



(LOCAL) Policy Comparisons

These documents are generated by an automated process that compares the updated policy to the current policy as found in TASB records.

In this packet, you will find:

- Policies being recommended for revision (annotated)
- New policies (not annotated)
- Policies recommended for deletion (annotated in PDF; not shown in Word)

Annotations are shown as follows:

- Deletions are in a red strike-through font: ~~deleted text~~.
- Additions are in a blue font: **new text**.
- Blocks of text that were moved without changes are shown in green, with double underline and double strike-through formatting to distinguish the text's new placement from its original location: ~~moved text~~ becomes **moved text**.
- Revision bars appear in the right margin to show sections with changes.

Note: While the annotation software competently identifies simple changes, large or complicated changes — as in an extensive rewrite — may be more difficult to follow. In addition, TASB's recent changes to the policy templates to facilitate accessibility sometimes make formatting changes appear tracked, even though the text remains the same.

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

Contact us:

School Districts and Education Service Centers, call 800-580-7529 or email policy.service@tasb.org.

Community Colleges, call 800-580-1488 or email colleges@tasb.org.

BOARD INTERNAL ORGANIZATION
BOARD OFFICERS AND OFFICIALS

BCA
(LOCAL)

**In addition to the
statutorily required
Board officers and
officials, the Board
Officers**

The Board shall elect ~~the following:~~

~~1.~~ a Chair, a Vice ~~President~~, Chair, and a Secretary who shall be members of the Board, and a recording secretary who shall not be a member of the Board. Officers shall be elected by majority vote of the members of the Board.

Board officers shall serve until a successor is elected. Officers may succeed themselves in office. Each officer shall perform any legal duties of the office and other duties as required by action of the Board.

Vacancy

A vacancy among officers of the Board shall be filled by majority action of the Board.

Duties

Board Chair

In addition to the duties required by law, policy, and Board action, the Board Chair shall:

1. Preside at all Board meetings unless unable to attend.
2. Have the right to discuss, make motions, propose resolutions, and vote on all matters coming before the Board.
3. Enforce the bylaws and adopted Board policies.
4. Sign all contracts duly authorized by the Board.
5. Countersign warrants drawn on College District funds that have been duly authorized by the Board.
6. Appoint all committees not otherwise provided for by policy.
7. Serve as an ex officio member of Board committees.

References in law and policy to the Board President are referring to the Board Chair.

Board Vice Chair

The Board Vice Chair shall:

1. Act in the capacity and perform the duties of the Board Chair in the event of the absence or incapacity of the Chair.
2. Become Board Chair only upon being elected to the position.

Board Secretary

The Board Secretary shall:

1. Ensure that an accurate record is kept of the proceedings of each Board meeting.
2. Ensure that notices of Board meetings are posted and sent as required by law.

3. In the absence of the Board Chair and Vice Chair, call the meeting to order and conduct the election of a President pro-tempore.
4. Sign or countersign documents as directed by action of the Board.

Recording
~~secretary~~Secretary

- ~~2.~~ The recording secretary shall perform clerical duties for the Board.

BOARD OFFICERS AND OFFICIALS
DUTIES AND REQUIREMENTS OF BOARD PRESIDENT

BCAB
(LOCAL)

~~In addition to the statutory powers and duties of the Board President, the President shall:~~

Additional Duties

- ~~1.— Enforce the bylaws and adopted Board policies.~~
- ~~2.— Sign all contracts duly authorized by the Board.~~
- ~~3.— Countersign warrants drawn on College District funds that have been duly authorized by the Board.~~
- ~~4.— Appoint all committees not otherwise provided for by policy.~~
- ~~5.— Serve as an ex officio member of Board committees.~~

~~For the purpose of this manual and the College District, the term “Board President” shall mean the Chairman of the Board.~~

~~BOARD OFFICERS AND OFFICIALS
DUTIES AND REQUIREMENTS OF VICE PRESIDENT~~

~~BCAG
(LOCAL)~~

~~In the absence of the Board President, the Vice President shall perform the duties of the Board President.~~

~~For the purposes of this manual and the College District, the term Vice President shall mean the Vice Chairman of the Board.~~

~~BOARD OFFICERS AND OFFICIALS
DUTIES AND REQUIREMENTS OF SECRETARY~~

~~BCAD
(LOCAL)~~

~~**Secretary**~~

~~In the absence of the President and Vice President, the Secretary shall call the meeting to order and conduct the election of a President pro tempore.~~

~~**Recording Secretary**~~

~~The Board shall appoint a recording secretary who is not a Board member. The recording secretary shall perform clerical duties for the Board.~~

As far as practicable, the Board will perform its work as a Committee of the Whole.

Board Committees

Committees of the Board, either standing or special, may be appointed by the Board President or elected by the Board. ~~Such committees shall perform specific duties and when the work of the committees has been completed, the committee shall be automatically discharged. The function of all special committees shall be fact finding and advisory, but never legislative or administrative. No committee shall have power to act unless specifically empowered by the Board.~~ When establishing a Board committee, the Board action shall, at a minimum, specify the:

- Number of Board members on the committee;
- Process to appoint Board members to the committee;
- Term of committee membership; and
- Responsibilities of the committee.

A Board committee shall be fact-finding, deliberative, and advisory, and shall make recommendations in the areas of its responsibility. Board committees shall report their findings and recommendations to the Board and shall not assume administrative duties or responsibilities.

Transacting Business

Unless specified by the Board, a Board committee shall not have final decision-making authority. Board committee recommendations must be reported to the Board at a regular or special meeting. The Board shall not accept a Board committee's recommendation without due consideration of the matter.

Dissolution

A Board committee shall be automatically dissolved when the work of the committee has been completed.

Ex Officio Members

The Board President and the College President shall be ex officio members of Board committees, unless otherwise directed by Board action.

BOARD INTERNAL ORGANIZATION
ADVISORY COMMITTEES

BCE
(LOCAL)

**Advisory
Committees**

For purposes of this policy, an advisory committee is a committee composed primarily of College District staff, students, or community members. An advisory committee may also include Board members in numbers less than a quorum of the Board.

Formation of an advisory committee shall be by Board action. When establishing an advisory committee, the Board action shall, at a minimum, specify the:

- Number of members on the committee;
- Process to appoint members to the committee;
- Term of committee membership; and
- Responsibilities of the committee.

An advisory committee shall be fact-finding, deliberative, and advisory and shall not assume administrative duties or responsibilities. Advisory committees shall report their findings and recommendations to the Board.

Transacting
Business

An advisory committee may transact business only within the specific authority granted by the Board. To be binding, all such committee recommendations must be reported to the Board at a regular or special meeting for approval and entry into the minutes as a public record.

Dissolution

An advisory committee shall be dissolved upon completion of the assigned task or Board action.

**Comprehensive
Safety Program**

The College District shall take every reasonable precaution regarding the safety of its employees, students, visitors, and all others with whom it conducts business. A designated administrator shall be responsible for developing, implementing, and promoting a comprehensive safety program.

The general areas of responsibility include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Guidelines and procedures for responding to emergencies- and disasters. [See CGC and CGE]
2. Fire safety and prevention programs.
- ~~2.3.~~ Program activities intended to reduce the frequency of accident and injury, including:
 - a. Inspecting work areas and equipment.
 - b. Training frontline and supervisory staff.
 - c. Establishing safe work and instructional procedures and regulations.
 - d. Reporting, investigating, and reviewing accidents.
 - e. Promoting responsibility for College District property on the part of students, employees, and the community.
- ~~3.4.~~ Program activities intended to reduce the ultimate cost of accidents and injuries through investigation and documentation.
- ~~4.5.~~ Program activities that identify and develop prudent methods of financing loss costs on an annual basis, including the purchase of commercial insurance, self-insured retentions, and risk pooling.
- ~~5.6.~~ Driver education programs, when available.
- ~~6.7.~~ Vehicle safety programs.
- ~~7.8.~~ Traffic safety programs and studies related to employees, students, and the community.

Information
Management

The College President or designee shall be responsible for the collection, storage, and analysis of relevant operational and historical data required to develop sound procedures for implementation and operation of the comprehensive safety program.

Note: For provisions addressing the College District's information security program, see CS.

**College District
Security Department**

To ensure sufficient security and protection of students, staff, and property, the Board authorizes the formation of a College District security department and shall employ commissioned security officers.

Jurisdiction

The jurisdiction of College District security officers shall include all territory within College District boundaries, as well as all property outside the boundaries of the College District that is owned, leased, rented, or otherwise under the control of the College District.

Authority

While within the jurisdiction set out in this policy and subject to limitations in law, security officers employed by the College District shall have the authority to:

1. Protect the safety and welfare of any person in the jurisdiction of the College District and protect the property of the College District.
2. Coordinate and cooperate with commissioned peace officers of all other law enforcement agencies in the enforcement of this policy as necessary.
3. Enforce College District policies, rules, and regulations on College District property or at College District functions.
4. Investigate violations of College District policies, rules, and regulations as requested by the College President and participate in hearings concerning alleged violations.
5. Carry weapons as directed by the chief of security and approved by the College President.
6. Carry out all other duties as directed by the chief of security or College President.

**Notice and
Registration**

The College District security department shall provide to the Texas Department of Public Safety the required notice of intent to employ a commissioned security officer and registration prior to employing a security officer.

**Qualifications and
Training**

All College District security officers shall maintain a Level III license issued by the Department of Public Safety and receive at least the minimum amount of education and training required by law.

**Limitations on
Outside Employment**

No College District security officer shall provide security services for an outside employer without prior written approval from the chief of security and College President or designee.

**Relationship with
Outside Law
Enforcement
Agencies**

The College District's security department and the law enforcement agencies with which it has overlapping jurisdiction shall enter into memoranda of understanding and other appropriate interlocal agreements that outline reasonable communication and coordination efforts among the department and the agencies. The chief of police and the College President or designee shall review the memoranda of understanding at least once every year. The memoranda of understanding shall be approved by the Board.

Use of Force

The use of force, including deadly force, shall be authorized only when reasonable and necessary, as outlined in the department regulations manual.

By Drone

The College District shall not use force by means of a drone.

Regulations Manual

To carry out the provisions in this policy, the security department shall compile and maintain a manual that describes and sets forth operational procedures, rules, and regulations pertaining to the administration of security services. The College President or designee shall review the manual annually and make any appropriate revisions.

Complaints

Complaints against a College District security officer shall be filed in accordance with DGBA, FLD, or GB, as appropriate.

Note: This policy addresses complaints of discrimination, harassment, and retaliation based on race, color, national origin, religion, age, or disability targeting employees. For legally referenced material relating to this subject matter, see DAA(LEGAL). For discrimination, harassment, and retaliation of students based on race, color, national origin, religion, age, or disability, see FFDB.

Statement of Nondiscrimination

The College District prohibits discrimination, including harassment, against any employee on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, age, disability, or any other basis prohibited by law. Retaliation against anyone involved in the complaint process is a violation of College District policy.

Discrimination

Discrimination against an employee is defined as conduct directed at an employee on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, age, disability, or any other basis prohibited by law, that adversely affects the employee's employment.

Harassment

Prohibited harassment of an employee is defined as physical, verbal, or nonverbal conduct based on an employee's race, color, religion, national origin, age, disability, or any other basis prohibited by law, when the conduct is so severe, persistent, or pervasive that the conduct:

1. Has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with the employee's work performance;
2. Creates an intimidating, threatening, hostile, or offensive work environment; or
3. Otherwise adversely affects the employee's performance, environment, or employment opportunities.

Examples

Examples of prohibited harassment may include offensive or derogatory language directed at another person's religious beliefs or practices, accent, skin color, or need for workplace accommodation; threatening or intimidating conduct; offensive jokes, name-calling, slurs, or rumors; physical aggression or assault; display of graffiti or printed material promoting racial, ethnic, or other stereotypes; or other types of aggressive conduct such as theft or damage to property.

Retaliation

~~The College District prohibits retaliation against an employee who makes a claim alleging to have experienced discrimination or harassment, or another employee who, in good faith, makes a report, serves as a witness, or otherwise participates in an investigation.~~

~~An employee who intentionally makes a false claim, offers false statements, or refuses to cooperate with a College District investigation regarding harassment or discrimination is subject to appropriate discipline.~~

~~Examples~~

~~Examples of retaliation may include termination, refusal to hire, demotion, and denial of promotion. Retaliation may also include threats, unjustified negative evaluations, unjustified negative references, or increased surveillance.~~

Prohibited Conduct

In this policy, the term “prohibited conduct” includes discrimination, harassment, and retaliation as defined by this policy, even if the behavior does not rise to the level of unlawful conduct.

Reporting Procedures

An employee who believes that he or she has experienced prohibited conduct or believes that another employee has experienced prohibited conduct should immediately report the alleged acts. The employee may report the alleged acts to his or her immediate supervisor.

Alternatively, the employee may report the alleged acts to one of the College District officials below.

For the purposes of this policy, College District officials are the ADA/Section 504 coordinator and the College President.

Definition of College District Officials

ADA / Section 504
Coordinator

The College District designates the following person to coordinate its efforts to comply with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended, which incorporates and expands upon the requirements of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended:

Name: Deborah Johnson, PhD
Position: Director of Counseling, Testing, and Career Services / Section 504, Title II Coordinator
Address: 1301 W. Roosevelt, Box 5118, Borger, TX 79007
Telephone: (806) 457-4200, ext. 777

Other Anti-discrimination Laws

The College President or designee shall serve as coordinator for purposes of College District compliance with all other antidiscrimination laws.

Alternative Reporting Procedures

An employee shall not be required to report prohibited conduct to the person alleged to have committed it. Reports concerning prohibited conduct, including reports against the ADA/Section 504 coordinator, may be directed to the College President or designee.

A report against the College President may be made directly to the Board. If a report is made directly to the Board, the Board shall appoint an appropriate person to conduct an investigation.

Timely Reporting

Reports of prohibited conduct shall be made as soon as possible after the alleged act or knowledge of the alleged act. A failure to promptly report may impair the College District's ability to investigate and address the prohibited conduct.

Notice of Report

Any College District supervisor who receives a report of prohibited conduct shall immediately notify the appropriate College District official listed above and take any other steps required by this policy.

Investigation of the Report

The College District may request, but shall not insist upon, a written report. If a report is made orally, the College District official shall reduce the report to written form.

Upon receipt or notice of a report, the College District official shall determine whether the allegations, if proven, would constitute prohibited conduct as defined by this policy. If so, the College District official shall immediately authorize or undertake an investigation, regardless of whether a criminal or regulatory investigation regarding the same or similar allegations is pending.

If the College District official determines that the allegations, if proven, would not constitute prohibited conduct as defined by this policy but may constitute a violation of other College District rules or regulations, the College District official shall refer the complaint for consideration under the appropriate policy.

If appropriate, the College District shall promptly take interim action calculated to prevent prohibited conduct during the course of an investigation.

The investigation may be conducted by the College District official or a designee or by a third party designated by the College District, such as an attorney. When appropriate, the supervisor shall be involved in or informed of the investigation.

The investigation may consist of personal interviews with the person making the report, the person against whom the report is filed, and others with knowledge of the circumstances surrounding the allegations. The investigation may also include analysis of other information or documents related to the allegations.

Concluding the Investigation

Absent extenuating circumstances, the investigation should be completed within ~~ten~~10 College District business days from the date of the report; however, the investigator shall take additional time if necessary to complete a thorough investigation.

The investigator shall prepare a written report of the investigation. The report shall be filed with the College District official overseeing the investigation.

**College District
Action**

If the results of an investigation indicate that prohibited conduct occurred, the College District shall promptly respond by taking appropriate disciplinary or corrective action reasonably calculated to address the conduct.

The College District may take action based on the results of an investigation, even if the conduct did not rise to the level of prohibited or unlawful conduct.

Confidentiality

To the greatest extent possible, the College District shall respect the privacy of the complainant, persons against whom a report is filed, and witnesses. Limited disclosures may be necessary in order to conduct a thorough investigation and comply with applicable law.

Retaliation

The College District prohibits retaliation against an employee alleged to have experienced prohibited conduct or another employee or a student who, in good faith, makes a report, serves as a witness, or otherwise participates in an investigation or proceeding under this policy. This prohibition does not apply to discipline of a person who perpetrated or assists in the perpetration of the prohibited conduct.

A person who is alleged to have experienced retaliation may pursue a claim under this policy or policy FFDB, as appropriate.

Examples

Examples of retaliation may include termination, refusal to hire, demotion, and denial of promotion. Retaliation may also include threats, intimidation, coercion, unjustified negative evaluations, unjustified negative references, or increased surveillance.

False Claims

An employee or student who intentionally makes a false claim or offers a false statement regarding prohibited conduct shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action in accordance with law.

Appeal

A party who is dissatisfied with the outcome of the investigation may appeal through the applicable grievance policy beginning at the appropriate level. [See DGBA(LOCAL) for employees, FLD(LOCAL) for students, and GB(LOCAL) for community members]

The party may have a right to file a complaint with appropriate state or federal agencies.

Records Retention

Retention of records shall be in accordance with the College District's records retention procedures. [See CIA]

**Access to Policy,
Procedures, and
Related Materials**

Information regarding this policy and any accompanying procedures, as well as relevant educational and resource materials concerning the topics discussed in this policy, shall be distributed annually to College District employees and students in compliance with law and in a manner calculated to provide easy access and wide distribution, such as through electronic distribution and inclusion in the employee and student handbooks and other major College District publications. Information regarding the policy, procedures, and related materials shall also be prominently published on the College District's website, taking into account applicable legal requirements. Copies of the policy and procedures shall be readily available at the College District's administrative offices and shall be distributed to an employee who makes a report.

Course Load

The normal course load for the fall or spring semester shall be 15 semester hours. Course loads in excess of 16 semester hours shall require approval by the vice president for academic services. The maximum course load shall be no more than 21 semester hours.

The normal course load for the summer session shall be six semester hours for each six-week term or 12 semester hours for a full summer semester. Course loads in excess of six semester hours per term or 12 semester hours per summer semester shall require approval by the vice president for academic services. The maximum summer credit hours earned shall be eight semester hours for one term or 16 semester hours for a full summer semester.

Limitation on Number of Dropped Courses

A College District student shall not be permitted to drop more than six courses taken while enrolled **as an undergraduate** at the College District or another public institution of higher education. ~~For~~ **A “dropped course” is a course in which a student enrolled for credit, but did not complete, under the limit to apply** following conditions:

1. The student ~~must be~~ **was** permitted to drop the course without receiving a grade or being penalized academically;
2. The student’s transcript ~~must indicate~~ **indicates** or will indicate the student was enrolled in the course **past the census date**; and
3. The student ~~must did~~ **not have dropped** ~~drop or is not dropping~~ the course to withdraw from the ~~College District~~ **institution**.

Exceptions
Good Cause

A student shall be permitted to exceed the limit on the number of dropped courses **if good cause exists** for ~~any of~~ **the student to drop the course**. The following reasons **constitute good cause**:

1. A severe illness or other debilitating condition that affects the student’s ability to satisfactorily complete a course;
2. ~~The~~ **Responsibility for the** care of a sick, injured, or needy person ~~if providing that care, the provision of which~~ affects the student’s ability to satisfactorily complete a course;
3. The death of a member of the student’s family as defined by law;
4. The death of a person who has **such** a sufficiently close relationship to the student, as defined by law, **that the person’s death is considered to be a showing of good cause, as determined on a case-by-case basis**;
5. The student’s active-~~duty~~ **military** ~~duty~~ service;

INSTRUCTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS
COURSE LOAD AND SCHEDULES

ECC
(LOCAL)

6. The active-duty military service of a member of the student's family or a person who has such a sufficiently close relationship to the student that the person's active-duty military service is considered to be a showing of good cause;
7. A change in the student's work schedule that is beyond the student's control and affects the student's ability to satisfactorily complete the course; or
8. A disaster declared by the governor that prevents or limits in-person course attendance for a period determined by the College District, in accordance with law, to significantly affect the student's ability to participate in coursework.

Reenrolled Students

A qualifying reenrolled student may drop a seventh course in accordance with law.

Course Dropped During a Bachelor's Program

A course dropped by a student while pursuing a bachelor's degree that the student ultimately earned may not be counted toward the limit on the number of dropped courses.

Dual Credit or Dual Enrollment Course

A dual credit or dual enrollment course dropped by a student before graduating from high school may not be counted toward the limit on the number of dropped courses.

COVID-19 Pandemic

A course dropped by a student during the 2020 spring or summer semester or the 2020-21 academic year because of a bar or limit on in-person course attendance due to the COVID-19 pandemic may not be counted toward the limit on the number of dropped courses.

Procedures

The College President shall develop procedures to implement this policy and shall publish the procedures in the College District catalog.

Appeals

A student may appeal decisions under this policy through FLD(LOCAL) beginning at the appropriate level.

Exception

If the decision relates to a request for an exemption based on a severe illness or debilitating condition that the student contends constitutes a disability in need of accommodation, the student may appeal the decision in accordance with the College District's procedures addressing disability accommodations for students.

Note: This policy addresses complaints of discrimination, harassment, and retaliation based on race, color, national origin, religion, age, or disability targeting students. For legally referenced material relating to this subject matter, see FA(LEGAL). For discrimination, harassment, and retaliation targeting employees based on race, color, national origin, religion, age, or disability, see DIAB.

Statement of Nondiscrimination

The College District prohibits discrimination, including harassment, against any student on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability, religion, age, or any other basis prohibited by law. Retaliation against anyone involved in the complaint process is a violation of College District policy and is prohibited.

Discrimination

Discrimination against a student is defined as conduct directed at a student on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability, religion, age, or on any other basis prohibited by law, that adversely affects the student.

Prohibited Harassment

Prohibited harassment of a student is defined as physical, verbal, or nonverbal conduct based on the student's race, color, religion, national origin, disability, age, or any other basis prohibited by law that is so severe, persistent, or pervasive that the conduct limits or denies a student's ability to participate in or benefit from the College District's educational program.

Examples

Examples of prohibited harassment may include offensive or derogatory language directed at another person's religious beliefs or practices, accent, skin color, or need for accommodation; threatening, intimidating, or humiliating conduct; offensive jokes, name-calling, slurs, or rumors; physical aggression or assault; display of graffiti or printed material promoting racial, ethnic, or other negative stereotypes; or other kinds of aggressive conduct such as theft or damage to property.

~~Retaliation~~

~~The College District prohibits retaliation by a student or College District employee against a student alleged to have experienced discrimination or harassment or another student who, in good faith, makes a report of harassment or discrimination, serves as a witness, or otherwise participates in an investigation.~~

~~Examples~~

~~Examples of retaliation may include threats, rumor spreading, ostracism, assault, destruction of property, unjustified punishments, or unwarranted grade reductions. Unlawful retaliation does not include petty slights or annoyances.~~

~~False Claims~~

~~A student who intentionally makes a false claim, offers false statements, or refuses to cooperate with a College District investigation~~

~~regarding discrimination or harassment shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action.~~

Prohibited Conduct

In this policy, the term “prohibited conduct” includes discrimination, harassment, and retaliation as defined by this policy, even if the behavior does not rise to the level of unlawful conduct.

Reporting Procedures

Student Report

Any student who believes that he or she has experienced prohibited conduct or believes that another student has experienced prohibited conduct should immediately report the alleged acts to a responsible employee.

Employee Report

Any College District employee who suspects and any responsible employee who receives notice that a student or group of students has or may have experienced prohibited conduct shall immediately notify the appropriate College District official listed in this policy and shall take any other steps required by this policy.

Exceptions

A person who holds a professional license requiring confidentiality, such as a counselor, or who is supervised by such a person shall not be required to disclose a report of prohibited conduct without the student’s consent.

A person who is a nonprofessional counselor or advocate designated in administrative procedures as a confidential source shall not be required to disclose information regarding an incident of prohibited conduct that constitutes personally identifiable information about a student or other information that would indicate the student’s identity without the student’s consent, unless the person is disclosing information as required for inclusion in the College District’s annual security report under the Clery Act. [See GCC]

Responsible Employee

For purposes of this policy, a “responsible employee” is an employee:

1. Who has the authority to remedy prohibited conduct.
2. Who has been given the duty of reporting incidents of prohibited conduct.
3. Whom a student reasonably believes has the authority to remedy prohibited conduct or has been given the duty of reporting incidents of prohibited conduct.

The College District designates the following persons as responsible employees: any instructor, any administrator, or any College District official defined below.

Definition of College District Officials

For the purposes of this policy, College District officials are the ADA/Section 504 coordinator and the College President.

FREEDOM FROM DISCRIMINATION, HARASSMENT, AND RETALIATION
OTHER PROTECTED CHARACTERISTICS

FFDB
(LOCAL)

ADA / Section 504
Coordinator

Reports of discrimination based on disability may be directed to the ADA/Section 504 coordinator. The College District designates the following person to coordinate its efforts to comply with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended, which incorporates and expands the requirements of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended:

Name: Deborah Johnson, PhD

Position: Director of Counseling, Testing, and Career Services / Section 504, Title II Coordinator

Address: 1301 W. Roosevelt, Box 5118, Borger, TX 79007

Telephone: (806) 457-4200, ext. 777

Other Anti-discrimination Laws

The College President or designee shall serve as coordinator for purposes of College District compliance with all other antidiscrimination laws.

Alternative Reporting Procedures

A student shall not be required to report prohibited conduct to the person alleged to have committed the conduct. Reports concerning prohibited conduct, including reports against the ADA/Section 504 coordinator, may be directed to the College President.

A report against the College President may be made directly to the Board. If a report is made directly to the Board, the Board shall appoint an appropriate person to conduct an investigation.

Timely Reporting

Reports of prohibited conduct shall be made as soon as possible after the alleged act or knowledge of the alleged act. A failure to immediately report may impair the College District's ability to investigate and address the prohibited conduct.

Investigation of the Report

The College District may request, but shall not require, a written report. If a report is made orally, the College District official shall reduce the report to written form.

Initial Assessment

Upon receipt or notice of a report, the College District official shall determine whether the allegations, if proven, would constitute prohibited conduct as defined by this policy. If so, the College District official shall immediately authorize or undertake an investigation, except as provided below at Criminal Investigation.

If the College District official determines that the allegations, if proven, would not constitute prohibited conduct as defined by this policy but may constitute a violation of other College District rules or regulations, the College District official shall refer the complaint for consideration under the appropriate policy.

FREEDOM FROM DISCRIMINATION, HARASSMENT, AND RETALIATION
OTHER PROTECTED CHARACTERISTICS

FFDB
(LOCAL)

Interim Action	If appropriate and regardless of whether a criminal or regulatory investigation regarding the alleged conduct is pending, the College District shall promptly take interim action calculated to address prohibited conduct prior to the completion of the College District's investigation.
College District Investigation	<p>The investigation may be conducted by the College District official or a designee or by a third party designated by the College District, such as an attorney. The investigator shall have received appropriate training regarding the issues related to the complaint and the relevant College District's policy and procedures.</p> <p>The investigation may consist of personal interviews with the person making the report, the person against whom the report is filed, and others with knowledge of the circumstances surrounding the allegations. The investigation may also include analysis of other information or documents related to the allegations.</p>
Criminal Investigation	If a law enforcement or regulatory agency notifies the College District that a criminal or regulatory investigation has been initiated, the College District shall confer with the agency to determine if the College District's investigation would impede the criminal or regulatory investigation. The College District shall proceed with its investigation only to the extent that it does not impede the ongoing criminal or regulatory investigation. After the law enforcement or regulatory agency has completed gathering its evidence, the College District shall promptly resume its investigation.
Concluding the Investigation	<p>Absent extenuating circumstances, such as a request by a law enforcement or regulatory agency for the College District to delay its investigation, the investigation should be completed within ten¹⁰ College District business days from the date of the report; however, the investigator shall take additional time if necessary to complete a thorough investigation.</p> <p>The investigator shall prepare a written report of the investigation. The report shall be filed with the College District official overseeing the investigation.</p>
<i>Notification of the Outcome</i>	The College District shall provide written notice of the outcome, within the extent permitted by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) or other law, to the victim and the person against whom the complaint is filed.
College District Action	If the results of an investigation indicate that prohibited conduct occurred, the College District shall promptly respond by taking appropriate disciplinary or corrective action reasonably calculated to address the conduct, in accordance with College District policy and procedures [see FM and FMA].
Prohibited Conduct	

<i>Corrective Action</i>	Examples of corrective action may include a training program for those involved in the complaint, a comprehensive education program for the College District community, counseling for the victim and the student who engaged in prohibited conduct, follow-up inquiries to determine if any new incidents or any instances of retaliation have occurred, involving students in efforts to identify problems and improve the College District climate, increasing staff monitoring of areas where prohibited conduct has occurred, and reaffirming the College District's policy against discrimination and harassment.
Improper Conduct	If the investigation reveals improper conduct that did not rise to the level of prohibited conduct, the College District may take disciplinary action in accordance with College District policy and procedures or other corrective action reasonably calculated to address the conduct.
Confidentiality	To the greatest extent possible, the College District shall respect the privacy of the complainant, persons against whom a report is filed, and witnesses. Limited disclosures may be necessary in order to conduct a thorough investigation and comply with applicable law.
<u>Retaliation</u>	<p>The College District prohibits retaliation by a student or College District employee against a student alleged to have experienced prohibited conduct or another student or an employee who, in good faith, makes a report, serves as a witness, or otherwise participates in an investigation or proceeding under this policy. This prohibition does not apply to discipline of a person who perpetrated or assists in the perpetration of the prohibited conduct.</p> <p>A person who is alleged to have experienced retaliation may pursue a claim under this policy or policy DIAB, as appropriate.</p>
<u>Examples</u>	<p><u>Examples of retaliation may include threats, intimidation, coercion, rumor spreading, ostracism, assault, destruction of property, unjustified punishments, or unwarranted grade reductions. Unlawful retaliation does not include petty slights or annoyances.</u></p>
Failure to Report and False Claims	An employee who fails to make a required report or a student or employee who intentionally makes a false claim or offers a false statement regarding prohibited conduct shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action in accordance with law.
Appeal	A party who is dissatisfied with the outcome of the investigation may appeal through the applicable grievance policy beginning at the appropriate level. [See DGBA(LOCAL) for employees, FLD(LOCAL) for students, and GB(LOCAL) for community members] A

party shall be informed of his or her right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education Office for Civil Rights.

Records Retention

Retention of records shall be in accordance with the College District's records retention procedures. [See CIA]

Access to Policy, Procedures, and Related Materials

Information regarding this policy and any accompanying procedures, as well as relevant educational and resource materials concerning the topics discussed in this policy, shall be distributed annually to College District employees and students in compliance with law and in a manner calculated to provide easy access and wide distribution, such as through electronic distribution and inclusion in the employee and student handbooks and other major College District publications. Information regarding the policy, procedures, and related materials shall also be prominently published on the College District's website, taking into account applicable legal requirements. Copies of the policy and procedures shall be readily available at the College District's administrative offices and shall be distributed to a student who makes a report.

Hazing Prohibited	Hazing by students or student organizations, as defined by law, is prohibited even if the person being hazed consents to the hazing.
Reporting Procedures	Any student who believes that he or she has experienced hazing or believes that another student or group of students has experienced hazing should immediately report the alleged acts to the vice president for administrative services, the College President, or another employee.
Student Report	
Employee Report	Any College District employee who suspects or receives notice that a student or group of students has or may have experienced hazing shall notify the vice president for administrative services in accordance with FMA.
<i>Exceptions</i>	<p>A report that includes allegations that may constitute discrimination or harassment on the basis of sex shall be submitted in accordance with FFDA.</p> <p>A report that includes allegations that may constitute discrimination or harassment on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability, religion, age, or any other basis prohibited by law shall be submitted in accordance with FFDB.</p>
Investigation of the Report	Allegations of hazing shall be investigated under FMA.
Exception	Hazing allegations that may constitute discrimination or harassment on the basis of sex, race, color, national origin, disability, religion, age, or any other basis prohibited by law shall be investigated under FFDA or FFDB, as appropriate.
Access to Policy, Procedures, and Related Materials	Information regarding this policy and any accompanying procedures, as well as relevant educational and resource materials concerning the topics discussed in this policy, shall be distributed to College District employees and students after hire or admission and then annually in a manner calculated to provide easy access and wide distribution, such as through electronic distribution, publication on the College District's website, and inclusion in the employee and student handbooks and other major College District publications.