

STUDENT CONDUCT

It is the position of the Monterey County Board of Education (County Board) and the Monterey County Superintendent of Schools (County Superintendent) that all students have the right to be educated in a positive learning environment free from disruptions. Students shall be expected to exhibit appropriate conduct that does not infringe upon the rights of others or interfere with the school program while on school grounds, while going to or coming from school, while at school activities, and while on district transportation.

The County Superintendent or designee ensures that each school site develops standards of conduct and discipline consistent with County Board policies and Monterey County Office of Education (MCOE) administrative regulations. Students and parents/guardians shall be notified of County Board, MCOE and school rules related to conduct at the beginning of each term.

Prohibited student conduct includes, but is not limited to:

1. Conduct that endangers students, staff, or others
2. Conduct that disrupts the orderly classroom or school environment
3. Harassment or bullying of students or staff, including, but not limited to, cyberbullying, intimidation, hazing or initiation activity, extortion, or any other verbal, written, or physical conduct that causes or threatens to cause violence, bodily harm, or substantial disruption, in accordance with the section entitled "Bullying/Cyberbullying" below

Cyberbullying includes the transmission of communications, posting of harassing messages, direct threats, or other harmful texts, sounds, or images on the Internet, social networking sites, or other digital technologies using a telephone, computer, or any wireless communication device. Cyberbullying also includes breaking into another person's electronic account and assuming that person's identity in order to damage that person's reputation.

4. Damage to or theft of property belonging to students, staff or to MCOE.
5. Possession or use of a laser pointer, unless used for a valid instructional or other school-related purpose, including employment [Penal Code 417.27]

Prior to bringing a laser pointer on school premises, students shall first obtain permission from the principal or designee. The principal or designee shall

determine whether the requested use of the laser pointer is for a valid instructional or other school-related purpose.

6. Use of profane, vulgar, or abusive language
7. Plagiarism or dishonesty on school work or tests
8. Inappropriate attire
9. Tardiness or unexcused absence from school
10. Failure to remain on school premises in accordance with school rules
11. Possession, use, or being under the influence of tobacco, alcohol, or other prohibited drugs

Employees are expected to provide appropriate supervision to enforce standards of conduct and, if they observe or receive a report of a violation of these standards, to immediately intervene or call for assistance. If an employee believes a matter has not been resolved, he/she shall refer the matter to his/her supervisor or administrator for further investigation.

Students who violate County Board policy, MCOE or school rules and regulations may be subject to discipline including, but not limited to, suspension, expulsion, transfer to alternative programs, or denial of the privilege of participation in extracurricular or cocurricular activities in accordance with County Board policy and administrative regulation. The County Superintendent or designee should notify local law enforcement as appropriate.

Students also may be subject to discipline, in accordance with law, County Board policy, or administrative regulation, for any off-campus conduct during nonschool hours which poses a threat or danger to the safety of students, staff, or district property, or substantially disrupts school activities.

Possession/Use of Cellular Phones and Other Mobile Communications Devices

No student shall be prohibited from possessing or using an electronic signaling device that is determined by a licensed physician or surgeon to be essential for the student's health and the use of which is limited to health-related purposes. [Education Code 48901.5]

Students may possess or use on school campus according to the guidelines established in the school's student handbook, personal electronic signaling devices including, but

not limited to, pagers and cellular/digital telephones, as well as other mobile communications devices including, but not limited to, digital media players, personal digital assistants (PDAs), compact disc players, portable game consoles, cameras, digital scanners, and laptop computers, provided that such devices do not disrupt the educational program or school activity and are not used for illegal or unethical activities such as cheating on assignments or tests.

If a disruption occurs or a student uses any mobile communications device for improper activities, a school employee shall direct the student to turn off the device and/or shall confiscate it. If the school employee finds it necessary to confiscate the device, he/she shall return it at the end of the class period or school day.

In accordance with BP/AR 5145.12 – Searches on School Premises, a school official may search a student's mobile communications device, including, but not limited to, reviewing messages or viewing pictures.

Students shall not use mobile communications devices, even in hands-free mode, while driving on school grounds or to and from a school-related activity.

A student who violates this policy may be prohibited from possessing a mobile communications device at school or school-related events and/or may be subject to further discipline in accordance with County Board policy and administrative regulation.

Bullying/Cyberbullying

The County Board desires to prevent bullying by establishing a positive, collaborative school climate and clear rules for student conduct.

MCOE may provide students with instruction, in the classroom or other educational settings, that promotes communication, social skills, and assertiveness skills and educates students about appropriate online behavior and strategies to prevent and respond to bullying and cyberbullying.

School staff shall receive related professional development, including information about early warning signs of harassing/intimidating behaviors and effective prevention and intervention strategies. Parents/guardians, students, and community members also may be provided with similar information.

Students may submit a verbal or written complaint of conduct they consider to be bullying to a teacher or administrator. Complaints of bullying shall be investigated and resolved in accordance with site-level grievance procedures specified in AR 5145.7 - Student Harassment.

When a student is suspected of or reported to be using electronic or digital communications to engage in cyberbullying against other students or staff, or to threaten MCOE property, the investigation shall include documentation of the activity,

identification of the source, and specific facts or circumstances that explain the impact or potential impact on school activity, school attendance, or the targeted student's educational performance.

Students shall be encouraged to save and print any messages sent to them that they feel constitute cyberbullying and to notify a teacher, the principal, or other employee so that the matter may be investigated.

Any student who engages in cyberbullying on school premises, or off campus in a manner that causes or is likely to cause a substantial disruption of a school activity or school attendance, shall be subject to discipline in accordance with district policies and regulations. If the student is using a social networking site or service that has terms of use that prohibit posting of harmful material, the County Superintendent or designee also may file a complaint with the Internet site or service to have the material removed.

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

200-262.4	<i>Prohibition of discrimination</i>
32261	<i>Bullying</i>
35181	<i>Governing board policy on responsibilities of students</i>
35291-35291.5	<i>Rules</i>
44807	<i>Duty concerning conduct of students</i>
48900-48925	<i>Suspension or expulsion, especially:</i>
48908	<i>Duties of students</i>
51512	<i>Prohibition against electronic listening or recording device in classroom without permission</i>

CIVIL CODE

1714.1	<i>Liability of parents and guardians for willful misconduct of minor</i>
--------	---

PENAL CODE

288.2	<i>Harmful matter with intent to seduce</i>
313	<i>Harmful matter</i>
417.25-417.27	<i>Laser scope</i>
647	<i>Use of camera or other instrument to invade person's privacy; misdemeanor</i>
647.7	<i>Use of camera or other instrument to invade person's privacy; punishment</i>
653.2	<i>Electronic communication devices, threats to safety</i>

VEHICLE CODE

23124	<i>Use of cellular phones provisional license holders</i>
-------	---

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

300-307	<i>Duties of pupils</i>
---------	-------------------------

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 42

2000h-2000h6	<i>Title IX, 1972 Education Act Amendments</i>
--------------	--

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 47

254	<i>Universal service discounts (e-rate)</i>
-----	---

COURT DECISIONS

J.C. v. Beverly Hills Unified School District, (2010) 711 F.Supp.2d 1094

LaVine v. Blaine School District, (2000, 9th Cir.) 257 F.3d 981

Emmett v. Kent School District No. 415, (2000) 92 F.Supp. 1088

Bethel School District No. 403 v. Fraser, (1986) 478 U.S. 675

Tinker v. Des Moines Independent Community School District, (1969) 393 U.S. 503

Adopted: 06/2012

Revised: 04/03/13