

UTLA Proposal 2-18-25
District Counter 3-24-25
UTLA Counter 6-17—25
District Counter 8-20-25
UTLA Counter 9-10-25

ARTICLE XXIV

POSITIVE STUDENT BEHAVIOR INTERVENTION AND SUPPORT, LEGAL SUPPORT AND PROPERTY LOSS

1.0 **Codes of Student Conduct:** It is the intention of the parties that teachers and administrators work in a mutually supportive manner to maintain school wide policies encouraging appropriate and positive student behavior. ~~There are three levels or sources of student disciplinary rules:~~

a. In order to improve consistency and accountability in student discipline, the District shall develop and issue (and may revise from time to time) a District-wide Code of Student Conduct. UTLA shall be one of the principal participating stakeholders in that process;

b. Local School Leadership Councils shall, pursuant to Article XXVII, Section 2.4, issue local rules of student conduct, supplemental to and consistent with the District-wide Code of Student Conduct; and

c. A teacher shall also have the right to issue and enforce reasonable rules of classroom behavior and expectation applicable to students in the teacher's classes, supplemental to and consistent with the District-wide and local school rules.

d. **If the Code of Conduct has been violated, administration will work collaboratively with the student's teacher to remedy the issue consistent with applicable school site and District policies and shall make any applicable referrals for student support services.**

1.1 Schools shall annually, at or soon after the start of the school year, post and distribute the District and local school rules of student behavior and expectations to students, parents, teachers and staff. Any later changes to such rules shall also be posted and distributed.

1.2 Before a student is transferred by the school from a teacher's class for disciplinary reasons or due to a parental request, the site administrator or designee shall give to the teacher an explanation for the transfer. The teacher may attach a written reply for the record.

1.3 LAUSD shall establish positive safety initiatives that prioritize historically underserved students, schools and communities. They shall include, but not be limited to, safe passage programs, community-based peace building programs, violence prevention programs, mental health and suicide prevention services, and school climate reform initiatives.

2.0 Student Suspensions: In addition to offering student supports such as counseling, parent conferences, conflict mediation support and/or office referrals for school wide positive behavior interventions and supports, the teacher may suspend a student from the teacher's class for that day and the following day for any of the causes in accordance with California Education Code 48900. However, this is not to suggest that teacher-imposed suspensions from class are to be the primary, or even typical, remedy for such offenses.

California Education Code 48900

- a. Disruptive behavior;
- b. Obscenity, habitual vulgarity, profanity or hate language (e.g., slurs based on race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender, religion, etc.);
- c. Causing, attempting or threatening violence or physical injury;
- d. Theft or damage to school property or personal property;
- e. Extortion or robbery;
- f. Possessing, using, offering for sale, furnishing or being under the influence of any controlled substance, alcoholic beverage or intoxicant of any kind;
- g. Possessing, using, offering for sale or furnishing any drug paraphernalia;
- h. Offering for sale or furnishing any substitute substance represented as a controlled substance, alcoholic beverage or intoxicant;
- i. Possessing, using, offering for sale, or furnishing any firearm, or imitation firearm, explosive, knife or other dangerous object;
- j. Falsely reporting a fire or bomb.
- k. Possessing, or using tobacco, or any products containing tobacco or nicotine products, including, but not limited to, cigarettes, cigars, miniature cigars, clove cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, snuff, chew packets, and betel. However, this section does not prohibit use or possession by a pupil of his or her own prescription products.
- l. Knowingly receiving stolen school property or private property.
- m. Committing or attempting to commit a sexual assault as defined in Section 261, 266c, 286, 288, 288a or 289 of the Penal Code or committing a sexual battery as defined in Section 243.4 of the Penal Code; or

n. Harassing, threatening, or intimidating a pupil who is a complaining witness or witness in a school disciplinary proceeding for the purpose of either preventing that pupil from being a witness or retaliating against that pupil for being a witness, or both.

In addition, if the Student Support and Progress Team (SSPT) has been initiated for the student, the SSPT shall be involved in the intervention and positive behavior support plan based on student need. Such interventions shall be rooted in Tier II and Tier III Intervention Supports and Alternatives to Suspension as outlined in District policy which currently includes:

- a. Highly specialized and individualized alternatives to suspension for students who have been documented as unresponsive to Tier I and/or Tier II
- b. Target social skills instruction
- c. Behavior plans
- d. Alternatives to suspension
- e. Increased academic support
- f. School-based mentors
- g. Classroom management support
- h. Intensive academic support based on the student's level of need
- i. Intensive social skills counseling
- j. Individual behavioral student contract
- k. Develop intensive COST/SSTP goals to address the continued misconduct
- l. Multi-agency collaboration
- m. Community and service learning

2.1 Teachers who choose to impose suspensions from their class shall immediately report same to the site administrator and send the student to the office. As soon as possible, the teacher shall ask the parent or guardian of the student to meet with the teacher. During the period of the suspension the student shall not be returned to the teacher's class without the consent of the teacher, or be placed in another regular class. The teacher may require the completion of tests and assignments missed due to the suspension. Apart from or in addition to a teacher-imposed suspension, the teacher may refer a student to the site administrator for consideration of a suspension from school or an expulsion.

2.2 Prior to or upon the student's return to the classroom, a copy of the District's documents applicable to the act for which the student was

suspended, including corrective action taken, shall be provided to that student's teacher(s).

2.3 Prior to the student's return to the school campus from a suspension or incarceration, a re-entry meeting shall be held. Any identified supports will be shared in accordance with District policies and applicable

3.0 Legal Assistance and Support: If an altercation, disturbance, student discipline situation or similar circumstance results in a lawsuit against an employee for conduct occurring within the course and proper scope of the employee's duties, the District shall, to the extent permitted by law, provide a defense to the employee and indemnify and hold the employee harmless against any resulting civil liability. The Board of Education may, in its discretion under Government Code Section 825, indemnify the employee against punitive or exemplary damages.

3.1 If an employee's person or property is injured or damaged by the willful misconduct of a student while on school property, or while attending or being transported to or from a school-sponsored activity, or in retaliation for conduct of the employee within the course and proper scope of the employee's duties, the employee may, in addition to any independent remedy the employee may have, request the District to pursue legal action against the student and/or the student's parents or guardians pursuant to Education Code Sections 48904 and 48905. After evaluating the circumstances, the District may bring such a legal action to recover damages.

4.0 Notification to Teacher Regarding Past Misconduct by Student: Pursuant to Education Code Section 49079, when a teacher is regularly assigned a student who during the previous three years engaged in the misconduct described below (or who the District reasonably believes has so acted), the District shall make a good faith effort to inform the teacher of that misconduct. The student misconduct which gives rise to the above notification includes any misconduct which would constitute grounds for suspension from school or expulsion. Such notification and information shall be based upon the records the District maintains in its ordinary course of business or has received from a law enforcement agency. Any such information shall be received by the teacher in confidence for the limited purpose of alerting the teacher, and shall not be further disseminated by the teacher.

4.1 Threat Assessment: Should a threat assessment of a student be initiated the teacher(s) of that student will be notified of the status of the assessments and steps being taken. Updates shall be provided as appropriate and permissible.

5.0 Loss, Destruction, Damage, Theft and Vandalism: Employees shall be reimbursed for lost, damaged, destroyed, stolen or vandalized personal property as provided below. The maximum limit for reimbursement shall be \$1000. Claims which are reported to the employee's personal insurance carrier shall be limited to the insurance deductible, if any, plus any other non-insured loss. In no case shall the District reimbursement exceed \$1000, except that the Board of Education may, upon application (see f. below) and in its discretion, approve a reimbursement in

excess of the normal maximum or a reimbursement which does not otherwise qualify under the provisions below.

a. The District shall pay the cost of replacing or repairing:

- (1) An employee's property necessarily worn or carried (such as eyeglasses, hearing aids, dentures, watches or clothing) damaged or stolen in the course of duty without fault of the employee; or
- (2) The loss (from theft, damage or destruction by vandalism, burglary or arson) of personal property used in the schools or offices, when approval for such use was given by the site administrator before the property was put into use and the value of the property was agreed upon in advance (complete the Property Registration Form); or
- (3) The loss from damage to, or theft of, an employee's automobile as the result of the malicious act of another and without fault of the employee, while transporting others on authorized school business, or while the vehicle is parked or driven on or adjacent to school grounds, other District premises or the site of authorized District activities; or
- (4) The damage to an employee's automobile caused by students being transported by the employee on authorized school business.

b. Items damaged beyond repair or stolen shall be reimbursed at the actual value of such items (subject to the limitations herein) determined as of the time of the loss including normal allowances for depreciation.

c. No payment shall be made for any loss having a depreciated value of less than \$10, or for ordinary wear and tear.

d. Where a claim for loss involves a vehicle or theft of property a report shall be made to the police and the police department report number included in the claim. If damage is to a vehicle, two estimates of the repair costs shall be provided.

e. A request for reimbursement, co-signed by the immediate administrator, shall be filed by the employee with the Insurance Section within 60 calendar days of the loss.

f. In the event the employee receives payment from the District pursuant to this section, the District shall have the right of subrogation against those who caused the damage or loss, to the extent of its payment.

g. If the Insurance Section denies a claim, an employee seeking review must choose between filing a grievance pursuant to Article V, or processing an appeal to the Board of Education.

5.1 Liability for Employees Whose Duties Require Transportation of Students in the Employee's Own Vehicle: The District shall, to the extent permitted by law, assume primary liability and defend, at its expense, any employee who is required or properly authorized to transport students in the employee's personal vehicle where an accident occurs during such transport which leads to actual or threatened civil liability to a student passenger or the family of a student passenger.

5.2 In instances where student transportation is not available through routine sources such as parents, District transportation vehicles or emergency vehicles, the site administrator may authorize employees to transport pupils in their personal automobiles. When practical, two adults (one of each sex) shall accompany a student being transported.

5.3 Students transported to home shall be released only to the custody of a responsible adult, the person named on the student's emergency card authorized to accept custody of the student, or a person otherwise authorized by the parent/guardian.

5.4 The responsibility of the District with regard to reimbursement and liability when students are transported in the personal vehicles of employees is described in Section 4.0 above.

5.5 Following the normal procedures, employees using their personal vehicles to transport students shall receive mileage reimbursement as provided in this Agreement (See Article XXIX, Section 8.0).

5.6 Student Expulsion: If the principal reasonably determines that an intentional and deliberate assault and/or battery has occurred causing serious physical injury to the employee, or if the assault and/or battery involved a weapon, or is a sexual assault and/or battery, the principal shall recommend the expulsion of the student and the incident is to be reported to the appropriate law enforcement agency. Pursuant to applicable District policy and State and Federal law and actions of the appropriate law enforcement agency, the principal shall:

- a. Recommend the expulsion of the student.
- b. Suspend the student and provide for an alternate placement of the student pending expulsion.

Any decision as part of an arbitration in this matter may only result in a determination if the above terms have not been followed and may not affect any student discipline action.

Nothing in this section shall limit, circumvent, or restrict the student's right to participate in the expulsion process as defined by Ed. Code 48918.

5.7 Reasonable Intervention: **Consistent with** California Education Code Section 49001(a), educators may use an amount of force that is reasonable and necessary to quell a disturbance threatening physical injury to persons or damage to property, for purposes of self-defense, or to obtain possession of weapons or other dangerous objects within the control of the pupil. Such reasonable force shall not result in disciplinary action.

5.8 Safety Plan for Educators Physically Harmed by Student Conduct: If an educator is physically harmed by student conduct or harmed by a digital act of a student, a safety meeting will be conducted within three workdays, provided the teacher is able to attend. The meeting will include the educator, Chapter Chair, and administrator. The parties to the meeting will jointly develop a safety plan aimed at preventing future violent incidents.

5.9 Responding to School-Based Traumatic Event:

- a. Defining a Traumatic School Event: A traumatic school event is an incident impacting a significant portion of the school community, necessitating additional LAUSD support. This includes, but is not limited to:
- i. Lockdown
 - ii. Act of hate speech, as legally defined by California State Law and the California Education Code
 - iii. Violent altercation involving multiple interest holders
 - iv. Death of a student or staff member
 - v. Off-campus violence involving school community members
 - vi. Acute environmental event

Disputes over whether an event qualifies as "traumatic" will be referred to the LAUSD/UTLA School Safety Oversight Committee for resolution within 24 hours. In such instances the committee will convene for an emergency meeting.

- b. Response to a Traumatic School Event: Following a traumatic school event, LAUSD will:
1. Hold a meeting as soon as possible, but no longer than 48 hours after the incident, for parents and staff to process the event.
 2. Provide alternative curriculum at teachers' discretion.
 3. Issue faculty-wide correspondence within one working day, including:
 - Mental health resources and access information.
 - Alternative curriculum options.
 - A brief description of the event
 - Available personal necessity leave options
 4. Every effort shall be made to hold all mental health professionals at the site harmless from displacement for the year following a traumatic school event that involves the death of a student or staff member.
- c. School Safety and Support Oversight Committee: A Safety and Support Oversight Committee shall be comprised of one LAUSD-appointed representative per region and an equal number of UTLA-appointed

representatives. The committee shall meet at least four times a year and its responsibilities will include evaluating school responses to traumatic events, offer guidance/support for future incidents and determining if a disputed event qualifies as a “traumatic event”. The Committee shall report back to the LAUSD Board of Education annually.