

Board Policy

Code No. 502.3R2

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION REGULATION

STUDENT PROTESTS OR DEMONSTRATIONS

A. Student Protest or Demonstration Defined

Walk-outs occur when students leave their learning environments during school hours and gather in a group or groups with the purpose of promoting a belief or beliefs. The gathering can be within the school building, outside the school building on District property, or off District property.

B. Student Protests or Demonstrations during School Hours

Student demonstrations raise issues of school attendance, discipline policies, students' right to freedom of expression, and, most importantly, student safety. While non-sanctioned walk-outs would normally violate many District attendance and discipline policies, the District will consider ways to provide alternative "teachable moments" in civics education for students when possible. The District response to student protests or demonstrations will be based on numerous factors including age of the students, student safety, staffing concerns, and logistics and building layout.

Students who violate District policy to participate in a non-sanctioned walk-out or who act outside restrictions placed on demonstrations are subject to attendance and discipline policies.

C. Unexcused Absences

1. Students who participate in non-sanctioned walk-outs or are otherwise absent from scheduled class to participate in a demonstration are subject to the Unexcused Absence Policy, Code No 501.10.
2. Students are subject to disciplinary action for the unexcused absence from class, even if the student remains on school grounds. Students must attend class as scheduled.

D. Care of School Property/Vandalism

During sanctioned or non-sanctioned demonstrations, students will treat District property with care and respect. Students found to have destroyed or otherwise harmed school district property may be required to reimburse the school district. They may be subject to discipline under board policy and/or the school district rules and regulations. They may also be referred to local law enforcement authorities. Care of School Property/Vandalism Policy, Code No. 502.2.

E. Student Behavior and Discipline

Inappropriate student conduct causes material and substantial disruption to the school environment, interferes with the rights of others, or may present a threat to the health and safety of students, personnel, and visitors. When participating in sanctioned or non-sanctioned demonstrations, students shall conduct themselves in a manner fitting to their age level and maturity and with respect and consideration for the rights of others while on school district premises.

Students who fail to abide by this administrative regulation may be disciplined for conduct that disrupts or interferes with the educational program, conduct which disrupts the orderly and efficient operation of the school district or school activity, conduct which disrupts the rights of other students to participate in or obtain their education, conduct that is violent or destructive, or conduct that interrupts the maintenance of a disciplined atmosphere. Disciplinary measures, include, but are not limited to, removal from the classroom, detention, suspension, probation, and expulsion. Student Behavior and Discipline Policy, Code No. 503.1.

Approved:

Reapproved:

Revised: