

School Discipline and Safety Report

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Purpose of Tonight

Update of current work:

- What traditionally occurs in schools to ensure a positive school climate?
- How do we continue to support schools and students?
- What still needs to be done?

Common Supports

Common practices:

- Orientation to make students aware of rules and expectations for appropriate behavior
- Grade level assemblies to review behavior expectations
- Faculty meeting discussions on student safety, bullying and school-wide discipline plans
- Establish routines around behavior at recess and lunch
 - line-up
 - limits on playground behaviors
 - conflict resolution monitors on the playground
- Student Handbooks with rules and consequences distributed to students and parents
- Senior contract – Students and Parents sign

Current Practices

School-based practices that promote respect and good decision making:

- Ruby Bridges promoted their STARS guiding principles at monthly assemblies and morning meetings
- Paden addressed anti-bullying in grade level and classroom meetings
- Washington's P.E. teacher trained 4th and 5th grade students to know game rules and help monitor recess behavior
- Haight's Leadership Team has redesigned their discipline plan
- Franklin has addressed behavior expectations, particularly around bullying and harassment at grade level assemblies
- Lum met with grade level groups the first week of school to go over rights and responsibilities with regard to safety
- Edison had grade level meetings to discuss safety and bullying

Current Practices

School-based practices that promote respect and good decision making:

- Otis has monthly school assemblies to honor and hand out awards for life skills
- Earhart implemented a partnership with the Coast Guard to have up to 7 members work with children at recess to model citizenship
- Bay Farm started a program in collaboration with ACOE called Project Heart, Head and Hands (H3)
- Lincoln instituted an “Anti-bullying Pledge” that every student signs with a copy filed in the office
- Wood had grade level assemblies in the first two weeks of school to welcome students and review behavior expectations
- Chipman trained all teachers on life skills and had assemblies to honor life skills achievements

Current Practices

School-based practices that promote respect and good decision making:

- Island HS students attend a six-week orientation course during which behavior expectations are discussed relationships with staff are established
- Encinal’s Leadership class and Gay-Straight Alliance led an anti-bullying and anti-hate speech campaign
- Alameda HS Leadership class students started the “Fresh Program”, a pilot project to support at risk 9th graders in their transition to high school

New Work

- Met with principals to discuss what they do to create a positive school climate and ensure a safe learning environment
- Principals shared practices that work at their school
- Surveyed principals as to how they know students understand rules and expectations for appropriate behavior
 - Continued reinforcement of expectations as needed or appropriate
- Surveyed student handbooks for secondary schools

Student Handbook Review

We looked for:

- Education Code 48900 – reasons for suspension and expulsion
- Explicit descriptions of appropriate and inappropriate behavior
- Consequences
- Descriptions of progressive student discipline
- Prohibition of possessing weapons on campus
- Explicit prohibitions on bullying and harassment
- Other similar related topics

Student Handbook Review

What we found:

- Education code 48900 was present
- Many of the topics were addressed

Where we need to improve:

- Inconsistent in language and format
- Not written in student friendly language
- Not found in section under health and safety
- Inconsistent message regarding new technologies e.g. cell phones

Current Work and Next Steps

Additional Work Completed:

- Drafted a “standard operating procedure for dangerous weapons and communications with parents. (under review)

Work to be completed:

- Develop anti-bullying curriculum at the middle and high school levels
- Form a curriculum committee regarding the ethical use of digital communications
- Implement the technology Plan sections that explicitly address cyber-bullying
- Develop uniform language for student handbooks, put in registration packets, post on the AUSD web and incorporated in the 2011-12 handbooks