

Perris Union High School District – BOARD POLICIES

JUSTIFICATION FOR SERIES 6000 (INSTRUCTION)

(Pending Board Approval October 16, 2024)

Background

Board Policy 6000 - Concepts And Roles

(BP revised)

Policy updated to align concepts with other sample policies and incorporate concepts of equity and inclusion. Additionally, policy updated to reflect **NEW GUIDANCE** from the California Department of Education, including the importance of coordination, collaboration and alignment between the school, parents/guardians and the community, and district support for innovative programs and practices that promote student engagement, growth, understanding, achievement and career exploration.

Board Policy 6115 - Ceremonies and Observances

(BP revised)

Policy updated to add events of present day significance to the Governing Board's recognition of the importance of students celebrating events of significance, as observances which districts are required to hold by law may include current laws and rights. Additionally, policy updated to reflect that specified commemorative exercises may be required by law and include educational components.

Administrative Regulation 6115 - Ceremonies and Observances

(AR revised)

Regulation updated to reflect **NEW LAW (AB 800, 2023)** which requires districts to observe, during the week that includes April 28, "Workplace Readiness Week" by providing high school students with specified information on their rights as workers, and, for students in grades 11 and 12, for the observances to be integrated into the regular school program consistent with the history-social science framework. Additionally, regulation updated to reflect that specified commemorative exercises may be required by law. In addition, regulation updated to add to the list of when the national flag is required to fly at half-staff to include the death of a first responder in the state who dies while serving in the line of duty.

Board Policy 6141.2 - Recognition of Religious Beliefs and Customs

(BP revised)

Policy updated to reflect **NEW GUIDANCE** from the U.S. Department of Education regarding constitutionally protected prayer and religious expression in public schools and Appendix F of the California Department of Education's History and Social Science Framework which offers guidance and support for educators regarding the recognition of religious beliefs and customs. Additionally, policy updated to add that instruction regarding the role of religion in society be consistent with adopted instructional materials and state standards. In addition,

policy updated to reflect U.S. Supreme Court decision (Kennedy v. Bremerton) which held that the employee, a football coach, did not coerce students to pray when the employee knelt at midfield after games to offer a quiet personal prayer, rejected the district's argument that any visible religious conduct by a teacher or coach amounted to impermissible coercion on students, and concluded that the coach was acting in a private capacity and not in the capacity of an employee of the district when the prayer was offered during a time when school employees were free to attend to personal matters. Policy also updated to reflect **NEW COURT DECISION** (Fellowship of Christian Athletes v. San Jose Unified School District) in which the Ninth Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals held that it would be discrimination for a district to fail to recognize a student club with religiously based leadership requirements upon a finding that multiple student clubs imposed certain requirements for membership or leadership positions—i.e., discriminated against certain students—but that the district only objected to the Fellowship of Christian Athletes' requirements because of the religious basis of the requirements.

Administrative Regulation 6141.2 - Recognition of Religious Beliefs and Customs

(AR revised)

Regulation updated to reflect Appendix F of the California Department of Education's History and Social Science Framework which offers guidance and support for educators regarding the recognition of religious beliefs and customs.

Board Policy 6142.8 - Comprehensive Health Education

(BP revised)

Policy updated to reflect **NEW U.S. SURGEON GENERAL GUIDANCE** related to (1) the importance of social connection in individual and societal health and well-being, and (2) the impact of social media on children and adolescents. Policy also updated to include the requirement that if districts offer health education courses to middle or high school students the course must include mental health instruction.

Administrative Regulation 6142.8 - Comprehensive Health Education

(AR revised)

Regulation updated to include the requirement that if districts offer health education courses to middle or high school students the course must include mental health instruction, and to clarify that the "opt-out" right to excuse a student only applies to comprehensive sexual health education, HIV prevention education, and related assessments, and does not apply to instruction, materials, presentations, and programming that discuss specified topics including gender, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, discrimination, harassment, bullying, intimidation, relationships, or family and do not discuss human reproductive organs and their functions.

Board Policy 6146.1 - High School Graduation Requirements

(BP revised)

Policy updated to reflect **NEW LAW (AB 714, 2023)** which changes "students participating in a newcomer program" to "newcomer students" for purposes of exemptions from district-adopted graduation requirements, and **NEW LAW (SB 114, 2023)** and **NEW LAW (SB**

141, 2023) which (1) specifies that the exemption for a student with a disability from all coursework and other requirements adopted by the Board that are in addition to statewide course requirements applies to a student with a disability who entered 9th grade in the 2022-23 school year, (2) revises the eligibility criteria for the exemption, and (3) provides that participation in graduation activities by a student with a disability who is exempted from district-adopted graduation requirements that are in addition to the statewide course requirements may not be construed as a termination of the district's responsibility to provide a free appropriate public education unless the student's individualized education program team has determined that the student has completed the high school experience. Policy also updated to add to the list of permissible retroactive diplomas a former member of the military who is a resident of California and received an honorable discharge, or, a current member of the military who is a resident of California and was a resident of California when entered the military.

Board Policy 6146.4 - Differential Graduation and Competency Standards for Students with Disabilities

(BP revised)

Policy updated to reflect **NEW LAW (SB 114, 2023)** and **NEW LAW (SB 141, 2023)** which (1) specifies that the exemption for a student with a disability from all coursework and other requirements adopted by the Board that are in addition to statewide course requirements applies to a student with a disability who entered 9th grade in the 2022-23 school year, (2) revises the eligibility criteria for the exemption, and (3) provides that participation in graduation activities by a student with a disability who is exempted from district-adopted graduation requirements that are in addition to the statewide course requirements may not be construed as a termination of the district's responsibility to provide a free appropriate public education unless the student's individualized education program team has determined that the student has completed the high school experience.

Board Policy 6158 - Independent Study

(BP revised)

Policy updated to reflect **NEW LAW (SB 153, 2024)** which introduces important modifications to independent study regulations for local education agencies (LEAs). The key updates are as follows (1) Repeal of the Three-Day Minimum for ADA. LEAs may now claim Average Daily Attendance (ADA) for any duration of independent study, without the previous three-day minimum requirement. This change grants LEAs more flexibility in providing short-term independent study opportunities and ensures ADA can be claimed regardless of how short the independent study period is. (2) Adjustments to Short-Term and Long-Term Independent Study Definitions: Short-Term Independent Study: Covers periods of 15 or fewer school days (previously defined as 14 or fewer). Written agreements for short-term independent study may now be signed at any point during the school year, providing more flexibility for managing student absences. Long-Term Independent Study: Applies to periods of 16 or more school days (previously defined as 15 or more). Written agreements for long-term independent study must continue to be signed prior to the student's participation in the program. (3) Expansion of Eligible Evidence of Student Work for Asynchronous Instruction: The definitions of acceptable evidence for asynchronous instruction have been

expanded. Work completed on online or computer-based instructional platforms is now recognized as valid evidence of student work for the purposes of independent study.

Administrative Regulation 6158 - Independent Study

(AR revised)

Regulation updated to reflect **NEW LAW (SB 153, 2024)** introduces important modifications to independent study regulations for local education agencies (LEAs). The key updates are as follows (1) Repeal of the Three-Day Minimum for ADA. LEAs may now claim Average Daily Attendance (ADA) for any duration of independent study, without the previous three-day minimum requirement. This change grants LEAs more flexibility in providing short-term independent study opportunities and ensures ADA can be claimed regardless of how short the independent study period is. (2) Adjustments to Short-Term and Long-Term Independent Study Definitions: Short-Term Independent Study: Covers periods of 15 or fewer school days (previously defined as 14 or fewer). Written agreements for short-term independent study may now be signed at any point during the school year, providing more flexibility for managing student absences. Long-Term Independent Study: Applies to periods of 16 or more school days (previously defined as 15 or more). Written agreements for long-term independent study must continue to be signed prior to the student's participation in the program. (3) Expansion of Eligible Evidence of Student Work for Asynchronous Instruction: The definitions of acceptable evidence for asynchronous instruction have been expanded. Work completed on online or computer-based instructional platforms is now recognized as valid evidence of student work for the purposes of independent study.

Board Policy 6170.1 - Transitional Kindergarten

(BP revised)

Policy updated to clarify that a child's eligibility for transitional kindergarten (TK) enrollment may not impact family eligibility for a preschool or childcare program and that the district may admit into the TK program a child whose fifth birthday is after the date specified for admittance for the applicable year provided that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent or designee, the Governing Board determines that enrollment in a TK program is in the child's best interest and the child's parents/guardians approve. Policy also updated to reflect **NEW LAW (SB 141, 2023)** which (1) requires a district that offers TK to early enrollment children to concurrently offer enrollment in a California State Preschool Program, if offered by the district and space permitting, and (2) requires any classroom that includes an early enrollment child to maintain a classroom enrollment that does not exceed 20 students and an adult-to-student ratio of at least one adult to every 10 students. Additionally, policy updated to include that average TK class size enrollment does not include students who are continuously enrolled in and meet the minimum day requirements for independent study for more than 14 school days in a school year.

Administrative Regulation 6173.3 - Education for Juvenile Court School Students

(AR revised)

Regulation updated to reflect **NEW LAW (SB 532, 2022)** which provides, when a juvenile court school student transfers into a district school, for additional requirements regarding the

transfer of coursework and credits, exemptions from district-established graduation requirements, and for the option to remain in school to complete district-established or statewide course requirements.

Board Policy 6175 - Migrant Education

(BP revised)

Policy updated to reference this group of highly mobile students as "students who are migratory" to align with language found within the Education Code and the California Department of Education's 2023-24 federal program monitoring instrument.

Administrative Regulation 6175 - Migrant Education

(AR revised)

Regulation updated to reference this group of highly mobile students as "students who are migratory" to align with language found within the Education Code and the California Department of Education's (CDE) 2023- 24 federal program monitoring instrument. Additionally, regulation updated to include that a student who is migratory may, but is not required, to be provided with programs for online instruction as a substitute for physical attendance, and to delete material related to family literacy services, as the funding and legal basis no longer exist. In addition, regulation updated to provide that for summer school programs, the number of instructional days may be decreased if there are holidays for which schools are required to be closed, that districts are required to make facilities available at no cost to other agencies that request facilities for the operation of migrant summer school program unless just cause for denial exists, and that districts who receive authorization and funding from CDE to provide an extended school year program to migratory students who, due to family movement, enroll in transitional kindergarten, kindergarten, or any of grades 1-6, on or after March 1 of the school year and depart on or before December 1 of the next school year, are required to operate such program in accordance with law. Regulation also updated to add material related to requirements regarding the transfer of coursework and credits, exemptions from district-established graduation requirements, and for the option to remain in school to complete district-established or statewide course requirements.