

YOUNG, MINNEY & CORR, LLP
LEGAL ALERT



New Laws in 2017 That Affect Student Handbooks

Student handbooks are an important resource to provide information to families regarding the day-to-day running of your school: uniform requirements; drop off and pick up information; bell schedules, etc. Federal and state laws also require schools to annually provide certain information to parents about their rights as members of your school community. The student handbook is an efficient way to ensure compliance with these annual legal obligations.

This year there have been several important changes to state and federal laws that impact your student handbook, including the following areas:

- **Attendance**
 - Attendance at naturalization ceremony can be an excused absence.
- **Harassment, Intimidation, Discrimination and Bullying Policy**
 - Policy must cover victims of bias or bullying based on religious affiliation and cyber sexual bullying.
- **Suicide Prevention Policy**
 - Charter Schools that serve grades 7-12 must adopt a suicide prevention policy.
- **Title I**
 - Charter Schools that accept Title I funds have updated requirements regarding parents' right to ask for teacher qualifications and obligations of schools designated for program improvement.
- **Title IX**
 - Charter Schools must post specific information on their websites regarding their Title IX coordinator and process for filing complaints.
- **Uniform Complaint Procedures**
 - Prohibited areas of discrimination have been revised.

There have also been other updates in the laws that could affect your school, depending on your specific program.

YM&C routinely reviews student handbooks for legal compliance with all annual notice requirements. Often, areas of the law that require annual notices also require schools to have a complete Board-adopted policy, and our Office assists with legal compliance there as well.

For a complete review of your student handbooks and related policies, please contact our Office at (916) 646-1400 or via email: Lisa Corr at lcorr@mycharterlaw.com or Megan Moore at mmoore@mycharterlaw.com.

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