



**Kevin Truitt/Associate Superintendent**  
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October 5, 2010

TO: ALL Site Administrators  
FROM: Kevin Truitt, Associate Superintendent of Student Support Services Department  
RE: SFUSD Bathroom Access Policy (Please copy and distribute to all school district staff)

In May 2010, the student delegates on the Board of Education submitted a Resolution for Board Policy that requested that the District "allow students access to the schools restroom at any time outside of the first five minutes of school."

In addition, the Resolution further states that:

"Students shall not be:

- Punished in any way, including academically, for using the restroom,
- Accompanied to or from the restroom by school staff, unless that students has violated a rule,
- Locked out of bathrooms,
- Required to state their reason for using the restroom to any adult other than a school nurse of Wellness Center staff."

Furthermore, the resolution states that when students are permitted to use the restroom they cannot use this opportunity to violate school rules, such as using their cell phone or visiting other classrooms.

The proposed resolution was presented at the Rules Committee in June 2010 and is currently being edited and further defined for considered of approval by the Board of Education; but until that time, the subject of the resolution raises important concerns that need immediate clarification and direction to our school sites where there may need to be a revision of current school policies and practices.

I am requesting (per direction of the Board and Superintendent) that all site administrators reserve time on the agenda at their next faculty meeting to address this very important issue and clarify schoolwide practices regarding student access to bathrooms during the school day.

Absent a formal Board Policy, we are asking schools to make every effort to comply with the following:

- Students should not be denied access to the restrooms at any time\* during the day. (Note: \*If there are specific short segments of time when your school staff feels it is imperative to briefly restrict bathroom access, please notify your school supervising Assistant Superintendent.)
- Students will not be penalized in any way for using the restroom facilities, this includes classroom participation grades, incurring detention time, etc.
- Students do not need to explain or justify their need to use the restroom, but a school nurse may inquire.
- Students are not restricted to a certain number of bathroom visits per class per semester.

I am fully aware of the fact that some students may attempt to manipulate or abuse bathroom access permission and am asking that those students be dealt with on an individual basis. While that may occur and require staff time to remedy, the fact remains that there are far too many instances we have been made aware of where restrictive bathroom use policies have denied students' access to a basic human need resulting in unnecessary and unfortunate harm, distress, or penalties.

I apologize for any challenges or inconveniences this may cause at your site. We will be discussing this issue much more in the immediate future and actually developing a formal district policy. I welcome any comments and feedback from any site administrators identifying concerns and additional challenges you are confronted with from teachers, staff, students and/or their families regarding this issue.

cc:  
Carlos Garcia, Superintendent of Schools  
Richard Carranza, Deputy Superintendent