

## CSBA POLICY GUIDE SHEET March 2024

Note: Descriptions below identify revisions made to CSBA's sample board policies, administrative regulations, board bylaws, and/or exhibits. Editorial changes have also been made. Districts and county offices of education should review the sample materials and modify their own policies accordingly.

### **Board Policy 0450 - Comprehensive Safety Plan**

Policy updated to reference **NEW LAW (SB 323, 2023)** which (1) authorizes a school employee, a student's parent/guardian or educational rights holder, or a student, at specified times, to bring concerns about an individual student's ability to access disaster safety procedures described in the comprehensive safety plan to the principal, and if there is merit to the concern requires the principal to make appropriate modifications, and (2) requires comprehensive safety plans to include adaptations for students with disabilities in accordance with the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and section 504 of the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Additionally, policy updated to clarify that portions of the comprehensive safety plan that include tactical response to criminal incidents are not required to, but may be, publicly disclosed.

### **Administrative Regulation 0450 - Comprehensive Safety Plan**

Regulation updated to clarify that written notifications to specified persons and entities are required when those persons or entities are available and to reflect **NEW LAW (SB 323, 2023)** which (1) authorizes a school employee, a student's parent/guardian or educational rights holder, or a student, at specified times, to bring concerns about an individual student's ability to access disaster safety procedures described in the comprehensive safety plan to the principal, and if there is merit to the concern requires the principal to make appropriate modifications, and (2) requires comprehensive safety plans to include adaptations for students with disabilities in accordance with the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and section 504 of the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Additionally, regulation updated to reflect **NEW LAW (SB 671, 2023)** which requires a district's comprehensive safety plan to include procedures to assess and respond to reports of any dangerous, violent, or unlawful activity that is being conducted or threatened to be conducted at the school, an activity sponsored by the school, or on a school bus serving the school. In addition, regulation updated to reflect **NEW LAW (SB 10, 2023)** which requires schools that serve students in any of grades 7-12 to include in their comprehensive safety plans a protocol in the event a student is suffering or reasonably believed to be suffering from an opioid overdose. Regulation also updated to reference **NEW LAW (AB 1023, 2023)** which provides schools increased cybersecurity support.

### **Delete - Board Policy 0470 - COVID-19 Mitigation Plan**

Policy deleted as unnecessary due to expiration of COVID-19 public health emergency declaration, with relevant concepts incorporated into other policies.

### **Board Policy 3516 - Emergency and Disaster Preparedness Plan**

Policy updated to reflect **NEW LAW (SB 323, 2023)** which requires school emergency and disaster preparedness plans to include adaptations for students with disabilities in accordance with the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and section 504 of the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

### **Administrative Regulation 3516 - Emergency and Disaster Preparedness Plan**

Regulation updated to include an attack or threat of attack to the district's digital network and technology infrastructure to the list of emergencies and disasters that the district and/or school site plans should cover, and routine monitoring of such technology as part of the district's strategies and actions for prevention/mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery. Additionally, regulation updated to reference **NEW LAW (AB 1023, 2023)** which provides schools increased cybersecurity support, include automatic dialing devices as a form of communication during an emergency, and expand the list of critical information that would be needed in an emergency.

### **Board Policy 3550 - Food Service/Child Nutrition Program**

Policy updated to reflect **NEW LAW (SB 348, 2023)** which (1) clarifies that districts are required to make available, during each school day and free of charge, one nutritionally adequate breakfast and one nutritionally adequate lunch to any student who requests a meal, including a student enrolled in an independent study program as specified, regardless of the student's eligibility for a federally funded free or reduced-price meal, (2) defines a "nutritionally adequate breakfast and lunch," and (3) requires that students be provided with adequate time to eat. Additionally, policy updated to reflect **NEW LAW (AB 95, 2023)** which clarifies that districts may sell a nutritiously adequate meal that qualifies for federal reimbursement to a student after a free meal has been provided. In addition, policy updated to reflect **NEW LAW (SB 114, 2023)** which establishes school food best practices such as serving freshly prepared onsite meals using minimally processed, locally grown, and sustainable food, giving priority to California-grown or produced foods, and increasing plant-based or restricted diet food options for students. Policy updated to reflect California Department of Food and Agriculture guidance about school gardens.

### **Administrative Regulation 3550 - Food Service/Child Nutrition Program**

Regulation updated for clarity and alignment with the accompanying Board Policy, with references to outdated material deleted.

### **Board Policy 3551 - Food Service Operations/Cafeteria Fund**

Policy updated to reflect **NEW LAW (SB 348, 2023)** which clarifies that (1) the establishment of a cafeteria fund does not preclude the district from using other funds for the purpose of purchasing school meals, and (2) districts are required to make available, during each school day and free of charge, one nutritionally adequate breakfast and one nutritionally adequate lunch to any student who requests a meal, including a student enrolled in an independent study program as specified, regardless of the student's eligibility for a federally funded free or reduced-price meal. Additionally, policy updated to reflect **NEW LAW (AB 95, 2023)** which clarifies that districts may sell a nutritiously adequate meal that qualifies for federal reimbursement to a student after a free meal has been provided and **NEW LAW (SB 114, 2023)** which establishes school food best practices such as giving priority to using California-grown or produced, sustainably grown, or whole or minimally processed foods, increasing plant-based or restricted diet food options for students, and preparing fresh meals onsite.

### **Administrative Regulation 3551 - Food Service Operations/Cafeteria Fund**

Regulation updated for clarity and alignment with the accompanying Board Policy, with references to outdated material deleted.

### **Board Policy 3553 - Free and Reduced Price Meals - Policy Pulled for Additional Review by Staff**

~~Policy updated to reflect **NEW LAW (SB 348, 2023)** which clarifies that districts are required to make available, during each school day and free of charge, one nutritionally adequate breakfast and one nutritionally adequate lunch to any student who requests a meal, regardless of the student's eligibility for a federally funded free or reduced-price meal, and **NEW LAW (AB 95, 2023)** which clarifies that districts may sell a nutritiously adequate meal that qualifies for federal reimbursement to a student after a free meal has been provided. Additionally, policy updated to clarify that meals served under the school nutrition program meet district-adopted guidelines, in addition to state and federal nutrition standards. In addition, policy updated to more closely align with code language.~~

### **Administrative Regulation 3553 - Free and Reduced Price Meals**

Regulation updated for clarity and alignment with the accompanying Board Policy, with references to outdated material deleted.

### **Board Policy 4111/4211/4311 - Recruitment and Selection**

Policy updated to reflect **NEW GUIDANCE** from the California Department of Education and the Commission on Teacher Credentialing related to the benefit to students when district staff reflects the racial, ethnic, linguistic and cultural diversity of the district, and when the district's recruitment and selection process seeks to establish and maintain a diverse staff. Additionally, policy updated to include that the pay scale for an open position be included in the job posting. In addition, policy updated to include that discrimination

against a person in hiring based on the person's use of cannabis off the job and away from the workplace is prohibited, and reflect **NEW LAW (SB 700, 2023)** which prohibits the district from requesting information from an applicant related to the applicant's prior use of cannabis, apart from the person's criminal history, unless the district is otherwise legally permitted to consider or inquire about that information, In addition, policy updated to provide that the district retains the right to maintain drug-free schools and to prohibit employees from possessing, being impaired by, or using cannabis while on the job. Policy also updated to include that, in addition to Governing Board approval and district needs, the provision of incentives to recruit teachers be in accordance with any applicable collective bargaining agreement.

#### **Administrative Regulation 4112.5/4212.5/4312.5 - Criminal Record Check**

Regulation updated to reference that discrimination against a person in hiring based on the person's use of cannabis off the job and away from the workplace is prohibited, including **NEW LAW (SB 700, 2023)** which prohibits the district from requesting information from an applicant related to the applicant's prior use of cannabis, apart from the person's criminal history, unless the district is otherwise legally permitted to consider or inquire about that information. Additionally, regulation updated for clarity.

#### **Exhibit(1) 4112.5/4212.5/4312.5 - Criminal Record Check**

Exhibit reviewed in conjunction with the update of the accompanying Administrative Regulation.

#### **Board Policy 4118 - Dismissal/Suspension/Disciplinary Action**

Policy updated to generalize the material related to the basis for disciplinary action, and reflect **NEW COURT DECISION (Visalia Unified School District v. PERB)** which held that service as a union officer constitutes protected activity under the Educational Employment Relations Act for purposes of complaints of retaliation for union activities, and that retaliation solely for engaging in protected activities is prohibited. Additionally, policy updated to amend the list of what may be considered disciplinary actions to more closely align with law, and to add new section "Compulsory Leave of Absence" for consistency with law and the accompanying administrative regulation.

#### **Regulation 4118 - Dismissal/Suspension/Disciplinary Action**

Regulation updated to reference that discrimination against a person in termination or any term or condition of employment based on the person's use of cannabis when off the job or away from the workplace is prohibited, and to clarify that proper notice is required by March 15 of the employee's second complete consecutive year of employment for the district to not rehire a probationary employee for the following school year without giving a statement of reasons. Additionally, regulation updated to delete outdated material and for clarity.

#### **Board Policy 4140/4240/4340 - Bargaining Units**

Policy updated to clarify use of "employee organization," "recognized employee organization," "exclusive representative," and "bargaining unit". Additionally, policy updated to clarify Public Employee Relations Board opinions regarding when a district may restrict the wearing of union buttons, insignia, or other pictorial or written messages by employees, when a district may limit an employee organization's ability to communicate with its members, and what constitutes "reasonable restrictions" by a district. In addition, policy updated to remove outdated material related to COVID-19, and reflect **NEW LAW (AB 243, 2023)** which extends the Safe at Home address confidentiality protection to victims of child abduction and members of their households. Policy also updated for clarity, precision, organization, and consistency.

#### **Board Policy 4157/4257/4357 - Employee Safety**

Policy updated to reference **NEW LAW (SB 553, 2023)** which requires, starting July 1, 2024, districts to establish, implement, and maintain at all times and in all work areas a workplace violence prevention plan with specified components.

#### **Administrative Regulation 4157/4257/4357 - Employee Safety**

Regulation updated to add that the Department of Industrial Relations Division of Occupational Safety and Health may prohibit entry into a place of employment when, in its opinion, the place of employment exposes employees to an imminent hazard. Additionally, regulation updated to reflect **NEW LAW (SB 553, 2023)** which requires, starting July 1, 2024, districts to (1) establish, implement, and maintain at all times and in all

work areas a violence prevention plan with specified components, and (2) provide all employees with training when the plan is first established and annually thereafter. In addition, regulation updated to delete outdated information related to actions districts were required to take upon notice of potential exposure to COVID-19.

**Administrative Regulation 4157.1/4257.1/4357.1 - Work-Related Injuries**

Regulation updated to move material related to notice requirements for an employee who is a victim of a crime for better placement of content, and delete outdated information related to workers' compensation benefits for illness or death resulting from COVID-19.

**Board Policy 4218 - Dismissal/Suspension/Disciplinary Action**

Policy updated to add that the Governing Board expects all employees to serve as positive role models at school and in the community for consistency with expectations for certificated staff, generalize the material related to the basis for disciplinary action, and reflect **NEW COURT DECISION** (Visalia Unified School District v. PERB) which held that service as a union officer constitutes protected activity under the Educational Employment Relations Act for purposes of complaints of retaliation for union activities, and that retaliation solely for engaging in protected activities is prohibited. Additionally, policy updated to amend the list of what may be considered disciplinary actions to more closely align with law, clarify that if a timely request for a hearing is submitted, a third-party hearing officer is required to conduct the hearing if the Board has delegated such authority, and to add new section "Compulsory Leave of Absence" for consistency with law and the accompanying administrative regulation.

**Administrative Regulation 4218 - Dismissal/Suspension/Disciplinary Action**

Regulation updated to reference that discrimination against a person in termination or any term or condition of employment based on the person's use of cannabis when off the job or away from the workplace is prohibited. Additionally, regulation updated to delete outdated material and for clarity.

**Board Policy 5126 - Awards for Achievement**

Policy updated to add that a budget be established for the purpose of student awards, and that no fee or other cost be charged to any student in relation to any requirements in qualifying for or receiving any district achievement awards. Additionally, policy updated to separate out the State Seal of Biliteracy material from district established awards for biliteracy, and to clarify that the Governing Board may prohibit the district committee which administers the district's scholarship and loan fund from accepting any donation under conditions it finds incompatible with the fund's intents and purposes as specified in Board Policy 3290 - Gifts, Grants and Requests.

**Administrative Regulation 5126 - Awards for Achievement**

Regulation updated to reflect **NEW LAW (AB 370, 2023)** which revises the criteria needed to be met for a student to be awarded the State Seal of Biliteracy, and to clarify the eligibility requirements for an English learner to be eligible for the State Seal of Biliteracy.

**Board Policy 5141.21 - Administering Medication and Monitoring Health Conditions**

Policy updated to reflect **NEW LAW (AB 1283, 2023)** which authorizes districts to provide emergency stock albuterol inhalers to school nurses or trained personnel who have volunteered, who may use the inhaler to provide emergency medical aid to person(s) suffering, or reasonably believed to be suffering, from respiratory distress, and **NEW LAW (AB 1722, 2023)** which authorizes districts to hire a licensed vocational nurse following Governing Board approval that a diligent search was conducted for a credentialed school nurse.

**Board Policy 5144 - Discipline**

Policy updated to reflect **NEW LAW (SB 291, 2023)** which, beginning with the 2024-25 school year, prohibits a school staff member from denying a student's recess unless the student's participation poses an immediate threat to the physical safety of the student or one or more of the student's peers. Additionally, policy updated to clarify that the Governing Board may, but is not required, to review approved discipline rules for consistency with Board policy and state law. In addition, policy updated to include interventions and supports to students as a priority in determining appropriate discipline.

### **Administrative Regulation 5144 - Discipline**

Regulation updated to clarify that "junior high" and "high school students" are interpreted to mean students in grades 7-12, which affects the list of representatives for the development of site-level disciplinary rules, and that supervised suspension is one of the means of discipline that may be used when other means of correction have failed to bring about proper conduct. Additionally, regulation updated to reflect **NEW LAW (SB 10, 2023)** which expresses the legislative intent that districts use alternatives to a referral of a student to a law enforcement agency in response to an incident involving the student's misuse of an opioid to the extent that the alternative is not in conflict with any other law requiring a referral, and that a multi-tiered system of supports may be utilized, **NEW LAW (AB 1165, 2023)** which encourages districts to have a student who has been suspended, or for whom other means of correction have been implemented, for an incident of racist bullying, harassment, or intimidation, and the victim, to engage in a restorative justice practice suitable to address the needs of both of the students, engage the perpetrator in a culturally sensitive program, and to regularly check on the victim to ensure that the victim is not in danger of suffering from any long-lasting mental health issues, and **NEW LAW (SB 291, 2023)** which, beginning with the 2024-25 school year, prohibits a school staff member from denying a student's recess unless the student's participation poses an immediate threat to the physical safety of the student or one or more of the student's peers.

### **Board Policy 6115 - Ceremonies and Observances**

Policy updated to add events of present day significance to the Governing Board's recognition of the importance of students celebrating events of significance, as observances which districts are required to hold by law may include current laws and rights. Additionally, policy updated to reflect that specified commemorative exercises may be required by law and include educational components.

### **Administrative Regulation 6115 - Ceremonies and Observances**

Regulation updated to reflect **NEW LAW (AB 800, 2023)** which requires districts to observe, during the week that includes April 28, "Workplace Readiness Week" by providing high school students with specified information on their rights as workers, and, for students in grades 11 and 12, for the observances to be integrated into the regular school program consistent with the history-social science framework. Additionally, regulation updated to reflect that specified commemorative exercises may be required by law. In addition, regulation updated to add to the list of when the national flag is required to fly at half-staff to include the death of a first responder in the state who dies while serving in the line of duty.

### **Board Policy 6141.2 - Recognition of Religious Beliefs and Customs**

Policy updated to reflect **NEW GUIDANCE** from the U.S. Department of Education regarding constitutionally protected prayer and religious expression in public schools and Appendix F of the California Department of Education's History and Social Science Framework which offers guidance and support for educators regarding the recognition of religious beliefs and customs. Additionally, policy updated to add that instruction regarding the role of religion in society be consistent with adopted instructional materials and state standards. In addition, policy updated to reflect U.S. Supreme Court decision ([Kennedy v. Bremerton](#)) which held that the employee, a football coach, did not coerce students to pray when the employee knelt at midfield after games to offer a quiet personal prayer, rejected the district's argument that any visible religious conduct by a teacher or coach amounted to impermissible coercion on students, and concluded that the coach was acting in a private capacity and not in the capacity of an employee of the district when the prayer was offered during a time when school employees were free to attend to personal matters. Policy also updated to reflect **NEW COURT DECISION** ([Fellowship of Christian Athletes v. San Jose Unified School District](#)) in which the Ninth Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals held that it would be discrimination for a district to fail to recognize a student club with religiously based leadership requirements upon a finding that multiple student clubs imposed certain requirements for membership or leadership positions—i.e., discriminated against certain students—but that the district only objected to the Fellowship of Christian Athletes' requirements because of the *religious* basis of the requirements.

### **Administrative Regulation 6141.2 - Recognition of Religious Beliefs and Customs**

Regulation updated to reflect Appendix F of the California Department of Education's History and Social Science Framework which offers guidance and support for educators regarding the recognition of religious beliefs and customs.

### **Board Policy 6175 - Migrant Education**

Policy updated to reference this group of highly mobile students as "students who are migratory" to align with language found within the Education Code and the California Department of Education's 2023-24 federal program monitoring instrument.

### **Administrative Regulation 6175 - Migrant Education**

Regulation updated to reference this group of highly mobile students as "students who are migratory" to align with language found within the Education Code and the California Department of Education's (CDE) 2023-24 federal program monitoring instrument. Additionally, regulation updated to include that a student who is migratory may, but is not required, to be provided with programs for online instruction as a substitute for physical attendance, and to delete material related to family literacy services, as the funding and legal basis no longer exist. In addition, regulation updated to provide that for summer school programs, the number of instructional days may be decreased if there are holidays for which schools are required to be closed, that districts are required to make facilities available at no cost to other agencies that request facilities for the operation of migrant summer school program unless just cause for denial exists, and that districts who receive authorization and funding from CDE to provide an extended school year program to migratory students who, due to family movement, enroll in transitional kindergarten, kindergarten, or any of grades 1-6, on or after March 1 of the school year and depart on or before December 1 of the next school year, are required to operate such program in accordance with law. Regulation also updated to add material related to requirements regarding the transfer of coursework and credits, exemptions from district-established graduation requirements, and for the option to remain in school to complete district-established or statewide course requirements.

### **Board Bylaw 9320 - Meetings and Notices**

Bylaw updated to clarify that a study session, retreat, public forum, or discussion meeting of the Governing Board must either be held as a regular or special Board meeting. Additionally, bylaw updated to reflect **NEW LAW (AB 557, 2023)** which extended and modified the ability of a Board member to join a meeting by teleconference due to just cause or emergency circumstances or during a proclaimed state of emergency. In addition, bylaw updated to remove outdated COVID-19 related requirements. Bylaw also updated for clarity, precision, organization, and consistency.

### **Board Bylaw 9323.2 - Actions by the Board**

Bylaw updated to add that the Governing Board may take action on a request by a Board member to participate by teleconference due to emergency circumstances if it is not on the posted agenda so long as there was not sufficient time to place it on the agenda. Additionally, bylaw updated to remove language related to the authority of the district attorney's office or an interested person to file a civil action asking the court to order the Board to stop or prevent a Brown Act violation and replace it with language requiring the district attorney's office or interested person to first present a demand to "cure and correct" the alleged violation and, when such occurs, for the Board to consult with legal counsel on if and how to respond.

### **Exhibit(1) 9323.2 - Actions by the Board**

Exhibit updated to clarify that the exhibit is a non-exhaustive list of actions that require more than a simple majority vote and that have restrictions on when the Governing Board may act. Additionally, exhibit updated to remove, in the section "Actions Requiring a Two-Thirds Vote of the Membership of the Board," an item related to school facilities improvement districts as well as an item related to parcel taxes, both of which do not require a two-thirds vote. In addition, exhibit updated to add sections on "Actions Required to Occur During a Regular Board Meeting" and "Prohibitions on Certain Board Actions". Exhibit also updated to reflect **NEW LAW (SB 494, 2023)** which prohibits the Board from taking action to terminate a superintendent or assistant superintendent without cause within 30 calendar days after the first convening of the Board after a general election at which one or more of the Board members are elected or recalled, and **NEW LAW (SB 229, 2023)** which requires a district that is disposing of surplus land and has received notification of a violation to hold an open and public meeting to review and consider the substance of the notice of violation and prohibits the Board from taking final action to ratify or approve the proposed disposal of surplus land until a public meeting is held. Exhibit also updated for clarity, precision, organization, and consistency.

**Delete - Exhibit(2) 9323.2 - Actions by the Board**

Exhibit deleted as districts should consult with legal counsel if there is a need to respond to a "cure and correct" letter.