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Continuation School
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Palo Verde Unified School District

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Palo Verde Unified School District

Annual Notification to Parents/Guardians 2025-2026



The Palo Verde Unified School District is committed to high quality education that ensures that all students will become productive members of an increasingly diverse and technological society. We will encourage and nurture home, school and community cooperation. We will provide a safe, clean, positive environment. We will use a variety of strategies to promote student learning.

The Palo Verde Unified School District is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity agency and shall not discriminate against employees, job applicants, students/parents, or community members on the basis of actual or perceived race, religious creed, color, national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, pregnancy, physical or mental disability, mental condition, genetic information, military and veteran status, gender, gender identity, gender expression, sex, or sexual orientation or association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics.

The district is required by law to provide the following information concerning parents/students rights to assist you.

Board of Trustees

Jamey Mullion – President
Ryan Copple – Vice-President
Alice Dean – Clerk
Martha Gutierrez – Member
Stephanie Romero – Member

Palo Verde Unified School District

"Improving Learning...Together"

Calendar 2025-2026



JANUARY

1-2 Winter Break

19 Martin Luther King Jr Day

29-30 Elementary Conferences (Early Release)

FEBRUARY

9 Lincoln's Birthday

16 President's Day

19 End Trimester 2 (Elementary)

20 Teacher Work Day / no students

MARCH

13 End Quarter 3 (Secondary)

16-23 School Break

APRIL

3-10 Spring Recess

MAY

25 Memorial Day

JUNE

5 Last Day of Instruction / Minimum Day / Early Release

6 or 8 Teacher Work Day

19 Juneteenth Observed

JULY

4 Independence Day- Observed

AUGUST

7-8 Teacher Work Days

11 First Day of Instruction

11-15 Minimum Day / Early Release

SEPTEMBER

1 Labor Day

OCTOBER

1-3 Elementary Conferences (Early Release)

10 End Quarter 1 (Secondary)

24 Minimum Day / Early Release

NOVEMBER

7 End Trimester 1 (Elementary)

11 Veterans Day

24-28 Thanksgiving Break

DECEMBER

18 End Quarter 2 / Semester 1 (Secondary)

19 Teacher Work Day / no students

22-31 Winter Break

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
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28	29	30				

CALENDAR CODING:

- Teacher Work Days (No students)
- School Begins / Ends
- Minimum Day
- Elementary Parent Conferences
- No School in Session
- Federal / State / Local Holiday – All Staff

PUPIL REPORTING PERIODS

	Quarter		Trimester	
First	August 11 – October 10	44 days	August 11 – November 7	64 days
Second	October 13 – December 11	43 days	November 10 – March 6	64 days
Third	January 5 – March 6	46 days	March 17 – June 5	52 days
Fourth	March 17 – June 5	47 days		180 Total
		180 Total		

Board Approved: May 20, 2025



Palo Verde Unified School District

Annual Notification to Parents & Guardians

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As the parent of a student you have many rights and responsibilities. We urge you to read it. We must get the signed form returned or your child may not be able to attend classes.

Teachers build your child's education one day at a time, so every day is essential. Promotion or even graduation can be put in jeopardy if too many days are missed. Work with the teacher when a child must miss school. Get homework assignments and review work. There is only one chance to get a great education.

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The references at the end of the sections in this booklet include the following codes:

BP . . . District Board Policy
AR . . . Administrative Regulation
EC . . . Education Code
HSC . . Health and Safety Code
PC . . . Penal Code
WIC . . Welfare and Institutions Code
CCR . . California Code of Regulations
CC . . . Civil Code
FC . . . Family Code
GC . . . Government Code
VC . . . Vehicle Code
BPC . . Business and Professions Code

FAC . . . Food and Agriculture Code
USC . . . United States Code
CFR . . . Code of Federal Regulations
ESEA . . Elementary and Secondary Education Act
PPRA . . Pupil Privacy Rights Amendment
FERPA . . Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act
PPACA . Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act
Title VI . Title VI (or VII, or IX) of the Civil Rights Act of 1964
IDEA . . . Individuals with Disabilities Education Act
§ 504 . . . Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973
EOA . . . Equal Opportunities Act
CIF . . . California Interscholastic Federation

PARENT RIGHTS

The Palo Verde Unified School District recognizes that parent rights are as important as parent responsibilities. Education Code section 51100 and 51101 lists the following parent rights:

Classroom visits: Parents may make scheduled visits to observe their student's classroom. The request to visit a class must be accommodated in a reasonable period of time.

Meetings with teachers or administrators: Parents may expect to meet with school staff within a reasonable time after they request the meeting.

Volunteering: Parents may volunteer their time and resources to improve school facilities and programs, under the supervision of district employees. This includes helping with classroom activities, under the direct guidance of the teacher. The responsibility for instruction must remain with the teacher.

Absences: Parents may expect to be notified on a timely basis if their student is absent without permission.

Standardized and Statewide Tests: Parents shall receive their student's results on any standardized and statewide tests, and parents shall receive information on the performance of their student's school on these tests.

Request for a particular school: Parents may request a particular school for their student. The district will respond to the request, but is not obligated to grant the request.

School Environment: Parents may expect a safe environment that is supportive of learning for their student.

Learning Materials: Parents may examine the curricular materials used in their student's class(s).

Student Progress and Who to Contact: Parents

are to be informed of their student's progress at school, and of the appropriate school personnel to contact should a problem arise with their student.

Student Records: Parents have the right to see the school records of their student.

Academic Expectations: Parents have the right to be informed about academic standards, proficiencies, or skills their student is expected to accomplish.

School Rules: Parents have the right to be informed in advance of school rules, including disciplinary rules and procedures, attendance policies, dress codes, and procedures for visiting the school. [EC 35291, 48980]

Psychological Testing: Parents must receive information about any psychological testing being considered for their student, and the parent has the right to refuse any such test for their student.

Committee Participation: Parents have the right to seek appointment or election to school site councils, parent advisory committees, or site-based management teams in accordance with membership rules. Schools are encouraged to hold two open forums annually, to provide information to parents on school issues and activities. Weekend meetings are recommended, and ample prior notice to parents should be provided.

Questioning Student Records: Parents have the right to question anything in their student's record that they feel is inaccurate, misleading, or is an invasion of privacy, and to receive a response from the school.

Promotion/Retention: Parents have the right to be informed as early in the year as possible that their student may be in risk of retention, and they may consult with those responsible for the decision to promote or retain their

student, and the parent may appeal the decision to promote or retain their child.

Participate with School Personnel: Parents have the right to enter into a partnership with school personnel to learn how best to help their student be successful at school by monitoring attendance, homework, and class performance, as well as encouraging extra curricular activities and controlling TV viewing. Furthermore, parents can extend classroom activities after school, and participate in school decisions which impact their student’s and the school’s learning experience.

Note: The rights and activities discussed in this section may not be available to a parent/guardian/family member due to a valid restraining order, or other applicable court orders. Please contact the school district at (760) 922-4164 if you have any questions about restraining orders at school.

ATTENDANCE

■ Attendance Options

The governing board annually reviews attendance options including how students may attend a district school outside their attendance area (intra-district transfer). This district has non-arbitrary rules explaining how students may apply, be accepted or denied intra-district transfer. Districts may allow the transfer of students from or to other districts (inter-district transfer). Victims of bullying or violence are given preference in intra- and inter-district transfers. In some cases, the district must provide transportation. Students attending “persistently dangerous” schools can transfer and enroll in a safe school. Students convicted of a violent felony or convicted of a specific misdemeanor may be transferred involuntarily to another school in the district. Districts cannot prevent children of active military from changing districts, as long as the district chosen

agrees to accept them. Upon enrollment or transfer, principals are urged to check missing children information. Further information about residency, attendance options, special program options, etc. will be provided by the California Department of Education. [BP 5116.2 March 2024; EC 46600, 48204, 48204.7, 48206.3, 48300, 48301, 48306, 48432.5, 48853.5, 48929, 48980, 49068, 51101; PC 667.5(c), 29805; 20 USC 7912]

1. Intradistrict Open Enrollment

The Governing Board desires to provide enrollment options that meet the diverse needs and interests of district students and parents/guardians, while also maximizing the efficient use of district facilities and resources. The Superintendent or designee shall establish procedures for the selection and transfer of students among district schools in accordance with law, Board policy, and administrative regulation.

The parents/guardians of any student who resides within district boundaries may apply to enroll their child in any district school, regardless of the location of residence within the district. The Board shall annually review this policy.

Enrollment Priorities

No student currently residing within a school’s attendance area shall be displaced by another student transferring from outside the attendance area.

The Superintendent or designee shall grant priority for the enrollment of a student in a district school outside of the student’s attendance area, if the student:

1. Is enrolled in a district school designated by the California Department of Education (CDE) as “persistently dangerous.”
2. Is a victim of a violent crime while on school grounds.
3. Is a victim of an act of bullying committed



by another district student, as determined through an investigation following the parent/guardian's submission of a written complaint with the school, district, or local law enforcement agency pursuant to Education Code 234.1.

If the district school requested by the student is at maximum capacity, the Superintendent or designee shall accept an intradistrict transfer request for another district school.

4. Is experiencing special circumstances that might be harmful or dangerous to the student in the current attendance area, including, but not limited to, threats of bodily harm or threats to the emotional stability of the student. Any such student may transfer to a district school that is at capacity and otherwise closed to transfers. To grant priority under these circumstances, the Superintendent or designee must have received either:
 - a. A written statement from a representative of an appropriate state or local agency, including, but not necessarily limited to, a law enforcement official, or a social worker, or a properly licensed or registered professional, including, but not necessarily limited to, a psychiatrist, psychologist, marriage and family therapist, clinical social worker, or professional clinical counselor
 - b. A court order, including a temporary restraining order and injunction
5. Is a sibling of another student already attending that school.
6. Has a parent/guardian whose primary place of employment is that school.

Application and Selection Process

In order to ensure that priorities for enrollment in district schools are implemented in accordance with law and Board policy,

applications for intradistrict open enrollment shall be submitted between March 22nd and April 22nd of the school year preceding the school year for which the transfer is requested.

The Superintendent or designee shall calculate each school's capacity in a nonarbitrary manner using student enrollment and available space.

Except for enrollment priorities listed above, the Superintendent or designee shall use a random, unbiased selection process to determine who shall be admitted whenever a district school receives admission requests that are in excess of the school's capacity.

Enrollment decisions shall not be based on a student's academic or athletic performance. However, existing entrance criteria may be used for enrolling students in specialized schools or programs, provided that the criteria are uniformly applied to all applicants. In addition, academic performance may be used to determine eligibility for, or placement in, programs for gifted and talented students.

Transportation

In general, the district shall not be obligated to provide transportation for students who attend school outside their attendance area.

However, upon parent/guardian request, the district shall provide transportation assistance to any student who is eligible for free or reduced-price meals and whose enrollment in a district school outside the student's attendance area is a result of being a victim of bullying. [BP 5116.1 July 2024; EC 200, 35160.5, 35291-35291.5, 35351, 46600-46611, 48200, 48204, 48300-48316, 48980; 5 CCR 11992-11994; 20 USC 6311, 6313, 7912]

2. Interdistrict Attendance

The Governing Board recognizes that parents/guardians of students who reside within the geographic boundaries of one district may,

Updated
policy

for a variety of reasons, desire to enroll their children in a school in another district.

Interdistrict Attendance Agreements and Permits

The Board may enter into an agreement with any other school district, for a term not to exceed five school years, for the interdistrict attendance of students who are residents of the districts.

The agreement shall specify the terms and conditions under which interdistrict attendance shall be permitted or denied. It also may contain standards agreed upon by both districts for reapplication and/or revocation of the student's permit.

Upon receiving a permit for transfer into the district that has been approved by the student's district of residence, or upon receiving a written request from the parent/guardian of a district student who wishes to enroll in another district, the Superintendent or designee shall review the request and may approve or deny the permit subject to the terms and conditions of the interdistrict attendance agreement.

Transportation

Upon parent/guardian request, the district shall provide transportation assistance to a student receiving an interdistrict transfer who is eligible for free and reduced-price meals and is the child of an active duty military parent/guardian or a victim of bullying, as defined in Education Code 46600.

In addition, upon request of a student's parent/guardian, the Superintendent or designee may authorize transportation for any interdistrict transfer student to and from designated bus stops within the attendance area of the school that the student attends if space is available. [BP 5117 August 2023; EC 8151, 41020, 46600-46611, 48204, 48300-48317, 48900, 48915, 48915.1, 48918, 48980, 48985, 52317; CA Constitution Article 1, Section 31]

3. Attendance Where Caregiver Resides

If your child lives in the home of a caregiving adult, as defined by law, or a foster home your child may attend the school district in which that residence is located. Execution of an affidavit under penalty of perjury pursuant to the Family Code by the caregiving adult is required to determine that your child lives in the caregiver's home. [EC 48204(a)(5), 48980; FC 6550-6552]

4. Attendance in District in Which Parent/Guardian is Employed

The district may, but is not required to accept a transfer student whose parent/guardian resides outside the boundaries of the school district but is employed and lives with the student at the place of the parent's/guardian's employment within the boundaries of the school district for a minimum of three days during the school week; or a student whose parent/guardian physically works within the boundaries of the school district for a minimum of 10 hours during the school week. [EC 48204(a)(7), 48980]

5. Special Enrollment Allowances for Some Categories of Students

Some students living in the District, including foster, homeless, migratory, American Indian, or military children may stay enrolled in their school of origin inside or outside the district if: 1) their Individual Education Plan (IEP) indicates attendance elsewhere, or 2) parents, guardians, and others with authority declare in writing otherwise. In some cases, they also have rights to expedited enrollment in school, to attend classes and programs, to after-school programs, and to fee waivers. The school district and each school site have complete documentation of the rights of homeless, foster, migratory, military, and other special categories of students. [EC 48204, 48204.7, 48645.3, 48850-48859, 51225.1, 56055; 5 CCR 4622; WIC 224.1, 361, 726; 42 USC 11301, 11431-11435]

Student Immigrant and Religious Rights

All school age children must be admitted to California Public Schools and be offered all programs accessible to other students. School districts cannot ask about a student's immigrant (or migratory) or religious status. The state Attorney General has information about "know your rights": <https://oag.ca.gov/immigrant/resources>. Immigrant students are still considered residents of their current school district even if parents are deported or are being held in custody. [EC 200, 220, 234.1]

■ General Absences

The majority of school districts are funded based on their daily attendance. The state only awards funding to school districts for actual attendance; they do not fund districts for the excused absences listed below. There are two types of absences – excused and unexcused. Always review the school calendar and plan activities and vacations during days off.

Other attendance reports, such as truancy, rely on excused and unexcused absences. There are legal consequences if your child misses too much school. You must send a note and/or phone the school within 72 hours to clear any excusable absences. Parents/Guardians have the right to be notified on a timely basis if their child is absent from school without permission. Unexcused absences are recorded as a truancy.

Excused Absences

Children cannot learn if they are not in school. Children ages 6 to 18 years are required to attend every school day. Daily school attendance improves student achievement. Research shows that a student that is absent 10 percent of the time (called a chronic absentee whether or not the absences are excused) is more likely to have difficulty learning, achieving, and graduating from high school. Teach your child(ren) that school attendance is an important family value.

Student absences from school shall be excused for the following reasons:

Medical reasons – their own illness or the illness of their child; quarantine; mental or behavioral health services; medical, dental, optometric, or chiropractic services; or

Family reasons – to spend time with a family member leaving for or returning from active military duty (duration at the discretion of the Superintendent); observance of a holiday or ceremony of their religion; attendance at a religious retreat (maximum 1 day); participating in a cultural ceremony or event; by parent/guardian request in writing and approved by the designated representative pursuant to governing board standards; or

Grieving or attending a funeral – of an immediate family member (maximum 5 days); a person their parent/guardian determines to be closely associated enough to be considered an immediate family member (maximum 3 days); accessing victim services, grief support services, or safety planning services for the student/family (including relocation); or

Personal business reasons – jury duty (as provided by law); attendance or appearance in court; attendance at an employment conference; attendance at a nonprofit organization's educational conference on the legislative or judicial process; serving as a member of an election precinct board; attending their own naturalization ceremony to become a United States citizen; engaging in a civic or political event, provided that they notify the school ahead of time (maximum 1 day for grades 7-12); the pupil's participation in military entrance processing.

A school administrator may authorize or extend some excused absences. Students shall be allowed to complete all assignments and tests missed during an excused absence that can be reasonably provided. Upon satisfactory



completion within a reasonable period of time, shall be given full credit for those assignments and tests. The classroom teacher(s) shall determine which assignments and tests shall be reasonable equivalent to, but not necessarily identical to the assignments and tests that the student missed during the absence. [EC 48205, 48260]

Districts may allow students, with parental or guardian consent, to be excused to participate in moral or religious exercises or instruction. [EC 46014]

School authorities may excuse any student in grades 7 through 12 from school for the purpose of obtaining confidential medical services without the consent of the pupil's parent or guardian. [EC 46010.1]

Unexcused Absences

When a student misses school without an excuse, they are considered truant. The state defines three levels of truancy, each carrying more severe penalties for both the student and the parent(s)/guardian(s). A student is classified as a:

Truant – after missing three days of school or three 30-minute periods without a valid excuse.

Habitual Truant – if they are truant three or more times in a school year and an effort has been made by the school/district to meet with parents.

Chronic Truant – if they miss 10 percent or more of the school days from the date of their enrollment or the start of the school year to the current date without a valid excuse.

Early intervention and cooperation between the school and the family is the most effective way to support student learning. The school will notify the parent/guardian, who are obligated to compel the student to attend school.

Students and parents face penalties as

defined in Education Code, Welfare and Institutions Code, and Penal Code; including referral to a student attendance review board (SARB). A student who is truant may additionally be referred to a community service program; the county probation department; the District Attorney's office; or the Juvenile Court. The parent/guardian of a truant may face fines, imprisonment up to one year, or both; be required to meet regularly with district staff; and/or be required to attend classes at the student's school. [EC 48260, 48260.5, 48261, 48262, 48263, 48263.5, 48263.6, 48264.5, 48291, 48293, 48320; PC 270.1; WIC 256, 258, 601, 601.3]

■ Emergency School Closure

Schools may close in the case of a natural disaster such as an earthquake, a fire, a flood, or an epidemic/pandemic. School officials rely on the expertise and advice of public health and safety officials in these decisions. Other means of delivering instruction will be used as possible.

■ Minimum Days/Pupil Free Staff Development Days

If your child will be affected by minimum days or staff development days, we will give you at least one month's notice. The dates that were known at press time are printed in the calendar in this booklet. [EC 48980]

■ Leaving School at Lunch Time

"The governing board of the Palo Verde Unified School District, pursuant to Section 44808.5 of the Education Code, has decided to permit pupils enrolled at Palo Verde Valley and Twin Palms High Schools to leave the school grounds during the lunch period. Neither the school district nor any officer or employee thereof shall be liable for the conduct or safety of any pupil during such time as the pupil has left the school grounds pursuant to this section."

The district permits students in grades 9 – 12 this privilege. [EC 44808.5]

■ Individualized Instruction

You must notify the school if your child has a temporary disability and cannot attend in a regular classroom. If your temporarily disabled child is located outside your school district, notify both the district where your child resides and the district where the child is located. Within five (5) days of notice, the district(s) will determine if the student qualifies; within five (5) days of the determination shall commence instruction in the home or in a hospital or other residential health facility. The district(s) will notify you if your child qualifies, when instruction will begin, and for how long it will continue. Each hour of instruction at home or in a facility will count as a full day but cannot exceed 5 days per week nor the number of days in the school year. There are accommodations for pregnant or parenting students (see page 23 for more information). [EC 46015, 48206.3, 48207, 48207.5, 48208, 48980]

PVUSD will provide reasonable accommodations to a lactating pupil on a school campus to express breast milk, breast-feed an infant child, or address other needs related to breast-feeding. Reasonable accommodations include, but are not limited to, a reasonable amount of time to breast feed or express milk, access to a private and secure room, permission to bring a related equipment onto campus, access to a power source, and a place to store expressed breast milk safely. A pupil shall not incur an academic penalty as a result of these accommodations, and shall be allowed to make up any work missed. [EC 222]

■ A Message from SARB

The Student Attendance Review Board (SARB) of Blythe and the Palo Verde Unified School District remind parents/guardians that California law holds them accountable for

the regular and punctual attendance of their children to school. The local SARB is eager to help resolve all school attendance problems in our community. You can call (760) 922-4884 for help with your child's attendance problems.

■ Notice of Alternative Schools

California state law authorizes all school districts to provide for alternative schools. Section 58500 of the Education Code defines alternative school as a school or separate class group within a school which is operated in a manner designed to: (a) Maximize the opportunity for students to develop the positive values of self-reliance, initiative, kindness, spontaneity, resourcefulness, courage, creativity, responsibility, and joy. (b) Recognize that the best learning takes place when the student learns because of his desire to learn. (c) Maintain a learning situation maximizing student self-motivation and encouraging the student in his own time to follow his own interests. These interests may be conceived by him totally and independently or may result in whole or in part from a presentation by his teachers of choices of learning projects. (d) Maximize the opportunity for teachers, parents and students to cooperatively develop the learning process and its subject matter. This opportunity shall be a continuous, permanent process. (e) Maximize the opportunity for the students, teachers, and parents to continuously react to the changing world, including, but not limited to, the community in which the school is located.

In the event any parent, pupil, or teacher is interested in further information concerning alternative schools, the county superintendent of schools, the administrative office of this district, and the principal's office in each attendance unit have copies of the law available for your information. This law particularly authorizes interested persons to request the governing board of the district to establish

alternative school programs in each district. [EC 58501]

INSTRUCTION AND CURRICULUM

■ Academic Standards and Assessments

Each district in California decides how they will teach and what resources they will use. More information can be found at www.cde.ca.gov/re/cc/. California uses a computer-based student testing system tied to the standards for English language arts, mathematics, and science called the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP). The tests include the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium Assessments, California Science Tests (CAST), California Alternate Assessments (CAA), and Standards-based Tests in Spanish (STS) for Reading/Language Arts. Parents can exempt their child(ren) from CAASPP testing by submitting a letter in writing annually. More information about the CAASPP can be found at www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ca/. [EC 60119, 60604, 60615, 60640; 5 CCR 852]

Screening for risk of reading difficulties, including dyslexia, is one of many tools that educators can use to support student learning. Students in grades K-2 will be screened annually for reading difficulties; students who do not speak sufficient English will be screened in their primary language. [EC 53008, 56335; IDEA; § 504]

English Language Learners are evaluated with the English Language Proficiency Assessments for California (ELPAC) and to identify and measure their progress in English Language proficiency. Students in grades 5, 7, and 9 also participate in Physical Fitness Testing (PFT). [EC 52060, 52066, 60800]

■ Local Control Funding and Accountability

The Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) provides money to school districts with a uniform base grant for every student, adjusted by grade level. Districts also receive adjustments for the number of students living in poverty, English learners, and foster youth. Then there are further adjustments for concentration of these groups if they are above 45% and at 55% of the district's enrollment. More information about the LCFF is available at www.cde.ca.gov/fg/aa/lc/.

The Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) is a critical part of the LCFF. Each school district is required to engage parents, students, teachers, principals, administrators, other employees, employee associations, and stakeholders to establish their plan. The LCAP must focus on eight state identified priorities:

1. Basic Services
2. Implementation of State Standards
3. Parental Involvement
4. Pupil Achievement
5. Pupil Engagement
6. School Climate
7. Course Access
8. Other Pupil Outcomes

The plan must describe the overall vision for students, annual goals including language acquisition, and specific action to achieve these goals. The plan will demonstrate how the district's budget will help achieve the goals, and annually assess how well the strategies improved outcomes. Anyone can bring or forward ideas or comment to the governing board on proposals or expenditures at parent or community engagement meetings. Complaints regarding the LCAP may be filed anonymously or using the District Uniform Complaint Procedures. [EC 305, 47606.5, 47607.3, 52060-52076; 5 CCR 4600, 4622]



Homeless, Migratory, Foster, Military, and Juvenile Court Youth

Homeless, migratory, foster, military family, juvenile court youth, or youth participating in a newcomer program have special rights related to graduation and partial high school credits. They have the right to an adult to help make educational decisions. Foster and homeless youth also have special rights associated with college funding, and certain considerations in school discipline. The District Uniform Complaint Procedure may be used to file a complaint. [EC 48645.3, 48645.5, 51225.1-51225.3, 56055; 5 CCR 4622; WIC 361, 726]

Language Acquisition Programs

Parent/Guardians must be informed of the identification of their child as an English Language Learner no later than 30 days after the beginning of the school year.

The District offers a Structured English Immersion program in which nearly all instruction is in English with curriculum and presentation designed for students who are English learners. [EC 305(a)(2), 306(c)(3)]

Parents or guardians may choose a language acquisition program that best suits their child. Schools in which the parents or guardians of 30 students or more per school or the parents or guardians of 20 students or more in any grade request a language acquisition program that is designed to provide language instruction shall be required to offer such a program to the extent possible.

Receiving and Tracking Parent Requests

Each school is required to maintain written records of parent request (including verbal requests) which include the date of request, the parent and the child names, description of the request, the grade level.

Chapter 5 of the California Code of Regulations, section 11311 requires that

schools assist parents in clarifying their request; maintain records of each request for three years; accept requests from students enrolled for the current year as well as the following school year; monitor the number of parent requests for language acquisition or language programs on a regular basis throughout the year; and consider requests for a multi-lingual program model from parents of pupils enrolled in the school who are native speakers of English when determining whether a threshold is reached.

Reaching a Threshold

When the parent of 30 pupils or more enrolled in a school, or when the parents of 20 pupils or more in the same grade enrolled in a school, request the same or substantially similar type of a language acquisition or language program, the school responds by notifying the District immediately and taking the following three actions:

1. Communication: Within 10 school days of reaching a threshold described above, the District notifies the parents of pupils attending the school, the school's teachers, administrators, and the District's English learner parent advisory committee and parent advisory committee in writing, of the parents' requests for a language acquisition program.
2. Cost and Resource Analysis: The District identifies costs and resources necessary to implement any new language acquisition or language program, including but not limited to:
 - Certificated teachers with the appropriate authorizations
 - Necessary instructional materials
 - Pertinent professional development for the proposed program
 - Opportunities for parent and community engagement to support the proposed program goals

3. Determination: Having completed the costs and resource analysis, the District determines, within 60 calendar days of reaching a threshold described above, whether it is possible to implement the request language acquisition or language program. At that time, the District provides notice, in writing, to parents of pupils attending the school, the school's teachers, and administrators of its determination.
- Determination to implement a program at the school: In the case that the District determines it can implement the requested program, the District creates and publishes a reasonable timeline of actions necessary to implement the program. As a part of the implementation, the District confers with school personnel, including administrators, and teachers with the authorizations required to provide or oversee programs and services for English learners, regarding the design and content of language acquisition programs.
 - Determination not to implement a program at the school: In the case that the District determines it is not possible to implement the program requested by parents, the District provides a written explanation of the reason(s) why the program cannot be provided. Further, the District may offer an alternate option that can be implemented at the school.

Each school follows the process described above, even if the District, at the time the threshold is met, provides the request language acquisition or language program at another school.

Parents or guardians may provide input regarding language acquisition programs during the development of the Local Control and Accountability Plan. If interested in a different program from those listed above, please contact the Director of Curriculum and Instruction, 825

N. Lovekin Blvd., Blythe, CA 92225, (760) 922-4164, contactus@pvusd.us.

Although schools have an obligation to serve all EL students, parents or guardians of English learners (EL) have a right to decline or opt their children out of a school's EL program or out of particular EL services within an EL program. If parents or guardians opt their children out of a school's EL program or specific EL services, the children retain their status as English learners. The school remains obligated to take the affirmative steps required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the appropriate actions required by the Equal Education Opportunity Act of 1974 to provide EL students access to its educational programs.

About Language Acquisition Programs and Language Programs

California Code of Regulations section 11309 requires that any language acquisition program provided by a school, district, or county shall:

Language Acquisition Program (English Learners)

- Be designed using evidence-based research and include both Designated and Integrated English Language Development;
- Be allocated sufficient resources by the local educational agency (the District) to be effectively implemented, including, but not limited to, certificated teachers with the appropriate authorizations, necessary instructional materials, pertinent professional development for the proposed program, and opportunities for parent and community engagement to support the proposed program goals; and
- Within a reasonable period of time, lead to:
 - Grade-level proficiency in English, and, when the program model includes instruction in another language, proficiency in that other language; and
 - Achievement of the state adopted academic content standards in English,

and, when the program model includes instruction in another language, achievement of the state-adopted academic content standards in that other language.

Language Program (non-English Learners)

- Language programs offer students who are not English learners opportunities to be instructed in languages other than English
- May lead to proficiency in languages other than English

[EC 310(a), 52062; 5 CCR 11309, 11311; 20 USC 1703[f], 6312(e)(3)(A)(vii); Title VI; ne]

■ Academic Counseling

Counseling related to academic and/or nonacademic courses, classes, electives, school-related activities, team sports, athletic competitions, and school facilities will be available to all students without regard to their gender, gender identity, the gender listed in their records, or any protected group as defined by State or Federal law. School counselors are credentialed educators specializing in pupil services. They help students in grades 7-12 make decisions about courses, extra-curricular activities, and preparation for college and/or careers. They guide students through all the steps including information about financial aid and academic requirements. The District Uniform Complaint Procedure (see page 44) may be used to file a complaint. [EC 221.5, 221.8, 48980, 49600, 51229; GC 11135; Title VI, Title IX; § 504; CIF 300D]

Updated

■ Description of District Courses

Annually the District prepares curriculum, course titles, aims, and descriptions in a prospectus. The prospectus is available at each school site and may be reproduced at cost. Parents/Guardians have the right to review all course material. The District offers

Dual Enrollment courses. [EC 48980.6, 49063, 49091.14; PPRA]

■ Curriculum and Personal Beliefs

Whenever any part of the instruction in comprehensive sexual health, sexual abuse, or human trafficking prevention education conflicts with your religious training and beliefs or personal moral conviction, or those of your child, your child shall be excused from such instruction if you request an excuse in writing. No student shall be penalized, sanctioned, or disciplined for such an excuse, and shall have an alternative education activity available. [EC 51240, 51938, 51950; PPRA]

Family Life, Human Development, and Sexual Health Education

Your child will be taking classes in compliance with the California Healthy Youth Act. These will include comprehensive sexual health education, HIV education, and research findings regarding pupil health behaviors and risks. Students in grades 7-12 will gain a deeper understanding of HIV transmission, prevention, and treatment. They will also be taught about the prevalence of human trafficking and the methods traffickers employ, including social media and mobile devices. You will be notified before such instruction. Any written and audio-visual educational materials planned for use are available for inspection prior to the start of classes. You may have copies of non-copyrighted material that will be presented by a consultant or guest speaker. You have a right to request, in writing, that your child not participate in any or all activities. You may withdraw this request at any time. School districts must ensure that all participating pupils receive sexual health instruction from personnel adequately trained in appropriate courses. In this District, staff teaches these classes. During this class, students in grades 7-12 may be asked to anonymously, voluntarily, and confidentially

fill out evaluation and research tools such as surveys, tests, or questionnaires measuring student attitudes toward health, sex, and risk behaviors. Copies of Education Code Sections 51933, 51934, and 51938 can be requested from the District or can be obtained online at <https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov>. [EC 51933-51939]

Dissection of Animals

If your child chooses not to participate in the dissection of animals, and if the teacher believes that an adequate alternative education project is possible, the teacher may work with the student to develop and agree upon an alternative education project for the purpose of providing your child an alternate avenue for obtaining the information required by the class. The school will need a signed note from you indicating your child's objection. [EC 32255-32255.6]

Tests/Surveys on Personal Beliefs

You and/or your child(ren) over 18 will be notified before administration of tests, questionnaires, surveys, examinations, containing questions about your child's, or your personal beliefs, political practices, mental health, anti-social, illegal, self-incriminating, demeaning behavior, critical appraisals of others close to the family, about legally confidential relationships such as ministers or doctors, income (unless to determine eligibility for receiving assistance), sex, family life, morality, or religion. You will be asked for written permission except for exempt surveys (in grades 7-12) that are part of sexual health programs or State surveys. Parents may opt their child(ren) out of all surveys, including those seeking information to be used in marketing. Parents have the right to review any survey or educational materials related to the survey on any of the above items. The District has developed policies relating to surveys and personal information. The District expects to administer surveys in

the Spring of 2022. If you believe your rights have been violated, you may file a complaint with the Family Policy Compliance Office at U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20202-5920. [EC 51513, 60614, 60615; PPRA; 34 CFR 98; ESEA]

Child Abuse Prevention Training Program

Parents have the right to refuse to allow their children to participate in a child abuse primary prevention program. [WIC 18976.5]

■ College and Career Planning Tools

Parents/Guardians now have direct access to online tools and resources that help them prepare their child(ren)'s path to college and a career. Student information can be shared directly throughout the college admission process. Individual student data from California Longitudinal Pupil Achievement Data System (CALPADS) is linked with the California College Guidance Initiative (CCGI). Tools such as www.CaliforniaColleges.edu can be used as early as sixth grade and through 12th grade. It also helps with scholarships and financial support through programs like the Student Aid Commission. [EC 60900.5; FERPA]

■ High School Credits and Graduation

Education code sets minimum course requirements to graduate from high school and earn a diploma. School districts may set additional requirements. The District has established guidelines for transferring credits and meeting graduation requirements. Please see the table under "High School Graduation Requirements compared to UC/CSU Requirements" on page 16.

Exceptions

Highly mobile students; students who are

homeless, migratory, foster youth, of a military family, juvenile court youth, or newcomer pupils have special rights related to graduation and partial high school credits. They have the right to an adult to help make educational decisions. These students can be registered in their district of choice, but must provide proof of residency within ten (10) days. Foster and homeless youth also have special rights associated with college funding, and certain considerations in school discipline. The District Uniform Complaint Procedure may be used to file a complaint.

California High School Proficiency Exam

Students who are 16 years or older and have completed grade 10, or those meeting other requirements, may take the California High School Proficiency Exam (CHSPE). If they pass, they will earn a State Certificate of Proficiency, which is equal to a high school diploma. Many students use the exam to start jobs or start college earlier than their expected graduation date. There may be a fee for taking the exam.

Cal Grant Application / Opt-Out

Cal Grant Awards are money provided by the State of California to assist in college expenses (tuition, room and board, books and other supplies). Each student in grade 12 are considered Cal Grant applicants unless they or their parent/guardian opt out. Unless the parent/guardian or the 18-year-old student opt out in writing by the last Monday in September, certified Grade Point Average (GPA) data will be transmitted to the CA Student Aid Commission

no later than October 1, 2025. To receive the Grant, students must apply. For more information go to www.csac.ca.gov.

[EC 48412, 48430, 48645.5, 49701, 51225.1-51225.3, 51225.5, 51228, 51240-51246, 51410-51412, 51420-51425, 56055, 69432.9; 5 CCR 1600-1650, 4622, 11523; WIC 361, 726]

■ University Admissions

University of California/California State University Admissions

Admission to the California State Universities requires a minimum 15-unit pattern of courses for admission as a first-time freshman. Each unit is equal to a year of study in a subject area. A GPA of 2.0 (C) or higher is required for regular admission. Admittance is based on an eligibility index that combines multiple items. Transfer students are accepted.

Admission to the University of California requires completion of the 15 yearlong high school course list. These courses are also known as the “a-g” subjects. At least seven of the 15 yearlong courses must be taken in the student’s last two years of high school. A GPA of 3.0 (B) or higher is required for California residents. [EC 48980, 51229]

Links to University of California/California State University requirements: admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/admission-requirements/; www.calstate.edu/apply/freshman/; www.calstate.edu/apply.

High School Graduation Requirements compared to UC/CSU Requirements

	<u>EC</u>	<u>UC</u>	<u>CSU</u>	<u>PVHS</u>	<u>TPHS</u>
History/Social Science (a) Including US History & Geography, World or European History, American Government & Civics, and Economics	3.0	2.0	2.0	3.0	3.0
English (b)	3.0	4.0	4.0	3.0	3.0
Mathematics (c) One or two combined must meet standards for Algebra I	2.0	3 +1	3 +1	2.0	2.0

Updated

	EC	UC	CSU	PVHS	TPHS
Science (d) One biological & one physical	2.0	2 B	2 B	2.0	2.0
Foreign Language (e)		2 +1	2.0		
Visual/Performing Arts (f)	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0 C	1.0 C
Career Technical Education					
Ethnic Studies	0.5 D			0.5 D	0.5 D
Physical Education	2.0			2.0	2.0
Health Education				0.5	
Electives (g)		1.0	1.0	8.5	3.0
TOTAL:				23.0	16.0

+1 One additional year is recommended in Mathematics for both CSU and UC, and in Foreign Language for UC.

A Specifics of courses vary from CSU to UC.

B The Palo Verde Unified School District has adopted a policy that allows Career Technical Education courses to be counted toward graduation. Which “a-g” requirement applies varies by course.

C Beginning with the graduating class of 2030, 1 semester of Ethnic Studies is required

At this time PVUSD offers the following Career Technology Education courses that qualify toward the UC/CSU “(a)-(g)” requirements:

Intro to Agriscience	(g)
Agriculture I	(g)
Plant/Soil Science	(g)
Animal Science	(g)
Food Science	(g)
Ag Biology	(d)
Ag Environmental Science	(d)
Ag Veterinary Science	(g)
Culinary I	(g)
Culinary II	(g)
Cyber Security I	(g)
Cyber Security II	(g)
AP Computer Science Principles	(g)

Definition of Career Technical Education

A program of study that involves a multiyear sequence of courses that integrates core academic knowledge with technical and occupational knowledge to provide students with a pathway to postsecondary education and careers. More information is available about Career Technical Education at California Department of Education, www.cde.ca.gov/ci/ct.

[BP/AR 6146.1 March 2024; EC 48980, 51225.3, 51229; 5 CCR 1600-1650]

New this year

Apprenticeship Programs

Students in grades 11-12 may have access to apprenticeships where they can explore and learn specific skills that lead to high-paying jobs. Some of these programs are available only to students who are 18 years old. You may be able to find apprenticeships on the CA Department of Industrial Relations’ website at www.dir.ca.gov/databases/das/pwaddrstart.asp; then select a county, a trade, and hit search. [EC 48980.5]

SCHOOL RECORDS AND STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Pupil Records

Parents, guardians, foster parents, certain caregivers, and students over 18 have the right to review, inspect, and get copies of school records within five business days of a written or

oral request or before any meeting regarding an individualized education plan (IEP) or a hearing. Those records are confidential, and privacy will be maintained. The Palo Verde Unified School District shall not disclose student records to a person, agency, organization for immigration enforcement purposes without parental consent, a court order, or a judicial subpoena. Unless the District is providing information for a legitimate educational purpose under FERPA and the California Education Code or directory information, the District shall notify parents or guardians and eligible students, and receive their written consent, before it releases a student's personally identifiable information. Student records are provided to schools where student transfers or wants to enroll. In some instances, information about your child may be released to District staff, foster agencies, short-term residential treatment programs, after school programs, summer camps, lawyers, law enforcement, state researchers, and nonprofit researchers. Sharing of pupil records must conform to federal laws and in some cases must be approved by the State Committee for Protection of Human Subjects. The records include transcripts, discipline letters, commendations, attendance, and health information. The records are maintained at the school of attendance by the principal. There is someone to help interpret the material. When more than one child is named in the records, parents may only see material related to their child. If requested, the district will provide a list of types and locations where materials are held. There is a log of who has viewed the records that is kept at the same location as the records. District policy or administrative regulation 5125 sets forth the criteria by which school officials and employees can look and change or delete the files and why. Files may be reviewed to identify students eligible for public school choice or supplemental educational services. You may have copies made for fifteen cents (15¢) per

page. If you cannot afford the cost of copies, they will be provided free of charge. With the proper documentation, the records can be changed to reflect a legal change of name and/or gender of a student or a former student. You also have the right to file a written request with the superintendent challenging the records if you think there is an inaccuracy, unsubstantiated conclusion or inference, a conclusion outside the observer's expertise, a comment not based on personal observation with time and date noted, misleading information, or a violation of privacy rights. You can file a complaint about how your request was handled with the district or with United States Department of Education. You will get to meet with the superintendent or designee within 30 days. If your challenge is sustained, the changes will be made. If not, you can appeal to the school board, which has final authority. If you still have a different view, your view can be included in the student's record. [EC 8484.1, 49060, 49062.5, 49063, 49064, 49068, 49069.3, 49070-49079.7, 51101, 56043, 56504; CC 1798.24; FERPA]

For a smoother transition, the District has established guidelines for transferring credits and meeting graduation requirements of students from military families. Also, students can be registered in their district of choice, but must provide proof of residency within 10 days. [EC 51225.1, 51225.2]

Student Data from Social Media Websites

The Governing Board has adopted a plan to gather student information from social media websites. The information can pertain only to student or school safety, and must be destroyed within one year of the student leaving the District or turning 18. Parents/Guardians or students can access the information and request correction or deletion by contacting their child's school.

The Student Online Personal Information

Protection Act protects student information from being used for online marketing and other uses. [EC 49073.6; BPC 22584]

■ Regulations Regarding Pupil Achievement

The Board of Education believes good communication between parents and teachers is important in the educational process. All appropriate forms of communication should be used. The progress report should reflect student progress in classwork and proficiency levels and indicate educational growth in relation to the student's ability, citizenship and effort. [EC 49067]

■ Teacher Qualifications

A provision of federal Title I requires all districts to notify parents of children in Title I schools that they have the right to request and receive timely information on the professional qualifications of classroom teachers and paraprofessionals including state qualifications, licensing for the grade level or subject taught, any waivers for qualifications, emergency provisions, college major, graduate degrees and subject, and if paraprofessionals or aides are in the classroom and what their qualifications are. [ESEA; 20 USC 6311; 34 CFR 200.37, 200.53, 200.55, 200.57, 200.61]

■ Release of Directory Information

The law allows schools to release "directory information" to certain persons or organizations including military recruiters. Directory information includes student's name, address, telephone number, email address, date of birth, major field of study, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, weight and height of members of athletic teams, dates of attendance, degrees and awards received, and the most recent previous school attended. Directory information does not include citizenship status, immigration status, place

of birth, or any other information indicating national. You may have the district withhold any of this information by submitting a request in writing by September 15, 2025. Written notification received after the date specified will be honored, but the student's information may have been release in the interim. Directory information does not include information regarding the citizenship, immigration status, place of birth, or any other information indicating national origin of students, except as required by state or federal law or as required to administer a state or federally supported educational program. In the case of students with exceptional needs or who are homeless, no material can be release without parent or guardian consent. [EC 49061(c), 49070, 49073(c), 56515; FERPA; ESEA; ne]

■ Comprehensive School Safety Plan

Every year, each school shall review and update its plan by March 1. Each school shall make its plan public and shall share the plan with numerous community leaders, school site personnel, and parent groups. Plans should, among other things, provide guidance for the response to and/or the prevention of bullying, child abuse, disasters, and criminal activity. Key elements are to be described in the School Accountability Report Card. Planned responses to criminal incidents need not be disclosed. The Uniform Complaint Procedure can be used regarding School Safety Plan compliance. [EC 32281, 32282.1, 32286, 32288, 32289, 51101]

STUDENT SERVICES

■ Student Meal Program

Meals are provided to all students at no cost during the school year, and may also be available during the summer. We request that every household in the district complete an Alternative Income form and return it to the

school, even if you feel you do not qualify. Information on the application is confidential. This form helps the district secure funding for meals and many other programs. Applications are available online, at your school site office, and at the district office.

Students may pay for additional meals or a-la-carte items or parents/guardians may pay in advance online at myschoolbucks.com or by contacting Missy Clayton, Nutrition Services Supervisor at (760) 922-4164 or mclayton@pvusd.us. [EC 49510-49520, 49558; 42 USC 1761(a); ne]

Updated
policy

■ Student Use of Technology

The Governing Board believes that effective use of technology is integral to the education and development of students. In order to promote digital citizenship, the Board recognizes that students must have access to the latest digital tools and receive instruction that allows students to positively engage with technology in ways that respect human rights and avoids Internet dangers. Technological resources provided to students, including technology based on artificial intelligence (AI), shall be aligned to district goals, objectives, and academic standards. The use of technology shall augment the use of Board adopted instructional materials.

The Board intends that technological resources provided by the district be used in a safe and responsible manner in support of the instructional program and for the advancement of student learning. Students shall be allowed to use such technology, including AI technology, in accordance with district policies, including, but not limited to, policies on academic honesty, data privacy, nondiscrimination, and copyright protections. All students using these resources shall receive instruction in the proper and appropriate use of technology. Such instruction shall incorporate students' responsibilities regarding academic honesty, honoring copyright

provisions, assessing the reliability and accuracy of information, protecting personal data, and the potential for biases and errors in artificially generated content.

District technology includes, but is not limited to, computer hardware, software, or software as a service provided or paid for by the District, whether accessed on or off site or through District-owned or personally owned equipment or devices, including tablets and laptops; computer servers, wireless access points (routers), and wireless computer networking technology (wi-fi); the Internet; email; applications (apps), including AI apps; telephones, cellular telephones, smartphones, smart devices, and wearable technology; or any wireless communication device, including radios.

Teachers, administrators, and/or library media specialists are expected to review the technological resources and online sites that will be used in the classroom or assigned to students in order to ensure that they are appropriate for the intended purpose and the age of the students.

The Superintendent or designee shall notify students and parents/guardians about authorized uses of district technology, user obligations and responsibilities, and consequences for unauthorized use and/or unlawful activities in accordance with this board policy and the District's Acceptable Use Agreement.

Before a student is authorized to use district technology, the student and the student's parent/guardian shall sign and return the Acceptable Use Agreement. In that agreement, the parent/guardian shall agree not to hold the district or any district staff responsible for the failure of any technology protection measures or user mistakes or negligence and shall agree to indemnify and hold harmless the district and district staff for any damages or costs incurred.

The district reserves the right to monitor student use of technology within the jurisdiction of the district without advance notice or consent. Students shall be informed that the use of district technology, as defined above, is not private and may be accessed by the district for the purpose of ensuring proper use. Students have no reasonable expectation of privacy in the use of the district technology. Students' personally owned devices shall not be searched except in cases where there is a reasonable suspicion, based on specific and objective facts, that the search will uncover evidence of a violation of law, district policy, or school rules.

The Superintendent or designee may gather and maintain information pertaining directly to school safety or student safety from the social media activity of any district student in accordance with Education Code 49073.6 and Board Policy/Administrative Regulation 5125 – Student Records.

Whenever a student is found to have violated board policy or the District's Acceptable Use Agreement, the principal or designee may cancel or limit a student's user privileges or increase supervision of the student's use of the district's equipment and other technological resources, as appropriate. Inappropriate use also may result in disciplinary action and/or legal action in accordance with law and board policy.

The Superintendent or designee, with input from students and appropriate staff, shall regularly review and update procedures to enhance the safety and security of students using district technology and to help ensure that the district adapts to changing technologies and circumstances.

Internet Safety

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that all district computers with Internet access have a technology protection measure that protects against access to visual depictions that are obscene, child pornography, or harmful to

minors and that the operation of such measures is enforced.

To reinforce these measures, the Superintendent or designee shall implement rules and procedures designed to restrict students' access to harmful or inappropriate matter on the Internet and to ensure that students do not engage in unauthorized or unlawful online activities.

Harmful matter includes matter, taken as a whole, which to the average person, applying contemporary statewide standards, appeals to the prurient interest and is matter which depicts or describes, in a patently offensive way, sexual conduct and which lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value for minors.

The District's Acceptable Use Agreement shall establish expectations for appropriate student conduct when using the Internet or other forms of electronic communication, including, but not limited to, prohibitions against:

1. Accessing, posting, submitting, publishing, or displaying harmful or inappropriate matter that is threatening, obscene, disruptive, or sexually explicit, or that could be construed as harassment or disparagement of others based on their race/ethnicity, national origin, sex, gender, sexual orientation, age, disability, religion, or political beliefs
2. Intentionally uploading, downloading, or creating computer viruses and/or maliciously attempting to harm or destroy district equipment or materials or manipulate the data of any other user, including so-called "hacking"
3. Distributing personal identification information, including the name, address, telephone number, Social Security number, or other personally identifiable information, of another student, staff member, or other person with the intent to threaten, intimidate, harass, or ridicule that person

The Superintendent or designee shall regularly review current guidance regarding cybersecurity, data privacy, 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, the monitoring and response to cyberattacks, ensuring data privacy, and monitoring suspicious and/or threatening digital media content, in accordance with Board Policy 5125 – Student Records.

The Superintendent or designee shall provide age-appropriate instruction regarding safe and appropriate behavior on social networking sites, chat rooms, and other Internet services. Such instruction shall include, but not be limited to, the dangers of posting one's own personal identification information online misrepresentation by online predators, how to report inappropriate or offensive content or threats, behaviors that constitute cyberbullying, and how to respond when subjected to cyberbullying. [BP 6163.4 December 2024; EC 49073.6, 51006, 51007, 60044; PC 313, 502, 632, 653.2; CC 3120-3123; 15 USC 6501-6506; 20 USC 7101-7122, 7131; 47 USC 254; 16 CFR 312.1-312.12; 47 CFR 54.520]

■ School Accountability Report Card

The School Accountability Report Card is available on request, and is available annually by February 1st on the Internet at www.pvusd.us. It contains information about the district and school regarding the quality of programs and its progress toward achieving stated goals. A copy will be provided upon request. [EC 33126, 32286, 35256, 35258, 51101]

■ Services to Students with Disabilities

If you have reason to believe your child (ages 0 through 21 years) has a disability requiring special services or accommodations, contact the

school. Your child will be evaluated to determine whether he/she is eligible for free special or modified instruction or services.

The District wants to locate, identify and assess all children with disabilities whether homeless, wards of the state, enrolled in public or private schools. The District has policies guiding procedures for identification and referral. Students identified with special needs will receive a Free Appropriate Public Education in the least restrictive environment. [EC 48853, 56020 et seq., 56040, 56301; 5 CCR 4622; 20 USC 1412, (10)(A)(ii), 1412(a)(6)(A); 34 CFR 300.121]

Child Find System

The District has written policies and procedures for locating and identifying children with exceptional needs. This Child Find System includes the procedure for initiating a referral for assessment. The System includes children from birth. Parents/guardians may call the Special Education Department at (760) 922-4164, ext. 242 for additional information. [EC 56301]

■ English Learners

The Palo Verde Unified School District offers a Structured English Immersion (SEI) Program – a language acquisition program for English learners in which nearly all classroom instruction is provided in English, but with curriculum and a presentation designed for students who are learning English. At minimum, students are offered Designated English Language Development (ELD) and provided access to grade level academic subject matter content with Integrated ELD.

Parents or guardians may choose a language acquisition program that best suits their child. When the parents/guardians of 30 or more students in a school, or 20 or more students in any grad request a different language acquisition program, the district is required to provide the

program to the extent possible. [EC 310(a); 20 USC 6312]

■ **Advanced Placement Examination Fees**

State funding is available to qualified low-income students to assist in paying all or part of Advanced Placement exams. [EC 48980, 52240]

■ **Married, Pregnant, or Parenting Students**

A student under 18 years old who entered a legal marriage has rights and privileges as if they were 18 years old, even if the marriage has been dissolved.

Pregnant or parenting students who are 18 years old or who have permission from their parent/guardian may, but are not required to take excused leave for up to eight weeks to protect the health of the student and the infant. More than eight weeks may be granted if it is deemed medically necessary. Certification from a physician or nurse practitioner that the student is able to participate in the regular education program may be required only if it is required for students returning from other temporary disabilities.

A parenting student may be excused for absences as listed under “General Absences” on page 8. They may also be excused as the custodial parent to care for a sick child. A note from a physician shall not be required for such an absence.

Accommodations

When necessary, the District shall provide accommodations for the student to access and participate in the educational program. Reasonable accommodations shall be provided to any lactating student to express breast milk, breastfeed, or any other breastfeeding related needs. These accommodations include, but are not limited to a private, secure room other than

a restroom to express milk or breastfeed, and a reasonable amount of time to do so; permission to bring equipment for expressing milk onto campus, and access to power to operate it; and a safe place to store expressed milk. There shall be no penalty for using these accommodations, and opportunity to make up any missed work shall be available.

Educational and Support Services

Pregnant or parenting students will not be required to complete schoolwork or other requirements while on leave. Time shall be provided to make up work without penalties. They may be allowed a fifth year to complete high school graduation requirements unless administration determines they are capable of completing graduation requirements in four years.

These students may choose to return to the same school or choose to attend an alternative program with access to comparable courses, programs, and activities. Generally, a classroom setting is preferred unless an alternative will better meet the needs of the student and/or their child. Any alternative program offered specifically for pregnant or parenting students shall be comparable to that offered to other students, and participation shall be voluntary.

Childbirth, pregnancy, or related recovery will not in and of itself deny a student access to any educational program, course, or activity.

As possible, and sometimes in collaboration with community organizations or agencies, the District will provide services to pregnant and parenting students and their children. These services may include academic and personal counseling; supplemental instruction; parenting and life-skills education; childcare and development services; special nutrition and supplements for pregnant and/or lactating students; health care services; and tobacco, alcohol, or drug prevention/intervention. Where

appropriate, staff shall get related professional development.

The District shall not treat students differently based on their actual or potential parental, family, or marital status on the basis of sex. Complaints related to pregnancy, marital status, parental status, or lactation accommodations can be made using the “Uniform Complaint Procedure” on page 44. [BP 5146 September 2024; EC 221.51, 222, 222.5, 230, 46015, 48200, 48205, 48980, 49553; 5 CCR 4600-4670, 4950; FC 7002; HSC 104460; 42 USC 1786; 7 CFR 246.1-246.28; 34 CFR 106.40]

■ Pupil Fees

While there are limited exceptions, families and students should not have to pay fees for most items related to public education. There are four types of fees identified in Education Code:

Pupil Fees: No fees or deposits can be required or collected for items including, but not limited to, materials, supplies, equipment, uniforms (i.e. band, cheerleading, basketball), lockers, locks, books, class apparatus, musical instruments.

Educational Activity Fees: No fees can be required or collected for student participation in an event or activity, either curricular or extracurricular, that is an essential part of a student’s education or for transportation to those events. There can be no fees required for registering or participating in regular or extra classes.

Voluntary Donations: While voluntary donations may be suggested for activities, no student may be denied participation based on the family’s ability to make a donation.

Exceptions – When fees may be required: By law, there are exceptions to the prohibition against charging of fees or deposits. These exceptions include, but are not limited to,

transportation to non-essential activities, non-essential events where attendance is optional (such as a school dance), food served to students, damage to district provided materials such as textbooks, cost of community service classes, and fingerprinting. Money may also be collected for material used for projects that a student will be taking home, such as, material used in a career class like woodshop or sewing. The Uniform Complaint Procedure can be used regarding pupil fee compliance. A complaint may be filed with the school principal and may be filed anonymously.

[EC 17551, 17552, 32033, 32220-32224, 35330, 35331, 38084, 38120, 39807.5, 49010-49014, 49065, 51815, 52373, 52922; 5 CCR 4610, 4630]

HEALTH SERVICES

■ Immunizations

Documented proof that immunizations are up-to-date is required before attending school; districts may not allow “conditional” admittance into schools. Students may not participate in a classroom setting unless they have been fully immunized against diphtheria, hepatitis b, haemophilus influenza type b, measles, mumps, pertussis (whooping cough), poliomyelitis, rubella, and tetanus. Students must be immunized for varicella (chickenpox) or provide proof from a doctor stating they have had the disease.

If an outbreak of a communicable disease occurs, a non-immunized student will be excluded from school for their own safety until such a time as directed by health officials or district administration. [HSC 120325, 120335, 120375, 120400-120435, 120440, 120480; EC 48216, 48852.7, 48853.5, 49403; 17 CCR 6000-6075; 42 USC 11432(C)(i)]

Parents/Guardians of students entering grade 6 are advised to follow current

immunization guidelines, as recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the American Academy of Family Physicians, regarding immunization against human papillomavirus (HPV) before admission or advancement to grade 8. HPV vaccination can prevent over 90 percent of cancers caused by HPV. HPV vaccines are very safe, and scientific research shows that the benefits of HPV vaccination far outweigh the potential risks. [EC 48980.4; HSC 120336]

Exemptions

These requirements do not apply if a form from licensed physician cites why they should not. The physician submits the standardized electronic form directly to the California Immunization Registry (CAIR) and to the school for exemption; this is the only form the school will accept. The form will include physician information, the child's name and their school, the parent's/guardian's name, and the specific basis for and duration of the exemption.

If an outbreak of a communicable disease occurs, a non-immunized student will be excluded from school for their own safety until such a time as directed by health officials or district administration.

Forms submitted prior to January 1, 2020 and exemptions based on beliefs opposed to immunization submitted prior to January 1, 2016 are valid until the pupil enrolls in the next grade span (through preschool, grades K-6, grades 7-12). Parents or guardians may refuse to allow the sharing of personal information related to their child's immunization records by notifying your County Health Department. [HSC 120325, 120335, 120338, 120370, 120372, 120372.05; EC 48216]

■ Physical Examinations

For each child enrolling in the District for the first time, including for kindergarten or first

grade, the parent or guardian must present a certificate, signed by a physician, verifying that the child has received a physical examination within the last 18 months. If your child does not receive this exam, you must file a waiver with the school district stating the reasons you are unable to obtain such services. You may have your child immunized at the same time that the physical examination is conducted. [EC 49450; HSC 124085, 124100, 124105]

These services may be available to you at no cost through the Child Health and Disability Prevention Program (CHDP). For information, you may contact:

All Kids Health
825 N. Loveking Blvd., Blythe, CA 92225
(760) 209-5414 or (760) 206-6730
Tuesday, Wednesday, & Thursday
8:00 AM to 4:30 PM

There are some screenings that may happen at school. If you do not want your child to have any, or all, of these screenings, give the school a written letter annually specifying which screenings you are denying consent for. If your child has had screenings outside of school, you may also submit a certificate verifying they have been done. When there is a good reason to believe that your child is suffering from a recognized contagious or infectious disease, he/she may be sent home and shall not be permitted to return to school until the contagious or infectious disease does not exist [EC 49450, 49451; PPRA]

Kindergarten and/or First Grade Oral Health Assessment

Oral health is a part of a child's overall health; a child with cavities is not healthy, even if it is in a baby-tooth. A child with cavities may have problems paying attention and learning. They need their teeth to eat properly, talk, smile, and feel good about themselves. Parents/Guardians must submit, by May 31st of the child's first year of school (TK, kindergarten,

or grade 1), proof that their child’s oral health has been assessed (no earlier than 12 months before the child started school). The assessment must be done by a licensed dentist or licensed or registered dental health professional. The parent/guardian may be excused from this requirement if the assessment would be a financial burden, there is lack of access to an appropriate professional, or they do not consent to the assessment. [EC 49452.8]

Vision, Hearing, and Scoliosis Screening

An authorized person will check your child’s vision upon enrollment and in grades 2, 5, and 8 unless the student entered the District in grade 4 or 7. A second exam for fitting glasses may be done if the district contracts with a nonprofit or health agency to do so. Hearing tests will be conducted when your child is enrolled or first enters a District school. Females in grade 7 and males in grade 8 may be screened for scoliosis (curvature of the spine). These tests may be administered unless you annually give the school a certificate from a physician or optometrist verifying prior testing, or submit a letter denying your consent. [EC 44878, 49451, 49452, 49452.5, 49455]

■ Administering Medication and Monitoring Health Conditions

Children may take medication, which is prescribed by a physician, and get help from school personnel during the school day if:

1. The district designee has received a written statement from the physician detailing the medication name, method, amount, and time schedules by which the medication is to be taken; and
2. Parent, guardian, or caregiver annually submits a written statement asking the school district to assist their child in taking the medication or allow the student to self-administer certain medications.

This includes allowing a school staff member to volunteer and be trained to identify the need for, and to administer epinephrine to a student for anaphylaxis; glucagon as prescribed for diabetes; or anti-seizure medication as prescribed to a student diagnosed with seizures, a seizure disorder, or epilepsy. Each school determines if it will have staff trained in the use and storage of auto-injectable epinephrine and/or anti-seizure medication. The District will have a supply of auto-injectable epinephrine at each school site. A school nurse or trained volunteer school employee may administer emergency naloxone hydrochloride or another opioid antagonist to persons suffering, or reasonably believed to be suffering, from an opioid overdose. [EC 49414, 49414.1, 49414.3, 49414.5, 49423, 49423.1, 49468.2, 49480]

Children may carry and self-administer a blood glucose level test, diabetes care, inhaled asthma medication, and auto-injectable epinephrine if the rules above are met and if a physician confirms in writing that the student is able to self-administer. The District does not allow parents to administer medical cannabis on campus. [BP 5141.21 June 2024; EC 49414, 49414.1, 49414.5, 49423, 49423.1, 49480; HSC 11362.79]

If your child is on a continuing medication regimen for a non-episodic condition, you are required to notify the district designee of the medication being taken, the current dosage, and the name of the supervising physician. [EC 49480]

Insulin Injections

Palo Verde Unified School District reaffirms its commitment to provide all students with a free and appropriate education. Those district students with identified medical issues may be provided with an appropriate 504 Plan or Individualized Education Plan (IEP). It is the policy of the district that plans for medical emergencies, including, but not limited to,

inability of a diabetic student to be able to self-inject insulin, be developed for and included in a 504 Plan or an IEP on an as needed basis as determined by the members of the 504 Plan team or the IEP team. When the age of the students prohibits self-medication, the district nurse, parent/guardian or parent/guardian designee not employed by the school district, shall administer insulin.

■ Sun Protection

Students when outdoors can wear sun protective clothing, including, but not limited to hats. [EC 35183.5] Students may also apply sunscreen during the day without a doctor's note or prescription. [EC 35291, 35294.6]

■ Medical and Hospital Insurance for Students

The district DOES NOT provide insurance on individual students. However, you may purchase accident insurance through the district for medical and hospital services covering your child. The insurance provides coverage for your child while on school grounds or in school buildings during the time your child is required to be there because of attendance during a regular school day of the district; or while being transported by the district to and from school or other place of instruction; or while at any other place as an incident to school-sponsored activities. The school district assumes no liability for accidents to pupils at school. [EC 32221.5, 49472]

Under state law, school districts are required to ensure that all members of school athletic teams have accidental injury insurance that covers medical and hospital expenses. This insurance requirement can be met by the school district offering insurance or other health benefits that cover medical and hospital expenses. Some pupils may qualify to enroll in no-cost or low-cost local, state, or federally

sponsored health insurance programs. [EC 49471]

Enrollment in a Health Care Plan

All children and their families must be enrolled in a health care plan. There are several options for getting a health plan; through an insurance agent, or low cost provider such as Medi-Cal and Covered California at (800) 300-1506 or online at www.coveredca.com. [PPACA]

School-Sponsored Athletics

If a student participates in school-sponsored athletics other than physical education or athletic event during the school day, parents/guardians and the student athlete are required to annually; (1) complete a concussion awareness form, (2) complete a sudden cardiac arrest awareness form, and (3) sign a document acknowledging receipt of an Opioid Factsheet received either in print or electronic format. [EC 33479, 49475, 49476]

High school athletes must sign a pledge they are not using steroids illegally or they will not be allowed to participate. Parents must sign a form notifying them of the restriction.

■ Access to Mental Health Services

School-based mental health services help address barriers to learning and provide appropriate student and family support in a safe and supportive environment. Reaching out for mental health services is simple; contact your school counselor, nurse, health aide, principal, or the district office. In the community a good place to start may be to dial 211 for referrals in your area or call Riverside Co. Mental Health Services at (951) 358-4500 or these clinics:

Riverside University Health System
Behavioral Health
1297 W Hobsonway, Blythe, CA 92225
(951) 315-2995

Riverside Latino Commission
825 N. Lovekin Blvd., Blythe, CA 92225
(760) 398-90000

Barbara Sinatra Children's Center
825 N. Lovekin Blvd., Blythe, CA 92225
(760) 340-2336, Ext. 2555

If you are in crisis contact these numbers or dial 911 immediately. [EC 49428]

Suicide Prevention

Suicide is a leading cause of death among youth, and school personnel is often in a position to recognize warning signs. The District makes an effort to reduce suicidal behavior and its impact and has developed strategies to intervene. These may include staff development, student instruction in coping skills, informing parents/guardians, methods for promoting a positive school climate, crisis intervention, and counseling (including for bereavement). Information about district programs and services and links to community and statewide resources are available on the District's website at www.pvusd.us. Students can also reach out for help 24-hours / 7-days a week from the California Youth Crisis Line at (800) 843-5200. [EC 215, 234.5, 234.6, 49602, 49604; GC 810-996.6; PC 11164-11174.3; WIC 5698, 5850-5883; BP 5141.52 September 2021]

■ Schools Free of Tobacco, Alcohol, and Drugs

The Board has adopted Tobacco-Free, Drug-Free, and Alcohol-Free campus policies to promote student health and well-being. The District strives for a school environment free of these substances and has prevention and intervention programs. There may be programs through the District or in the community to support students' cessation from use of tobacco, alcohol, or drugs. For more information please contact the school/district nurse or a school administrator. [EC 51202-51203, 51260-51269; HSC 104420, 11999-11999.3; PC 13864]

Alcohol and Other Drugs: Instruction

The Board desires that every effort be made to reduce the chances that our students will begin or continue the use of alcohol and other drugs. A comprehensive prevention program that includes instruction, intervention, support for recovering students, and enforcement/discipline is provided. All Board policies, regulations, procedures and school rules related to this prevention program shall be clearly communicated to students, staff, and parents/guardians. Special efforts shall be made to ensure that these materials are understood by parents/guardians and students of limited literacy or limited English Proficiency.

The district provides instruction that helps students avoid the use of alcohol or other drugs and teaches students how to influence their peers to avoid and/or discontinue the use of alcohol or other drugs.

Alcohol and Other Drugs: Intervention

The district provides the following intervention services for students and their families: The Student Study Team (SST) process, and Riverside County Mental Health. Contact the administrator or counselor at your child's school for additional information.

■ Diabetes Information

Diabetes is a health condition that affects how the body turns food into energy. Most food is broken down into glucose (sugar). When sugar increases in your bloodstream, your pancreas releases insulin. Insulin acts like a key to let the sugar into your body's cells to use as energy. When there isn't enough insulin or when cells stop responding to insulin, too much sugar stays in your bloodstream. Over time, this can cause serious health problems such as heart disease, vision loss, and kidney disease. There is no cure for any type of diabetes.

For both types, managing weight, eating

healthy food, being active, and getting enough rest can really help. Taking medicine as prescribed, getting diabetes self-management education and support, and keeping health care appointments can also reduce the negative impacts of diabetes.

Type-2 Diabetes:

Type-2 diabetes is when your body can't use the insulin it makes as well as it should. It is the most common form of diabetes in adults, and is becoming more common in children, especially overweight teens. It is estimated that one in three children born in the US after the year 2000 will develop type-2 diabetes.

Type-2 diabetes can be prevented or delayed through lifestyle changes and medical intervention, and it is treatable. Eating healthy foods in the correct amounts and exercising regularly (at least 60 minutes every day) can help children achieve or maintain a normal weight and normal blood glucose levels.

The first step is to visit a doctor who can determine if your child is overweight. A doctor can prescribe medication if appropriate and can order tests of a child's blood glucose to see if the child has diabetes or pre-diabetes (may lead to full onset type-2 diabetes).

Type-1 Diabetes:

Type-1 diabetes is when your body simply doesn't make enough insulin. Type-1 diabetes is not preventable, but it is manageable. It is an autoimmune disease that may be caused by genetic, environmental, or other factors. It is usually first diagnosed in children or young adults, but it can occur at any age.

Risk Factors:

It is recommended that students displaying or possibly experiencing the risk factors and warning signs below see a doctor to be screened for type-1 and/or type-2 diabetes:

Being overweight: The single greatest risk factor for Type-2 diabetes is excess weight. In the US, almost one out of every five children is overweight. Being overweight more than doubles a child's chance of developing diabetes.

Family history of diabetes: Many affected children and youth have at least one parent with diabetes or have a significant family history of the disease.

Inactivity: Being inactive further reduces the body's ability to respond to insulin.

Specific racial/ethnic groups: Native Americans, African Americans, Hispanics/Latinos, or Asian/Pacific Islanders are more prone than other ethnic groups to develop type-2 diabetes.

Age/Puberty: Type-1 diabetes usually occurs in the early years, and before reaching puberty. Type-2 diabetes is more likely to develop during or near puberty, probably because of normal rises in hormone levels that can cause insulin resistance during this stage of rapid growth and physical development.

Warning Signs and Symptoms:

There are usually warning signs when a child might have diabetes. Not everyone with diabetes develops these symptoms, and not everyone who has these symptoms necessarily has diabetes. Type-2 symptoms generally develop slowly over time. Type-1 symptoms show up quickly – in a matter of weeks or even days, and are much more severe.

- Increased hunger, even after eating
- Unexplained weight loss
- Increased thirst, dry mouth, and frequent urination
- Feeling very tired
- Blurred vision
- Slow healing of sores or cuts

- Dark velvety or ridged patches of skin, especially on the back of the neck or under the arms
- Irregular/No menstrual periods, and/or excess facial and body hair growth in girl
- High blood pressure or abnormal blood fats levels
- For type-1; Nausea, vomiting, and/or stomach pain

Parents/Guardians of children displaying warning signs should immediately consult with the student's primary care provider to determine if screening for diabetes is appropriate. Following a diabetes's diagnosis, parents/guardians should work with the primary care provider to develop a lifestyle and medical treatment plan, which may include consultation with and examination by a specialty care provider, including, but not limited to, a properly qualified endocrinologist.

Diabetes Screening Tests:

Your doctor may have your child take one or more of the following blood tests to confirm the diagnosis:

Glycated hemoglobin (A1C) test: A blood test measures the average blood sugar level over two to three months

Random (non-fasting) blood sugar test: A blood sample is taken at a random time; this test must be confirmed with a fasting blood glucose test.

Fasting blood sugar test: A blood sample is taken after an overnight fast; a high level on two separate tests indicates diabetes.

Oral glucose tolerance test: A test measuring the fasting blood sugar level after an overnight fast with periodic testing for the next several hours after drinking a sugary liquid.

If the primary care provider thinks your child has type-1 diabetes, blood may also be tested for autoantibodies (substances that indicate the

body is attacking itself) that are often present in type-1 diabetes but not in type-2. The child's urine might be tested for ketones (produced when the body burns fat for energy), which may also indicate type-1 diabetes instead of type-2 diabetes.

More information can be found on these websites: California Department of Public Health, www.cdph.ca.gov; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, www.cdc.gov/diabetes/; American Diabetes Association, <https://diabetes.org>.

The information provided in this booklet is intended to raise awareness about this disease. Contact your child's primary care provider, school nurse, or school administrator if you have questions. [EC 49452.6, 49452.7; HSC 104250]

■ Meningitis

Meningococcal disease or Meningitis can be a life threatening infection that can be treated, but cannot always be cured. Routine vaccinations are recommended for 11-12 years olds, students entering high school and students living in college dorms. [HSC 120395-120399]

STUDENT BEHAVIOR AND SAFETY

All pupils have the right to participate fully in the educational process, free from discrimination, harassment, violence, intimidation, and bullying. Schools have an obligation to combat racism, sexism, and other forms of bias, and a responsibility to provide equal educational opportunity and ensure safe school sites.

Students are encouraged to report anything they see or hear about that might be suspicious or dangerous to a teacher or other staff member. Any staff member that receives such a report will quickly take appropriate action, and the student's identity will remain confidential.

■ School Rules

You have a right to review school and district rules regarding student discipline. If you wish to do so, please contact the school office. [EC 35291, 48980, 51101]

■ Safe Place to Learn

It is State and District policy to improve student safety, connections between students and supportive adults, and connections between schools and communities. These policies prohibit discrimination, harassment, intimidation, and bullying at all school sites or at any school sponsored activity. School site staff trained in anti-bias shall be made known to students. When safe to do so, District employees must intervene immediately when they see discrimination, harassment, intimidation or bullying. Certificated staff in grades 7-12 get information about helping LGBTQ students. Information about district programs and services and links to community and statewide resources related to: suicide prevention; sex discrimination including Title IX information; hate violence; sexual harassment including the District's Policy (also included in this booklet); harassment, intimidation, and bullying; and cyber-bullying including social-media bullying are available on the District's website at www.pvusd.us and online at www.cde.ca.gov, www.wested.org/project/california-healthy-kids-survey-chks/.

The District Uniform Complaint Procedure may be used to file a complaint. Contact the District Complaint Officer(s) listed on page 43 for assistance. [EC 200, 215, 220, 221.6, 221.61, 221.8, 230, 231.5, 233, 234, 234.1, 234.4, 234.5, 234.6, 244, 51101, 66250, 66260.6, 66270; PC 422.55, 422.6; 5 CCR 4900; BP 5131.2 March 2024]



■ Digital Communication Devices

Districts may regulate the possession or use of any cellphone, smartphone, pager or

electronic signaling device, and use of social media while students are on campus, while attending school-sponsored activities, or while under the supervision and control of school district employees. Students cannot be stopped from using such a device when: there is an emergency; there is a perceived threat of danger; when a teacher or administrator has said it is acceptable; or if it is part of an individualized education program (IEP). Possession or use is allowed if essential to student's health as determined by a licensed physician or surgeon. [EC 48901.5, 48901.7, 48901.8]

■ School Bus Safety

Parents and guardians of students in pre-kindergarten through the sixth grade shall receive written information on school bus safety when they first register for school. [EC 39831.5]

■ Safety Beyond School

There are several topics where school districts are either required or recommended to inform parents/guardians about student safety beyond school grounds, events, or activities.

Safe Gun Storage

Guns are now the third leading cause of death for children in this country. Over 80 percent of teens who commit suicide with a gun used one that belonged to someone in their home. Anyone who reasonably knows a child might access a firearm without permission, loaded or not, is criminally liable for where that firearm is taken, brandished, or how it is used. This includes all school facilities or activities, events, and public places. More Information about gun safety and the safe storage of firearms can be found at <https://oag.ca.gov/firearms/tips>. Those responsible for access to a firearm could lose the right to own a firearm for 10 years, face fines, imprisonment, and civil liability. When there is a threat of a homicide,

school staff shall notify law enforcement. [EC 48980, 48986, 49390, 49391, 49392; PC 25000-25140]

Water Safety / Drowning Danger

Drowning is a leading cause of death and hospitalizations for California children ages 1 to 4, and one of the leading causes for youth up to 19 years old. Water safety and swimming education is very effective in helping to prevent drowning. The school or district may have information about where to enroll your child(ren) in these classes. [EC 51140; HSC 115920-115929]

When a district has an event in or near a swimming pool that is not part of an interscholastic athletic program, they are required to have at least one adult present that is certified in cardiopulmonary resuscitation. [EC 35179.6]

Use of Synthetic or Counterfeit Drugs

Use of any drugs, including synthetic drugs such as fentanyl, that are not prescribed for you by your physician are potentially very dangerous. Fentanyl accounted for more than 80 percent of the drug-related deaths among youth in California in 2021. It is 50 times more potent than heroin, and 100 times more potent than morphine. Many counterfeit drugs are sold on the street as if they were known name-brand or generic drugs; and many of them may contain fentanyl or other dangerous synthetic drugs. Social media (i.e. TikTok, Whatsapp, Snapchat, etc.) is often the source of misinformation about synthetic drugs. [EC 48980, 48985.5]

DISCIPLINE

■ Civility

The District believes that every person deserves to be treated with dignity and respect in their interactions within our School Community. Civility has an impact on effective

operations and on the creation of a safe and positive school climate for everyone.

While respecting every individual's right to free speech, that right does not allow for disruption of school classes, activities, meetings, or other events. Students, staff, parents, guardians, and the community are expected to be polite, courteous, respectful, and behave reasonably at all school or district activities and events. Practices that promote civil behavior include, but are not limited to, actively listening, giving full attention, not interrupting, welcoming and encouraging participation by everyone. Civility is hindered by disruptive behavior or speech, violence or the threat of violence, or harassment or bullying of any kind; these behaviors are prohibited and are subject to discipline according to law and District policies. [BP 1313 September 2021; EC 32210- 32212, 44050, 44807, 44810, 44811, 48900 et seq, 48950; CC 51.7, 1708.9; GC 54954.3, 54957.9; PC 415.5, 422.6, 627.4, 627.7]

■ Rules and Regulations Regarding Discipline

The Board of Education prescribes discipline consistent with California and State Board of Education regulations. Each principal ensures that all rules are communicated to students at the beginning of each school year. Transfer students receive this information upon enrollment Discipline matrices have been established for both elementary and secondary students to ensure consistent consequences throughout the district. The matrices are available from the school principals upon request from a parent. [EC35291, 48900]

■ Parent Responsibility

Parents or guardians are liable for all the damages caused by the willful misconduct of their minor children that result in death or injury to other students, school personnel, or damage to school property. Parents are also

liable for any school property loaned to the student and willfully not returned. Parents' or guardians' liability may be as much as \$25,100 in damages and another maximum of \$13,800 as adjusted annually by the California Department of Education for payment of a reward, if any. With a few exceptions, the school district may withhold the grades, diplomas, or transcripts of the student responsible until such damages are paid or the property returned or until completion of a voluntary work program in lieu of payment of money. If your child commits an obscene act or engages in habitual profanity or vulgarity, disrupts school activities, or otherwise willfully defies the authority of school personnel, and is suspended for such misconduct, you may be required to attend a portion of a school day in your child's classroom. Civil penalties may also be enforced with fines up to \$25,000. [EC 48900.1, 48904, 51101; CC 1714.1; GC 53069.5]

Vandalism

Graffiti and scratching glass or other material on someone else's property is now considered vandalism and those convicted face fines, imprisonment and the requirement to clean up the damage or perform community service. Parents/Guardians may be liable to pay fines as high as \$10,000 and be required to participate in the clean up. [PC 594]

■ Drugs, Alcohol, and Tobacco

Possession or use of illicit drugs (including cannabis), alcohol, or any tobacco product on District premises or at any District activity is strictly prohibited.

A student in possession or under the influence of marijuana (cannabis), concentrated cannabis, or any synthetic cannabinoid is subject to suspension or expulsion. A student under 18 also faces up to forty (40) hours of community service, ten (10) hours of drug education, and sixty (60) hours of counseling; a student 18 or older can be imprisoned for up to six (6)

months and/or be fined up to \$1,000. It is illegal for anyone under 21 to possess cannabis or synthetic cannabis.

Possession of tobacco by anyone under 21 is illegal and can lead to a \$75 fine or 30 hours of community service except for members of the military.

Except for members of the military, possession of tobacco by anyone under 21 is illegal and can lead to a \$75 fine or thirty (30) hours of community service. Possession of approved tobacco cessation aids is not prohibited. A "tobacco product" is any product made or derived from tobacco or nicotine that is intended for human consumption, including an electronic device that delivers nicotine (commonly known as "e-cigarettes" or "vaping"). [EC 48900, 48901; HSC 11357, 11357.5, 11361, 11362.1, 11362.3, 104495, 104559; PC 308; VC 13202.5; BPC 22950.5, 25608; 20 USC 812, 814]

■ Impersonation on the Internet

Pretending to be another pupil or real person other than yourself on the Internet or through other electronic methods to harm, intimidate, threaten or defraud is punishable by a \$1,000 fine or imprisonment for up to one year. [EC 48900; PC 528.5]

■ Grounds for Suspension or Expulsion

A pupil shall not be suspended from school or recommended for expulsion, unless the superintendent of the school district or the principal of the school in which the pupil is enrolled determines that the pupil has committed an act as defined pursuant to any of subdivisions (a) to (r), inclusive:

- (a) (1) Caused, attempted to cause, or threatened to cause physical injury to another person.

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- (2) Willfully used force or violence upon the person of another, except in self-defense.
- (b) Possessed, sold, or otherwise furnished a firearm, knife, explosive, or other dangerous object, unless, in the case of possession of an object of this type, the pupil had obtained written permission to possess the item from a certificated school employee, which is concurred in by the principal or the designee of the principal.
- (c) (1) Unlawfully possessed, used, sold, or otherwise furnished, or been under the influence of, a controlled substance listed in Chapter 2 (commencing with Section 11053) of Division 10 of the Health and Safety Code, an alcoholic beverage, or an intoxicant of any kind.
- (2) Pupils who voluntarily disclose their use of a controlled substance, alcohol, or an intoxicant of any kind in order to seek help through services or supports shall not be suspended solely for that disclosure.
- (d) Unlawfully offered, arranged, or negotiated to sell a controlled substance listed in Chapter 2 (commencing with Section 11053) of Division 10 of the Health and Safety Code, an 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.
- (e) Committed or attempted to commit robbery or extortion.
- (f) Caused or attempted to cause damage to school property or private property.
- (g) Stole or attempted to steal school property or private property.
- (h) (1) Possessed or used tobacco, or 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 the use or possession by a pupil of the pupil's own prescription products.
- (2) Pupils who voluntarily disclose their use of a tobacco product in order to seek help through services or supports shall not be suspended solely for that disclosure.
- (i) Committed an obscene act or engaged in habitual profanity or vulgarity.
- (j) Unlawfully possessed or unlawfully offered, arranged, or negotiated to sell drug paraphernalia, as defined in Section 11014.5 of the Health and Safety Code.
- (k) (1) 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.
- (2) Except as provided in Section 48910, a pupil enrolled in kindergarten or any of grades 1 to 5, inclusive, shall not be suspended for any of the acts specified in paragraph (1), and those acts shall not constitute grounds for a pupil enrolled in kindergarten or any of grades 1 to 12, inclusive, to be recommended for expulsion.
- (3) Except as provided in Section 48910, a pupil enrolled in any of grades 6 to 8, inclusive, shall not be suspended for any of the acts specified in paragraph (1). This paragraph is inoperative on July 1, 2029.
- (4) Except as provided in Section 48910, commencing July 1, 2024, a pupil enrolled in any of grades 6 to 8, inclusive, shall not be suspended for any of the acts specified in paragraph (1). This paragraph is inoperative on July 1, 2029.
- (5) (A) A certificated or classified employee

may refer a pupil to school administrators for appropriate and timely in-school interventions or supports from the list of other means of correction specified in subdivision (b) of Section 48900.5 for any of the acts enumerated in paragraph (1).

- (B) A school administrator shall, within five business days, document the actions taken pursuant to subparagraph (A) and place that documentation in the pupil's record to be available for access, to the extent permissible under state and federal law, pursuant to Section 49069.7. The school administrator shall, by the end of the fifth business day, also inform the referring certificated or classified employee, verbally or in writing, what actions were taken and, if none, the rationale used for not providing any appropriate or timely in-school interventions or supports.
- (l) Knowingly received stolen school property or private property.
- (m) Possessed an imitation firearm. As used in this section, "imitation firearm" means a replica of a firearm that is so substantially similar in physical properties to an existing firearm as to lead a reasonable person to conclude that the replica is a firearm.
- (n) Committed or attempted to commit a sexual assault as defined in Section 261, 266c, 286, 287, 288, or 289 of, or former Section 288a of, the Penal Code or committed a sexual battery as defined in Section 243.4 of the Penal Code.
- (o) Harassed, threatened, or intimidated a pupil who is a complaining witness or a witness in a school disciplinary proceeding for purposes of either preventing that pupil from being a witness or retaliating against that pupil for being a witness, or both.
- (p) Unlawfully offered, arranged to sell, negotiated to sell, or sold the prescription drug Soma.
- (q) Engaged in, or attempted to engage in, hazing. For purposes of this subdivision, "hazing" means a method of initiation or preinitiation into a pupil organization or body, whether or not the organization or body is officially recognized by an educational institution, that is likely to cause serious bodily injury or personal degradation or disgrace resulting in physical or mental harm to a former, current, or prospective pupil. For purposes of this subdivision, "hazing" does not include athletic events or school-sanctioned events.
- (r) Engaged in an act of bullying. For purposes of this subdivision, the following terms have the following meanings:
 - (1) "Bullying" means any severe or pervasive physical or verbal act or conduct, including communications made in writing or by means of an electronic act, and including one or more acts committed by a pupil or group of pupils as defined in Section 48900.2, 48900.3, or 48900.4, directed toward one or more pupils that has or can be reasonably predicted to have the effect of one or more of the following:
 - (A) Placing a reasonable pupil or pupils in fear of harm to that pupil's or those pupils' person or property.
 - (B) Causing a reasonable pupil to experience a substantially detrimental effect on the pupil's physical or mental health.
 - (C) Causing a reasonable pupil to experience substantial interference with the pupil's academic performance.
 - (D) Causing a reasonable pupil to

experience substantial interference with the pupil's ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, or privileges provided by a school.

(2) (A) "Electronic act" means the creation or transmission originated on or off the schoolsite, by means of an electronic device, including, but not limited to, a telephone, wireless telephone, or other wireless communication device, computer, or pager, of a communication, including, but not limited to, any of the following:

- (i) A message, text, sound, video, or image
- (ii) A post on a social network internet website, including, but not limited to: (I) Posting to or creating a burn page. "Burn page" means an internet website created for the purpose of having one or more of the effects listed in paragraph (1); (II) Creating a credible impersonation of another actual pupil for the purpose of having one or more of the effects listed in paragraph (1). "Credible impersonation" means to knowingly and without consent impersonate a pupil for the purpose of bullying the pupil and such that another pupil would reasonably believe, or has reasonably believed, that the pupil was or is the pupil who was impersonated; (III) Creating a false profile for the purpose of having one or more of the effects listed in paragraph (1). "False profile" means a profile of a fictitious pupil or a profile using the likeness or attributes of an actual pupil other than the pupil who created the false profile.

(iii) (I) An act of cyber sexual bullying;
(II) For purposes of this clause, "cyber sexual bullying" means the dissemination of, or the solicitation or incitement to disseminate, a photograph or other visual recording by a pupil to another pupil or to school personnel by means of an electronic act that has or can be reasonably predicted to have one or more of the effects described in subparagraphs (A) to (D), inclusive, of paragraph (1). A photograph or other visual recording, as described in this subclause, shall include the depiction of a nude, semi-nude, or sexually explicit photograph or other visual recording of a minor where the minor is identifiable from the photograph, visual recording, or other electronic act; (III) For purposes of this clause, "cyber sexual bullying" does not include a depiction, portrayal, or image that has any serious literary, artistic, educational, political, or scientific value or that involves athletic events or school-sanctioned activities.

(B) Notwithstanding paragraph (1) and subparagraph (A), an electronic act shall not constitute pervasive conduct solely on the basis that it has been transmitted on the internet or is currently posted on the internet.

(3) "Reasonable pupil" means a pupil, including, but not limited to, a pupil with exceptional needs, who exercises average care, skill, and judgment in conduct for a person of that age, or for a person of that age with the pupil's exceptional needs.

(s) A pupil shall not be suspended or expelled

for any of the acts enumerated in this section unless the act is related to a school activity or school attendance occurring within a school under the jurisdiction of the superintendent of the school district or principal or occurring within any other school district. A pupil may be suspended or expelled for acts that are enumerated in this section and related to a school activity or school attendance that occur at any time, including, but not limited to, any of the following:

- (1) While on school grounds.
 - (2) While going to or coming from school.
 - (3) During the lunch period whether on or off the campus.
 - (4) During, or while going to or coming from, a school-sponsored activity.
- (t) A pupil who aids or abets, as defined in Section 31 of the Penal Code, the infliction or attempted infliction of physical injury to another person may be subject to suspension, but not expulsion, pursuant to this section, except that a pupil who has been adjudged by a juvenile court to have committed, as an aider and abettor, a crime of physical violence in which the victim suffered great bodily injury or serious bodily injury shall be subject to discipline pursuant to subdivision (a).
- (u) As used in this section, “school property” includes, but is not limited to, electronic files and databases.
- (v) For a pupil subject to discipline under this section, a superintendent of the school district or principal is encouraged to provide alternatives to suspension or expulsion, using a research-based framework with strategies that improve behavioral and academic outcomes, that are age appropriate and designed to address and correct the pupil’s

specific misbehavior as specified in Section 48900.5.

- (w)(1) A suspension or expulsion shall not be imposed against a pupil based solely on the fact that they are truant, tardy, or otherwise absent from school activities.
- (2) It is further the intent of the Legislature that the Multi-Tiered System of Supports, which includes restorative justice practices, trauma-informed practices, social and emotional learning, and schoolwide positive behavior interventions and support, may be used to help pupils gain critical social and emotional skills, receive support to help transform trauma-related responses, understand the impact of their actions, and develop meaningful methods for repairing harm to the school community. [EC 35291, 48900, 48901.1, 48910]

Additionally, sexual harassment, hate violence, harassment, intimidation (grades 4-12) and threats and terroristic threats against school officials or school property or both (all students) may be recommended for suspension or expulsion. [EC 212.5, 233(e), 48900.2, 48900.3, 48900.4, 48900.7]

Homework shall be provided for a student suspended for two (2) or more days upon request. Such homework turned in on time that cannot be graded in time, will not be included in the calculation of the pupil’s grade in the class. [EC 48913.5]

■ **Mandatory Suspension / Expulsion**

Education Code Section 48915(a): Except as provided in subdivisions (c) and (e), the principal or the superintendent of schools shall recommend the expulsion of a pupil for any of the following acts committed at school or at a school activity off school grounds, unless the principal or superintendent finds that the

expulsion is inappropriate, due to the particular circumstance:

1. Causing serious physical injury to another person, except in self-defense.
2. Possession of any knife, explosive, or other dangerous object of no reasonable use to the pupil.
3. Unlawful possession of any controlled substance listed in Chapter 2 (commencing with section 11053) of Division 10 of the Health and Safety Code, except for the first offense for the sale of not more than one avoirdupois ounce of marijuana, other than concentrated cannabis.
4. Robbery or extortion.
5. Assault or battery, as defined in Sections 240 and 242 of the Penal Code, upon any school employee.

Education Code Section 48915(c): The principal or superintendent of schools shall immediately suspend, pursuant to Section 48911, and shall recommend expulsion of a pupil that he or she determines has committed any of the following acts at school or at a school activity off school grounds:

1. Possessing, selling, or otherwise furnishing a firearm. This subdivision does not apply to an act of possessing a firearm if the pupil had obtained prior or written permission to possess the firearm from a certificated school employee, which is concurred in by the principal or the designee of the principal. This subdivision applies to an act of possessing a firearm only if the possession is verified by an employee of a school district.
2. Brandishing a knife at another person.
3. Unlawfully selling a controlled substance listed in Chapter 2 (commencing with Section 11053) of Division 10 of the Health and Safety Code.
4. Committing or attempting to commit a sexual assault as defined in subdivision (n) of

Section 48900 or committing a sexual battery as defined in subdivision (n) of Section 48900.

5. Possession of an explosive.

■ Student Search

The school principal or designee may search the person of a student, the student's property, vehicle, and District property under the student's control if there is a reasonable suspicion to believe the student may have a concealed weapon, narcotics, stolen property, or contraband. Searches may be announced or unannounced, and the District may use drug-sniffing dogs if available. Employees shall not conduct strip searches or body cavity searches of any student. [EC 48900-48927, 49050-49051, 49330-49334; PC 626.9, 626.10]

■ Release of a Student to a Peace Officer

If a school official releases your child from school to a peace officer for the purpose of removing them from the school premises, the school official shall take immediate steps to notify you or a responsible relative of your child, except when a student has been taken into custody as a victim of suspected child abuse. In those cases, the peace officer will notify the parent or guardian. [EC 48906; PC 11165.6; WIC 305]

DISCRIMINATION, PROTECTIONS, COMPLAINTS AND PROCEDURES

The District is primarily responsible for compliance with local, state and federal laws and regulations and has procedures to address allegations of unlawful discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying against any protected individual or group including actual or perceived sex, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, gender expression,

ethnic group identification, race or ethnicity, ancestry, national origin, nationality, religion, mental or physical disability, age, or on the basis of a person's association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics in any district program, or activity that receives or benefits from local, state and federal financial assistance.

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■ **Nondiscrimination / Harassment**

This policy shall apply to all acts constituting unlawful discrimination or harassment related to school activity or to school attendance occurring within a district school, to acts which occur off campus or outside of school-related or school-sponsored activities but which may have an impact or create a hostile environment at school, and to all acts of the Governing Board and the Superintendent in enacting policies and procedures that govern the district.

The Board desires to provide a welcoming, safe, and supportive school environment that allows all students equal access to and opportunities in the district's academic, extracurricular, and other educational support programs, services, and activities. The Board prohibits, at any district school or school activity, unlawful discrimination, including discriminatory harassment, intimidation, and bullying, of any student by anyone, based on the student's actual or perceived race; color; ancestry; nationality; national origin; immigration status; ethnic group identification; ethnicity; age; religion; pregnancy, childbirth, termination of pregnancy or lactation, including related medical conditions or recovery; parental, marital, and family status; physical or mental disability; medical condition; sex; sex stereotypes; sex characteristics; sexual orientation; gender; gender identity; gender expression; or genetic information; or, association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics.

Unlawful discrimination, including discriminatory harassment, intimidation, or bullying, may result from physical, verbal, nonverbal, or written conduct based on any of the categories listed above. Unlawful discrimination also occurs when prohibited conduct is so severe, persistent, or pervasive that it affects a student's ability to participate in or benefit from an educational program or activity; creates an intimidating, threatening, hostile, or offensive educational environment; has the effect of substantially or unreasonably interfering with a student's academic performance; or otherwise adversely affects a student's educational opportunities.

Unlawful discrimination also includes disparate treatment of students based on one of the categories above with respect to the provision of opportunities to participate in school programs or activities or the provision or receipt of educational benefits or services.

Because unlawful discrimination could occur when disciplining students, including suspension and expulsion, the Superintendent or designee shall ensure that staff enforce discipline rules fairly, consistently and in a non-discriminatory manner, as specified in Board Policy and Administrative Regulation 5144 – Discipline, Board Policy and Administrative Regulation 5144.1 – Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process, and Administrative Regulation 5144.2 – Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process (Students With Disabilities).

The Board also prohibits any form of retaliation against any individual who reports or participates in the reporting of unlawful discrimination, files or participates in the filing of a complaint, or investigates, participates, or refuses to participate in the investigation of a complaint or report alleging unlawful discrimination. Retaliation complaints shall be investigated and resolved in the same manner as a discrimination complaint.

The Superintendent or designee shall facilitate students' access to the educational program by publicizing the district's nondiscrimination policy and related complaint procedures to students, parents/guardians, and employees. In addition, the Superintendent or designee shall post the district's policies prohibiting discrimination, harassment, intimidation, and bullying and other required information on the district's website in a manner that is easily accessible to parents/guardians and students, in accordance with law and the accompanying administrative regulation.

The Superintendent or designee shall provide training and/or information on the scope and use of the policy and complaint procedures and take other measures designed to increase the school community's understanding of the requirements of law related to discrimination. The Superintendent or designee shall regularly review the implementation of the district's nondiscrimination policies and practices and, as necessary, shall take action to remove any identified barrier to student access to or participation in the district's educational program. The Superintendent or designee shall report the findings and recommendations to the Board after each review.

Regardless of whether a complainant complies with the writing, timeline, and/or other formal filing requirements, all complaints alleging unlawful discrimination, including discriminatory harassment, intimidation, or bullying, shall be investigated and prompt action taken to stop the discrimination, prevent recurrence, and address any continuing effect on students.

Students who engage in unlawful discrimination, including discriminatory harassment, intimidation, retaliation, or bullying, in violation of law, Board policy, or administrative regulation shall be subject to appropriate consequence or discipline, which may include suspension or expulsion when the

behavior is severe or pervasive as defined in Education Code 48900.4. Any employee who permits or engages in prohibited discrimination, including discriminatory harassment, intimidation, retaliation, or bullying, shall be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal.

When a student has been suspended, or other means of correction have been implemented against the student for an incident of racist bullying, harassment, or intimidation, the principal or designee shall engage both the victim and perpetrator in a restorative justice practice suitable to the needs of the students. The principal or designee shall also require the perpetrator to engage in a culturally sensitive program that promotes racial justice and equity and combats racism and ignorance and shall regularly check on the victim to ensure that the victim is not in danger of suffering from any long-lasting mental health issues.

When appropriate based on the severity or pervasiveness of the bullying, the Superintendent or designee shall notify the parents/guardians of victims and perpetrators and may contact law enforcement.

Allegations of unlawful discrimination in district programs and activities shall be brought, investigated, and resolved in accordance with Board Policy 1312.3 – Uniform Complaint Procedures, when required by law. However, complaints alleging sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, under Title IX shall be investigated and resolved in accordance with the procedures specified in 34 CFR 106.44 and 106.45 and Administrative Regulation 5145.71 – Title IX Sex Discrimination and Sex-Based Harassment Complaint Procedures.

Record-Keeping

The Superintendent or designee shall maintain a record of all reported cases of unlawful discrimination, including discriminatory harassment, intimidation, or bullying, to enable

the district to monitor, address, and prevent repetitive prohibited behavior in district schools. [BP 5145.3 September 2024; EC 17585, 200-270, 33353, 35292.5, 48900.3, 48900.4, 48900.5, 48904, 48907, 48950, 48985, 49020-49023, 49060-49079, 51204.5, 51500, 51501, 60010, 60040-60052; 5 CCR 432, 4600-4670, 4900-4965; CC 1714.1; GC 11135; PC 422.55, 422.6; Title VI; Title VII; Title IX; § 504; ADA; 20 USC 1681-1688; 42 USC 6101-6107; 28 CFR 35.107; 34 CFR 100.3, 104.7, 104.8, 106.1-106.82, 106.3, 110.25, 99.31]

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■ Sexual Harassment

The Governing Board is committed to maintaining a welcoming, safe, and supportive school environment that is free from discrimination and harassment. The Board prohibits at school or at school-sponsored or school-related activities, sex discrimination and sex-based harassment, as defined in the accompanying administrative regulation, targeted at any student, based on the student's actual or perceived sex; sex stereotypes; sex characteristics; sexual orientation; gender; gender identity; gender expression; pregnancy, childbirth, termination of pregnancy or lactation, including related medical conditions or recovery; and, parental, marital, and family status.

Additionally, the Board prohibits retaliatory behavior or action against any person who complains or testifies about conduct that reasonably may constitute sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, reports such conduct, or otherwise participates or refuses to participate in the complaint process established for the purpose of this policy.

Any employee who receives a report or observes an incident of sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, by or against a student in a district education program or activity shall report the incident to the Title IX Coordinator within one workday.

Once notified, the Title IX Coordinator shall ensure the complaint or allegation is addressed through Administrative Regulation 5145.71 – Title IX Sex Discrimination and Sex-Based Harassment Complaint Procedures.

The Title IX Coordinator shall offer and coordinate supportive measures to be provided to the complainant and, if the district has begun grievance procedures or offered an informal resolution process to the respondent, offer and coordinate supportive measures to be provided to the respondent as deemed appropriate under the circumstances.

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that all district staff are trained regarding the district's sex discrimination and sex-based harassment policy, and that all employees receive training related to their duties under Title IX as specified in Administrative Regulation 4119.11/4219.11/4319.11 – Sex Discrimination and Sex-Based Harassment.

Instruction / Information

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that all district students receive age-appropriate information on sex discrimination and sex-based harassment. Such instruction and information shall include:

1. What acts and behavior constitute sex discrimination and sex-based harassment, including the fact that sex discrimination and sex-based harassment could occur between people of the same sex and could involve sexual violence;
2. A clear message that students do not have to endure sex discrimination or sex-based harassment under any circumstance;
3. Encouragement to report observed incidents of sex discrimination and sex-based harassment even when the alleged victim of the discrimination or harassment has not complained;
4. A clear message that student safety is the

district's primary concern, and that any separate rule violation involving an alleged victim or any other person reporting a sex discrimination or sex-based harassment incident will be addressed separately and will not affect the manner in which the sex discrimination or sex-based harassment complaint will be received, investigated, or resolved;

5. A clear message that, regardless of a complainant's noncompliance with the writing, timeline, or other formal filing requirements, every sex discrimination and sex-based harassment allegation that involves a student, whether as the complainant, respondent, or victim of the discrimination or harassment, shall be investigated and action shall be taken to respond to harassment, prevent recurrence, and address any continuing effect on students;
6. Information about the district's procedures for investigating complaints and the person(s) to whom a report of sex discrimination and/or sex-based harassment should be made;
7. Information about the rights of students and parents/guardians to file a civil or criminal complaint, as applicable, including the right to file a civil or criminal complaint while the district investigation of a sex discrimination or sex-based harassment complaint continues;
8. A clear message that, when needed, the district will implement supportive measures to ensure a safe school environment for a student who is the complainant or victim of sex discrimination or sex-based harassment and/or other students during an investigation.

Disciplinary Actions

Upon completion of an investigation of sex

discrimination and/or sex-based harassment, any student found to have engaged in sex discrimination, and/or sex-based harassment or sexual violence, in violation of this policy, shall be subject to disciplinary action. For students in grades 4-12, disciplinary action may include suspension and/or expulsion, provided that, in imposing such discipline, the entire circumstances of the incident(s) shall be taken into account.

Upon investigation of sex discrimination and/or sex-based harassment, any employee found to have engaged in sex discrimination against, and/or sex-based harassment or sexual violence toward, any student, shall be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal, in accordance with law and the applicable collective bargaining agreement.

Record-Keeping

The Superintendent or designee shall maintain records in accordance with law, including in accordance with 34 CFR 106.8 as specified in Administrative Regulation 5145.71 – Title IX Sex Discrimination and Sex-Based Harassment Complaint Procedures, and district policies and regulations, of all reported cases of sex-based harassment to enable the district to monitor, address, and prevent repetitive harassing behavior in district schools. [BP 5145.7 September 2024; EC 200-270, 220.1, 220.3, 220.5, 35292.5, 48900, 48900.2, 48904, 48980, 48985, 49060-49079; 5 CCR 432, 4600-4670, 4900-4965; CC 1714.1, 51.9; GC 12950.1; FERPA; Title VI; Title VII; 20 USC 1092, 1221, 1681-1688; 34 USC 12291; 42 USC 1983; 34 CFR 106.1-106.82]

■ Discrimination, Harassment, Intimidation, or Bullying Complaints

The District prohibits the following, and shall follow uniform complaint procedures when addressing complaints alleging unlawful

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discrimination, harassment, or bullying against any protected individual or group identified under Board Policy, Education Code, California Code of Regulations, Penal Code, or Government Code including actual or perceived race, color, ancestry, historically associated racial traits, nationality, national origin, immigration status, ethnicity, ethnic group identification, age, religion, marital status, pregnancy, parental status, physical or mental disability, exceptional needs, neurodivergence, medical condition, sex, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, gender expression, genetic information, or on the basis of a person's association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics in any district program, categorical program, federally funded program, or activity that receives or benefits from state financial assistance.

District is committed to equal opportunity for all individuals in education and in employment. The District shall promote programs that ensure non-discriminatory practices in all District activities. Information about district programs and services and links to community and statewide resources related to: suicide prevention; sex discrimination including Title IX information; hate violence; sexual harassment including the District's Policy (also included in this booklet); harassment, intimidation, bullying; and cyber-bullying including social-media bullying are available on the District's website at www.pvUSD.us. You may contact your school's office or the District office to obtain a free copy of the district's complaint procedures. If you want further details in this regard, or if you believe your or your child(ren) have been subjected to the above and wish to file a complaint, please contact the District official responsible for compliance with Title V, Title VI, Title IX, § 504, and Uniform Complaints. The Governing Board designates the following compliance officer(s) to receive and investigate

all complaints and ensure district compliance with law:

Janel Carpenter, Director of Special Services
825 N. Lovekin Blvd., Blythe, CA 92225
(760) 922-4164 ext 1242
janel.carpenter@pvusd.us

The Uniform Complaint Procedure can be used in cases of discrimination or a violation of a federal or state law within the following programs as identified by the District's Board Policies: accommodations for pregnant, parenting, and lactating students; adult education; after school education and safety; American Indian education; bilingual education; State Program for Students of Limited English Proficiency; career technical education/training, agricultural career technical education, and ROP programs and centers; child abuse; civil rights guarantees that receive state or federal financial assistance; course content; classroom curriculum; textbook or supplemental instructional material; tenth-grade counseling; ESEA (Titles I-VII); student achievement plans; intersession; State Compensatory education; special education; foster youth, homeless youth, juvenile court youth, and newcomer students; migrant education; discrimination, harassment, intimidation, and bullying; physical education (including instructional minutes grades 1-6); nutrition services; student fees; LCAP; Consolidated Categorical Aid; Economic Impact Aid; school improvement; safe place to learn; school safety plan; School Safety and Violence Prevention Act; tobacco-use prevention education; child development; State Preschool programs; Early Childhood Education Program Assessments; Peer Assistance and Review; Williams Settlement issues and other areas designated by the District. [EC 200-212.6, 220-220.5, 221.61-221.8, 222-222.5, 230-231.5, 234 et seq., 244, 260-262.4, 35186, 48645.7, 48853-48853.5, 48987, 49010-49016, 49069.5, 51210, 51222, 51223, 51225.1-51225.2, 51228.3, 52075, 52334.7, 56500.2, 56501; PC 422.55; CC

51-52; GC 11135; 5 CCR 4600- 4687, 4900-4965, 15580-15584; 20 USC 11431-11435; FERPA; EOA; Title VI; Title VII; Title IX; § 504; IDEA; ADA; 34 CFR 106.9]

District's Uniform Complaint Process

You may contact your school's office or the District office to obtain a free copy of the district's complaint procedures. The complaint procedure can be used for a variety of issues not mentioned above including but not limited to employee issues and policies and procedures of the district. Confidentiality and privacy shall be respected in all complaint investigations. Complaints alleging discrimination may be filed by a person on their own behalf or on behalf of another person or group of people within six months of the occurrence or when facts became known. Complaints regarding a special needs student or pupil fees may be filed within 12 months of the occurrence. Complaints regarding Pupil Fees may be filed anonymously and with the principal. If a complaint regarding pupil fees is valid, then the parents are due full reimbursement. Staff has been trained to deal with these types of complaints.

Those complaining (Complainants) are protected from retaliation and their identities are confidential when related to discrimination. Staff dealing with complaints are knowledgeable about the laws and programs they are investigating. The complaint may be dismissed if complainant obstructs or does not provide all information. If the District acts in the same manner, the finding may be affected.

1. Complaints made under this procedure shall be directed to the Uniform Complaint Officer who is responsible for processing the claims. A complaint under the Uniform Complaint Procedure should be completed within 60 days from the receipt of the complaint. The Superintendent and complainant may agree in writing to extend the timeline.

2. You may contact the UCP Officer to obtain a free copy of the complaint process.
3. You may choose to have your complaint mediated.
4. There shall be an investigative meeting after receiving the complaint.
5. The compliance officer shall send a written report about the investigation and decision. There are then five days to appeal to the Board of Education.
6. If you are not satisfied with the results the complainant has 15 days of receiving the LEA decision, to appeal to the California Department of Education. The appeal must include a copy of the locally filed complaint and a copy of the LEA decision.
7. There is nothing in this process to preclude a complainant from pursuing available civil law remedies outside of the district's complaint procedures. Such remedies may include mediation, attorneys, and legal remedies. Civil law remedies may include, but are not limited to: injunctions and restraining orders.

For discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying complaints, 60 days must elapse from the time an appeal is filed with CDE before pursuing civil remedies except for an injunction. Complaints may also be forwarded to appropriate state or federal agencies in the following cases:

American Civil Liberties Act 504 – Office of Civil Rights

Child Abuse – Department of Social Services, Protective Services Division, or law enforcement

Discrimination/Nutritional Services – U.S. Secretary of Agriculture

Employment Discrimination – Department of Fair Employment and Housing, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

General Education – this school district

Health and Safety/Child Development –
Department of Social Services

Student Records – Family Policy Compliance
Office (FPCO), Student Privacy Policy Office,
US Department of Education, 400 Maryland
Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20202

[EC 235, 244, 262.3, 33031, 33032, 33381,
48985, 56000-56885, 59000-59300, 64000(a);
5 CCR 4600, 4620-4632; 20 USC 11138; 34 CFR
300.510-511, 300.513]

■ **Williams Settlement Complaints**

Parents should use the District Uniform Complaint Procedure with modifications as included, to identify and resolve any deficiencies regarding instructional materials; facility cleanliness, safety, emergency or urgent facility conditions that pose a health or safety threat to students; or staff, teacher vacancies or misassignments. [EC 244, 35186, 48985]

Williams Settlement complaint procedure

A complaint form may be obtained, free of charge, at the school office, the district office, or downloaded from the district's website at www.pvusd.us, but the form need not be used to make a complaint. You may also download a copy of the California Department of Education complaint form from this website, www.cde.ca.gov/re/cp/uc. The Uniform Complaint Procedure shall be used for filing Williams related complaints with the following special circumstances applying:

1. Forms can be turned into the principal or designee who will make every reasonable attempt to investigate.
2. Complaints beyond the site authority will be forwarded to the District within 10 days.
3. Complaints may be filed anonymously. A response may be requested if complainant is identified and will be sent to the mailing address on complaint

4. If the District is required to provide material in a foreign language based on California Department of Education census data and if requested, the response and report shall be written in English and the primary language in which the complaint was filed.
5. The form will have a box to request a response and indicate where to file the form.
6. Valid complaints should be remedied within 30 days of receipt.
7. Within 45 days of filing a complaint, notice should be sent to complainant when a response was requested. A principal will also inform the Superintendent of resolution in the same time frame.
8. If unsatisfied with resolution a complainant may describe the complaint to the governing board at a regularly scheduled meeting.
9. The District will report quarterly on the number of resolved and unresolved complaints and summarize data regarding complaints and resolutions to the county superintendent and the local governing board in public session making it part of the public records. [EC 35186, 48985]

■ **Further Information is Available**

Further information regarding our district schools, programs, policies, and procedures is available to any interested person upon request to our district office. [FERPA, 34 CFR 99.7(b)]

DISTRICT FACILITIES

■ **Management Plan for Asbestos-Containing Material**

The district has available upon request a complete and updated management plan for asbestos-containing material. [40 CFR 763.93]

■ **Lead Poison**

The district website has information about

lead poisoning, including risks and effects of childhood lead exposure; blood lead screening tests for children enrolled in Medi-Cal; recommendations for children not enrolled in Medi-Cal who are at high risk of lead exposure and blood lead screening tests as required. The District will handout information to parents of district childcare or preschool programs. [HSC 105286]

■ Pesticide Use

The District is providing parents the name of all pesticide products expected to be applied at school facilities this school year. The identification includes the name and active ingredients. Only fully certified pesticides can be used on school grounds. The school’s Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPM) is updated by September 1 each year. The IPM, pesticide names and active ingredients, and application dates are posted on the school and/or district website at www.pvusd.us.

Parents and guardians may register with the school or district if they wish to receive notification of pesticide applications at a particular school or facility. Notice of an application and written notice of unlisted pesticide use will be given 72 hours in advance. For an emergency application, 72 hours notice will be the goal. Each area of the school where pesticide is being used will be identified by a posted warning 24 hours before (or upon

application, if an emergency) through 72 hours after use. Further information is available from the California Department of Pesticide Regulation, P.O. Box 4015, Sacramento, CA 95812-4015, www.cdpr.ca.gov. [EC 17610.1, 17612, 48980.3; FAC 13184; ne]

Product Name	Active Ingredient(s)
Advion Cockroach Gel Bait Indoxacarb Technical	
Alpine WSG.	Dinotefuran
CY-Kick CS	Cyfluthrin
D-Fense SC Insecticide. . . .	Deltamethrin
Deltadust Insecticide	Deltamethrin, Quartz, Crystalline quartz, Calcium Carbonate
Essentria G	Eugenol, Thyme Oil
Essentria IC3 Insect Concentrate	Rosemary Oil, Geraniol, Wintergreen Oil, White Mineral Oil, Vanillin
FastCap Spider & Scorpion	Esfenvalerate, Prallethrin, Piperonyl Butoxide
Maxforce Granular Fly Bait	Imidacloprid
Premise Foam.	Imidacloprid Technical, Isobutane
PT Wasp-Freeze II.	Cyclopropanecarboxylic acid
Pyrocid 300.	Pyrethrins, Piperonyl butoxide, N-Octyl Bicycloheptene dicarboximide
Suspend SC Insecticide . . .	Deltamethrin
Talstar Professional Insecticide.	Bifenthrin, Beifenthrin
Taurus SC	Pyrazole-3-carbonitrile
Termidor SC	Phenyl pyrazole
Transport GHP Insecticide.	Bifenthrin, Acetamiprid
Up-Star Gold Insecticide . .	Bifenthrin

ANNUAL NOTICE OF YOUR RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

As required by law, this is to notify of your rights and responsibilities. Please take time to carefully review the information in this booklet.

If you have any questions regarding this information, please feel free to contact the District office.

Education Code Section 48982 requires parents or guardians to sign and return this acknowledgment. After your review, please sign and return to your child's school this acknowledgment indicating you have received and reviewed these materials.

By signing below, I am neither giving nor withholding consent for my child(ren) to participate in any program. I am merely indicating that I have received and read the booklet with notices regarding my rights relating to activities which might affect my child(ren).

Student Name (printed)

Student ID Number

School

Grade

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

STUDENT USE OF TECHNOLOGY • ACCEPTABLE USE AGREEMENT

I have read the Palo Verde Unified School District Policy for Responsible Computing and understand its provisions. I accept responsibility for the appropriate use of Palo Verde Unified School District computer resources, which include all computer systems, network systems, Internet and intranet website or other data processing equipment owned by Palo Verde Unified School District, as well as remote computers, or computer systems when used to access the Palo Verde Unified School District computer resources, as outlined in the Policy of Responsible Computing. I understand that use of Palo Verde Unified School District computer resources in violation of the Policy for Responsible Computing will result in disciplinary action and/or the cancellation or restriction of user privileges. I agree to report any use which is in violation of the Policy for Responsible Computing to the appropriate system administrator, administrative office, or employee supervisor, as indicated in the Policy for Responsible Computing.

Student Name (printed)

Student ID Number

School

Grade

Student Signature

Date

I have read the Palo Verde Unified School District Policy for Responsible Computing and understand its provisions and understand the responsibility my child has for the use of Palo Verde Unified School District computer resources.

Parent/Guardian Name (printed)

Telephone

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Please return this page to your child's school on the second day of school.



Palo Verde Unified School District

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(760) 922-4164

www.pvUSD.us