

Student Disturbances

The Solano County Office of Education (SCOE) desires to provide orderly campuses that create a positive school environment and are conducive to learning. When students initiate or are involved in a campus disturbance that has the potential to threaten the safety of students or staff, the County Superintendent or designee may request law enforcement assistance.

The Superintendent or designee and the principal of each school shall establish a school disturbance response plan that is intended to curb disruptions which may lead to riots, violence, or vandalism at school or at school-sponsored events. In developing each school's plan, the Superintendent or designee shall consult with local law enforcement authorities to create guidelines for law enforcement support and intervention.

Staff members are encouraged to be alert to conditions at school that may lead to a disturbance, such as racial or cultural conflict, student protests, or gang intimidation and confrontations. Staff who believe that a disturbance is imminent, or who see a disturbance occurring, shall immediately contact the principal and invoke the school disturbance response plan.

Students who participate in a campus disturbance shall be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with SCOE policy and administrative regulations.

Campus Disturbance Response Plan

All school staff shall respond to campus disturbances in accordance with the school's safety and response plan. Response plans shall describe:

1. The means to be used to signal an emergency situation and maintain communication among staff and with the Superintendent or designee
2. Each staff member's specific duties during a disturbance
3. Procedures for ensuring the safety of students and staff
4. Conditions, as prearranged with law enforcement authorities, under which the principal or designee shall:
 - a. Inform the police
 - b. Secure police assistance
 - c. Give the police responsibility for a specific crisis situation
5. Procedures for the orderly dismissal of school when authorized by the principal or designee

All media inquiries during crisis situations shall be routed to the SCOE Public Information Officer, Superintendent, or designee.

Prohibited Activities

A student involved or attempting to be involved in any of the following prohibited activities shall be subject to discipline:

1. Disturbing the peace, including, but not limited to, causing or attempting to cause a riot, burning or destroying property, fighting, challenging another to fight, or using offensive words likely to provoke a fight

Policy 5131.4 (Continued)

2. Disrupting school operations, including, but not limited to, exercising free expression which is obscene, libelous, or slanderous or so incites students as to create a clear and present danger of the commission of unlawful acts on school premises or the violation of lawful school regulations, or substantially disrupting the orderly operation of the school

Other examples of activities that may be considered disrupting school operations include, but are not limited to:

- a. Organizing or participating in unauthorized assemblies on school premises
 - b. Participating in sit-ins or stand-ins which deny students or employees normal access to school premises
 - c. Interfering with or unauthorized use of SCOE's computer system
3. Refusing to disperse, including, but not limited to, assembling for the purpose of causing a disruption and refusing to disperse upon the direction of school personnel
 4. Boycotting school, including, but not limited to, participating in any protest that involves nonattendance where attendance is required at school, class, or at a school activity

Any student who participates in a boycott shall be given an unexcused absence and may be classified as truant, regardless of any parent/guardian approval of the absence.

Extension of Class Period and/or Dismissal of School

During any disturbance in which additional students might become involved while changing classes, the principal or designee may notify all staff that any class currently in session will be extended until further notice. Upon receiving this notification, staff shall ensure that all students in their charge remain in one location under their supervision and shall ask all students who are in the halls to return to their classes immediately.

The principal may also request that the Superintendent dismiss school in accordance with the school disturbance response plan.

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

- 32210 Willful disturbance of public school or meeting
- 32211 Threatened disruption or interference with classes
- 32280-32288 School safety plans
- 35160 Authority of governing boards
- 38000-38005 Security patrols
- 44810 Willful interference with classroom conduct
- 44811 Disruption of classwork or extracurricular activities
- 48900 Grounds for suspension or expulsion
- 48907 Student exercise of free expression
- 51512 Prohibited use of electronic listening or recording device

PENAL CODE

- 243.5 Assault or battery on school property
- 403-420 Crimes against the public peace, especially:
 - 415 Fighting; noise; offensive words
 - 415.5 Disturbance of peace of school
 - 416 Assembly to disturb peace; refusal to disperse
- 626-626.10 Crimes on school grounds
- 627-627.7 Access to school premises
- 653b Loitering about schools or public places

Policy Cross-Reference:

- 0450 Comprehensive Safety Plan
- 3515 Campus Security
- 3516 Emergencies and Disaster Preparedness Plan
- 4131 Staff Development
- 5113 Absences and Excuses
- 5113.1 Truancy
- 5131.5 Vandalism, Theft and Graffiti
- 5136 Gangs
- 5144 Discipline
- 5144.1 Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process
- 5144.2 Suspension and Expulsion: Due Process (Students with Disabilities)
- 5145.2 Freedom of Speech/Expression
- 5145.9 Hate-Motivated Behavior
- 6163.4 Student Use of Technology