

## California Education Code Parental Notification Requirements

**Title II, Chapter 6, Article 4 Section 48980** requires that each parent or guardian be notified of the following California Education Code sections, which have been paraphrased for your convenience; and **Section 48982** that each parent or guardian, by signature, acknowledges receipt of notification. Please see page 15 of this document for regulation section abbreviation definitions.

### **Asbestos Management Plan – 40 CFR 763.93**

The South Pasadena Unified School District maintains and annually updates its management plan for asbestos-containing material in school buildings. For a copy of the asbestos management plan, please contact Mr. Joe Hiton, Director of Facilities and Maintenance, at 626-441-5810 X7902.

### **Attendance Options/Permits – EC 48980(h)**

#### Residency – EC 48200 and 48204

A minor between the ages of 6 and 18 years is subject to compulsory education and, unless exempted, must enroll in school in the school district in which the residence of either the parent or legal guardian is located.

A pupil may alternatively comply with the residency requirements for school attendance in a school district, if he or she is any of the following: placed in a foster home or licensed children's institution within the boundaries of the school district pursuant to a commitment of placement under the Welfare and Institutions Code; an emancipated pupil who resides within the boundaries of the school district; a pupil who lives in the home of a caregiving adult that is located within the boundaries of the school district; or a pupil residing in a state hospital located within the boundaries of the school district.

A school district may also deem a pupil as having complied with the residency requirements for school attendance in the school district if one or both the parents or legal guardians of the pupil are employed within the boundaries of the school district.

#### Intradistrict Open Enrollment – EC 35160.5(b)

Residents of the School District may apply to other elementary schools within the District for their child to attend on a space available basis. Information on each school within the District is provided on the District website. Transportation to any other school is the responsibility of the parent.

Application materials will be available by April for the following year and must be received by the end of June 2012. For further information please contact the Office of Instruction at 626-441-5810 X1120.

#### Interdistrict Attendance – EC 46600 *et seq.*

The parent or legal guardian of a pupil may seek release from the home district to attend a school in any other school district. School districts may enter into agreements for the interdistrict transfer of one or more pupils for a period of up to five years. The agreement must specify the terms and conditions for granting or denying transfers, and may contain standards of reapplication and specify the terms and conditions under which a permit may be revoked. Unless otherwise specified in the agreement, a pupil will not have to reapply for an interdistrict transfer, and the school board of the district of enrollment must allow the pupil to continue to attend the school in which he/she is enrolled.

#### Open Enrollment Act – EC 48350 *et seq.*

Whenever a student is attending a school on the Open Enrollment List as identified by the Superintendent of Public Instruction, the student may seek to transfer to another school within or outside the district, as long as the school to which he/she is transferring has a higher Academic Performance Index (API). Parents of high school athletes should check on CIF sports eligibility rules before pursuing a transfer under this option. Transportation to any other school is the responsibility of the parent. School districts are allowed to adopt specific, written standards for acceptance and rejection of applications as long as students are selected through a "random and

unbiased” process. Unless the school board waives the deadline, requests for transfers are to be submitted by January 1 of the prior school year. To apply, parents must directly contact the school district to which they seek to transfer their student. The Open Enrollment List can be found on the California Department of Education website at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/eo/op/>.

#### **Availability of Prospectus – ED 49063 and 49091.14**

Each school must annually compile a prospectus of the curriculum to include titles, descriptions and instructional goals for every course offered by the school. Please contact your school principal for a copy of the prospectus.

#### **Child Find System – EC 56301**

Requires the special education local plan area (SELPA) to establish written policy and procedures for continuous child find system including children with disabilities who are migrant or homeless or wards of the state and children with disabilities attending private schools. Policy and procedures are to include written notification to all parents of their rights regarding identification, referral, assessment, instructional planning, implementation, review, and procedures for initiating referral for assessment.

#### **Directory Information – EC 49073**

“Directory Information” includes one or more of the following items: student’s name, address, telephone number, date and place of birth, major field of study, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, weight and height of members of athletic teams, dates of attendance, degrees and awards received, and the most recent public or private school attended by the student. The District has determined that the following individuals, officials, or organizations, upon request, may receive directory information concerning presently enrolled or former pupils: the PTA, the South Pasadena Educational Foundation (SPEF), law enforcement personnel, county probation personnel and county protective services agency staff, and organizations seeking scholarship applicants. No information may be released to private profit making entity other than employers, prospective employers and representatives of the news media, including, but not limited to, newspapers, magazines, and radio and television stations. In addition, names and addresses of pupils enrolled in 12<sup>th</sup> grade or who have left school prior to graduation may be given to private schools or colleges and universities operating under provisions of Division 21, to military government recruiters and, state and federal elected representatives. Should any parent or adult object to the release of directory information, he/she must notify the school district of his/her written prohibition of the receipt of this notification.

#### **Excused Absences – EC 46014 and 48205**

Pupils, with the written consent of their parents or guardians, may be excused from school in order to participate in religious exercises or to receive moral or religious instruction.

No pupil shall have his or her grade reduced or lose academic credit for any excused absence or absences, if missed assignments and tests that can reasonably be provided are satisfactorily completed within a reasonable period of time.

- (a) Notwithstanding Section 48200, a pupil shall be excused from school when the absence is:
  - (1) Due to his or her illness.
  - (2) Due to quarantine under the direction of a county or city health officer.
  - (3) For the purpose of having medical, dental, optometrical, or chiropractic services rendered.
  - (4) For the purpose of attending the funeral services of a member of his or her immediate family, so long as the absence is not more than one day if the service is conducted in California and not more than three days if the service is conducted outside California.
  - (5) For the purpose of jury duty in the manner provided for by law.
  - (6) Due to the illness or medical appointment during school hours of a child of whom the pupil is the custodial parent.
  - (7) For justifiable personal reasons, including, but not limited to, an appearance in court, attendance at a funeral service, observance of a holiday or ceremony of his or her religion, attendance at religious retreats, attendance at an employment conference, or attendance at an educational conference on the legislative or judicial process offered by a nonprofit organization when the pupil's absence is requested in writing by the parent or

guardian and approved by the principal or a designated representative pursuant to uniform standards established by the governing board.

- (8) For the purpose of serving as a member of a precinct board for an election pursuant to Section 12302 of the Elections Code.
- (b) A pupil absent from school under this section shall be allowed to complete all assignments and tests missed during the absence that can be reasonably provided and, upon satisfactory completion within a reasonable period of time, shall be given full credit therefore. The teacher of the class from which a pupil is absent shall determine which tests and assignments shall be reasonably equivalent to, but not necessarily identical to, the tests and assignments that the pupil missed during the absence.
- (c) For purposes of this section, attendance at religious retreats shall not exceed four hours per semester.
- (d) Absences pursuant to this section are deemed to be absences in computing average daily attendance and shall not generate state apportionment payments.
- (e) "Immediate family," as used in this section, has the same meaning as that set forth in Section 45194, except that references therein to "employee" shall be deemed to be references to "pupil."

#### **Free and Reduced-price Meals – EC 49510 *et seq.***

Free or reduced-price lunches are available at school for pupils whose parents or legal guardians qualify, based on annual household income, and complete the required application form. Applications forms may be obtained through your school office or by contacting Michelle Curry, Director of Food Services, at 626-441-5820 X2950. They are available electronically on the district website at [www.spusd.net](http://www.spusd.net), then "Administration", then "Business Services", then "Food and Nutrition Services" and then by clicking on "Meal Apps" located at the bottom of the page.

#### **Harm or Destruction of Animals – EC 32255 *et seq.***

Any pupil with a moral objection to dissecting or otherwise harming or destroying an animal, or any part thereof, must inform his or her teacher of the objection. Objections must be substantiated by a note from the pupil's parent or guardian.

A pupil who chooses to refrain from participation in an education project involving the harmful or destructive use of an animal may receive an alternative education project, if the teacher believes that an adequate alternative education project is possible. The teacher may work with the pupil to develop and agree upon an alternative education project so that the pupil may obtain the knowledge, information, or experience required by the course of study in question.

#### **Immunizations – EC 49403 and 48216, HSC 120335, 120365, and 120370**

Unless a pupil's parent or legal guardian provides the school with an acceptable signed waiver, a pupil must be immunized against certain communicable diseases. Students are prohibited from attending school until the immunization requirements are met. The school district shall cooperate with local health officials in measures necessary for the prevention and control of communicable diseases in school age children. The district may use any funds, property, or personnel and may permit any person licensed as a physician or registered nurse to administer an immunizing agent to any student whose parents have consented in writing.

State law requires the following immunizations before a child may attend school:

- (a) All new students to the South Pasadena Unified School District must provide proof of polio, diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, measles, mumps, and rubella immunizations.
- (b) All kindergarten students must also provide proof of vaccination against hepatitis B and varicella (chicken pox).
- (c) All seventh grade students must also provide proof of a second measles, mumps, and rubella vaccination.
- (d) All seventh through twelve grade students must also provide proof of pertussis booster.
- (e) A tuberculosis skin test (Mantoux) is required for all kindergarten students and all new students who have never attended a California school.

Free or low-cost immunizations for children are available at Monrovia Health Services. Please call 626-256-1600 for information.

Information about a permanent medical exemption or personal beliefs exemption from immunizations for your student is available at your school health office.

### **Instruction for Pupils with Temporary Disabilities – EC 48206.3, 48207 and 48208**

A pupil with a temporary disability which makes attendance in the regular day classes or the alternative educational program in which the pupil is enrolled impossible or inadvisable may receive individualized instruction provided in the pupil's home for one hour a day. Please contact Pupil Services at 626-441-5810 X1140 for further information.

A pupil with a temporary disability, who is in a hospital or other residential health facility, excluding a state hospital, may be deemed to have complied with the residency requirements for school attendance in the school district in which the hospital is located.

It is the responsibility of the parent or guardian to notify the school district in which the hospital or other residential health facility is located of the presence of a pupil with a temporary disability. Upon receipt of the notification, the district will within five working days determine whether the pupil will be able to receive individualized instruction pursuant to EC 48206.3 and, if so, provide the instruction within five working days or less.

### **Medical or Hospital Service – EC 49472**

#### Services Not Provided

The School District does not provide or make available medical and hospital services for pupils who are injured in accidents related to school activity or attendance.

#### Services Provided

The School District may provide or make available medical or hospital service through nonprofit membership corporations, defraying the cost of medical or hospital service, or through group, blanket or individual policies of accident insurance or through policies of liability insurance for injuries to pupils arising out of accidents related to school activity or attendance. No pupil is required to accept such service without the consent of his/her parent or legal guardian.

### **Medication Regimen – EC 49480**

The parent or legal guardian of any pupil taking medication on a regular basis must inform the school nurse or school office personnel of the medication being taken, the current dosage, and the name of the supervising physician. With the consent of the parent or legal guardian, the school nurse may communicate with the physician and may counsel with the school personnel regarding the possible effects of the medication on the pupil.

#### Administration of Prescribed Medication for Pupils – EC 49423 and 49423.1

Any pupil who is required to take, during the regular schoolday, medication prescribed by a physician or surgeon, may be assisted by the school nurse or other designated school personnel or may carry and self-administer auto-injectible epinephrine or inhaled asthma medication if the school district receives a written statement of instructions from the physician detailing the method, amount and time schedules by which such medication is to be taken.

1. Talk to your child's doctor about making a medicine schedule so that your child does not have to take medicine while at school.
2. If your child is regularly taking medicine for an ongoing health problem, even if he or she only takes the medicine at home, give a written note to the school nurse or other designated school employee at the beginning of each school year. You must list the medicine being taken, the current amount taken, and the name of the doctor who prescribed it (EC 49480).
3. If your child must take medicine while at school, give the school a written note from you and a written note from your child's doctor or other health care provider, who is licensed to practice in California. Provide new, updated notes at the beginning of each school year and whenever there is any change in the medicine, instructions, or doctor (EC 49423).
4. As parent or guardian, you must supply the school with all medicine your child must take during the school day. You or another adult must deliver the medicine to school, except medicine your child is authorized to carry and take by him or herself.

5. All controlled medicine, like Ritalin, must be counted and recorded on a medicine log when delivered to the school. You or another adult who delivered the medicine should verify the count by signing the log.
6. Each medicine your child must be given at school must be in a separate container labeled by a pharmacist licensed in the United States. The container must list your child's name, doctor's name, name of the medicine, and instructions for when to take the medicine and how much to take.
7. Pick up all discontinued, outdated, and/or unused medicine before the end of the school year.
8. Know and follow the medicine policy of your child's school.

### **Minimum & Pupil-free Staff Development Days – EC 48980(c)**

Please see the "Important Dates 2011-2012", available for download on [www.spusd.net](http://www.spusd.net), under "Calendars". It is also listed on the District website as part of the annual notifications.

### **Nondiscrimination Statement**

The South Pasadena Unified School District is committed to equal opportunity for all individuals in education. District programs and activities shall be free from discrimination based on gender, sex, race, color, religion, national origin, ethnic group identification, physical or mental disability, sexual orientation, or the perception of one or more of such characteristics. The District assures that lack of English language skills will not be a barrier to admission or participation in District programs. Complaints of unlawful discrimination are investigated through the Uniform Complaint Process. Such complaints must be filed no later than six months after knowledge of the alleged discrimination was first obtained. For a complaint form or additional information, contact: Dr. Steve Seaford, Assistant Superintendent, Instructional Services, 626-441-5810 X1120.

### **Notice of Alternative Schools – EC 58501**

"Notice of Alternative Schools"

California state law authorizes all school districts to provide for alternative schools. Education Code 58500 defines alternative school as a school or separate class group within a school which is operated in a manner designed to:

- (a) Maximize the opportunity for students to develop the positive values of self-reliance, initiative, kindness, spontaneity, resourcefulness, courage, creativity, responsibility, and joy.
- (b) Recognize that the best learning takes place when the student learns because of his/her desire to learn.
- (c) Maintain a learning situation maximizing student self-motivation and encouraging the student in his/her own time to follow his/her own interests. These interests may be conceived by him/her totally and independently or may result in whole or in part from a presentation by his/her teachers of choices of learning projects.
- (d) Maximize the opportunity for teachers, parents, and students to cooperatively develop the learning process and its subject matter. This opportunity shall be a continuous, permanent process.
- (e) Maximize the opportunity for the students, teachers, and parents to continuously react to the changing world, including, but not limited to, the community in which the school is located.

In the event any parent, pupil, or teacher is interested in further information concerning alternative schools, the county superintendent of schools, the administrative office of this district, and the principal's office in each attendance unit have copies of the law available for your information. This law particularly authorizes interested persons to request the governing board of the district to establish alternative school programs in each district.

### **Pesticide Products – EC 17612**

EC 48980.3: Requires the annual notification to include information on pesticide products as specified in EC 17612(a).

Requires a school to annually provide to all staff and to parents or guardians of pupils enrolled at the school written notification of all pesticide products expected to be applied during the upcoming year.

Notification to identify the active ingredient(s) in each pesticide product, an internet address on pesticide use and reduction developed under Food and Agricultural Code 13184 and provide an opportunity for staff and parents or guardians to register with the school if they wish to receive notification of individual pesticide applications at the school.

To obtain a copy of all pesticide products and expected use at the school facility during the year, please contact Mr. Joe Hiton, Director Facilities and Maintenance at 626-441-5810 X7902. The notice will identify the active ingredient(s) in each pesticide product and an internet address on pesticide use and reduction.

### **Physical Examination – EC 49451**

A parent or guardian may file annually with the school principal a written statement, signed by the parent or legal guardian, withholding consent to a physical examination of the pupil. However, whenever there is good reason to believe that the pupil is suffering from a recognized contagious or infectious disease, the pupil shall be sent home and shall not be permitted to return until school authorities are satisfied that the contagious or infectious disease no longer exists.

### **Pupil Records – EC 49063 and 49069, 34 CFR 99.7, 20 USC 1232g**

A cumulative record, whether recorded by handwriting, print, tapes, film, microfilm or other means, must be maintained on the history of a pupil's development and educational progress. The District will protect the privacy of such records. Parents/guardians have the right to 1) inspect and review the student's educational record maintained by the school, 2) request that a school correct records which they believe to be inaccurate or misleading, and 3) have some control over the disclosure of information from educational records. School officials with legitimate educational interests may access student records without parental consent as long as the official needs to review the records in order to fulfill his/her professional responsibility. Upon request from officials of another school district in which a student seeks or intends to enroll, the District shall disclose educational records without parental consent.

Parents' request to access their student's educational records must be submitted in a written form to the school principal or registrar, if applicable, or the appropriate district office staff personnel, and the school will have five (5) business days from the day of receipt of the request to provide access to the records. Copies of student records are available to parents for a fee of .35 per page.

Any challenge to school records must be submitted in writing to the school principal or appropriate district office staff personnel. A parent challenging school records must show that the records are 1) inaccurate, 2) an unsubstantiated personal conclusion or inference, 3) a conclusion or inference outside the observer's area of competence, 4) not based on the personal observation of a named person with the time and place of the observation noted, 5) misleading, or 6) in violation of the privacy or other rights of the student. Parents have the right to file a complaint with the United States Department of Education concerning an alleged failure by the District to comply with the provisions of the United States Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) by writing to: Family Policy Compliance Office, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Ave., SW, Washington, D.C. 20202-4605.

### **School Rules – EC 35291**

EC 48980(a): At the beginning of the first semester or quarter of the regular school term, the school district shall notify the parent or guardian of a minor pupil regarding the right or responsibility of the parent or guardian under Section 35291.

EC 35291: The school district may notify the parent or guardian of all pupils registered in schools of the district of the availability of rules of the district pertaining to student discipline.

### **Sex and HIV/AIDS Education – EC 51938**

The purpose of the California Comprehensive Sexual Health and HIV/AIDS Prevention Education Act (Education Codes 51930 through 51939) is to provide every student with the knowledge and

skills necessary to protect their sexual and reproductive health from unintended pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases.

The South Pasadena Unified School District will provide instruction in comprehensive sexual health education, HIV/AIDS prevention education, and/or will conduct assessments on pupil health behaviors and risks in the coming school year.

Parents or guardians may:

1. Inspect the written and audiovisual educational materials used in the comprehensive sexual health and HIV/AIDS prevention education
2. Request in writing that their child not receive comprehensive sexual health or HIV/AIDS prevention education
3. Request a copy of Education Codes 51930 through 51939
4. Be informed whether the comprehensive sexual health or HIV/AIDS prevention education will be taught by district personnel or outside consultants
5. When the district chooses to use outside consultants or to hold an assembly with guest speakers to teach comprehensive sexual health or HIV/AIDS prevention education, to be informed of:
  - a. The date of the instruction
  - b. The name of the organization or affiliation of each guest speaker

The District may administer to students in grades 7 through 12 anonymous, voluntary, and confidential research and evaluation instruments, including tests and surveys, containing age-appropriate questions about their attitudes or practices relating to sex. Prior to administering such a research and evaluation instrument, parents/guardians shall be provided written notice of the administration. Parents/guardians shall be given an opportunity to review the research instrument and to request in writing that their child not participate.

### **Sexual Harassment – EC 48980(g)**

The South Pasadena Unified School District is committed to maintaining a learning and working environment that is free from sexual harassment. Any student who engages in sexual harassment of anyone in or from the district may be subject to disciplinary action to and including expulsion. Any employee who permits, engages in, or fails to report sexual harassment shall be subject to disciplinary action up to and including dismissal. For a copy of the district's sexual harassment policy or to report incidences of sexual harassment, please contact Mrs. Karen Reed, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources, at 626-441-5810 X1130.

### **Surveys – EC 51513**

Anonymous, voluntary and confidential research and evaluation tools to measure student's health behaviors and risks, including tests, questionnaires, and surveys containing age-appropriate questions about the student's attitudes and practices relating to sex, family life, morality, and religion may be administered to students if the parent is notified in writing that 1) this test, questionnaire, or survey is to be administered, 2) the student's parent is given the opportunity to review the test, questionnaire, or survey, and 3) the parent consents in writing.

### **Uniform Complaint Policy and Procedure – 5 CCR 4622, EC 32289**

The District has established Uniform Complaint Procedures to resolve alleged acts of discrimination on the basis of age, sex, sexual orientation, ethnic group identification, race, national origin, religion, color, or physical or mental disability, which apply to all state and federally funded programs. Uniform complaint procedures shall also be used when addressing complaints alleging failure to comply with state and/or federal laws in adult education, consolidated categorical aid programs, migrant education, vocational education, child care and developmental programs, child nutrition programs and special education programs. A complaint must be filed no later than six months from the date the complainant first obtains knowledge of the concern. These uniform procedures require the complainant to submit a written complaint to Dr. Steve Seaford, Assistant Superintendent, Instructional Services, who will coordinate an investigation and response within 60 days of receipt of the written complaint, unless the complainant agrees in writing to extend the time line. A complainant may appeal the District's decision to the California Department of Education (CDE) by filing a written appeal within 15 days after receiving the District's decision. The CDE may directly intervene in the complaint without waiting for action by the district when one of the conditions listed in 5 CCR 4650 exists, including cases in which the district has not taken action

within 60 days of the date the complaint was filed with the district. If a district is found to have violated a State or Federal law and/or regulation, and the District does not take corrective action to comply, then various civil remedies may be available.

#### **Victim of a Violent Crime – 20 USC 7912a**

A student who becomes a victim of a violent criminal offense while in or on the grounds of a school that the student attends, has the right to transfer to another school within the district. The District has 14 calendar days to offer students the option to transfer. For more information, please contact Dr. Steve Seaford, Assistant Superintendent, Instructional Services, at 626-441-5810 X1120.

#### **Williams Complaint Policy & Procedure – EC 35186**

Every school must provide sufficient textbooks and instructional materials. Every student, including English learners, must have textbooks or instructional materials, or both, to use at home or after school. School facilities must be clean, safe, and maintained in good repair. There should be no teacher vacancies or misassignments. If a school is found to have deficiencies in these areas, and the school does not take corrective action, then a complaint form may be obtained at their school office, or Instructional Services, Room 4 at the District Office. Parents, students, teachers or any member of the public may submit a complaint regarding these issues. However, it is highly encouraged that individuals express their concerns to the school principal before completing the complaint forms to allow the school to respond to these concerns.

### *ELEMENTARY & MIDDLE SCHOOLS ONLY*

#### **Career Counseling & Course Selection – EC 221.5(d)**

Commencing grade 7, school personnel shall assist pupils with course selection or career counseling, exploring the possibility of careers, or courses leading to careers based on the interest and ability of the pupil and not on the pupil's gender. Parents or legal guardians are notified so that they may participate in such counseling sessions and decisions.

#### **Confidential Medical Services – EC 46010.1**

School authorities may excuse any pupil in grades 7-12 from the school for the purpose of obtaining confidential medical services without the consent of the pupil's parent or guardian.

#### **Entrance Health Screening – HSC 124085, 124100, 124105, and 120475**

State law requires that the parent or legal guardian of each pupil provide the school documentary proof that the pupil has received a health screening examination by a doctor within 90 days after entrance to first grade. Pupils may be excluded up to 5 days from school for failing to comply or not providing a waiver. Free health screening is available through the local health department. Contact Monrovia Health Services at 626-256-1600 for free health screening information.

#### **Oral Health Assessment – EC 49452.8**

Record of a dental assessment done by a dental professional is required for all kindergarteners and first graders attending public school for the first time. Dental assessments must be completed in the 12 months prior to entry or by May 31<sup>st</sup> of the pupil's first school year. This form is available on [www.spusd.net](http://www.spusd.net) under "enrollment/registration", then from the drop-down menu, choose "health information and forms".

### *HIGH SCHOOLS ONLY*

#### **Access by Military Recruiters – 20 USC 7908**

Federal law requires school district to provide military recruiters the same access to secondary school pupils as is provided to post secondary educational institutions or to prospective employers. Parents may request that the district not release their pupil's name, address and telephone number without prior written consent. Written notice must be submitted to the school if the parent or legal guardian wishes to deny access to this information.

### **Advanced Placement & International Baccalaureate Exam Fees – EC 52244**

Eligible high school students may receive financial assistance to cover the costs of the advanced placement examination fees or the International Baccalaureate examination fees, or both. Please contact Jack Smith, Assistant Principal, SPHS, for information.

### **California High School Exit Exam – EC 60850**

Each pupil completing grade 12 shall successfully pass the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE) as a condition of graduation. Each pupil shall take the examination beginning in grade 10 and may take the examination each subsequent administration until he/she passes the examination. A pupil with an Individualized Educational Plan (IEP) or Section 504 Plan may take the CAHSEE with accommodations that do not fundamentally alter the nature of the test. For more information, visit: [http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/hs/documents/cahseeqa08\\_003.doc](http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/hs/documents/cahseeqa08_003.doc).

### **California High School Proficiency Exam – 5 CCR 11523**

The California High School Proficiency Exam (CHSPE) is a voluntary test that assesses proficiency in basic reading, writing, and mathematics skills taught in public schools. Eligible pupils who pass the CHSPE are awarded a Certificate of Proficiency by the State Board of Education. A pupil who receives a Certificate of Proficiency may, with verified approval from the parent or legal guardian, leave high school early. The Certificate of Proficiency, however, is not equivalent to completing all course work required for regular graduation from high school. For more information, including administration dates and registration deadlines, visit the following website: <http://www.chspe.net/>.

### **Career Counseling & Course Selection – EC 221.5(d)**

Commencing grade 7, school personnel shall assist pupils with course selection or career counseling, affirmatively exploring the possibility of careers, or courses leading to careers based on the interest and ability of the pupil and not on the pupil's gender. Parents or legal guardians are notified so that they may participate in such counseling sessions and decisions.

### **College & Career Technical Education – EC 51229**

Requires annual notification to include a one-page written notice to parents or guardians of students in grades 9 through 12 that includes all of the following:

- 1) A brief explanation of the college admission requirements.
- 2) A list of the current UC and CSU websites that help students and their families learn about college admission requirements and that list high school courses that have been certified by UC as satisfying the requirements for admission to UC and CSU.
- 3) A brief description of what career technical education is, as defined by the CDE.
- 4) The internet address for the portion of the website of the CDE where students can learn more about career technical education.
- 5) Information about how students may meet with school counselors to help them choose courses that will meet college admission requirements and/or enroll in career technical education courses.

### **Confidential Medical Services – EC 46010.1**

School authorities may excuse any pupil in grades 7-12 from the school for the purpose of obtaining confidential medical services without the consent of the pupil's parent or guardian.

### **Health Insurance Coverage for Athletes – EC 32221.5**

Under state law, school districts are required to ensure that all members of school athletic teams have accidental injury insurance that covers medical and hospital expenses. This insurance requirement can be met by the school district offering insurance or other health benefits that cover medical and hospital expenses.

Some pupils may qualify to enroll in no-cost or low-cost local, state, or federally sponsored health insurance programs. Information about these programs may be obtained by contacting the Healthy Families Program at 800-880-5305, or by contacting Medi-Cal at 877-597-4777, for a no or low-cost local, state, or federally sponsored health insurance program.

**Title I – 20 USC 6311, 34 CFR 200.61**

Requires the school district, at the beginning of the school year, to notify parents or guardians of *each student attending a school receiving Title I funds* that they may request information regarding the professional qualifications of their child's classroom teacher(s). Notification to be in an understandable and uniform format, and to the extent practicable, provided in a language that the parents can understand.

Further requires timely notification whenever a child has been assigned, or has been taught for four or more consecutive weeks, by a teacher of a core academic subject who does not meet the No Child Left Behind Act teacher qualification requirements.

**Tobacco-free Campus – HSC 104420, 104495**

Requires all school districts and county offices of education that receive Tobacco Use Prevention (TUPE) funding to adopt and enforce a tobacco-free campus policy. Information about the policy and enforcement procedures must be communicated clearly to school personnel, parents, pupils and the larger community. Signs stating “Tobacco use is prohibited” must be prominently displayed at all entrances to school property. Information about smoking cessation support programs must be made available and encouraged for pupils and staff.

HSC 104495 further prohibits smoking or use of any tobacco-related products and disposal of any tobacco-related waste within 25 feet of a school playground. The prohibition does not apply to a public sidewalk located within 25 feet of a playground.

**SUGGESTED NOTIFICATIONS****Acceptable Use of Technology**

One of the adopted goals of the South Pasadena Unified School District is to assist in advancing the use of technology to enhance student learning. Access to South Pasadena Unified School District technology is a privilege, not a right, and students enrolled in District programs or activities must follow District guidelines and procedures regarding acceptable use of technology. All South Pasadena Unified School District students and their parents/guardians shall sign the Acceptable Use of Technology Agreement prior to using District technological resources. The South Pasadena Unified School District shall make a diligent effort to filter the inappropriate or harmful matter accessible through the Internet, and students shall also take responsibility not to initiate access to inappropriate or harmful matter while using District technology. Violation of this policy may result in disciplinary action and the loss of the privilege to use the technology and/or civil or criminal liability.

**Avoiding Absences, Written Excuses**

South Pasadena School District urges parents to make sure their children attend school regularly and to schedule medical and other appointments so that a student misses none or only a small portion of the school day. The district also asks that travel or other absences be avoided during the time school is in session. The higher the district's daily attendance rate, the more a student will learn and the greater the amount of funding that the district will receive from the state for classroom instruction and academic programs. The school calendar is designed to minimize problems for families which plan vacations around traditional holiday periods, and thereby minimize student absences.

Following an absence, a student is required to bring a written excuse from home when returning to school. Illnesses, and doctor and dental appointments are considered excused absences. Absences without a written excuse are recorded as unexcused.

**Tardiness**

Children should be encouraged to be prompt as part of their training. They are expected to be at school on time. If a child is late, the child should bring an excuse from home to the school office. Frequent tardiness without a valid excuse may be considered truancy under state law.

Truancy Definitions – EC 48260, 48262 and 48263.6

A student is considered truant after three absences or three tardies of more than 30 minutes each time and the absences or tardies are unexcused. After a student has been reported as a truant three or more times in a school year, the student is considered a habitual truant. A student who is absent from school without a valid excuse for 10% or more of the schooldays in one school year, from the date of enrollment to the current date, is considered a chronic truant. Unexcused absences are all absences that do not fall within EC 48205. The text of EC 48205 is provided on page 2 of this list of Annual Notifications.

Arrest of Truants/School Attendance Review Boards – EC 48263 and 48264

The school attendance supervisor, administrator or designee, a peace officer, or probation officer may arrest or assume temporary custody during school hours, of any minor who is found away from his/her home and who is absent from school without valid excuse within the county, city or school district. A student who is truant may be referred to a School Attendance and Review Board (SARB).

**Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting – PC 11164 *et seq.***

Staff of the South Pasadena Unified School District are required by law to report cases of child abuse and neglect whenever staff have a reasonable suspicion. Staff may not investigate to confirm the suspicion. Both the staff name and the report itself are confidential and cannot be disclosed except to authorized agencies.

**Custody Issues**

Custody disputes must be handled by the courts. The school has no legal jurisdiction to refuse a biological parent access to his/her child and/or school records. The only exception is when signed restraining orders or proper divorce papers, specifically stating visitation limitations, are on file in the school office. Any student release situation which leaves the student's welfare in question will be handled at the discretion of the site administrator or designee. Should any such situation become a disruption to the school, law enforcement will be contacted and an officer requested to intervene. Parents are asked to make every attempt not to involve school sites in custody matters. The school will make every attempt to reach the custodial parent when a parent or any other person not listed on the emergency card attempts to pick up a child.

**Dangerous Objects**

Laser Pointer – PC 417.27

It is a crime for any student to possess a laser pointer on any elementary or secondary school premise, unless the possession is for a valid instructional or other school-related purpose.

Imitation Firearm – PC 12550, 12556

A BB device can be considered an imitation firearm. The Penal Code makes it a criminal offense to openly display or expose any imitation firearm in a public place, including a public school.

**Disaster Preparedness Educational Materials – EC 32282.5**

*Note:* Documents are posted on the CDE website at: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/ss/cp/pupilsafetyeducmat.asp>.

**Disruption in a Public School or Public School Meeting – EC 32210**

Any person who willfully disturbs any public school or any public school meeting is guilty of a misdemeanor, and shall be punished by a fine of not more than five hundred dollars (\$500).

**Electronic Signaling Device – EC 48901.5**

By policy or practice the school district, or its individual schools, may regulate the right of pupils to possess or use electronic signaling devices, including cell phones and pagers, during the school day or at school functions.

*Note:* No student may be prohibited from possessing or using an electronic signaling device that is determined by a licensed physician to be essential for the health of the pupil and the use of which is limited to the pupil's health.

**Foster Youth Educational Placement – EC 48850 *et seq.***

Requires school district educational liaisons to ensure pupils in foster care receive stable school placements which are in the best interests of the child, placement in least restrictive educational programs, access to academic resources, services, and extracurricular and enrichment activities available to all pupils, full and partial credits for coursework taken, and meaningful opportunity to meet state pupil academic achievement standards.

**Homeless Youth Education – 42 US 11432**

Requires school district homeless liaisons to ensure parents of homeless pupils are informed of educational and related opportunities available to their children and are provided with meaningful opportunities to participate in education of their children.

Notification may address:

1. Liaison contact information.
2. Circumstances for eligibility (*e.g.*, living in a shelter, a motel, hotel, a house or apartment with more than one family because of economic hardship or loss, in an abandoned building, in a car, at a campground, or on the street, in temporary foster care or with an adult who is not your parent or guardian, in substandard housing, or with friends or family because you are a runaway or unaccompanied youth).
3. Right to immediate enrollment in school of origin or school where currently residing without proof of residency, immunization records or tuberculosis skin-test results, school records, or legal guardianship papers.
4. Right to education and other services (*e.g.*, to participate fully in all school activities and programs for which child is eligible, to qualify automatically for nutrition programs, to receive transportation services, and to contact liaison to resolve disputes that arise during enrollment).

Notice of educational rights of homeless children to be disseminated at places where children receive services, such as schools, shelters, and soup kitchens.

**Medical Records Sharing – HSC 120440**

Requires a school district planning to provide information from pupils' medical records to an immunization system to inform students or parents or guardians of the following.

1. Medical information may be shared with local health departments and the State Department of Health Services
2. The name and address of the State Department of Health Services or of the immunization registry with which the school will share the information
3. Information shared with local health departments and the State Department of Health Services will be treated as confidential and will only be used to share with each other, and, upon request, with health care providers, schools, child care facilities, family child care homes, WIC service providers, county welfare departments, foster care agencies, and health care plans

4. The providers, agencies, and institutions will, in turn, treat the shared information as confidential, and shall use it only as specified
5. The student or parent or guardian has the right to examine any immunization-related information shared in this manner and to correct any errors in it
6. The student or the parent or guardian may refuse to allow this information to be shared in the manner described, or to receive immunization reminder notifications at any time, or both.
7. After refusal, a physician may maintain access to this information for the purposes of patient care or protecting the public health. After refusal, the local health department and the State Department of Health Services may maintain access to this information for the purpose of protecting the public health

*Note:* Students or parents or guardians may refuse to permit record sharing. Notification may be provided by ordinary mail and must include reasonable means for refusal, such as return form or contact telephone number.

### **Megan's Law – PC 290 *et seq.***

Information about registered sex offenders in California can be found on the California Department of Justice's website, <http://meganslaw.ca.gov/>. The website also provides information on how to protect yourself and your family, facts about sex offenders, frequently asked questions, and sex offender registration requirements in California.

### **Property Damage – EC 48904**

Parents or guardians may be held financially liable if their child willfully damages school property or fails to return school property loaned to the child. The school may further withhold the grades, diploma, and transcript of the pupil until restitution is paid.

### **Requirement of Parent/Guardian School Attendance – EC 48900.1**

Teachers may require the parent or guardian of a student who has been suspended by a teacher to attend a portion of that school day in his or her student's classroom. The attendance of the parent or guardian will be limited to the class from which the student was suspended. A written notice will be sent to the parent or guardian regarding implementation of this requirement. Employers are not allowed to apply sanctions against the parent or guardian for this requirement if the parent or guardian has given reasonable notice to his/her employer.

### **School Accountability Report Card – EC 35256 and 35258**

Requires school districts to develop for each school a school accountability report card. Content of the report card defined by EC 33126, 32286 and 52056. Requires districts to publicize the report cards, and notify parents or guardians that a hard copy will be provided upon request. Commencing with the 2008-2009 school year, hard copies to be made available by February 1. Parents may access the most recent SARC through each individual school website, or through the district website, at [www.spusd.net](http://www.spusd.net), then "About Us", then "School Accountability Report Cards".

### **School Safety Plan – EC 32280 *et seq.***

Each South Pasadena Unified School District school site has a School Safety Plan, which includes a comprehensive disaster preparedness plan. Copies are available to read at each school office. Fire drills are held monthly; emergency drills are held annually throughout the district.

### **School Visiting Procedures – EC 51101(a)(12)**

Parents and guardians of students enrolled in public schools have the right and should have the opportunity, as mutually supportive and respectful partners in the education of their children, to be informed in advance about school rules, including procedures for visiting the school.

PC 627.6: Requires schools to post at every entrance a notice setting forth the visitor registration requirements, hours during which registration is required, the registration location, the route to take to that location, and the penalties for violation of registration requirements.

## **Search of School Lockers**

School lockers remain the property of the South Pasadena Unified School District even when assigned to students. The lockers are subject to search whenever the District finds a need to do so.

The use of the school locker for other than school-related purposes is prohibited. Improper use of school lockers will result in disciplinary action.

## **Section 504 – 29 USC 794, 34 CFR 104.32**

Section 504 of the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (42 USC 12101 *et seq.*) prohibit discrimination on the basis of disability. Section 504 requires school districts to identify and evaluate children with disabilities in order to provide them a free, appropriate public education. Individuals with a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities, *including seeing, hearing, walking, breathing, working, performing manual tasks, learning, eating, sleeping, standing, lifting, bending, reading, concentrating, thinking, speaking*, are eligible to receive services and aids designed to meet their needs as adequately as the needs of nondisabled students are met.

Parents or guardians should be informed of the following: the name and contact information of the person designated by the district responsible for implementing Section 504, the screening and evaluation procedures used whenever there is reason to believe that a student has a disability that limits his or her ability to attend or function at school, the right to a written accommodation plan if the student is found to have a disability that requires services under Section 504, the right to be educated with nondisabled students to the maximum extent appropriate to the student's individual needs, and notice of the procedural safeguards guaranteed by law.

*Note:* The definition of “major life activity” has been expanded due to amendments to the ADA in 2009.

## **Student Conduct – EC 51100**

### Duties of Pupils – 5 CCR 300

Pupils shall conform to school regulations, obey all directions, be diligent in study and respectful to teachers and others in authority, and refrain from the use of profane and vulgar language.

### Jurisdiction – EC 44807

Teaching staff shall hold pupils to strict account for their conduct on the way to and from school, on the playgrounds, or during recess.

### Mandatory Expulsion Violations – EC 48915

Schools shall immediately suspend and recommend expulsion for students that commit any of the following acts at school or at a school activity off school grounds:

1. Possessing, selling, or otherwise furnishing a firearm.
2. Brandishing a knife at another person.
3. Unlawfully selling a controlled substance.
4. Committing or attempting to commit a sexual assault.
5. Possession of an explosive.

The school board shall order the student expelled upon finding that the student committed the act.

*Note:* AB 870 amended PC 626.10 to include razor blades and box cutters as prohibited weapons to bring or possess upon the grounds of, or within, any public or public school providing instruction in kindergarten or grades 1 to 12.

## **Sunscreen and Sun-protective Clothing – EC 35183.5**

Provides that pupils may use sunscreen during the school day without a physician's note or prescription.

Requires the school to adopt a policy regarding the type of sun-protective clothing, including but not limited to hats, that pupils may wear for outdoor use during the school day.

## **Walking or Riding a Bike to School – VC 21212**

No person under 18 years of age may operate a bicycle, non-motorized scooter, skateboard or wear in-line or roller skates, nor ride as a passenger upon a bicycle, non-motorized scooter, or skateboard upon a street, bikeway, or any other public bicycle path or trail unless that person is wearing a properly fitted and fastened bicycle helmet that meets specified standards.

## **KEY TO CODE AND REGULATION SECTION ABBREVIATIONS**

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| <i>Abbreviation</i> | <i>Complete Title</i>                    |
|---------------------|--|
| <b>EC</b>           | California Education Code                |
| <b>5 CCR</b>        | Title 5, California Code of Regulations  |
| <b>HSC</b>          | California Health and Safety Code        |
| <b>PC</b>           | California Penal Code                    |
| <b>VC</b>           | California Vehicle Code                  |
| <b>WIC</b>          | California Welfare and Institutions Code |
| <b>34 CFR</b>       | Title 34, Code of Federal Regulations    |
| <b>40 CFR</b>       | Title 40, Code of Federal Regulations    |
| <b>USC</b>          | United States Code                       |

# **CALIFORNIA EDUCATION CODE**

## **SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION LAWS**

### **California Education Codes (EC) 48900 *et seq.***

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#### **EC 48900—Grounds for Suspension and Expulsion**

A pupil shall not be suspended from school or recommended for expulsion, unless the superintendent or the principal of the school in which the pupil is enrolled determines that the pupil has committed an act as defined pursuant to any of subdivisions (a) to (r), inclusive:

- (a) (1) Caused, attempted to cause, or threatened to cause physical injury to another person; (2) Willfully used force or violence upon the person of another, except in self-defense.
- (b) Possessed, sold, or otherwise furnished a firearm, knife, explosive, or other dangerous object, unless, in the case of possession of an object of this type, the pupil had obtained written permission to possess the item from a certificated school employee, which is concurred in by the principal or the designee of the principal.
- (c) Unlawfully possessed, used, sold, or otherwise furnished, or been under the influence of, a controlled substance listed in Chapter 2 (commencing with Section 11053) of Division 10 of the Health and Safety Code, an alcoholic beverage, or an intoxicant of any kind.
- (d) Unlawfully offered, arranged, or negotiated to sell a controlled substance listed in Chapter 2 (commencing with Section 11053) of Division 10 of the Health and Safety Code, an alcoholic beverage, or an intoxicant of any kind, and either sold, delivered, or otherwise furnished to a person another liquid, substance, or material and represented the liquid, substance, or material as a controlled substance, alcoholic beverage, or intoxicant.
- (e) Committed or attempted to commit robbery or extortion.
- (f) Caused or attempted to cause damage to school property or private property.
- (g) Stolen or attempted to steal school property or private property.
- (h) Possessed or used tobacco, or products containing tobacco or nicotine products, including, but not limited to, cigarettes, cigars, miniature cigars, clove cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, snuff, chew packets, and betel. However, this section does not prohibit use or possession by a pupil of his or her own prescription products.
- (i) Committed an obscene act or engaged in habitual profanity or vulgarity.
- (j) Unlawfully possessed or unlawfully offered, arranged, or negotiated to sell drug paraphernalia, as defined in Section 11014.5 of the Health and Safety Code.
- (k) Disrupted school activities or otherwise willfully defied the valid authority of supervisors, teachers, administrators, school officials, or other school personnel engaged in the performance of their duties.
- (l) Knowingly received stolen school property or private property.
- (m) Possessed an imitation firearm. As used in this section, "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.
- (n) Committed or attempted to commit a sexual assault as defined in Section 261, 266c, 286, 288, 288a, or 289 of the Penal Code or committed a sexual battery as defined in Section 243.4 of the Penal Code.
- (o) Harassed, threatened, or intimidated a pupil who is a complaining witness or a witness in a school disciplinary proceeding for the purpose of either preventing that pupil from being a witness or retaliating against that pupil for being a witness, or both.
- (p) Unlawfully offered, arranged to sell, negotiated to sell, or sold the prescription drug Soma.
- (q) Engaged in, or attempted to engage in, hazing. For purposes of this subdivision, "hazing"

means a method of initiation or preinitiation into a pupil 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 pupil. For purposes of this subdivision, "hazing" does not include athletic events or school-sanctioned events.

- (r) Engaged in an act of bullying, including, but not limited to, bullying committed by means of an electronic act, as defined in subdivisions (f) and (g) of Section 32261, directed specifically toward a pupil or school personnel.
- (s) A pupil shall not be suspended or expelled for any of the acts enumerated in this section, unless that act is related to school activity or school attendance occurring within a school under the jurisdiction of the superintendent of the school district or principal or occurring within any other school district. A pupil may be suspended or expelled for acts that are enumerated in this section and related to school activity or attendance that occur at any time, including, but not limited to, any of the following:
  - (1) While on school grounds.
  - (2) While going to or coming from school.
  - (3) During the lunch period whether on or off the campus.
  - (4) During, or while going to or coming from, a school sponsored activity.
- (t) A pupil who aids or abets, as defined in Section 31 of the Penal Code, the infliction or attempted infliction of physical injury to another person may be subject to suspension, but not expulsion, pursuant to this section, except that a pupil who has been adjudged by a juvenile court to have committed, as an aider and abettor, a crime of physical violence in which the victim suffered great bodily injury or serious bodily injury shall be subject to discipline pursuant to subdivision (a).
- (u) As used in this section, "school property" includes, but is not limited to, electronic files and databases.
- (v) A superintendent of the school district or principal may use his or her discretion to provide alternatives to suspension or expulsion, including, but not limited to, counseling and an anger management program, for a pupil subject to discipline under this section.
- (w) It is the intent of the Legislature that alternatives to suspension or expulsion be imposed against a pupil who is truant, tardy, or otherwise absent from school activities.

### **EC 48900.2—Sexual Harassment**

In addition to the reasons specified in Section 48900, a pupil may be suspended from school or recommended for expulsion if the superintendent or the principal of the school in which the pupil is enrolled determines that the pupil has committed sexual harassment as defined in Section 212.5.

For the purposes of this chapter, the conduct described in Section 212.5 must be considered by a reasonable person of the same gender as the victim to be sufficiently severe or pervasive to have a negative impact upon the individual's academic performance or to create an intimidating, hostile, or offensive educational environment. This section shall not apply to pupils enrolled in kindergarten and grades 1 to 3, inclusive.

### **EC 48900.3—Hate Violence**

In addition to the reasons set forth in Sections 48900 and 48900.2, a pupil in any of grades 4 to 12, inclusive, may be suspended from school or recommended for expulsion if the

superintendent or the principal of the school in which the pupil is enrolled determines that the pupil has caused, attempted to cause, threatened to cause, or participated in an act of, hate violence, as defined in subdivision (e) of Section 233.

#### ***EC 48900.4—Harassment, Threats or Intimidation***

In addition to the grounds specified in Sections 48900 and 48900.2, a pupil enrolled in any of grades 4 to 12, inclusive, may be suspended from school or recommended for expulsion if the superintendent or the principal of the school in which the pupil is enrolled determines that the pupil has intentionally engaged in harassment, threats, or intimidation, directed against school district personnel or pupils, 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 either school personnel or pupils by creating an intimidating or hostile educational environment.

#### **EC 48900.5—Limitations on Imposing Suspension**

Suspension shall be imposed only when other means of correction fail to bring about proper conduct. However, a pupil, including an individual with exceptional needs, as defined in Section 56026, may be suspended for any of the reasons enumerated in Section 48900 upon a first offense, if the principal or superintendent of schools determines that the pupil violated subdivision (a), (b), (c), (d), or (e) of Section 48900 or that the pupil's presence causes a danger to persons or property or threatens to disrupt the instructional process.

#### **EC 48900.7—Terroristic Threats**

- (a) In addition to the reasons specified in Sections 48900, 48900.2, 48900.3, and 48900.4, a pupil may be suspended from school or recommended for expulsion if the superintendent or the principal of the school in which the pupil is enrolled determines that the pupil has made terroristic threats against school officials or school property, or both.
- (b) For the purposes of this section, "terroristic threat" shall include any statement, whether written or oral, by a person who willfully threatens to commit a crime which will result in death, great bodily injury to another person, or property damage in excess of one thousand dollars (\$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, which, on its face and under the circumstances in which it is made, is so unequivocal, unconditional, immediate, and specific as to convey to the person threatened, a gravity of purpose and an immediate prospect of execution of the threat, and thereby causes that person reasonably to be in sustained fear for his or her own safety or for his or her immediate family's safety, or for the protection of school district property, or the personal property of the person threatened or his or her immediate family.

#### **EC 48915—Circumstances for Recommending Expulsion**

- (a) Except as provided in subdivisions (c) and (e), the principal or the superintendent of schools shall recommend the expulsion of a pupil for any of the following acts committed at school or at a school activity off school grounds, unless the principal or superintendent finds that expulsion is inappropriate, due to the particular circumstance:
  - (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 pupil.

- (3) Unlawful possession of any controlled substance listed in Chapter 2 (commencing with Section 11053) of Division 10 of the Health and Safety Code, except for the first offense for the possession of not more than one avoirdupois ounce of marijuana, other than concentrated cannabis.
  - (4) Robbery or extortion.
  - (5) Assault or battery, as defined in Sections 240 and 242 of the Penal Code, upon any school employee.
- (b) Upon recommendation by the principal, superintendent of schools, or by a hearing officer or administrative panel appointed pursuant to subdivision (d) of Section 48918, the governing board may order a pupil expelled upon finding that the pupil committed an act listed in subdivision (a) or in subdivision (a), (b), (c), (d), or (e) of Section 48900. A decision to expel shall be based on a finding of one or both of the following:
- (1) Other means of correction are not feasible or have repeatedly failed to bring about proper conduct.
  - (2) Due to the nature of the act, the presence of the pupil causes a continuing danger to the physical safety of the pupil or others.
- (c) The principal or superintendent of schools shall immediately suspend, pursuant to Section 48911, and shall recommend expulsion of a pupil that he or she determines has committed any of the following acts at school or at a school activity off school grounds:
- (1) Possessing, selling, or otherwise furnishing a firearm. This subdivision does not apply to an act of possessing a firearm if the pupil had obtained prior written permission to possess the firearm from a certificated school employee, which is concurred in by the principal or the designee of the principal. This subdivision applies to an act of possessing a firearm only if the possession is verified by an employee of a school district.
  - (2) Brandishing a knife at another person.
  - (3) Unlawfully selling a controlled substance listed in Chapter 2 (commencing with Section 11053) of Division 10 of the Health and Safety Code.
  - (4) Committing or attempting to commit a sexual assault as defined in subdivision (n) of Section 48900 or committing a sexual battery as defined in subdivision (n) of Section 48900.
  - (5) Possession of an explosive.
- (d) The governing board shall order a pupil expelled upon finding that the pupil committed an act listed in subdivision (c), and shall refer that pupil to a program of study that meets all of the following conditions:
- (1) Is appropriately prepared to accommodate pupils who exhibit discipline problems.
  - (2) Is not provided at a comprehensive middle, junior, or senior high school, or at any elementary school.
  - (3) Is not housed at the schoolsite attended by the pupil at the time of suspension.
- (e) Upon recommendation by the principal, superintendent of schools, or by a hearing officer or administrative panel appointed pursuant to subdivision (d) of Section 48918, the governing board may order a pupil expelled upon finding that the pupil, at school or at a school activity off of school grounds violated subdivision (f), (g), (h), (i), (j), (k), (l), or (m) of Section 48900, or Section 48900.2, 48900.3, or 48900.4, and either of the following:
- (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 pupil causes a continuing danger to the physical safety of the pupil or others.

- (f) The governing board shall refer a pupil who has been expelled pursuant to subdivision (b) or (e) to a program of study which meets all of the conditions specified in subdivision (d). Notwithstanding this subdivision, with respect to a pupil expelled pursuant to subdivision (e), if the county superintendent of schools certifies that an alternative program of study is not available at a site away from a comprehensive middle, junior, or senior high school, or an elementary school, and that the only option for placement is at another comprehensive middle, junior, or senior high school, or another elementary school, the pupil may be referred to a program of study that is provided at a comprehensive middle, junior, or senior high school, or at an elementary school.
- (g) As used in this section, "knife" means any dirk, dagger, or other weapon with a fixed, sharpened blade fitted primarily for stabbing, a weapon with a blade fitted primarily for stabbing, a weapon with a blade longer than 3½ inches, a folding knife with a blade that locks into place, or a razor with an unguarded blade.
- (h) As used in this section, the term "explosive" means "destructive device" as described in Section 921 of Title 18 of the United States Code.

## **CALIFORNIA COMPREHENSIVE SEXUAL HEALTH AND HIV/AIDS PREVENTION EDUCATION ACT**

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### ***EC 51930***

- (a) This chapter shall be known and may be cited as the California Comprehensive Sexual Health and HIV/AIDS Prevention Education Act.
- (b) The purposes of this chapter are as follows:
  - (1) To provide a pupil with the knowledge and skills necessary to protect his or her sexual and reproductive health from unintended pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases.
  - (2) To encourage a pupil to develop healthy attitudes concerning adolescent growth and development, body image, gender roles, sexual orientation, dating, marriage, and family.

### ***EC 51931***

For the purposes of this chapter, the following definitions apply:

- (a) "Age appropriate" refers to topics, messages, and teaching methods suitable to particular ages or age groups of children and adolescents, based on developing cognitive, emotional, and behavioral capacity typical for the age or age group.
- (b) "Comprehensive sexual health education" means education regarding human development and sexuality, including education on pregnancy, family planning, and sexually transmitted diseases.
- (c) "English learner" means a pupil as described in subdivision (a) of Section 306.
- (d) "HIV/AIDS prevention education" means instruction on the nature of HIV/AIDS, methods of transmission, strategies to reduce the risk of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection, and social and public health issues related to HIV/AIDS. For the purposes of this chapter, "HIV/AIDS prevention education" is not comprehensive sexual health education.
- (e) "Instructors trained in the appropriate courses" means instructors with knowledge of the most recent medically accurate research on human sexuality, pregnancy, and sexually transmitted diseases.
- (f) "Medically accurate" means verified or supported by research conducted in compliance with scientific methods and published in peer-reviewed journals, where appropriate, and recognized as accurate and objective by professional organizations and agencies with expertise in the relevant field, such as the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the American Public Health Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists.
- (g) "School district" includes county boards of education, county superintendents of schools, the California School for the Deaf, and the California School for the Blind.

### ***EC 51932***

- (a) This chapter does not apply to description or illustration of human reproductive organs that may appear in a textbook, adopted pursuant to law, on physiology, biology, zoology, general science, personal hygiene, or health.
- (b) This chapter does not apply to instruction or materials that discuss gender, sexual orientation, or family life and do not discuss human reproductive organs and their functions.

**EC 51933**

- (a) School districts may provide comprehensive sexual health education, consisting of age-appropriate instruction, in any kindergarten to grade 12, inclusive, using instructors trained in the appropriate courses.
- (b) A school district that elects to offer comprehensive sexual health education pursuant to subdivision (a), whether taught by school district personnel or outside consultants, shall satisfy all of the following criteria:
  - (1) Instruction and materials shall be age appropriate.
  - (2) All factual information presented shall be medically accurate and objective.
  - (3) Instruction shall be made available on an equal basis to a pupil who is an English learner, consistent with the existing curriculum and alternative options for an English learner pupil as otherwise provided in this code.
  - (4) Instruction and materials shall be appropriate for use with pupils of all races, genders, sexual orientations, ethnic and cultural backgrounds, and pupils with disabilities.
  - (5) Instruction and materials shall be accessible to pupils with disabilities, including, but not limited to, the provision of a modified curriculum, materials and instruction in alternative formats, and auxiliary aids.
  - (6) Instruction and materials shall encourage a pupil to communicate with his or her parents or guardians about human sexuality.
  - (7) Instruction and materials shall teach respect for marriage and committed relationships.
  - (8) Commencing in grade 7, instruction and materials shall teach that abstinence from sexual intercourse is the only certain way to prevent unintended pregnancy, teach that abstinence from sexual activity is the only certain way to prevent sexually transmitted diseases, and provide information about the value of abstinence while also providing medically accurate information on other methods of preventing pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases.
  - (9) Commencing in grade 7, instruction and materials shall provide information about sexually transmitted diseases. This instruction shall include how sexually transmitted diseases are and are not transmitted, the effectiveness and safety of all federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved methods of reducing the risk of contracting sexually transmitted diseases, and information on local resources for testing and medical care for sexually transmitted diseases.
  - (10) Commencing in grade 7, instruction and materials shall provide information about the effectiveness and safety of all FDA-approved contraceptive methods in preventing pregnancy, including, but not limited to, emergency contraception.
  - (11) Commencing in grade 7, instruction and materials shall provide pupils with skills for making and implementing responsible decisions about sexuality.
  - (12) Commencing in grade 7, instruction and materials shall provide pupils with information on the law on surrendering physical custody of a minor child 72 hours or younger, pursuant to Section 1255.7 of the Health and Safety Code and Section 271.5 of the Penal Code.
- (c) A school district that elects to offer comprehensive sexual health education pursuant to subdivision (a) earlier than grade 7 may provide age appropriate and medically accurate information on any of the general topics contained in paragraphs (8) to (12), inclusive, of subdivision (b).
- (d) If a school district elects to offer comprehensive sexual health education pursuant to subdivision (a), whether taught by school district personnel or outside consultants, the school district shall comply with the following:
  - (1) Instruction and materials may not teach or promote religious doctrine.
  - (2) Instruction and materials may not reflect or promote bias against any person on the basis of any category protected by Section 220.

***EC 51934***

- (a) A school district shall ensure that all pupils in grades 7 to 12, inclusive, receive HIV/AIDS prevention education from instructors trained in the appropriate courses. Each pupil shall receive this instruction at least once in junior high or middle school and at least once in high school.
- (b) HIV/AIDS prevention education, whether taught by school district personnel or outside consultants, shall satisfy all of the criteria set forth in paragraphs (1) to (6), inclusive, of subdivision (b) and paragraphs (1) and (2) of subdivision (d) of Section 51933, shall accurately reflect the latest information and recommendations from the United States Surgeon General, the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the National Academy of Sciences, and shall include the following:
  - (1) Information on the nature of HIV/AIDS and its effects on the human body.
  - (2) Information on the manner in which HIV is and is not transmitted, including information on activities that present the highest risk of HIV infection.
  - (3) Discussion of methods to reduce the risk of HIV infection. This instruction shall emphasize that sexual abstinence, monogamy, the avoidance of multiple sexual partners, and abstinence from intravenous drug use are the most effective means for HIV/AIDS prevention, but shall also include statistics based upon the latest medical information citing the success and failure rates of condoms and other contraceptives in preventing sexually transmitted HIV infection, as well as information on other methods that may reduce the risk of HIV transmission from intravenous drug use.
  - (4) Discussion of the public health issues associated with HIV/AIDS.
  - (5) Information on local resources for HIV testing and medical care.
  - (6) Development of refusal skills to assist pupils in overcoming peer pressure and using effective decision making skills to avoid high-risk activities.
  - (7) Discussion about societal views on HIV/AIDS, including stereotypes and myths regarding persons with HIV/AIDS. This instruction shall emphasize compassion for persons living with HIV/AIDS.

***EC 51935***

- (a) A school district shall cooperatively plan and conduct in-service training for all school district personnel that provide HIV/AIDS prevention education, through regional planning, joint powers agreements, or contract services.
- (b) In developing and providing in-service training, a school district shall cooperate and collaborate with the teachers of the district who provide HIV/AIDS prevention education and with the State Department of Education.
- (c) In-service training shall be conducted periodically to enable school district personnel to learn new developments in the scientific understanding of HIV/AIDS. In-service training shall be voluntary for school district personnel who have demonstrated expertise or received in-service training from the State Department of Education or federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
- (d) A school district may expand HIV/AIDS in-service training to cover the topic of comprehensive sexual health education in order for school district personnel who provide comprehensive sexual health education to learn new developments in the scientific understanding of sexual health.

***EC 51936***

School districts may contract with outside consultants with expertise in comprehensive sexual health education or HIV/AIDS prevention education, or both, including those who have developed multilingual curricula or curricula accessible to persons with disabilities, to deliver the instruction or to provide training for school district personnel.

***EC 51937***

It is the intent of the Legislature to encourage pupils to communicate with their parents or guardians about human sexuality and HIV/AIDS and to respect the rights of parents or guardians to supervise their children's education on these subjects. The Legislature intends to create a streamlined process to make it easier for parents and guardians to review materials and evaluation tools related to comprehensive sexual health education and HIV/AIDS prevention education, and, if they wish, to excuse their children from participation in all or part of that instruction or evaluation. The Legislature recognizes that while parents and guardians overwhelmingly support medically accurate, comprehensive sex education, parents and guardians have the ultimate responsibility for imparting values regarding human sexuality to their children.

***EC 51938***

A parent or guardian of a pupil has the right to excuse their child from all or part of comprehensive sexual health education, HIV/AIDS prevention education, and assessments related to that education, as follows:

- (a) At the beginning of each school year, or, for a pupil who enrolls in a school after the beginning of the school year, at the time of that pupil's enrollment, each school district shall notify the parent or guardian of each pupil about instruction in comprehensive sexual health education and HIV/AIDS prevention education and research on pupil health behaviors and risks planned for the coming year. The notice shall do all of the following:
  - (1) Advise the parent or guardian that written and audiovisual educational materials used in comprehensive sexual health education and HIV/AIDS prevention education are available for inspection.
  - (2) Advise the parent or guardian whether the comprehensive sexual health education or HIV/AIDS prevention education will be taught by school district personnel or by outside consultants. A school district may provide comprehensive sexual health education or HIV/AIDS prevention education, to be taught by outside consultants, and may hold an assembly to deliver comprehensive sexual health education or HIV/AIDS prevention education by guest speakers, but if it elects to provide comprehensive sexual health education or HIV/AIDS prevention education in either of these manners, the notice shall include the date of the instruction, the name of the organization or affiliation of each guest speaker, and information stating the right of the parent or guardian to request a copy of this section, Section 51933, and Section 51934. If arrangements for this instruction are made after the beginning of the school year, notice shall be made by mail or another commonly used method of notification, no fewer than 14 days before the instruction is delivered.
  - (3) Include information explaining the parent's or guardian's right to request a copy of this chapter.

- (4) Advise the parent or guardian that the parent or guardian may request in writing that his or her child not receive comprehensive sexual health education or HIV/AIDS prevention education.
- (b) Notwithstanding Section 51513, anonymous, voluntary, and confidential research and evaluation tools to measure pupils' health behaviors and risks, including tests, questionnaires, and surveys containing age-appropriate questions about the pupil's attitudes concerning or practices relating to sex may be administered to any pupil in grades 7 to 12, inclusive, if the parent or guardian is notified in writing that this test, questionnaire, or survey is to be administered and the pupil's parent or guardian is given the opportunity to review the test, questionnaire, or survey and to request in writing that his or her child not participate.
- (c) The use of outside consultants or guest speakers as described in paragraph (2) of subdivision (a) is within the discretion of the school district.

***EC 51939***

- (a) A pupil may not attend any class in comprehensive sexual education or HIV/AIDS prevention education, or participate in any anonymous, voluntary, and confidential test, questionnaire, or survey on pupil health behaviors and risks, if the school has received a written request from the pupil's parent or guardian excusing the pupil from participation.
- (b) A pupil may not be subject to disciplinary action, academic penalty, or other sanction if the pupil's parent or guardian declines to permit the pupil to receive comprehensive sexual health education or HIV/AIDS prevention education or to participate in anonymous, voluntary, and confidential tests, questionnaires, or surveys on pupil health behaviors and risks.
- (c) While comprehensive sexual health education, HIV/AIDS prevention education, or anonymous, voluntary, and confidential test, questionnaire, or survey on pupil health behaviors and risks is being administered, an alternative educational activity shall be made available to pupils whose parents or guardians have requested that they not receive the instruction or participate in the test, questionnaire, or survey.