

**BP 5131 (a)**

**STUDENTS**

**CONDUCT**

The Governing Board believes that all students have the right to be educated in a positive learning environment free from disruptions. On school grounds and at school activities, students shall be expected to exhibit appropriate conduct that does not infringe upon the rights of others or interfere with the school program.

Behavior is considered appropriate when students are diligent in study, careful with school property, courteous, and respectful towards their teachers, other staff, students and volunteers.

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that each school site develops standards of conduct and discipline consistent with district policies and administrative regulations.

Students and parents/guardians shall be notified of district and school rules related to conduct and shall receive regular instruction regarding these rules. In addition, parents/guardians and students may be provided information about early warning signs of harassing/intimidating behaviors, such as bullying, as well as prevention and intervention strategies.

Prohibited student conduct includes but is not limited to:

1. Behavior that endangers staff and/or students
2. Behavior that disrupts the orderly classroom or school environment
3. Harassment of students or staff, including bullying, intimidation, hazing, or initiation activity or any other verbal, written or physical conduct that causes or threatens to cause bodily harm or emotional suffering
4. Damage to or theft of property belonging to the district, staff or students
5. Possession or use of laser pointers, unless used for a valid instructional or other school-related purpose, including employment

Prior to bringing a laser pointer on school premises, students shall first obtain permission from the principal or designee. The principal or designee shall determine whether the requested use of the laser pointer is for a valid instructional or other school-related purpose.

6. Profane, vulgar or abusive language

**BP 5131 (b)**

**STUDENTS**

**CONDUCT**

7. Plagiarism or dishonesty in school work or on tests
8. Inappropriate dress
9. Tardiness and unexcused absence from school
10. Failure to remain on school premises in accordance with school rules

**Prohibition of Intentional Harassment, Bullying, Threats, or Intimidation by Pupils  
(replacing BP 5131.3)**

A pupil enrolled in any grades 4 through 12, inclusive, may be suspended from school or recommended for expulsion if the Superintendent or Principal determines that the pupil has intentionally engaged in harassment, threats, or intimidation directed against a pupil or group of pupils, that is sufficiently severe or pervasive to have the actual and reasonably expected effect of materially disrupting class work, creating substantial disorder, and invading the rights of the pupil or group of pupils by creating an intimidating or hostile education environment.

The term “intentionally” means “done purposely” or “done deliberately”.

Principals or designees are required to investigate complaints of intentional harassment, threats or intimidation by pupils where the complaints reasonably may describe conduct prohibited by this policy.

Pupils who engage in the misconduct prohibited by this policy normally should be referred to counseling or other interventions before suspension or expulsion is recommended. Such misconduct in all cases shall be reported to the pupil’s parents or guardians promptly in writing.

**Possession of Cellular Phones and Other Personal Electronic Signaling Devices**

No student shall be prohibited from possessing or using an electronic signaling device that is determined by a licensed physician to be essential for the student's health and the use of which is limited to health-related purposes. (Education Code 48901.5)

Students may possess or use of personal electronic signaling devices, including but not limited to pagers, beepers and cellular/digital telephones.

Permitted devices shall:

1. Be turned off during class time and at any other time directed by a district employee
2. Not disrupt the educational program or school activity
3. Shall not invade the privacy of others including taking photographs without permission.

If a disruption occurs, the employee shall direct the student to turn off the device and/or confiscate it. If a school employee finds it necessary to confiscate a device, he/she may either return it at the end of the class period or school day or keep it until the principal or designee has consulted with the student's parent/guardian.

A student who violates this policy may be prohibited from possessing a personal electronic signaling device at school or school-related events.

**Enforcement of Standards**

Employees are expected to provide appropriate supervision to enforce standards of conduct and, if they observe or become aware of a violation of these standards, to immediately intervene or call for assistance. If an employee believes a matter has not been resolved he/she shall refer the matter to his/her supervisor or administrator for further investigation.

Students who violate district or school rules and regulations may be subject to discipline, including but not limited to suspension, expulsion, review by an administrative panel, or transfer to alternative programs in accordance with Board policy and administrative regulation. In addition, when the conduct involves intimidation, harassment, or other endangerment of a student or employee, the Superintendent or designee shall provide

**BP 5131 (d)**  
**STUDENTS**  
**CONDUCT**

appropriate assistance as necessary for the victim and the appropriate intervention for the offender.

*Legal Reference:*

EDUCATION CODE

*35181 Governing board policy on responsibilities of students*

*35291 – 35291.5 Rules*

*44807 Duty concerning conduct of students*

*48900 – 48925 Suspension or expulsion:*

*48908 Duties of students*

Policy Adopted: 03/26/81  
Policy Revised: 12/15/87  
Policy Replaced: 9/23/08

MOORPARK UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Moorpark, California