

# BELLFLOWER UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

16703 S CLARK AVENUE • BELLFLOWER, CA 90706 • (562) 866-9011

## ANNUAL NOTIFICATIONS TO PARENTS OR GUARDIANS OF MINOR PUPILS

### 2023-2024



*We build futures!*

#### **Board of Education**

Mayra Garza, President  
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**Acceptable Use of Technology** Bellflower Unified School District (BUSD) advances the use of technology to enhance student learning. Access to BUSD technology is a privilege, not a right, and students enrolled in District programs or activities must follow District guidelines and procedures regarding acceptable use of technology. All BUSD students and their parents/guardians shall sign the Acceptable Use of Technology Agreement prior to using District technological resources. BUSD shall make a diligent effort to filter the inappropriate or harmful matter accessible through the Internet, and students shall also take responsibility not to initiate access to inappropriate or harmful matter while using District technology. Violation of this policy may result in disciplinary action and the loss of the privilege to use the technology and/or civil or criminal liability.

**Advanced Placement & International Baccalaureate 48980(j) (9-12)** Eligible high school students may receive financial assistance to cover the costs of the advanced placement examination fees or the International Baccalaureate examination fees, or both. Please contact the assistant principal in charge of curriculum for information.

**Asbestos Management Plan – 40 CFR 763.93** Bellflower Unified School District maintains and annually updates its management plan for asbestos-containing material in school buildings. For a copy of the asbestos management plan, please contact Maintenance and Operation at (562) 804-6500.

**Attendance Options/Permits – EC35160.5(b), 48200, 46600, 48980(g)**

**Compulsory Education:** Compulsory Education law states that students must enroll in school in the school district in which the residence of either the parent or legal guardian is located. If a parent is seeking a change in a public district outside of the resident district, then an interdistrict permit is required. Exceptions are for charter school, home school or other private school enrollments, and other online charter school options.

**Residency:** A pupil may alternatively comply with the residency requirements for school attendance in a school district, if he or she is any of the following: placed in a foster home or licensed children’s institution within the boundaries of the school district pursuant to a commitment of placement under the Welfare and Institutions Code; a pupil who is a foster child who remains in his or her school of origin; an emancipated pupil who resides within the boundaries of the school district; a pupil who lives in the home of a caregiving adult that is located within the boundaries of the school district; a pupil residing in a state hospital located within the boundaries of the school district; or a pupil whose parent is transferred or is pending transfer to a military installation within the state while on active duty pursuant to an official military order. Students in military and migrant families may remain in their school of origin and shall have waived residency restrictions due to the frequency of movement of their families. Connect with the Child Welfare and Attendance Office at 562-866-9011 ext. 7410 for more information on the protections afforded these students per California laws.

**Interdistrict:** An interdistrict agreement is signed by both the releasing and accepting districts. When denied, there are appeal processes according to the local district policies. The education rights holder may appeal to their County Office of Education for an appeal process within 30 days of a final denial from either district. The parent or legal guardian of a pupil may seek release from the school district of residence to attend a school in any other school district. School districts may enter into agreements for the interdistrict transfer of one or more pupils for a period of up to five years. The agreement must specify the terms and conditions for granting or denying transfers, and may contain standards of reapplication and specify the terms and conditions under which a permit may be revoked. Unless otherwise specified in the agreement, a pupil will not have to reapply for an interdistrict transfer, and the school board of the district of enrollment must allow the pupil to continue to attend the school in which he/she is enrolled. A student who has completed grade 10 by June 30, may remain enrolled within the district of enrollment through grades 11 and 12 without any revocation from the desired district, and must be treated the same as any other resident student. Regardless of whether an agreement exists or a permit is issued, the school district of residence cannot prohibit the transfer of a pupil who is a child of an active military duty parent to a school district of proposed enrollment if that district approves the application for transfer. Nor may a district prohibit an interdistrict permit release when no intradistrict permit options are available to a victim of bullying. A “victim of an act of bullying” means a pupil that has been determined to have been a victim of bullying by an investigation pursuant to the complaint process described in Section 234.1 and the bullying was committed by any pupil in the school district of residence, and the parent of the pupil has filed a written complaint regarding the bullying with the school, school district personnel, or a local law enforcement agency. “Bullying” means any severe or pervasive physical or verbal communication made in writing or by means of an electronic act directed toward one or more pupils that results in placing a reasonable person in fear of harm to self or property. It may cause a substantially detrimental effect on physical or mental health, interfere with academic performance or the ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, or privileges provided by a school, and may be done in person or online. Bullying may be exhibited in the creation or transmission of bullying online, on or off the school site, by telephone or other device in a message, text, sound, video, or image in a post on a social network internet website or burn page that creates a credible impersonation of another student knowingly and without consent for the purpose of bullying. Sharing or forwarding messages contributes to the act of bullying.

A student who is appealing a decision for an interdistrict permit approval through the County Office of Education may be eligible for provisional admission to the desired district in grades TK through 12, while continuing through the process of appeal, if space is made available by the desired district, not to exceed two months. A pupil who has been determined by personnel of either the school district of residence or the district of proposed enrollment to have been the victim of an act of bullying, as defined in EC 48900(r), shall, at the request of the parent or legal guardian, be given priority for interdistrict attendance under any existing agreement or, in the absence of an agreement, be given additional consideration for the creation of an interdistrict attendance agreement.

Each school district shall post their inter district policy agreements and local district caps on their district and/or school websites. Reasons for approval and denial of interdistrict transfer requests must be updated on the district website according to board policies. The County appeals process will be offered with the final denial in writing by the school district. The County appeal process may take up to a maximum of two months. If you have any questions about the interdistrict process, please call the district office at 562-866-9011 or call the County Office at 562-922-6233.

**Intradistrict:** Residents of the school district may apply to other schools that serve the same grade levels within the district. No pupil who currently resides in the attendance area of a school can be displaced by pupils transferring from outside the attendance area. Students who are a victim of bullying shall be allowed an intradistrict permit to transfer if space is available at the same grade level. If there is no "intradistrict" space to attend, the student may seek an "interdistrict" permit to another district without any delay in release from the home district, but it does not guarantee entrance to an outside district. The process to enter another school district will be according to the desired district's transfer policies. A "victim of an act of bullying" means a pupil that has been determined to have been a victim of bullying by an investigation pursuant to the complaint process described in Section 234.1 and the bullying was committed by any pupil in the school district of residence, and the parent of the pupil has filed a written complaint regarding the bullying with the school, school district personnel, or a local law enforcement agency. "Bullying" means any severe or pervasive physical or verbal communication made in writing or by means of an electronic act directed toward one or more pupils that results in placing a reasonable person in fear of harm to self or property. It may cause a substantially detrimental effect on physical or mental health, interfere with academic performance or the ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, or privileges provided by a school, and may be done in person or online. Bullying may be exhibited in the creation or transmission of bullying online, on or off the school site, by telephone or other device in a message, text, sound, video, or image in a post on a social network internet website or burn page that creates a credible impersonation of another student knowingly and without consent for the purpose of bullying. Sharing or forwarding messages contributes to the act of bullying.

**Attendance Options/Permits: Employment in Lieu of Residency – EC 48204(b)(1)** Some school districts may choose to accept employment in lieu of residency. A school district allows a student to have complied with the residency requirements for school attendance in the district if at least one parent/guardian of the pupil is physically employed within the boundaries of that district for a minimum of ten hours during the school week. Once admitted to residency, the pupil's transfer may be revoked only if the parent ceases to be employed within the boundaries of the district. As a resident, the student does not have to reapply for the transfer to be valid.

**Availability of Prospectus – EC 49063 and 49091.14** Each school must annually compile a prospectus of the curriculum to include titles, descriptions and instructional goals for every course offered by the school. Please contact the school administrator for a copy of the prospectus.

**Avoiding Absences, Written Excuses** – BUSD urges parents to make sure their children attend school regularly and to schedule medical, dental, counseling and other appointments after school, on the weekend if possible or during school holidays. The district also asks that travel or other absences be avoided during the time that school is in session. The higher the district's daily attendance rate, the more a student will learn and the greater the amount of funding that the district will receive from the state for classroom instruction and academic programs. The school calendar is designed to minimize conflicts for families by planning vacations around traditional holiday periods to minimize student absences. Following an absence, a student is required to bring a written excuse from home when returning to school. Illnesses, and doctor and dental appointments are considered excused absences. Absences without a written excuse are recorded as unexcused.

**Tardiness – EC 48260(a)** Children should be encouraged to be prompt as part of developing good habits. They are expected to be at school on time. If a child is late, the child should bring an excuse from home to the school office. A student will be classified as truant if they are tardy or absent for more than a 30 minute period during the school day without a valid excuse on three occasions in one school year.

**Truancy Definitions – EC 48260, 48262, and 48263.6** A student is considered truant after three absences or three tardies of more than 30 minutes each time or any combination thereof and the absences or tardies are unexcused. After a student has been reported as a truant three or more times in a school year, and the district has made a conscientious effort to meet with the family, the student is considered a habitual truant. A student who is absent from school without a valid excuse for 10% or more of the schooldays in one school year, from the date of enrollment to the current date, is considered a chronic truant. Unexcused absences are all absences that do not fall within EC 48205.

**Arrest of Truants/School Attendance Review Boards – EC 48263 and 48264** The school attendance supervisor, administrator or designee, a peace officer, or probation officer may arrest or assume temporary custody during school hours, of any minor who is found away from his/her home and who is absent from school without valid excuse within the county, city or school district. A student who is a habitual truant may be referred to a School Attendance and Review Board (SARB).

**Truant Consequences – EC 48263, 48267, 48268, and 48269; WIC 236, 601, 601.3, 653.5, 654, and 651.5** Any student who is identified as "Truant" may be assigned as a ward of the court, if the available community resources do not resolve the students' continued problem of truancy, by a Probation Officer or Deputy District Attorney.

**Chronic Absenteeism – EC 60901** A student is considered a chronic absentee when he/she is absent on 10% or more of the school days in one school year, from the date of enrollment to the current date. Chronic absenteeism includes all absences, excused and unexcused, and is an important measure because excessive absences negatively impact academic achievement and student engagement.

**Before and After School Programs – EC 8482.6, 8483, 8483.1** The Expanded Learning Program provides before school, after school, and summer enrichment opportunities at all elementary schools and Bellflower Middle School. Students who are experiencing homelessness or placed in foster care are also moved to the top of the waiting list. To request priority enrollment, please contact our program administrator, Beverly Swanson, at 562-866-9011 ext. 2010.

**Cal Grant Program – EC 69432.9 (9-12)** A Cal Grant is money for college that does not have to be paid back. To qualify, a student must meet the eligibility and financial requirements as well as any minimum grade point average (GPA) requirements. Cal Grants can be used at any University of California, California State University or California Community College. Some independent and career colleges or technical schools in California also take Cal Grants.

In order to assist students in applying for financial aid, all students in grade 12 are automatically considered a Cal Grant applicant and each grade 12 student's GPA will be submitted by the October 1 deadline to the California Student Aid Commission (CASC) electronically by a school or school district official. A student, or the parent or guardian of a student under 18 years of age, may complete a form to indicate that he or she does not wish for the school to electronically send CASC the student's GPA. Until a student turns 18 years of age, only the parent or guardian may opt out the student. Once a student turns 18 years of age, only the student may opt himself or herself out, and can opt in if the parent or guardian had previously decided to opt the student out. Notification regarding CASC and the opportunity to opt out of being automatically deemed a Cal Grant applicant will be provided to all students and their parents or guardians by January 1 of the students' 11<sup>th</sup> grade year.

**California Healthy Youth Act – EC 51930-51939** The California Healthy Youth Act requires school districts to provide pupils with integrated, comprehensive, accurate, and unbiased sexual health and HIV prevention education at least once in middle school and once in high school. It is intended to ensure that pupils in grades 7-12 are provided with the knowledge and skills necessary to: 1) protect their sexual and reproductive health from HIV, other sexually transmitted infections, and unintended pregnancy; 2) develop healthy attitudes concerning adolescent growth and development, body image, gender, sexual orientation, relationships, marriage, and family; and 3) have healthy, positive, and safe relationships and behaviors. It also promotes understanding of sexuality as a normal part of human development.

Parents or legal guardians have the right to:

1. Inspect the written and audiovisual educational materials used in the comprehensive sexual health and HIV prevention education.
2. Request in writing that their child not receive comprehensive sexual health or HIV prevention education.
3. Request a copy of Education Codes 51930 through 51939, the California Healthy Youth Act.
4. Be informed whether the comprehensive sexual health or HIV prevention education will be taught by district personnel or outside consultants.
5. Receive notice by mail or another commonly used method of notification no fewer than 14 days before the instruction is delivered if arrangements for the instruction are made after the beginning of the school year.
6. When the district chooses to use outside consultants or to hold an assembly with guest speakers to teach comprehensive sexual health or HIV prevention education, be informed of: a) The date of the instruction, and b) The name of the organization or affiliation of each guest speaker.

The District may administer to pupils in grades 7 through 12 anonymous, voluntary, and confidential research and evaluation tools to measure pupils' health behavior and risks, including tests, questionnaires, and surveys, containing age-appropriate questions about their attitudes or practices relating to sex. Parents or legal guardians will be notified in writing about the administration of, the right to review, and the right to excuse their child from any test, questionnaire, or survey.

**California High School Proficiency Exam – 5 CCR 11523 (9-12)** The California High School Proficiency Exam (CHSPE) is a voluntary test that assesses proficiency in basic reading, writing, and mathematics skills taught in public schools. Eligible pupils who pass the CHSPE are awarded a Certificate of Proficiency by the State Board of Education. A pupil who receives a Certificate of Proficiency may, with verified approval from the parent or legal guardian, leave high school early. The Certificate of Proficiency is equivalent to a high school diploma; however, it is not equivalent to completing all course work required for regular graduation from high school. Pupils planning to continue his or her studies in a college or university should contact the admissions office of the institution to find out if the Certificate of Proficiency will meet admission requirements.

A pupil is eligible to take the CHSPE only if he or she meets one of the following requirements on the test date: 1) is at least 16 years old; 2) has been enrolled in the tenth grade for one academic year or longer; or 3) will complete one academic year of enrollment in the tenth grade at the end of the semester during which the CHSPE regular administration will be conducted. A fee for each examination application shall not be charged to a homeless or foster youth under the age of 25. For more information, including administration dates and registration deadlines, visit the following website: <http://www.chspe.net/>.

**California Youth Football Act – HSC 124241 (6-12)** Under state law, students who participate in football games in grades 6-12 must have a licensed medical professional present during the game, whether playing at a home game or away at another school. This does not include Physical Education classes or intramural football games outside of extracurricular athletics offered at the middle or high school.

**Career Counseling & Course Selection – EC 221.5(d)** Commencing grade 7, school personnel shall assist pupils with course selection or career counseling, affirmatively exploring the possibility of careers, or courses leading to careers based on the interest and ability of the pupil and not on the pupil's gender. Parents or legal guardians are notified so that they may participate in such counseling sessions and decisions.

**Child Find System – EC 56301; 20 USC 1404(3); 1412(a)(3); 34 CFR 300.111(c)(d)** Under state law, each public school system is responsible to find children with disabilities in its area Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE). Each public school system is responsible for ensuring that each child with disabilities is served appropriately, at no expense to the parent, in the least restrictive environment.

**Civility on School Grounds – CC 1708.9, EC 32210** Any person who willfully disturbs any public school or any public school meeting is guilty of a misdemeanor, and shall be punished by a fine of not more than five hundred dollars (\$500). It is unlawful for any person, except a parent/guardian acting toward his/her minor child, to intentionally injure, or to attempt to injure, intimidate, interfere by force, threat of force, physical obstruction, or nonviolent physical obstruction with any person attempting to enter or exit any public or private school grounds.

**College & Career Technical Education – EC 51229 (9-12) and EC 48980(i)** Career Technical Education (CTE) courses are offered to count toward graduation. The CTE courses that are offered at our schools satisfy the a-g for CSU/UC requirements for admission. For more information, please contact your student's academic advisors/counselors or Lisa Azevedo, CalApps Chief Executive Officer, at [lazevedo@busd.k12.ca.us](mailto:lazevedo@busd.k12.ca.us).

**Competitive Athletes Seeking Higher Education Athletic Programs - EC 67455 (9-12)** Under state law, students who witness or are the victim of any wrongdoing condoned by the higher education athletic organization, have a right to make a report, file, or otherwise assist the reporting of any violation of student athlete rights involving the program, participants, or staff. This right to make such reports is guaranteed by the “Student Athlete Bill of Rights” and may not result in retribution or removal of any benefits if the report has been made in good faith and truthfulness.

**Competitive Athletics – EC 221.9** Schools shall make the following information publicly available: the total enrollment of the school, classified by gender, the number of pupils enrolled at the school who participate in competitive athletics, classified by gender, the number of boys’ and girls’ teams, classified by sport and by competition level, by posting it on the school’s website. “Competitive athletics” means sports where the activity has coaches, a governing organization, and practices, and competes during a defined season, and has competition as its primary goal.

**Concussion and Head Injuries – EC 49475** A concussion is a brain injury that can be caused by a bump, blow, or jolt to the head, or by a blow to another part of the body with the force transmitted to the head. Even though most concussions are mild, all concussions are potentially serious and may result in complications including prolonged brain damage and death if not recognized and managed properly. A school district, charter school, or private school that elects to offer an athletic program must immediately remove from a school-sponsored athletic activity for the remainder of the day an athlete who is suspected of sustaining a concussion or head injury during that activity. The athlete may not return to that activity until he or she is evaluated by, and receives written clearance from, a licensed healthcare provider. If the licensed health care provider determines the athlete has a concussion or head injury, the athlete shall also complete a graduated return-to-play protocol of no less than 7 days in duration under the supervision of a licensed health care provider. On a yearly basis, a concussion and head injury information sheet must be signed and returned by the athlete and the athlete’s parent or guardian before the athlete initiates practice or competition. This requirement does not apply to an athlete engaging in an athletic activity during the regular school day or as part of a physical education course.

**Confidential Medical Services – EC 46010.1** School authorities may excuse any pupil in grades 7-12 from the school for the purpose of obtaining confidential medical services without the consent of the pupil's parent or guardian.

**Controlled Substances: Opioids – EC 49476** School authorities must provide facts regarding the risks and side effects of opioid use each school year to athletes. Parents and student athletes must sign acknowledgement of receipt of the document annually.

**Coursework and Graduation: Military – EC 51225.1 and 51225.2** If you are a military family, your child may qualify to be exempted from local graduation coursework requirements that are beyond the California state requirements. Please make an appointment with the school counselor to review your child’s options for graduation. All coursework that was completed at another school outside of the Bellflower Unified School District will be issued full or partial credit. You may reach a school counselor by contacting the school site.

**Directory Information – EC 49073** “Directory Information” Includes one or more of the following items: student’s name, address, telephone number, email address, date of birth, major field of study, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, weight and height of members of athletic teams, dates of attendance, degrees and awards received, and the most recent public or private school attended by the student. The District has determined that no information may be released to private profit-making entities other than employers, prospective employers and representatives of the news media, including, but not limited to, newspapers, magazines, and radio and television stations. Directory information may be disclosed without prior consent from the parent or legal guardian, unless the parent or legal guardian submits a written notice to the school to deny access to his/her pupil’s directory information. Directory information regarding a pupil identified as experiencing homelessness shall not be released unless a parent, or eligible pupil, has provided written consent that directory information may be released (Board Policy and Administrative Regulation 5125.1).

**Dress Code/Uniforms – EC 35183** The Bellflower Unified School District subscribes to the philosophy that students will be provided with a quality education in a safe, appropriate environment. Students’ clothing must not present a health or safety hazard, or a distraction which would interfere with the educational process. Students and parents/guardians shall be informed about dress and grooming standards at the beginning of each school year, and whenever these standards are revised. The responsibility for determining and enforcing the dress and grooming code rests with the school administration and staff on each campus. Violators of this policy shall be subject to the appropriate school and district discipline procedures, including suspension and expulsion.

**Education of Foster Youth: EC 48204- 48853, 48853.5, 51215.1, 51225.2, 47605, 47605.6, 48432.5, 48911, 48911.1, 48915.5, and 48918.1**

Foster Youth have certain rights under California and United States law. Foster Youth are allowed educational rights, such as: immediate enrollment, remaining in school of origin, enrollment in local comprehensive school, partial credits, graduation with state minimum requirements with possible fifth year (exemption from local graduation requirements, and access to academic resources, services and extracurricular activities). A local educational agency must provide a remedy to the affected pupil following the Uniform Complaint Procedures, including information regarding exemption from local graduation requirements, if educational rights are not allowed at the public high school.

In addition to parental notification requirements for an involuntary transfer to a continuation school, suspension, or expulsion, to the foster child's attorney and social worker, and, for the child's tribal social worker, if applicable, and county social worker. The attorney and social worker have the same rights as parents during these processes, such as requests for meetings and the ability to inspect all documents.

**Education of Homeless Youth: 42 USC 11432; EC 48551, 48852.5, 48853, 48857, 51225.1, 51225.2** BUSD’s homeless liaison will ensure that parents of homeless youth are informed of educational and related opportunities available to their children, and are provided with meaningful opportunities to participate in the education of their children. Unaccompanied youth, such as teen parents not living with their parents/guardian or students that have run away or been pushed out of their homes, have access to these same rights and educational opportunities.

**Education of Homeless Youth: Right to Apply for Financial Aid - EC 69432.7, 69519, 69731, 69956, 70032, 78220, and 88931** Students experiencing homelessness have a right to apply for financial aid to seek education beyond high school. Every district must appoint a homeless liaison to assist students and families. Please contact Child Welfare and Attendance at (562) 866-9011 ext. 7410 for more information of services and policies related to homeless education rights.

**Educational Equity: Government Instruction Conferences - EC 224** The Sex Equity in Education Act exempts any discrimination based on male or female identity for pupils who seek to participate in state or national conferences, therefore, furthering California's goal of providing an equal educational opportunity to all students by prohibiting the use of public resources when a program discriminates based on gender.

**Educational Equity: Immigration and Citizenship Status - EC 200, 220, and 234.1, adding Article 5.7 to EC 234.7, EC 66251, 66260.6, 66270, and 66270.3** The Equity in Higher Education Act, states that all persons, regardless of their disability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, nationality, race or ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, or any other specified characteristic such as hairstyles, equal rights and opportunities and adds this opportunity to apply for financial aid for higher education to also be equitable, and an application may not be denied of a student based on their immigration status. This does not guarantee any final eligibility, but simply an ability to apply for financial aid just like any other student, without discrimination.

**Electronic Listening or Recording Device – EC 51512** The use by any person, including a pupil, of any electronic listening or recording device in any classroom without the prior consent of the teacher and the principal is prohibited, as it disrupts and impairs the teaching process and discipline in the schools. Any person, other than a pupil, willfully in violation shall be guilty of a misdemeanor. Any pupil in violation shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action.

**Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (e-cigarettes) – PC 308** BUSD prohibits the use of electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS) such as e-cigarettes, hookah pens, cigarillos, and other vapor-emitting devices, with or without nicotine content, that mimic the use of tobacco products on all district property and in district vehicles at all times. ENDS are often made to look like cigarettes, cigars and pipes, but can also be made to look like everyday items such as pens, asthma inhalers and beverage containers. These devices are not limited to vaporizing nicotine; they can be used to vaporize other drugs such as marijuana, cocaine, and heroin. Students using, in possession of, or offering, arranging or negotiating to sell ENDS can be subject to disciplinary action, particularly because ENDS are considered drug paraphernalia, as defined by 11014.5 of the Health and Safety Code. Section 308 of the Penal Code also states that every person under 18 years of age who purchases, receives, or possesses any tobacco, cigarette, or cigarette papers, or any other preparation of tobacco, or any other instrument or paraphernalia that is designed for the smoking of tobacco, tobacco products, or any controlled substance shall, upon conviction, be punished by a fine of seventy-five dollars (\$75) or 30 hours of community service work.

**Emergency Treatment for Anaphylaxis – EC 49414** EC 49414 requires school districts to provide epinephrine auto-injectors to school nurses and trained personnel and authorizes them to use epinephrine auto-injectors for any student who may be experiencing anaphylaxis, regardless of known history. Anaphylaxis is a severe and potentially life-threatening allergic reaction that can occur after encountering an allergic trigger, such as food, medicine, an insect bite, latex or exercise. Symptoms include narrowing of the airways, rashes or hives, nausea or vomiting, a weak pulse and dizziness. It is estimated that approximately 25% of the anaphylactic reactions occur during school hours to students who had not previously been diagnosed with a food or other allergy. Without immediate administration of epinephrine followed by calling emergency medical services, death can occur. Being able to recognize and treat it quickly can save lives.

**English Learners Identification Notice - EC 313.2** State law requires that parents of English learners are to be notified annually if they are identified as one of the following: Long-term English Learner or English learner at risk of becoming a Long-term English Learner. The school coordinator for English Language Development will be sending these notices at the beginning of each year.

**Entrance Health Screening – HSC 124085, 124100, and 124105 (K-8)** State law requires that the parent or legal guardian of each pupil provide the school within 90 days after entrance to first grade documentary proof that the pupil has received a health screening examination by a doctor within the prior 18 months. Pupils may be excluded up to 5 days from school for failing to comply or not providing a waiver. Free health screening is available for eligible students through the Child Health Disabilities Prevention Program.

**Excused Absences – EC 46014, 48205**

(a) Notwithstanding Section 48200, a pupil shall be excused from school when the absence is:

1. Due to the pupil's illness, including an absence for the benefit of the pupil's mental or behavioral health.
2. Due to quarantine under the direction of a county or city health officer.
3. For the purpose of having medical, dental, optometric, or chiropractic services rendered.
4. For the purpose of attending the funeral services of a member of his or her immediate family, so long as the absence is not more than one day if the service is conducted in California and not more than three days if the service is conducted outside California.
5. For the purpose of jury duty in the manner provided for by law.
6. Due to the illness or medical appointment during school hours of a child of whom the pupil is the custodial parent.
7. For justifiable personal reasons, including, but not limited to, an appearance in court, attendance at a funeral service, observance of a holiday or ceremony of his or her religion, attendance at religious retreats, attendance at an employment conference, or attendance at an educational conference on the legislative or judicial process offered by a nonprofit organization when the pupil's absence is requested in writing by the parent or guardian and approved by the principal or a designated representative pursuant to uniform standards established by the governing board.
8. For the purpose of serving as a member of a precinct board for an election pursuant to Section 12302 of the Elections Code.

9. For the purpose of spending time with a member of the pupil's immediate family, who is an active duty member of the uniformed services, as defined in Section 49701, and has been called to duty for, is on leave from, or has immediately returned from, deployment to a combat zone or combat support position. Absences granted pursuant to this paragraph shall be granted for a period of time to be determined at the discretion of the superintendent of the school district.
10. For the purpose of attending the pupil's naturalization ceremony to become a United States citizen.
11. For the purpose of participating in a cultural ceremony or event.
12. (a) For the purpose of a middle school or high school pupil engaging in a civic or political event, as provided in subparagraph (B), provided that the pupil notifies the school ahead of the absence.
  - (b) (i) A middle school or high school pupil who is absent pursuant to subparagraph (A) is required to be excused for only one school day-long absence per school year.
  - (ii) A middle school or high school pupil who is absent pursuant to subparagraph (A) may be permitted additional excused absences in the discretion of a school administrator, as described in subdivision (c) of Section 48260.
12. Authorized at the discretion of a school administrator, as described in subdivision (c) of Section 48260.
  - (b) A pupil absent from school under this section shall be allowed to complete all assignments and tests missed during the absence that can be reasonably provided and, upon satisfactory completion within a reasonable period of time, shall be given full credit. The teacher of the class from which a pupil is absent shall determine which tests and assignments shall be reasonably equivalent to, but not necessarily identical to, the tests and assignments that the pupil missed during the absence.
  - (c) For purposes of this section, attendance at religious retreats shall not exceed four hours per semester.
  - (d) Absences pursuant to this section are deemed absences in computing average daily attendance and shall not generate state apportionment payments.
  - (e) "Immediate family," as used in this section, means the parent or guardian, brother or sister, grandparent, or any other relative living in the household of the pupil.

**Federal Student Aid – EC 51225.8 (9-12)** BUSD provides federal student aid information to high school students in grades 9-12 through family information sessions, in-class and individual student counseling sessions, and through high school counseling websites, among additional methods of communication. All family and student personal information will be protected according to state and federal privacy laws and regulations.

BUSD ensures that students prior to entering 12<sup>th</sup> grade are entitled to information on how to properly complete and submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or the California Dream Act Application at least once. This information should be available in a timely manner as financial aid is awarded in order of submission according to deadlines, on a first-come, first served basis. All family and student personal information will be protected according to state and federal privacy laws and regulations. Student lists will be matched to FAFSA applications for the purpose of ensuring that either the FAFSA is completed or an opt out form is completed to maintain the students' ability to graduate.

**Free and Reduced-price Meals – EC 49510 et seq.** The District's Nutrition Services Department offers healthy meals every school day because children need healthy meals to learn. The Bellflower Unified School District participates in the National School Lunch Program and the School Breakfast Program. Commencing in school year 2022–23, Education Code (EC) 49501.5 requires public school districts, county offices of education, and charter schools serving students in grades TK– 12 to provide two meals free of charge (breakfast and lunch) during each school day to students requesting a meal, regardless of their free or reduced-price meal eligibility. BUSD will still require eligible parents to submit an application in order to remain in compliance for accounting purposes only. Schools serving grades 1-6 will serve breakfast or a morning snack to non-school aged children with a guardian.

**Gun Safety – EC 32221.5 (9-12) and EC 49390, 48391, and 49392**

This is a reminder that firearms are to be safely stored away from children and teens. The accidental shooting of children and youth is the third leading cause of death following accidents and suicide. California public schools are mandated to remind families to keep their home safe from such potential dangers. If there is a threat or perceived threat, then the public schools will cooperate with local law enforcement to conduct an immediate threat assessment.

**Harm or Destruction of Animals – EC 32255 et seq.** Any pupil with a moral objection to dissecting or otherwise harming or destroying an animal, or any part thereof, must inform his or her teacher of the objection. Objections must be substantiated by a note from the pupil's parent or guardian. A pupil who chooses to refrain from participation in an education project involving the harmful or destructive use of an animal may receive an alternative education project, if the teacher believes that an adequate alternative education project is possible. The teacher may work with the pupil to develop and agree upon an alternative education project so that the pupil may obtain the knowledge, information, or experience required by the course of study in question.

**Health Insurance Coverage for Athletes – EC 32221.5 (9-12)** Under state law, school districts are required to ensure that all members of school athletic teams have accidental injury insurance that covers medical and hospital expenses. This insurance requirement can be met by the school district offering insurance or other health benefits that cover medical and hospital expenses. Some pupils may qualify to enroll in no-cost or low-cost local, state, or federally sponsored health insurance programs. Information about these programs may be obtained by calling Covered California at 800-300-1506.

**Immunizations – EC 49403, 48216; HSC 120325, 120335, 120365, 120370, and 120375** Students must be immunized against certain communicable diseases. Students are prohibited from attending school unless immunization requirements are met for age and grade. The school district shall cooperate with local health officials in measures necessary for the prevention and control of communicable diseases in school age children. The

district may use any funds, property, or personnel and may permit any person licensed as a physician or registered nurse to administer an immunizing agent to any student whose parents have consented in writing.

Beginning January 1, 2016, parents of students in any school will no longer be allowed to submit a personal beliefs exemption to a currently required vaccine. A personal beliefs exemption on file at school prior to January 1, 2016 will continue to be valid until the student enters the next grade span at kindergarten (including transitional kindergarten) or 7th grade.

Students are not required to have immunizations if they attend a home-based private school or an independent study program and do not receive classroom-based instruction. However, parents must continue to provide immunization records for these students to their schools. The immunization requirements do not prohibit students from accessing special education and related services required by their individualized education programs.

A student not fully immunized may be temporarily excluded from a school or other institution when that child has been exposed to a specified disease and whose documentary proof of immunization status does not show proof of immunization against one of the communicable diseases described above.

**Independent Study – EC 51744, 51745, 51745.5, 51746, and 56026** Independent Study (IS) is by choice and may not be mandated. BUSD policies for independent study courses or curriculum equivalent time to complete work expectations are equal to what is offered in person. In addition, the short-term (less than 15 school days) and long-term (15 or more school days) will require the IS engagement defined per the policies adopted by the local governing board. Persons who sign the IS agreement, deadline to sign within 10 days of short-term IS or in advance of long-term IS must be updated including the equitable access to students with disabilities based upon individual student needs. For more information on how BUSD offers IS options, please contact the school administrator.

**Instruction for Pupils with Temporary Disabilities – EC 48206.3, 48207 and 48208** A pupil with a temporary disability which makes attendance in the regular day classes or the alternative educational program in which the pupil is enrolled impossible or inadvisable may receive individualized instruction provided in the pupil's home for one hour a day. Please contact the office of Special Education and Student Support at 562-866-9011 ext. 2020 for further information.

A pupil with a temporary disability, who is in a hospital or other residential health facility, excluding a state hospital, may be deemed to have complied with the residency requirements for school attendance in the school district in which the hospital is located.

It is the responsibility of the parent or guardian to notify the school district in which the hospital or other residential health facility is located of the presence of a pupil with a temporary disability. Upon receipt of the notification, the district will within five working days determine whether the pupil will be able to receive individualized instruction pursuant to EC 48206.3 and, if so, provide the instruction within five working days or less.

A pupil with a temporary disability may remain enrolled in the district of residence or charter school and may attend regular classes when not confined to the hospital setting, the total days of instruction may not exceed the maximum of five days with both school settings and attendance may not be duplicated. If necessary, the district of residence may provide instruction in the home for the days not receiving instruction in the hospital setting, depending upon the temporary doctor orders. The supervisor of attendance shall ensure that absences from the regular school program are excused until the pupil is able to return to the regular school program.

An honorary high school diploma which is clearly distinguishable from the regular diploma of graduation may be awarded to a pupil who is terminally ill, from the resident governing school board, a county office of education or a charter school.

**Juvenile Court School Pupils: Graduation Requirements and Continued Education Options – EC 48645.3, 48645.7, and 49076** A juvenile court school student has the right to a diploma issued by the school district of residence if he or she completed the graduation requirements while being detained. The school district of residence shall issue to the pupil a diploma from the school the pupil last attended before detention or in the alternative, the county superintendent of schools may issue the diploma. Please contact the County Office of Education with any questions regarding graduation requirements if your child is placed in a court school as a ward of the court.

**Language Acquisition Program – EC 310; 5 CCR 11309, 5 CCR 11309** Language acquisition programs are educational programs designed to ensure English acquisition occurs as rapidly and effectively as possible, and provides instruction to English learners based on the state-adopted academic content standards, including English language development (ELD) standards. (20 U.S.C. Section 6312[e][3][A][iii],[v]); EC Section 306[c]) A description of the language acquisition programs provided in the Bellflower Unified School District are listed below:

**Structured English Immersion (SEI) Program:** A language acquisition program for English learners in which nearly all classroom instruction is provided in English, but with curriculum and a presentation designed for pupils who are learning English. At minimum, students are offered ELD and access to grade level academic subject matter content.

**English Language Mainstream (ELM):** Students who score at **reasonable fluency** in English are placed in an ELM program. They are taught ELD and other core subjects by authorized teachers using district-adopted textbooks and supplementary materials. Instruction is based on ELD and grade-level content standards. Students receive any additional instruction needed for them to be reclassified as fluent English proficient.

**Dual-Language Immersion (DLI) Program:** Also referred to as **Two-Way Immersion**. A language acquisition program that provides language learning and academic instruction for native speakers of English and native speakers of another language, with the goals of high academic achievement, first



and second language proficiency, and cross-cultural understanding. This program begins in Transitional Kindergarten/Kindergarten (TK/K) and continues to build students skills towards biliteracy each year.

Parents/Guardians may choose a language acquisition program that best suits their child. Schools in which the parents or legal guardians of 30 pupils or more per school or the parents or legal guardians of 20 pupils or more in any grade request a language acquisition program that is designed to provide language instruction shall be required to offer such a program to the extent possible. (20 U.S.C. Section 6312[e][3][A][viii][III]); EC Section 310[a]).

Parents may provide input regarding language acquisition programs during the development of the Local Control Accountability Plan. (EC Section 52062) If interested in a different program from those listed above, please contact State, Federal, and Student Programs at 562-866-9011 to ask about the process.

Parents of English learners have a right to decline or opt their children out of the school district's language acquisition program or opt out of particular English learner service(s) within a language acquisition program. (20 U.S.C Section 6312[e][3][A][viii]) However, schools remain obligated to provide the student meaningful instruction until the student exits the program, inform the parent when progress is not made, and offer the parent programs and services to consider at that time. (5 California Code of Regulations Section 11302)

**Medical or Hospital Service – EC 49472** Medical and hospital services for pupils injured at school or school-sponsored events or while being transported are not covered by district insurance. Information for individual coverage is available from the site principals.

**Medication Regimen – EC 49423, 49480** The parent or legal guardian of any pupil taking medication on a regular basis must inform the school nurse or the school's health office of the medication being taken, the current dosage, and the name of the supervising physician. With the consent of the parent or legal guardian, the school nurse may communicate with the physician and may counsel with the school personnel regarding the possible effects of the medication on the pupil.

Any pupil who is required to take, during the regular school day, medication prescribed by a physician may be assisted by the school nurse or other designated school personnel if the school district receives both a written statement of instructions from the physician detailing the method, amount and time schedules by which such medication is to be taken requesting the school nurse to assist the pupil with prescribed medication as set forth in the physician statement. Student may carry and self-administer auto-injectable epinephrine or inhaled asthma medication if the school district receives both a written statement of instructions from the physician detailing the method, amount and time schedules by which such medication is to be taken and a written statement from the parent or guardian requesting that the student self-administer. All requests are to be approved by the school nurse prior to use.

**Mental Health - EC 49428** In order to initiate access to available pupil mental health services, you may contact the school site directly or Caring Connections at (562) 866-9011. Our school district will notify parents at least twice per year. This is one time through our Annual Notifications, we will also notify you again a second time each school year, by the following means: District website and pamphlet.

**Minimum & Pupil-free Staff Development Days – EC 48980(c)** Notification shall be sent to parents and guardians, no later than one month prior to the district scheduled minimum days and pupil-free staff development days.

**Nondiscrimination Statement – EC 221.8** BUSD is committed to providing a safe school environment where all individuals in education are afforded equal access and opportunities. The District's academic and other educational support programs, services and activities shall be free from discrimination, harassment, intimidation, and bullying of any individual based on the person's actual race, color, ancestry, national origin, ethnic group identification, age, religion, marital or parental status, physical or mental disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, or gender expression; the perception of one or more of such characteristics; or association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics. Specifically, state law prohibits discrimination on the basis of gender in enrollment, counseling, and the availability of physical education, athletic activities, and sports. Transgender students shall be permitted to participate in gender-segregated school programs and activities (e.g., athletic teams, sports competitions, and field trips) and to use facilities consistent with their gender identity. The District assures that lack of English language skills will not be a barrier to admission or participation in District programs. Complaints of unlawful discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying are investigated through the Uniform Complaint Process. Such complaints must be filed no later than six months after knowledge of the alleged discrimination was first obtained. For a complaint form or additional information, contact: William Avila, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services, Title IX and Equity Compliance Officer, 16703 S. Clark Avenue, Bellflower, CA 90706, [williamavila@busd.k12.ca.us](mailto:williamavila@busd.k12.ca.us), 562-866-9011 ext. 2017.

**Notice of Alternative Schools – EC 58501 "Notice of Alternative Schools"** California state law authorizes all school districts to provide for alternative schools. Education Code 58500 defines alternative school as a school or separate class group within a school which is operated in a manner designed to:

- (a) Maximize the opportunity for students to develop the positive values of self-reliance, initiative, kindness, spontaneity, resourcefulness, courage, creativity, responsibility, and joy.
- (b) Recognize that the best learning takes place when the student learns because of his/her desire to learn.
- (c) Maintain a learning situation maximizing student self-motivation and encouraging the student in his/her own time to follow his/her own interests. These interests may be conceived by him/her totally and independently or may result in whole or in part from a presentation by his/her teachers of choices of learning projects.
- (d) Maximize the opportunity for teachers, parents, and students to cooperatively develop the learning process and its subject matter. This opportunity shall be a continuous, permanent process.

- (e) Maximize the opportunity for the students, teachers, and parents to continuously react to the changing world, including, but not limited to, the community in which the school is located.

In the event any parent, pupil, or teacher is interested in further information concerning alternative schools, the county superintendent of schools, the administrative office of this district, and the principal's office in each attendance area have copies of the law available for your information. This law particularly authorizes interested persons to request the governing board of the district to establish alternative school programs in each district.

**Open Meetings: Public Comments: Translation – GC 54954.3** As a parent, you have a right to participate in open meetings with the school district. If you require a translator, one will be provided to you with the time allotment doubled to allow for both English and primary language translation.

**Oral Health Assessment – EC 49452.8 (K-8)** Record of a dental assessment done by a dental professional is required for all kindergarteners and first graders attending public school for the first time. Dental assessments must be completed in the 12 months prior to entry or by May 31<sup>st</sup> of the pupil's first school year.

**Parent Engagement- School Accountability – EC 11500, 11501, 11502, 11503** To participate in the district offerings of parent education and to provide parental input to the local training programs for parents, please contact the State, Federal, and Student Programs Office for more information on how you may contribute.

**Parent Participation in School Meetings and Conferences - LC 230.8** If the parent's employer has 25 or more employees, the parent must be allowed to attend school meetings and events for your children, up to a maximum of 40 hours each year without discrimination or fear of job loss. Purposes to attend child-related activities include: enrollment in grades 1-12, to address child care or school emergencies, behavior or discipline problems that require immediate parent attention, sudden school closure, or natural disaster. ("Parent" means a parent, guardian, stepparent, foster parent, or grandparent of, or a person who stands in.) If an employer discharges, threatens to discharge, demotes, suspends or otherwise discriminates against the parent, the employee may be entitled to reinstatement and reimbursement for lost income or benefits. See Labor Code 230.8 for more details.

**Pesticide Products – EC 17612 and 48980.3** To obtain a copy of all pesticide products and expected use at the school facility during the year, and to receive notification of individual pesticide applications at the school at least 72 hours before the application, please contact Maintenance and Operations at 562-804-6500. The notice will identify the active ingredient(s) in each pesticide product, the intended date of application, an Internet address on pesticide use and reduction, and the Internet address where the school site integrated pest management plan may be found if the school site has posted the plan.

**Physical Examination – EC 49451; 20 USC 1232h** A parent or guardian may file annually with the school principal a written statement, signed by the parent or legal guardian, withholding consent to a physical examination of the pupil. However, whenever there is good reason to believe that the pupil is suffering from a recognized contagious or infectious disease, the pupil shall be sent home and shall not be permitted to return until school authorities are satisfied that the contagious or infectious disease no longer exists.

**Pregnant and Parenting Pupils – EC 221.51, 222.5, 46015, 48205, and 48980 (9-12)** The governing board of BUSD will treat both the pregnant teen mother and the teen father with the same accommodations, regardless of sex. The teen parents may not be excluded from any class or extracurricular activities, solely on the basis of pregnancy, childbirth, false pregnancy, termination of pregnancy, or postpartum recovery. Physical and emotional ability to continue may only be determined by physician or nurse practitioner. Pregnant or parenting pupils may not be required to participate in pregnant minor programs or alternative programs, with the exception of personal choice.

Parental rights will be an option available in annual notifications or at semester term periods, welcome packets, orientation, online or in print, or in independent study packets as provided to all regular students from school districts or charter schools.

Parental leave for eight weeks for preparation of birth of infant, postpartum for mental and physical health needs of the teen parents and to bond with infants, or any additional medically approved time to protect the infant or parents is allowed. Any additional time due if deemed medically necessary, as prescribed by physician or nurse practitioner. The pregnant and parenting teens are not required to take all or part of the leave to which they are entitled. Leave will be approved by the district supervisor of attendance, as excused absence, with a unique code similar to independent study. However, no work is required during the leave. Upon return, the parenting teens are entitled to return to the school courses that they were enrolled in before taking leave. Make up plans and re-enrollment will be collaborated with the school counselor or administrator to achieve an opportunity to fully participate in all activities, as before leave. If needed, a parenting teen may enroll for a fifth year of instruction if on course for graduation requirements. If parenting teens were enrolled in an alternative school setting, a return to that environment is to be available as needed to achieve graduation. A pupil shall not incur any academic penalties due to using these available accommodations.

An illness for a sick child does not require a doctor note for the custodial parenting teens; the mother or father will be excused by the attendance supervisor.

**Property Damage – EC 48904** Parents or guardians may be held financially liable if their child willfully damages school property or fails to return school property loaned to the child. The school may further withhold the grades, diploma, and transcript of the pupil until restitution is paid.

**Pupil Records Obtained from Social Media – EC 49073.6** Other than the school newspaper and yearbook, the school may gather information in the forms of video, photograph, blog, texts, and emails, to maintain school and student safety. All social media information gathered will be destroyed within one year after the student turns 18 years old or one year after the student is no longer enrolled, whichever comes first.

**Pupil Records – EC 49063, 49069.7, 49070 and 20 USC 1232g** A cumulative record, whether recorded by handwriting, print, tapes, film, microfilm or other means, must be maintained on the history of a pupil's development and educational progress. The District will protect the privacy of such records. Parents/guardians have the right to 1) inspect and review the student's educational record maintained by the school, 2) request that a school correct records which they believe to be inaccurate or misleading, and 3) have some control over the disclosure of information from educational records. School officials with legitimate educational interests may access pupil records without parental consent as long as the official needs to review the records in order to fulfill his/her professional responsibility. Upon request from officials of another school district in which a pupil seeks or intends to enroll, the District shall disclose educational records without parental consent.

Any challenge to school records must be submitted in writing to the office of Educational Services. A parent challenging school records must show that the records are 1) inaccurate, 2) an unsubstantiated personal conclusion or inference, 3) a conclusion or inference outside the observer's area of competence, 4) not based on the personal observation of a named person with the time and place of the observation noted, 5) misleading, or 6) in violation of the privacy or other rights of the student. Parents have the right to file a complaint with the United States Department of Education concerning an alleged failure by the District to comply with the provisions of the United States Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) by writing to: Family Policy Compliance Office, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Ave., SW, Washington, D.C. 20202-4605.

**Pupil Swimming Safety - EC 35179.6** Our school district is committed to safety for all our students at our planned events, including around swimming pools. There is already a requirement for pool sport coaches to be fully-trained in CPR in case of accidental drowning in the pool. If there is any event on-campus or hosted at a swimming pool facility, at least one adult with a valid certification of CPR training will be present throughout the duration of the event.

**Ralph M. Brown Act: Required Notices and Agendas for Open Public Meetings: GC 54954.2, 54956, 54956.5, 54954.1, 54954.2, 54954.5, 54957.1, 54957.7, and 54954.2(b)**

**Regular Meetings:** Agenda in 20 words or less, posted within 72 hours of meeting.

**Special Meetings:** Twenty-four hour notice must be provided to members of legislative body and media outlets including brief general description of matters to be considered or discussed.

**Emergency Meetings:** One hour notice in case of work stoppage or crippling activity, except in the case of a dire emergency.

**Closed Session Agendas:** All items to be considered in closed session must be described in the notice or agenda for the meeting. The body must orally announce the subject matter of the closed session. If final action is taken in a closed session, the body generally must report the action at the conclusion of the closed session.

**Agenda Exception:** Special procedures permit a body to proceed without an agenda in the case of emergency circumstances, or where a need for immediate action came to the attention of the body after posting of the agenda.

**Retroactive Grant of High School Diplomas: Departed/Deported Pupils - EC 51430 (9-12)** The governing board of BUSD may award a diploma to any student who may have been deported outside the US, if in good standing after completing the second year of high school. Any transfer credits from outside the US will be considered as completion through online or foreign classes.

**Rights of Parents and Guardians to Information – EC 51101** The parents and guardians of pupils enrolled in public schools have the right and should have the opportunity, as mutually supportive and respectful partners in the education of their children within the public schools, to be informed by the school, and to participate in the education of their children, as follows:

- (1) Within a reasonable period of time after making the request, to observe their child's classroom(s).
- (2) Within a reasonable time of their request, to meet with their child's teacher(s) and the principal.
- (3) To volunteer their time and resources for the improvement of school facilities and school programs under the supervision of district employees, including, but not limited to, providing assistance in the classroom with the approval, and under the direct supervision, of the teacher.
- (4) To be notified on a timely basis if their child is absent from school without permission.
- (5) To receive the results of their child's performance on standardized tests and statewide tests and information on the performance of their child's school on standardized statewide tests.
- (6) To request a particular school for their child, and to receive a response from the school district.
- (7) To have a school environment for their child that is safe and supportive of learning.
- (8) To examine the curriculum materials of their child's class(es).
- (9) To be informed of their child's progress in school and of the appropriate school personnel whom they should contact if problems arise with their child.
- (10) To have access to the school records of their child.
- (11) To receive information concerning the academic performance standards, proficiencies, or skills their child is expected to accomplish.
- (12) To be informed in advance about school rules, including disciplinary rules and procedures, attendance policies, dress codes, and procedures for visiting the school.
- (13) To receive information about any psychological testing the school does involving their child and to deny permission to give the test.
- (14) To participate as a member of a parent advisory committee, school site council, or site-based management leadership team.

- (15) To question anything in their child's record that the parent feels is inaccurate or misleading or is an invasion of privacy and to receive a response from the school.
- (16) To be notified, as early in the school year as practicable, if their child is identified as being at risk of retention and of their right to consult with school personnel responsible for a decision to promote or retain their child and to appeal a decision to retain or promote their child.

**Safe Place to Learn Act – EC 234 and 234.1** BUSD is committed to maintaining a learning environment that is free from discrimination, harassment, violence, intimidation, and bullying based on actual or perceived characteristics set forth in Section 422.55 of the Penal Code and EC 220, and disability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, nationality, race or ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, or association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics. All school personnel who witness an act of discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying must take immediate steps to intervene when safe to do so. Any student who engages in acts of discrimination, harassment, violence, intimidation, or bullying related to school activity or school attendance occurring within a school of the school district may be subject to disciplinary action up to and including expulsion. To report an incident and/or to receive a copy of the district's antidiscrimination, anti-harassment, anti-intimidation, and anti-bullying policies, please contact the office of Educational Services at (562) 866-9011 ext. 2017.

**School Bus Safety – EC 39831.5 (K-8)** All pupils in pre-kindergarten, kindergarten and grades 1 to 6, shall receive written information on school bus safety (i.e., a list of school bus stops near each pupil's home, general rules of conduct at school bus loading zones, red light crossing instructions, school bus danger zone, and walking to and from school bus stops). Prior to departure on a school activity trip, all pupils riding on a school bus or school activity bus shall receive safety instruction that includes, but is not limited to, location of emergency exits, and location and use of emergency equipment. Instruction also may include responsibilities of passengers seated next to an emergency exit.

**School Safety: Bullying – EC 234.4 and 32283.5** BUSD is committed to the prohibition of discrimination, harassment, intimidation, bullying, and cyberbullying on social media. Annual training will be provided to all staff who work with students, to prevent bullying and cyberbullying. You may find a list of education web pages describing the staff training at: <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/ss/se/bullyres.asp>. If you or your child should experience any bullying on campus, at school events, or on the way to or from school, please contact your school office for additional information. For a copy of the district's bullying policy, please contact William Avila, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services, Title IX and Equity Compliance Officer, 16703 S. Clark Avenue, Bellflower, CA 90706, [williamavila@busd.k12.ca.us](mailto:williamavila@busd.k12.ca.us), (562) 866-9011 ext. 2017.

**Sexual Abuse and Sex Trafficking Prevention – EC 51950 and 51900.6** Our schools provide age-appropriate instruction for students in kindergarten through grade 12, in sexual abuse, sexual assault awareness, sex trafficking, strategies to reduce their risk, techniques to set healthy boundaries, and how to safely report an incident through prevention education. Parents or guardians may submit a written request to excuse their child from participation in any class and assessments related to that education.

**Sexual Harassment – EC 231.5 and 48980(f)** BUSD is committed to maintaining a learning and working environment that is free from harassment. Any student who engages in sexual harassment of anyone in or from the district may be subject to disciplinary action up to and including expulsion. Any employee who permits, engages in, or fails to report sexual harassment shall be subject to disciplinary action up to and including dismissal. For a copy of the district's sexual harassment policy or to report incidences of sexual harassment, please contact William Avila, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services, Title IX and Equity Compliance Officer, 16703 S. Clark Avenue, Bellflower, CA 90706, [williamavila@busd.k12.ca.us](mailto:williamavila@busd.k12.ca.us), (562) 866-9011 ext. 2060.

**Sudden Cardiac Arrest – EC 33479 et seq.** Sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) is when the heart stops beating, suddenly and unexpectedly. When this happens, blood stops flowing to the brain and other vital organs. SCA is not a heart attack; it is a malfunction in the heart's electrical system, causing the victim to collapse. The malfunction is caused by a congenital or genetic defect in the heart's structure. SCA is more likely to occur during exercise or sports activity, so athletes are at greater risk. These symptoms can be unclear and confusing in athletes. Often, people confuse these warning signs with physical exhaustion. If not properly treated within minutes, SCA is fatal in 92 percent of cases. In a school district, charter school, or private school that elects to conduct athletic activities, the athletic director, coach, athletic trainer, or authorized person must remove from participation a pupil who passes out or faints, or who is known to have passed out or fainted, while participating in or immediately following an athletic activity. A pupil who exhibits any of the other symptoms of SCA during an athletic activity may be removed from participation if the athletic trainer or authorized person reasonably believes that the symptoms are cardiac related. A pupil who is removed from play may not return to that activity until he or she is evaluated by, and receives written clearance from, a physician or surgeon. On a yearly basis, an acknowledgement of receipt and review of information regarding SCA must be signed and returned by the pupil and the pupil's parent or guardian before a pupil participates in specific types of athletic activities which generally does not apply to those conducted during the regular school day or as part of a physical education course.

**Suicide Prevention Policies: EC 215** Student suicide rates are of concern to all members of the school community. One child, ages 12 and older, dies by suicide every five days in California. Local Districts were required by California law to provide suicide prevention education, according to age-appropriate and sensitive local policies, for grades 7 to 12. Legislators have determined that training in mental health and coordination around improved services is extended to our elementary students. A shared goal by all staff educators is to keep a safe place to learn, free from harm to any of our students.

**Surveys – EC 51513 and 51514** Anonymous, voluntary and confidential research and evaluation tools to measure student's health behaviors and risks, including tests, questionnaires, and surveys containing age-appropriate questions about the student's attitudes and practices relating to sex, family life, morality, and religion may be administered to students if the parent is notified in writing that 1) this test, questionnaire, or survey is to be administered, 2) the student's parent is given the opportunity to review the test, questionnaire, or survey, and 3) the parent consents in writing. Questions pertaining to the sexual orientation and gender identity of a student shall not be removed from a survey that already includes them.

**Suspension and Expulsion – EC 48900 and Mandatory Expulsion Violations – EC 48915** A pupil shall not be suspended from school or recommended for expulsion, unless the superintendent 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 his or her 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 as substantially similar in physical properties to an existing firearm as to lead a reasonable person to conclude that the replica is a firearm.
- (n) Committed or attempted to commit a sexual assault as defined in Section 261, 266c, 286, 288, 288a, or 289 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 the purpose 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 defined in Section 48900.2, 48900.3, or 48900.4, directed toward one or more pupils that has or can be reasonably predicted to have the effect of one or more of the following:
    - (A) Placing a reasonable pupil or pupils in fear of harm to that pupil’s or those pupils’ person or property.
    - (B) Causing a reasonable pupil to experience a substantially detrimental effect on his or her physical or mental health.
    - (C) Causing a reasonable pupil to experience substantial interference with his or her academic performance.
    - (D) Causing a reasonable pupil to experience substantial interference with his or her ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, or privileges provided by a school.
  - (2) (A) “Electronic act” means the creation or transmission originated on or off the school site, by means of an electronic device, including, but not limited to, a telephone, wireless telephone or other wireless communication device, computer, or pager, of a communication, including, but not limited to, any of the following:
    - (i) A message, text, sound, video, or image.
    - (ii) A post on a social network Internet Web site, including, but not limited to:
      - (I) Posting to or creating a burn page. “Burn page” means an Internet Web site created for the purpose of having one or more of the effects listed in paragraph (1).
      - (II) Creating a credible impersonation of another actual pupil for the purpose of having one or more of the effects listed in paragraph (1). “Credible impersonation” means to knowingly and without consent impersonate a pupil for the purpose of bullying the pupil and such that another pupil would reasonably believe, or has reasonably believed, that the pupil was or is the pupil who was impersonated.
      - (III) Creating a false profile for the purpose of having one or more of the effects listed in paragraph (1). “False profile” means a profile of a fictitious pupil or a profile using the likeness or attributes of an actual pupil other than the pupil who created the false profile.

(iii) (I) An act of cyber sexual bullying.

(II) For purposes of this clause, “cyber sexual bullying” means the dissemination of, or the solicitation or incitement to disseminate, a photograph or other visual recording by a pupil to another pupil or to school personnel by means of an electronic act that has or can be reasonably predicted to have one or more of the effects described in subparagraphs (A) to (D), inclusive, of paragraph (1). A photograph or other visual recording, as described above, shall include the depiction of a nude, semi-nude, or sexually explicit photograph or other visual recording of a minor where the minor is identifiable from the photograph, visual recording, or other electronic act.

(III) For purposes of this clause, “cyber sexual bullying” does not include a depiction, portrayal, or image that has any serious literary, artistic, educational, political, or scientific value or that involves athletic events or school-sanctioned activities.

(B) Notwithstanding paragraph (1) and subparagraph (A), an electronic act shall not constitute pervasive conduct solely on the basis that it has been transmitted on the Internet or is currently posted on the Internet.

(3) “Reasonable pupil” means a pupil, including, but not limited to, an exceptional needs pupil, who exercises average care, skill, and judgment in conduct for a person of his or her age, or for a person of his or her age with his or her exceptional needs.

(s) A pupil shall not be suspended or expelled for any of the acts enumerated in this section, unless that act is related to school activity or school attendance occurring within a school under the jurisdiction of the superintendent of the school district or principal or occurring within any other school district. A pupil may be suspended or expelled for acts that are enumerated in this section and related to school activity or attendance that occur at any time, including, but not limited to, any of the following:

(1) While on school grounds.

(2) While going to or coming from school.

(3) During the lunch period whether on or off the campus.

(4) During, or while going to or coming from, a school sponsored activity.

(t) A pupil who aids or abets, as defined in Section 31 of the Penal Code, the infliction or attempted infliction of physical injury to another person may be subject to suspension, but not expulsion, pursuant to this section, except that a pupil who has been adjudged by a juvenile court to have committed, as an aider and abettor, a crime of physical violence in which the victim suffered great bodily injury or serious bodily injury shall be subject to discipline pursuant to subdivision (a).

(u) As used in this section, “school property” includes, but is not limited to, electronic files and databases.

(v) For a pupil subject to discipline under this section, a superintendent of the school district or principal may use his or her discretion to provide alternatives to suspension or expulsion that are age appropriate and designed to address and correct the pupil’s misbehavior as specified in Section 48900.5.

(w) (1) It is the intent of the Legislature that alternatives to suspension or expulsion be imposed against a pupil who is truant, tardy, or otherwise absent from school activities.

(2) It is further the intent of the Legislature that the Multi-Tiered System of Supports, which includes restorative justice practices, trauma-informed practices, social and emotional learning, and school wide positive behavior interventions and support, may be used to help pupils gain critical social and emotional skills, receive support to help transform trauma-related responses, understand the impact of their actions, and develop meaningful methods for repairing harm to the school community.

**Sexual Harassment – EC 48900.2** In addition to the reasons specified in Section 48900, a pupil may be suspended from school or recommended for expulsion if the superintendent or the principal of the school in which the pupil is enrolled determines that the pupil has committed sexual harassment as defined in Section 212.5.

For the purposes of this chapter, the conduct described in Section 212.5 must be considered by a reasonable person of the same gender as the victim to be sufficiently severe or pervasive to have a negative impact upon the individual's academic performance or to create an intimidating, hostile, or offensive educational environment. This section shall not apply to pupils enrolled in kindergarten and grades 1 to 3, inclusive.

**Hate Violence – EC 48900.3** In addition to the reasons set forth in Sections 48900 and 48900.2, a pupil in any of grades 4 to 12, inclusive, may be suspended from school or recommended for expulsion if the superintendent or the principal of the school in which the pupil is enrolled determines that the pupil has caused, attempted to cause, threatened to cause, or participated in an act of, hate violence, as defined in subdivision (e) of Section 233.

**Harassment, Threats or Intimidation – EC 48900.4** In addition to the grounds specified in Sections 48900 and 48900.2, a pupil enrolled in any of grades 4 to 12, inclusive, may be suspended from school or recommended for expulsion if the superintendent or the principal of the school in which the pupil is enrolled determines that the pupil has intentionally engaged in harassment, threats, or intimidation, directed against school district personnel or pupils, that is sufficiently severe or pervasive to have the actual and reasonably expected effect of materially disrupting classwork, creating substantial disorder, and invading the rights of either school personnel or pupils by creating an intimidating or hostile educational environment.

**Limitations on Imposing Suspension – EC 48900.5** Suspension, including supervised suspension as described in Section 48911.1, shall be imposed only when other means of correction fail to bring about proper conduct. A school district may document the other means of correction used and place that documentation in the pupil’s record, which may be accessed pursuant to Section 49069. However, a pupil, including an individual with exceptional needs, as defined in Section 56026, may be suspended, subject to Section 1415 of Title 20 of the United States Code, for any of the reasons enumerated in Section 48900 upon a first offense, if the principal or superintendent of schools determines that the pupil violated subdivision (a), (b), (c), (d), or (e) of Section 48900 or that the pupil's presence causes a danger to persons.

**Mandatory Expulsion Violations – EC 48915** Schools shall immediately suspend and recommend expulsion for students that commit any of the following acts at school or at a school activity off school grounds: Possessing, selling, or otherwise furnishing a firearm. Brandishing a knife at

another person. Unlawfully selling a controlled substance. Committing or attempting to commit a sexual assault. Possession of an explosive. The school board shall order the student expelled upon finding that the student committed the act.

**Terroristic Threats – EC 48900.7** (a) In addition to the reasons specified in Sections 48900, 48900.2, 48900.3, and 48900.4, a pupil may be suspended from school or recommended for expulsion if the superintendent or the principal of the school in which the pupil is enrolled determines that the pupil has made terroristic threats against school officials or school property, or both.

(b) For the purposes of this section, "terroristic threat" shall include any statement, whether written or oral, by a person who willfully threatens to commit a crime which will result in death, great bodily injury to another person, or property damage in excess of one thousand dollars (\$1,000), with the specific intent that the statement is to be taken as a threat, even if there is no intent of actually carrying it out, which, on its face and under the circumstances in which it is made, is so unequivocal, unconditional, immediate, and specific as to convey to the person threatened, a gravity of purpose and an immediate prospect of execution of the threat, and thereby causes that person reasonably to be in sustained fear for his or her own safety or for his or her immediate family's safety, or for the protection of school district property, or the personal property of the person threatened or his or her immediate family.

**Title I – 20 USC 6311, 34 CFR 200.61** Schools that have a high percentage of students and families who qualify for free and reduced lunch benefits receive additional funds known as Title I funds from the federal government. Title I funds support supplemental educational services for students. Because parent involvement is an important part of Title I services, parents of students attending Title I schools may request information regarding the professional qualifications of their student's classroom teachers and/or paraprofessionals. Information regarding the professional qualifications of teachers and paraprofessionals is available by contacting the school principal.

**Title IX – EC 221.61** Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 is one of several federal and state anti-discrimination laws that ensure equality in educational programs and activities that receive federal funding. Specifically, Title IX protects male and female pupils and employees, as well as transgender pupils and pupils who do not conform to sex stereotypes, against discrimination based on sex, including sexual harassment. California law also prohibits discrimination based on gender, gender expression, gender identity, and sexual orientation. Under Title IX, pupils may not be discriminated against based on their parental, family, or marital status, and pregnant and parenting pupils may not be excluded from participating in any educational program, including extracurricular activities, for which they qualify. For more information about Title IX, or how to file a complaint of noncompliance with Title IX, contact: William Avila, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services, Title IX and Equity Compliance Officer, 16703 S. Clark Avenue, Bellflower, CA 90706, [williamavila@busd.k12.ca.us](mailto:williamavila@busd.k12.ca.us), 562-866-9011 ext. 2017.

**Tobacco-free Campus – BPC 22950.5; HSC 104420, 104495, 104559, PC 308** The use of tobacco and nicotine products is prohibited on school or district grounds, buildings, and vehicles, and within 250 feet of a youth sports event. Tobacco products include, but are not limited to, cigarettes, cigars, little cigars, chewing tobacco, pipe tobacco, snuff, or an electronic device (e.g., electronic cigarette, cigar, pipe, or hookah) that delivers nicotine or other vaporized liquids.

**Uniform Complaint Policy and Procedure – 5 CCR 4600 et seq.** The Uniform Complaint Procedures (UCP) complaint is a written and signed statement by a complainant alleging a violation of federal or state laws or regulations, which may include an allegation of unlawful discrimination, harassment, intimidation, bullying or charging pupil fees for participation in an educational activity or non-compliance. The person who receives the complaint shall respond to the parent in writing within 60 days. The parent may appeal to CDE within 15 days if not in agreement with the final report. Information on programs that fall under UCP can be found here: <https://www.busd.k12.ca.us/Page/5029>. If you would like additional assistance or more information on how to file a complaint with the school or district, please contact the Assistant Superintendent, Educational Services, at 562) 866-9011 ext. 2017 or 16703 S. Clark Avenue, Bellflower, California 90706. For more information you may go to the CDE website: <https://www.cde.ca.gov/re/cp/uc/ucpmonitoring.asp>

**Victim of a Violent Crime – 20 USC 7912** A pupil who becomes a victim of a violent crime while in or on the school grounds must be offered the opportunity to transfer to a safe public school within the school district, including a public charter school, within ten calendar days. If there is not another school within the area served by the district, the district is encouraged, but not required, to explore other appropriate options such as an agreement with a neighboring school district to accept pupils through an interdistrict transfer. Primary examples of violent criminal offenses in the Penal Code include attempted murder, battery with serious bodily injury, assault with a deadly weapon, rape, sexual battery, robbery, extortion, and hate crimes. For more information, please contact the office of Educational Services.

**Williams Complaint Policy & Procedure – EC 35186** Every school must provide sufficient textbooks and instructional materials. Every student, including English learners, must have textbooks or instructional materials, or both, to use at home or after school. School facilities must be clean, safe, and maintained in good repair. There should be no teacher vacancies or mis-assignments. If a school is found to have deficiencies in these areas, and the school does not take corrective action, then a complaint form may be obtained from the State, Federal, and Student Programs Office at 562-866-9011 ext. 2010 or 16703 S Clark Avenue Bellflower, CA 90706. Parents, students, teachers or any member of the public may submit a complaint regarding these issues. However, it is highly encouraged that individuals express their concerns to the school principal before completing the complaint forms to allow the school to respond to these concerns.