Update Guidesheets

March 2019 Update Guidesheet

Recovery for Property Loss or Damage

(BP/AR revised) Policy updated to reflect the 2019 limits for parent/guardian liability for property loss or damage caused by a child's willful misconduct and for any reward paid for information leading to the identification of persons responsible for property damage. Policy also reflects NEW LAW (AB 1974) which prohibits the collection of debt owed by a current or former homeless or foster youth. Regulation updated to reflect the requirement to offer an option for a student to provide work in lieu of payment when the parents/guardians are unable to pay, and AB 1974 which allows the district, at its discretion, to offer any student, regardless of ability to pay, a nonmonetary means to settle debt. Regulation also adds a paragraph allowing the district to withhold a student's grades, diplomas, or transcripts until the damages have been recovered. Section on "Payment of Reward" deleted and key concepts moved to BP.

See BP 3515.4
See AR 3515.4

CSBA Sample
Board Policy
Recovery For Property Loss Or Damage

BP 3515.4
Business and Noninstructional Operations

Note: The following optional policy may be modified to reflect district practice.

Note: Pursuant to Education Code 48904, parents/guardians are liable to the district for the costs of damages caused by the willful misconduct of their minor children (1) that results in damage to school property, an employee's personal property, or injury or death of a district student, employee, or volunteer, and (2) for any reward paid by the district for information leading to the identification and apprehension of persons who willfully damage or destroy property. These amounts are adjusted annually for inflation by the Superintendent of Public Instruction. For 2019, the liability of a parent/guardian must not exceed $20,300 for damages and $20,300 for the reward. For situations not addressed by the Education Code, Civil Code 1714.1 provides for parent/guardian liability for the willful misconduct of their minor child which results in injury, death, or property damage. The limit under this statute is adjusted every two years for cost-of-living by the Judicial Council of California and, effective July 1, 2017, parent/guardian liability must not exceed $42,100.

Note: Pursuant to Penal Code 640.5 and 640.6, an individual who has been found to have defaced district property with graffiti may be fined or ordered by a court to perform community service. Depending on the amount of damage, Penal Code 594 also specifies that an individual, or the parent/guardian of a minor, who has been convicted of vandalism may be ordered to clean up and repair the property and to keep the property free from graffiti for one year.

The Governing Board desires to create a safe and secure learning environment and to minimize acts of vandalism and damage to school property. When district property is damaged due to the willful misconduct of a student or other person, the district shall seek reimbursement of damages, within the limitations specified in law, from the parent/guardian of a minor child or from any other responsible individual.

(cf. 0450 - Comprehensive Safety Plan)
(cf. 3515 - Campus Security)
(cf. 4156.3/4256.3/4356.3 - Employee Property Reimbursement)
(cf. 4158/4258/4358 - Employee Security)
(cf. 5131 - Conduct)
(cf. 5131.5 - Vandalism and Graffiti)
(cf. 5136 - Gangs)
(cf. 5144.1 - Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process)

***Note: Pursuant to Education Code 49014, as added by AB 1974 (Ch. 577, Statutes of 2018),

the district may collect debt owed to the school by a student who willfully cuts, defaces, or otherwise injures district property or fails to return property that was loaned by the district, unless the student is a current or former homeless student or foster youth.***

The district may collect debt owed by a student or former student as a result of vandalism or to cover the replacement cost of district books, supplies, or property loaned to a student that the student willfully fails to return or that is willfully cut, defaced, or otherwise injured. However, this policy shall not apply to a student who is a current or former homeless or foster child or youth. (Education Code 48904, 49014)

(cf. 5125.2 - Withholding Grades, Diploma or Transcripts)
(cf. 6173 - Education for Homeless Children)
(cf. 6173.1 - Education for Foster Youth)

Rewards

Note: The following section is optional.

The Board may offer and pay a reward for information leading to the determination of the identity of, and the apprehension of, any person who willfully damages or destroys any district property. (Government Code 53069.5)

Note: The Governing Board may set any amount for the reward it deems to be appropriate. However, as detailed above, Education Code 48904 specifies a limit on the amount of parent/guardian liability for repayment of the reward.

Note: Option 1 below allows the Superintendent or designee to offer a reward up to $2,500 without Board approval. Option 2 provides that the Board will determine the amount of any reward offered. Both options may be revised, including the specified reward amount, to reflect district practice.

OPTION 1: The Board authorizes the Superintendent or designee to offer a reward in any amount deemed appropriate, not exceeding $2,500. A reward in excess of $2,500 shall be authorized in advance by the Board.

OPTION 2: The Board shall determine the appropriate amount for the reward.

Note: The following paragraph applies to all districts.

The Superintendent or designee shall disburse the reward when the guilt of the person responsible for the act has been established by a criminal conviction or other appropriate judicial procedure. If more than one person provides information, the reward shall be divided among them as appropriate.

Legal Reference:
EDUCATION CODE
19910 Libraries, malicious cutting, tearing, defacing, breaking or injuring
19911 Libraries, willful detention of property
44810 Willful interference with classroom conduct
48904 Liability of parent/guardian for willful misconduct
49014 Public School Fair Debt Collection Act
CIVIL CODE
1714.1 Liability of parent or guardian for act of willful misconduct by a minor
GOVERNMENT CODE
53069.5 Reward for information concerning person causing death, injury, or property damage
53069.6 Actions to recover damages
54951 Local agency, definition
PENAL CODE
484 Theft defined
594 Vandalism
594.1 Aerosol paint and etching cream
640.5 Graffiti; facilities or vehicles of governmental entity
640.6 Graffiti

Management Resources:
WEB SITES
CSBA: http://www.csba.org
California Department of Education: http://www.cde.ca.gov
Judicial Council of California: http://www.courts.ca.gov

(10/97 7/09) 3/19

CSBA Sample
Administrative Regulation
Recovery For Property Loss Or Damage

AR 3515.4
Business and Noninstructional Operations

Note: The following administrative regulation is optional and should be modified to reflect district practice.

District employees shall report any damage to or loss of school property to the Superintendent or designee immediately after such damage or loss is discovered.

(cf. 3530 - Risk Management/Insurance)
(cf. 5131.5 - Vandalism and Graffiti)

Note: Certain acts of graffiti or vandalism may trigger the need for an investigation pursuant to the district's sexual harassment or nondiscrimination grievance procedures (e.g., graffiti that is sexual in nature or disparaging to a class of individuals protected by the district's nondiscrimination policies). See BP 5131.5 - Vandalism and Graffiti.

The Superintendent or designee shall conduct a complete investigation of any instance of damage to or loss of school property and shall consult law enforcement officials when appropriate.

(cf. 3515.3 - District Police/Security Department)

When the individual causing the damage or loss has been identified and the costs of repair, replacement, or cleanup determined, the Superintendent or designee shall take all practical and reasonable steps to recover the district's costs and shall consult with the district's legal counsel and/or insurance carrier, as appropriate.

Such steps may include the filing of a civil complaint in a court of competent jurisdiction to recover damages from the responsible person and, if the responsible person is a minor, from the parent/guardian in accordance with law. Damages may include the cost of repair or replacement of the property, the payment of any reward, interest, court costs, and all other damages as provided by law.

***Note: If a student's parents/guardians are unable to pay the damages, Education Code 48904 requires the district to offer an option for the student to provide work in lieu of payment. Pursuant to Education Code 49014, as added by AB 1974 (Ch. 577, Statutes of 2018), a district may offer any student or former student alternative, nonmonetary means to settle debt owed as a result of damage or loss of district property, regardless of the parents/guardians' ability to pay. However, the district is prohibited from collecting debt from a current or former homeless student or foster youth, and therefore cannot offer or require such a student to work or provide an alternative form

of compensation.***

If the responsible person is a minor student of the district and the student's parents/guardians are unable to pay for the damages or to return the property, the district shall offer a program of voluntary work for the student in lieu of the payment of monetary damages. The district may offer any other student or former student, with parent/guardian permission, the option to provide service, work, or other alternative, nonmonetary forms of compensation to settle the debt owed as a result of property loss or damage. Service or work exchanged for repayment of a debt shall comply with all provisions of the Labor Code related to youth employment. (Education Code 48904, 49014)

The Superintendent or designee may withhold the student's grades, diploma, and/or transcripts until the student's parents/guardians have paid for the damages or the voluntary work has been completed. Prior to withholding a student's grades, diploma, or transcripts, due process shall be afforded the student in accordance with law. (Education Code 48904)

(cf. 5125.2 - Withholding Grades, Diploma or Transcripts)

In addition, the Superintendent or designee shall initiate appropriate disciplinary procedures against the student.

(cf. 5131 - Conduct)
(cf. 5144 - Discipline)
(cf. 5144.1 - Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process)
(cf. 5145.3 - Nondiscrimination/Harassment)
(cf. 5145.7 - Sexual Harassment)
(cf. 5145.9 - Hate-Motivated Behavior)

RECOVERY FOR PROPERTY LOSS OR DAMAGE

The Governing Board desires to create a safe and secure learning environment and to minimize acts of vandalism and damage to school property. To discourage such acts, the district shall seek reimbursement of damages, within the limitations specified in law, from any individual, or from the parent/guardian of any minor, who has committed theft or has willfully damaged district or employee property.

(cf. 0450 - Comprehensive Safety Plan)
(cf. 3515 - Campus Security)
(cf. 4156.3/4256.3/4356.3 - Employee Property Reimbursement)
(cf. 4158/4258/4358 - Employee Security)
(cf. 5125.2 - Withholding Grades, Diploma or Transcripts)
(cf. 5131 - Conduct)
(cf. 5131.5 - Vandalism and Graffiti)
(cf. 5136 - Gangs)
(cf. 5144.1 - Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process)

Rewards

When district or law enforcement officials are unable to have not been able to identify the person(s) responsible for the theft or vandalism of district property, the Board may authorize a reward for the identification and apprehension of the responsible person(s).

The Board authorizes the Superintendent or designee to offer a reward in any amount he/she deems appropriate, not exceeding $2,500. If the Superintendent or designee determines a reward in excess of $2,500 is appropriate, the reward amount shall be authorized in advance by the Board.

The Superintendent or designee shall disburse when the guilt of the person responsible for the act has been established by a criminal conviction or other appropriate judicial procedure.

Legal Reference:
EDUCATION CODE
19910 Libraries, malicious cutting, tearing, defacing, breaking or injuring
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54951 Local agency, definition
PENAL CODE
484 Theft defined
594 Vandalism
594.1 Aerosol paint and etching cream
640.5 Graffiti; facilities or vehicles of governmental entity
640.6 Graffiti
Management Resources:
WEB SITES
CSBA: http://www.csba.org
California Department of Education: http://www.cde.ca.gov (2/95 10/97) 7/09

RECOVERY FOR PROPERTY LOSS OR DAMAGE

Reports by Staff

District employees shall report any damage to or loss of school property to the principal or designee immediately after such damage or loss is discovered. In those instances in which insurance reimbursement may be involved, the principal or designee shall contact the appropriate district official.

(cf. 3530 - Risk Management/Insurance)
(cf. 5131.5 - Vandalism and Graffiti)

Investigation

The Superintendent or designee shall conduct a complete investigation of any instance of damage to or loss of school property and shall consult law enforcement officials when appropriate. If it is determined that the damage has been committed by any district student, the Superintendent or designee shall initiate appropriate disciplinary procedures against the student.

(cf. 3515.3 - District Police/Security Department)
(cf. 5131 - Conduct)
(cf. 5144 - Discipline)
(cf. 5144.1 - Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process)
(cf. 5145.3 - Nondiscrimination/Harassment)
(cf. 5145.7 - Sexual Harassment)
(cf. 5145.9 - Hate-Motivated Behavior)

Recovery of Damages

When the individual causing the damage or loss has been identified and the costs of repair, replacement, or cleanup determined, the Superintendent or designee shall take all practical and reasonable steps to recover the district's costs-and shall consult with the district's legal counsel and/or insurance administrator, as appropriate.

Such steps may include the filing of a civil complaint in a court of competent jurisdiction to recover damages from the responsible person and, if the responsible person is a minor, from his/her parent/guardian in accordance with law. Damages may include the cost of repair or replacement of the property, the payment of any reward, interest, court costs, and all other damages as provided by law.

Payment of Reward

When authorized according to Board policy, the Superintendent or designee shall pay to the party who provides information sufficient to identify and apprehend the person(s) subsequently determined to be responsible for the damage or loss. If more than one person provides information, the reward shall be divided among them as appropriate.