
Appropriate Student Boundaries

Policy 5-303

Scope:

The Governing Board adopts this policy to promote safe environments for student learning and engagement, including environments in which adult-student interactions remain professional and appropriate.

1. Professional Boundaries Between Pupils and Covered Individuals

In accordance with Education Code section 32100, District employees, adult volunteers, and school contractors (collectively “Covered Individual”), are required to maintain appropriate professional boundaries with students at all times. As such, interactions with students shall at all times serve a legitimate purpose directly related to instruction or other duties the Covered Individual is required to perform. Additionally, Covered Individuals shall avoid engaging in any behavior with a student that does create, or reasonably creates the appearance of, an inappropriate student relationship, whether from the perspective of a student, staff member, parent/guardian, community member, or any other party.

Purpose

The Governing Board recognizes the importance of maintaining appropriate boundaries between students and District employees, volunteers, and contractors. In accordance with Education Code section 32100, this policy is intended to outline and enforce those boundaries.

2. Examples of Prohibited Behavior

By way of illustration, not limitation, Covered Individuals shall not engage in the following behavior, which presumptively violates their obligation maintain appropriate student boundaries:

- Maintaining a romantic relationship with a student, regardless of age.
- Touching a student for a purpose other than that necessary to perform assigned duties or responsibilities
- Making comments to a student of a sexual or obscene nature, whether joking or serious
- Meeting, or attempting to meet, with a student outside of school without express parental consent or as otherwise necessary to perform assigned duties
- Providing undue personal attention or privileges to a student in a way that reasonably suggests an improper motive

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- Electronically communicating, or attempting to communicate, with a student outside of school through any means other than a District-approved communications system without the express consent of the student's parent/guardian, and without providing a copy of such communication to the parent/guardian and the District
- "Friending," "following," or otherwise interacting with students over any social media platform

The above list is not exhaustive. Covered Individuals remain responsible for ensuring that all behavior remains consistent with the terms of this policy, and as reasonably directed by the Superintendent or designee or site administration.

3. School Facilities and Furnishings

District school facilities and furnishings, including classroom and nonclassroom environments, shall be maintained, arranged, and used in a manner that promotes safe environments for learning and engagement and allows for reasonable adult supervision.