

(LOCAL) Policy Comparison Packet

Each marked-up (LOCAL) policy in this collection reflects an automated comparison of the updated policy with its precursor, as found in the TASB Policy Service records.

The comparison is generated by an automated process that shows changes as follows.

- *Deletions* are shown in a red strike-through font: ~~deleted text~~.
- *Additions* are shown in a blue, bold font: **new text**.
- Blocks of text that have been *moved* without alteration are shown in green, with double underline and double strike-through formatting to distinguish the text's destination from its origin: ~~moved text~~ becomes moved text.
- *Revision bars* appear in the right margin, as above.

While the annotation software competently identifies simple changes, large or complicated changes—as in an extensive rewrite—may be more difficult to follow.

For further assistance in understanding changes, please refer to the explanatory notes in your Localized Policy Manual update packet or contact your policy consultant.

West Orange-Cove CISD
181906

DISTRICT NAME

AB
(LOCAL)

The ~~corporate~~ name of this school district, ~~as provided by law,~~ is
West Orange-Cove **Consolidated Independent School**
District ~~CISD~~, herein referred to as “the District.” ~~All business shall~~
~~be transacted under the corporate name.~~

DATE ISSUED: 10/11/2012~~1/1982~~
UPDATE 95~~19~~
AB(LOCAL)-A

ADOPTED:

TERM CONTRACTS
NONRENEWAL

DFBB
(LOCAL)

REASONS

The recommendation to the Board and its decision not to renew a contract under this policy shall not be based on an employee's exercise of Constitutional rights or based unlawfully on an employee's race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, or age. Reasons for proposed nonrenewal of an employee's term contract shall be:

1. Deficiencies pointed out in observation reports, appraisals or evaluations, supplemental memoranda, or other communications.
2. Failure to fulfill duties or responsibilities.
3. Incompetency or inefficiency in the performance of duties.
4. Inability to maintain discipline in any situation in which the employee is responsible for the oversight and supervision of students.
5. Insubordination or failure to comply with official directives.
6. Failure to comply with Board policies or administrative regulations.
7. Excessive absences.
8. Conducting personal business during school hours when it results in neglect of duties.
9. Reduction in force because of financial exigency. [See ~~DFFA~~DFE]
10. Reduction in force because of a program change. [See ~~DFFB~~DFE]
11. A decision by a campus intervention team that the employee not be retained at a reconstituted campus. [See AIC]
12. The employee is not retained at a campus that has been repurposed in accordance with law. [See AIC]
13. Drunkenness or excessive use of alcoholic beverages; or possession, use, or being under the influence of alcohol or alcoholic beverages while on school property, while working in the scope of the employee's duties, or while attending any school- or District-sponsored activity.
14. The illegal possession, use, manufacture, or distribution of a controlled substance, a drug, a dangerous drug, hallucinogens, or other substances regulated by state statutes.
15. Failure to meet the District's standards of professional conduct.

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16. Failure to report any arrest, indictment, conviction, no contest or guilty plea, or other adjudication for any felony, any crime involving moral turpitude, or other offense listed at DH(LOCAL). [See DH]
17. Conviction of or deferred adjudication for any felony, any crime involving moral turpitude, or other offense listed at DH(LOCAL); or conviction of a lesser included offense pursuant to a plea when the original charged offense is a felony. [See DH]
18. Failure to comply with reasonable District requirements regarding advanced coursework or professional improvement and growth.
19. Disability, not otherwise protected by law, that prevents the employee from performing the essential functions of the job.
20. Any activity, school-connected or otherwise, that, because of publicity given it, or knowledge of it among students, faculty, and community, impairs or diminishes the employee's effectiveness in the District.
21. Any breach by the employee of an employment contract or any reason specified in the employee's employment contract.
22. Failure to maintain an effective working relationship, or maintain good rapport, with parents, the community, or colleagues.
23. A significant lack of student progress attributable to the educator.
24. Behavior that presents a danger of physical harm to a student or to other individuals.
25. Assault on a person on school property or at a school-related function, or on an employee, student, or student's parent regardless of time or place.
26. Use of profanity in the course of performing any duties of employment, whether on or off school premises, in the presence of students, staff, or members of the public, if reasonably characterized as unprofessional.
27. Falsification of records or other documents related to the District's activities.
28. Falsification or omission of required information on an employment application.
29. Misrepresentation of facts to a supervisor or other District official in the conduct of District business.

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30. Failure to fulfill requirements for certification, including passing certification examinations required by state law for the employee's assignment.
31. Failure to achieve or maintain "highly qualified" status as required for the employee's assignment.
32. Failure to fulfill the requirements of a deficiency plan under an Emergency Permit, a Special Assignment Permit, or a Temporary Classroom Assignment Permit.
33. Any attempt to encourage or coerce a child to withhold information from the child's parent or from other District personnel.
34. Any reason that makes the employment relationship void or voidable, such as a violation of federal, state, or local law.
35. Any reason constituting good cause for terminating the contract during its term.

RECOMMENDATIONS
FROM
ADMINISTRATION

Administrative recommendations for renewal or proposed nonrenewal of professional employee contracts shall be submitted to the Superintendent. A recommendation for proposed nonrenewal shall be supported by any relevant documentation. The final decision on the administrative recommendation to the Board on each employee's contract rests with the Superintendent.

SUPERINTENDENT'S
RECOMMENDATION

The Superintendent shall prepare lists of employees whose contracts are recommended for renewal or proposed nonrenewal by the Board. Supporting documentation, if any, and reasons for the recommendation shall be submitted for each employee recommended for proposed nonrenewal. The Board shall consider such information, as appropriate, in support of recommendations for proposed nonrenewal and shall then act on all recommendations.

NOTICE OF
PROPOSED
NONRENEWAL

After the Board votes to propose nonrenewal, the Superintendent or designee shall deliver written notice of proposed nonrenewal in accordance with law.

If the notice of proposed nonrenewal does not contain a statement of the reason or all of the reasons for the proposed action, and the employee requests a hearing, the District shall give the employee notice of all reasons for the proposed nonrenewal a reasonable time before the hearing. The initial notice or any subsequent notice shall contain the hearing procedures.

REQUEST FOR
HEARING

If the employee desires a hearing after receiving the notice of proposed nonrenewal, the employee shall notify the Board in writing not later than the 15th day after the date the employee received the notice of proposed nonrenewal.

When a timely request for a hearing on a proposed nonrenewal is received by the presiding officer, the hearing shall be held not later than the 15th day after receipt of the request, unless the parties mutually agree to a delay. The employee shall be given notice of the hearing date as soon as it is set.

HEARING
PROCEDURES

Unless the employee requests that the hearing be open, the hearing shall be conducted in closed meeting with only the members of the Board, the employee, the Superintendent, their representatives, and such witnesses as may be called in attendance. Witnesses may be excluded from the hearing until called to present evidence. The employee and the administration may choose a representative. Notice, at least five days in advance of the hearing, shall be given by each party intending to be represented, including the name of the representative. Failure to give such notice may result in postponement of the hearing.

The conduct of the hearing shall be under the presiding officer's control and shall generally follow the steps listed below:

1. After consultation with the parties, the presiding officer shall impose reasonable time limits for presentation of evidence and closing arguments.
2. The hearing shall begin with the administration's presentation, supported by such proof as it desires to offer.
3. The employee may cross-examine any witnesses for the administration.
4. The employee may then present such testimonial or documentary proof, as desired, to offer in rebuttal or general support of the contention that the contract be renewed.
5. The administration may cross-examine any witnesses for the employee and offer rebuttal to the testimony of the employee's witnesses.
6. Closing arguments may be made by each party.

A record of the hearing shall be made.

BOARD DECISION

The Board may consider only evidence presented at the hearing. After all the evidence has been presented, if the Board determines that the reasons given in support of the recommendation to not renew the employee's contract are lawful, supported by the evidence, and not arbitrary or capricious, it shall so notify the employee by a written notice not later than the 15th day after the date on which the hearing is concluded. This notice shall also include the Board's decision on renewal, which decision shall be final.

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NO HEARING

If the employee fails to request a hearing, the Board shall take the appropriate action and notify the employee in writing of that action not later than the 30th day after the date the notice of proposed nonrenewal was sent.

TERMINATION OF EMPLOYMENT
RESIGNATION

DFE
(LOCAL)

GENERAL
REQUIREMENTS

All resignations shall be submitted in writing to the Superintendent or designee. The employee shall give reasonable notice and shall include in the letter a statement of the reasons for resigning. A prepaid certified or registered letter of resignation shall be considered submitted upon mailing.

AT-WILL EMPLOYEES

The Superintendent or designee shall be authorized to accept the resignation of an at-will employee at any time.

CONTRACT
EMPLOYEES

The Superintendent or designee shall be authorized to receive a contract employee's resignation effective at the end of the school year or submitted after the last day of the school year and before the penalty-free resignation date. The resignation **requires no further action by the District and** is accepted upon receipt.

The Superintendent or **other person designated by Board action**~~designee~~ shall be authorized to accept a contract employee's resignation submitted or effective at any other time. The Superintendent or **other Board** designee shall either accept the resignation or submit the matter to the Board in order to pursue sanctions allowed by law.

WITHDRAWAL OF
RESIGNATION

Once submitted and accepted, the resignation of a contract employee may not be withdrawn without consent of the Board.

PERSONNEL-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS
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COMPLAINTS

In this policy, the terms “complaint” and “grievance” shall have the same meaning.

**OTHER COMPLAINT
PROCESSES**

Employee complaints shall be filed in accordance with this policy, except as provided below:

1. Complaints alleging discrimination, including violations of Title IX (gender), Title VII (sex, race, color, religion, national origin), ADEA (age), or Section 504 (disability), shall be submitted in accordance with DIA.
2. Complaints alleging certain forms of harassment, including harassment by a supervisor and violation of Title VII, shall be submitted in accordance with DIA.
3. Complaints concerning retaliation relating to discrimination and harassment shall be submitted in accordance with DIA.
4. Complaints concerning instructional materials shall be submitted in accordance with EFA.
5. Complaints concerning a commissioned peace officer who is an employee of the District shall be submitted in accordance with CKE.
6. Complaints concerning the proposed nonrenewal of a term contract issued under Chapter 21 of the Education Code shall be submitted in accordance with DFBB.
7. Complaints concerning the proposed termination or suspension without pay of an employee on a probationary, term, or continuing contract issued under Chapter 21 of the Education Code during the contract term shall be submitted in accordance with DFAA, DFBA, or DFCA.

**NOTICE TO
EMPLOYEES**

The District shall inform employees of this policy.

**GUIDING PRINCIPLES
INFORMAL
PROCESS**

The Board encourages employees to discuss their concerns and complaints through informal conferences with their supervisor, principal, or other appropriate administrator.

Concerns should be expressed as soon as possible to allow early resolution at the lowest possible administrative level.

**DIRECT
COMMUNICATION
WITH BOARD
MEMBERS**

Employees shall not be prohibited from communicating with a member of the Board regarding District operations except when communication between an employee and a Board member would be inappropriate because of a pending hearing or appeal related to the employee.

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FORMAL PROCESS If an informal conference regarding a complaint fails to reach the outcome requested by the employee, he or she may initiate the formal process described below by timely filing a written complaint form.

Even after initiating the formal complaint process, employees are encouraged to seek informal resolution of their concerns. An employee whose concerns are resolved may withdraw a formal complaint at any time.

The process described in this policy shall not be construed to create new or additional rights beyond those granted by law or Board policy, nor to require a full evidentiary hearing or "mini-trial" at any level.

~~NOTICE TO
EMPLOYEES~~

~~The District shall inform employees of this policy.~~

FREEDOM FROM
RETALIATION

Neither the Board nor any District employee shall unlawfully retaliate against an employee for bringing a concern or complaint.

WHISTLEBLOWER
COMPLAINTS

Whistleblower complaints shall be filed within the time specified by law and may be made to the Superintendent or designee beginning at Level Three. Time lines for the employee and the District set out in this policy may be shortened to allow the Board to make a final decision within 60 calendar days of the initiation of the complaint. [See DG]

COMPLAINTS AGAINST
SUPERVISORS

Complaints alleging a violation of law by a supervisor may be made to the Superintendent or designee. Complaints alleging a violation of law by the Superintendent may be made directly to the Board or designee.

~~COMPLAINTS~~

~~In this policy, the terms "complaint" and "grievance" shall have the same meaning. This policy shall apply to all employee complaints, except as provided below.~~

~~EXCEPTIONS~~

~~This policy shall not apply to:~~

- ~~1. Complaints alleging discrimination, including violations of Title IX (gender), Title VII (sex, race, color, religion, national origin), ADEA (age), or Section 504 (disability). [See DIA]~~
- ~~2. Complaints alleging certain forms of harassment, including harassment by a supervisor and violations of Title VII. [See DIA]~~
- ~~3. Complaints concerning retaliation relating to discrimination and harassment. [See DIA]~~
- ~~4. Complaints concerning instructional materials. [See EFA]~~

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- ~~5. Complaints concerning a commissioned peace officer who is an employee of the District. [See CKE]~~
- ~~6. Complaints arising from the proposed nonrenewal of a term contract issued under Chapter 21 of the Education Code. [See DFBB]~~
- ~~7. Complaints arising from the proposed termination or suspension without pay of an employee on a probationary, term, or continuing contract issued under Chapter 21 of the Education Code during the contract term. [See DFAA, DFBA, or DFCA, respectively]~~

GENERAL
PROVISIONS

FILING

Complaint forms and appeal notices may be filed by hand-delivery, fax, or U.S. Mail. Hand-delivered filings shall be timely filed if received by the appropriate administrator or designee by the close of business on the deadline. Fax filings shall be timely filed if they are received on or before the deadline, as indicated by the date/time shown on the fax copy. Mail filings shall be timely filed if they are postmarked by U.S. Mail on or before the deadline and received by the appropriate administrator or designated representative no more than three days after the deadline.

RESPONSE

At Levels One, Two, and Three, "response" shall mean a written communication to the employee from the appropriate administrator. Responses may be hand-delivered or sent by U.S. Mail to the employee's mailing address of record. Mailed responses shall be timely if they are postmarked by U.S. Mail on or before the deadline.

DAYS

"Days" shall mean District business days, unless otherwise noted. In calculating time lines under this policy, the day a document is filed is "day zero." The following business day is "day one."

REPRESENTATIVE

"Representative" shall mean any person who or an organization that does not claim the right to strike and is designated by the employee to represent him or her in the complaint process.

The employee may designate a representative through written notice to the District at any level of this process. If the employee designates a representative with fewer than three days' notice to the District before a scheduled conference or hearing, the District may reschedule the conference or hearing to a later date, if desired, in order to include the District's counsel. The District may be represented by counsel at any level of the process.

CONSOLIDATING
COMPLAINTS

Complaints arising out of an event or a series of related events shall be addressed in one complaint. Employees shall not bring separate or serial complaints arising from any event or series of

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events that have been or could have been addressed in a previous complaint.

When two or more complaints are sufficiently similar in nature and remedy sought to permit their resolution through one proceeding, the District may consolidate the complaints.

UNTIMELY FILINGS

All time limits shall be strictly followed unless modified by mutual written consent.

If a complaint form or appeal notice is not timely filed, the complaint may be dismissed, on written notice to the employee, at any point during the complaint process. The employee may appeal the dismissal by seeking review in writing within ten days from the date of the written dismissal notice, starting at the level at which the complaint was dismissed. Such appeal shall be limited to the issue of timeliness.

COSTS INCURRED

Each party shall pay its own costs incurred in the course of the complaint.

COMPLAINT FORM

Complaints under this policy shall be submitted in writing on a form provided by the District.

Copies of any documents that support the complaint should be attached to the complaint form. If the employee does not have copies of these documents, they may be presented at the Level One conference. After the Level One conference, no new documents may be submitted by the employee unless the employee did not know the documents existed before the Level One conference.

A complaint form that is incomplete in any material aspect may be dismissed, but may be refiled with all the required information if the refiling is within the designated time for filing a complaint.

AUDIO RECORDING

As provided by law, an employee shall be permitted to make an audio recording of a conference or hearing under this policy at which the substance of the employee's complaint is discussed. The employee shall notify all attendees present that an audio recording is taking place.

LEVEL ONE

Complaint forms must be filed:

1. Within 15 days of the date the employee first knew, or with reasonable diligence should have known, of the decision or action giving rise to the complaint or grievance; and
2. With the lowest level administrator who has the authority to remedy the alleged problem.

In most circumstances, employees on a school campus shall file Level One complaints with the campus principal; other

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District employees shall file Level One complaints with their immediate supervisor.

If the only administrator who has authority to remedy the alleged problem is the Superintendent or designee, the complaint may begin at Level Three following the procedure, including deadlines, for filing the complaint form at Level One.

If the complaint is not filed with the appropriate administrator, the receiving administrator must note the date and time the complaint form was received and immediately forward the complaint form to the appropriate administrator.

The appropriate administrator shall investigate as necessary and hold a conference with the employee within ten days after receipt of the written complaint. The administrator may set reasonable time limits for the conference.

The administrator shall provide the employee a written response within ten days following the conference. The written response shall set forth the basis of the decision. In reaching a decision, the administrator may consider information provided at the Level One conference and any other relevant documents or information the administrator believes will help resolve the complaint.

LEVEL TWO

If the employee did not receive the relief requested at Level One or if the time for a response has expired, the employee may request a conference with the executive director of human resources ~~or designee~~ to appeal the Level One decision.

The appeal notice must be filed in writing, on a form provided by the District, within ten days of the date of the written Level One response or, if no response was received, within ten days of the Level One response deadline.

After receiving notice of the appeal, the Level One administrator shall prepare and forward a record of the Level One complaint to the Level Two administrator. The employee may request a copy of the Level One record.

The Level One record shall include:

1. The original complaint form and any attachments.
2. All other documents submitted by the employee at Level One.
3. The written response issued at Level One and any attachments.
4. All other documents relied upon by the Level One administrator in reaching the Level One decision.

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The Level Two administrator shall hold a conference within ten days after the appeal notice is filed. The conference shall be limited to the issues presented by the employee at Level One and identified in the Level Two appeal notice. At the conference, the employee may provide information concerning any documents or information relied upon by the administration for the Level One decision. The Level Two administrator may set reasonable time limits for the conference.

The Level Two administrator shall provide the employee a written response within ten days following the conference. The written response shall set forth the basis of the decision. In reaching a decision, the Level Two administrator may consider the Level One record, information provided at the Level Two conference, and any other relevant documents or information the Level Two administrator believes will help resolve the complaint.

Recordings of the Level One and Level Two conferences, if any, shall be maintained with the Level One and Level Two records.

LEVEL THREE

If the employee did not receive the relief requested at Level Two or if the time for a response has expired, the employee may request a conference with the Superintendent or designee to appeal the Level Two decision.

The appeal notice must be filed in writing, on a form provided by the District, within ten days of the date of the written Level Two response or, if no response was received, within ten days of the Level Two response deadline.

After receiving notice of the appeal, the Level Two administrator shall prepare and forward a record of the Level Two ~~appeal~~~~complaint~~ to the Level Three administrator. The employee may request a copy of the Level Two record.

The Level Two record shall include:

1. The Level One record.
2. **The notice of appeal from Level One to Level Two.**
- ~~2.3.~~ The written response issued at Level Two and any attachments.
- ~~3.4.~~ All other documents relied upon by the Level Two administrator in reaching the Level Two decision.

The Level Three administrator shall hold a conference within ten days after the appeal notice is filed. The conference shall be limited to the issues presented by the employee at Level One and identified in the Level Three appeal notice. At the conference, the

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employee may provide information concerning any documents or information relied upon by the administration for the Level Two decision. The Level Three administrator may set reasonable time limits for the conference.

The Level Three administrator shall provide the employee a written response within ten days following the conference. The written response shall set forth the basis of the decision. In reaching a decision, the Level Three administrator may consider the Level One and Level Two records, information provided at the Level Three conference, and any other relevant documents or information the Level Three administrator believes will help resolve the complaint.

Recordings of the Level One, Level Two, and Level Three conferences, if any, shall be maintained with the Level One, Level Two, and Level Three records.

LEVEL FOUR

If the employee did not receive the relief requested at Level Three or if the time for a response has expired, the employee shall deliver the appeal notice to the Superintendent's secretary for filing with the Board. [See BE]

The appeal notice must be filed in writing, on a form provided by the District, within ten days of the date of the written Level Three response or, if no response was received, within ten days of the Level Three response deadline.

Following receipt of the appeal notice and a determination that time lines have been met, the Board President shall furnish a copy of the appeal notice to each Trustee.

At a future Board meeting, the Board shall examine the written grievance in closed meeting unless otherwise required by the Open Meetings Act, with neither the grievant nor the grievant's representative, nor the person or persons complained of in the grievance, present. The Board shall make a determination as to whether the grievance as presented merits a hearing. If the Board determines that the grievance is not meritorious, the grievant shall be so informed in writing by the Board President within seven days following that meeting. The decision of the Superintendent with respect to the grievance shall then be final.

If the Board determines that the grievance as presented merits a hearing, the Board President shall inform the grievant of the date, time, and place of such hearing. ~~The District shall determine whether the complaint will be presented in open or closed meeting in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act and other applicable law. [See BE]~~

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The Superintendent or designee shall provide the Board the record of the Level Three ~~complaint~~ **appeal**. The employee may request a copy of the Level Three record.

The Level Three record shall include:

1. The Level One record.
2. The Level Two record.
3. **The notice of appeal from Level Two to Level Three.**
- ~~3.4.~~ The written response issued at Level Three and any attachments.
- ~~4.5.~~ All other documents relied upon by the administration in reaching the Level Three decision.

If at the Level Four hearing the administration intends to rely on evidence not included in the Level Three record, the administration shall provide the employee notice of the nature of the evidence at least three days before the hearing.

The District shall determine whether the complaint will be presented in open or closed meeting in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act and other applicable law. [See BE]

The presiding officer may set reasonable time limits and guidelines for the presentation, including an opportunity for the employee and administration to each make a presentation and provide rebuttal and an opportunity for questioning by the Board. The Board shall hear the complaint and may request that the administration provide an explanation for the decisions at the preceding levels.

In addition to any other record of the Board meeting required by law, the Board shall prepare a separate record of the Level Four presentation. The Level Four presentation, including the presentation by the employee or the employee's representative, any presentation from the administration, and questions from the Board with responses, shall be recorded by audio recording, video/audio recording, or court reporter.

The Board shall then consider the complaint. It may give notice of its decision orally or in writing at any time up to and including the next regularly scheduled Board meeting. If the Board does not make a decision regarding the complaint by the end of the next regularly scheduled meeting, the lack of a response by the Board upholds the administrative decision at Level Three.

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT
RETENTION AND PROMOTION

EIE
(LOCAL)

CURRICULUM
MASTERY

Promotion and course credit shall be based on mastery of the curriculum. Expectations and standards for promotion shall be established for each grade level, content area, and course and shall be coordinated with compensatory, **intensive, and/or accelerated services.** [See EHBC] **The District shall comply with applicable state and federal requirements when determining methods for students with disabilities [see FB] or students who are English language learners [see EHBE and EKBA] to demonstrate mastery of the curriculum.**~~/accelerated services. [See EHBC]~~

**STUDENTS
RECEIVING
SPECIAL
EDUCATION
SERVICES**

Any modified promotion standards for a student receiving special education services shall be determined by the student's admission, review, and dismissal (ARD) committee and documented in the student's individualized education program (IEP). [See EHBA series and EKB]

STANDARDS FOR
MASTERY

In addition to the factors in law that must be considered for promotion, mastery shall be determined as follows:-

1. Course assignments and unit evaluation shall be used to determine student grades in a subject. An average of 70 or higher shall be considered a passing grade.
2. Mastery of the skills necessary for success at the next level shall be validated by assessments that may either be incorporated into unit or final ~~exams~~**examinations** or may be administered separately. Mastery of at least 70 percent of the objectives shall be required.

GRADES 1–8

In grades 1–8, promotion to the next grade level shall be based on an overall average of 70 on a scale of 100 based ~~on~~**upon** course-level, grade-level standards (essential knowledge and skills) for all subject areas and a grade of 70 or above in language arts, reading, and mathematics.

GRADES 9–12

Grade-level advancement for students in grades 9–12 shall be earned by course credits. [See EI]

~~STUDENTS WITH
DISABILITIES~~

~~Promotion standards and appropriate assessment and acceleration options, as established by individualized education programs (IEP) or grade-level classification of students eligible for special education, shall be determined by the ARD committee.~~

~~LIMITED-ENGLISH
PROFICIENT
STUDENTS~~

~~In assessing students of limited-English proficiency for mastery of the essential knowledge and skills, the District shall be flexible in determining methods to allow the students to demonstrate knowledge or competency independent of their English language skills in the following ways:~~

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	<p>1. Assessment in the primary language.</p> <p>2. Assessment using ESL methodologies.</p> <p>3. Assessment with multiple varied instruments. [See EHBE]</p>
ACCELERATED INSTRUCTION FOR GRADES 3-8	<p>If a student in grades 3-8 fails to demonstrate proficiency on a state-mandated assessment, the student shall be provided accelerated instruction in accordance with state law. Additionally, students in grades 5 and 8 shall be subject to all provisions of GRADE ADVANCEMENT TESTING, below.</p>
GRADE ADVANCEMENT TESTING	<p>Except when a student will be assessed in reading or mathematics above his or her enrolled grade levelIn addition to local standards for mastery and promotion, students in grades 5 and 8 must meet the passing standard on the an applicable assessment instrument in the subjects required under state-mandated assessments law in reading and mathematicsorder to be promoted to the next grade level, in addition to the District's local standards for mastery and promotion.</p>
DEFINITION OF 'PARENT'	<p>For purposes of this policy and decisions related to grade advancement requirements, a student's "parent" shall be defined to include either of the student's parents or guardians; a person designated by the parent, by means of a powerPower of attorneyAttorney or an authorization agreement as provided in ChapterSection 34 of the Family Code, to have responsibility for the student in all school-related matters [see FD]; a surrogate parent acting on behalf of a student with a disability; a person designated by the parent or guardian to serve on the grade placement committee (GPC) for all purposes; or in the event that a parent, guardian, or designee cannot be located, a person designated by the Superintendent or designee to act on behalf of the student. [See EIE(LEGAL)]</p>
NO ALTERNATE ASSESSMENT INSTRUMENT	<p>The District shall use only the statewide assessment instrument for the third testing opportunity.</p>
STANDARDS FOR PROMOTION UPON APPEAL	<p>If a parent initiates an appeal of his or her child's retention following the student's failure to demonstrate proficiency after the third testing opportunity, the GPC shall review all facts and circumstances in accordance with law.</p> <p>The student shall not be promoted unless:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. All members of the GPC agree that the student is likely to perform on grade level if given additional accelerated instruction during the following school year in accordance with the educational plan developed by the GPC; and

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT
RETENTION AND PROMOTION

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2. The student has completed required accelerated instruction in the subject area for which the student failed to demonstrate proficiency.

Whether the GPC decides to promote or to retain a student in this manner, the committee shall determine an accelerated instruction plan for the student for the following school year, providing for interim reports to the student's parent and opportunities for the parent to consult with the teacher or principal as needed. The principal or designee shall monitor the student's progress during the following school year to ensure that he or she is progressing in accordance with the plan.

TRANSFER
STUDENTS

When a student transfers into the District having failed to demonstrate proficiency on applicable assessment instruments after two testing opportunities, a GPC shall convene for that student. The GPC shall review any available records of decisions regarding testing and accelerated instruction from the previous district and determine an accelerated instruction plan for the student.

If a parent initiates an appeal for promotion when a student transfers into the District having failed to demonstrate proficiency after three testing opportunities, the GPC shall review any available records of decisions regarding testing, accelerated instruction, retention, or promotion from the previous district and issue a decision in accordance with the District's standards for promotion.

ASSIGNMENT OF
RETAINED STUDENTS

In the event a student is not promoted to the next grade level, the District shall nevertheless assign the student to an age-appropriate campus, unless:

1. The student's parent requests that the student be assigned to the same or a similar campus setting; or
2. The student's GPC determines that it would be in the student's best interest to be assigned to the same or a similar campus setting. Criteria to be considered for this decision may include:
 - a. Recommendations from the student's teachers.
 - b. Observed social and emotional development of the student.

REDUCING STUDENT
RETENTION

The District shall establish procedures designed to reduce retaining students at a grade level, with the ultimate goal being elimination of the practice of retaining students. [See EHBC]

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STUDENT AND PARENT COMPLAINTS/GRIEVANCES

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COMPLAINTS

In this policy, the terms “complaint” and “grievance” shall have the same meaning.

**OTHER COMPLAINT
PROCESSES**

Student or parent complaints shall be filed in accordance with this policy, except as provided below:

1. Complaints alleging discrimination or harassment based on race, color, gender, national origin, disability, or religion shall be submitted in accordance with FFH.
2. Complaints concerning dating violence shall be submitted in accordance with FFH.
3. Complaints concerning retaliation related to discrimination and harassment shall be submitted in accordance with FFH.
4. Complaints concerning bullying or retaliation related to bullying shall be submitted in accordance with FFI.
5. Complaints concerning loss of credit on the basis of attendance shall be submitted in accordance with FEC.
6. Complaints concerning removal to a disciplinary alternative education program shall be submitted in accordance with FOC and the Student Code of Conduct.
7. Complaints concerning expulsion shall be submitted in accordance with FOD and the Student Code of Conduct.
8. Complaints concerning any final decisions of the gifted and talented selection committee regarding selection for or exit from the gifted program shall be submitted in accordance with EHBB.
9. Complaints concerning identification, evaluation, or educational placement of a student with a disability within the scope of Section 504 shall be submitted in accordance with FB and the procedural safeguards handbook.
10. Complaints concerning identification, evaluation, educational placement, or discipline of a student with a disability within the scope of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act shall be submitted in accordance with EHBAE, FOF, and the procedural safeguards handbook provided to parents of all students referred to special education.
11. Complaints concerning instructional materials shall be submitted in accordance with EFA.

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12. Complaints concerning a commissioned peace officer who is an employee of the District shall be submitted in accordance with CKE.
13. Complaints concerning intradistrict transfers or campus assignment shall be submitted in accordance with FDB.
14. Complaints concerning admission, placement, or services provided for a homeless student shall be submitted in accordance with FDC.

**NOTICE TO STUDENTS
AND PARENTS**

The District shall inform students and parents of this policy.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES
INFORMAL
PROCESS

The Board encourages students and parents to discuss their concerns and complaints through informal conferences with the appropriate teacher, principal, or other campus administrator.

Concerns should be expressed as soon as possible to allow early resolution at the lowest possible administrative level.

FORMAL PROCESS

If an informal conference regarding a complaint fails to reach the outcome requested by the student or parent, the student or parent may initiate the formal process described below by timely filing a written complaint form.

Even after initiating the formal complaint process, students and parents are encouraged to seek informal resolution of their concerns. A student or parent whose concerns are resolved may withdraw a formal complaint at any time.

The process described in this policy shall not be construed to create new or additional rights beyond those granted by law or Board policy, nor to require a full evidentiary hearing or "mini-trial" at any level.

FREEDOM FROM
RETALIATION

Neither the Board nor any District employee shall unlawfully retaliate against any student or parent for bringing a concern or complaint.

~~NOTICE TO STUDENTS
AND PARENTS~~

~~The District shall inform students and parents of this policy.~~

~~COMPLAINTS~~

~~In this policy, the terms "complaint" and "grievance" shall have the same meaning. This policy shall apply to all student and parent complaints, except as provided below.~~

~~EXCEPTIONS~~

~~This policy shall not apply to:~~

- ~~1. Complaints alleging discrimination or harassment based on race, color, gender, national origin, disability, or religion. [See FFH]~~

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- ~~2. Complaints concerning dating violence. [See FFH]~~
- ~~3. Complaints concerning retaliation related to discrimination and harassment. [See FFH]~~
- ~~4. Complaints concerning bullying. [See FFI]~~
- ~~5. Complaints concerning loss of credit on the basis of attendance. [See FEC]~~
- ~~6. Complaints concerning removal to a disciplinary alternative education program. [See FOC and the Student Code of Conduct]~~
- ~~7. Complaints concerning expulsion. [See FOD and the Student Code of Conduct]~~
- ~~8. Complaints concerning identification, evaluation, or educational placement of a student with a disability within the scope of Section 504. [See FB]~~
- ~~9. Complaints concerning identification, evaluation, educational placement, or discipline of a student with a disability within the scope of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. [See EHBA, FOF, and the parents' rights handbook provided to parents of all students referred to special education]~~
- ~~10. Complaints concerning instructional materials. [See EFA]~~
- ~~11. Complaints concerning a commissioned peace officer who is an employee of the District. [See CKE]~~
- ~~12. Complaints concerning intradistrict transfers or campus assignments. [See FDB]~~

GENERAL
PROVISIONS
FILING

Complaint forms and appeal notices may be filed by hand-delivery, fax, or U.S. Mail. Hand-delivered filings shall be timely filed if received by the appropriate administrator or designee by the close of business on the deadline. Fax filings shall be timely filed if they are received on or before the deadline, as indicated by the date/time shown on the fax copy. Mail filings shall be timely filed if they are postmarked by U.S. Mail on or before the deadline and received by the appropriate administrator or designated representative no more than three days after the deadline.

RESPONSE

At Levels One and Two, "response" shall mean a written communication to the student or parent from the appropriate administrator. Responses may be hand-delivered or sent by U.S. Mail to the student's or parent's mailing address of record. Mailed responses shall be timely if they are postmarked by U.S. Mail on or before the deadline.

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DAYS	<p>“Days” shall mean District business days. In calculating time lines under this policy, the day a document is filed is “day zero.” The following business day is “day one.”</p>
REPRESENTATIVE	<p>“Representative” shall mean any person who or organization that is designated by the student or parent to represent the student or parent in the complaint process. A student may be represented by an adult at any level of the complaint.</p> <p>The student or parent may designate a representative through written notice to the District at any level of this process. If the student or parent designates a representative with fewer than three days’ notice to the District before a scheduled conference or hearing, the District may reschedule the conference or hearing to a later date, if desired, in order to include the District’s counsel. The District may be represented by counsel at any level of the process.</p>
CONSOLIDATING COMPLAINTS	<p>Complaints arising out of an event or a series of related events shall be addressed in one complaint. A student or parent shall not bring separate or serial complaints arising from any event or series of events that have been or could have been addressed in a previous complaint.</p>
UNTIMELY FILINGS	<p>All time limits shall be strictly followed unless modified by mutual written consent.</p> <p>If a complaint form or appeal notice is not timely filed, the complaint may be dismissed, on written notice to the student or parent, at any point during the complaint process. The student or parent may appeal the dismissal by seeking review in writing within ten days from the date of the written dismissal notice, starting at the level at which the complaint was dismissed. Such appeal shall be limited to the issue of timeliness.</p>
COSTS INCURRED	<p>Each party shall pay its own costs incurred in the course of the complaint.</p>
COMPLAINT FORM	<p>Complaints under this policy shall be submitted in writing on a form provided by the District.</p> <p>Copies of any documents that support the complaint should be attached to the complaint form. If the student or parent does not have copies of these documents, copies may be presented at the Level One conference. After the Level One conference, no new documents may be submitted by the student or parent unless the student or parent did not know the documents existed before the Level One conference.</p>

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A complaint form that is incomplete in any material aspect may be dismissed, but may be refiled with all the required information if the refile is within the designated time for filing a complaint.

LEVEL ONE

Complaint forms must be filed:

1. Within 15 days of the date the student or parent first knew, or with reasonable diligence should have known, of the decision or action giving rise to the complaint or grievance; and
2. With the lowest level administrator who has the authority to remedy the alleged problem.

In most circumstances, students and parents shall file Level One complaints with the campus principal.

If the only administrator who has authority to remedy the alleged problem is the Superintendent or designee, the complaint may begin at Level Two following the procedure, including deadlines, for filing the complaint form at Level One.

If the complaint is not filed with the appropriate administrator, the receiving administrator must note the date and time the complaint form was received and immediately forward the complaint form to the appropriate administrator.

The appropriate administrator shall investigate as necessary and hold a conference with the student or parent within ten days after receipt of the written complaint. The administrator may set reasonable time limits for the conference.

The administrator shall provide the student or parent a written response within ten days following the conference. The written response shall set forth the basis of the decision. In reaching a decision, the administrator may consider information provided at the Level One conference and any **other** relevant documents or information the administrator believes will help resolve the complaint.

LEVEL TWO

If the student or parent did not receive the relief requested at Level One or if the time for a response has expired, the student or parent may request a conference with the Superintendent or designee to appeal the Level One decision.

The appeal notice must be filed in writing, on a form provided by the District, within ten days of the date of the written Level One response or, if no response was received, within ten days of the Level One response deadline.

After receiving notice of the appeal, the Level One administrator shall prepare and forward a record of the Level One complaint to

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the Level Two administrator. The student or parent may request a copy of the Level One record.

The Level One record shall include:

1. The original complaint form and any attachments.
2. All other documents submitted by the student or parent at Level One.
3. The written response issued at Level One and any attachments.
4. All other documents relied upon by the Level One administrator in reaching the Level One decision.

The Superintendent or designee shall hold a conference within ten days after the appeal notice is filed. The conference shall be limited to the issues presented by the student or parent at Level One and identified in the Level Two appeal notice. At the conference, the student or parent may provide information concerning any documents or information relied ~~upon~~ by the administration for the Level One decision. The Superintendent or designee may set reasonable time limits for the conference.

The Superintendent or designee shall provide the student or parent a written response within ten days following the conference. The written response shall set forth the basis of the decision. In reaching a decision, the Superintendent or designee may consider the Level One record, information provided at the Level Two conference, and any other relevant documents or information the Superintendent or designee believes will help resolve the complaint.

Recordings of the Level One and Level Two conferences, if any, shall be maintained with the Level One and Level Two records.

LEVEL THREE

If the student or parent did not receive the relief requested at Level Two or if the time for a response has expired, the student or parent may appeal the decision to the Board.

The appeal notice must be filed in writing, on a form provided by the District, within ten days of the ~~date of the~~ written Level Two response or, if no response was received, within ten days of the Level Two response deadline.

The Superintendent or designee shall inform the student or parent of the date, time, and place of the Board meeting at which the complaint will be on the agenda for presentation to the Board.

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The Superintendent or designee shall provide the Board the record of the Level Two ~~appeal~~ **complaint**. The student or parent may request a copy of the Level Two record.

The Level Two record shall include:

1. The Level One record.
- 2. The notice of appeal from Level One to Level Two.**
- ~~2.3.~~ The written response issued at Level Two and any attachments.
- ~~3.4.~~ All other documents relied upon by the administration in reaching the Level Two decision.

If, at the Level Three hearing, the administration intends to rely on evidence not included in the **Level Two record** ~~records~~, the administration shall provide the student or parent notice of the nature of the evidence at least three days before the hearing.

The District shall determine whether the complaint will be presented in open or closed meeting in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act and other applicable law. [See BE]

The presiding officer may set reasonable time limits and guidelines for the presentation, including an opportunity for the student or parent and administration to each make a presentation and provide rebuttal and an opportunity for questioning by the Board. The Board shall hear the complaint and may request that the administration provide an explanation for the decisions at the preceding levels.

In addition to any other record of the Board meeting required by law, the Board shall prepare a separate record of the Level Three presentation. The Level Three presentation, including the presentation by the student or parent or the student's representative, any presentation from the administration, and questions from the Board with responses, shall be recorded by audio recording, video/audio recording, or court reporter.

The Board shall then consider the complaint. It may give notice of its decision orally or in writing at any time up to and including the next regularly scheduled Board meeting. If the Board does not make a decision regarding the complaint by the end of the next regularly scheduled meeting, the lack of a response by the Board upholds the administrative decision at Level Two.

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COMPLAINTS	In this policy, the terms “complaint” and “grievance” shall have the same meaning.
OTHER COMPLAINT PROCESSES	<p>Complaints by members of the public shall be filed in accordance with this policy, except as provided below:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Complaints concerning instructional materials shall be filed in accordance with EFA.2. Complaints concerning a commissioned peace officer who is an employee of the District shall be filed in accordance with CKE.
GUIDING PRINCIPLES	The Board encourages the public to discuss concerns and complaints through informal conferences with the appropriate administrator.
INFORMAL PROCESS	Concerns should be expressed as soon as possible to allow early resolution at the lowest possible administrative level.
FORMAL PROCESS	<p>If an informal conference regarding a complaint fails to reach the outcome requested by an individual, he or she may initiate the formal process described below by timely filing a written complaint form.</p> <p>Even after initiating the formal complaint process, individuals are encouraged to seek informal resolution of their concerns. An individual whose concerns are resolved may withdraw a formal complaint at any time.</p> <p>The process described in this policy shall not be construed to create new or additional rights beyond those granted by law or Board policy, nor to require a full evidentiary hearing or “mini-trial” at any level.</p>
FREEDOM FROM RETALIATION	Neither the Board nor any District employee shall unlawfully retaliate against any individual for bringing a concern or complaint.
COMPLAINTS	In this policy, the term “complaint” and “grievance” shall have the same meaning. This policy shall apply to all complaints from the public except as provided below.
EXCEPTIONS	This policy shall not apply to: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Complaints concerning instructional materials. [See EFA]2. Complaints concerning a commissioned peace officer who is an employee of the District. [See CKE]

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GENERAL PROVISIONS	Complaint forms and appeal notices may be filed by hand-delivery, fax, or U.S. Mail. Hand-delivered filings shall be timely filed if received by the appropriate administrator or designee by the close of business on the deadline. Fax filings shall be timely filed if they are received on or before the deadline, as indicated by the date/time shown on the fax copy. Mail filings shall be timely filed if they are postmarked by U.S. Mail on or before the deadline and received by the appropriate administrator or designated representative no more than three days after the deadline.
FILING	
RESPONSE	At Levels One and Two, "response" shall mean a written communication to the individual from the appropriate administrator. Responses may be hand-delivered or sent by U.S. Mail to the individual's mailing address of record. Mailed responses shall be timely if they are postmarked by U.S. Mail on or before the deadline.
DAYS	"Days" shall mean District business days. In calculating time lines under this policy, the day a document is filed is "day zero." The following business day is "day one."
REPRESENTATIVE	<p>"Representative" shall mean any person who or organization that is designated by an individual to represent the individual in the complaint process.</p> <p>The individual may designate a representative through written notice to the District at any level of this process. If the individual designates a representative with fewer than three days' notice to the District before a scheduled conference or hearing, the District may reschedule the conference or hearing to a later date, if desired, in order to include the District's counsel. The District may be represented by counsel at any level of the process.</p>
CONSOLIDATING COMPLAINTS	Complaints arising out of an event or a series of related events shall be addressed in one complaint. An individual shall not bring separate or serial complaints arising from any event or series of events that have been or could have been addressed in a previous complaint.
UNTIMELY FILINGS	<p>All time limits shall be strictly followed unless modified by mutual written consent.</p> <p>If a complaint form or appeal notice is not timely filed, the complaint may be dismissed, on written notice to the individual, at any point during the complaint process. The individual may appeal the dismissal by seeking review in writing within ten days from the date of the written dismissal notice, starting at the level at which the complaint was dismissed. Such appeal shall be limited to the issue of timeliness.</p>

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COSTS INCURRED Each party shall pay its own costs incurred in the course of the complaint.

COMPLAINT FORM Complaints under this policy shall be submitted in writing on a form provided by the District.

Copies of any documents that support the complaint should be attached to the complaint form. If the individual does not have copies of these documents, they may be presented at the Level One conference. After the Level One conference, no new documents may be submitted by the individual unless the individual did not know the documents existed before the Level One conference.

A complaint form that is incomplete in any material aspect may be dismissed, but may be refiled with all the required information if the refile is within the designated time for filing a complaint.

LEVEL ONE

Complaint forms must be filed:

1. Within 15 days of the date the individual first knew, or with reasonable diligence should have known, of the decision or action giving rise to the complaint or grievance; and
2. With the lowest level administrator who has the authority to remedy the alleged problem.

If the only administrator who has authority to remedy the alleged problem is the Superintendent or designee, the complaint may begin at Level Two following the procedure, including deadlines, for filing the complaint form at Level One.

If the complaint is not filed with the appropriate administrator, the receiving administrator must note the date and time the complaint form was received and immediately forward the complaint form to the appropriate administrator.

The appropriate administrator shall investigate as necessary and hold a conference with the individual within ten days after receipt of the written complaint. The administrator may set reasonable time limits for the conference.

The administrator shall provide the individual a written response within ten days following the conference. The written response shall set forth the basis of the decision. In reaching a decision, the administrator may consider information provided at the Level One conference and any **other** relevant documents or information **the administrator believes will help resolve the complaint.**

LEVEL TWO

If the individual did not receive the relief requested at Level One or if the time for a response has expired, he or she may request a

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conference with the Superintendent or designee to appeal the Level One decision.

The appeal notice must be filed in writing, on a form provided by the District, within ten days of the date of the written Level One response or, if no response was received, within ten days of the Level One response deadline.

After receiving notice of the appeal, the Level One administrator shall prepare and forward a record of the Level One complaint to the Level Two administrator. The individual may request a copy of the Level One record.

The Level One record shall include:

1. The original complaint form and any attachments.
2. All other documents submitted by the individual at Level One.
3. The written response issued at Level One and any attachments.
4. All other documents relied upon by the Level One administrator in reaching the Level One decision.

The Superintendent or designee shall hold a conference within ten days after the appeal notice is filed. The conference shall be limited to the issues presented by the individual at Level One and identified in the Level Two appeal notice. At the conference, the individual may provide information concerning any documents or information relied upon by the administration for the Level One decision. The Superintendent or designee may set reasonable time limits for the conference.

The Superintendent or designee shall provide the individual a written response within ten days following the conference. The written response shall set forth the basis ~~offer~~ for the decision. In reaching a decision, the Superintendent or designee may consider the Level One record, information provided at the Level Two conference, and any other relevant documents or information the Superintendent or designee believes will help resolve the complaint.

Recordings of the Level One and Level Two conferences, if any, shall be maintained with the Level One and Level Two records.

LEVEL THREE

If the individual did not receive the relief requested at Level Two or if the time for a response has expired, he or she may appeal the decision to the Board.

The appeal notice must be filed in writing, on a form provided by the District, within ten days of the date of the written Level Two re-

sponse or, if no response was received, within ten days of the Level Two response deadline.

The Superintendent or designee shall inform the individual of the date, time, and place of the Board meeting at which the complaint will be on the agenda for presentation to the Board.

The Superintendent or designee shall provide the Board ~~with~~ the record of the Level Two ~~complaint~~ **appeal**. The individual may request a copy of the Level Two record.

The Level Two record shall include:

1. The Level One record.
- 2. The notice of appeal from Level One to Level Two.**
- ~~2.3.~~ The written response issued at Level Two and any attachments.
- ~~3.4.~~ All other documents relied upon by the administration in reaching the Level Two decision.

If at the Level Three hearing the administration intends to rely on evidence not included in the Level Two record, the administration shall provide the individual notice of the nature of the evidence at least three days before the hearing.

The District shall determine whether the complaint will be presented in open or closed meeting in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act and other applicable law. [See BE]

The presiding officer may set reasonable time limits and guidelines for the presentation, including an opportunity for the individual and administration to each make a presentation and provide rebuttal and an opportunity for questioning by the Board. The Board shall hear the complaint and may request that the administration provide an explanation for the decisions at the preceding levels.

In addition to any other record of the Board meeting required by law, the Board shall prepare a separate record of the Level Three presentation. The Level Three presentation, including the presentation by the individual or his or her representative, any presentation from the administration, and questions from the Board with responses, shall be recorded by audio recording, video/audio recording, or court reporter.

The Board shall then consider the complaint. It may give notice of its decision orally or in writing at any time up to and including the next regularly scheduled Board meeting. If the Board does not make a decision regarding the complaint by the end of the next

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regularly scheduled meeting, the lack of a response by the Board
upholds the administrative decision at Level Two.

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UPDATE 95~~83~~
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ADOPTED: