

Students

SAFETY

The Governing Board recognizes the importance of providing a safe school environment that is conducive to learning and helps ensure student safety and the prevention of student injury. The Superintendent or designee shall implement appropriate practices to minimize the risk of harm to students, including, but not limited to, practices relative to school facilities and equipment, the outdoor environment, educational programs, and school-sponsored activities.

(cf. 0450 - Comprehensive Safety Plan)
(cf. 3320 - Claims and Actions Against the District)
(cf. 3514 - Environmental Safety)
(cf. 3514.1 - Hazardous Substances)
(cf. 3514.2 - Integrated Pest Management)
(cf. 3516 - Emergencies and Disaster Preparedness Plan)
(cf. 3530 - Risk Management/Insurance)
(cf. 3542 - School Bus Drivers)
(cf. 3543 - Transportation Safety and Emergencies)
(cf. 4119.42/4219.42/4319.42 - Exposure Control Plan for Bloodborne Pathogens)
(cf. 4119.43/4219.43/4319.43 - Universal Precautions)
(cf. 5131 - Conduct)
(cf. 5131.1 - Bus Conduct)
(cf. 5141 - Health Care and Emergencies)
(cf. 5141.22 - Infectious Diseases)
(cf. 5142.1 - Identification and Reporting of Missing Children)
(cf. 5143 - Insurance)
(cf. 5144 - Discipline)
(cf. 5144.1 - Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process)
(cf. 6145.2 - Athletic Competition)
(cf. 6161.3 - Toxic Art Supplies)
(cf. 6163.2 - Animals at School)
(cf. 7111 - Evaluating Existing Buildings)

Staff shall be responsible for the proper supervision of students during school hours, during school-sponsored activities, and while students are using district transportation to and from school.

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that students receive appropriate instruction on topics related to safety, as well as injury and disease prevention.

(cf. 5141.7 - Sun Safety)
(cf. 6142.8 - Comprehensive Health Education)

Crossing Guards/Safety Patrol

To assist students in safely crossing streets adjacent to or near school sites, the Board may employ crossing guards and/or establish a safety patrol at any district school. The Superintendent or designee shall periodically request City/County to examine traffic patterns within school attendance areas in order to identify locations where crossing assistance may be needed.

Students

SAFETY(continued)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

- 8482-8484.6 After School Education and Safety Program*
- 17280-17317 Building approvals (Field Act)*
- 17365-17374 Fitness of school facilities for occupancy*
- 32001 Fire alarms and drills*
- 32020 School gates; entrances for emergency vehicles*
- 32030-32034 Eye safety*
- 32040 First aid equipment*
- 32225-32226 Two-way communication devices in classrooms*
- 32240-32245 Lead-free schools*
- 32250-32254 CDE school safety and security resources unit*
- 32280-32289 Safety plans*
- 44807 Duty of teachers concerning conduct of students*
- 44808 Exemption from liability when students are not on school property*
- 44808.5 Permission for students to leave school grounds; notice (high school)*
- 45450-45451 Crossing guards*
- 48900 Hazing*
- 49300-49307 School safety patrol*
- 49330-49335 Injurious objects*
- 49341 Hazardous materials in school science laboratories*
- 51202 Instruction in personal and public health and safety*

GOVERNMENT CODE

- 810-996.6 California Tort Claims Act*

HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE

- 115725-115735 Playground safety*
- 115775-115800 Wooden playground equipment*
- 115810-115816 Playground safety and recycling grants*

PENAL CODE

- 245.6 Hazing*

PUBLIC RESOURCES CODE

- 5411 Purchase of equipment usable by physically disabled persons*

VEHICLE CODE

- 21100 Rules and regulations; crossing guards*
- 21212 Use of helmets*
- 42200 Fines and forfeitures, disposition by cities*
- 42201 Fines and forfeitures, disposition by counties*

(Legal References: continued on next page)

Students

SAFETY(continued)

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

202 Exclusion of students with a contagious disease

570-576 School safety patrols

5531 Supervision of social activities

5552 Playground supervision

5570 When school shall be open and teachers present

14103 Bus driver; authority over pupils

COURT DECISIONS

Wiener v. Southcoast Childcare Centers, (2004) 32 Cal.4th 1138

Kahn v. East Side Union High School District, (2003) 31 Cal.4th 990

Hoyem v. Manhattan Beach City School District, (1978) 22 Cal. 3d 508

Dailey v. Los Angeles Unified School District, (1970) 2 Cal 3d 741

Management Resources:

AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR TESTING AND MATERIALS

F 1487-05, Standard Consumer Safety Performance Specification for Playground Equipment for Public Use, 2005

U.S. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION PUBLICATIONS

Handbook for Public Playground Safety, Pub. No. 325, 1994, rev. 1997

WEB SITES

American Society for Testing and Materials: <http://www.astm.org>

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

California Department of Health Services: <http://www.dhs.ca.gov>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: <http://www.cdc.gov>

Environmental Protection Agency: <http://www.epa.gov>

U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission: <http://www.cpsc.gov>

U.S. Department of Education, Safe Schools: <http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/osers/osep/gtss.html>

Policy
adopted: February 23, 1999
Revised: March 11, 2008

VISALIA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Visalia, California

Students

SAFETY

Each principal or designee shall establish school rules for the safe and appropriate use of school equipment and materials and for student conduct consistent with law, Board policy, and administrative regulation. Copies of the rules shall be distributed to parents/guardians and shall be readily available at the school at all times.

(cf. 0450 - Comprehensive Safety Plan)

(cf. 5131 - Conduct)

(cf. 5144 - Discipline)

Release of Students

Students shall be released during the school day only to the custody of an adult if:

1. The adult is the student's custodial parent/guardian.

(cf. 5021 - Noncustodial Parents)

2. The adult has been authorized on the student's emergency card as someone to whom the student may be released when the custodial parent/guardian cannot be reached, and the principal or designee verifies the adult's identity.

High school students are allowed to leave on their own only with custodial parent/guardian permission.

(cf. 3516 - Emergencies and Disaster Preparedness Plan)

3. The adult is an authorized law enforcement officer acting in accordance with law.

(cf. 5141.4 - Child Abuse Prevention and Reporting)

(cf. 5145.11 - Questioning and Apprehension)

4. The adult is taking the student to emergency medical care at the request of the principal or designee.

(cf. 5141 - Health Care and Emergencies)

Supervision of Students

Teachers shall be present at their respective rooms and shall open them to admit students before the time when school starts in accordance with the collective bargaining agreement. (5 CCR 5570)

Students

SAFETY (continued)

Every teacher shall hold students accountable for their conduct on the way to and from school, on the playgrounds, and during recess. (Education Code 44807)

The principal or designee shall require all individuals supervising students to remain alert in spotting dangerous conditions, promptly report any such conditions to the principal or designee, and file a written report on such conditions as appropriate.

(cf. 3530 - Risk Management/Insurance)

In arranging for appropriate supervision on playgrounds, the principal or designee shall:

1. Where playground supervision is not otherwise provided, provide for certificated employees to supervise the conduct and safety, and direct the play, of students who are on school grounds before and after school and during recess and other intermissions (5 CCR 5552)
2. Consider the size of the playground area, the number of areas that are not immediately visible, and the age of the students to determine the ratio of playground supervisors to students

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that teachers, teacher aides, playground supervisors, yard aides, and volunteers who supervise students receive training in safety practices and in supervisory techniques that will help them to forestall problems and resolve conflicts. Such training shall be documented and kept on file.

(cf. 1240 - Volunteer Assistance)

(cf. 3515.2 - Disruptions)

(cf. 4131 - Staff Development)

(cf. 4231 - Staff Development)

(cf. 5131.4 - Student Disturbances)

(cf. 5138 - Conflict Resolution/Peer Mediation)

Playground Safety

Any new playground or any replacement of equipment or modification of components inside an existing playground shall conform to standards set forth by the American Society for Testing and Materials and the guidelines set forth by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission. (Health and Safety Code 115725)

Any playground installed between January 1, 1994, and December 31, 1999, shall conform to these standards not later than 15 years after the date of installation. (Health and Safety Code 115725)

Students

SAFETY (continued)

Activities with Safety Risks

Because of concerns about the risk to student safety, the principal or designee shall not permit the following activities on campus or during school-sponsored events unless the activity is properly supervised, students wear protective gear as appropriate, and each participant has insurance coverage:

1. Trampolining
2. Scuba diving
3. Sailing, boating, or water skiing
4. Motorcycling
5. Target shooting
6. Rodeo
7. Other activities determined by the principal to have a high risk to student safety

(cf. 5143 - Insurance)

(cf. 6145 - Extracurricular and Cocurricular Activities)

(cf. 6153 - School-Sponsored Trips)

Students who operate or ride as a passenger on a bicycle, nonmotorized scooter, or skateboard upon a street, bikeway, or any other public bicycle path or trail shall wear a properly fitted and fastened bicycle helmet that meets the standards of law. Students also shall be required to wear such helmets while wearing in-line or roller skates. (Vehicle Code 21212)

Laboratory Safety

The principal of each school offering laboratory work shall develop procedures for laboratory safety and designate a trained certificated employee to implement and regularly review these procedures.

Hearing Protection

The Superintendent or designee shall monitor students' exposure to excessive noise in classrooms and provide protection as necessary. The Superintendent or designee also may provide hearing conservation education to teach students ways to protect their hearing.

Students

SAFETY (continued)

Eye Safety Devices

The Superintendent or designee shall provide schools with eye safety devices for use whenever students, teachers, or visitors are engaged in or observing an activity or using hazardous substances likely to cause injury to the eyes. Eye safety devices may be sold to students for an amount not to exceed their actual cost to the district. (Education Code 32030, 32031, 32033)

(cf. 3260 - Fees and Charges)

Protection Against Insect Bites

To help protect students against insect bites or stings that may spread disease or cause allergic reactions, students shall be allowed to apply insect repellent provided by their parents/guardians, under the supervision of school personnel, and in accordance with the manufacturer's directions, when engaging in outdoor activities.