

SAFETY

The Governing Board recognizes the importance of providing a safe school environment that is conducive to learning and promotes student safety and well-being. Appropriate measures shall be implemented to minimize the risk of harm to students, including, but not limited to, protocols for maintaining safe conditions on school grounds, promoting safe use of school facilities and equipment, and guiding student participation in 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. 3515 - Campus Security)
(cf. 3515.21 - Unmanned Aircraft Systems (Drones))
(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. 6145.2 - Athletic Competition)
(cf. 6163.2 - Animals at School)
(cf. 7111 - Evaluating Existing Buildings)

Additionally, the Superintendent or designee shall regularly review current guidance regarding cybersecurity and digital media awareness and incorporate recommended practices into the district's processes and procedures related to the protection of the district's network infrastructure, and the monitoring and response to suspicious and/or threatening digital media content.

School staff shall be responsible for the proper supervision of students at all times when students are subject to district rules, including, but not limited to, during school hours, school-sponsored activities, before and after-school programs, morning drop-off and afternoon pick-up, and while students are using district transportation.

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

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

SAFETY (continued)

Crossing Guards/Student 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 student safety patrol at any district school. The Superintendent or designee shall periodically examine traffic patterns within school attendance areas in order to identify locations where crossing assistance may be needed.

(cf. 5142.2 - Safe Routes to School Program)

Student Identification Cards and Safety Information

Student identification cards of students in grades 7-12 shall have printed on them safety information, including the following: (Education Code 215.5, 217)

1. The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline telephone number and, at the district's discretion, the Crisis Text Line and/or a local suicide prevention hotline telephone number

(cf. 5141.52 - Suicide Prevention)

2. The National Domestic Violence Hotline

(cf. 5141.4 - Child Abuse Prevention and Reporting)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

8482-8484.65 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

Legal Reference continued: (see next page)

SAFETY (continued)

Legal Reference continued:

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*
116046 *Issuance of best practices guidelines for K-12 pool safety*
PENAL CODE
245.6 *Hazing*
PUBLIC RESOURCES CODE
5411 *Purchase of equipment usable by persons with disabilities*
VEHICLE CODE
21100 *Rules and regulations; crossing guards*
21201 *Rules for operation of bicycle on roadway*
21212 *Use of helmets*
42200 *Fines and forfeitures, disposition by cities*
42201 *Fines and forfeitures, disposition by counties*
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*
14030 *Standards for development of plans for the design and construction of school facilities*
14103 *Bus driver; authority over pupils*
COURT DECISIONS
J.H. v. Los Angeles Unified School District, (2010) 183 Cal.App.4th 123
Lane v. City of Sacramento, (2010) 183 Cal. App. 4th. 1337
Wiener v. Southcoast Childcare Centers, (2004) 32 Cal.4th 1138
Kahn v. East Side Union High School District, (2003) 31 Cal.4th 990
Knight v. Jewett, (1992) 3 Cal.4th 296, 313
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: (next page)

SAFETY (continued)

Management Resources:

AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR TESTING AND MATERIALS

F 1487-05, Standard Consumer Safety Performance Specification for Playground Equipment for Public Use, 2017

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PUBLICATIONS

Science Safety Handbook for California Public Schools, 2014

U.S. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION PUBLICATIONS

Public Playground Safety Handbook, 2010

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 Public Health: <http://www.cdph.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/opers/osep/gtss.html>

Policy
adopted: February 23, 1999
revised: March 11, 2008
revised March 24, 2020
revised: May 23, 2023

VISALIA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Visalia, California

Students

AR 5142(a)

SAFETY

Each principal or designee shall establish emergency procedures, rules for student conduct, and rules for the safe and appropriate use of school facilities, equipment, and materials, consistent with law, Board policy, and administrative regulation. The rules shall be communicated to students, distributed to parents/guardians, and 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 who is one of the following:

1. The student's custodial parent/guardian

(cf. 5021 - Noncustodial Parents)

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

(cf. 3516 - Emergencies and Disaster Preparedness Plan)

3. An authorized law enforcement officer acting in accordance with law

(cf. 5141.4 - Child Abuse Prevention and Reporting)

(cf. 5145.11 - Questioning and Apprehension by Law Enforcement)

(cf. 5145.13 - Response to Immigration Enforcement)

4. An adult 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 not less than 30 minutes before the time that school starts. (5 CCR 5570)

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)

SAFETY (continued)

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

(cf. 1250 - Visitors/Outsiders)

(cf. 3530 - Risk Management/Insurance)

Any certificated or classified employee, or other school official, whose duties bring the employee or other school official in contact on a regular basis with students in any of grades 6-12, as part of a middle or high school, who are alerted to or observe any threat or perceived threat of a homicidal act, as defined, shall immediately report the threat or perceived threat to law enforcement in accordance with Education Code 49393. (Education Code 49390, 49393)

Threat or perceived threat means any writing or action of a student that creates a reasonable suspicion that the student is preparing to commit a homicidal act related to school or a school activity. This may include possession, use, or depictions of firearms, ammunition, shootings, or targets in association with infliction of physical harm, destruction, or death in a social media post, journal, class note, or other media associated with the student. It may also include a warning by a parent, student, or other individual.

Additionally, anyone who receives or learns of a health or safety threat related to school or a school activity is encouraged to report the threat to a school or district administrator.

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

1. Clearly identify supervision zones on the playground and require all playground supervisors to remain outside at a location from which they can observe their entire zone of supervision
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

At any school where playground supervision is not otherwise provided, the principal or designee shall 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)

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 prevent problems and resolve conflicts among students. Such training shall be documented and kept on file.

SAFETY (continued)

(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)

Student Safety Patrols

A school safety patrol shall be composed of students of the school selected by the principal and shall serve only with written consent of the students and their parents/guardians. Patrol members shall be at least 10 years old and at least in the fifth grade. (Education Code 49302; 5 CCR 571)

School safety patrols shall be used only at those locations where the nature of traffic will permit their safe operation. The locations where school safety patrols are used should be determined jointly with the local law enforcement agency. (5 CCR 572)

Patrol members shall be under the supervision and control of the principal or designee and shall receive training in proper procedures, including, but not limited to, the operations specified in 5 CCR 573-574. Whenever on duty, patrol members shall wear the standard uniform required by 5 CCR 576.

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. The Superintendent or designee shall have a playground safety inspector certified by the National Playground Safety Institute conduct an initial inspection to aid compliance with applicable safety standards. (Health and Safety Code 115725)

Activities with Safety Risks

Due to 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. Skateboarding or use of scooters

SAFETY (continued)

4. In-line or roller skating or use of skate shoes
5. Sailing, boating, or water skiing
6. Cross-country or downhill skiing
7. Motorcycling
8. Target shooting
9. Horseback riding
10. Rodeo
11. Archery
12. Mountain bicycling
13. Rock climbing
14. Rocketeering
15. Surfing
16. Body Contact Sports
17. 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)

As needed, the Superintendent or designee may periodically provide training or instruction to students on the safe use of electric, motorized or nonmotorized bicycles, scooters, skateboards, and roller skates. Any student who rides any such bicycle, scooter, skateboard, or roller skates at school shall wear a properly fitted and fastened bicycle helmet.

Events In or Around a Swimming Pool

When any on-campus event that is not part of an interscholastic athletic program is sponsored or hosted by the district and is to be held in or around a swimming pool, at least one adult with a valid certification of cardiopulmonary resuscitation training shall be present throughout the duration of the event. (Education Code 35179.6)

SAFETY (continued)

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.

Students in a laboratory shall be under the supervision of a certificated employee. Students shall be taught laboratory safety, and safety guidelines and procedures shall be posted in science classrooms. Students shall receive continual reminders about general and specific hazards.

Hazardous materials shall be properly used, stored, and disposed of in accordance with law and the district's chemical hygiene plan.

(cf. 3514.1 - Hazardous Substances)

Bloodborne pathogens shall be handled in accordance with the district's exposure control plan.

(cf. 4119.42/4219.42/4319.42 - Exposure Control Plan for Bloodborne Pathogens)

(cf. 5141.22 - Infectious Diseases)

The district's emergency plan, emergency contact numbers, and first aid supplies shall be readily accessible.

Parents/guardians shall be made aware of the kinds of laboratory activities that will be conducted during the school year.

Hearing Protection

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

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)

SAFETY (continued)

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.

Regulation
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VISALIA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Visalia, California