

Classroom Interruptions

Note: Also see related policies and administrative regulations addressing other forms of classroom interruptions, including students' use of cell phones and other mobile communications devices (BP 5131 - Conduct); employees' use of cell phones and other mobile communications devices (BP 4040 - Employee Use of Technology); and more serious disruptions of school operations caused by students (BP/AR 5131.4 - Student Disturbances) and nonstudents (BP/AR 3515.4 - Disruptions) which may threaten to disturb the peace, the health or safety of students or staff, or cause property damage.

In order to allow students to take full advantage of learning opportunities while in the classroom, school staff shall ensure that interruptions are kept to a minimum. Strategies to reduce classroom interruptions include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Keep announcements made through intercom or public address systems to a minimum, limit announcements to specific times during the day, and only use the intercom or public address systems for announcements that apply to all students or groups of students. Announcements that apply to individual students or staff members should be distributed in writing.
2. Establish a fixed time for the delivery of written messages to students and staff, except in cases of emergencies.
3. Schedule school maintenance operations involving noise or classroom disruption, as well as deliveries of equipment and supplies, to classrooms before or after school hours whenever possible.

Note: Item #4 below addresses classroom interruptions caused by visitors. Also see BP/AR 1250 - Visitors/Outsiders, which specifies that individuals should arrange school visits with the teacher or principal in advance and that conferences with the teacher should be held during noninstructional time.

4. Inform school visitors that, whenever possible, they should make appointments in advance, in accordance with district policy.

(cf. 1240 - Volunteer Assistance)
(cf. 1250 - Visitors/Outsiders)
(cf. 3515.4 - Disruptions)

5. Notify parents/guardians that they should go to the school office rather than the classroom when they are dropping off their child late, picking him/her up early, or bringing by any forgotten items from home.
6. Notify school staff that they should refrain from conducting personal business during instructional time.

(cf. 4040 - Employee Use of Technology)

7. Provide professional development in classroom management as needed to enable staff to more effectively reduce interruptions caused by inappropriate student conduct in the classroom.

(cf. 4131 - Staff Development)
(cf. 4231 - Staff Development)

(cf. 5131 - Conduct)
(cf. 5131.4 - Student Disturbances)
(cf. 5137 - Positive School Climate)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

32211 Restricting access to school grounds based on threatened disruption or interference

32212 Classroom interruptions

44810-44811 Disruptions; misdemeanor

48901.5 Authority to regulate use of electronic devices

51512 Prohibited use of electronic listening or recording device

Management Resources:

CSBA PUBLICATIONS

Instructional Time Task Force Report, 2007

(9/89) 7/09