



LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT POLICY BULLETIN

TITLE: Discipline Foundation Policy:
School-Wide Positive Behavior Support

NUMBER: BUL-3638.0

ISSUER: Donnalyn Jaque-Antón, Executive Officer
Educational Services

DATE: March 27, 2007

ROUTING

- Chief Operating Officer
- School Site Administrators
- School Instructional Staff
- School Support Personnel
- Deans
- Local District Administration
- Central Office Administrators
- Facilities
- Transportation
- All Employees

POLICY: Every student, pre-school through adult, has the right to be educated in a safe, respectful and welcoming environment. Every educator has the right to teach in an atmosphere free from disruption and obstacles that impede learning. This will be achieved through the adoption and implementation of a consistent school-wide positive behavior support and discipline plan for every school in LAUSD. All school level discipline plans will be consistent with the *Culture of Discipline: Guiding Principles for the School Community* (Attachment A) and *Culture of Discipline: Student Expectations* (Attachment B). This will include: teaching school rules and social-emotional skills; reinforcing appropriate student behavior; using effective classroom management and positive behavior support strategies by providing early intervention for misconduct and appropriate use of consequences.

The District’s adoption of this foundation policy establishes a framework for developing, refining and implementing a culture of discipline conducive to learning. School-wide positive behavior support is based on research that indicates that the most effective discipline systems use proactive strategies designed to prevent discipline problems.¹ Before consequences are given, students must first be supported in learning the skills necessary to enhance a positive school climate and avoid negative behavior. In the event of misconduct, there is to be the appropriate use of consequences. Ongoing monitoring shall be used to ensure that equitable school-based practices are implemented in a fair, non-discriminatory and culturally responsive manner.

School-site procedures and practices formed under the auspices of the School Leadership Council must be consistent not only with the tenets of this policy, but also with state and federal laws that require school administrators to utilize positive interventions and means of correction *other than* suspension, transfer or expulsion to resolve disciplinary issues. (See *Culture of Discipline: Guiding Principles for the School Community* and *Culture of Discipline: Student Expectations* [Attachments A and B]; and *How To Establish And/Or Refine An Effective School-wide Positive Behavior Support System* [Attachment C].)

¹ Boynton, M. & Boynton, C. (2005). *The Educator’s Guide to Preventing and Solving Discipline Problems*, Alexandria, VA: ASCD.



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MAJOR CHANGES:

The development of this Foundation Discipline Policy is the result of a Board Resolution directive. This policy mandates the development of a school-wide positive behavior support and discipline plan consistent with *Culture of Discipline: Guiding Principles for the School Community* and *Culture of Discipline: Student Expectations* including positively stated rules which are taught, enforced, advocated and modeled at every campus. It further mandates staff and parent training in the teaching and the reinforcing of the skills necessary for implementation of this policy.

The policy serves as the framework under which *all* District practices relating to discipline and school safety are to be applied. It is not intended to replace existing bulletins that provide guidance for specific disciplinary practices including a teacher's right to suspend a student from class with cause. See RELATED RESOURCES for an index of related bulletins, reference guides, board resolutions and other relevant District materials.

GUIDELINES: I. A CULTURE OF DISCIPLINE

This policy establishes *Culture of Discipline: Guiding Principles for the School Community* and *Culture of Discipline: Student Expectations*.

- A. The District's *Culture of Discipline: Guiding Principles for the School Community* (Attachment A) establishes a standard for all LAUSD schools. All District schools are required to align their school's discipline plans and rules to this District standard. The goal is to maximize consistency in school-site practice, while allowing schools to personalize rules, provided they are consistent with the tenets and content of this bulletin. All students, parents, teachers, school administrators, school support personnel, school staff, visitors and community members are expected to understand and model the *Culture of Discipline: Guiding Principles for the School Community* and implement them at every institutional level.
- B. *Culture of Discipline: Student Expectations* (Attachment B) provides additional guidance to students regarding appropriate behavior. It is only with the understanding, collaboration and cooperation of everyone who has a stake in the education of our youth that we can succeed in creating learning environments that are conducive to optimum academic achievement for all students.

II. RESPONSIBILITIES

The successful implementation of this policy is everyone's responsibility. Every student, parent/caregiver, teacher, administrator, school support personnel, school staff, Local District staff, Central Office staff, visitor and



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community member engaged in educational activities has a role. This includes:

1. Supporting a school-wide positive behavior support and discipline plan consistent with the tenets of this policy.
2. Knowing, communicating and consistently monitoring this policy, the *Culture of Discipline: Guiding Principles for the School Community*, and the school-wide positive behavior support and discipline plan.
3. Maintaining open lines of communication between staff, students and parents/caregivers.
4. Using positive response strategies and appropriate corrective feedback for disruptive students (see Attachment I).
5. Collaborating and partnering with after-school programs and outside agencies, when appropriate.

A. Student Responsibilities:

Students are expected to learn and model *Culture of Discipline: Guiding Principles for the School Community* and *Culture of Discipline: Student Expectations*. Students are expected to learn and follow all school and classroom rules and to demonstrate appropriate social skills when interacting with both adults and peers. When behavioral expectations are not met, the student is expected to work to improve behavior. Students are encouraged to take leadership roles in modeling appropriate behaviors and attitudes for peers (see *Student Tips*, Attachment D).

B. Parent/Caregiver Responsibilities:

Parents/Caregivers will take an active role in supporting the school's efforts to maintain a welcoming school climate. This includes supporting the implementation of the school-wide positive behavior support and discipline plan. They are to be familiar with and model *Culture of Discipline: Guiding Expectations for the School Community* and *Culture of Discipline: Student Expectations*. They will review the *Culture of Discipline: Student Expectations* and school rules with their children, reinforce positive behavior, and acknowledge their children for demonstrating appropriate conduct (see *Parent/Caregiver Responsibilities*, Attachment E). If misconduct escalates, the parent/caregiver will work with the school as a collaborative partner to address the student's needs. It is mandated that training be available for parents/caregivers on this policy.

C. Teacher Responsibilities:

Each teacher has a fundamental role in supporting a positive classroom and school. This includes utilizing effective classroom management strategies to create an environment conducive to learning and prevent misconduct.

The teacher is responsible for:

1. Defining, teaching, reviewing and modeling *Culture of Discipline: Guiding Principles for the School Community* and *Culture of Discipline: Student Expectations* and school rules.



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2. Acknowledging and reinforcing appropriate student behavior.
3. Providing corrective feedback and re-teaching the behavioral skill when misconduct occurs.
4. Working with families in partnership to reinforce appropriate behavior (meeting, mailing correspondence, utilizing parent center as appropriate, etc.).
5. Teaching the district or state-approved violence prevention curriculum that teaches social-emotional skills (as required by federal and state guidelines) in elementary and middle schools. May be augmented by other approved programs selected by the School Leadership Council.
6. Following the behavior support plan for students with disabilities, available to all staff working with that student.
7. Utilizing data in collaboration with administration and support personnel to monitor misconduct.
8. Reporting the behavior to the school administrator or person responsible for discipline at the school-site for a student who engages in ongoing misconduct, despite appropriate interventions (see Resource Manual available in July 2007).

D. School Administrator Responsibilities:

Each school administrator is a role model and a leader. School administrators, in collaboration with instructional staff and with community support, are responsible for establishing a caring school climate and safe environment. School administrators must ensure that the *Culture of Discipline: Guiding Principles for the School Community* will be taught, enforced, advocated, communicated and modeled to the entire school community, and that school practices are consistent with the tenets of this policy. The school administrator is responsible for issuing a written invitation to all stakeholders (including parents, teachers, classified administrators, and students) to participate in a school-wide discipline leadership team, under the auspices of the School Leadership Council. The team will assist the School Leadership Council in monitoring the implementation of the school-wide positive behavior support plan. Every school administrator is to ensure:

1. The development and implementation of a school-wide positive behavior support and discipline plan consistent with the *Culture of Discipline: Guiding Principles for the School Community* and *Culture of Discipline: Student Expectations*. (See *How To Establish And/Or Refine An Effective School-Wide Positive Behavior Support System* [Attachment C] and *School Resource Survey*, [Attachment F].)
2. The inclusion of *Culture of Discipline: Guiding Principles for the School Community*, *Culture of Discipline: Student Expectations* and the school-wide positive behavior support and discipline plan in school communications for students, parents/caregivers, staff and community.



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3. A method for recording, collecting and analyzing behavior/discipline information in order to monitor and evaluate data for ongoing decision-making from the individual student through the school-wide student population.
 4. Providing training and support for staff and parents/caregivers in maintaining an environment conducive to learning.
 5. The implementation of the district or state-approved violence prevention curriculum in elementary and middle schools.
 6. The consistent application of reasonable alternatives to suspension (see *Top Ten Alternatives to Suspensions*, Attachment G), expulsion and opportunity transfers that includes the use of equitable consequences that are consistent with law and District policy.
 7. The use of multi-disciplinary teams, including Student Success Team (SST) and Coordination of Support Team (COST), to evaluate and recommend solutions to behavior problems.
 8. Collaboration and partnerships with after-school programs and outside agencies, when appropriate.
 9. Assembling a collaborative team with appropriate staff and the parent/caregiver(s) to address the escalated behaviors for a student who engages in ongoing misconduct, despite appropriate interventions (see Resource Manual), and design and implement an effective individualized behavior support plan that may include, but is not limited to:
 - a. Intensive behavioral supports and strategies
 - b. Adapted curriculum and instruction
 - c. Communication strategies.
- E. School Support Personnel Responsibilities:
School support personnel are responsible for teaching, enforcing, advocating and modeling *Culture of Discipline: Guiding Principles for the School Community*, and for supporting the implementation of a school-wide positive behavior support and discipline plan to maintain a safe and nurturing school climate. School support personnel is responsible for monitoring, reinforcing and acknowledging appropriate behaviors consistent with *Culture of Discipline: Student Expectations* and the school rules. In addition, school support personnel will assist students in accessing appropriate resources, directly matching student needs to available resources. When student behavior disrupts the learning or working environment, the appropriate school support personnel will work collaboratively with teachers and other school and District personnel to develop and implement plans for more intensive instruction and support, which includes working with District and community resources.



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F. School Staff Responsibilities:

Members of the school staff have a particularly important role in fostering a positive school climate. School staff is responsible for teaching, enforcing, advocating and modeling the *Culture of Discipline: Guiding Principles for the School Community*, and for supporting the implementation of a school-wide positive behavior support and discipline plan to maintain a safe and nurturing school climate. Each individual shall monitor, reinforce and acknowledge appropriate behaviors consistent with *Culture of Discipline: Student Expectations* and the school rules, and provide positive corrective feedback for any misconduct. School staff engaged in supervisory responsibilities should be particularly aware of the important role that they have in maintaining and supporting appropriate student behavior. This includes knowledge of behavior support plans for students with disabilities.

G. Local District Staff Responsibilities:

Each Local District Superintendent shall be responsible for teaching, enforcing, advocating and modeling this policy to Local District staff and school administrators. The Local District Superintendent shall also designate a team of Local District administrators, which may include the Administrator of Instruction, Directors of School Services and Operations Coordinators, who shall ensure the successful implementation of and ongoing compliance with this policy through support and guidance.

Local District staff, in collaboration with school-site staffs, shall also be responsible for taking an active role in providing appropriate support and technical assistance to schools and School Leadership Councils to:

1. Identify, develop and maintain prevention and intervention activities consistent with *Culture of Discipline: Guiding Principles for the School Community* and *Culture of Discipline: Student Expectations*.
2. Analyze data, monitor and evaluate school practices in order to address situations where practices need to be strengthened.
3. Develop on-site procedural steps to assist with choices and options when addressing individual student misconduct.
4. Broaden the adoption and implementation of alternatives to suspension, and the reduction in the use of opportunity transfers by ensuring that all deans participate in mandatory central district training.
5. Oversee schools' efforts to maintain relationships with outside community partners.
6. Utilize data in the allocation and provision of base professional development in school-wide positive behavior support for any new staff.
7. Ensure that the local district parent ombudsperson works collaboratively with the operations administrator and other local



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district staff on implementing this policy and fielding and resolving concerns and complaints from all stakeholders.

In order to align instruction and behavior, this assistance is to be embedded into the ongoing support given to schools in the area of instruction.

H. Central Office Staff Responsibilities:

The Superintendent communicates to all District staff, using a variety of means, that creating a positive school culture, improving behavior and developing appropriate student discipline practices are top District priorities. All Central office staff shall teach, enforce, advocate, communicate and model this policy and *Culture of Discipline: Guiding Principles for the School Community* by playing an active, supportive role in assisting schools, School Leadership Councils and Local Districts with the implementation of this policy including, but not limited to:

1. Developing and coordinating training for parents, behavior seminars for students and professional development for all employees.
2. Ensuring appropriate data collection, monitoring and evaluation systems.
3. Using effective communication strategies (see Resource Manual) including EC 49079 notification to all teachers as specified in BUL-38, "Mandated Reporting of Certain Student Behavior."
4. Developing and providing a Resource Guide to assist schools in utilizing and coordinating programs and resources with uniform forms to be used district-wide.
5. Coordinating and providing technical assistance, including the proactive alignment of instructional supports with behavioral supports.
6. Using systematic data analysis to determine needs for more supports and improved community day school options.
7. Ensuring alignment with all District offices, programs, policies and initiatives.
8. Identifying and maintaining an independent auditor to investigate complaints and to assist in resolving issues presented by all stakeholders regarding violations of this policy.

A very small percentage of students do not respond to the most intensive intervention and are not receiving an appropriate education on a comprehensive school campus. Appropriate personnel at the school site shall identify these students, inform the District and recommend alternative placement options. The District must address student needs in selecting appropriate placement options. The District must use systematic data analysis as one indicator of the need for a more supportive and individualized environment and enhanced Community Day School Options.



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- I. Visitor Responsibilities:
It is expected that all visitors will act in accordance with *Culture of Discipline: Guiding Principles for the School Community* while on District property and at District or school-sponsored activities or events (see *LAUSD Parent-Student Handbook*).
- J. Community Member Responsibilities:
The community benefits from safe schools and members are expected to follow *Culture of Discipline: Guiding Principles for the School Community* when on school property. Community partnerships are encouraged and welcomed in the development of reinforcements for appropriate student behavior and recognition of safe school environments.

III. PREVENTION/INTERVENTION

A school-wide positive behavior support and discipline plan provides the foundation for clear expectations for all. This plan, consistent with *Culture of Discipline: Guiding Principles for the School Community* and *Culture of Discipline: Student Expectations*, outlines what must be in place for all students, including those in need of some intervention and those who require the most intensive level of intervention (see *Three-Tiered Approach*, [Attachment H] and Resource Manual).

Each school, under the auspices of the School Leadership Council, will evaluate and monitor the effectiveness of the school-wide positive behavior support and discipline plan at all three levels using school data. This will allow schools to use data to identify areas of need, target areas of concern, access professional development supports and services, and revise school-wide procedures as needed.

- A. Establish Rules Consistent with *Culture of Discipline: Guiding Principles for the School Community* and *Culture of Discipline: Student Expectations*.
School staff is responsible for developing, teaching, monitoring and reinforcing rules. Appropriate behavior must be reinforced school-wide. There must also be firm, fair and corrective discipline so that all staff and students have a consistent, unifying message on what is safe, respectful and responsible. This forms the most powerful, proactive foundation in the prevention of misconduct.
- B. Provide for Effective Intervention
Some students require a more intensive level of intervention. Effective intervention includes: 1) identifying at-risk students; 2) developing strategies for coordination and implementation of programs and resources (e.g., conflict-resolution, opportunities to develop social and emotional skills, mentoring); 3) matching student needs to the appropriate resources;



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and 4) using appropriate consequences. School-site staff must have information and resources available in order to effectively build these necessary skills.

C. Use a Team Approach for Intensive Intervention

A few students require the most intensive level of intervention. Within the scope of their job-related roles, responsibilities and on-site obligations, appropriate school staff, support personnel, and parents will collaborate to address individual student needs. This intensive intervention includes individualized behavior support planning, implementation, and monitoring. Support and training will be provided when necessary. There may also be a need for multi-agency partnerships and intensive skills training.

IV. CONSEQUENCES FOR STUDENT MISCONDUCT

Anything that follows a behavior is a consequence; positive or negative. Consequences should be consistent, reasonable, fair, age appropriate, and should match the severity of the student's misbehavior. Consequences that are paired with meaningful instruction and guidance (corrective feedback and re-teaching) offer students an opportunity to connect their misconduct with new learning, participate in contributing back to the school community, and are more likely to result in getting the student re-engaged in learning. Any use of consequences should be carefully planned with well-defined outcomes in order to provide the greatest benefit. Positive consequences including systematic recognition for appropriate behavior frequently lead to an increase in the desired behavior. Negative consequences are designed to provide feedback to the student that his or her behavior is unacceptable and should not occur again. (see *Consequences/School Response Reference Guide*, Attachment I).

V. PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING

Professional development in the area of school-wide positive behavior support must be mandated, broad-based and inclusive of all staff involved in supporting schools and students. While professional development begins with *Culture of Discipline: Guiding Principles for the School Community* and *Culture of Discipline: Student Expectations*, it must ensure that school staff can clearly identify and support behavioral expectations in classrooms and common areas of the school. Specifically, professional development must include ongoing classroom management workshops and training to capacitate classroom staff in meeting the challenge of fully educating students including the teaching and modeling of appropriate behavior. Professional development, as selected by the School Leadership Council, must:

1. Support the differentiated roles and responsibilities of staff members, including the provision of mandatory training for all staff involved in discipline. That staff is to be named in the School Resource Survey.



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2. Address preventive plans including strategies for ensuring that social-emotional skills are taught consistently and with fidelity through the district or state adopted violence prevention curriculum; strategies for classroom management; behavioral expectations; and individual and group support.
3. Be ongoing and provide sufficient training and resources for school staff to understand the function of behavior and how best to support appropriate behavior.
4. Address how to develop and implement effective, individual, tailored behavior support plans for all students, those with or without disabilities.
5. Embed policy information and create alignment with all parent training, student behavior seminars, and professional development offered to all employees.
6. Include centrally organized and implemented training for deans so that they are trained upon election. Such training for deans and other staff involved in student discipline will include the use of data analysis to differentiate what is offered to schools.

VI. MONITORING & EVALUATION

The Central Office will put systems in place to aid schools, Local Districts and the Central Office in data collection, feedback and assessment to facilitate the goal of creating a positive school culture that is conducive to optimal student learning. Such data will be utilized to support decisions in allocating professional development and support. These data will allow schools to adjust school-wide, classroom and individual student intervention and prevention.

The Central Office will oversee ongoing and systematic review and evaluation which will include an analysis of:

1. Policy implementation.
2. Communication mechanisms.
3. Any adjustments or changes in school practices (determined through data collection) to ensure that school practices are strengthened and aligned with policy.

A District-level School-Wide Positive Behavior Support Task Force of representative stakeholders will be formed to collaborate with an independent auditor. The Task Force, with the independent auditor, will develop criteria to be used to monitor the implementation and sustainability of this policy throughout the District. The task force and auditor will:

1. Implement and review roles and responsibilities.
2. Review and provide input in the proposed Resource Manual as well as existing and proposed policies regarding student discipline for



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coherence, omissions, alignment, and consistency with this policy, and submit recommendations.

3. Review complaint procedures and responses.
4. Access and analyze data by school and Local District.
5. Review data including suspension, expulsion, opportunity transfer, office referrals, and outside monitoring information.
6. Augment district responses to campuses in crisis situations by, acting as representatives of their stakeholder groups, participating in meetings and providing input.
7. Provide recommendations to the Board of Education.

VII. COMMUNICATION

To successfully implement this policy and its underlying philosophy, it must be consistently communicated to the entire LAUSD community by District officials, school administrators and employees at every level.

Every District school and office shall post copies of *Culture of Discipline: Guiding Principles for the School Community* and *Culture of Discipline: Student Expectations* for public view. Additionally, school staffs, through the auspices of their School Leadership Council, are strongly encouraged to develop their own innovative strategies for communicating and teaching the tenets of this policy for broad dissemination of their school's behavior support and discipline plans. Parents/caregivers, students and school staff members should actively participate in this process.

AUTHORITY: This is a policy of the Superintendent of Schools. The following legal standards are applied in this policy:

California Education Code, Section 48900-48927
Board Resolution, "Comprehensive Discipline Policy," passed May 24, 2005

RELATED RESOURCES: In addition to this policy, school administrators and employees must understand the relationship between sound behavior and discipline practices to other, related District policies, initiatives and practices. In order to have full knowledge of the District's policies regarding behavior, safety and school climate, school administrators should familiarize themselves and their staffs with the following:

Board Resolution, "Resolution on Excellence and Equity in the Reduction of High School Drop-outs/Push-outs Through Prevention, Intervention and Recovery," passed April 12, 2005

Board Resolution, "Resolution to Promote Safe Schools and Safe Neighborhoods by Implementing Violence Prevention Programs," passed April 26, 2005



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Board Resolution, “Reactivation of District’s Human Relations Education Commission,” passed May 10, 2005

Modified Consent Decree, <http://dse-web.lausd.k12.ca.us/sepg2s/mcd/mcd.htm>, of particular relevance to this Bulletin are:

- Outcome 5: Reduction of Long-Term Suspensions
- Outcome 17: IEP Team Consideration of Special Factors – Behavioral Interventions, Strategies, and Supports
- Outcome 18: Disproportionality

Policy Bulletin No. BUL-Z-14, “Guidelines for Student Suspension,” issued March 15, 1999, by the Office of Student Health and Human Services

Policy Bulletin No. BUL-38, “Mandated Reporting of Certain Student Behavior,” issued January 3, 1994, by the Office of the Deputy Superintendent, Operations

Policy Bulletin No. BUL-H-50, “Behavior Intervention Regulations,” issued September 8, 2004, by the Office of Special Education

Policy Bulletin No. BUL-Z-58, “Opportunity Transfers,” issued April 20, 1999, by the Office of Student Health and Human Services

Policy Bulletin No. BUL-61, “Guidelines for Student Expulsion,” issued April 11, 1994, by the Office of the Deputy Superintendent

Policy Bulletin No. BUL-Z-73, “Preventive Measures and Mandatory Procedures for Students Who Violate Laws Regarding Drugs, Alcohol and Tobacco,” issued November 12, 2002, by the Office of Student Health and Human Services

Policy Bulletin No. BUL-847, “Referral to Community Day School,” issued March 22, 2004, by the Office of Instructional Services

Policy Bulletin No. BUL-1038, “Anti-bullying Policy,” issued June 1, 2004, by the Office of the Chief Operating Officer

Policy Bulletin No. BUL-1041, “Sexual Harassment Policy,” issued June 10, 2004, by the Office of the General Counsel

Policy Bulletin No. BUL-1347, “Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Requirements,” issued November 15, 2004, by the Office of the General Counsel



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Policy Bulletin No. BUL-1119, "Threat Assessment," issued July 12, 2004, by the Office of the Chief Operating Officer

Reference Guide, REF-1242, "2004-2005 Update of Safe Schools Plans Volume 1 (Prevention Programs) and Volume 2 (Emergency Procedures)"

Policy Bulletin No. BUL-1287, "Student Attendance Policy," issued February 17, 2004, by the Office of Student Health and Human Services

Policy Bulletin No. BUL-1292, "Attendance Procedures for Elementary and Secondary Schools," issued July 28, 2005, by the Office of Student Health and Human Services

Policy Bulletin No. BUL-2047, "Responding to and Reporting Hate-Motivated Incidents and Crimes," issued November 11, 2005, by the Office of the General Counsel

Policy Bulletin No. BUL-2075, "Establishment and Documentation of Intervention for Students Suspected of Emotional Disturbances," issued October 31, 2005, by the Office of Special Education

Policy Bulletin No. BUL-2130, "Section 504 and Students With Disabilities," issued December 14, 2005, by the Office of the General Counsel

"Blueprint for Implementation of the Action Plan for a Culturally Relevant Education," issued June 2001, by the Office of Instructional Services

"Required Nondiscrimination Notices," memorandum issued annually by the Office of the General Counsel

"Parent-Student Handbook," issued annually by the Los Angeles Unified School District

"Visitors Handbook" issued by the Los Angeles Unified School District

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ASSISTANCE: For assistance or further information, please contact Hector Madrigal, Director, Pupil Services, at (213) 241-3844; Nancy Franklin, Coordinator, Behavior Support, at (213) 241-8051; Rochelle J. Montgomery, Associate General Counsel II, Office of the General Counsel, at (213) 241-7648; or your Local District Pupil Services and Attendance (PSA) Field Coordinator.