

ORANGE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Costa Mesa, California

SUPERINTENDENT'S POLICY

100-31

Discipline

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

The Superintendent or designee shall design a complement of effective, age-appropriate strategies for maintaining a positive school climate and correcting student misbehavior at Orange County Department of Education 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 Orange County Department of Education discipline policies and practices.

In addition, the Superintendent or designee's strategies shall reflect the Orange County Department of Education's preference for the use of positive interventions and alternative disciplinary measures over exclusionary discipline measures as a means for correcting student misbehavior.

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

The administrative staff at each school may develop disciplinary rules to meet the school's particular needs consistent with law, Orange County Department of Education policy and procedures. The Orange County Department of Education shall review the approved school discipline rules for consistency with Orange County Department of Education policy and state law. Site-level disciplinary rules shall be included in the Orange County Department of Education'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 the Orange County Department of Education's nondiscrimination policies.

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

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

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

32280-32288 School safety plans

35146 Closed sessions

35291 Rules

35291.5-35291.7 School-adopted discipline rules

37223 Weekend classes

44807.5 Restriction from recess

48900-48926 Suspension and expulsion

48980-48985 Notification of parent/guardian

49330-49335 Injurious objects

52060-52077 Local control and accountability plan

CIVIL CODE

1714.1 Parental liability for child's misconduct

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

307 Participation in school activities until departure of bus

353 Detention after school