

Sebastopol Independent Charter School

Policy 1313: Civility

Original Adopted Date: 01/11/2024 | Last Reviewed Date:

The Board of Trustees 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 is polite, courteous, and reasonable behavior which is respectful to others and includes integrity, honesty, acceptance, timeliness, dependability, observance of laws and rules, and effective communication.

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 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 varying and diverse viewpoints. Such practices may be incorporated into governance standards adopted by the Board or Superintendent and/or professional standards or codes of conduct for employees as specified in school policies and regulations.

Students, staff, parents/guardians, and community members should be educated in the recognition, development, and demonstration of civil behavior. The Executive Director or designee may incorporate related concepts in the curriculum, provide staff development activities, and/or communicate this policy to the school community.

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 Executive Director or designee may respond to disruptive, violent, or threatening behavior in accordance with law.

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 as specified in school policy and regulations.

Policy Reference Disclaimer: These references are not intended to be part of the policy itself, nor do they indicate the basis or authority for the board to enact this policy. Instead, they are provided as additional resources for those interested in the subject matter of the policy.

State Description

CA Constitution Article 1, Section 2 Freedom of speech and expression

CA Constitution Article 1, Section 28 Right to Safe Schools

Civ. Code 51.7 Freedom from violence or intimidation

Ed. Code 200-262.4 Educational equity

Ed. Code 32210 Willful disturbance of public school or meeting

Ed. Code 32211 Threatened disruption or interference with classes

Ed. Code 32212 Classroom interruptions

Ed. Code 32280-32289.5 School safety plans

Ed. Code 35181 Governing board authority to set policy on responsibilities of students

Ed. Code 35291-35291.5 School discipline rules

Ed. Code 44050 Employee code of conduct; interaction with students

Ed. Code 44807 Teachers' duty concerning conduct of students

Ed. Code 44810 Willful interference with classroom conduct

Ed. Code 44811 Disruption of classwork or extracurricular activities

Ed. Code 48900-48926 Suspension and expulsion

Ed. Code 48907 Exercise of free expression; time, place and manner rules and regulations

Ed. Code 48950 Speech and other communication

Ed. Code 49330-49335 Injurious objects

Gov. Code 54954.3 Opportunity for public to address legislative body

Gov. Code 54957.9 Disorderly conduct of general public during meeting; clearing of room

Pen. Code 243.5 Assault or battery on school property

Pen. Code 415.5 Disturbance of peace of school

Pen. Code 422.55 Definition of hate crime

Pen. Code 422.6 Crimes; harassment

Pen. Code 626-626.11 Weapons on school grounds and other school crimes

Pen. Code 627-627.10 Access to school premises

Pen. Code 653.2 Electronic communication devices; threats to safety

Pen. Code 653b Loitering about schools or public places

Federal Description

U.S. Constitution Amendment 1; Free exercise, free speech, and establishment clauses

Management Resources Description

California Department of Education Publication Social and Emotional Learning in California: A Guide to Resources, October 2018

California Department of Education Publication California's Social and Emotional Learning: Guiding Principles, 2018

Commission on Teacher Credentialing Publication California Professional Standards for Educational Leaders, February 2014

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

Court Decision Hazelwood School District v. Kuhlmeier, (1988) 108 S. Ct. 562

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

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

CSBA Publication Professional Governance Standards for School Boards

CSBA Publication Superintendent Governance Standards

Nat'l Policy Board For Educational Administration Professional Standards for Educational Leaders, October 2015

Website CSBA District and County Office of Education Legal Services

Website National Policy Board for Educational Administration

Website National School Safety Center

Website Center for Safe and Responsible Internet Use

Website California Office of the Attorney General

Website National Council for the Social Studies

Website Commission on Teacher Credentialing

Website CSBA

Website California Department of Education

Website U.S. Department of Education

Website

U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission