Board Narrative-- Exhibit 5144 Discipline Guidelines

Background
SB Unified Board Policy 5144 states, "The Superintendent or designee shall create a model discipline matrix that lists violations and the consequences for each as allowed by law." This matrix is utilized by site administrators to guide their decision making and educate parents and students on our district's approach to progressive discipline. This approach includes the use of a restorative philosophy coupled with more traditional disciplinary actions as allowed under California Education Code 48900(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 specific misbehavior as specified in Section 48900.5.]

Updates
Since the Exhibit 5144 was last updated in August 2015 there have been several changes to the California Education Code as they relate to student discipline. The SBUSD guidelines have now been updated to reflect those changes. Those changes are as follows:
- The system of coding of offenses under Education Code 48915 was altered.
- Elimination of code related to "bias-related incidences." This code was changed to be reflected in two new codes-- EC 48900(q) "Hazing" and EC 48900(r)-- "Engaged in an act of bullying."

In addition, "Fire-setting" has been removed from the guidelines. Rather, for disciplinary purposes it falls under several headings including Education Code 48900(b)-- Possession of a dangerous object and Education Code 48900(f)-- Caused or attempted to cause damage to school property or private property. The guidelines have been updated to reflect this change.

Finally, the Exhibit 5144 has been updated to reflect the district's commitment to working with a variety of community agencies to address the needs of our students. As such, references to any one specific agency in the Discipline Guidelines has been eliminated.