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The District is committed to creating a school environment where students are respectful of school property and each other. The principal or designee shall investigate any vandalism or graffiti on the school campus, particularly when the incident implicates the District’s sexual harassment, hate-motivated behavior, or nondiscrimination policies. Vandalism is defined as actions falling under California Penal Code 594, and it does not include childhood behavior such as doodling on a desk or accidentally damaging school property.

Generally, the principal or designee shall address vandalism with school-based discipline, applying restorative justice approaches and positive behavior intervention and support where all parties involved come together, identify the harm that was caused, and develop an agreement on how to restore harmony.

District administrators or staff shall not call law enforcement to respond to an incident involving vandalism. The principal or designee shall conduct an investigation that includes interviewing the students suspected to be involved and other witnesses.

A student who commits an act of vandalism or graffiti on school grounds may be subject to disciplinary action. Alternative means of correction, such as restorative justice, teen court, or counseling, shall be imposed to address vandalism and graffiti in District schools, but schools shall not impose exclusionary discipline such as suspension or expulsion. District shall not impose any fines, fees, or other liability under California Education Code section 48904(a)(1) for any damage to school property unless District staff can establish that the damage was caused willfully.

Photographs or other evidence of the vandalism or graffiti shall be preserved as necessary for investigation by the district and as evidence in any district disciplinary proceedings.

The principal or designee shall ensure that graffiti on school grounds is removed and covered as soon as possible, and if practicable before the beginning of the next school day.

Policy
Adopted:
Revised:

[DISTRICT]
[LOCATION]