



UNITED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT AGENDA ACTION ITEM

TOPIC First and Final Reading of Policy FO (LOCAL) - Student Discipline

SUBMITTED BY: Juan Cruz **OF:** School Attorney

APPROVED FOR TRANSMITTAL TO SCHOOL BOARD: _____

DATE ASSIGNED FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION: September 21, 2016

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the United ISD Board of Trustees take Action regarding First and Final Reading of Policy FO (LOCAL) – Student Discipline

RATIONALE:

BUDGETARY INFORMATION

BOARD POLICY REFERENCE AND COMPLIANCE:

STUDENT DISCIPLINE

FO
(LOCAL)

STUDENT CODE OF
CONDUCT

The District's rules of discipline are maintained in the Board-adopted Student Code of Conduct and are established to support an environment conducive to teaching and learning.

Rules of conduct and discipline shall not have the effect of discriminating on the basis of gender, race, color, disability, religion, ethnicity, or national origin.

At the beginning of the school year and throughout the school year as necessary, the Student Code of Conduct shall be:

1. Posted and prominently displayed at each campus or made available for review in the principal's office, as required by law; and
2. Made available on the District's website, along with other District publications such as the student handbook, Bus Rider's Guide, and Technology Use Guide, and/or as a hard copy to students, parents, teachers, administrators, and others on request.

REVISIONS

Revisions to the Student Code of Conduct approved by the Board during the year shall be made available promptly to students and parents, teachers, administrators, and others.

EXTRACURRICULAR
STANDARDS OF
BEHAVIOR

With the approval of the principal and Superintendent, sponsors and coaches of extracurricular activities may develop and enforce standards of behavior that are higher than the District-developed Student Code of Conduct and may condition membership or participation in the activity on adherence to those standards. Extracurricular standards of behavior may take into consideration conduct that occurs at any time, on or off school property.

A student shall be informed of any extracurricular behavior standards at the beginning of each school year or when the student first begins participation in the activity. A student and his or her parent shall sign and return to the sponsor or coach a statement that they have read the extracurricular behavior standards and consent to them as a condition of participation in the activity.

Standards of behavior for an extracurricular activity are independent of the Student Code of Conduct. Violations of these standards of behavior that are also violations of the Student Code of Conduct may result in independent disciplinary actions.

A student may be removed from participation in extracurricular activities or may be excluded from school honors for violation of extracurricular standards of behavior for an activity or for violation of the Student Code of Conduct.

STUDENT DISCIPLINE

FO
(LOCAL)

'PARENT' DEFINED

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

GENERAL DISCIPLINE
GUIDELINES

The schools shall strive to provide for the basic welfare, educational opportunity, and safety of all students. Student conduct in the schools shall be supervised in an attempt to provide for reasonable order and courtesy and the recognition of student rights and responsibilities.

School authorities shall give clear guidance to staff members concerning discipline procedures, teacher authority, and limitations as to personal actions.

A District employee shall adhere to the following general guidelines when imposing discipline:

1. A student shall be disciplined when necessary to improve the student's behavior, to maintain order, or to protect other students, school employees, or property.
2. A student shall be treated fairly and equitably. Discipline shall be based on an assessment of the circumstances of each case. Factors to consider shall include:
 - a. The seriousness of the offense;
 - b. The student's age;
 - c. The frequency of misconduct;
 - d. The student's attitude;
 - e. The potential effect of the misconduct on the school environment;
 - f. Requirements of Chapter 37 of the Education Code; and
 - g. The Student Code of Conduct adopted by the Board.
3. Before a student under 18 is assigned 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.

CORPORAL
PUNISHMENT

The Board prohibits the use of corporal punishment in the District by any employee, parent, legal guardian, or patron of the District. Students shall not be spanked, paddled, or subjected to other physical force as a means of discipline for violations of the Student Code of Conduct.

STUDENT DISCIPLINE

FO
(LOCAL)

PHYSICAL RESTRAINT Within the scope of an employee's duties, a District employee may physically restrain a student if the employee reasonably believes restraint is necessary in order to:

1. Protect a person, including the person using physical restraint, from physical injury.
2. Obtain possession of a weapon or other dangerous object.
3. Remove a student refusing a lawful command of a school employee from a specific location, including a classroom or other school property, in order to restore order or to impose disciplinary measures.
4. Control an irrational student.
5. Protect property from serious damage.

A District employee may restrain a student with a disability who receives special education services only in accordance with law. [See FOF(LEGAL)]

VIDEO AND AUDIO
MONITORING

Video and audio recording equipment shall be used for safety purposes to monitor student behavior on District property.

~~The District shall post signs notifying students and parents about the District's use of video and audio recording equipment. Students shall not be notified when the equipment is turned on.~~

USE OF
RECORDINGS

The principal shall review recordings as needed, and evidence of student misconduct shall be documented. A student found to be in violation of the District's Student Code of Conduct shall be subject to appropriate discipline.

ACCESS TO
RECORDINGS

Recordings shall remain in the custody of the campus principal and shall be maintained as required by law. A parent or student who wishes to view a recording in response to disciplinary action taken against the student may request such access under the procedures set out by law. [See FL(LEGAL)]