May 2020

48900
California Education Codes 48900 and 48915 - Suspension and Expulsion
A pupil shall not be suspended from school or recommended for expulsion, unless the superintendent of the school
district or the principal of the school in which the pupil is enrolled determines that the pupil has committed an act as
defined pursuant to any of subdivisions (a) to (r), inclusive:
(a) (1) Caused, attempted to cause, or threatened to cause physical injury to another person.
(2) Willfully used force or violence upon the person of another, except in self-defense.
(b) Possessed, sold, or otherwise furnished a firearm, knife, explosive, or other dangerous object, unless, in the case
of possession of an object of this type, the pupil had obtained written permission to possess the item from a
certificated school employee, which is concurred in by the principal or the designee of the principal.
(c) Unlawfully possessed, used, sold, or otherwise furnished, or been under the influence of, a controlled substance
listed in Chapter 2 (commencing with Section 11053) of Division 10 of the Health and Safety Code, an alcoholic
beverage, or an intoxicant of any kind.
(d) Unlawfully offered, arranged, or negotiated to sell a controlled substance listed in Chapter 2 (commencing with
Section 11053) of Division 10 of the Health and Safety Code, an alcoholic beverage, or an intoxicant of any kind, and
either sold, delivered, or otherwise furnished to a person another liquid, substance, or material and represented the
liquid, substance, or material as a controlled substance, alcoholic beverage, or intoxicant.
(e) Committed or attempted to commit robbery or extortion.
(f) Caused or attempted to cause damage to school property or private property.
(g) Stole or attempted to steal school property or private property.
(h) Possessed or used tobacco, or products containing tobacco or nicotine products, including, but not limited to,
cigarettes, cigars, miniature cigars, clove cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, snuff, chew packets, and betel. However,
this section does not prohibit the use or possession by a pupil of the pupil’s own prescription products.
(i) Committed an obscene act or engaged in habitual profanity or vulgarity.
(j) Unlawfully possessed or unlawfully offered, arranged, or negotiated to sell drug paraphernalia, as defined in
Section 11014.5 of the Health and Safety Code.
(k) (1) Disrupted school activities or otherwise willfully defied the valid authority of supervisors, teachers,
administrators, school officials, or other school personnel engaged in the performance of their duties.
(2) Except as provided in Section 48910, a pupil enrolled in kindergarten or any of grades 1 to 3, inclusive, shall not
be suspended for any of the acts enumerated in paragraph (1), and those acts shall not constitute grounds for a pupil
enrolled in kindergarten or any of grades 1 to 12, inclusive, to be recommended for expulsion. This paragraph is
inoperative on July 1, 2020.
(3) Except as provided in Section 48910, commencing July 1, 2020, a pupil enrolled in kindergarten or any of grades
1 to 5, inclusive, shall not be suspended for any of the acts specified in paragraph (1), and those acts shall not
constitute grounds for a pupil enrolled in kindergarten or any of grades 1 to 12, inclusive, to be recommended for
expulsion.
(4) Except as provided in Section 48910, commencing July 1, 2020, a pupil enrolled in any of grades 6 to 8, inclusive,
shall not be suspended for any of the acts specified in paragraph (1). This paragraph is inoperative on July 1, 2025.
(l) Knowingly received stolen school property or private property.
(m) Possessed an imitation firearm. As used in this section, “imitation firearm” means a replica of a firearm that is so
substantially similar in physical properties to an existing firearm as to lead a reasonable person to conclude that the
replica is a firearm.

May 2020
(n) Committed or attempted to commit a sexual assault as defined in Section 261, 266c, 286, 287, 288, or 289 of, or
former Section 288a of, the Penal Code or committed a sexual battery as defined in Section 243.4 of the Penal Code.
(o) Harassed, threatened, or intimidated a pupil who is a complaining witness or a witness in a school disciplinary
proceeding for purposes of either preventing that pupil from being a witness or retaliating against that pupil for being
a witness, or both.
(p) Unlawfully offered, arranged to sell, negotiated to sell, or sold the prescription drug Soma.
(q) Engaged in, or attempted to engage in, hazing. For purposes of this subdivision, “hazing” means a method of
initiation or preinitiation into a pupil organization or body, whether or not the organization or body is officially
recognized by an educational institution, that is likely to cause serious bodily injury or personal degradation or
disgrace resulting in physical or mental harm to a former, current, or prospective pupil. For purposes of this
subdivision, “hazing” does not include athletic events or school-sanctioned events.
(r) Engaged in an act of bullying. For purposes of this subdivision, the following terms have the following meanings:
(1) “Bullying” means any severe or pervasive physical or verbal act or conduct, including communications made in
writing or by means of an electronic act, and including one or more acts committed by a pupil or group of pupils as