penal Code 243.4

5. Possessing an explosive as defined in 18 USC 921

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

Student's Right to Expulsion Hearing

Any student recommended for expulsion shall be entitled to a hearing to determine whether he/she should be expelled. The hearing shall be held within 30 school days after the Superintendent, principal, or designee determines that the student has committed one of the acts listed above under "Grounds for Suspension and Expulsion." (Education Code 48918(a))

The student is entitled to at least one postponement of an expulsion hearing for a period of not more than 30 calendar days. The request for postponement shall be in writing. Any subsequent postponement may be granted at the Board's discretion. (Education Code 48918(a))

SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION/DUE PROCESS (continued)

If the Board finds it impractical during the regular school year to comply with these time requirements for conducting an expulsion hearing, the Superintendent or designee may, for good cause, extend the time period by an additional five school days. Reasons for the extension shall be included as a part of the record when the expulsion hearing is held. (Education Code 48918(a))

If the Board finds it impractical to comply with the time requirements of the expulsion hearing due to a summer recess of Board meetings of more than two weeks, the days during the recess shall not be counted as school days. The days not counted during the recess may not exceed 20 school days, as defined in Education Code 48925. Unless the student requests in writing that the expulsion hearing be postponed, the hearing shall be held not later than 20 calendar days prior to the first day of the next school year. (Education Code 48918(a))

Once the hearing starts, all matters shall be pursued with reasonable diligence and concluded without unnecessary delay. (Education Code 48918(a))

After a determination that one of the grounds listed above under "Grounds for Suspension and Expulsion" has occurred, the Superintendent, principal, or designee shall offer the student and his/her parent/guardian the option to waive a hearing and stipulate to the expulsion. The stipulation agreement shall be in writing and shall be signed by the student and his/her parent/guardian.

Rights of Complaining Witness

An expulsion hearing involving allegations of sexual assault or sexual battery may be postponed for one school day in order to accommodate the special physical, mental, or emotional needs of a student who is the complaining witness. (Education Code 48918.5)

Whenever the Superintendent or designee recommends an expulsion hearing that addresses allegations of sexual assault or sexual battery, he/she shall give the complaining witness a copy of the district's suspension and expulsion policy and regulation and shall advise the witness of his/her right to: (Education Code 48918.5)

1. Receive five days' notice of his/her scheduled testimony at the hearing

2. Have up to two adult support persons of his/her choosing present at the hearing at the time he/she testifies

3. Have a closed hearing during the time he/she testifies

SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION/DUE PROCESS (continued)

Whenever any allegation of sexual assault or sexual battery is made, the Superintendent or designee shall immediately advise complaining witnesses and accused students to refrain from personal or telephone contact with each other during the time when an expulsion process is pending. (Education Code 48918.5)

Written Notice of the Expulsion Hearing

Written notice of the expulsion hearing shall be forwarded to the student and the student's parent/guardian at least 10 calendar days before the date of the hearing. The notice shall include: (Education Code 48900.8, 48918(b))

1. The date and place of the hearing.

2. A statement of the specific facts, charges, and offense upon which the proposed expulsion is based.

3. A copy of district disciplinary rules which relate to the alleged violation.

4. Notification of the student's or parent/guardian's obligation, pursuant to Education Code 48915.1, to provide information about the student's status in the district to any other district in which the student seeks enrollment. This obligation applies when a student is expelled for acts other than those described in Education Code 48915(a) or (c).

(cf. 5119 - Students Expelled from Other Districts)

5. The opportunity for the student or the student's parent/guardian to appear in person or be represented by legal counsel or by a nonattorney advisor.

Legal counsel means an attorney or lawyer who is admitted to the practice of law in California and is an active member of the State Bar of California.

Nonattorney advisor means an individual who is not an attorney or lawyer, but who is familiar with the facts of the case and has been selected by the student or student's parent/guardian to provide assistance at the hearing.

6. The right to inspect and obtain copies of all documents to be used at the hearing.

7. The opportunity to confront and question all witnesses who testify at the hearing.

8. The opportunity to question all evidence presented and to present oral and documentary evidence on the student's behalf, including witnesses.

SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION/DUE PROCESS (continued)

Additional Notice of Expulsion Hearing for Foster Youth

At least 10 days prior to a hearing to determine if a student who is a foster youth as defined under Education Code 48853.5 should be expelled for an offense not requiring a mandatory recommendation for expulsion, the Superintendent or designee shall notify the student's attorney and a representative of an appropriate county child welfare agency. If the hearing is pursuant to an offense requiring a mandatory expulsion recommendation, the Superintendent or designee may provide the same notification. The notice shall be provided by the most cost-effective method possible, including by email or a telephone call. (Education Code 48918.1)

Conduct of Expulsion Hearing

1. Closed Session: Notwithstanding the provisions of Government Code 54953 and Education Code 35145, the Board shall conduct a hearing to consider the expulsion of the student in a session closed to the public unless the student requests in writing at least five days prior to the hearing that the hearing be a public meeting. If such a request is made, the meeting shall be public unless another student's privacy rights would be violated. (Education Code 48918(c))

Whether the expulsion hearing is held in closed or public session, the Board may meet in closed session to deliberate and determine whether or not the student should be expelled. If the Board admits any other person to this closed session, the parent/guardian, the student, and the counsel of the student also shall be allowed to attend the closed session. (Education Code 48918(c))

If a hearing that involves a charge of sexual assault or sexual battery is to be conducted in public, a complaining witness shall have the right to have his/her testimony heard in closed session when testifying in public would threaten serious psychological harm to the witness and when there are no alternative procedures to avoid the threatened harm, including, but not limited to, videotaped deposition or contemporaneous examination in another place communicated to the hearing room by closed-circuit television. (Education Code 48918(c))

2. Record of Hearing: A record of the hearing shall be made and may be maintained by any means, including electronic recording, as long as a reasonably accurate and complete written transcription of the proceedings can be made. (Education Code 48918(g))

SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION/DUE PROCESS (continued)

3. Subpoenas: Before commencing a student expulsion hearing, the Board may issue subpoenas, at the request of either the student or the Superintendent or designee, for the personal appearance at the hearing of any person who actually witnessed the action that gave rise to the recommendation for expulsion. After the hearing has commenced, the Board or the hearing officer or administrative panel may issue such subpoenas at the request of the student or the County Superintendent of Schools or designee. All subpoenas shall be issued in accordance with Code of Civil Procedure 1985-1985.2 and enforced in accordance with Government Code 11455.20. (Education Code 48918(i))

Any objection raised by the student or the Superintendent or designee to the issuance of subpoenas may be considered by the Board in closed session, or in open session if so requested by the student, before the meeting. The Board's decision in response to such an objection shall be final and binding. (Education Code 48918(i))

If the Board determines, or if the hearing officer or administrative panel finds and submits to the Board, that a witness would be subject to unreasonable risk of harm by testifying at the hearing, a subpoena shall not be issued to compel the personal attendance of that witness at the hearing. However, that witness may be compelled to testify by means of a sworn declaration as described in item #4 below. (Education Code 48918(i))

4. Presentation of Evidence: Technical rules of evidence shall not apply to the expulsion hearing, but relevant evidence may be admitted and used as proof only if it is the kind of evidence on which reasonable persons can rely in the conduct of serious affairs. The decision of the Board to expel shall be supported by substantial evidence that the student committed any of the acts pursuant to Education Code 48900 and listed in "Grounds for Suspension and Expulsion" above. (Education Code 48918(h))

Findings of fact shall be based solely on the evidence at the hearing. Although no finding shall be based solely on hearsay, sworn declarations may be admitted as testimony from witnesses whose disclosure of their identity or testimony at the hearing may subject them to an unreasonable risk of physical or psychological harm. (Education Code 48918(f))

In cases where a search of a student's person or property has occurred, evidence describing the reasonableness of the search shall be included in the hearing record.

5. Testimony by Complaining Witnesses: The following procedures shall be observed when a hearing involves allegations of sexual assault or sexual battery by a student: (Education Code 48918, 48918.5)

a. Any complaining witness shall be given five days' notice before being called to testify.

SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION/DUE PROCESS (continued)

b. Any complaining witness shall be entitled to have up to two adult support persons, including, but not limited to, a parent/guardian or legal counsel, present during his/her testimony.

c. Before a complaining witness testifies, support persons shall be admonished that the hearing is confidential.

d. The person presiding over the hearing may remove a support person whom he/she finds is disrupting the hearing.

e. If one or both support persons are also witnesses, the hearing shall be conducted in accordance with Penal Code 868.5.

f. Evidence of specific instances of prior sexual conduct of a complaining witness shall be presumed inadmissible and shall not be heard unless the person conducting the hearing determines that extraordinary circumstances require the evidence to be heard. Before such a determination is made, the complaining witness shall be given notice and an opportunity to oppose the introduction of this evidence. In the hearing on the admissibility of this evidence, the complaining witness shall be entitled to be represented by a parent/guardian, legal counsel, or other support person. Reputation or opinion evidence regarding the sexual behavior of a complaining witness shall not be admissible for any purpose.

g. In order to facilitate a free and accurate statement of the experiences of the complaining witness and to prevent discouragement of complaints, the district shall provide a nonthreatening environment.

(1) The district shall provide a room separate from the hearing room for the use of the complaining witness before and during breaks in testimony.

(2) At the discretion of the person conducting the hearing, the complaining witness shall be allowed reasonable periods of relief from examination and cross-examination during which he/she may leave the hearing room.

(3) The person conducting the hearing may:

(a) Arrange the seating within the hearing room so as to facilitate a less intimidating environment for the complaining witness

(b) Limit the time for taking the testimony of a complaining witness to the hours he/she is normally in school, if there is no good cause to take the testimony during other hours

(c) Permit one of the support persons to accompany the complaining witness to the witness stand

SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION/DUE PROCESS (continued)

6. Decision: The Board's decision as to whether to expel a student shall be made within 40 school days after the student is removed from his/her school of attendance, unless the student requests in writing that the decision be postponed. (Education Code 48918(a))

Whether the expulsion hearing is conducted in closed or public session by the Board, a hearing officer, or an administrative panel, the final action to expel shall be taken by the Board at a public meeting. (Education Code 48918(j))

(cf. 9321.1 - Closed Session Actions and Reports)

If the Board conducts the hearing and reaches a decision not to expel, this decision shall be final and the student shall be reinstated immediately.

Upon ordering an expulsion, the Board shall set a date when the student shall be reviewed for readmission to a school within the district. For a student expelled for any act listed under "Mandatory Recommendation and Mandatory Expulsion" above, this date shall be one year from the date the expulsion occurred, except that the Board may set an earlier date on a case-by-case basis. For a student expelled for other acts, this date shall be no later than the last day of the semester following the semester in which the expulsion occurred. If an expulsion is ordered during summer session or the intersession period of a year-round program, the Board shall set a date when the student shall be reviewed for readmission not later than the last day of the semester following the summer session or intersession period in which the expulsion occurred. (Education Code 48916)

At the time of the expulsion order, the Board shall recommend a plan for the student's rehabilitation, which may include: (Education Code 48916)

1. Periodic review, as well as assessment at the time of review, for readmission

2. Recommendations for improved academic performance, tutoring, special education assessments, job training, counseling, employment, community service, or other rehabilitative programs

With parent/guardian consent, students who have been expelled for reasons relating to controlled substances or alcohol may be required to enroll in a county-sponsored drug rehabilitation program before returning to school. (Education Code 48916.5)

SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION/DUE PROCESS (continued)

Written Notice to Expel

The Superintendent or designee shall send written notice of the decision to expel to the student or parent/guardian. This notice shall include the following:

1. The specific offense committed by the student for any of the causes for suspension or expulsion listed above under "Grounds for Suspension and Expulsion" (Education Code 48900.8)

2. The fact that a description of readmission procedures will be made available to the student and his/her parent/guardian (Education Code 48916)

3. Notice of the right to appeal the expulsion to the County Board of Education (Education Code 48918)

4. Notice of the alternative educational placement to be provided to the student during the time of expulsion (Education Code 48918)

5. Notice of the student's or parent/guardian's obligation to inform any new district in which the student seeks to enroll of the student's status with the expelling district, pursuant to Education Code 48915.1 (Education Code 48918)

Decision Not to Enforce Expulsion Order

In accordance with Board policy, when deciding whether to suspend the enforcement of an expulsion order, the Board shall take into account the following criteria:

1. The student's pattern of behavior

2. The seriousness of the misconduct

3. The student's attitude toward the misconduct and his/her willingness to follow a rehabilitation program

The suspension of the enforcement of an expulsion shall be governed by the following:

1. The Board may, as a condition of the suspension of enforcement, assign the student to a school, class, or program appropriate for the student's rehabilitation. This rehabilitation program may provide for the involvement of the student's parent/guardian in the student's education. However, a parent/guardian's refusal to participate in the rehabilitation program shall not be considered in the Board's determination as to whether the student has satisfactorily completed the rehabilitation program. (Education Code 48917)

SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION/DUE PROCESS (continued)

2. During the period when enforcement of the expulsion order is suspended, the student shall be on probationary status. (Education Code 48917)

3. The suspension of the enforcement of an expulsion order may be revoked by the Board if the student commits any of the acts listed under "Grounds for Suspension and Expulsion" above or violates any of the district's rules and regulations governing student conduct. (Education Code 48917)

4. When the suspension of enforcement of an expulsion order is revoked, a student may be expelled under the terms of the original expulsion order. (Education Code 48917)

5. Upon satisfactory completion of the rehabilitation assignment, the Board shall reinstate the student in a district school. Upon reinstatement, the Board may order the expunging of any or all records of the expulsion proceedings. (Education Code 48917)

6. The Superintendent or designee shall send written notice of any decision to suspend the enforcement of an expulsion order during a period of probation to the student or parent/guardian. The notice shall inform the parent/guardian of the right to appeal the expulsion to the County Board, the alternative educational placement to be provided to the student during the period of expulsion, and the student's or parent/guardian's obligation to inform any new district in which the student seeks to enroll of his/her status with the expelling district, pursuant to Education Code 48915.1(b). (Education Code 48918(j))

7. Suspension of the enforcement of an expulsion order shall not affect the time period and requirements for the filing of an appeal of the expulsion order with the County Board. (Education Code 48917)

Right to Appeal

The student or parent/guardian is entitled to file an appeal of the Board's decision with the County Board. The appeal must be filed within 30 days of the Board's decision to expel, even if the expulsion order is suspended and the student is placed on probation. (Education Code 48919)

The student shall submit a written request for a copy of the written transcripts and supporting documents from the district simultaneously with the filing of the notice of appeal with the County Board. The district shall provide the student with these documents within 10 school days following the student's written request. (Education Code 48919)

SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION/DUE PROCESS (continued)

Notifications to Law Enforcement Authorities

Prior to the suspension or expulsion of any student, the principal or designee shall notify appropriate city or county law enforcement authorities of any student acts of assault which may have violated Penal Code 245. (Education Code 48902)

The principal or designee also shall notify appropriate city or county law enforcement authorities of any student acts which may involve the possession or sale of narcotics or of a controlled substance. In addition, law enforcement authorities shall be notified regarding any acts by students regarding the possession, sale, or furnishment of firearms, explosives, or other dangerous weapons in violation of Education Code 48915(c)(1) or (5) or Penal Code 626.9 and 626.10. (Education Code 48902)

Within one school day after a student's suspension or expulsion, the principal or designee shall notify appropriate city or county law enforcement authorities, by telephone or other appropriate means, of any student acts which may violate Education Code 48900(c) or (d), relating to the possession, use, offering, or sale of controlled substances, alcohol, or intoxicants of any kind. (Education Code 48902)

Post-Expulsion Placements

The Board shall refer expelled students to a program of study that is: (Education Code 48915, 48915.01)

1. Appropriately prepared to accommodate students who exhibit discipline problems

2. Not provided at a comprehensive middle, junior, or senior high school or at any elementary school, unless the program is offered at a community day school established at such a site

3. Not housed at the school site attended by the student at the time of suspension

(cf. 6158 - Independent Study)
(cf. 6185 - Community Day School)

When the placement described above is not available and when the County Superintendent so certifies, students expelled for acts described in items #6-13 and #20-22 under "Grounds for Suspension and Expulsion" above may be referred to a program of study that is provided at another comprehensive middle, junior, or senior high school or at an elementary school. (Education Code 48915)

The program for a student expelled from any of grades K-6 shall not be combined or merged with programs offered to students in any of grades 7-12. (Education Code 48916.1)

SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION/DUE PROCESS (continued)

Readmission After Expulsion

Readmission procedures shall be as follows:

1. On the date set by the Board when it ordered the expulsion, the district shall consider readmission of the student. (Education Code 48916)

2. The Superintendent or designee shall hold a conference with the parent/guardian and the student. At the conference, the student's rehabilitation plan shall be reviewed and the Superintendent or designee shall verify that the provisions of this plan have been met. School regulations shall be reviewed and the student and parent/guardian shall be asked to indicate in writing their willingness to comply with these regulations.

3. The Superintendent or designee shall transmit to the Board his/her recommendation regarding readmission. The Board shall consider this recommendation in closed session if information would be disclosed in violation of Education Code 49073-49079. If a written request for open session is received from the parent/guardian or adult student, it shall be honored.

4. If the readmission is granted, the Superintendent or designee shall notify the student and parent/guardian, by registered mail, of the Board's decision regarding readmission.

5. The Board may deny readmission only if it finds that the student has not satisfied the conditions of the rehabilitation plan or that the student continues to pose a danger to campus safety or to other district students or employees. (Education Code 48916)

6. If the Board denies the readmission of a student, the Board shall determine either to continue the student's placement in the alternative educational program initially selected or to place the student in another program that serves expelled students, including placement in a county community school. (Education Code 48916)

7. The Board shall provide written notice to the expelled student and parent/guardian describing the reasons for denying readmittance into the regular program. This notice shall indicate the Board's determination of the educational program which the Board has chosen. The student shall enroll in that program unless the parent/guardian chooses to enroll the student in another school district. (Education Code 48916)

SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION/DUE PROCESS (continued)

Maintenance of Records

The district shall maintain a record of each suspension and expulsion, including its specific cause(s). (Education Code 48900.8)

Expulsion records of any student shall be maintained in the student's mandatory interim record, and sent to any school in which the student subsequently enrolls upon written request by that school. (Education Code 48918(k))

The Superintendent or designee shall, within five working days, honor any other district's request for information about an expulsion from this district. (Education Code 48915.1)

(cf. 5119 - Students Expelled from Other Districts)

Outcome Data

The Superintendent or designee shall maintain the following data: (Education Code 48900.8, 48916.1)

1. The number of students recommended for expulsion

2. The specific grounds for each recommended expulsion

3. Whether the student was subsequently expelled

4. Whether the expulsion order was suspended

5. The type of referral made after the expulsion

6. The disposition of the student after the end of the expulsion period