Turlock Unified School District

Student Discipline Code

July 2019

Student Discipline Code

The student discipline code applies to all students attending school in the Turlock Unified School District (TUSD) under the following circumstances: (1) while on any school grounds; (2) while going to or coming from any school; (3) during the lunch period, whether on or off the school campus; and (4) during, going to, or coming from a school-sponsored activity. Where appropriate, discipline should be progressive, meaning that a student's first violation will usually merit a consequence of a lesser degree than subsequent violations, taking into account all factors relevant to the severity of the current violation. Except where specified by Education Code Section 48900.5, a student may be suspended only when there has been a determination that other means of correction have failed to bring about proper conduct or that the student's presence causes a danger to persons.

The student discipline code also applies to: (1) all school-related trips and excursions approved according to governing board standards; and (2) optional District educational programs such as: (a) summer school; and (b) after-school programs. At the principal's discretion, a student with documented discipline problems not requiring expulsion may be removed from the remainder of an optional educational program. Before a removal occurs, the parent will receive a written notice and an opportunity to be heard in front of the principal or principal's designee.

Consequences and Interventions

Understanding that consequences and interventions represent "teachable moments" is fundamental to a positive approach to discipline. The goal of progressive consequences and interventions is the teaching of pro-social behavior. Progressive consequences seek accountability and behavioral change. Prevention of negative behavior occurs by helping students learn from their mistakes. Essential to progressive discipline is helping students who have engaged in unacceptable behavior to:

1. Understand why the behavior is unacceptable and the harm it has caused
2. Understand what they could have done differently in the same situation
3. Take responsibility for their action
4. Be given the opportunity to learn pro-social strategies and skills to use in the future
5. Understand the progression of more stringent consequences if the behavior reoccurs

Consequences and interventions are most effective with students when they deal directly with the problem, in a way that is fair and impartial. These procedures were developed to establish a uniform discipline code for the District; it is expected that this code would be followed and consistently enforced throughout the District. All District staff who are authorized to impose disciplinary actions are expected to do so in a prompt, fair, and lawful manner and to place emphasis on the student's ability to grow in self-discipline. To correct the behavior of any student who is subject to discipline, the principal/designee should, to the extent allowed by law, first use an alternative to suspension. Except for single acts of a grave nature or multiple offenses, suspensions and expulsions are used only when other means of correction have failed to bring about proper conduct or the student's presence causes a continuing danger to persons. All District staff are to assure due process for students. When choosing interventions and consequences for a student's behavior, District staff should consider the following factors:

1. Age, health, maturation and disability or special education status of the student
2. Student's prior conduct and record of behavior
3. Student's understanding of the impact of their behavior
4. Student's willingness to repair the harm caused by their behavior
5. Seriousness of the behavior offense and the degree of harm caused
6. Impact of the incident on overall school community
7. Whether the student's violation threatened the safety of any student or staff member
8. The likelihood that a lesser intervention or consequence would adequately address the violation

When students are disruptive or act inappropriately, and following consideration of the factors previously mentioned, District staff shall determine the level of consequence and intervention needed to assist the student in bringing about proper conduct. Consequences should be paired with an appropriate intervention. The following levels of interventions and consequences shall be applied in a logical, appropriate, and consistent manner.

TURLOCK UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
BEHAVIORS AND RESPONSES MATRIX

The Turlock Unified School District Behaviors and Responses Matrix was developed in compliance with California Education Code as an aid to TUSD teachers and administrators. The Matrix is part of a coordinated effort to improve school climate for all stakeholders, reduce suspension and expulsion, eliminate disproportionality in disciplinary responses, and focus on prevention and intervention, rather than punishment.

LEVEL	RESPONSES
1	**Classroom-Managed Responses** Level 1 responses are implemented at the classroom level. Responses at this level demonstrate and reinforce appropriate behaviors, or provide corrections to inappropriate behaviors. Teachers are encouraged to try a variety of teaching and classroom management strategies. Below are some examples of appropriate consequences and interventions. **Examples** - PBIS/social-emotional learning - Verbal corrective feedback or redirection - Parent/guardian notification - Re-teach behavior or expectation - Conference with student, parent/guardian, or both - Written reflection or apology - Change of seat - Classroom Meeting - Redirection/De-escalation - Loss of classroom privileges - Classroom detention - Parent/guardian classroom visit
2	**Administrator-Managed Responses** Level 2 responses are implemented by administration or support staff. Responses at this level aim to correct behavior by stressing the seriousness of the behavior, while keeping the student in school. Such responses often involve support staff and aim to engage the student's support system to ensure successful learning, consistency, and change the conditions that contribute to the student's inappropriate or disruptive behavior. Below are some examples of appropriate consequences and interventions. **Examples** - Parent/guardian notification - Conference with student, parent/guardian, or both - Detention - Social-emotional skills group - No Bully solution team - Rescind work permit - Community service - Restorative conversation - Behavior support plan - SART/DART/SARB - Conflict mediation - Change of class - Refer to SST/504 Team/IEP Team - Refer to Parent Education Class - Refer to school counselor - Refer to substance abuse education - Rescind athletics eligibility - Mentoring - Refer to school or community mental health support - Alternative to suspension contract - Saturday school - Campus beautification
3	**Administrator-Managed Removal** Level 3 responses are implemented by administration. Responsible at this level may involve the removal of the student from the instructional setting if 1) Other means of correction are not feasible or have repeatedly failed to bring about proper conduct, or 2) Due to the nature of the act, the presence of the student causes a continuing danger to the physical safety of himself/herself or others. The duration of the removal is to be limited as much as practicable while adequately addressing the behavior. **Examples** - Conference with student and parent/guardian - Teacher-imposed suspension - In-school intervention room - Placement in alternative setting (SPED) - SARB referral for disciplinary reasons - Opportunity transfer to alternative program - Involuntary transfer to continuation school - Suspension - Expulsion - Manifestation determination

Problem Behavior	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
Alcohol and Intoxicants			
• Unlawfully possessed, used, sold, or otherwise furnished, or been under the influence of, a controlled substance, an alcoholic beverage, or an intoxicant of any kind. EC 48900(c)		●	●
Attendance			
• Excessive absences	●	●	
• Excessive tardies	●	●	
Academic Dishonesty			
• Cheating or plagiarizing	●	●	
Bullying and Harassment			
• Engaged in, or attempted to engage in, hazing. EC 48900(q)		●	●
• Engaged in an act of bullying. EC 48900(r)		●	●
• Intentionally harassed, threatened, or intimidated, creating a hostile educational environment. EC 48900.4 *(NOTE: This section only applies to grades 4-12.)*		●	●
• Exhibiting minor annoying behaviors toward another student.	●	●	
Contraband			
• Possession of unauthorized items that are not identified for disciplinary action in EC 48900.		●	
Controlled Substances			
• Unlawfully possessed, used, sold, or otherwise furnished, or been under the influence of, a controlled substance, an alcoholic beverage, or an intoxicant of any kind. EC 48900(c)		●	●
• Unlawfully possessed or unlawfully offered, arranged, or negotiated to sell drug paraphernalia. EC 48900(j)		●	●

Problem Behavior	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
• Unlawfully offered, arranged to sell, negotiated to sell, or sold the prescription drug Soma. EC 48900(p)		●	●
• Unlawful possession of any controlled substance. EC 48915(a)(1)		●	●
• Unlawfully selling a controlled substance. EC 48915(c)			●
Defiance			
• Disrupted school activities or otherwise willfully defied the valid authority of supervisors, teachers, administrators, school officials, or other school personnel engaged in the performance of their duties. EC 48900(k) *(NOTE: This section only applies to grades 4-12.)*		●	●
• Engaged in minor defiant behavior that does not cause widespread disruptions.	●	●	
Disruption of School Activities			
• Disrupted school activities or otherwise willfully defied the valid authority of supervisors, teachers, administrators, school officials, or other school personnel engaged in the performance of their duties. EC 48900(k) *(NOTE: This section only applies to grades 4-12.)*		●	●
• Engaged in behavior that disrupts classroom instruction or another school activity.	●	●	
Dress Code			
• Wearing clothing that does not comply with the school's dress code guidelines.		●	
Forgery			
• Created or used a forged signature or document.	●	●	
Gambling			
• Engaged in acts of gambling.		●	
Hate Violence			
• Caused, attempted to cause, threatened to cause, or participated in an act of hate violence. EC 48900.3 *(NOTE: This section only applies to grades 4-12.)*		●	●

Problem Behavior	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
Imitation Substances			
• Unlawfully offered, arranged, or negotiated to sell a controlled substance, alcoholic beverage, or an intoxicant of any kind, and either sold, delivered, or otherwise furnished to a person another liquid, substance, or material and represented the liquid, substance, or material as a controlled substance, alcoholic beverage, or intoxicant. EC 48900(d)		●	●
Loitering			
• Out of class without permission.	●	●	
Obscene Acts and Offensive Behavior			
• Committed an obscene act or engaged in habitual profanity or vulgarity. EC 48900(i) *(NOTE: This section only applies to habitual behavior, or extreme circumstances.)*		●	●
• Inappropriate displays of affection.	●	●	
• Viewing or displaying sexually explicit or other offensive content.	●	●	
Physical Aggression			
• Caused, attempted to cause, or threatened to cause physical injury to another person. EC 48900(a)(1)		●	●
• Willfully used force or violence upon the person of another, except in self-defense. EC 48900(a)(2)		●	●
• A pupil who aids or abets the infliction or attempted infliction of physical injury to another person. EC 48900(t)		●	●
• Causing serious physical injury to another person, except in self-defense. EC 48915(a)(1)			●
• Assault or Battery upon a school employee. EC 48915(a)(1)			●
• Minor physical aggression without injury.		●	
Profanity			
• Committed an obscene act or engaged in habitual profanity or vulgarity. EC 48900(i) *(NOTE: This section only applies to habitual behavior, or extreme circumstances.)*		●	●

Problem Behavior	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
• Use of profanity on school campus.	●	●	
Property Damage			
• Caused or attempted to cause damage to school property or private property. EC 48900(f)		●	●
• Accidental damage to school property or private property.	●	●	
Robbery and Extortion			
• Committed or attempted to commit robbery or extortion. EC 48900(e), 48915(a)(1)		●	●
• Committed robbery or extortion. EC 48915(a)(1)		●	●
Selling of Unauthorized Items			
• Selling any items on campus that are not approved for sale by the principal or their designee.		●	
Sexual Assault and Battery			
• Committed or attempted to commit a sexual assault or sexual battery. EC 48915(c)			●
Sexual Harassment			
• Committed sexual harassment. EC 48900.2 *(NOTE: This section only applies to grades 4-12.)*		●	●
Technology			
• Violation of school or teacher rules regarding the use of personal technology in class.	●	●	
• Violation of Acceptable Use Policy.	●	●	
• Unauthorized use of school technology.	●	●	
Theft			
• Stole or attempted to steal school property or private property. EC 48900(g)		●	●
• Knowingly received stolen school property or private property. EC 48900(l)		●	●

Problem Behavior	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
Threats			
• Made terroristic threats against school officials and/or school property. EC 48900.7		●	●
Tobacco and Vape Products			
• Possessed or used tobacco, or products containing tobacco or nicotine products. EC 48900(h)		●	●
• Possession of non-nicotine or non-controlled substance vape products.		●	
Trespassing			
• Trespassing on school property when explicitly informed not to be on school property.		●	
Verbal or Written Aggression (Non-Bullying)			
• Using aggressive, offensive, or abusive language toward another student or staff member.	●	●	
• Name-calling or teasing that has not escalated to the level of bullying.	●	●	
Weapons and Dangerous Objects			
• Possessed, sold, or otherwise furnished a firearm, knife, explosive, or other dangerous object. EC 48900(b)		●	●
• Possessed an imitation firearm. EC 48900(m)		●	●
• Possession of a knife or other dangerous object. EC 48900(a)(1)		●	●
• Brandishing a knife at another person. EC 48915(c)			●
• Possessing, selling, or otherwise furnishing a firearm. EC 48915(c)			●
• Possession of an explosive. EC 48915(c)			●