

Suggestions

- Develop a systematic way to review and update the school safety plan and to ensure new staff receives a copy. Consider putting the revision and distribution requirements in the local contract.
- Maintain first aid and crisis response boxes and in-service the site staff on their location and use in an emergency.
- If there is a problem, work first with your District Administration. Most districts have safety committees whose job is to remedy concerns. If those avenues do not produce results, assert the teachers' contractual rights to a safe and healthy workplace. If necessary, file a grievance and work through your local Association.
- Many of these safety protections can be put in the chapter contract; for example, the requirements of the Injury and Illness Program and Notification of Violent Students. They can then be more easily enforced through the grievance and arbitration procedure.
- If problems persist or affect a large number of teachers at a school site or within the district, contact your local CTA Staff Consultant and work with your local Association leaders to plan a strategy to deal with these safety issues. **Don't agonize, organize.**

Web Sites

- NEA - <http://www.nea.org/home/16364.htm>
- Healthy School Environment - www.epa.gov/schools
- Indoor Air Quality - www.epa.gov/iaq/schools
- CA Dept. of Public Health - <http://www.cdph.ca.gov>
- CA Dept. of Education - <http://www.cde.ca.gov/lr/ss/>



Telephone Numbers for Local Agencies

Association Office (President, Safety Contact)

Public Health Office

Children Protective Services (CPS)

Cal-OSHA

Police/Sheriff Department

District Emergency

Local CTA Office

The CTA Traumatic Event Assistance and Management Cadre is responsible for assisting CTA chapters and members when an event occurs in a school community of such magnitude as to have the potential to create severe trauma in a substantial number of members. Affected teachers should contact their local Association leaders and/or their CTA Staff for assistance.

California Teachers Association
1705 Murchison Drive
Burlingame, CA 94010
WWW.CTA.ORG



GUIDE TO SCHOOL SAFETY

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School District Responsibilities

General Duties ([Title 5 Cal. Code Reg § 5551](#))

While teachers have a general duty to maintain custody and control over their students, school districts have the legal responsibility to establish and enforce the discipline policy that circumscribes teachers' supervisory efforts. This means that the principal is responsible for general school administration, including enforcement of the school district's discipline policy.

Drills ([Ed. Code § 32001](#))

Fire, earthquake and lockdown drills should be practiced regularly. State law requires monthly fire drills at elementary schools, four per year at intermediate schools and one each semester at high schools.

School Safety Plan ([Ed. Code § 32280-32289](#))

Comprehensive School Safety Plan

In order to prevent campus crime and violence and promote safe educational conditions, each school district shall adopt a comprehensive "School Safety Plan."

The Plan shall be drafted by the school site council or by a school safety committee made up of at least the principal or designee, teacher's union representative, classified employee union representative, and parent, in consultation with a representative from law enforcement. The Plan shall be presented at a public meeting at the school site.

The Plan must be reviewed and updated by March 1 each year by the school site council or safety committee and each school must report on the status of its school safety plan in its school accountability report card.

Facilities

Bathrooms ([Ed. Code § 35292.5](#))

Every restroom shall at all times be maintained and cleaned regularly, fully operational and stocked at all times with toilet paper, soap, and paper towels or functional hand dryers.

Communications

Telephones ([Ed. Code § 17077.10](#))

It is a goal of the Legislature to eventually enhance pupil safety by equipping all elementary and secondary school classrooms with a telephone hook connected to a public switched network.

Injury & Illness Prevention Program ([Labor Code § 6401.7](#))

A school district shall establish, implement, and maintain an effective injury prevention program. The program shall be written and include among other things, the following:

- Periodic work site inspections
- Safety Training
- Methods for identifying and correcting unsafe conditions in a timely manner

Prohibitions Against Violence & Disruption

Notification of Violent Students ([Ed. Code § 49079](#))

A school district shall inform the teacher of each pupil who has engaged in, or is reasonably suspected to have engaged in, any of the acts that are grounds for suspension and/or expulsion (except for possession or use of tobacco products) (see Ed. Code §§ 48900, 48900.2, 48900.3, 48900.4 and 48900.7). The district shall provide the information based upon records it maintains, or receives from a law enforcement agency, regarding a pupil. The information provided shall be from the previous three school years and it shall be received in confidence. The knowing failure to so inform is a misdemeanor.

School Disruptions ([Ed. Code § 44811](#))

Any parent, guardian or other person whose conduct materially disrupts class work or extracurricular activities or involves substantial disorder, is guilty of a misdemeanor. This section does not apply to any otherwise lawful employee concerted activity.

Classroom Interruptions ([Ed. Code § 32212](#))

It is the intent of the Legislature that each school district board formally address the problem of classroom interruptions and adopt a policy to control those interruptions.

School Site Security

- No outsider shall enter or remain on school grounds during school hours without having registered with the principal or front office. ([Penal Code § 627.2](#))
- Any person who willfully disturbs any public school or any public school meeting is guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be subject to a fine of not more than \$500. ([Ed. Code § 32210](#))
- Any person, other than a student, parent or guardian, or employee of the school district shall promptly depart from the school premises during school hours when requested to do so by the school principal or designee. Such person shall not return for seven (7) days. The request to leave shall be made exclusively on the basis that it appears reasonable to conclude the continued presence of the person would disrupt or interfere with classes or other school activities. ([Penal Code § 626.7](#); [Penal Code § 626.8](#); [Ed. Code § 32211](#))
- Every minor over 16 or adult who is not a pupil of the school who enters any school ground and willfully interferes with any class or school activity with the intent to disrupt, obstruct, or to inflict damage to property or bodily injury to any person, is guilty of a misdemeanor. ([Ed. Code § 44810](#))

Educator's Rights & Responsibilities

Suspension by Teacher ([Ed. Code § 48910](#))

A teacher may suspend a pupil from his/her class or class period for any act specified in Education Code § 48900 for the day of the suspension and the day following. The suspension must be immediately reported to the principal and the student sent to the principal for further action. The teacher must also request a parent/teacher conference as soon as possible. The pupil shall not be returned to the class from which the pupil was suspended during the period of the suspension without the concurrence of the teacher and the principal.

Notification of Law Enforcement ([Ed. Code § 44014](#))

Whenever any school employee is attacked, assaulted, or physically threatened by a pupil, it is the duty of the employee and the supervisor who has knowledge of the incident to promptly report the matter to law enforcement authorities. Failure to make such a report is an infraction punishable by a fine. Any school employee who attempts to impede the making of a required report is guilty of an infraction punishable by a fine. No board member or school district employee may impose any sanctions against a person for making this report.

