

RECOVERY FOR PROPERTY LOSS OR DAMAGE

The Governing Board desires to create a safe and secure learning environment and to minimize acts of vandalism and damage to school property. When district property is damaged due to the willful misconduct of a student or other person, the district shall seek reimbursement of damages, within the limitations specified in law, from the parent/guardian of a minor child or from any other responsible individual.

(cf. 0450 - Comprehensive Safety Plan)
(cf. 3515 - Campus Security)
(cf. 4156.3/4256.3/4356.3 - Employee Property Reimbursement)
(cf. 4158/4258/4358 - Employee Security)
(cf. 5131 - Conduct)
(cf. 5131.5 - Vandalism and Graffiti)
(cf. 5136 - Gangs)
(cf. 5144.1 - Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process)

The district may collect debt owed by a student or former student as a result of vandalism or to cover the replacement cost of district books, supplies, or property loaned to a student that the student willfully fails to return or that is willfully cut, defaced, or otherwise injured. However, this policy shall not apply to a student who is a current or former homeless or foster child or youth. (Education Code 48904, 49014)

(cf. 5125.2 - Withholding Grades, Diploma or Transcripts)
(cf. 6173 - Education for Homeless Children)
(cf. 6173.1 - Education for Foster Youth)

Rewards

The Board may offer and pay a reward for information leading to the determination of the identity of, and the apprehension of, any person who willfully damages or destroys any district property. (Government Code 53069.5)

The Board authorizes the Superintendent or designee to offer a reward in any amount deemed appropriate, not exceeding \$2,500. A reward in excess of \$2,500 shall be authorized in advance by the Board.

The Superintendent or designee shall disburse the reward when the guilt of the person responsible for the act has been established by a criminal conviction or other appropriate judicial procedure. If more than one person provides information, the reward shall be divided among them as appropriate.

Legal Reference: (see next page)

RECOVERY FOR PROPERTY LOSS OR DAMAGE (continued)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

19910 Libraries, malicious cutting, tearing, defacing, breaking or injuring

19911 Libraries, willful detention of property

44810 Willful interference with classroom conduct

48904 Liability of parent/guardian for willful misconduct

49014 Public School Fair Debt Collection Act

CIVIL CODE

1714.1 Liability of parent or guardian for act of willful misconduct by a minor

GOVERNMENT CODE

53069.5 Reward for information concerning person causing death, injury, or property damage

53069.6 Actions to recover damages

54951 Local agency, definition

PENAL CODE

484 Theft defined

594 Vandalism

594.1 Aerosol paint and etching cream

640.5 Graffiti; facilities or vehicles of governmental entity

640.6 Graffiti

Management Resources:

WEB SITES

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

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

Judicial Council of California: <http://www.courts.ca.gov>

Policy
adopted: April 14, 1997
revised: October 29, 2019

VISALIA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Visalia, California

RECOVERY FOR PROPERTY LOSS OR DAMAGE

District employees shall report any damage to or loss of school property to the Superintendent or designee immediately after such damage or loss is discovered.

(cf. 3530 - Risk Management/Insurance)

(cf. 5131.5 - Vandalism and Graffiti)

The Superintendent or designee shall conduct a complete investigation of any instance of damage to or loss of school property and shall consult law enforcement officials when appropriate.

(cf. 3515.3 - District Police/Security Department)

When the individual causing the damage or loss has been identified and the costs of repair, replacement, or cleanup determined, the Superintendent or designee shall take all practical and reasonable steps to recover the district's costs and shall consult with the district's legal counsel and/or insurance carrier, as appropriate.

Such steps may include the filing of a civil complaint in a court of competent jurisdiction to recover damages from the responsible person and, if the responsible person is a minor, from the parent/guardian in accordance with law. Damages may include the cost of repair or replacement of the property, the payment of any reward, interest, court costs, and all other damages as provided by law.

If the responsible person is a minor student of the district and the student's parents/guardians are unable to pay for the damages or to return the property, the district shall offer a program

of voluntary work for the student in lieu of the payment of monetary damages. The district may offer any other student or former student, with parent/guardian permission, the option to provide service, work, or other alternative, nonmonetary forms of compensation to settle the debt owed as a result of property loss or damage. Service or work exchanged for repayment of a debt shall comply with all provisions of the Labor Code related to youth employment. (Education Code 48904, 49014)

The Superintendent or designee may withhold the student's grades, diploma, and/or transcripts until the student's parents/guardians have paid for the damages or the voluntary work has been completed. Prior to withholding a student's grades, diploma, or transcripts, due process shall be afforded the student in accordance with law. (Education Code 48904)

(cf. 5125.2 - Withholding Grades, Diploma or Transcripts)

In addition, the Superintendent or designee shall initiate appropriate disciplinary procedures against the student.

RECOVERY FOR PROPERTY LOSS OR DAMAGE (continued)

(cf. 5131 - Conduct)

(cf. 5144 - Discipline)

(cf. 5144.1 - Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process)

(cf. 5145.3 - Nondiscrimination/Harassment)

(cf. 5145.7 - Sexual Harassment)

(cf. 5145.9 - Hate-Motivated Behavior)