

Business and Non-instructional Operations

Campus Security

Note: The following optional policy should be modified to reflect district practice.

The Governing Board is committed to providing a school environment that promotes the safety of students, employees, and visitors to school grounds. The Board also recognizes the importance of protecting district property, facilities, and equipment from vandalism and theft.

Note: A district's campus security strategy may be developed as part of the school's comprehensive school safety planning process (see BP/AR 0450 - Comprehensive Safety Plan).

The Superintendent or designee shall develop campus security procedures which are consistent with the goals and objectives of the district's comprehensive safety plan and site-level safety plans. Such procedures shall be regularly reviewed to reflect changed circumstances and to assess their effectiveness in achieving safe school objectives.

(cf. 0450 - Comprehensive Safety Plan)

Surveillance Systems

Note: The following optional section is for use by districts that have authorized the use of surveillance systems. Although courts have not ruled on the use of surveillance systems in a school setting, generally, the use of cameras (i.e., a "search" within the meaning of the Fourth Amendment) must be reasonable and the cameras must not be used in areas where there is a "reasonable expectation of privacy" (New Jersey v. T.L.O.). Thus, cameras should not be located in areas such as bathrooms, locker rooms, or private offices. Education Code 51512 prohibits the use of a recording device in a classroom without the prior consent of the teacher and principal. Examples of locations where cameras may generally be used include hallways, stairwells, parking lots, and cafeterias. For language about the use of cameras on school buses, see BP/AR 5131.1 - Bus Conduct.

Note: Before adopting the use of such a system, a cost-benefit analysis should be conducted to determine whether surveillance cameras are the most effective method to address the particular security concerns on the campus (e.g., certain locations are difficult to monitor and other means of deterrence have not been successful). Another determination is whether the cameras will be monitored in "real time" by trained personnel or whether the images will be recorded and later used as "evidence." The district should also determine whether the system will record images 24 hours a day, during school hours, or on some other schedule. Because audio surveillance generally requires a warrant, if the district's equipment has audio capability, it should be disabled so that sounds are not recorded.

The Board believes that reasonable use of surveillance cameras will help the district achieve its goals for campus security. In consultation with the safety planning committee and relevant staff, the Superintendent or designee shall identify appropriate locations for the placement of surveillance cameras. Cameras shall not be placed in areas where students, staff, or community members have a reasonable expectation of privacy. Any audio capability on the district's surveillance equipment shall be disabled so that sounds are not recorded.

(cf. 5131.1 - Bus Conduct)

(cf. 5145.12 - Search and Seizure)

Note: According to the National Institute of Justice, signage is an important component of a successful system and can serve as a deterrent against vandals. The Institute also recommends that the signs state whether or not the system is being actively monitored so that potential victims are not under the impression that a person is watching events live and will be able to provide immediate assistance. It is also recommended that districts provide notice to students and parents/guardians about the district's surveillance program in order to clarify that there is no expectation of privacy in

those locations where the cameras will be placed and that images from the cameras may be used in disciplinary proceedings.

Prior to the operation of the surveillance system, the Superintendent or designee shall ensure that signs are posted at conspicuous locations at affected school buildings and grounds. These signs shall inform students, staff, and visitors that surveillance may occur and shall state whether the district's system is actively monitored by school personnel. The Superintendent or designee shall also provide prior written notice to students and parents/guardians about the district's surveillance system, including the locations where surveillance may occur, explaining that the recordings may be used in disciplinary proceedings, and that matters captured by the camera may be referred to local law enforcement, as appropriate.

(cf. 5144 - Discipline)

(cf. 5144.1 - Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process)

Note: Pursuant to 20 USC 1232(g) (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act) and Education Code 49061, any recording or image of a student collected by the district is considered a "student record" and thus is subject to those laws regarding access, disclosure, and retention. See BP/AR 5125 - Student Records. In addition, a recording or image of a staff member that may be used in a personnel action is subject to the laws regarding personnel records, including an employee's right to comment on derogatory information placed in his/her file. See AR 4112.6/4212.6/4312.6 - Personnel Files.

To the extent that any images from the district's surveillance system create a student or personnel record, the Superintendent or designee shall ensure that the images are accessed, retained, and disclosed in accordance with law, Board policy, administrative regulation, and any applicable collective bargaining agreements.

(cf. 4112.6/4212.6/4312.6 - Personnel Files)

(cf. 5125 - Student Records)

(cf. 5125.1 - Release of Directory Information)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

32020 Access gates

32211 Threatened disruption or interference with classes

32280-32288 School safety plans

35160 Authority of governing boards

35160.1 Broad authority of school districts

38000-38005 Security patrols

49050-49051 Searches by school employees

49060-49079 Student records

PENAL CODE

469 Unauthorized making, duplicating or possession of key to public building

626-626.10 Disruption of schools

CALIFORNIA CONSTITUTION

Article 1, Section 28(c) Right to Safe Schools

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 20

1232g Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act

COURT DECISIONS

New Jersey v. T.L.O. (1985) 469 U.S. 325

ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINIONS

83 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 257 (2000)

75 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 155 (1992)

Management Resources:

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PUBLICATIONS

Safe Schools: A Planning Guide for Action, 2002

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF JUSTICE PUBLICATIONS

The Appropriate and Effective Use of Security Technologies in U.S. Schools: A Guide for Schools and Law Enforcement Agencies, 1999

WEB SITES

CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>

California Department of Education, Safe Schools Office: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/ss>

National Institute of Justice: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij>

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