

UNIVERSITY HIGH SCHOOL CIVILITY POLICY

The University High School Governing Board recognizes the impact that civility has on the effective operation of the school, including its role in creating a safe and positive school climate and enabling a focus on student well-being, learning, and achievement. The Board believes that each person should be treated with dignity and respect in their interactions within the school community.

The Board understands that the First Amendment provides strong protection for speech. However, the Board expects that all speech and expression will comport with norms of civil behavior on School grounds, in School facilities, during School-activities or events, and in the use of School electronic/digital systems and platforms.

Civil behavior includes, but is not limited to, behavior which is polite, courteous, reasonable, and respectful to others, and where integrity, honesty, acceptance, timeliness, dependability, observance of laws and rules, and effective communication are exhibited.

The Board and School staff shall model civil behavior as an example of behavior that is expected throughout the School. Practices that promote civil behavior include, but are not limited to, actively listening, giving full attention to the speaker, and refraining from interruptions; welcoming and encouraging participation, input, and feedback through stakeholder engagement; promptly responding to concerns; and embracing seeking understanding and empathizing with varying and diverse viewpoints. All parties should consider that UHS teachers and staff have best intentions for students, and ask clarifying questions before drawing conclusions. These practices, as appropriate, are expected with and are hereby incorporated into all governance standards adopted by the Board or Superintendent and/or professional standards or codes of conduct for employees as specified in UHS policies and regulations.

The Superintendent or designee may educate students, staff, parents/guardians, and community members in the recognition, development and demonstration of civil behavior through the incorporation of related concepts in the curriculum, the provision of staff development, and/or communication of this policy.

Students, staff, parents/guardians, and community members shall not communicate or behave in a manner that causes disruption; hinders the orderly conduct of School operations, the educational program, or any other School program or activity; or creates an unsafe learning or working environment. The Superintendent or designee may respond to perceived disruptive, violent, or threatening behavior in accordance with law and Ed Code 32211.

Behavior by students or staff that is discriminatory, harassing, or intimidating, including sexual harassment, bullying, and/or hate violence, or behavior that is in any other way unlawful, is prohibited and is subject to discipline in accordance with law and School policy and regulations.

LEGAL REFERENCE:

EDUCATION CODE

200-262.4 Educational equity

32210 Willful disturbance of public school or meeting

32211 Threatened disruption or interference with classes

32212 Classroom interruptions

32280-32289.5 School safety plans

35181 Governing board authority to set policy on responsibilities of students

35291-35291.5 Rules

44050 Employee code of conduct; interaction with students

44807 Teachers' duty concerning conduct of students

44810 Willful interference with classroom conduct

44811 Disruption of classwork or extracurricular activities

48900-48926 Suspension and expulsion, especially:

48907 Exercise of free expression; rules and regulations

48950 Speech and other communication

49330-49335 Injurious objects

CIVIL CODE

51.7 Freedom from violence or intimidation

GOVERNMENT CODE

54954.3 Opportunity for public to address legislative body; regulations

54957.9 Disorderly conduct of general public during meeting; clearing of room

PENAL CODE

243.5 Assault or battery on school property

415.5 Disturbance of peace of school

422.55 Definition of hate crime

422.6 Civil rights; crimes

626-626.11 School crimes

627-627.10 Access to school premises

653b Loitering about schools or public places

653.2 Electronic communication devices; threats to safety

CALIFORNIA CONSTITUTION

Article 1, Section 2 Freedom of speech and expression

Article 1, Section 28 Right to safe schools

U.S. CONSTITUTION

Amendment 1, Freedom of speech and expression

COURT DECISIONS

City of San Jose v. Garbett (2010) 190 Cal.App.4th 526

Norse v. City of Santa Cruz (9th Cir. 2010) 629 F3d 966

Baca v. Moreno Valley Unified School District (1996) 936 F.Supp. 719

Hazelwood School District v. Kuhlmeier (1988) 484 U.S. 260

Management Resources: (next page)

MANAGEMENT RESOURCES:

CSBA PUBLICATIONS

Professional Governance Standards for School Boards, June 2019

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PUBLICATIONS

California's Social and Emotional Learning: Guiding Principles, 2018

Social and Emotional Learning in California: A Guide to Resources, October 2018

COMMISSION ON TEACHER CREDENTIALING PUBLICATIONS

California Professional Standards for Education Leaders (CPSEL), February 2014

NATIONAL POLICY BOARD FOR EDUCATIONAL ADMINISTRATION

Professional Standards for Educational Leaders, October 2015

WEB SITES

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

California Department of Education: <https://www.cde.ca.gov>

California Office of the Attorney General: <https://oag.ca.gov>

Center for Safe and Responsible Internet Use:

<https://www.ewa.org/organization/center-safe-and-responsible-internet-use>

Commission on Teacher Credentialing: <https://www.ctc.ca.gov>

National Council for the Social Studies Connected: <https://connected.socialstudies.org>

National Policy Board for Educational Administration: <https://www.npbea.org>

National School Safety Center: <http://www.schoolsafety.us>

U.S. Department of Education: <https://www.ed.gov>

U.S Equal Employment Opportunity Commission: <https://www.eeoc.gov>