

PUHSD – BOARD POLICIES

JUSTIFICATION FOR SERIES 5000 (STUDENTS)

(Pending Board Approval June 16, 2021)

Background

BP/AR 5141.52 - Suicide Prevention

(BP/AR revised)

Policy and regulation updated to reflect **NEW LAW (AB 1767)** which mandates age-appropriate policy on suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention for students in grades K-6 beginning in the 2020-21 school year. Policy reflects requirements to consult with specified stakeholders on policy development, coordinate with the county mental health plan whenever a referral is made for mental health or related services for a student in grades K-6 who is a Medi-Cal beneficiary, and ensure that employees act within the authorization and scope of their credential or license. Policy also reflects **NEW LAW (AB 34)** which requires the district, beginning in the 2020-21 school year, to post its suicide prevention policy in a prominent location on its web site. Regulation updated to move material regarding the printing of the national suicide hotline number on student identification cards to a new section. Regulation also adds an optional postvention strategy to identify and monitor students significantly affected by suicide and those at risk of imitative behavior.

NEW - Board Policy 5141.5 - Mental Health

New policy addresses strategies and services to promote students' emotional well-being and mental health, including student instruction, staff training, crisis intervention, counseling services and referrals, Section 504 evaluation, and collaboration with mental health professionals, agencies, and organizations. Policy reflects **NEW LAW (SB 75, 2019)** which establishes the Mental Health Student Services Act for the purpose of supporting mental health partnerships among county mental health agencies and local educational agencies.

BP/AR 5144.1 - Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process

(BP/AR revised)

Policy and regulation updated to reflect **NEW LAW (SB 419)** which prohibits districts from suspending students in grades 4-8 for disrupting school activities or willfully defying the authority of school personnel. Policy also references **NEW LAW (AB 982)** which requires a district to provide a student who is suspended for two or more days with the homework assigned during the period of suspension. Regulation adds new section on "Additional Grounds for Suspension and Expulsion: Grades 9-12" reflecting the option to suspend, but not expel, a student in grades 9-12 for disruption or willful defiance.

Board Policy 5145.3 - Nondiscrimination/Harassment

Policy updated to reflect law prohibiting discrimination based on medical condition and to reflect **NEW LAW (AB 34, 2019)** which requires the district, starting in the 2020-21 school year, to post its nondiscrimination policies, and specified state and federal laws regarding discrimination, bullying, and harassment, in a prominent location on the district's web site in a manner that is easily accessible to parents/guardians and students. Regulation also reflects **NEW LAW (AB 711, 2019)** which requires the district to update a former student's records upon receiving government-issued documentation or a written request for a name and/or gender change.