

PALESTINE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
1007 E. Park Avenue
PALESTINE, TEXAS 75801

OFFICIAL COMMUNICATION

Date: September 18, 2018

To: Board of Trustees

From: Suzanne Eiben

Subject: Policy Update 111

The policies presented in the update focus primarily on amendments to the Administrative Code resulting from legislation from the 85th Legislative Session. Recommended changes to local policies address topics of board member continuing education, reports of fraud or financial impropriety, emergency access to district facilities of contractors and subcontractors subject to criminal history review, employee compensation during emergency closings, reasonable suspicion alcohol and drug testing of employees, and student excused absences for pursuing armed services enlistment.

<u>Policy</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Action</u>
BBD	Board Members Training and Orientation Requires the board president to announce board member continuing education status at the last regular board meeting before trustee elections, even if an election is not scheduled or held.	Replace
CAA	Fiscal Management Goals and Objectives Financial Ethics Clarifies that reports of suspected impropriety may be made to a person who has authority to investigate the alleged activity, including any supervisor, the Superintendent or designee, the Board President or local law enforcement.	Replace
CJA	Contracted Services: Criminal History Authorizes the district employee in charge of a facility to determine whether an employee of a contracting or subcontracting entity who does not have the required criminal history review, or who has a disqualifying conviction, will be permitted to enter the facility in an emergency. If allowed to enter, the employee of contracting entity shall be accompanied by a District employee at all times.	Add

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| DH | Employee Standards of Conduct | No action
(No policy attached) |
| | Current DH(Local) provides that the district's prohibition against firearms on district property is not violated when a district employee who holds a Texas handgun license stores a handgun or firearm in a locked vehicle in a district parking area, provided the handgun is not loaded and is not in plain view. The interplay of State and federal law would permit a revision to this policy. No change recommended at this time. | |
| DHE | Employee Standards of Conduct
Searches and Alcoholic/Drug Testing | Replace |
| | Clarifies that the district may remove from duty and require testing of an employee if there is reasonable suspicion that the employee is under the influence of alcohol or drugs used in violation of district policy. Consequences for an employee's refusal to comply with testing and for violation of district's drug and alcohol policy are also addressed. | |
| DI | Employee Welfare | Delete |
| | Addresses drug-free awareness programs, now covered adequately in DH policies. | |
| FEA | Attendance
Compulsory Attendance | Replace |
| | Allows more accurate tracking the relevant statute which requires a district to excuse a student 17 years of age or older for up to four days.during the student's enrollment in high school to pursue military enlistment. | |
| GKA | Community Relations
Conduct on School Premises | No action
(No policy attached) |
| | Like DH(Local) with regard to a district employee storing a handgun on district property, but this policy refers to non-employees who hold a Texas handgun license storing handgun or firearm in a locked vehicle in a district parking area... There is not a violation in either situation. | |

It is recommended that the Board take action to replace, add, or delete the PISD local policies as presented.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Suzanne Eiben
Assistant Superintendent