

CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINE - Philosophy

The discipline policy of the Palo Alto Unified School District complies with the California Education Code, Title V of the California Administrative Code, and the California Penal Code. (Copies will be available upon request from the Associate Superintendent-Educational Services.)

The Maintenance of effective school discipline is a significant part of the educational process and is important in providing meaningful learning experiences. Discipline should not simply be punishment for misbehavior, but should also include active, positive efforts to change behavior. Although often necessary, and an effective short-term deterrent to behavior problems, punishment alone is the least effective means of changing behavior. Effective behavioral change includes individualized efforts to teach acceptable school behaviors and to reinforce self-esteem. Discipline at the site level should include positive behavioral support to assist students in resolving problem behavior and encourage personal responsibility. In order to be effective, consequences for misbehavior should be: (1) graduated, (2) the responsibility of the student, and (3) consistently monitored for the entire period of disciplinary action. The goal of all discipline should be to encourage positive behavior and to produce a safe environment for all students. The most effective discipline plans are the product of mutually supportive parent-school partnerships.

Students at PACS are expected to comply with the law and with expectations and regulations of the school district and the school. By law students can be suspended or expelled for the fifteen infractions mentioned under the section titled, "Grounds for Suspension/Expulsion." In certain serious cases, referral to the police and/or to the district for consideration of expulsion are mandatory.

DISCIPLINE: GROUNDS FOR SUSPENSION/EXPULSION (California Education Code 48900)

A student shall not be suspended from school or recommended for expulsion unless the Superintendent or the principal of the school in which the student is enrolled determines that the student has:

- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| Physical Injury | Caused, attempted to cause, or threatened to cause, or threatened to cause physical injury to another person. |
| Firearms | Possessed, sold, or otherwise furnished any firearm, knife, explosive, or other dangerous object unless, in the case of possession of any such object the pupil had obtained written permission to possess the item from a certified school employee. |
| Drugs | Unlawfully possessed, used, sold or otherwise furnished, or been under the influence of any controlled substance. |
| Selling Fake Drugs | Unlawfully offered, arranged, or negotiated to sell any controlled substance, an alcoholic beverage, or an intoxicant of any kind, and then either sold, delivered, or otherwise furnished to any person another liquid, substance, or material and represented the liquid, substance, or material |

and represented the liquid, substance, or material as a controlled substance, alcoholic beverage, or intoxicant.

| | |
|--|---|
| Robbery or Extortion | Committed robbery or extortion. |
| Damages | Caused or attempted to cause damage to school property or private property. |
| Theft | Stolen or attempted to steal school property or private property. |
| Tobacco | Possessed or used tobacco. |
| Obscenity | Committed an obscene act or engaged in habitual profanity or vulgarity. |
| Drug Paraphernalia | Unlawfully offered, arranged, or negotiated to sell any drug paraphernalia. |
| Disruption/Defiance | 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. |
| Receiving Stolen Property | Knowingly received stole school property or private property. |
| Hate Violence | Caused, attempted to cause, threatened to cause, or participated in an act of hate violence. |
| Harassment, Threats, Intimidation | Engaged in harassment, threats or intimidation which creates an intimidating or hostile educational environment. |
| Sexual Harassment | Engaged in harassment, threats or intimidation directed against a student or group of students creating an intimidating or hostile educational environment. |

Additional information about these infractions is available in the student services section of the board policy as revised and adopted in January 1996.

Actions above must relate to school activities or attendance and may take place at any time including, but not limited to, any of the following: (1) on school ground; (2) while going to and from school; (3) during the break period, whether on or off campus; or (4) during, or while going to or from, a school-sponsored activity.

Due Process Procedures:

Students and parents have the right to know for what action students are being disciplined. Written documentation of behavior shall be provided. Students shall have an opportunity for response to accusations made about them.

Students and/or parents who feel that disciplinary actions have been unfairly applied have the right to appeal to an administrator. If the matter is not resolved, they may seek a hearing at the district level.