Yuba County Office of Education (YCOE) recognizes the impact that civility has on the effective operation of the County Office of Education (COE), including its role in creating a safe and positive school climate and enabling a focus on student well-being, learning, and achievement. YCOE believes that each person should be treated with dignity and respect in their interactions within the school community.

YCOE understands that the First Amendment provides strong protection for speech. However, YCOE expects that all speech and expression will comport with norms of civil behavior on COE grounds, in COE facilities, during COE activities or events, and in the use of COE electronic/digital systems and platforms.

Civil behavior is polite, courteous, and reasonable behavior which is respectful to others and includes integrity, honesty, acceptance, timeliness, dependability, observance of laws and rules, and effective communication.

YCOE shall model civil behavior as an example of behavior that is expected throughout the COE. Practices that promote civil behavior include actively listening, giving full attention to the speaker, and refraining from interruptions; welcoming and encouraging participation, input, and feedback through stakeholder engagement; promptly responding to concerns; and embracing varying and diverse viewpoints. Such practices may be incorporated into governance standards adopted by the County Board.

Students, staff, parents/guardians, and community members should be educated in the recognition, development, and demonstration of civil behavior. Concepts of civil behavior and other related concepts may be incorporated in the curriculum, provided in staff development activities, and/or communicated by this policy to the school community.

Students, staff, parents/guardians, and community members shall not communicate or behave in a manner that causes disruption or hinders or threatens the orderly conduct of COE operations, the educational program, or any other COE program or activity.
Behavior by students or staff that is discriminatory, harassing, or intimidating, including sexual harassment, bullying, and/or hate violence or behavior that is in any other way unlawful, is prohibited.

(cf. 1312.3 - Uniform Complaint Procedures)
(cf. 5131.2 - Bullying)
(cf. 5145.3 - Nondiscrimination/Harassment)
(cf. 5145.7 - Sexual Harassment)
(cf. 5145.71 - Title IX Sexual Harassment Complaint Procedures)

Legal Reference:
EDUCATION CODE
200-262.4 Educational equity
32210 Willful disturbance of public school or meeting
32211 Threatened disruption or interference with classes
32212 Classroom interruptions
32280-32289.5 School safety plans
44050 Employee code of conduct; interaction with students
44807 Teachers' duty concerning conduct of students
44810 Willful interference with classroom conduct
44811 Disruption of classwork or extracurricular activities
48900-48926 Suspension and expulsion, especially:
48907 Exercise of free expression; rules and regulations
48950 Speech and other communication
49330-49335 Injurious objects
CIVIL CODE
51.7 Freedom from violence or intimidation
GOVERNMENT CODE
54954.3 Opportunity for public to address legislative body; regulations
54957.9 Disorderly conduct of general public during meeting; clearing of room
PENAL CODE
243.5 Assault or battery on school property
415.5 Disturbance of peace of school
422.55 Definition of hate crime
422.6 Civil rights; crimes
626-626.11 School crimes
627-627.10 Access to school premises
653b Loitering about schools or public places
653.2 Electronic communication devices; threats to safety
CALIFORNIA CONSTITUTION
Article 1, Section 2 Freedom of speech and expression
Article 1, Section 28 Right to safe schools
U.S. CONSTITUTION
Amendment 1, Freedom of speech and expression
COURT DECISIONS
City of San Jose v. Garbett (2010) 190 Cal.App.4th 526
Norse v. City of Santa Cruz (9th Cir. 2010) 629 F.3d 966

Management Resources:
CSBA PUBLICATIONS
Professional Governance Standards for County Boards, 2019
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PUBLICATIONS
California's Social and Emotional Learning: Guiding Principles, 2018
Social and Emotional Learning in California: A Guide to Resources, October 2018
COMMISSION ON TEACHER CREDENTIALING PUBLICATIONS
California Professional Standards for Education Leaders (CPSEL), February 2014
NATIONAL POLICY BOARD FOR EDUCATIONAL ADMINISTRATION
Professional Standards for Educational Leaders, October 2015
WEB SITES
CSBA: http://www.csba.org
California Department of Education: http://www.cde.ca.gov
Center for Safe and Responsible Internet Use: http://www.ewa.org/organization/center-safe-and-responsible-internet-use
Commission on Teacher Credentialing: http://www.ctc.ca.gov
National Council for the Social Studies Connected: http://connected.socialstudies.org
National School Safety Center: http://www.schoolsafety.us

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