

EDUCATION CODE  
Title 2. ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION  
Division 4. Instruction and Services  
Part 27. Pupils  
Chapter 6. Pupil Rights and Responsibilities  
Article 1. Suspension or Expulsion

**GO TO CALIFORNIA CODES ARCHIVE DIRECTORY**

Cal Ed Code § 48907 (2010)

**§ 48907. Student exercise of freedom of speech and press**

**(a)** Pupils of the public schools shall have the right to exercise freedom of speech and of the press including, but not limited to, the use of bulletin boards, the distribution of printed materials or petitions, the wearing of buttons, badges, and other insignia, and the right of expression in official publications, whether or not the publications or other means of expression are supported financially by the school or by use of school facilities, except that expression shall be prohibited which is obscene, libelous, or slanderous. Also prohibited shall be material that so incites pupils as to create a clear and present danger of the commission of unlawful acts on school premises or the violation of lawful school regulations, or the substantial disruption of the orderly operation of the school.

**(b)** Each governing board of a school district and each county board of education shall adopt rules and regulations in the form of a written publications code, which shall include reasonable provisions for the time, place, and manner of conducting such activities within its respective jurisdiction.

**(c)** Pupil editors of official school publications shall be responsible for assigning and editing the news, editorial, and feature content of their publications subject to the limitations of this section. However, it shall be the responsibility of a journalism adviser or advisers of pupil publications within each school to supervise the production of the pupil staff, to maintain professional standards of English and journalism, and to maintain the provisions of this section.

**(d)** There shall be no prior restraint of material prepared for official school publications except insofar as it violates this section. School officials shall have the burden of showing justification without undue delay prior to a limitation of pupil expression under this section.

**(e)** "Official school publications" refers to material produced by pupils in the journalism, newspaper, yearbook, or writing classes and distributed to the student body either free or for a fee.

**(f)** This section does not prohibit or prevent the governing board of a school district from adopting otherwise valid rules and regulations relating to oral communication by pupils upon the premises of each school.

**(g)** An employee shall not be dismissed, suspended, disciplined, reassigned, transferred, or otherwise retaliated against solely for acting to protect a pupil engaged in the conduct authorized under this section, or refusing to infringe upon conduct that is protected by this section, the First Amendment to the United States Constitution, or Section 2 of Article I of the California Constitution.

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Article 3. Speech and Other Communication

**GO TO CALIFORNIA CODES ARCHIVE DIRECTORY**

Cal Ed Code § 48950 (2009)

**§ 48950. Disciplinary sanctions for constitutionally protected speech or other communication**

**(a)** School districts operating one or more high schools and private secondary schools shall not make or enforce a rule subjecting a high school pupil to disciplinary sanctions solely on the basis of conduct that is speech or other communication that, when engaged in outside of the campus, is protected from governmental restriction by the First Amendment to the United States Constitution or Section 2 of Article I of the California Constitution.

**(b)** A pupil who is enrolled in a school at the time that the school has made or enforced a rule in violation of subdivision (a) may commence a civil action to obtain appropriate injunctive and declaratory relief as determined by the court. Upon motion, a court may award attorney's fees to a prevailing plaintiff in a civil action pursuant to this section.

**(c)** This section does not apply to a private secondary school that is controlled by a religious organization, to the extent that the application of this section would not be consistent with the religious tenets of the organization.

**(d)** This section does not prohibit the imposition of discipline for harassment, threats, or intimidation, unless constitutionally protected.

**(e)** This section does not supersede, or otherwise limit or modify, the provisions of Section 48907.

**(f)** The Legislature finds and declares that free speech rights are subject to reasonable time, place, and manner regulations.

**(g)** An employee shall not be dismissed, suspended, disciplined, reassigned, transferred, or otherwise retaliated against solely for acting to protect a pupil engaged in conduct authorized under this section, or refusing to infringe upon conduct that is protected by this section, the First Amendment to the United States Constitution, or Section 2 of Article I of the California Constitution.