





2026-2027

**Student Code
of Conduct**

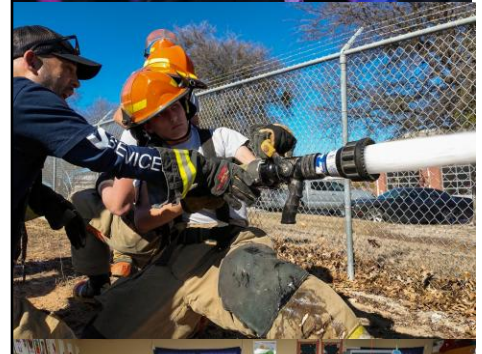


Table of Contents

Student Code of Conduct	5
Accessibility	5
Purpose	5
School District Authority and Jurisdiction	6
Campus Behavior Coordinator	7
Threat Assessment and Safe and Supportive School Team	7
Searches and Interviews	8
Investigative Process	9
Reporting Crimes	10
Security Personnel	10
“Parent” Defined	10
Participating in Graduation Activities	10
Unauthorized Persons	11
Criminal Trespass Warning (CTW)	11
Transfer Options	12
Standards for Student Conduct	13
General Conduct Violations	15
Disregard for Authority	15
Mistreatment of Others	15
Property Offenses	16
Possession of Prohibited Items	16
Tobacco or Vape on District Property	17
Possession of Personal Communication Devices	18
Illegal, Prescription, and Over-the-Counter Drugs	19
Misuse of Technology Resources and the Internet	19
Safety Transgressions	20
Miscellaneous Offenses	20
Discipline Management Techniques	22
First-Time Offense of Possession or Use of Nicotine Delivery Product or E-Cigarette	22
Students with Disabilities	22
Techniques	22
Prohibited Aversive Techniques	24
Notification	24
Parental Involvement	25

Appeals	25
Removal from the School Bus	26
Removal from the Regular Educational Setting.....	27
Routine Referral	27
Formal Teacher Removal.....	27
Returning a Student to the Classroom.....	28
Appeals of Formal Teacher Removals	28
In-School Suspension	29
Process	29
Out-of-School Suspension	30
Misconduct.....	30
Process	30
Alternative Assignment	32
Coursework During Suspension.....	32
Disciplinary Alternative Education Program (DAEP) Placement	33
Discretionary Placement: Misconduct That May Result in DAEP Placement	34
Mandatory Placement: Misconduct That Requires DAEP Placement	35
Sexual Assault and Campus Assignments	37
Process	37
Length of Placement	40
Appeals	41
Restrictions During Placement	41
Placement Review	42
Additional Misconduct	42
Notice of Criminal Proceedings	42
Withdrawal During Process	43
Newly Enrolled Students	43
Emergency Placement Procedure	43
Transition Services	44
Placement and/or Expulsion for Certain Offenses	45
Registered Sex Offenders	45
Expulsion	46
Discretionary Expulsion: Misconduct That May Result in Expulsion	46
Mandatory Expulsion: Misconduct That Requires Expulsion.....	47
Under Age 10.....	49
Virtual Expulsion Program	49

Consideration of Virtual Education as Alternative to Expulsion	49
Process	49
Length of Expulsion.....	51
Withdrawal During Process	51
Additional Misconduct	51
Restrictions During Expulsion	51
Newly Enrolled Students	52
Emergency Expulsion Procedures	52
DAEP Placement of Expelled Students	52
Transition Services	52
Certain Felonies	52
Hearing and Required Findings	53
Length of Placement	53
Placement Review	54
Glossary.....	55
Standards for Student Conduct	1
General Conduct Violations	1
General Conduct Violations	15
Discipline Management Techniques.....	1
Removal from the School Bus	26
Removal from the Regular Educational Setting.....	27
In-School Suspension	29
Out-of-School Suspension	30
DAEP.....	33
Expulsion.....	46
Standards for Student Conduct	13
Discipline Management Techniques.....	22
Placement and/or Expulsion for Certain Offenses	45
Glossary	55

Student Code of Conduct

Accessibility

If you have difficulty accessing the information in this document because of disability, please contact the Office of Student Services at 512-268-2141.

Purpose

The Student Code of Conduct (“Code of Conduct”), as required by [Chapter 37](#) of the Texas Education Code, provides methods and options for managing student behavior, preventing and intervening in student discipline problems, and imposing discipline.

The law requires the district to define misconduct that may—or must—result in a range of specific disciplinary consequences, including removal from a regular classroom or campus, out-of-school suspension, placement in a disciplinary alternative education program (DAEP), placement in a juvenile justice alternative education program (JJAEP), or expulsion from school.

This Code of Conduct has been adopted by the *Hays Consolidated Independent School District* board of trustees and developed with the advice of the district-level planning and decision-making committee. It provides information to parents and students regarding standards of conduct, consequences of misconduct, and procedures for administering discipline. This Code of Conduct remains in effect during summer school and at all school-related events and activities outside the school year until the board adopts an updated version for the next school year.

In accordance with state law, the Code of Conduct shall be posted at each school campus or shall be available for review at the campus principal’s office. Additionally, the Code of Conduct shall be available at the campus behavior coordinator’s office and posted on the district’s website. Parents shall be notified of any conduct violation that may result in a student being suspended, placed in a DAEP or JJAEP, expelled, or taken into custody by a law enforcement officer under [Chapter 37](#) of the Education Code.

Not later than the first day of the 2025-2026 school year, the Texas Education Agency (TEA) shall prepare and provide to each school district a report identifying each law relating to school discipline that was amended or added by the 89th Legislature, Regular Session, 2025. A school district shall provide to each student and the parent of or person standing in parental relation to the student the prepared report.

Because the Code of Conduct is adopted by the district’s board of trustees, it has the force of policy. In the event of a conflict between the Code of Conduct and the Student Handbook, the Code of Conduct shall prevail.

Please note: The discipline of students with disabilities who are eligible for services under federal law ([Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973](#)) is subject to the provisions of those laws.

Student Code of Conduct

School District Authority and Jurisdiction

When students violate the Student Code of Conduct by disrupting learning or by putting the safety of themselves or others at risk, they are subject to disciplinary action. School rules and the district's authority to administer discipline apply whenever the interest of the district is involved, on or off school grounds, in conjunction with or independent of classes and school-sponsored activities.

Hays CISD may discipline a student during the following instances:

1. During the regular school day and while the student is traveling to and from school or a school- sponsored or school-related activity on District transportation.
2. While the student is traveling on district transportation;
3. During lunch periods in which a student is allowed to leave campus;
4. For any school-related misconduct, regardless of time or location;
5. For offenses committed on school property of another district in Texas.
6. For offenses committed within 300 feet of school property as measured from any point on the school's real property boundary line.
7. When criminal mischief is committed on or off school property, or at a school-related event.
8. When retaliation against a school employee, board member, or volunteer occurs or is threatened, regardless of time or location.
9. When a student engages in bullying/cyberbullying, as provided by [TEC 37.0832](#).
10. When the student commits a felony, as provided by [TEC 37.006](#), [37.0081](#).
11. When the student is required to register as a sex offender.
12. While the student attends any school-related activity, regardless of time or location.

For any school-related misconduct, regardless of time or location. The District has the right to:

1. Limit a student's participation in graduation activities for violating the District's Student Code of Conduct. Participation might include a speaking role, as established by District policy and procedures.
2. Refuse entry onto school or District grounds to persons who do not have legitimate business at the school or the District facility.
3. Revoke parking privileges.
4. Revoke the intra-district or interdistrict transfer of a student.

Student Code of Conduct

5. Search a student or vehicle driven to school by a student and parked on school property whenever there is reasonable suspicion to believe it contains articles or materials prohibited by the District.
6. Search or inspect at any time, without notice, desks, lockers, District-provided technology, or similar items that are the property of the District and are provided for student use as a matter of convenience.

Campus Behavior Coordinator

As required by law, a single person at each campus must be designated to serve as the campus behavior coordinator (CBC). The designated person may be the principal, or any other campus administrator selected by the principal.

Additional staff members may assist the CBC in the performance of the CBC's duties, provided that the CBC personally verifies that all aspects of [Chapter 37, Subchapter A](#) are appropriately implemented. The CBC is primarily responsible for maintaining student discipline. The CBC shall monitor disciplinary referrals and report the following behavior to the campus's threat assessment and safe and supportive school team:

- Conduct that contains the elements of the offense of terroristic threat under [Penal Code 22.07](#);
- Conduct that contains the elements of the offense of unlawfully carrying weapons under [Penal Code 46.02](#);
- Conduct that contains the elements of the offense of exhibiting, using, or threatening to exhibit or use a firearm under [Education Code 37.125](#); and
- Any concerning student behaviors or behavioral trends that may pose a serious risk of violence to the student or others.

The district shall post on its website and in the Student Handbook, for each campus, the email address and telephone number of the person serving as CBC. Contact information may be found at and at <https://www.hayscisd.net/contacts>.

Threat Assessment and Safe and Supportive School Team

The [Texas Education Code 37.115\(a\)\(1\)](#) requires campus behavioral threat assessment teams, tracking of actions taken relative to students who make threats, and notification of parents if threats are made. The Texas Education Code mandates a Safe and Supportive Schools Program Team.

All Hays CISD campuses have trained threat assessment teams called CSTAT; Campus Student Threat Assessment Team [see [Texas Education Code 37.220](#)]. Members include a campus administrator, school counselor, and student resource officer. The team may also include a campus staff member who is familiar with and has a rapport with student(s) involved. Threat assessments are investigative not punitive. Threat assessment is an investigative process. Parents of the victim and alleged aggressor are contacted during the investigation. Once the team determines if the threat is transient (not serious) or

Student Code of Conduct

substantive (serious, very serious) the team must consider interventions and resources needed to ensure support for all students involved.

The CBC or other appropriate administrator will work closely with the campus threat assessment and safe and supportive school team to implement the district's threat assessment policy and procedures, as required by law, and shall take appropriate disciplinary action in accordance with the Code of Conduct.

Searches and Interviews

The principal/CBC or designee has the legal authority and responsibility to investigate violations of the Student Code of Conduct and to interview students regarding the student's own conduct or the conduct of other students without prior notice to parent/guardian or the consent of parent/guardian to do so. District staff, including law enforcement officers, exercise this authority to maintain the safety and security of the school environment and to prevent the disruption of instructional programs.

To conduct an efficient and effective investigation and to avoid causing undue alarm, parents/guardians will be notified at the discretion of the administrator conducting the investigation, and when it is appropriate to do so without interfering with the investigation.

District officials may conduct searches of students, their belongings, and their vehicles in accordance with state and federal law and district policy. Searches of students shall be conducted in a reasonable and nondiscriminatory manner. Refer to the district's policies at FNF(LEGAL) and FNF(LOCAL) for more information regarding investigations and searches.

The district has the right to search a vehicle driven to school by a student and parked on school property whenever there is reasonable suspicion to believe it contains articles or materials prohibited by the district. If a vehicle subject to search is locked, the student shall be asked to unlock the vehicle. If the student refuses, the District shall contact the student's parent/guardian. If the parent/guardian also refuses to permit the vehicle to be searched, the District may contact law enforcement officials and turn the matter over to them. The District may, in certain circumstances, contact law enforcement even if permission to search is granted.

Desks, lockers, district-provided technology, and similar items are the property of the district and are provided for student use as a matter of convenience. District property is subject to search or inspection at any time without notice.

In limited circumstances and in accordance with applicable law, a student's personal telecommunication device may be searched by authorized personnel if there is reason to suspect that the device contains evidence of wrongdoing.

In the context of school discipline, students have no claim to the right not to incriminate themselves. Students are expected to provide any information about their misconduct or that of other students. School officials may search a student's outer clothing, pockets or property by establishing reasonable suspicion or securing the student's voluntary consent. A search is reasonable if it meets both of the following criteria:

Student Code of Conduct

1. The action is justified at the inception, i.e., the school official has reasonable grounds for suspecting that the search will uncover evidence of a Student Code of Conduct violation or a criminal offense.
2. The scope of the search is reasonably related to the circumstances justifying the search, i.e., the measures adopted are reasonably related to the age and sex of the student and nature of the violation.

An individual search is considered reasonable if the student leaves the school grounds without permission and returns during the school day on foot or in a vehicle, and/or is found in an unauthorized area of the District facility or grounds.

For safety and security reasons, a principal/CBC or designee may conduct blanket searches of all students' backpacks or bags, any classrooms, wings, departments, sections, and/or utilize designated key access points for campus entrances as deemed appropriate throughout the school year.

Vehicles on or within 300 feet of district property may be searched if there is reasonable suspicion that the search will result in evidence of a violation of the Student Code of Conduct, or a criminal offense has been committed. Students shall be responsible for any prohibited items found on their person, lockers, or vehicles while on District property or at school-sponsored or school-related activities. If a vehicle subject to search is locked, the student shall be asked to unlock the vehicle. If the student refuses to permit the vehicle to be searched, the District may contact local law enforcement officials.

Lockers and desks are the property of the Hays CISD and are subject to inspection/search. Inspections of lockers may be conducted by school authorities for any reason at any time, without notice, without student consent, and without a search warrant.

Investigative Process

When an office discipline referral is submitted, the administrator follows an investigative process. This process includes the following steps:

1. The student will have the opportunity to provide a written or dictated statement on the appropriate incident report.
2. If there is a discrepancy between the discipline office referral form and the student's incident report or for other investigative purposes, witness statements are collected from those who observed the incident and agree to provide information about what they observed.
3. Administrators collect and review pertinent student information such as special education/504 status and discipline history.
4. Administrators shall take into consideration whether any of the following mitigating factors were involved in the incident:
 - a. Self-defense (see **glossary**),
 - b. Intent or lack of intent at the time the student engaged in the conduct,

Student Code of Conduct

- c. The student's disciplinary history,
 - d. A disability that substantially impairs the student's capacity to appreciate the wrongfulness of the student's conduct.
 - e. A student's status in the conservatorship of the Department of Family and Protective Services (foster care), or
 - f. A student's status as homeless.
- 5. Administrators consider police involvement and/or information furnished under [Article 15.27, Code of Criminal Procedure](#), if criminal activity was involved.
 - 6. A decision regarding consequences is then determined pursuant to Student Code of Conduct.
 - 7. Administrators notify the parent and other pertinent individuals following the investigation; however, behavior of other students involved in an incident cannot be shared due to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

Within 24 hours of concluding the investigation and rendering a decision, all documentation relating to the student's discipline referral will be entered into the school data systems.

Reporting Crimes

The principal or CBC and other school administrators as appropriate shall report crimes as required by law and shall call local law enforcement when an administrator suspects that a crime has been committed on campus.

Security Personnel

The board utilizes Texas Peace Officers through the Hays County Sheriff's Office as School Resource Officers (SROs) and security personnel to ensure the security and protection of students, staff, and property. In accordance with law, the board has coordinated with the CBC and other district employees to ensure appropriate law enforcement duties are assigned to these persons. Provisions addressing the various types of security personnel can be found in the CKE policy series. The law enforcement duties of district peace officers are listed in policy CKE (LOCAL).

"Parent" Defined

Throughout the Code of Conduct and related discipline policies, the term "parent" includes a parent, legal guardian, or other person having lawful control of the child.

Participating in Graduation Activities

The district has the right to limit a student's participation in graduation activities for violating the district's Code of Conduct.

Participation might include a speaking role, as established by district policy and procedures.

Student Code of Conduct

Students eligible to give the opening and closing remarks at graduation shall be notified by the campus principal. Notwithstanding any other eligibility requirements, in order to be considered eligible, a student shall not have engaged in any misconduct that resulted in an out-of-school suspension, removal to a DAEP, or expulsion during the semester immediately preceding graduation.

The valedictorian and salutatorian may also have speaking roles at graduation. No student shall be eligible to have such a speaking role if he or she engaged in any misconduct that resulted in an out-of-school suspension, removal to a DAEP, or expulsion during the semester immediately preceding graduation.

Unauthorized Persons

In accordance with [Education Code 37.105](#), a school administrator, SRO, or district police officer shall have the authority to refuse entry to or eject a person from district property if the person refuses to leave peaceably on request and:

1. The person poses a substantial risk of harm to any person; or
2. The person behaves in a manner that is inappropriate for a school setting and persists in the behavior after being given a verbal warning that the behavior is inappropriate and may result in refusal of entry or ejection.

Appeals regarding refusal of entry or ejection from district property may be filed in accordance with policies FNG(LOCAL) or GF(LOCAL), as appropriate. However, the timelines for the district's grievance procedures shall be adjusted as necessary to permit the person to address the board in person within 90 calendar days, unless the complaint is resolved before a board hearing.

[See **Restrictions During Placement** on page 41 for information regarding a student assigned to DAEP at the time of graduation.]

Criminal Trespass Warning (CTW)

A principal/CBC, designee, or school district police officer may refuse to allow a person to enter on or may eject a person from property under the District's control if the person refuses to leave peaceably on request and:

- The person poses a substantial risk of harm to any person; or
- The person behaves in a manner that is inappropriate for a school setting and:
 - The administrator or officer issues a verbal warning to the person that the person's behavior is inappropriate and may result in the person's refusal of entry or ejection; and
 - The person persists in that behavior.
 - Identification may be required of any person on school property or property under the District's control.
- A CTW under this section may not exceed two years. [[TEC 37.105](#)]

Student Code of Conduct

Any parent/guardian who has been issued a CTW will be provided the opportunity to participate in their child's Admission, Review, and Dismissal committee or in the child's team established under Section 504, Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. Section 794), in accordance with federal law. Accommodation can be arranged by contacting the campus principal.

A CTW appeal may be made by following the District's grievance procedure outlined in Board Policy FNG ([Local](#)) and submitting a complaint form. Both the policy and complaint form are located on the District's website at <https://www.hayscisd.net/page/grievances>.

Transfer Options

In addition to the penalties and consequences set forth in this Student Code of Conduct, pursuant to state law, on the request of a parent or other person with authority to act on behalf of a student who is a victim of bullying/sexual harassment/dating violence, a student who is a victim of such conduct as determined by the Board of Trustees or designee, may receive a transfer to another classroom at the campus which the victim was assigned at the time of the bullying/sexual harassment/dating violence occurred; or a campus in the school district other than the campus to which the victim was assigned at the time of the bullying/sexual harassment/dating violence occurred.

The Board of Trustees or the Board's designee shall verify that a student has been a victim of bullying/sexual harassment/dating violence before transferring the student under this section. Past student behavior may be considered when identifying bullying/sexual harassment/dating violence.

The determination by the Board of Trustees or the Board's designee is final and may not be appealed. The district is not required to provide transportation to a student who transfers to another campus. There are no hearings or appeals for a transfer due to bullying/sexual harassment/dating violence behavior.

The Board may transfer the student who engaged in bullying to:

1. another classroom at the campus to which the victim was assigned at the time the bullying occurred; or
2. a campus in the district other than the campus to which the victim was assigned at the time the bullying occurred, in consultation with a parent or other person with authority to act on behalf of the student who engaged in bullying.

The transfer of a student with a disability who receives special education services and who engaged in bullying may be made only by a duly constituted ARD committee under [TEC 37.004](#).

Standards for Student Conduct

Standards for Student Conduct

Discipline shall be designed to improve conduct and to encourage students to adhere to their responsibilities as members of the school community. Disciplinary action shall draw on the professional judgement of teachers and administrators and on a range of discipline management techniques, including restorative practices. Discipline shall be based on the seriousness of the offense, the student's age and grade level, the frequency of misbehavior, the student's attitude, the effect of the misconduct on the school environment, and statutory requirements.

In deciding whether to order suspension, removal to a DAEP or expulsion--regardless of whether the decision concerns a mandatory or discretionary action under the Texas Education Code--the District will take into consideration:

1. self-defense;
2. intent or lack of intent at the time the student engaged in the conduct;
3. the student's disciplinary history;
4. a disability that substantially impairs the student's capacity to appreciate the wrongfulness of the student's conduct;
5. A student's status in the conservatorship of the Department of Family and Protective Services (foster care); or
6. A student's status as homeless.

If appropriate, the District shall also consider the student's age, attitude, the seriousness of the offense, and the potential effect of the misconduct on the school environment. These disciplinary actions apply equally to all students, except as provided under Board Policy and legal requirements related to students with disabilities.

In considering self-defense, self-defense may be considered as a mitigating circumstance only when the student has a reasonable belief that the student's response is immediately necessary to protect himself/herself against the other's use or attempted use of improper force that could result in serious bodily injury. Reasonable belief in the school setting means a belief that would be held by the campus behavior coordinator or other appropriate administrator in the same circumstances as the actor.

Each student is responsible for making every effort to avoid the use of any force and is expected to remove himself or herself from the situation if at all possible. The District does not condone or authorize students to use force against another individual, even if that individual provokes or instigates a fight or altercation.

A student's parent or guardian will be notified in writing of a violation of the student code of conduct committed by the student that results in suspension, removal to a disciplinary alternative education program, or expulsion.

Each student is expected to:

- Demonstrate courtesy, even when others do not.

Standards for Student Conduct

- Behave in a responsible manner.
- Exercise self-discipline.
- Attend all classes regularly and on time.
- Bring appropriate materials and assignments to class.
- Meet district and campus standards of grooming and dress.
- Obey all campus and classroom rules.
- Respect the rights and privileges of students, teachers, and other district staff and volunteers.
- Respect the property of others, including district property and facilities.
- Cooperate with and assist the school staff in maintaining safety, order, and discipline.
- Adhere to the requirements of the Code of Conduct.

General Conduct Violations

General Conduct Violations

The categories of conduct below are prohibited at school, in vehicles owned or operated by the district, and at all school-related activities, but the list does not include the most severe offenses. In the subsequent sections on **In-School Suspension** on page 29, **Out-of-School Suspension** on page 30, **Disciplinary Alternative Education Program (DAEP) Placement** on page 33, **Placement and/or Expulsion for Certain Offenses** on page 45, and **Expulsion** on page 46, those offenses that require or permit specific consequences are listed. Any offense, however, may be severe enough to result in **Removal from the Regular Educational Setting** on page 27.

Disregard for Authority

Students shall not:

- Fail to comply with directives given by school personnel.
- Leave school grounds or school-sponsored events without permission.
- Disobey rules for conduct in district vehicles.
- Refuse to accept discipline or consequence assigned by a teacher or principal.

Mistreatment of Others

Students shall not:

- Use profanity or vulgar language or make obscene gestures.
- Fight or scuffle. [See **DAEP** on page 33; and **Expulsion** on page 46 for assault.]
- Horseplay, roughhousing, and other playful behavior that, though not intended to harm, presents a reasonable risk of harm and threatens the safety of others.
- Name-calling, ethnic or racial slurs, derogatory statements, or other language prohibited by law or policy that school employees reasonably believe could substantially disrupt the school environment or incite violence.
- Threaten a district student, employee, or volunteer, including off school property if the conduct causes a substantial disruption to the educational environment.
- Engage in any behavior that violates the Student Code of Conduct and is motivated by antisemitism. [See **glossary**]
- Engage in bullying, cyberbullying, harassment, or making hit lists. (See **glossary** for all four terms.)
- Release or threaten to release intimate visual material of a minor or a student who is 18 years of age or older without the student's consent.
- Engage in sexual or gender-based harassment or sexual abuse, whether by word, gesture, or any other conduct directed toward another person, including a district student, employee, board member, or volunteer.

General Conduct Violations

- Consensual hugging, touching, or other displays of affection that interfere with, detract from, or disrupt the school environment.
- Engage in conduct that constitutes dating violence. [See **glossary**]
- Engage in inappropriate or indecent exposure of private body parts.
- Participate in hazing. [See **glossary**]
- Coerce an individual to act through the use or threat of force.
- Commit extortion or blackmail.
- Engage in inappropriate verbal, physical, or sexual conduct directed toward another person, including a district student, employee, or volunteer.
- Record the voice or image of another without the prior consent of the individual being recorded or in any way that disrupts the educational environment or invades the privacy of others.
- Retaliating against a student for (1) reporting either a violation of the SCOC or bullying, or (2) participating in an investigation of a violation of the SCOC or bullying.

Property Offenses

Students shall not:

- Damage or vandalize property owned by others. [See **Expulsion** on page 46 for felony criminal mischief.]
- Deface or damage school property, including textbooks, technology and electronic resources, lockers, furniture, and other equipment, with graffiti or by other means.
- Steal from students, staff, or the school.
- Attempting to start or starting a fire on or in any property owned, used, or controlled by a student, the district, or district employees, officials, or volunteers.
- Commit or assist in a robbery or theft, even if it does not constitute a felony according to the Penal Code. [See **Expulsion** on page 46, for felony robbery, aggravated robbery, and theft.]
- Enter, without authorization, district facilities that are not open for operations.

Possession of Prohibited Items

Students shall not possess or use:

- Fireworks of any kind, smoke or stink bombs, or any other pyrotechnic device;
- A razor, box cutter, chain, or any other object used in a way that threatens or inflicts bodily injury to another person;
- A “look-alike” weapon that is intended to be used as a weapon or could reasonably be perceived as a weapon;

General Conduct Violations

- An air gun or BB gun;
- A short barrel firearm;
- Ammunition;
- A hand instrument designed to cut or stab another by being thrown;
- A firearm silencer or suppressor;
- *A location-restricted knife;
- *A club;
- *A firearm;
- A stun gun;
- Knuckles;
- A pocketknife or any other small knife;
- Mace or pepper spray;
- Pornographic material;
- Tobacco products (including nicotine pouches), cigarettes, e-cigarettes, and any component, part, or accessory for an e-cigarette device;
- Matches or a lighter;
- A laser pointer, unless it is for an approved use; or
- Any articles not generally considered to be weapons, including school supplies, when the principal or designee determines that a danger exists.

*See **Expulsion** on page 46, for weapons and firearms. In many circumstances, possession of these items is punishable by mandatory expulsion under federal or state law.

Tobacco or Vape on District Property

Hays CISD prohibits the following in accordance with [TEC 38.006](#) and [Texas Health and Safety Code Section 161.081](#):

1. Any adult and/or student from smoking cigarettes, tobacco, tobacco products, electronic, vapor, smokeless or any other substitute form of cigarettes, tobacco, or tobacco-like products, as well as the use of any devices which are used for the purpose of ingesting or transmitting any type of tobacco or tobacco-like products at a school-related or school-sanctioned activity on or off school property.
2. Students from possessing or using cigarettes, tobacco, tobacco products, electronic, vapor, smokeless or any other substitute form of cigarettes, tobacco, or tobacco-like products, as well as the use of any devices which are used for the purpose of ingesting or transmitting any type of tobacco, or tobacco-like products at a school-related or school-sanctioned activity on or off school property.

General Conduct Violations

Hays CISD will ensure that school personnel will enforce the tobacco/vape rules. State law prohibits the possession, purchase, consumption or acceptance of an electronic cigarette, cigarette or tobacco product by an individual who is younger than 21 years of age. An offense under state law is punishable by a fine. Additionally, students will face disciplinary consequences according to the District's SCOC.

Possession of Personal Communication Devices

Texas House Bill 1481, requires all public school districts to prohibit students from using personal communication devices on school property during the school day.

Guidance on Purpose of Policy

Multiple studies have documented the harmful effects of cell phone and social media use on student well-being and academic progress. As a result, Texas law (House Bill 1481) requires public schools to prohibit the use of personal communication devices during the school day on school property. This policy is adopted to implement this requirement and improve the quality of the learning environment in our schools.

Students shall **not**:

- Use a personal communication device, including a cell phone, or other electronic device on school property during the school day and shall store the device in accordance with the method of storage established by the district. [see **glossary**]
- Display, have sound, or use a telecommunications device, including a cell phone, or other electronic device on school property during the school day. [see **glossary**]
- Hold/have devices in their hands or on their person at any time during the school day; students found physically accessing the device, either in the open or by attempting to access within a backpack, purse, locker (if one is assigned), or in accordance with administrative regulations, are in violation of the policy. [see **glossary**]

The district may authorize the use of a personal communication device for the following reasons:

- To implement an individualized education program (IEP) or for a plan created under [Section 504, Rehabilitation Act of 1973 \(29 U.S.C Section 794\)](#) or a similar program or plan;
- With documented need based on a directive from a qualified physician; or
- To comply with a health or safety requirement imposed by law or as part of the district's safety protocols.

Disciplinary Measures for Violations

A student who violates this policy is subject to the following disciplinary measures, subject to and in accordance with the district's Student Code of Conduct, including any progressive sanctions for ongoing violations:

General Conduct Violations

1st Offense: Device confiscated; Parent notification; Written warning issued; Returned to student at end of day

2nd Offense: Device confiscated; Parent notification and/or conference; Parent/Guardian required to pick up device; Detention

3rd Offense: Device confiscated; Parent notification and/or conference; Parent/Guardian required to pick up device; 1 day of ISS

4th Offense: Device confiscated; Parent notification and/or conference; Parent/Guardian required to pick up device; 3 days of ISS

Further violations may result in additional actions as outlined in the Student Code of Conduct.

Illegal, Prescription, and Over-the-Counter Drugs

Students shall not:

- Possess, use, give, or sell alcohol or an illegal drug. [See **Disciplinary Alternative Education Program (DAEP) Placement** on page 33 and **Expulsion** on page 46 for mandatory and permissive consequences under state law.]
- Possess or sell seeds or pieces of marijuana in less than a usable amount.
- Possess, use, give, or sell paraphernalia related to any prohibited substance. [See **glossary** for “paraphernalia.”]
- Possess, use, abuse, or sell look-alike drugs or attempt to pass items off as drugs or contraband.
- Abuse the student’s own prescription drug, give a prescription drug to another student, or possess or be under the influence of another person’s prescription drug on school property or at a school-related event. [See **glossary** for “abuse.”]
- Abuse over-the-counter drugs. [See **glossary** for “abuse.”]
- Be under the influence of prescription or over-the-counter drugs that cause impairment to the body or mind. [See **glossary** for “under the influence.”]
- Have or take prescription drugs or over-the-counter drugs at school other than as provided by district policy.

Misuse of Technology Resources and the Internet

Students shall not:

- Violate policies, rules, or agreements signed by the student or the student’s parent regarding the use of technology resources.
- Attempt to access or circumvent passwords or other security-related information of the district, students, or employees or upload or create computer viruses, including off school property if the conduct causes a substantial disruption to the educational environment.

General Conduct Violations

- Attempt to alter, destroy, or disable district technology resources including, but not limited to, computers and related equipment, district data, the data of others, or other networks connected to the district's system, including off school property if the conduct causes a substantial disruption to the educational environment.
- Use the internet or other electronic communications to threaten or harass district students, employees, board members, or volunteers, including off school property if the conduct causes a substantial disruption to the educational environment or infringes on the rights of another student at school.
- Send, post, deliver, or possess electronic messages that are abusive, obscene, sexually oriented, threatening, harassing, damaging to another's reputation, or illegal, including cyberbullying and "sexting," either on or off school property, if the conduct causes a substantial disruption to the educational environment or infringes on the rights of another student at school.
- Use the internet or other electronic communication to engage in or encourage illegal behavior or threaten school safety, including off school property if the conduct causes a substantial disruption to the educational environment or infringes on the rights of another student at school.
- Utilize artificial intelligence in a way that would constitute academic dishonesty or as a means of engaging in any other prohibited conduct.

Safety Transgressions

Students shall not:

- Possess published or electronic material that is designed to promote or encourage illegal behavior or that could threaten school safety.
- Engage in verbal (oral or written) exchanges that threaten the safety of another student, a school employee, or school property.
- Make false accusations or perpetrate hoaxes regarding school safety.
- Engage in any conduct that school officials might reasonably believe will substantially disrupt the school program or incite violence.
- Throw objects that can cause bodily injury or property damage.
- Discharge a fire extinguisher without valid cause.

Miscellaneous Offenses

Students shall not:

- Violate dress and grooming standards as communicated in the Student Handbook. The district prohibits any clothing, grooming, or display of images that cause, or in the principal or designee's judgment may reasonably be predicted to cause, disruption of or interference with school activities. The district also prohibits the wearing or display of pictures, writings, images or symbols that 1) are lewd, vulgar,

General Conduct Violations

sexually-explicit, or obscene; 2) seek to demonstrate or recruit gang membership; 3) are discriminatory, harassing, or threatening towards others on the basis of their race, sex, disability, ethnicity, religion, or gender (including, but not limited to, display of a political flag); or 4) advertise or promote tobacco products, alcoholic beverages, drugs, or any other substance prohibited by policy.

- Display of the confederate flag while on district property and while at district or school sponsored events.
- Engage in academic dishonesty, which includes cheating or copying the work of another student, unauthorized use of artificial intelligence, plagiarism, and unauthorized communication between students during an examination.
- Inappropriate exposure of a student's private body parts which are ordinarily covered by clothing, including through such acts as mooning, streaking, or flashing.
- Refusing to cooperate with an investigation or questioning of a district employee, including but not limited to any attempt to evade, avoid, or delay said investigation or questioning.
- Failing to wear and/or provide proper identification upon request of a district employee.
- Failing to immediately report to a school employee knowledge of a device, object, substance, or event that the student suspects could cause harm to self or others.
- Violating District policies or rules for computer use, Internet access, technology, or other electronic communications or imaging devices.
- Failing to comply with guidelines applicable to student speakers who are speaking at school- sponsored or school-related events. (See FNA ([Local](#))).
- Gamble.
- Falsify records, passes, or other school-related documents.
- Engage in actions or demonstrations that substantially disrupt or materially interfere with school activities.
- Repeatedly violate other communicated campus or classroom standards of conduct.

The district may impose campus or classroom rules in addition to those found in the Code of Conduct. These rules may be posted in classrooms or given to the student and may or may not constitute violations of the Code of Conduct.

Discipline Management Techniques

Discipline Management Techniques

Discipline shall be designed to improve conduct and encourage students to be responsible members of the school community. Disciplinary action shall draw on the professional judgment of teachers and administrators and on a range of discipline management techniques, including restorative practices. Discipline shall be based on the seriousness of the offense, the student's age and grade level, the frequency of misbehavior, the student's attitude, the effect of the misconduct on the school environment, and statutory requirements.

First-Time Offense of Possession or Use of Nicotine Delivery Product or E-Cigarette

An appropriate administrator may place a student in a disciplinary alternative education program for the first-time offense of possession or use of a nicotine delivery product or e-cigarette, as defined by [Section 161.081, Health and Safety Code](#).

If a student who possesses or uses an e-cigarette is not placed in a disciplinary alternative education program for the first-time offense under [Education Code 37.008](#), the student shall be placed in in-school suspension for a period of at least 10 school days.

Students with Disabilities

The discipline of students with disabilities is subject to applicable state and federal law in addition to the Code of Conduct. In the event of any conflict, the district shall comply with federal law. For more information regarding discipline of students with disabilities, see policy FOF(LEGAL).

In accordance with the [Education Code](#), a student who receives special education services may not be disciplined in a manner that results in a change to the student's educational placement for conduct meeting the definition of bullying, cyberbullying, harassment, or making hit lists [see Glossary] until an Admission, Review, and Dismissal (ARD) committee meeting has been held to review the conduct.

In deciding whether to order suspension, DAEP placement, or expulsion, regardless of whether the action is mandatory or discretionary, the district shall take into consideration a disability that substantially impairs the student's capacity to appreciate the wrongfulness of the student's conduct.

Techniques

The following discipline management techniques may be used alone, in combination, or as part of progressive interventions for behavior prohibited by the Code of Conduct or by campus or classroom rules:

- Verbal correction, oral or written.
- Cooling-off time or a brief "time-out" period, in accordance with law.
- Seating changes within the classroom or vehicles owned or operated by the district.

Discipline Management Techniques

- Temporary confiscation of items that disrupt the educational process.
- Rewards or demerits.
- Behavioral contracts.
- Counseling by teachers, school counselors, or administrative personnel.
- Parent-teacher conferences.
- Behavior coaching.
- Anger management classes.
- Mediation (victim-offender).
- Classroom circles.
- Family group conferencing.
- Grade reductions for cheating, plagiarism, and as otherwise permitted by policy.
- Detention, including outside regular school hours.
- Sending the student to the office, another assigned area, or to in-school suspension (ISS).
- Assignment of school duties, such as cleaning or picking up litter.
- Withdrawal of privileges, such as participation in extracurricular activities, eligibility for seeking and holding honorary offices, or membership in school-sponsored clubs and organizations.
- Penalties identified in student organizations' extracurricular standards of behavior.
- Restriction or revocation of district transportation privileges.
- School-assessed and school-administered probation.
- In-school suspension, as specified in **In-School Suspension** on page 29.
- Out-of-school suspension, as specified in **Out-of-School Suspension** on page 30.
- Placement in a **DAEP**, as specified in **Disciplinary Alternative Education Program (DAEP) Placement** on page 33.
- Expulsion and/or placement in an alternative educational setting, as specified in **Placement and/or Expulsion for Certain Offenses** on page 45.
- Expulsion, as specified in **Expulsion** on page 46.
- Referral to an outside agency or legal authority for criminal prosecution in addition to disciplinary measures imposed by the district.
- Other strategies and consequences as determined by school officials.

Discipline Management Techniques

Prohibited Aversive Techniques

Aversive techniques are prohibited for use with students and are defined as techniques or interventions intended to reduce the reoccurrence of a behavior by intentionally inflicting significant physical or emotional discomfort or pain. Aversive techniques include:

- Using techniques designed or likely to cause physical pain, other than corporal punishment as permitted by district policy. [See policy FO(LOCAL)]
- Using techniques designed or likely to cause physical pain by electric shock or any procedure involving pressure points or joint locks.
- Directed release of noxious, toxic, or unpleasant spray, mist, or substance near a student's face.
- Denying adequate sleep, air, food, water, shelter, bedding, physical comfort, supervision, or access to a restroom facility.
- Ridiculing or demeaning a student in a manner that adversely affects or endangers the learning or mental health of the student or constitutes verbal abuse.
- Employing a device, material, or object that immobilizes all four of a student's extremities, including prone or supine floor restraint.
- Impairing the student's breathing, including applying pressure to the student's torso or neck or placing something in, on, or over the student's mouth or nose or covering the student's face.
- Restricting the student's circulation.
- Securing the student to a stationary object while the student is standing or sitting.
- Inhibiting, reducing, or hindering the student's ability to communicate.
- Using chemical restraints.
- Using time-out in a manner that prevents the student from being able to be involved in and progress appropriately in the required curriculum or any applicable individualized education program (IEP) goals, including isolating the student using physical barriers.
- Depriving the student of one or more of the student's senses, unless the technique does not cause the student discomfort or complies with the student's IEP or behavior intervention plan (BIP).

Notification

The CBC shall promptly notify a student's parent by phone or in person of any violation that may result in in-school or out-of-school suspension, placement in a DAEP, placement in a JJAEP, or expulsion. The CBC shall also notify a student's parent if the student is taken into custody by a law enforcement officer under the disciplinary provisions of [Education Code 37.0012\(d\)](#).

Discipline Management Techniques

A good-faith effort shall be made to provide written notice of the disciplinary action to the student, on the day the action was taken, for delivery to the student's parent. If the parent has not been reached by telephone or in person by 5:00 p.m. of the first business day after the day the disciplinary action was taken, the CBC shall send written notification by U.S. Mail. If the CBC is not able to provide notice to the parent, the principal or designee shall provide the notice.

Before the principal or appropriate administrator assigns a student under age 18 to detention outside regular school hours, notice shall be given to the student's parent to inform him or her of the reason for the detention and permit arrangements for necessary transportation.

Parental Involvement

The principal, campus behavior coordinator, or other appropriate administrator shall notify the parent of or person standing in parental relation to a student who has been placed in a disciplinary alternative education program (DAEP) or expelled of the parent's or person's right to request a behavioral agreement that specifies the responsibilities of the parent or person and student.

The behavioral agreement must specify the responsibilities of the student and parent/guardian. If followed, the agreement may result in a reduced disciplinary placement period, as outlined in the agreement. Reduction in the disciplinary placement period does not entitle the student to different disciplinary placement. The decision to reduce, revoke, or amend the disciplinary placement period is at the sole discretion of the school administration. Compliance with the agreement is required for the reduction to remain valid.

Appeals

Questions from parents regarding disciplinary measures should be addressed to the teacher, campus administration, or CBC, as appropriate. Appeals or complaints regarding the use of specific discipline management techniques should be addressed in accordance with policy FNG(LOCAL). A copy of this policy may be obtained from the central administration office or online at <https://www.hayscisd.net/page/grievances>.

The district shall not delay a disciplinary consequence while a student or parent pursues a grievance. In the instance of a student who is accused of conduct that meets the definition of sexual harassment as defined by Title IX, the district will comply with applicable federal law, including the Title IX formal complaint process. [See policies FFH(LEGAL) and (LOCAL)]

Removal from the School Bus

Removal from the School Bus

A bus driver may refer a student to the principal's office or the CBC's office to maintain effective discipline on the bus. The principal or CBC must employ additional discipline management techniques, as appropriate, which can include restricting or revoking a student's bus riding privileges.

To transport students safely, the vehicle operator must focus on driving and not be distracted by student misbehavior. Therefore, when appropriate disciplinary management techniques fail to improve student behavior or when specific misconduct warrants immediate removal, the principal or the CBC may restrict or revoke a student's transportation privileges, in accordance with law.

In addition to compliance with the SCOC, students are expected to comply with the following transportation rules:

- Enter and exit transportation in an orderly manner at the designated stop
- Remain seated in designated seats facing forward
- Keep aisles clear of books, bags, instruments, feet, or other obstructions
- Comply with lawful directives issued by the driver
- Follow the driver's rules for food or beverages
- Do not extend any body part, clothing, or other article outside of the transportation
- Keep hands, feet, other body parts, or objects to yourself
- Refrain from making loud or distracting noises
- Do not obstruct the driver's view
- Do not throw objects inside the transportation or out of the windows or doors
- Do not mark, deface, destruct, or tamper with seats, windows, emergency doors, or other equipment

Removal from the Regular Educational Setting

Removal from the Regular Educational Setting

In addition to other discipline management techniques, misconduct may result in removal from the regular educational setting in the form of a routine referral or a formal removal.

Routine Referral

A routine referral occurs when a teacher sends a student to the CBC's office as a discipline management technique. The CBC shall employ alternative discipline management techniques, including progressive interventions. A teacher or administrator may remove a student from class for behavior that violates this Code of Conduct to maintain effective discipline in the classroom.

Formal Teacher Removal

A teacher may initiate a formal removal from class if:

1. A student's behavior repeatedly interferes with the teacher's ability to teach the class or with other students' ability to learn.
2. A student demonstrates behavior that is unruly, disruptive, or abusive toward the teacher, another adult, or another student in the classroom.
3. A student engages in conduct that constitutes bullying, as defined by [Education Code 37.0832.0](#).

A teacher, CBC, or other appropriate administrator must notify a parent or person standing in parental relation to the student of the formal removal. A teacher may remove a student from class based on a single incident of behavior.

Within three school days of the formal removal, the CBC or appropriate administrator shall schedule a conference with the student's parent, the student, the teacher who removed the student from class, and any other appropriate administrator.

At the conference, the CBC or appropriate administrator shall inform the student of the alleged misconduct and the proposed consequences. The student shall have an opportunity to respond to the allegations.

When a student is removed from the regular classroom by a teacher and a conference is pending, the CBC or other administrator may place the student in:

- Another appropriate classroom.
- ISS.
- Out-of-school suspension.
- DAEP.

A teacher or administrator must remove a student from class if the student engages in behavior that under the [Education Code](#) requires or permits the student to be placed in a DAEP or expelled. When removing for those reasons, the procedures in the subsequent sections on DAEP or expulsion shall be followed.

Removal from the Regular Educational Setting

Returning a Student to the Classroom

A student who has been formally removed from class by a teacher for conduct against the teacher containing the elements of assault, aggravated assault, sexual assault, or aggravated sexual assault may not be returned to the teacher's class without the teacher's written consent.

A student who has been formally removed by a teacher for any other conduct may not be returned to the teacher's class without the teacher's written consent unless the placement review committee determines that the teacher's class is the best or only alternative, and not later than the third class day after the day the student was removed from class, a conference in which the teacher was provided an opportunity to participate has been held. The student may not be returned to the teacher's class unless the teacher provides written consent for the student's return or a return to class plan has been prepared for that student.

Appeals of Formal Teacher Removals

A student may appeal the teacher's removal of the student from class to the school's placement review committee or the campus's threat assessment and safe and supportive school team, in accordance with a district policy providing for such an appeal to be made to this team.

In-School Suspension

In-School Suspension

An in-school suspension is not subject to any time limit.

A school's principal or other appropriate administrator shall review the in-school suspension of a student at least once every 10 school days after the date of the suspension begins to evaluate the educational progress of the student and to determine if continued in-school suspension is appropriate.

During in-school suspension, a student shall receive appropriate behavioral support services and comparable educational services as the student would receive in the classroom. If the student receives special education services, the student must continue to receive special education and related services specified in the student's individualized education program (IEP) and continue to have an opportunity to progress in the general curriculum.

[See **First-Time Offense of Possession or Use of Nicotine Delivery Product or E-Cigarette** on page 22 for limitations to the general rule.]

Process

Before being suspended, a student shall have an informal conference with the CBC or appropriate administrator, who shall inform the student of the alleged misconduct and give the student an opportunity to respond to the allegation before the administrator makes a decision.

The CBC shall determine the number of days of a student's suspension.

In deciding whether to order in-school suspension, the CBC shall take into consideration:

1. Self-defense [see **glossary**];
2. Intent or lack of intent at the time the student engaged in the conduct;
3. The student's disciplinary history;
4. A disability that substantially impairs the student's capacity to appreciate the wrongfulness of the student's conduct;
5. A student's status in the conservatorship of the Department of Family and Protective Services (foster care); or
6. A student's status as homeless.

The appropriate administrator shall determine any restrictions on participation in school-sponsored or school-related extracurricular and cocurricular activities.

Out-of-School Suspension

Out-of-School Suspension

Misconduct

Students may be suspended for behavior listed in the Code of Conduct as a general conduct violation, DAEP offense, or expellable offense.

The district shall not use out-of-school suspension for students below grade 3 unless the conduct meets the requirements established in law.

A student below grade 3 or a student who is homeless shall not be placed in out-of-school suspension unless, while on school property or while attending a school-sponsored or school-related activity on or off school property, the student engages in:

- Conduct that contains the elements of a weapons offense, as provided in [Penal Code sections 46.02 or 46.05](#);
- Conduct that threatens the immediate health and safety of other students in the classroom;
- Documented conduct that results in repeated or significant disruption to the classroom; or
- Selling, giving, or delivering to another person or possessing, using, or being under the influence of any amount of marijuana, an alcoholic beverage, or a controlled substance or dangerous drug as defined by federal or state law.

The district shall use a positive behavior program as a disciplinary alternative for students below grade 3 who commit general conduct violations instead of suspension or placement in a DAEP. The program shall meet the requirements of law.

Process

State law allows a student to be assigned to out-of-school suspension for no more than three school days per behavior violation, with no limit on the number of times a student may be suspended in a semester or school year.

Before being suspended a student shall have an informal conference with the CBC or appropriate administrator, who shall inform the student of the alleged misconduct and give the student an opportunity to respond to the allegation before the administrator makes a decision.

The CBC shall determine the number of days of a student's suspension, not to exceed three school days.

In deciding whether to order out-of-school suspension, the CBC shall take into consideration:

1. Self-defense [see **glossary**];
2. Intent or lack of intent at the time the student engaged in the conduct;
3. The student's disciplinary history;

Out-of-School Suspension

4. A disability that substantially impairs the student's capacity to appreciate the wrongfulness of the student's conduct;
5. A student's status in the conservatorship of the Department of Family and Protective Services (foster care); or
6. A student's status as homeless.

The appropriate administrator shall determine any restrictions on participation in school-sponsored or school-related extracurricular and cocurricular activities.

Except as provided by [Texas Education Code § 37.005\(c\)](#), the Board's designee may suspend a student who engages in misconduct as outlined in this Code.

A suspension may not exceed three school days per behavior violation; however, there is no limit on the number of suspensions an individual student may receive.

Students below grade three or a student who is homeless may only be suspended under the following limited circumstances described in [TEC § 37.005\(c\)](#):

1. conduct that contains the elements of an offense related to weapons under Section 46.02 or 46.05, Penal Code;
2. conduct that contains the elements of a violent offense under Section 22.01, 22.011, 22.02, or 22.021, Penal Code; or
3. selling, giving, or delivering to another person or possessing, using, or being under the influence of any amount of marihuana or a controlled substance, as defined by Chapter 481, Health and Safety Code, or by 21 U.S.C. Section 801 et seq.

Before being suspended, a student shall have an informal conference with the campus behavior coordinator or appropriate administrator, who shall advise the student of the alleged misconduct. The student shall be given the opportunity to respond to the allegation before the administrator makes a decision.

In deciding whether to order out-of-school suspension, the principal, campus behavior coordinator, or other appropriate administrator shall take into consideration self-defense (see **glossary**), intent or lack of intent at the time the student engaged in the conduct, the student's disciplinary history, a disability that substantially impairs the student's capability to appreciate the wrongfulness of the student's conduct, a student's status in the conservatorship of the Department of Family and Protective Services (foster care), or a student's status as homeless. When a student is assigned Out- of-School Suspension (OSS), the student is not permitted on school district property and restricted from participation in school-sponsored or school-related extracurricular or co-curricular activities.

Upon return to school, the student shall request his or her missing assignments from each teacher. Work completed and returned within the time designated by the teacher, with the time allowed not to exceed one day for each day of suspension, will be accepted with a maximum grade of 80. The student will be counted present toward meeting the 90% attendance rule.

Out-of-School Suspension

The decision of the Board's designee to suspend a student is final and not appealable. However, notice of the reason(s) for suspension and an informal opportunity for the student to give his or her side of the story is required.

Alternative Assignment

A parent or person standing in parental relation to the student may submit a written request to the principal or other appropriate administrator to reassign a student placed in out-of-school suspension. The parent or person standing in parental relation to the student must provide information and documentation that they are unable to provide suitable supervision for the student during school hours during the period of the suspension. It is the sole discretion of the principal or other appropriate administrator to reassign the student placed in out-of-school suspension.

Coursework During Suspension

The district shall ensure a student receives access to coursework for foundation curriculum courses while the student is placed in in-school or out-of-school suspension, including at least one method of receiving this coursework that doesn't require the use of the internet.

A student removed from the regular classroom to ISS or another setting, other than a DAEP, will have an opportunity before the beginning of the next school year to complete each course the student was enrolled in at the time of removal. The district may provide the opportunity by any method available, including a correspondence course, another distance learning option, or summer school. The district will not charge the student for any method of completion provided by the district.

Disciplinary Alternative Education Program (DAEP) Placement

The DAEP shall be provided in a setting other than the student's regular classroom. An elementary school student may not be placed in a DAEP with a student who is not an elementary school student. The district shall make reasonable efforts to provide for the continuing education of a student removed to an alternative education program. A student placed in an alternative education program is prohibited from attending or participating in building sponsored or school-related activities.

For purposes of DAEP, elementary classification shall be kindergarten-grade 5 and secondary classification shall be grades 6-12.

Summer programs provided by the district shall serve students assigned to a DAEP in conjunction with other students.

A student who is expelled for an offense that otherwise would have resulted in a DAEP placement does not have to be placed in a DAEP in addition to the expulsion.

In deciding whether to place a student in a DAEP, regardless of whether the action is mandatory or discretionary, the CBC shall take into consideration:

1. Self-defense [see **glossary**];
2. Intent or lack of intent at the time the student engaged in the conduct;
3. The student's disciplinary history;
4. A disability that substantially impairs the student's capacity to appreciate the wrongfulness of the student's conduct;
5. A student's status in the conservatorship of the Department of Family and Protective Services (foster care); or
6. A student's status as homeless.

Nature of Disciplinary Alternative Education Program

1. Is provided in a setting other than a student's regular classroom;
2. Is located on or off a regular school campus;
3. Provides for the students who are assigned to the disciplinary alternative education program to be separated from students who are not assigned to the program;
4. Focuses on English language arts, mathematics, science, history, and self-discipline;
5. Provides for students' educational and behavioral needs;
6. Provides for supervision and counseling;
7. Provides a student removed to a disciplinary alternative education program an opportunity to complete a foundation curriculum course in which the student was enrolled at the time of removal and which is required for graduation before the beginning of the next school year.

8. The school district may provide the student an opportunity to complete coursework through any method available, including a correspondence course, distance learning, or summer school.
9. A student younger than six (6) years of age may not be removed from class and placed in the Alternative Learning Center.

Discretionary Placement: Misconduct That May Result in DAEP Placement

A student may be placed in a DAEP for the following conduct violations:

- Possessing, giving, buying, or selling less than a usable amount of stems, seeds, or other pieces of marijuana
- Possessing, using, selling, buying, or giving paraphernalia (see **glossary**) related to any prohibited substance, including but not limited to marijuana, a controlled substance (see **glossary**), a dangerous drug (see **glossary**), or an alcoholic beverage (see **glossary**)
- Abusing the student's own prescription drug or using it in a way other than prescribed; giving, buying, or selling a prescription drug; possessing, using, or being under the influence of another person's prescription drug
- Offering to sell or buy any amount of marijuana, a controlled substance (see **glossary**), a dangerous drug (see **glossary**), an abusable volatile chemical (see **glossary**), a prescription drug, or an alcoholic beverage (see **glossary**)
- Preparing a hit list (see **glossary**)
- Committing any offense included in the list of General Conduct Violations in this SCOC
- Engaging in persistent (see **glossary**) misbehavior that violates this SCOC

Fighting

Individual or group fights at school, school sponsored events, school related activities, or while on District transportation will not be tolerated. Students found to be encouraging others to fight is prohibited. Parents/guardians of students involved will be notified. Students who engage in fighting will be subject to disciplinary consequences such as, but not limited to, suspension and removal to an alternative education placement.

Misconduct Identified in State Law

In accordance with state law, a student **may** be placed in a DAEP for any of the following offenses:

- Engaging in bullying that encourages a student to die by suicide.
- Inciting violence against a student through group bullying.
- Releasing or threatening to release intimate visual material of a minor or of a student who is 18 years of age or older without the student's consent.

- Involvement in a public school fraternity, sorority, or secret society, or gang including participating as a member or pledge, or soliciting another person to become a pledge or member of a public school fraternity, sorority, secret society, or gang. [see **glossary**]
- Involvement in criminal street gang activity. [see **glossary**]
- Any criminal mischief, including a felony.
- Assault (no bodily injury) with threat of imminent bodily injury.
- Assault by offensive or provocative physical contact.
- Engages in conduct that contains the elements of the offense of disruptive activities under [Education Code 37.123](#).
- Engages in conduct that contains the elements of the offense of disruption of classes under [Education Code 37.124](#).
- Possesses or uses an e-cigarette, as defined by [Section 161.081, Health and Safety Code](#), except that if a student who possesses or uses an e-cigarette is not placed in a disciplinary alternative education program for the first-time offense under [Education Code 37.008](#), the student shall be placed in in-school suspension for a period of at least 10 school days. See **First-Time Offense of Possession or Use of Nicotine Delivery Product or E-Cigarette** on page 22 for additional information.

In accordance with state law, a student **may** be placed in a DAEP if the superintendent or the superintendent's designee has reasonable belief [see **glossary**] that the student engaged in conduct punishable as a felony that occurs off school property and not at a school-sponsored or school-related event, if the student's presence in the regular classroom threatens the safety of other students or teachers or will be detrimental to the educational process. Aggravated robbery or felonies listed as offenses in [Title 5](#) [see **glossary**] of the Penal Code are punishable as mandatory expulsions.

The CBC **may** place a student in a DAEP for off-campus conduct for which DAEP placement is required by state law if the administrator does not have knowledge of the conduct before the first anniversary of the date the conduct occurred.

Mandatory Placement: Misconduct That Requires DAEP Placement

A student **must** be placed in a DAEP if the student:

- Engages in conduct relating to a false alarm or report (including a bomb threat) or a terroristic threat involving a public school. [see **glossary**]
- Commits the following offenses on school property, within 300 feet of school property as measured from any point on the school's real property boundary line, or while attending a school-sponsored or school-related activity on or off school property:
 - Engages in conduct punishable as a felony.
 - Commits an assault [see **glossary**] under [Penal Code 22.01\(a\)\(1\)](#).

- Except as provided by [Education Code 37.007\(a\)\(3\)](#), sells, gives, or delivers to another person or possesses, uses, or is under the influence of a controlled substance or dangerous drug in an amount not constituting a felony offense. [School-related felony drug offenses are addressed in **Expulsion** on page 46.] [See **glossary** for "under the influence," "controlled substance," and "dangerous drug."]
- Sells, gives, or delivers to another person or possesses, uses, or is under the influence of marijuana or THC. A student with a valid prescription for low-THC cannabis as authorized by [Chapter 487 of the Health and Safety Code](#) does not violate this provision.
- Sells, gives, or delivers to another person an alcoholic beverage; commits a serious act or offense while under the influence of alcohol; or possesses, uses, or is under the influence of alcohol.
- Behaves in a manner that contains the elements of an offense relating to abusable volatile chemicals.
- Sells, gives, or delivers to another person an e-cigarette, as defined by [Section 161.081, Health and Safety Code](#).
- Behaves in a manner that contains the elements of the offense of public lewdness or indecent exposure. [see **glossary**]
- Engages in conduct that contains the elements of an offense of harassment against an employee under [Penal Code sections 42.07\(a\)\(1\), \(2\), \(3\), or \(7\)](#).
- Engages in expellable conduct and is six to nine years of age.
- Commits a federal firearms violation and is younger than six years of age.
- Engages in conduct that contains the elements of the offense of retaliation under [Penal Code 36.06](#) against any school employee or volunteer on or off school property.
- Engages in conduct that contains the elements of harassment under [Penal Code 42.07](#) against any school employee or volunteer on or off of school property.

The student receives deferred prosecution [see **glossary**], or a court or jury finds that the student has engaged in delinquent conduct [see **glossary**], or the superintendent or designee has a reasonable belief [see **glossary**] under [Section 53.03, Family Code](#), for conduct defined as any of the following offenses under the Penal Code:

1. A felony offense under [Title 5](#);
2. The offense of deadly conduct under [Section 22.05](#);
3. The felony offense of aggravated robbery under [Section 29.03](#);
4. The offense of disorderly conduct involving a firearm under [Section 42.01\(a\)\(7\) or \(8\)](#); or

5. The offense of unlawfully carrying weapons under [Section 46.02](#), except for an offense punishable as a Class C misdemeanor under that section.

Sexual Assault and Campus Assignments

A student shall be transferred to another campus if:

- The student has been convicted of continuous sexual abuse of a young child or disabled individual or convicted of or placed on deferred adjudication for sexual assault or aggravated sexual assault against another student on the same campus; and
- The victim's parent or another person with the authority to act on behalf of the victim requests that the board transfer the offending student to another campus.

If there is no other campus in the district serving the grade level of the offending student, the offending student shall be transferred to a DAEP.

Process

Removals to a DAEP shall be made by the CBC.

Conference

When a student is removed from class for a DAEP offense, the CBC or appropriate administrator shall schedule a conference within three school days with the student's parent, the student, and, in the case of a teacher removal, the teacher.

At the conference, the CBC or appropriate administrator shall provide the student:

- Information, orally or in writing, of the reasons for the removal;
- An explanation of the basis for the removal; and
- An opportunity to respond to the reasons for the removal.

Following valid attempts to require attendance, the district may hold the conference and make a placement decision regardless of whether the student or the student's parents attend the conference.

1. A conference shall be held not later than the third class day after the day on which a student is removed from class by the teacher [TEC § 37.002(b)] or by the campus behavior coordinator or other appropriate administrator [TEC § 37.006], the student's parent or guardian, the teacher removing the student (if any), and the student.
2. The student is entitled to written or oral notice of the reasons for the removal, an explanation of the basis for the removal to the DAEP, and an opportunity to respond to the reasons for the removal.
3. Following the conference, and whether or not each requested person is in attendance after valid attempts to require the person's attendance, the campus behavior coordinator or other appropriate administrator shall order the placement

of the student as provided in § [37.002](#) or § [37.006](#) of the Texas Education Code, as applicable, for a period consistent with this Student Code of Conduct.

4. Before a Board's designee places a student in a disciplinary alternative education program for a period that extends beyond the end of the school year, the Board's designee must determine that:
 - a. the student's presence in the regular classroom program or at the student's regular campus presents a danger of physical harm to the student or to another individual; or
 - b. the student has engaged in serious or persistent misbehavior that violates the district's Student Code of Conduct.
5. A student placed in a disciplinary alternative education program in another district that enrolls in Hays CISD before the expiration of the period of placement will continue disciplinary alternative education program placement until the term of placement expires. Hays CISD may also place a student in a disciplinary alternative education program if
 - a. the student was placed in a disciplinary alternative education program by an open-enrollment charter school under section 12.131 and the charter school provides to the district a copy of the placement order; or
 - b. the student was placed in a disciplinary alternative education program by a school district in another state and
 - i. the out-of-state district provides to the district a copy of the placement order; and
 - ii. the grounds for the placement by the out-of-state district are grounds for placement in Hays CISD.
6. If a student was placed in a disciplinary alternative education program by a school district in another state for a period that exceeds one year and if that placement is continued, Hays CISD shall reduce the period of the placement so that the aggregate period does not exceed one year unless, after a review, the district determines that the student is a threat to the safety of other students or to district employees.
7. A student placed in an alternative education program shall be provided a review of the student's status including a review of the student's academic status by the Board's designee at intervals not to exceed 120 days.
 - a. In the case of a high school student, the Board's designee, with the student's parent or guardian, shall review the student's progress toward graduation and establish a specific graduation plan for the student.
 - b. The District is not required to provide in the District's DAEP a course not specified under [Texas Education Code § 37.008](#).

- c. At the review, the student or the student's parent or guardian must be given the opportunity to present arguments for the student's return to the regular classroom or campus.
8. In determining the length of assignment for the student, the principal, or assistant principal may consider:
 - a. the seriousness of the offense,
 - b. the discipline record of the student,
 - c. the age of the student,
 - d. the effect of the misconduct on the school environment, and/or previous assignments of other students for similar misconduct.
9. Discipline assignments will not exceed one calendar year absent a finding that the student is a threat to the safety of other students or to district employees.
10. For seniors who are eligible to graduate and are assigned to a DAEP at the time of graduation, the placement in the program will continue through graduation, and the student will not be allowed to participate in the graduation ceremony and related graduation activities, unless otherwise specified in the DAEP placement order.
11. If a student withdraws from the district before an order for placement in a disciplinary alternative education program is entered, the principal or Board's designee, as appropriate, may complete the proceedings and enter an order.
12. If the student subsequently enrolls in the district during the same or subsequent school year, the district may enforce the order at that time, except for any period of the placement that has been served by the student on enrollment in another district that honored the order.
13. If the principal or Board's designee fails to enter an order after the student withdraws, the next district in which the student enrolls may complete the proceedings and enter an order.
14. If, during the term of a placement order, a student engages in additional conduct for which placement in a disciplinary alternative education program or expulsion is required or permitted, additional proceedings may be conducted regarding that conduct and the principal or Board, as appropriate, may enter an additional order as a result of those proceedings.

Consideration of Mitigating Factors

In deciding whether to place a student in a DAEP, regardless of whether the action is mandatory or discretionary, the CBC shall take into consideration:

1. Self-defense [see **glossary**];
2. Intent or lack of intent at the time the student engaged in the conduct;
3. The student's disciplinary history;

4. A disability that substantially impairs the student's capacity to appreciate the wrongfulness of the student's conduct;
5. A student's status in the conservatorship of the Department of Family and Protective Services (foster care); or
6. A student's status as homeless.

Placement Order

After the conference, if the student is placed in a DAEP, the CBC shall write a placement order. A copy of the DAEP placement order and information for the parent or person standing in parental relation to the student regarding the process for requesting a full individual and initial evaluation of the student for purposes of special education services shall be sent to the student and the student's parent.

Not later than the second business day after the conference, the board's designee shall deliver to the juvenile court a copy of the placement order and all information required by [Section 52.04 of the Family Code](#).

If the student is placed in a DAEP and the length of placement is inconsistent with the guidelines included in this Code of Conduct, the placement order shall give notice of the inconsistency.

DAEP at Capacity

If a DAEP is at capacity at the time the CBC is deciding placement for conduct related to marijuana, THC, an e-cigarette, alcohol, or an abusable volatile chemical, the student shall be placed in ISS then transferred to a DAEP for the remainder of the period if space becomes available before the expiration of the period of the placement.

If a DAEP is at capacity at the time the CBC is deciding placement for a student who engaged in violent conduct, a student placed in a DAEP for conduct related to marijuana, THC, an e-cigarette, alcohol, or an abusable volatile chemical may be placed in ISS to make a position in the DAEP available for the student who engaged in violent conduct. If a position becomes available in a DAEP before the expiration of the period of the placement for the student removed, the student shall be returned to a DAEP for the remainder of the period.

Coursework Notice

The parent or guardian of a student placed in DAEP shall be given written notice of the student's opportunity to complete, at no cost to the student, a foundation curriculum course in which the student was enrolled at the time of removal, and which is required for graduation. The notice shall include information regarding all methods available for completing the coursework.

Length of Placement

The CBC shall determine the duration of a student's placement in a DAEP.

DAEP

The duration of a student's placement shall be determined case by case based on the seriousness of the offense, the student's age and grade level, the frequency of misconduct, the student's attitude, and statutory requirements.

The maximum period of DAEP placement shall be one calendar year, except as provided below.

Unless otherwise specified in the placement order, days absent from a DAEP shall not count toward fulfilling the total number of days required in a student's DAEP placement order.

The district shall administer the required pre- and post-assessments for students assigned to DAEP for a period of 90 days or longer in accordance with established district administrative procedures for administering other diagnostic or benchmark assessments.

Exceeds One Year

Placement in a DAEP may exceed one year when a review by the district determines that the student is a threat to the safety of other students or to district employees.

The statutory limitations on the length of a DAEP placement do not apply to a placement resulting from the board's decision to place a student who engaged in the sexual assault of another student so that the students are not assigned to the same campus.

Exceeds School Year

Students who are in a DAEP placement at the end of one school year may be required to continue that placement at the start of the next school year to complete the assigned term of placement.

For placement in a DAEP to extend beyond the end of the school year, the CBC or the board's designee must determine that:

1. The student's presence in the regular classroom or campus presents a danger of physical harm to the student or others; or
2. The student has engaged in serious or persistent misbehavior [see **glossary**] that violates the district's Code of Conduct.

Exceeds 60 Days

For placement in a DAEP to extend beyond 60 days or the end of the next grading period, whichever is sooner, a student's parent shall be given notice and the opportunity to participate in a proceeding before the board or the board's designee.

Appeals

Questions from parents regarding disciplinary measures should be addressed to the campus administration.

DAEP

Student or parent appeals regarding a student's placement in a DAEP should be addressed in accordance with policy FNG(LOCAL). A copy of this policy may be obtained from the central administration office or online at <https://www.hayscisd.net/page/grievances>.

Appeals shall begin at level one with the CBC or other administrator.

The district shall not delay disciplinary consequences pending the outcome of an appeal. The decision to place a student in a DAEP cannot be appealed beyond the board.

Restrictions During Placement

Students placed in DAEP for any mandatory or discretionary reasons are not allowed to attend or participate in school-sponsored or school-related extracurricular or co-curricular activities, including seeking or holding honorary positions and/or membership in school-sponsored clubs and organizations. This restriction applies until the student fulfills the DAEP assignment at this or another school district.

The district will provide transportation to and from DAEP. This transportation privilege may be revoked if the student does not follow the transportation rules, refuses to cooperate with the driver or other district personnel involved in providing transportation or violates any provision of the SCOC during transport.

For seniors who are eligible to graduate and are assigned to a DAEP at the time of graduation, the last day of placement in the program shall be the last instructional day, and the student shall be allowed to participate in the graduation ceremony and related graduation activities unless otherwise specified in the DAEP placement order.

Placement Review

A student placed in a DAEP shall be provided a review of his or her status, including academic status, by the CBC or the board's designee at intervals not to exceed 120 days. In the case of a high school student, the student's progress toward graduation and the student's graduation plan shall also be reviewed. At the review, the student or the student's parent shall be given the opportunity to present arguments for the student's return to the regular classroom or campus. The student may not be returned to the classroom of a teacher who removed the student without that teacher's consent.

Additional Misconduct

If during the term of placement in a DAEP the student engages in additional misconduct for which placement in a DAEP or expulsion is required or permitted, additional proceedings may be conducted, and the CBC may enter an additional disciplinary order as a result of those proceedings.

Notice of Criminal Proceedings

When a student is placed in a DAEP for certain offenses, the office of the prosecuting attorney shall notify the district if:

1. Prosecution of a student's case was refused for lack of prosecutorial merit or insufficient evidence, and no formal proceedings, deferred adjudication [see **glossary**], or deferred prosecution will be initiated; or
2. The court or jury found a student not guilty or made a finding that the student did not engage in delinquent conduct or conduct indicating a need for supervision, and the case was dismissed with prejudice.

If a student was placed in a DAEP for such conduct, on receiving the notice from the prosecutor, the superintendent or designee shall review the student's placement and schedule a review with the student's parent not later than the third day after the superintendent or designee receives notice from the prosecutor. The student may not be returned to the regular classroom pending the review.

After reviewing the notice and receiving information from the student's parent, the superintendent or designee may continue the student's placement if there is reason to believe that the presence of the student in the regular classroom threatens the safety of other students or teachers.

The student or the student's parent may appeal the superintendent's decision to the board. The student may not be returned to the regular classroom pending the appeal. In the case of an appeal, the board shall, at the next scheduled meeting, review the notice from the prosecutor and receive information from the student, the student's parent, and the superintendent or designee, and confirm or reverse the decision of the superintendent or designee. The board shall make a record of the proceedings.

If the board confirms the decision of the superintendent or designee, the student and the student's parent/guardian may appeal to the Commissioner of Education. The student may not be returned to the regular classroom pending the appeal.

Withdrawal During Process

When a student violates the district's Code of Conduct in a way that requires or permits the student to be placed in a DAEP and the student withdraws from the district before a placement order is completed, the CBC may complete the proceedings and issue a placement order. If the student then re-enrolls in the district during the same or a subsequent school year, the district may enforce the order at that time, less any period of the placement that has been served by the student during enrollment in another district. If the CBC or the board fails to issue a placement order after the student withdraws, the next district in which the student enrolls may complete the proceedings and issue a placement order.

Newly Enrolled Students

The district shall decide on a case-by-case basis whether to continue the placement of a student who enrolls in the district and was assigned to a DAEP in an open-enrollment charter school or another district including a district in another state. The district may place the student in the district's DAEP or a regular classroom setting.

When a student enrolls in the district with a DAEP placement from a district in another state, the district has the right to place the student in DAEP to the same extent as any other newly enrolled student if the behavior committed is a reason for DAEP placement in the receiving district.

State law requires the district to reduce a placement imposed by a district in another state that exceeds one year so that the total placement does not exceed one year. After a review, however, the placement may be extended beyond a year if the district determines that the student is a threat to the safety of other students or employees, or if the extended placement is in the best interest of the student.

Emergency Placement Procedure

When an emergency placement is necessary because the student's behavior is so unruly, disruptive, or abusive that it seriously interferes with classroom or school operations, the student shall be given oral notice of the reason for the action. Not later than the tenth day after the date of the placement, the student shall be given the appropriate conference required for assignment to a DAEP.

The principal, campus behavior coordinator, or appropriate administrator may order a student to be immediately placed in an alternative education program if it is reasonably believed that the student's behavior is so unruly, disruptive, or abusive that it interferes with:

1. A teacher's ability to communicate effectively with students in a class;
2. The ability of the student's classmates to learn;
3. The operation of the school or school sponsored activity; or
4. If the appropriate administrator reasonably believes that eminent harm is likely.

At the time of the emergency placement the student shall be given oral notice of the reasons for emergency placement in a DAEP. The reason must be a reason for which placement in a disciplinary alternative education program may be made on a non-emergency basis.

Within a reasonable time, but not later than the 10th day after the date of the placement, the student will be afforded appropriate due process as outlined in this code. The principal, campus behavior coordinator, or appropriate administrator shall not be liable for civil damages for an emergency placement.

Transition Services

In accordance with law and district procedures, campus staff shall provide transition services to a student returning to the regular classroom from an alternative education program, including a DAEP. [See policy FOCA(LEGAL) for more information.]

Placement and/or Expulsion for Certain Offenses

Placement and/or Expulsion for Certain Offenses

This section includes two categories of offenses for which the [Education Code](#) provides unique procedures and specific consequences.

Registered Sex Offenders

Upon receiving notification in accordance with state law that a student is currently required to register as a sex offender, the district must remove the student from the regular classroom and determine appropriate placement unless the court orders JJAEP placement.

If the student is under any form of court supervision, including probation, community supervision, or parole, the student shall be placed in either DAEP or JJAEP for at least one semester.

If the student is not under any form of court supervision, the student may be placed in DAEP or JJAEP for one semester or placed in a regular classroom. The student may not be placed in the regular classroom if the board or its designee determines that the student's presence:

1. Threatens the safety of other students or teachers;
2. Will be detrimental to the educational process; or
3. Is not in the best interests of the district's students.

Review Committee

At the end of the first semester of a student's placement in an alternative educational setting and before the beginning of each school year for which the student remains in an alternative placement, the district shall convene a committee, in accordance with state law, to review the student's placement. The committee shall recommend whether the student should return to the regular classroom or remain in the placement. Absent a special finding, the board or its designee must follow the committee's recommendation.

The placement review of a student with a disability who receives special education services must be made by the ARD committee.

Newly Enrolled Students

If a student enrolls in the district during a mandatory placement as a registered sex offender, the district may count any time already spent by the student in a placement or may require an additional semester in an alternative placement without conducting a review of the placement.

Appeal

A student or the student's parent may appeal the placement by requesting a conference between the board or its designee, the student, and the student's parent. The conference is limited to the factual question of whether the student is required to register as a sex

Placement and/or Expulsion for Certain Offenses

offender. Any decision of the board or its designee under this section is final and may not be appealed.

Expulsion

In deciding whether to order expulsion, regardless of whether the action is mandatory or discretionary, the CBC shall take into consideration:

1. Self-defense [see **glossary**];
2. Intent or lack of intent at the time the student engaged in the conduct;
3. The student's disciplinary history;
4. A disability that substantially impairs the student's capacity to appreciate the wrongfulness of the student's conduct;
5. A student's status in the conservatorship of the Department of Family and Protective Services (foster care); or
6. A student's status as homeless.

Discretionary Expulsion: Misconduct That May Result in Expulsion

Some of the following types of misconduct may result in mandatory placement in a DAEP, whether or not a student is expelled. [see **Disciplinary Alternative Education Program (DAEP) Placement** on page 33.]

Any Location

A student **may** be expelled for:

- Engaging in bullying that encourages a student to die by suicide.
- Inciting violence against a student through group bullying.
- Releasing or threatening to release intimate visual material of a minor or of a student who is 18 years of age or older without the student's consent.
- Criminal mischief, if punishable as a felony.
- Breach of computer security. [see **glossary**]
- Engaging in conduct relating to a false alarm or report (including a bomb threat) or a terroristic threat involving a public school.

At School, Within 300 Feet, or at a School Event

A student **may** be expelled for committing any of the following offenses on or within 300 feet of school property, as measured from any point on the school's real property boundary line, or while attending a school-sponsored or school-related activity on or off school property:

- Selling, giving, or delivering to another person, or possessing, using, or being under the influence of any amount of marijuana, a controlled substance, or a dangerous drug, unless the conduct is punishable as a felony. A student with a valid prescription for low-THC cannabis as authorized by [Chapter 487 of the Health and](#)

Expulsion

[Safety Code](#) does not violate this provision. [See **glossary** for “under the influence.”]

- Selling, giving, or delivering to another person, or possessing, using, or being under the influence of alcohol; or committing a serious act or offense while under the influence of alcohol.
- Engaging in conduct that contains the elements of an offense relating to abusable volatile chemicals.
- Engaging in deadly conduct. [see **glossary**]

Within 300 Feet of School

A student **may** be expelled for possession of a firearm, as defined by federal law, while within 300 feet of school property, as measured from any point on the school’s real property boundary line.

Property of Another District

A student **may** be expelled for committing any offense that is a state-mandated expellable offense if the offense is committed on the property of another district in Texas or while the student is attending a school-sponsored or school-related activity of a school in another district in Texas.

While in a DAEP

A student **may** be expelled for engaging in documented serious misbehavior that violates the district’s Code of Conduct, despite documented behavioral interventions while placed in a DAEP. For purposes of discretionary expulsion from a DAEP, serious misbehavior means:

1. Deliberate violent behavior that poses a direct threat to the health or safety of others;
2. Extortion, meaning the gaining of money or other property by force or threat;
3. Conduct that constitutes coercion, as defined by [Penal Code 1.07](#); or
4. Conduct that constitutes the offense of:
 - a. Public lewdness under [Penal Code 21.07](#);
 - b. Indecent exposure under [Penal Code 21.08](#);
 - c. Criminal mischief under [Penal Code 28.03](#);
 - d. Hazing under [Education Code 37.152](#); or
 - e. Harassment under [Penal Code 42.07\(a\)\(1\)](#) of a student or district employee.

Mandatory Expulsion: Misconduct That Requires Expulsion

A student **must** be expelled under federal or state law for any of the following offenses that occur on or off school property.

Expulsion

Under Federal Law

Bringing to school or possessing at school, including any setting that is under the district's control or supervision for the purpose of a school activity, a firearm, as defined by federal law. [see **glossary**]

Note: Mandatory expulsion under the [federal Gun Free Schools Act](#) does not apply to a firearm that is lawfully stored inside a locked vehicle or to firearms used in activities approved and authorized by the district when the district has adopted appropriate safeguards to ensure student safety.

Under the Penal Code

- Unlawfully carrying on or about the student's person the following, in the manner prohibited by [Penal Code 46.02](#):
 - A handgun, defined by state law as any firearm designed, made, or adapted to be used with one hand. [see **glossary**] *Note:* A student may not be expelled solely on the basis of the student's use, exhibition, or possession of a firearm that occurs at an approved target range facility that is not located on a school campus; while participating in or preparing for a school-sponsored, shooting sports competition or a shooting sports educational activity that is sponsored or supported by the Parks and Wildlife Department; or a shooting sports sanctioning organization working with the department. [See policy FNCG(LEGAL).]
- A location-restricted knife, as defined by state law. [see **glossary**]
- Possessing, manufacturing, transporting, repairing, or selling a prohibited weapon, as defined in state law. [see **glossary**]
- Engages in conduct that contains the elements of the offense of exhibiting, using, or threatening to exhibit or use a firearm under [Education Code 37.125](#).
- Behaving in a manner that contains elements of the following offenses under the Penal Code:
 - Aggravated assault, sexual assault, or aggravated sexual assault.
 - Arson. [see **glossary**]
 - Murder, capital murder, or criminal attempt to commit murder or capital murder.
 - Indecency with a child.
 - Kidnapping or aggravated kidnapping.
 - Burglary, robbery or aggravated robbery.
 - Manslaughter.
 - Criminally negligent homicide.

Expulsion

- Continuous sexual abuse of a young child or disabled individual.
- Behavior punishable as a felony that involves selling, giving, or delivering to another person or possessing, using, or being under the influence of a controlled substance or a dangerous drug.
- Engaging in conduct that contains elements of assault against a school employee or volunteer.

Under Age 10

When a student under the age of 10 engages in behavior that is expellable behavior, the student shall not be expelled but shall be placed in a DAEP. A student under age six shall not be placed in a DAEP unless the student commits a federal firearm offense.

Virtual Expulsion Program

In some circumstances, a student may be placed in a virtual expulsion program.

- The school must ensure students in the program have the necessary technology and internet and must provide it if needed.
- The virtual program must, as much as possible, meet the same requirements as an in-person disciplinary alternative education program (DAEP).
- The student's placement must be reviewed every 45 school days.
- If an in-person spot becomes available, the school should plan the student's return to in-person learning.
- If continued virtual placement is appropriate, the school must document the decision.

Consideration of Virtual Education as Alternative to Expulsion

Before a school district may expel a student, the district must consider the appropriateness and feasibility of, as an alternative to expulsion, enrolling the student in a full-time hybrid program, full-time virtual program, full-time hybrid campus, or full-time virtual campus. This requirement does not apply to a student expelled under [Education Code 37.0081 or 37.007\(a\), \(d\), or\(e\)](#).

Process

If a student is believed to have committed an expellable offense, the CBC or other appropriate administrator shall schedule a hearing within a reasonable time. The student's parent shall be invited in writing to attend the hearing.

Until a hearing can be held, the CBC or other administrator may place the student in:

- Another appropriate classroom.
- ISS.
- Out-of-school suspension.

- DAEP.

Hearing

A student facing expulsion shall be given a hearing with appropriate due process. The student is entitled to:

1. Representation by the student's parent or another adult who can provide guidance to the student and who is not an employee of the district;
2. An opportunity to testify and to present evidence and witnesses in the student's defense; and
3. An opportunity to question the witnesses called by the district at the hearing.

After providing notice to the student and parent of the hearing, the district may hold the hearing regardless of whether the student or the student's parent attends.

The board of trustees delegates to the principal or district designee authority to conduct hearings and expel students.

Board Review of Expulsion

After the due process hearing, the expelled student may request that the board review the expulsion decisions. The student or parent must submit a written request to the superintendent within seven days after receipt of the written decision. The superintendent must provide the student or parent written notice of the date, time, and place of the meeting at which the board will review the decision.

The board shall review the record of the expulsion hearing in a closed meeting unless the parent requests in writing that the matter be held in an open meeting. The board may also hear a statement from the student or parent and from the board's designee.

The board shall consider and base its decision on evidence reflected in the record and any statements made by the parties at the review. The board shall make and communicate its decision orally at the conclusion of the presentation. Consequences shall not be deferred pending the outcome of the hearing.

Expulsion Order

Before ordering the expulsion, the board or CBC shall take into consideration:

1. Self-defense [see **glossary**];
2. Intent or lack of intent at the time the student engaged in the conduct;
3. The student's disciplinary history;
4. A disability that substantially impairs the student's capacity to appreciate the wrongfulness of the student's conduct;
5. A student's status in the conservatorship of the Department of Family and Protective Services (foster care); or

Expulsion

6. A student's status as homeless.

If the student is expelled, the board or its designee shall deliver to the student and the student's parent a copy of the order expelling the student.

Not later than the second business day after the hearing, the principal or district designee shall deliver to the juvenile court a copy of the expulsion order and the information required by [Section 52.04 of the Family Code](#).

If the length of the expulsion is inconsistent with the guidelines included in the Code of Conduct, the expulsion order shall give notice of the inconsistency.

Length of Expulsion

The length of an expulsion shall be based on the seriousness of the offense, the student's age and grade level, the frequency of misbehavior, the student's attitude, and statutory requirements.

The duration of a student's expulsion shall be determined on a case-by-case basis. The maximum period of expulsion is one calendar year, except as provided below.

An expulsion may not exceed one year unless, after review, the district determines that:

1. The student is a threat to the safety of other students or to district employees; or
2. Extended expulsion is in the best interest of the student.

State and federal law require a student to be expelled from the regular classroom for a period of at least one calendar year for bringing a firearm, as defined by federal law, to school. However, the superintendent may modify the length of the expulsion on a case-by-case basis.

Students who commit offenses that require expulsion at the end of one school year may be expelled into the next school year to complete the term of expulsion.

Withdrawal During Process

When a student's conduct requires or permits expulsion from the district and the student withdraws from the district before the expulsion hearing takes place, the district may conduct the hearing after sending written notice to the parent and student.

If the student then re-enrolls in the district during the same or subsequent school year, the district may enforce the expulsion order at that time, less any expulsion period that has been served by the student during enrollment in another district.

If the CBC or the board fails to issue an expulsion order after the student withdraws, the next district in which the student enrolls may complete the proceedings.

Additional Misconduct

If during the expulsion, the student engages in additional conduct for which placement in a DAEP or expulsion is required or permitted, additional proceedings may be conducted, and

Expulsion

the CBC or the board may issue an additional disciplinary order as a result of those proceedings.

Restrictions During Expulsion

Expelled students are prohibited from being on school grounds or attending school-sponsored or school-related activities during the period of expulsion.

No district academic credit shall be earned for work missed during the period of expulsion unless the student is enrolled in a JJAEP or another district-approved program.

Newly Enrolled Students

The district shall continue the expulsion of any newly enrolled student expelled from another district or an open-enrollment charter school until the period of the expulsion is completed.

If a student expelled in another state enrolls in the district, the district may continue the expulsion under the terms of the expulsion order, may place the student in a DAEP for the period specified in the order, or may allow the student to attend regular classes if:

1. The out-of-state district provides the district with a copy of the expulsion order; and
2. The offense resulting in the expulsion is also an expellable offense in the district in which the student is enrolling.

If a student is expelled by a district in another state for a period that exceeds one year and the district continues the expulsion or places the student in a DAEP, the district shall reduce the period of the expulsion or DAEP placement so that the entire period does not exceed one year, unless after a review it is determined that:

1. The student is a threat to the safety of other students or district employees; or
2. Extended placement is in the best interest of the student.

Emergency Expulsion Procedures

When an emergency expulsion is necessary to protect persons or property from imminent harm, the student shall be given verbal notice of the reason for the action. Emergency expulsion may be ordered based on a single incident of behavior by the student. Within 10 days after the date of the emergency expulsion, the student shall be given appropriate due process required for a student facing expulsion.

DAEP Placement of Expelled Students

The district may provide educational services to any expelled student in a DAEP; however, educational services in the DAEP must be provided if the student is less than 10 years of age.

Transition Services

In accordance with law and district procedures, campus staff shall provide transition services for a student returning to the regular classroom from placement in an alternative

Expulsion

education program, including a DAEP or JJAEP. See policies FOCA(LEGAL) and FODA(LEGAL) for more information.

Certain Felonies

Regardless of whether DAEP placement or expulsion is required or permitted by one of the reasons in the DAEP Placement or Expulsion sections, in accordance with [Education Code 37.0081](#), a student may be expelled and placed in either DAEP or JJAEP if the board or CBC makes certain findings and the following circumstances exist in relation to aggravated robbery or a felony offense under Title 5 [see **glossary**] of the Penal Code. The student must have:

- Received deferred prosecution for conduct defined as aggravated robbery or a [Title 5 felony](#) offense;
- Been found by a court or jury to have engaged in delinquent conduct for conduct defined as aggravated robbery or a [Title 5 felony](#) offense;
- Been charged with engaging in conduct defined as aggravated robbery or a [Title 5 felony](#) offense;
- Been referred to a juvenile court for allegedly engaging in delinquent conduct for conduct defined as aggravated robbery or a [Title 5 felony](#) offense; or
- Received probation or deferred adjudication or have been arrested for, charged with, or convicted of aggravated robbery or a Title 5 felony offense.

The district may expel the student and order placement under these circumstances regardless of:

1. The date on which the student's conduct occurred;
2. The location at which the conduct occurred;
3. Whether the conduct occurred while the student was enrolled in the district; or
4. Whether the student has successfully completed any court disposition requirements imposed in connection with the conduct.

Hearing and Required Findings

The student must first have a hearing before the board or its designee, who must determine that in addition to the circumstances above that allow for the expulsion, the student's presence in the regular classroom:

1. Threatens the safety of other students or teachers;
2. Will be detrimental to the educational process; or
3. Is not in the best interest of the district's students.

Any decision of the board or the board's designee under this section is final and may not be appealed.

Length of Placement

The student is subject to the placement until:

1. The student graduates from high school;
2. The charges are dismissed or reduced to a misdemeanor offense; or
3. The student completes the term of the placement or is assigned to another program.

Placement Review

A student placed in a DAEP or JJAEP under this section is entitled to a review of his or her status, including academic status, by the CBC or board's designee at intervals not to exceed 120 days. In the case of a high school student, the student's progress toward graduation and the student's graduation plan shall also be reviewed. At the review, the student or the student's parent shall have the opportunity to present arguments for the student's return to the regular classroom or campus.

Newly Enrolled Students

A student who enrolls in the district before completing a placement under this section from another school district must complete the term of the placement.

Glossary

Abuse is improper or excessive use.

Aggravated robbery is defined in part by [Penal Code 29.03\(a\)](#) as when a person commits robbery and:

1. Causes serious bodily injury to another;
2. Uses or exhibits a deadly weapon; or
3. Causes bodily injury to another person or threatens or places another person in fear of imminent bodily injury or death, if the other person is:
 - a. 65 years of age or older; or
 - b. A disabled person.

Antisemitism is defined by [Government Code section 448.001](#) as a certain perception of Jews that may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. The term includes rhetorical and physical acts of antisemitism directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals or their property or toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities. Examples of antisemitism are included with the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's "Working Definition of Antisemitism" adopted on May 26, 2016.

Armor-piercing ammunition is defined by [Penal Code 46.01](#) as handgun ammunition used in pistols and revolvers and designed primarily for the purpose of penetrating metal or body armor.

Arson is defined in part by [Penal Code 28.02](#) as a crime that involves:

1. Starting a fire or causing an explosion with intent to destroy or damage:
 - a. Any vegetation, fence, or structure on open-space land; or
 - b. Any building, habitation, or vehicle:
 - (1) Knowing that it is within the limits of an incorporated city or town;
 - (2) Knowing that it is insured against damage or destruction;
 - (3) Knowing that it is subject to a mortgage or other security interest;
 - (4) Knowing that it is located on property belonging to another;
 - (5) Knowing that it has located within it property belonging to another;
or
 - (6) When the person starting the fire is reckless about whether the burning or explosion will endanger the life of some individual or the safety of the property of another.
2. Recklessly starting a fire or causing an explosion while manufacturing or attempting to manufacture a controlled substance if the fire or explosion damages any building, habitation, or vehicle; or

3. Intentionally starting a fire or causing an explosion and in so doing:
 - a. Recklessly damaging or destroying a building belonging to another; or
 - b. Recklessly causing another person to suffer bodily injury or death.

Assault is defined in part by [Penal Code 22.01](#) as intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly causing bodily injury to another; intentionally or knowingly threatening another with imminent bodily injury; or intentionally or knowingly causing physical contact with another that can reasonably be regarded as offensive or provocative.

Breach of computer security includes knowingly accessing a computer, computer network, or computer system without the effective consent of the owner as defined in [Penal Code 33.02](#), if the conduct involves accessing a computer, computer network, or computer system owned by or operated on behalf of a school district and the student knowingly alters, damages, or deletes school district property or information or commits a breach of any other computer, computer network, or computer system.

Bullying is defined as a single significant act or a pattern of acts by one or more students directed at another student that exploits an imbalance of power and involves engaging in written or verbal expression, expression through electronic means, or physical conduct that:

1. Has the effect or will have the effect of physically harming a student, damaging a student's property, or placing a student in reasonable fear of harm to the student's person or damage to the student's property;
2. Is sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive enough that the action or threat creates an intimidating, threatening, or abusive educational environment for a student;
3. Materially and substantially disrupts the educational process or the orderly operation of a classroom or school; or
4. Infringes on the rights of the victim at school.

Bullying includes cyberbullying. (See below.) This state law on bullying prevention applies to:

1. Bullying that occurs on or is delivered to school property or to the site of a school-sponsored or school-related activity on or off school property;
2. Bullying that occurs on a publicly or privately owned school bus or vehicle being used for transportation of students to or from school or a school-sponsored or school-related activity; and
3. Cyberbullying that occurs off school property or outside of a school-sponsored or school-related activity if the cyberbullying interferes with a student's educational opportunities or substantially disrupts the orderly operation of a classroom, school, or school-sponsored or school-related activity.

Glossary

Chemical dispensing device is defined by [Penal Code 46.01](#) as a device designed, made, or adapted for the purpose of dispensing a substance capable of causing an adverse psychological or physiological effect on a human being. A small chemical dispenser sold commercially for personal protection is not in this category.

Club is defined by [Penal Code 46.01](#) as an instrument, specially designed, made, or adapted for the purpose of inflicting serious bodily injury or death by striking a person with the instrument, and includes but is not limited to a blackjack, nightstick, mace, and tomahawk.

Controlled substance means a substance, including a drug, an adulterant, and a dilutant, listed in [Schedules I through V or Penalty Group 1, 1-A, 1-B, 2, 2-A, 3, or 4 of the Texas Controlled Substances Act](#). The term includes the aggregate weight of any mixture, solution, or other substance containing a controlled substance. The term does not include hemp, as defined by [Agriculture Code 121.001](#), or the tetrahydrocannabinols (THC) in hemp.

Criminal street gang is defined by [Penal Code 71.01](#) as three or more persons having a common identifying sign or symbol or an identifiable leadership who continuously or regularly associate in the commission of criminal activities.

Cyberbullying is defined by [Education Code 37.0832](#) as bullying that is done through the use of any electronic communication device, including through the use of a cellular or other type of telephone, a computer, a camera, electronic mail, instant messaging, text messaging, a social media application, an internet website, or any other internet-based communication tool.

Dangerous drug is defined by [Health and Safety Code 483.001](#) as a device or a drug that is unsafe for self-medication and that is not included in [Schedules I through V or Penalty Groups 1 through 4 of the Texas Controlled Substances Act](#). The term includes a device or drug that federal law prohibits dispensing without prescription or restricts to use by or on the order of a licensed veterinarian.

Dating violence occurs when a person in a current or past dating relationship uses physical, sexual, verbal, or emotional abuse to harm, threaten, intimidate, or control another person in the relationship. Dating violence also occurs when a person commits these acts against a person in a marriage or dating relationship with the individual who is or was once in a marriage or dating relationship with the person committing the offense, as defined by [Section 71.0021 of the Family Code](#).

Deadly conduct under [Penal Code 22.05](#) occurs when a person recklessly engages in conduct that places another in imminent danger of serious bodily injury, such as knowingly discharging a firearm in the direction of an individual, habitation, building, or vehicle.

Deferred adjudication is an alternative to seeking a conviction in court that may be offered to a juvenile for delinquent conduct or conduct indicating a need for supervision.

Deferred prosecution may be offered to a juvenile as an alternative to seeking a conviction in court for delinquent conduct or conduct indicating a need for supervision.

Glossary

Delinquent conduct is conduct that violates either state or federal law and is punishable by imprisonment or confinement in jail. It includes conduct that violates certain juvenile court orders, including probation orders, but does not include violations of traffic laws.

Discretionary means that something is left to or regulated by a local decision maker.

E-cigarette means an electronic cigarette or any other device that simulates smoking by using a mechanical heating element, battery, or electronic circuit to deliver nicotine or other substances to the individual inhaling from the device or a consumable liquid solution or other material aerosolized or vaporized during the use of an electronic cigarette or other device described by this provision. The term includes any device that is manufactured, distributed, or sold as an e-cigarette, e-cigar, or e-pipe or under another product name or description and a component, part, or accessory for the device, regardless of whether the component, part, or accessory is sold separately from the device.

Explosive weapon is defined by [Penal Code 46.01](#) as any explosive or incendiary bomb, grenade, rocket, or mine and its delivery mechanism that is designed, made, or adapted for the purpose of inflicting serious bodily injury, death, or substantial property damage, or for the principal purpose of causing such a loud report as to cause undue public alarm or terror.

False alarm or report under [Penal Code 42.06](#) occurs when a person knowingly initiates, communicates, or circulates a report of a present, past, or future bombing, fire, offense, or other emergency that he or she knows is false or baseless and that would ordinarily:

1. Cause action by an official or volunteer agency organized to deal with emergencies;
2. Place a person in fear of imminent serious bodily injury; or
3. Prevent or interrupt the occupation of a building, room, or place of assembly.

Firearm is defined by [federal law \(18 U.S.C. 921\(a\)\)](#) as:

1. Any weapon (including a starter gun) that will, is designed to, or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive;
2. The frame or receiver of any such weapon;
3. Any firearm muffler or firearm silencer, defined as any device for silencing, muffling, or diminishing the report of a portable firearm; or
4. Any destructive device, such as any explosive, incendiary or poison gas bomb, or grenade.

Such term does not include an antique firearm.

Graffiti includes markings with paint, an indelible pen or marker, or an etching or engraving device on tangible property without the effective consent of the owner. The markings may include inscriptions, slogans, drawings, or paintings.

Handgun is defined by [Penal Code 46.01](#) as any firearm that is designed, made, or adapted to be fired with one hand.

Harassment includes:

1. Conduct that meets the definition established in district policies DIA(LOCAL) and FFH(LOCAL);
2. Conduct that threatens to cause harm or bodily injury to another person, including a district student, employee, board member, or volunteer; is sexually intimidating; causes physical damage to the property of another student; subjects another student to physical confinement or restraint; or maliciously and substantially harms another student's physical or emotional health or safety, as defined in [Education Code 37.001\(b\)\(2\)](#); or
3. Conduct that is punishable as a crime under [Penal Code 42.07](#), including the following types of conduct if carried out with the intent to harass, annoy, alarm, abuse, torment, or embarrass another:
 - a. Initiating communication and, in the course of the communication, making a comment, request, suggestion, or proposal that is obscene, as defined by law;
 - b. Threatening, in a manner reasonably likely to alarm the person receiving the threat, to inflict bodily injury on the person or to commit a felony against the person, a member of the person's family or household, or the person's property;
 - c. Conveying, in a manner reasonably likely to alarm the person receiving the report, a false report, which is known by the conveyor to be false, that another person has suffered death or serious bodily injury;
 - d. Causing the telephone of another to ring repeatedly or making repeated telephone communications anonymously or in a manner reasonably likely to harass, annoy, alarm, abuse, torment, embarrass, or offend another;
 - e. Making a telephone call and intentionally failing to hang up or disengage the connection;
 - f. Knowingly permitting a telephone under the person's control to be used by another to commit an offense under this section;
 - g. Sending repeated electronic communications in a manner reasonably likely to harass, annoy, alarm, abuse, torment, embarrass, or offend another;
 - h. Publishing on an internet website, including a social media platform, repeated electronic communications in a manner reasonably likely to cause emotional distress, abuse, or torment to another person, unless the communications are made in connection with a matter of public concern, as defined by law; or
 - i. Making obscene, intimidating, or threatening telephone calls or other electronic communications from a temporary or disposable telephone number provided by an internet application or other technological means.

Glossary

Hazing is defined by [Education Code 37.151](#) as an intentional, knowing, or reckless act, on or off campus, by one person alone or acting with others, directed against a student for the purpose of pledging, initiation into, affiliation with, holding office in, or maintaining membership in a student organization if the act meets the elements in [Education Code 37.151](#), including:

1. Any type of physical brutality;
2. An activity that subjects the student to an unreasonable risk of harm or that adversely affects the student's mental or physical health, such as sleep deprivation, exposure to the elements, confinement to small spaces, calisthenics, or consumption of food, liquids, drugs, or other substances;
3. An activity that induces, causes, or requires the student to perform a duty or task that violates the Penal Code; or
4. Coercing a student to consume a drug or alcoholic beverage in an amount that would lead a reasonable person to believe the student is intoxicated.

Hit list is defined in [Education Code 37.001\(b\)\(3\)](#) as a list of people targeted to be harmed, using a firearm, a knife, or any other object to be used with intent to cause bodily harm.

Improvised explosive device is defined by [Penal Code 46.01](#) as a completed and operational bomb designed to cause serious bodily injury, death, or substantial property damage that is fabricated in an improvised manner using nonmilitary components.

Indecent exposure is defined by [Penal Code 21.08](#) as an offense that occurs when a person exposes the person's anus or any part of the person's genitals with intent to arouse or gratify the sexual desire of any person, and is reckless about whether another is present who will be offended or alarmed by the act.

Intimate visual material is defined by [Civil Practices and Remedies Code 98B.001](#) and [Penal Code 21.16](#) as visual material that depicts a person with the person's intimate parts exposed or engaged in sexual conduct. "Visual material" means any film, photograph, video tape, negative, or slide of any photographic reproduction or any other physical medium that allows an image to be displayed on a computer or other video screen and any image transmitted to a computer or other video screen.

Location-restricted knife is defined by [Penal Code 46.01](#) as a knife with a blade over five and one-half inches.

Knuckles means any instrument consisting of finger rings or guards made of a hard substance and designed or adapted for inflicting serious bodily injury or death by striking a person with a fist enclosed in the knuckles.

Look-alike weapon means an item that resembles a weapon but is not intended to be used to cause serious bodily injury.

Machine gun as defined by [Penal Code 46.01](#) is any firearm that is capable of shooting more than two shots automatically, without manual reloading, by a single function of the trigger.

Glossary

Mandatory means that something is obligatory or required because of an authority.

Paraphernalia are devices that can be used for inhaling, ingesting, injecting, or otherwise introducing a controlled substance into a human body.

Personal Communication Device means a telephone, cell phone such as a smartphone or flip phone, tablet, smartwatch, radio device, paging device, or any other electronic device capable of telecommunication or digital communication. As defined in Texas Education Code 37.082(d). It also includes any wearable technology that is capable of digital communication or telecommunication, like eye glasses or ear pieces. This term does not include an electronic device provided to a student by a school district.

Possession means to have an item on one's person or in one's personal property otherwise accessible and/or under the control of the student directly, including, but not limited to:

1. Clothing, purse, or backpack;
2. A private vehicle used for transportation to or from school or school-related activities, including, but not limited to, an automobile, truck, motorcycle, or bicycle;
3. Personal communication devices or electronic devices; or
4. Any school property used by the student, including, but not limited to, a locker or desk.

Prohibited weapon under [Penal Code 46.05\(a\)](#) means:

1. The following items, unless registered with the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives or otherwise not subject to that registration requirement or unless the item is classified as a curio or relic by the U.S. Department of Justice:
 - a. An explosive weapon; or
 - b. A machine gun.
2. Armor-piercing ammunition;
3. A chemical dispensing device;
4. A zip gun;
5. A tire deflation device; or
6. An improvised explosive device.

Public Lewdness is defined by [Penal Code 21.07](#) as an offense that occurs when a person knowingly engages in an act of sexual intercourse, deviate sexual intercourse, or sexual contact in a public place or, if not in a public place, when the person is reckless about whether another is present who will be offended or alarmed by the act.

Public school fraternity, sorority, secret society, or gang means an organization composed wholly or in part of students that seeks to perpetuate itself by taking additional members from the students enrolled in school based on a decision of its membership

Glossary

rather than on the free choice of a qualified student. Educational organizations listed in [Education Code 37.121\(d\)](#) are excepted from this definition.

Reasonable belief is that which an ordinary person of average intelligence and sound mind would believe. Chapter 37 requires certain disciplinary decisions when the superintendent or designee has a reasonable belief that a student engaged in conduct punishable as a felony offense. In forming such a reasonable belief, the superintendent or designee may use all available information and must consider the information furnished in the notice of a student's arrest under [Code of Criminal Procedure Article 15.27](#).

School day means the time of day beginning with the first bell of the day and ending with the last bell of the day.

School property means anywhere on a school's campus or in a district facility where instruction is provided, including but not limited to: classrooms, hallways, gyms, cafeterias, band halls, and all other extracurricular spaces; outdoor fields, tracks, and other athletic areas; all breezeways, courtyards, playgrounds, and other outdoor areas, specifically including all school parking lots.

Self-defense is the use of force against another to the degree a person reasonably believes is immediately necessary to protect himself or herself.

Serious misbehavior means:

1. Deliberate violent behavior that poses a direct threat to the health or safety of others;
2. Extortion, meaning the gaining of money or other property by force or threat;
3. Conduct that constitutes coercion, as defined by [Penal Code Section 1.07](#); or
4. Conduct that constitutes the offense of:
 - a. Public lewdness under [Penal Code 21.07](#);
 - b. Indecent exposure under [Penal Code 21.08](#);
 - c. Criminal mischief under [Penal Code 28.03](#);
 - d. Hazing under [Education Code 37.152](#); or
 - e. Harassment under [Penal Code 42.07\(a\)\(1\)](#) of a student or district employee.

Serious or persistent misbehavior includes, but is not limited to:

- Behavior that is grounds for permissible expulsion or mandatory DAEP placement.
- Behavior identified by the district as grounds for discretionary DAEP placement.
- Actions or demonstrations that substantially disrupt or materially interfere with school activities.
- Refusal to attempt or complete schoolwork as assigned.
- Insubordination.

- Profanity, vulgar language, or obscene gestures.
- Leaving school grounds without permission.
- Falsification of records, passes, or other school-related documents.
- Refusal to accept discipline assigned by the teacher or principal.

Short-barrel firearm is defined by [Penal Code 46.01](#) as a rifle with a barrel length of less than 16 inches or a shotgun with a barrel length of less than 18 inches, or any weapon made from a rifle or shotgun that, as altered, has an overall length of less than 26 inches.

Terroristic threat is defined by [Penal Code 22.07](#) as a threat of violence to any person or property with intent to:

1. Cause a reaction of any type by an official or volunteer agency organized to deal with emergencies;
2. Place any person in fear of imminent serious bodily injury;
3. Prevent or interrupt the occupation or use of a building; room, place of assembly, or place to which the public has access; place of employment or occupation; aircraft, automobile, or other form of conveyance; or other public place;
4. Cause impairment or interruption of public communications; public transportation; public water, gas, or power supply; or other public service;
5. Place the public or a substantial group of the public in fear of serious bodily injury; or
6. Influence the conduct or activities of a branch or agency of the federal government, the state, or a political subdivision of the state (including the district).

Tire deflation device is defined in part by [Penal Code 46.01](#) as a device, including a caltrop or spike strip, that, when driven over, impedes or stops the movement of a wheeled vehicle by puncturing one or more of the vehicle's tires.

Title 5 felonies are those crimes listed in [Title 5 of the Penal Code](#) that typically involve injury to a person and may include:

- Murder, manslaughter, or homicide under [Sections 19.02–.05](#);
- Kidnapping under [Section 20.03](#);
- Trafficking of persons under [Section 20A.02](#);
- Smuggling or continuous smuggling of persons under [Sections 20.05–.06](#);
- Assault under [Section 22.01](#);
- Aggravated assault under [Section 22.02](#);
- Sexual assault under [Section 22.011](#);
- Aggravated sexual assault under [Section 22.021](#);
- Unlawful restraint under [Section 20.02](#);

Glossary

- Continuous sexual abuse of a young child or disabled individual under [Section 21.02](#);
- Bestiality under [Section 21.09](#);
- Improper relationship between educator and student under [Section 21.12](#);
- Voyeurism under [Section 21.17](#);
- Indecency with a child under [Section 21.11](#);
- Invasive visual recording under [Section 21.15](#);
- Disclosure or promotion of intimate visual material under [Section 21.16](#);
- Sexual coercion under [Section 21.18](#);
- Injury to a child, an elderly person, or a disabled person of any age under [Section 22.04](#);
- Abandoning or endangering a child under [Section 22.041](#);
- Deadly conduct under [Section 22.05](#);
- Terroristic threat under [Section 22.07](#);
- Aiding a person to die by suicide under [Section 22.08](#); and
- Tampering with a consumer product under [Section 22.09](#).

Under the influence means lacking the normal use of mental or physical faculties. Impairment of a person's physical or mental faculties may be evidenced by a pattern of abnormal or erratic behavior, the presence of physical symptoms of drug or alcohol use, or by admission. A student "under the in-fluence" need not be legally intoxicated to trigger disciplinary action.

Use means voluntarily introducing into one's body, by any means, a prohibited substance. As it pertains to a personal communication device is defined as in possession of a student that is turned on and capable of receiving or sending a communication signal with or without sound notifications.

Zip gun is defined by [Penal Code 46.01](#) as a device or combination of devices that was not originally a firearm and is adapted to expel a projectile through a smooth-bore or rifled-bore barrel by using the energy generated by an explosion or burning substance.