

VENTURA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

BOARD POLICY NO. 5144

ADOPTED: 02/24/97

CLASSIFICATION: Students

**REVISED: 05/29/12
08/28/23**

SUBJECT: Discipline

The County Superintendent and County Board are committed to providing a safe, supportive, and positive school environment which is conducive to student learning and achievement and desires to prepare students for responsible citizenship by fostering self-discipline and personal responsibility. The County Superintendent and County Board believe that high expectations for student behavior, use of effective school and classroom management strategies, provision of appropriate intervention and support, and parent/guardian involvement can minimize the need for disciplinary measures that exclude students from instruction as a means for correcting student misbehavior.

The County Superintendent or designee shall develop effective, age-appropriate strategies for maintaining a positive school climate and correcting student misbehavior at Ventura County Office of Education (VCOE) schools. The strategies shall focus on providing students with needed supports; communicating clear, appropriate, and consistent expectations and consequences for student conduct; and ensuring equity and continuous improvement in the implementation of VCOE discipline policies and practices.

In addition, the County Superintendent or designee's strategies for correcting student misconduct shall reflect the County Board's preference for the use of positive interventions and alternative disciplinary measures over exclusionary discipline measures.

Disciplinary measures that may result in loss of instructional time or cause students to be disengaged from school, such as suspension, shall be imposed only when required or permitted by law or when other means of correction have been documented to have failed. (Education Code 48900.5)

School personnel and volunteers shall not allow any disciplinary action taken against a student to result in the denial or delay of a school meal.

Seclusion and behavioral restraint are prohibited as a means of discipline and shall not be used to correct student behavior except as permitted pursuant to Education Code 49005.4 and in accordance with VCOE regulations.

The County Superintendent or designee may create a model discipline matrix that lists violations and the consequences for each as allowed by law.

The administrative staff at each school may develop disciplinary rules to meet the school's particular needs consistent with law, Board policy, and VCOE regulations. The County Board, at an open meeting, shall review the approved school discipline rules for consistency with Board policy and state law. Site-level disciplinary rules shall be included in VCOE's comprehensive safety plan.

At all times, the safety of students and staff and the maintenance of an orderly school environment shall be priorities in determining appropriate discipline. When misconduct occurs, staff shall attempt to identify the causes of the student's behavior and implement appropriate discipline. When choosing between different disciplinary strategies, staff shall consider the effect of each option on the student's health, well-being, and opportunity to learn.

Staff shall enforce disciplinary rules fairly, consistently, and in accordance with VCOE's nondiscrimination policies.

The County Superintendent or designee shall provide professional development as necessary to assist staff in developing the skills needed to effectively and equitably implement the disciplinary strategies adopted for VCOE schools, including, but not limited to, knowledge of school and classroom management skills and their consistent application, effective accountability and positive intervention techniques, and the tools to form strong, cooperative relationships with parents/guardians.

VCOE goals for improving school climate, based on suspension rates, surveys of students, staff, and parents/guardians regarding their sense of school safety and connectedness to the school community, and other local measures, shall be included in VCOE's local control and accountability plan, as required by law.

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

32280-32289.5	School safety plans
35146	Closed sessions
35291-35291.5	Rules
35291.5	School-adopted discipline rules
37223	Weekend classes
48900-48926	Suspension and expulsion
48980-48985	Parent/Guardian Notifications
49005-49006.4	Seclusion and restraint
49330-49335	Injurious objects
49550-49564.5	Meals for needy students
52060-52077	Local control and accountability plan

CIVIL CODE

1714.1 Liability of parent or guardian for act of willful misconduct by a
minor

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

307 Participation in school activities until departure of bus
353 Detention after school

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 20

1400-1482 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 29

794 Rehabilitation Act of 1973; Section 504

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 42

1751-1769j School Lunch Program
1773 School Breakfast Program