

Update 116 Local Policy Overview

December 11, 2020

Introduction

Update 116 includes recommended (LOCAL) policy revisions concerning the dismissal appeal process for employees, cybersecurity training, student medical treatment, and community conduct on school premises.

While not covered in this publication, many of the (LEGAL) policies included in this update were affected by recent changes to Administrative Code rules or legislation from the 86th Legislative Session that will be effective as of January 1, 2021.

TASB Numbered Update Reminders

You should also review your own district's customized Update 116 materials for your specific policy recommendations. Please remember that (LEGAL) policies provide the legal framework for key areas of district operations; they are not adopted by the board.

CQB: Technology Resources, Cybersecurity

Current state law requires the board to select a cybersecurity training program and to verify and report cybersecurity training completed by employees. To ease compliance with this law, the recommend revision delegates these responsibilities to the superintendent.

DCD: Employment Practices, At-Will Employment

DCE: Employment Practices, Other Types of Contracts

Most districts have adopted an employee complaint policy that can be found at DGBA(LOCAL). It establishes a process that an employee would follow before a complaint is heard by the board.

Both DCD(LOCAL) and DCE(LOCAL) reference DGBA under the sections that address appeals. The recommended revisions are intended to clarify that an at-will employee who is dismissed or a non-Chapter 21 contract employee whose contract is not reissued would follow the grievance process as outlined in policy DGBA, including proceeding through the relevant hearing levels before a complaint goes to the board.

FFAC: Wellness and Health Services, Medical Treatment

Substantial revisions at policy FFAC(LOCAL) are recommended:

- To align the policy with current Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) guidance;
- To include only those board-level decisions that should be reflected in policy; and
- To remove provisions that are more appropriate in the district's administrative regulations.

Recommended for removal from this policy and inclusion in the district's regulations are administrative details concerning:

- How the district responds when a student becomes ill;
- What steps to take when a student is involved in an accident; and
- Requirements for administering medication provided by parents.

Some districts have policies that would permit the district to purchase nonprescription medication for use in the district athletic program. Special provisions are included in those districts' policies to address this practice.

In accordance with DSHS guidance, however, in most districts' policies the text now reflects that the district shall not otherwise purchase nonprescription medication to administer to students.

Districts also have the option to purchase unassigned, prescription epinephrine auto-injectors and unassigned, prescription asthma medications. If your district purchases epinephrine auto-injectors or asthma medication, state law requires board-adopted policy. Please contact your policy consultant if your district currently purchases these specific prescription medications or if your district purchases nonprescription medications not currently reflected in policy.

The provisions covering medical treatment have also been updated to clarify who may complete the medical treatment authorization form and to reflect that the district will seek appropriate emergency care for a student as required or deemed necessary.

GKA: Community Relations, Conduct on School Premises

The recommended revision in this policy specifies that a person filing a complaint regarding refusal of entry to or ejection from property based on Education Code 37.105 shall be permitted to address the board within 90 "calendar" days unless the complaint is resolved before coming to the board.

Thank You!

That covers the local policies in Update 116 for most districts. We hope you find this overview helpful. Should you have any questions or want further

clarification, please feel free to contact your assigned policy consultant at the [TASB Policy Service website](https://policy.tasb.org).¹

¹ TASB Policy Service: <https://policy.tasb.org>