

BOARD MEETINGS

BE
(LOCAL)

Meeting Place and Time

Board meetings shall be held during a time that is outside of typical work hours. [See FA(LEGAL)]

The notice for a Board meeting shall reflect the date, time, and location of the meeting.

Regular Meetings

Regular meetings of the Board shall normally be held on the fourth Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m. When determined necessary and for the convenience of Board members, the Board President may change the date, time, or location of a regular meeting with proper notice.

Special or Emergency Meetings

The Board President shall call special meetings at the Board President's discretion or on request by one of the members of the Board.

The Board President shall call an emergency meeting when it is determined by the Board President or one of the members of the Board that an emergency or urgent public necessity, as defined by law, warrants the meeting.

Agenda

Deadline

The deadline for submitting items for inclusion on the agenda is the ~~seventh~~10th calendar day before regular meetings and the ~~third~~10th calendar day before special meetings.

Preparation

The Superintendent shall prepare Board agendas for consideration by the Board President, who ~~, with the advice of the executive committee~~Board officers, has final approval authority in accordance with the Team Operating Procedures. If two Board members submit a timely written request for an agenda item to the Board President and Superintendent, the Board President shall approve placing the requested item on the agenda. In accordance with the Open Meetings Act, an item cannot be placed on the agenda less than ~~72 hours~~three business days in advance of a posted meeting, except in an emergency as provided by law.

The Board President shall not have authority to remove from the agenda a subject timely requested by two Board members without their specific authorizations.

Notice to Members

Members of the Board shall be given notice of regular and special meetings at least ~~72 hours~~three business days prior to the scheduled ~~time~~date of the meeting and at least one hour prior to the time of an emergency meeting.

Closed Meeting

Notice of all meetings shall provide for the possibility of a closed meeting during an open meeting, in accordance with law.

BOARD MEETINGS

BE
(LOCAL)

The Board may conduct a closed meeting when the agenda subject is one that may properly be discussed in closed meeting. [See BEC]

Order of Business

The order of business for regular Board meetings shall be as set out in the agenda accompanying the notice of the meeting. At the meeting, the order in which posted agenda items are taken may be changed by consensus of Board members.

Rules of Order

The Board shall observe the parliamentary procedures as found in *Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised*, except as otherwise provided in Board procedural rules or by law. Procedural rules may be suspended at any Board meeting by majority vote of the members present.

~~Voting~~Record Vote

Voting on any item shall be ~~by voice~~a record vote ~~or by~~ show of hands or roll call, as directed by the Board President. Any member may abstain from voting on an item, and a member's vote or failure to vote shall be recorded ~~upon that member's request~~in the minutes. [See BDAA(LOCAL) for the Board President's voting rights]

Consent Agenda

When the agenda is prepared, the Board President shall determine items, if any, that qualify to be placed on the consent agenda. A consent agenda shall include items of a routine and/or recurring nature grouped together under one action item. For each item listed as part of a consent agenda, the Board shall be furnished with background material. All such items shall be acted upon by one vote without separate discussion, unless a Board member requests that an item be withdrawn for individual consideration. The remaining items shall be adopted under a single motion and vote.

Minutes

Board action shall be carefully recorded by the Board Secretary or clerk; when approved, these minutes shall serve as the legal record of official Board actions. The written minutes of all meetings shall be approved by vote of the Board and signed by the Board President and the Board Secretary.

~~The official minutes of the Board shall be retained on file in the office of the Superintendent and shall be available for examination during regular office hours.~~[See CPC regarding retention of records.]

Discussions and Limitation

Discussions shall be addressed to the Board President and then the entire membership. Discussion shall be directed solely to the business currently under deliberation, and the Board President shall halt discussion that does not apply to the business before the Board.

BOARD MEETINGS

BE
(LOCAL)

The Board President shall also halt discussion if the Board has agreed to a time limitation for discussion of an item, and that time limit has expired. Aside from these limitations, the Board President shall not interfere with debate so long as members wish to address themselves to an item under consideration.

BOARD MEETINGS
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

BED
(LOCAL)

**Limit on
Participation**

Public participation is limited to the portion of the meeting designated to receive public comment in accordance with this policy. At all other times during a Board meeting, the audience shall not enter into discussion or debate on matters being considered by the Board, unless requested by the presiding officer.

Public Comment

Public comment shall occur at the beginning of the meeting. [See FA]

Regular Meetings

At regular Board meetings, the Board shall permit public comment, regardless of whether the topic is an item on the agenda posted with notice of the meeting.

Workshops and
Special Meetings

At all other Board meetings, including Board workshops, public comment shall be limited to items on the agenda posted with notice of the meeting.

Individuals who wish to participate during the portion of the meeting designated for public comment shall sign up with the presiding officer or designee before the meeting begins as specified in Board's procedures on public comment and shall indicate the agenda item or topic on which they wish to address the Board.

~~Public comment regarding agenda items shall occur at the beginning of the meeting.~~

Except as permitted by this policy and the Board's procedures on public comment, an individual's comments to the Board shall not exceed ~~three minutes~~three minutes per meeting.

Meeting
Management

When necessary for effective meeting management or to accommodate large numbers of individuals wishing to address the Board, the presiding officer may ~~make adjustments to public comment procedures, including adjusting when public comment will occur during the meeting, reordering agenda items, deferring public comment on nonagenda items, continuing agenda items to a later meeting, providing expanded opportunity for public comment, or establishing an overall time limit for public comment and adjusting~~adjust the time allotted to each speaker. However, no individual shall be given less than one minute to make comments.

Board's Response

Specific factual information or recitation of existing policy may be furnished in response to inquiries, but the Board shall not deliberate or decide regarding any subject that is not included on the agenda posted with notice of the meeting.

**Complaints and
Concerns**

The presiding officer or designee shall determine whether an individual addressing the Board has attempted to solve a matter administratively through resolution channels established by policy. If

not, the individual shall be referred to the appropriate policy to seek resolution:

- Employee complaints: DGBA
- Student or parent Complaints: FNG
- Public complaints: GF

Disruption

The Board shall not tolerate disruption of the meeting by members of the audience. If, after at least one warning from the presiding officer, any individual continues to disrupt the meeting by his or her words or actions, the presiding officer may request assistance from law enforcement officials to have the individual removed from the meeting.

CONTRACTED SERVICES

CJ
(LOCAL)

**Employment
Assistance
Prohibited**

No District employee shall assist a contractor or agent of the District or of any other school district in obtaining a new job if the employee knows, or has probable cause to believe, that the contractor or agent engaged in sexual misconduct regarding a minor or student in violation of the law. Routine transmission of an administrative file does not violate this prohibition.

No District contractor or agent shall assist an employee, contractor, or agent of the District or of any other school district in obtaining a new job if the contractor or agent knows, or has probable cause to believe, that the individual engaged in sexual misconduct regarding a minor or student in violation of the law. Routine transmission of an administrative or personnel file does not violate this prohibition.

[See also DC for prohibitions relating to employees.]

Prohibited
Classroom
Instruction or
Activities

A District contractor is prohibited from intentionally or knowingly engaging in or assigning to another individual instruction, guidance, activities, or programming prohibited by law [see EMB(LEGAL)]. Violation of this policy shall result in termination of the contract. A District contractor shall be permitted to appeal this action in accordance with GF(LOCAL).

Prohibition on
Diversity, Equity,
and Inclusion

A contract is subject to termination if the District contractor intentionally or knowingly:

- Engages in diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) duties.
- Assigns to another individual DEI duties.

A District contractor shall be permitted to appeal this action in accordance with GF(LOCAL).

[See BT(LEGAL)]

CONTRACTED SERVICES

~~CRIMINAL HISTORY~~BACKGROUND CHECKS AND REQUIRED REPORT-
ING

CJA
(LOCAL)

Emergencies

In an emergency due to a health or safety concern, a reasonably unforeseeable situation, or other exigent circumstance, the District employee who is in charge of the facility shall be authorized to determine whether an employee of a contracting or subcontracting entity who does not have the required criminal history record information (CHRI) review or who has a disqualifying conviction will be permitted to enter a District facility.

If allowed to enter the facility, the employee of the contracting or subcontracting entity shall be accompanied by a District employee at all times.

BUILDINGS, GROUNDS, AND EQUIPMENT MANAGEMENT
~~FLAG~~REQUIRED DISPLAYS

CLE
(LOCAL)

The U.S. and Texas flags shall be prominently displayed in each classroom to which a student is assigned during the time that the pledges of allegiance to those flags are recited.

TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES

CQ
(LOCAL)

Note: For Board member use of District technology resources, see BBI. For student use of personal electronic devices, see FNCE.

For purposes of this policy, “technology resources” means electronic communication systems and electronic equipment.

Availability of Access

Access to the District’s technology resources, including the internet, shall be made available to students and employees primarily for instructional and administrative purposes and in accordance with administrative regulations.

Limited Personal Use

Limited personal use of the District’s technology resources shall be permitted if the use:

1. Imposes no tangible cost on the District;
2. Does not unduly burden the District’s technology resources;
3. Does not occur while an employee is assigned to other duties; and
4. Has no adverse effect on an employee’s job performance or on a student’s academic performance.

No software may be installed or downloaded on District computers without the approval of the Superintendent.

Use by Members of the Public

Access to the District’s technology resources, including the internet, may be made available to members of the public, in accordance with administrative regulations. Such use shall be permitted so long as the use:

1. Imposes no measurable cost on the District;
2. Does not unduly burden the District’s technology resources; and
3. Follows procedures outlined in policy and regulation.

Responsible Use

The Superintendent shall develop and implement administrative regulations, guidelines, and user agreements consistent with the purposes and mission of the District and with law and policy.

Access to the District’s technology resources is a privilege, not a right. All users shall be required to acknowledge receipt and understanding of all administrative regulations governing use of the District’s technology resources and shall agree to allow monitoring of their use and to comply with such regulations and guidelines. Non-compliance may result in suspension of access or termination of

TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES

CQ
(LOCAL)

privileges and other disciplinary action consistent with District policies. [See DH, FN series, FO series, and the Student Code of Conduct]

Student access to District technology resources is permitted unless the parent has denied permission on the Student/Parent Handbook Parent Acknowledgment Form and returned the form to the campus.

Violations of law may result in criminal prosecution as well as disciplinary action by the District.

Artificial Intelligence

~~Employees and students shall be permitted to explore artificial intelligence (AI) and implement its use in and out of the classroom in accordance with policy and administrative regulations. The use of AI shall only be as a support tool to enhance student outcomes and shall never take the place of teacher and student decision-making. Any use of AI must comply with law, policy, and administrative regulations relating to student and employee privacy and data security.~~

~~A student shall only use AI tools with teacher permission and shall be expected to produce original work and properly credit sources, including AI tools used in creating the work. [See Academic Dishonesty at EIA(LOCAL)] Students who use AI tools to deceptively harm, bully, or harass others shall be disciplined in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct and policy. [See FFH, FFI, and the FO series]~~

**Termination /
Revocation of
System User
Account**

Termination of an employee's or student's access for violation of District policies or regulations shall be effective on the date the principal or chief technology officer receives notice of student withdrawal or of revocation of system privileges, or on a future date if so specified in the notice.

Internet Safety

The Superintendent shall develop and implement an internet safety plan to:

1. Control students' access to inappropriate materials, as well as to materials that are harmful to minors;
2. Ensure student safety and security when using electronic communications;
3. Prevent unauthorized access, including hacking and other unlawful activities;
4. Restrict unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of personally identifiable information regarding students; and

TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES

CQ
(LOCAL)

5. Educate students about cyberbullying awareness and response and about appropriate online behavior, including interacting with other individuals on social networking websites and in chat rooms.

Filtering

Each District computer with internet access and the District's network systems shall have filtering devices or software that blocks access to visual depictions that are obscene, pornographic, inappropriate for students, or harmful to minors, as defined by the federal Children's Internet Protection Act and as determined by the Superintendent.

The Superintendent shall enforce the use of such filtering devices. Upon approval from the Superintendent, an authorized technology staff member may disable the filtering device for bona fide research or other lawful purpose.

Monitored Use

Electronic mail transmissions and other use of the District's technology resources by students, employees, and members of the public shall not be considered private. Designated District staff shall be authorized to monitor the District's technology resources at any time to ensure appropriate use.

Disclaimer of Liability

The District shall not be liable for users' inappropriate use of the District's technology resources, violations of copyright restrictions or other laws, users' mistakes or negligence, and costs incurred by users. The District shall not be responsible for ensuring the availability of the District's technology resources or the accuracy, age appropriateness, or usability of any information found on the internet.

Record Retention

A District employee shall retain electronic records, whether created or maintained using the District's technology resources or using personal technology resources, in accordance with the District's record management program. [See CPC]

Electronically Signed Documents

At the District's discretion, the District may make certain transactions available online, including student admissions documents, student grade and performance information, contracts for goods and services, and employment documents.

To the extent the District offers transactions electronically, the District may accept electronic signatures in accordance with this policy.

When accepting electronically signed documents or digital signatures, the District shall comply with rules adopted by the Department of Information Resources, to the extent practicable, to:

- Authenticate a digital signature for a written electronic communication sent to the District;

TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES

CQ
(LOCAL)

- Maintain all records as required by law;
- Ensure that records are created and maintained in a secure environment;
- Maintain appropriate internal controls on the use of electronic signatures;
- Implement means of confirming transactions; and
- Train staff on related procedures as necessary.

TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES
CYBERSECURITY

CQB
(LOCAL)

Plan	The District shall develop a cybersecurity plan to secure the District's cyberinfrastructure against a cyberattack or any other cybersecurity incidents, determine cybersecurity risk, and implement appropriate mitigation planning.
Coordinator	The Superintendent shall designate a cybersecurity coordinator. The cybersecurity coordinator shall serve as the liaison between the District and the Texas Education Agency in cybersecurity matters.
Training	<p>The Board delegates to the Superintendent the authority to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Determine the cybersecurity training program to be used in the District;2. Verify and report compliance with training requirements in accordance with guidance from the Department of Information Resources Texas Cyber Command; and3. Remove access to the District's computer systems and databases for noncompliance with training requirements as appropriate. <p>The District shall complete periodic audits to ensure compliance with the cybersecurity training requirements.</p>
Security Breach and Cybersecurity Incident Notifications	<p>Upon discovering or receiving notification of a breach of system security or a security cybersecurity incident, as defined by law, the District shall disclose the breach or incident to affected persons or entities and provide any other notices in accordance with the time frames established by law. The District shall give notice by using one or more of the following methods:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Written notice.2. Email, if the District has email addresses for the affected persons.3. Conspicuous posting on the District's websites.4. Publication through broadcast media. <p>The District shall disclose a breach or incident involving sensitive, protected, or confidential student information as required by law.</p>

ADD – POLICY

Training

The Board delegates to the Superintendent the authority to:

1. Determine the artificial intelligence (AI) training program to be used in the District;
2. Verify and report compliance with training requirements in accordance with guidance from the Department of Information Resources; and
3. Remove access to the District's computer systems and databases for noncompliance with training requirements as appropriate.

The District shall complete periodic audits to ensure compliance with the AI training requirements.

Use in District

Employees and students shall be permitted to explore AI and implement its use in and out of the classroom in accordance with policy and administrative regulations. The use of AI shall only be as a support tool to enhance student outcomes and shall never take the place of teacher and student decision-making. Any use of AI must comply with law, policy, and administrative regulations relating to student and employee privacy and data security.

A student shall only use AI tools with teacher permission and shall be expected to produce original work and properly credit sources, including AI tools used in creating the work. Students who use AI tools to deceptively harm, bully, or harass others shall be disciplined in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct and policy. [See EIA(LOCAL), FFH, FFI, and the FO series]

FACILITY STANDARDS
SAFETY AND SECURITY

CSA
(LOCAL)

**Building Access
Control**

Audits of building access control shall include weekly inspections of instructional facilities during school hours to certify all exterior doors are, by default, set to closed, latched, and locked status and cannot be opened from the outside without a key.

The Superintendent shall ensure that the findings of the weekly inspections are:

1. Reported to the District safety and security committee; and
2. Reported to the campus principal or lead administrator of the instructional facility to ensure awareness of any deficiencies identified.

The campus principal or lead administrator shall assign appropriate staff to take action to reduce the likelihood of similar deficiencies in the future.

The results of the weekly reports shall be kept for review as part of the required safety and security audit.

The District's building access control procedures shall not be interpreted as discouraging parents or guardians who have been properly verified as authorized visitors from visiting their student's campus. [See GKC]

**Designation and Use
of Private Spaces**

The Board shall ensure that the Superintendent, or appropriate staff as determined by the Superintendent, designates private spaces in accordance with law.

The Superintendent shall develop administrative regulations to ensure compliance with law and policy regarding the use of private spaces in District facilities.

FACILITIES CONSTRUCTION

CV
(LOCAL)

Compliance with Law

The Superintendent shall establish procedures that ensure that all school facilities within the District comply with applicable laws and local building codes.

Construction Contracts

The Board delegates to the Superintendent or designee the authority to determine, prior to advertising, the project delivery/contract award method to be used for each construction contract valued at or above ~~\$50,000~~ [the competitive purchasing threshold established in law](#). [See CV series generally and CBB(LEGAL) for requirements if federal funds are involved.]

For construction contracts valued at or above \$100,000, the Superintendent shall submit the resulting contract to the Board for approval. Lesser expenditures for construction and construction-related materials or services shall be at the discretion of the Superintendent and consistent with law and policy. [See also CH and CBB(LEGAL)]

Note: For provisions regarding delegation of authority for construction contracts in the event of a catastrophe, emergency, or natural disaster affecting the District, see CH(LOCAL).

Change Orders

Change orders permitted by law shall be approved prior to any changes being made in the approved plans or the actual construction of the facility.

The Superintendent shall be authorized to approve change orders authorized under Texas law. [See CV(LEGAL)] However, if any change order results in a contract exceeding the Board-approved budget for the project, the change order shall require Board approval.

Project Administration

All construction projects shall be administered by the Superintendent ~~or designee~~.

The Superintendent shall keep the Board informed concerning construction projects and also shall provide information to the general public.

Final Payment

The District shall not make final payments for construction or the supervision of construction until the work has been completed and the Superintendent or designee has accepted the work.

Impact Fees

The District's boundaries encompass 13 municipalities and two counties over more than 100 square miles. Therefore, the Board shall avoid entering into any agreement consenting to the payment of municipal impact fees unless such agreement is financially advantageous for the students and stakeholders located in all

FACILITIES CONSTRUCTION

CV
(LOCAL)

**Delegation of
Authority to
Superintendent**

municipalities and counties that are served by the District. For purposes of such a determination, the District's ability to obtain construction, use, or occupancy permits; the impact on the District's construction schedule; or the avoidance of financial pressure on the District shall be of no value or consideration.

The following types of contracts and legal documents shall not require Board approval, and the Board delegates to the Superintendent the authority to execute these documents on behalf of the District as the property owner:

1. Utility and other infrastructure easements or dedications for the provision of utility services to campus facilities;
2. Utility commitment letters and service agreements with public utility providers; and
3. Plats that do not convey public road easements or right-of-way dedications.

EMPLOYMENT REQUIREMENTS AND RESTRICTIONS
CONFLICT OF INTEREST

DBD
(LOCAL)

Note: For conflicts of interest and gifts and gratuities related to federal grants and awards, see CB and CBB.

~~Disclosure—~~
~~General~~Disclosure —
General Standard

An employee shall disclose to his or her immediate supervisor a personal financial interest, a business interest, or any other obligation or relationship that in any way creates a potential conflict of interest with the proper discharge of assigned duties and responsibilities or with the best interest of the District.

Specific Disclosures
Substantial Interest

The Superintendent shall file an affidavit with the Board President disclosing a substantial interest, as defined by Local Government Code 171.002, in any business or real property that the Superintendent or any of his or her relatives in the first degree may have.

Any other employee who is in a position to affect a financial decision involving any business entity or real property in which the employee has a substantial interest, as defined by Local Government Code 171.002, shall file an affidavit with the Superintendent; however, the employee shall not be required to file an affidavit for the substantial interest of a relative.

Interest in Property

The Superintendent shall be required to file an affidavit disclosing interest in property in accordance with Government Code 553.002.

Annual Financial
Management
Report

The Superintendent, as the executive officer of the District, shall provide to the District in a timely manner information necessary for the District's annual financial management report.

[See BBFA]

Gifts

An employee shall not accept or solicit any gift, favor, service, or other benefit that could reasonably be construed to influence the employee's discharge of assigned duties and responsibilities. [See CAA, CB, and CBB]

Endorsements

An employee shall not recommend, endorse, or require students to purchase any product, material, or service in which the employee has a financial interest or that is sold by a company that employs or retains the District employee during nonschool hours. No employee shall require students to purchase a specific brand of school supplies if other brands are equal and suitable for the intended instructional purpose.

Sales

An employee shall not use his or her position with the District to attempt to sell products or services.

**District Purchase of
Goods and Services
from Employees**

Any sale of goods or services to the District by District employees, whether directly or indirectly, shall be discouraged. The District shall not enter into a business relationship with a District employee

EMPLOYMENT REQUIREMENTS AND RESTRICTIONS
CONFLICT OF INTEREST

DBD
(LOCAL)

for the provision of goods or services without the express prior written approval of the Superintendent or designee. The Superintendent's approval shall be based upon a determination that it is impractical for the District to obtain the goods or services from other sources and that the transaction is in the best interest of the District. If approval is granted, the Superintendent shall notify the Board.

**Nonschool
Employment**

An employee shall disclose in writing to his or her immediate supervisor any outside employment that in any way creates a potential conflict of interest with the proper discharge of assigned duties and responsibilities or with the best interest of the District. If the immediate supervisor or Superintendent determines that the outside employment interferes with the employee's ability to carry out his or her assigned duties or becomes a conflict of interest, the employee may be asked to discontinue the outside employment.

Private Tutoring

An employee shall disclose in writing to his or her immediate supervisor any private tutoring of District students for a fee. Classroom teachers and instructional aides shall be prohibited from tutoring for a fee any students who are currently enrolled in their classes.

**Personal Services
Performed by an
Administrator**

An administrator, as defined in law, shall not receive any financial benefit for the performance of personal services except as permitted by and in accordance with law.

An administrator, other than a Superintendent or an assistant superintendent, who wishes to seek Board approval to perform personal services permitted by law shall submit that request to the Superintendent in accordance with administrative regulations.

COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS
LEAVES AND ABSENCES

DEC
(LOCAL)

**Leave
Administration**

The Superintendent shall develop administrative regulations addressing employee leaves and absences to implement the provisions of this policy.

Definitions

The term "immediate family" is defined as:

Immediate Family

1. Spouse.
2. Son or daughter, including a biological, adopted, or foster child, a son- or daughter-in-law, a stepchild, a legal ward, or a child for whom the employee stands *in loco parentis*.
3. Parent, stepparent, parent-in-law, or other individual who stands *in loco parentis* to the employee.
4. Sibling, stepsibling, and sibling-in-law.
5. Grandparent and grandchild.
6. Any person residing in the employee's household at the time of illness or death.

For purposes of the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA), the definitions of spouse, parent, son or daughter, and next of kin are found in DECA(LEGAL).

Family Emergency

The term "family emergency" shall be limited to disasters and life-threatening situations involving the employee or a member of the employee's immediate family.

Leave Day

A "leave day" for purposes of earning, using, or recording leave shall mean the number of hours per day equivalent to the employee's usual assignment, whether full-time or part-time.

School Year

A "school year" for purposes of earning, using, or recording leave shall mean the term of the employee's annual employment as set by the District for the employee's usual assignment, whether full-time or part-time.

Daily Rate of Pay

The "daily rate" of a contract employee, including a teacher, school counselor, or librarian, shall be computed by dividing the employee's annual salary by the number of duty days in the employee's contract year.

Catastrophic Illness
or Injury

A catastrophic illness or injury is a severe condition or combination of conditions affecting the mental or physical health of the employee or a member of the employee's immediate family that requires the services of a licensed practitioner for a prolonged period of time and that forces the employee to exhaust all leave time earned by that employee and to lose compensation from the District. Such conditions typically require prolonged hospitalization or

COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS
LEAVES AND ABSENCES

DEC
(LOCAL)

recovery or are expected to result in disability or death. Conditions relating to pregnancy or childbirth shall be considered catastrophic if they meet the requirements of this paragraph.

Note: For District contribution to employee insurance during leave, see CRD(LOCAL).

Availability

The District shall make state personal leave and local leave for the current year available for use at the beginning of the school year.

State Leave
Proration

If an employee separates from employment with the District before his or her last duty day of the school year or begins employment after the first duty day of the school year, state personal leave shall be prorated based on the actual time employed.

If an employee separates from employment before the last duty day of the school year, the employee's final paycheck shall be reduced for state personal leave the employee used beyond his or her pro rata entitlement for the school year.

Medical Certification

An employee shall submit medical certification of the need for leave if:

1. The employee is absent more than three consecutive work-days because of personal illness or illness in the immediate family;
2. The District requires medical certification due to a questionable pattern of absences or when deemed necessary by the supervisor or Superintendent; or
3. The employee requests FMLA leave for the employee's serious health condition; a serious health condition of the employee's spouse, parent, or child; or for military caregiver leave.

In each case, medical certification shall be made by a health-care provider as defined by the FMLA. [See DECA(LEGAL)]

State Personal Leave

The Board requires employees to differentiate the manner in which state personal leave is used.

Nondiscretionary
Use

Nondiscretionary use of leave shall be for the same reasons and in the same manner as state sick leave accumulated before May 30, 1995. [See DEC(LEGAL)]

Nondiscretionary use includes leave related to the birth or placement of a child and taken within the first year after the child's birth, adoption, or foster placement.

COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS
LEAVES AND ABSENCES

DEC
(LOCAL)

Discretionary Use	Discretionary use of leave is at the individual employee's discretion, subject to limitations set out below.
Request for Leave	<p>In deciding whether to approve or deny a request for discretionary use of state personal leave, the supervisor shall not seek or consider the reasons for which an employee requests to use leave. The supervisor shall, however, consider the duration of the requested absence in conjunction with the effect of the employee's absence on the educational program and District operations, as well as the availability of substitutes.</p> <p>Discretionary use of state personal leave shall not exceed five total workdays per academic calendar year.</p>
Local Leave	<p>Each full-time employee shall earn five, six, or seven paid local leave days per school year in accordance with administrative regulations. [See DEC1(REGULATION) and DEC(EXHIBIT—A)]</p> <p>Local leave shall accumulate to the maximum number of workdays equivalent to the employee's usual work year.</p> <p>Local leave shall be used according to the terms and conditions of state sick leave accumulated before the 1995–96 school year [see DEC(LEGAL)], except that an employee may donate local leave to an eligible employee. [See Friends Helping Friends Leave Donation, below]</p>
Administrative Leave	An employee may be suspended with or without pay and placed on administrative leave by the Superintendent or designee during an investigation of alleged misconduct by the employee or at any time the Superintendent or designee determines that the District's best interest will be served by the suspension. [See DFAA(LOCAL) and DFBA(LOCAL)].
Extended Sick Leave	<p>After all available paid leave days and any applicable compensatory time have been exhausted, an eligible teacher, administrator, or support staff member shall be granted in a school year a maximum of 20 leave days of extended sick leave to be used for the employee's personal illness or injury, including pregnancy-related illness or injury, or for absences related to the illness or injury or the death of a member of the employee's immediate family. For eligibility requirements, see administrative regulations. [See DEC1(REGULATION)]</p> <p>A written request for extended sick leave must be accompanied by medical certification of the illness or injury or certification of the family member's death.</p>

COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS
LEAVES AND ABSENCES

DEC
(LOCAL)

For teachers and administrators, the District shall deduct the average daily rate of pay of a certified substitute for each day of extended sick leave taken, whether or not a substitute is employed. For support staff, the District shall deduct an amount equal to one-half the individual employee's daily rate of pay, not to exceed the daily rate of a non-degreed substitute teacher, for each day of extended sick leave taken.

**Friends Helping
Friends Leave
Donation Program**

A full-time employee who has exhausted all paid leave and who suffers from a catastrophic illness or injury or is absent due to the catastrophic illness or injury of the employee's spouse, child, parent, or dependent may request the establishment of a friends helping friends leave donation program, to which District employees may donate local leave or state personal leave for use by the eligible employee.

The Superintendent shall develop regulations for the operation of the friends helping friends leave donation program that address the following:

1. Procedures to request leave from the program;
2. The maximum number of days per school year a member employee may receive from the program;
3. The committee or administrator authorized to consider requests for leave from the program and criteria for granting requests; and
4. Other procedures deemed necessary for the operation of the friends helping friends leave donation program.

[See DEC3(REGULATION)]

Appeal

An employee may appeal a decision regarding the establishment or implementation of the District's friends helping friends leave donation program in accordance with DGBA(LOCAL), beginning with the Superintendent or appropriate administrator.

**Major Disaster Leave
Donation Program**

In the event of a major disaster or emergency, as declared by the President of the United States, the Superintendent may approve the establishment of a leave-sharing plan for employees adversely affected by the disaster or emergency. For purposes of the plan, an employee is considered to be adversely affected by a major disaster if the disaster has caused severe hardship to the employee that requires the employee to be absent from work.

The Superintendent shall develop administrative regulations for the operation of the major disaster leave sharing program that address the following:

COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS
LEAVES AND ABSENCES

DEC
(LOCAL)

1. Implementation of the program;
2. Procedures to request leave from the program;
3. The maximum number of days per school year a member employee may receive from the program;
4. The committee or administrator authorized to consider requests for leave from the program and criteria for granting requests; and
5. Other procedures deemed necessary for the operation of the program.

[See DEC3(REGULATION)]

Appeal

An employee may appeal a decision regarding the establishment or implementation of the District's major disaster leave donation program in accordance with DGBA(LOCAL), beginning with the Superintendent or appropriate administrator.

**Unpaid Personal
Illness Leave for
Noncertified
Employees**

A paraprofessional or other noncertified employee may be granted up to 90 calendar days of unpaid personal illness leave for a work-related or nonwork-related personal injury or illness once all other available leave has been exhausted. The employee may elect to continue, at his or her own expense, the District's group insurance plan according to COBRA guidelines. [See CRD]

Each application shall be submitted to the Superintendent in writing. The application shall include all pertinent information and supporting evidence needed in order for the Superintendent to make a decision regarding granting the leave. Each request shall be reviewed and considered on a case-by-case basis.

An employee who has been granted unpaid personal illness leave shall be entitled to reinstatement in the position vacated if the employee reports to the supervising administrator within three days following release with medical certification of the employee's ability to perform the essential functions of the employee's job, with or without reasonable accommodation, and the position is available. If the position vacated is unavailable at the time the employee requests reinstatement, the employee's name shall be placed on the substitute roster, if any, and the employee shall be considered for a subsequent vacancy along with other applicants.

Other Unpaid Leave

An employee who has exhausted all available leave options in a school year may qualify for up to ~~ten~~¹⁰ additional leave days of unpaid leave under the following conditions:

COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS
LEAVES AND ABSENCES

DEC
(LOCAL)

1. The days granted shall result in a full dock of the employee's daily rate of pay, whether or not a substitute was employed.
2. Medical certification shall be made by a health-care provider as defined by the FMLA [see DECA(LEGAL)] for items 4b and 4c below.
3. Certification, such as an obituary notice from a newspaper or funeral home, shall be required for use of this leave due to a death in the family.
4. The days shall be granted only for:
 - a. Death in the employee's immediate family;
 - b. Accidental injury of the employee or a member of the employee's immediate family that requires medical treatment;
 - c. Illness of the employee or a member of the employee's immediate family requiring medical treatment; or
 - d. Up to two days for situations not covered by the criteria listed above. Medical or other certification shall not be required for these days; however, the total of ~~ten~~10 unpaid leave days per school year shall not be exceeded.

Application for use of unpaid leave shall be submitted in writing to the employee's supervisor and must be approved by the Superintendent.

Leave for Advanced
Academic
Preparation

A one-year, unpaid leave of absence for advanced academic preparation may be granted by the Board upon recommendation of the Superintendent after completion of two consecutive years of employment in the District. An employee shall submit a written request for the leave prior to June 1 for a leave commencing during the next school year. Any exception to this requirement must be approved by the Superintendent. In addition, the employee must be enrolled in an approved graduate program for a minimum of nine hours during each of the fall and spring semesters. An approved advanced degree plan shall be on file in the District's personnel office. The Superintendent shall recommend approval of the leave to the Board if the employee meets the criteria and has been recommended by the principal.

The employee shall notify the executive director for human resources in writing by March 1 of the year in which the employee is on leave whether or not the employee plans to return to his or her position in the District.

COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS
LEAVES AND ABSENCES

DEC
(LOCAL)

At the completion of the leave, the employee shall be assigned to the same campus provided a vacancy is available in an area for which the employee is certified. All accrued benefits shall be retained. Should the employee fail to give notice of intent to return, a position shall not be held and benefits shall be forfeited.

During the leave of absence for advanced academic preparation, the employee may continue participation in the employee health-care program by paying premiums in advance. [See CRD(LOCAL)]

**Family and Medical
Leave**

The District shall make FMLA leave available to employees in accordance with DECA(LEGAL) and the following provisions.

Concurrent Use of
Paid Leave

FMLA leave shall run concurrently with applicable paid leave and compensatory time, as applicable, except as provided below.

~~**Note:** — See DECA(LEGAL) for provisions addressing FMLA.~~

A teacher shall notify the appropriate administrator if they choose not to use paid leave concurrently with FMLA leave for an absence related to pregnancy or the birth or adoption of child.

Twelve-Month
Period

For purposes of an employee's entitlement to FMLA leave, the 12-month period shall be August 1 through July 31.

Combined Leave for
Spouses

When both spouses are employed by the District, the District shall limit FMLA leave for the birth, adoption, or placement of a child, or to care for a parent with a serious health condition, to a combined total of 12 weeks. The District shall limit military caregiver leave to a combined total of 26 weeks.

Intermittent or
Reduced Schedule
Leave

The District shall not permit use of intermittent or reduced schedule FMLA leave for the care of a newborn child or for the adoption or placement of a child with the employee.

Certification of
Leave

When an employee requests leave, the employee shall provide certification, in accordance with FMLA regulations, of the need for leave.

Fitness-for-Duty
Certification

In accordance with administrative regulations, when an employee takes FMLA leave due to the employee's own serious health condition, the employee shall provide, before resuming work, a fitness-for-duty certification.

Leave at the End of
Semester

When a teacher takes leave near the end of the semester, the District may require the teacher to continue leave until the end of the semester.

COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS
LEAVES AND ABSENCES

DEC
(LOCAL)

**Temporary Disability
Leave**

Any full-time employee whose position requires educator certification by the State Board for Educator Certification or by the District shall be eligible for temporary disability leave. The maximum length of temporary disability leave shall be 180 calendar days. [See DBB(LOCAL) for temporary disability leave placement and DEC(LEGAL) for return to active duty.]

An employee's notification of need for extended absence due to the employee's own medical condition shall be forwarded to the Superintendent as a request for temporary disability leave.

The District shall require the employee to use temporary disability leave and paid leave, including any compensatory time, concurrently with FMLA leave.

**Workers'
Compensation**

Note: Workers' compensation is not a form of leave. The workers' compensation law does not require the continuation of the District's contribution to health insurance.

An absence due to a work-related injury or illness shall be designated as FMLA leave, temporary disability leave, and/or assault leave, as applicable.

Paid Leave Offset

The District shall permit the option for paid leave offset in conjunction with workers' compensation income benefits. [See CRE]

Court Appearances

Absences due to compliance with a valid subpoena or for jury duty shall be fully compensated by the District and shall not be deducted from the employee's pay or leave balance.

**Payment for
Accumulated Leave**

Upon Retirement

The following leave provisions shall apply to accumulated state and local leave.

An employee who retires from the District shall be eligible for payment for accumulated state and local leave under the following conditions:

1. The employee is employed on a full-time basis.
2. The employee is retiring under the Teacher Retirement System of Texas (TRS).
3. The employee has at least five years of service with the District.

The employee shall receive payment for each day of accumulated state and local leave, to a maximum number of workdays for one contract year or the number of duty days specified for the position, at the rate established by the Board in the compensation plan. If the employee is reemployed with the District, days for which the

COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS
LEAVES AND ABSENCES

DEC
(LOCAL)

employee received payment shall not be available to that employee.

The rate established by the Board shall be in effect until the Board adopts a new rate. Any changes to the rate shall apply beginning with the school year following the adoption of the rate change.

Upon Resignation

The following leave provisions shall apply to accumulated local leave.

A professional employee who separates from employment with the District shall be eligible for payment for accumulated local leave under the following conditions:

1. The employee provides advance written notice of intent to separate from employment. Chapter 21 contract employees must have their resignations accepted by the Superintendent. All other employees must provide written notice at least two weeks or ~~ten~~10 workdays before the last day of employment.
2. The employee has at least five consecutive years of service with the District.

The employee shall receive payment for each day of accumulated local leave, to a maximum of the number of contracted days in one school year, at a rate established by the Board. If the employee is reemployed with the District, days for which the employee received payment shall not be available to that employee.

The rate established by the Board shall be in effect until the Board adopts a new rate. Any changes to the rate shall apply beginning with the school year following the adoption of the rate change.

Upon Death

The documented basic life insurance beneficiary of an employee with at least five consecutive years of service who dies while employed by the District shall be eligible for reimbursement of the employee's applicable unused state and local leave, up to the number of workdays for one contract year or the number of days specified for the position. Eligible payment shall be at the certified substitute teacher rate of pay for exempt employees, including administrators. For nonexempt employees, the rate of pay shall be 50 percent of the employee's daily rate of pay, not to exceed the daily rate of pay for a non-degreed substitute teacher.

Job Abandonment

An employee who is absent from duty for three consecutive days without notifying his or her immediate supervisor of his or her status and the anticipated date of return may be deemed to have voluntarily resigned from the District and may be dismissed from employment in accordance with policy. [See DFBB, DCD, and DF series]

COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS
LEAVES AND ABSENCES

DEC
(LOCAL)

**Neutral Absence
Control**

Prior to the expiration of an employee's approved medical leave, the District shall provide the employee written notice at the last known home address, as reflected in the system, regarding the expiration of his or her leave. At that time, the employee must provide appropriate medical release that he or she is able to return to duty and perform the essential functions of the job, if applicable. The employee's eligibility for reasonable accommodations, as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act [see DAA(LEGAL)], shall be considered if requested and if the employee provides the appropriate medical documentation. If an employee fails to provide the appropriate medical release and/or documentation within the allotted timelines, as stated in the notification, and therefore does not return to work after exhausting all available paid and unpaid leave, the District shall automatically pursue termination, regardless of the reason for the absence. [See DF series] If terminated, the employee may apply for reemployment with the District.

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, gender, national origin, age, disability, or any other basis prohibited by law. 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]
10. Reduction in force because of a program change. [See DFFB]
11. The employee is not retained at a campus in accordance with the provisions of a campus turnaround plan. [See AIC]
12. Drunkenness or excessive use of alcoholic beverages; or possession, use, or being under the influence of alcohol or alcoholic beverages while on District property, while working in the scope of the employee's duties, or while attending any school- or District-sponsored activity.
13. The illegal possession, use, manufacture, or distribution of a controlled substance, a drug, a dangerous drug, hallucinogens, or other substances regulated by state statutes.
14. Failure to meet the District's standards of professional conduct.
15. 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]

16. 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]
17. Failure to comply with reasonable District requirements regarding advanced coursework or professional improvement and growth.
18. Disability, not otherwise protected by law, that prevents the employee from performing the essential functions of the job with or without reasonable accommodation.
19. Any activity, school-connected or otherwise, that, because of publicity given it, or knowledge of it among students, faculty, or the community, impairs or diminishes the employee's effectiveness in the District.
20. Any breach by the employee of an employment contract or any reason specified in the employee's employment contract.
21. Failure to maintain an effective working relationship, or maintain good rapport, with parents, the community, or colleagues.
22. A significant lack of student progress attributable to the educator.
23. Behavior that presents a danger of physical harm to a student or to other individuals.
24. Assault on a person on District property or at a school-related function, or on an employee, student, or student's parent regardless of time or place.
25. 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.
26. Falsification of records or other documents related to the District's activities.
27. Falsification or omission of required information on an employment application.
28. Misrepresentation of facts to a supervisor or other District official in the conduct of District business.

TERM CONTRACTS
NONRENEWAL

DFBB
(LOCAL)

29. Failure to fulfill requirements for state licensure or certification, including passing certification or licensing examinations required by state or federal law or by the District, for the employee's assignment.
30. Failure to maintain licensing and certification requirements, including the completion of required continuing education hours, for the employee's assignment.
31. Failure to complete certification or permit renewal requirements, or failure to fulfill the requirements of a deficiency plan, under an Emergency Permit or a Temporary Classroom Assignment Permit.
32. Any attempt to encourage or coerce a child to withhold information from the child's parent or from other District personnel.
33. Any reason that makes the employment relationship void or voidable, such as a violation of federal, state, or local law.
34. Engaging in or assigning to another individual, whether intentionally or knowingly, an instruction, guidance, activities, or programming prohibited by law. [See EMB]
35. Engaging in or assigning to another individual, whether intentionally or knowingly, diversity, equity, and inclusion duties prohibited by law.
- ~~34.~~36. Any reason constituting good cause for terminating the contract during its term.

Recommendations
from Administration

Administrative recommendations for renewal or proposed nonrenewal of term 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. If the Board votes to propose nonrenewal for any employees, it shall also decide whether any requested hearing will be conducted by the Board or by an independent hearing examiner.

TERM CONTRACTS
NONRENEWAL

DFBB
(LOCAL)

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 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 at a reasonable time before the hearing.

The Board has chosen to designate the type of hearing for proposed nonrenewals on a case-by-case basis. In the notice of proposed nonrenewal, the employee shall receive notice of whether the Board [see Request for Board Hearing, below] or an independent hearing examiner appointed by the commissioner of education [see Request for Appointment of Hearing Examiner, below] will conduct the hearing.

**Request for
Appointment of
Hearing Examiner**

If the notice of proposed nonrenewal states that the nonrenewal hearing will be conducted by an independent hearing examiner, the employee may request a hearing by filing a written request with the commissioner, and providing the Board a copy of the request, not later than the 15th day after the date the employee received the notice of proposed nonrenewal.

Hearing Procedures

The hearing shall be conducted by an independent hearing examiner in accordance with the process described at DFD.

Board Decision

Following the hearing, the Board shall take appropriate action in accordance with DFD.

**Request for Board
Hearing**

If the notice of proposed nonrenewal states that the nonrenewal hearing will be conducted by the Board, the employee may request a hearing by providing written notice to the Board 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 Board shall notify the employee whether the hearing will be conducted by the Board [see Hearing by the Board, below] or an attorney designated by the Board [see Hearing by an Attorney Designated by the Board, below].

In either case, 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 by the Board 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.

Hearing Procedures 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 so that a certified transcript can be prepared, if required.

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.

Hearing by an Attorney Designated by the Board The hearing must be private unless the employee requests in writing that the hearing be public, except that the attorney may close the hearing to maintain decorum. If the employee does not request a public hearing, only the attorney designated by the Board, the

TERM CONTRACTS
NONRENEWAL

DFBB
(LOCAL)

employee, the Superintendent, their representatives, and witnesses will be permitted to be in attendance, and 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 control of the attorney designated by the Board and shall generally follow the steps listed at Hearing by the Board.

Not later than the 15th day after the completion of the hearing, the attorney shall provide to the Board a record of the hearing and his or her recommendation on renewal.

Board Review

The Board shall consider the record of the hearing and the attorney's recommendation at the first Board meeting for which notice can be posted, unless the parties agree in writing to a different date. The Board shall notify the employee of the meeting date as soon as it is set. At the meeting, the Board shall allow each party an equal amount of time to present oral arguments. The Board shall notify the employee in writing of the Board's decision on renewal not later than the 15th day after the date of the meeting.

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.

EMPLOYEE STANDARDS OF CONDUCT

DH
(LOCAL)

Each District employee shall perform his or her duties in accordance with state and federal law, District policy, and ethical standards. The District holds all employees accountable to the Educators' Code of Ethics. [See DH(EXHIBIT)]

Each District employee shall recognize and respect the rights of students, parents, other employees, and members of the community and shall work cooperatively with others to serve the best interests of the District.

An employee wishing to express concern, complaints, or criticism shall do so through appropriate channels. [See DGBA]

**Violations of
Standards of
Conduct**

Each employee shall comply with the standards of conduct set out in this policy and with any other policies, regulations, and guidelines that impose duties, requirements, or standards attendant to his or her status as a District employee. Violation of any policies, regulations, or guidelines, including intentionally making a false claim, offering a false statement, or refusing to cooperate with a District investigation, may result in disciplinary action, including termination of employment. [See DCD, [DCE](#), and DF series]

Weapons Prohibited

The District prohibits the use, possession, or display of any firearm, location-restricted knife, club, or prohibited weapon, as defined at FNCG, on District property at all times.

Exceptions

No violation of this policy occurs when:

1. A District employee who holds a ~~Texas~~ handgun license [in accordance with state law](#) stores a handgun or other firearm in a locked vehicle in a parking lot, parking garage, or other parking area provided by the District, provided the handgun or other firearm is not in plain view; or
2. The use, possession, or display of an otherwise prohibited weapon takes place as part of a District-approved activity supervised by proper authorities. [See FOD]

Fraud Awareness

Each employee shall be responsible for the detection, prevention, and reporting of fraud, misappropriations, and other irregularities. Each employee shall be familiar with the types of improprieties that might occur within his or her area of responsibility and shall be alert for any indication of irregularity. [See CAA]

Fraud Hotline

To facilitate reporting of suspected violations, the District has established a hotline for reporting confirmed or suspected cases of:

1. Fraudulent acts (illegal use, theft) involving District funds or property; or
2. Misuse or waste of District funds or property.

EMPLOYEE STANDARDS OF CONDUCT

DH
(LOCAL)

Reports made to the District's fraud hotline are reviewed by the Board's internal auditor.

Individuals may submit a report of suspected violations by leaving a message on the fraud hotline voicemail at 281-284-0185 or by sending an email to fraudhotline@ccisd.net.

Duties During a District Investigation

In the event of a District investigation or inquiry, each District employee has an affirmative duty to provide to his or her supervisor(s), or any other District official assigned to investigate, all relevant and factual information about matters inquired. An employee who fails to volunteer such information shall receive a directive from an administrator to provide a statement. An employee's failure to comply with such a directive constitutes insubordination, a violation that shall be grounds for disciplinary action, up to and including termination.

Electronic Recording

No employee shall electronically record another employee by audio, video, or other means, including any conversation or meeting, unless each employee present has been notified and consents to being electronically recorded.

These provisions are not intended to limit or restrict electronic recording of publicly posted Board meetings, grievance hearings, or any other Board-sanctioned meetings recorded in accordance with Board policy. These provisions are not intended to limit or restrict electronic recordings involving authorized investigations conducted by District personnel.

Electronic Communication

Use with Students

A certified employee, licensed employee, or any other employee designated in writing by the Superintendent or a campus principal may use electronic communication, as this term is defined by law, with currently enrolled students only about matters within the scope of the employee's professional responsibilities.

Unless an exception has been made in accordance with the employee handbook or other administrative regulations, an employee shall not use a personal electronic communication platform, application, or account to communicate with currently enrolled students. [See CQ(REGULATION)]

Unless authorized above, all other employees are prohibited from using electronic communication directly with students who are currently enrolled in the District. The employee handbook or other administrative regulations shall further detail:

1. Exceptions for family and social relationships;

EMPLOYEE STANDARDS OF CONDUCT

DH
(LOCAL)

2. The circumstances under which an employee may use text messaging to communicate with individual students or student groups;
3. Hours of the day during which electronic communication is discouraged or prohibited; and
4. Other matters deemed appropriate by the Superintendent.

In accordance with ethical standards applicable to all District employees [see DH(EXHIBIT)], an employee shall be prohibited from using electronic communications in a manner that constitutes prohibited harassment or abuse of a District student; adversely affects the student's learning, mental health, or safety; includes threats of violence against the student; reveals confidential information about the student; or constitutes an inappropriate communication with a student, as described in the Educators' Code of Ethics.

An employee shall have no expectation of privacy in electronic communications with students. Each employee shall comply with the District's requirements for records retention and destruction to the extent those requirements apply to electronic communication. [See CPC]

Personal Use

All employees shall be held to the same professional standards in their public use of electronic communication as for any other public conduct. If an employee's use of electronic communication violates state or federal law or District policy, or interferes with the employee's ability to effectively perform his or her job duties, the employee is subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination of employment.

Employee Use of
Electronic
Communication
Devices

An employee shall limit use of personal electronic communication devices to send or receive calls, text messages, picture messages, or video messages to breaks, meal times, and before and after scheduled work hours, unless there is an emergency or the use is authorized by a supervisor and does not interfere with or impact the employee's job performance. An emergency shall be defined as a circumstance that is threatening to one's life or safety that warrants immediate action.

Reporting Improper
Communication

In accordance with administrative regulations, an employee shall notify his or her supervisor when a student engages in improper electronic communication with the employee.

Disclosing Personal
Information

An employee shall not be required to disclose his or her personal email address or personal phone number to a student.

EMPLOYEE STANDARDS OF CONDUCT

DH
(LOCAL)

**Prohibited Classroom
Instruction or
Activities**

An employee is prohibited from intentionally or knowingly engaging in or assigning to another individual instruction, guidance, activities, or programming prohibited by law [see EMB].

**Prohibited Diversity,
Equity, and Inclusion
Duties**

An employee shall be subject to disciplinary action, including termination of employment, if the employee, intentionally or knowingly:

- Engages in diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) duties.
- Assigns to another individual DEI duties.

[See BT(LEGAL)]

Social Transitioning

An employee shall be prohibited from assisting a District student with social transitioning, as the term is defined in law. This prohibition includes providing any information to a District student about social transitioning or guidelines intended to assist a District student with social transitioning.

Safety Requirements

Each employee shall adhere to District safety rules and regulations and shall report unsafe conditions or practices to the appropriate supervisor.

**Harassment, Abuse,
or Neglect**

An employee shall not engage in prohibited harassment, including sexual harassment, of:

1. Other employees [See DIA]; or
2. Students. [See FFH; see FFG regarding child abuse and neglect.]

While acting in the course of employment, an employee shall not engage in prohibited harassment, including sexual harassment, of other persons, including Board members, vendors, contractors, volunteers, or parents.

As well as making all reports required by law and Board policy [see FFG], any employee who has reason to suspect child abuse or neglect, including sex or labor trafficking, shall immediately report such suspicion to:

1. The campus principal or his or her designee, the supervisor of the department, or the assistant superintendent of human resources; and
2. The Child Protective Services (CPS) division of the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) at 800-252-5400 or the [Texas Abuse Hotline website](#)¹.

EMPLOYEE STANDARDS OF CONDUCT

DH
(LOCAL)

In addition, an employee who has reason to suspect any District employee of child abuse or neglect shall report such suspicion to the assistant superintendent of human resources, who shall also make all reports required by law and Board policy. [See FFG]

Allegations or observed behaviors to report include but are not limited to the following:

1. Employee using physical force or making a threat of physical harm to a student.
2. Employee interaction with a student, including but not limited to:
 - a. Sexual or romantic invitations to students;
 - b. Dating students or soliciting dates with students;
 - c. Engaging in sexualized dialogue with students or in the presence of students; or
 - d. Physical, verbal, nonverbal, written, or electronic exposure, contact, or communication of a sexual, romantic, or erotic nature.

Consequences for Failure to Report

Failure to make the reports required by this policy shall result in disciplinary action, up to and including termination of employment.

Relationships with Students

An employee shall not form romantic or other inappropriate social relationships with students. Any sexual relationship between a student and a District employee is always prohibited, even if consensual. ~~[See FFH]~~

As required by law, the District shall notify the parent of a student with whom ~~an educator~~ a District employee or person acting as a service provider for the District is alleged to have engaged in certain misconduct. ~~[See FFF]~~

[See FFF for parent notification requirements and DHB and DHC for reporting requirements.]

No employee shall provide temporary or permanent housing to a nonrelative student without appropriate legal documentation. [See FD(LEGAL), (LOCAL), and (REGULATION)]

Student Discipline

An employee shall ensure that a student is disciplined only for the student's own violation of the Student Code of Conduct; a student shall never be disciplined for actions or utterances of his or her parent or guardian.

EMPLOYEE STANDARDS OF CONDUCT

DH
(LOCAL)

**Tobacco and
Nicotine Products
and E-Cigarettes**

An employee is prohibited from possessing or using any type of tobacco product, e-cigarette, or any other electronic vaporizing device while on school property, in a District vehicle, or while attending an off-campus school-related activity. An employee is also prohibited from possessing or using any type of nicotine product, including nicotine pouches, regardless of whether the product contains tobacco, while on District property, in a District vehicle, or while attending an off-campus school-related activity.

An employee's supervisor is authorized to approve an exception to this policy for a smoking cessation product.

**Alcohol and Drugs /
Notice of Drug-Free
Workplace**

As a condition of employment, an employee shall abide by the terms of the following drug-free workplace provisions. An employee shall notify the Superintendent in writing if the employee is convicted for a violation of a criminal drug statute occurring in the workplace in accordance with Arrests, Indictments, Convictions, and Other Adjudications, below.

An employee shall not manufacture, distribute, dispense, possess, use, or be under the influence of any of the following substances during working hours while on District property or at school-related activities during or outside of usual working hours:

1. Any controlled substance or dangerous drug as defined by law, including but not limited to marijuana, any narcotic drug, hallucinogen, stimulant, depressant, amphetamine, or barbiturate.
2. Alcohol or any alcoholic beverage.
3. Any abusable glue, aerosol paint, or any other chemical substance for inhalation.
4. Any other intoxicant or mood-changing, mind-altering, or behavior-altering drug.

An employee need not be legally intoxicated to be considered "under the influence" of a controlled substance.

Exceptions

It shall not be considered a violation of this policy if the employee:

1. Manufactures, possesses, or dispenses a substance listed above as part of the employee's job responsibilities;
2. Uses or possesses a controlled substance or drug authorized by a licensed physician prescribed for the employee's personal use; or

EMPLOYEE STANDARDS OF CONDUCT

DH
(LOCAL)

3. Possesses a controlled substance or drug that a licensed physician has prescribed for the employee's child or other individual for whom the employee is a legal guardian.

Sanctions

An employee who violates these drug-free workplace provisions shall be subject to disciplinary sanctions. Sanctions may include:

1. Referral to drug and alcohol counseling or rehabilitation programs;
2. Referral to employee assistance programs;
3. Termination from employment with the District; and
4. Referral to appropriate law enforcement officials for prosecution.

Penalties for
Violation of Drug
Statutes

An employee shall immediately notify the administration of any conduct relating to or allegation of any drug violation occurring in the workplace. Any allegation shall be investigated immediately by the administration. [See Violations of Standards of Conduct, above]

Within ten days after receiving notice, the District shall notify any federal agency from which the District has received a grant of the conviction of any employee for violation of a criminal drug law.

Notice

Employees shall receive a copy of this policy.

**Arrests, Indictments,
Convictions, and
Other Adjudications**

An employee shall notify his or her principal or immediate supervisor within three calendar days of any arrest, indictment, conviction, no contest or guilty plea, or other adjudication of the employee for any felony, any offense involving moral turpitude, or any of the other offenses as indicated below:

1. Crimes involving school property or funds;
2. Crimes involving attempt by fraudulent or unauthorized means to obtain or alter any certificate or permit that would entitle any person to hold or obtain a position as an educator;
3. Crimes that occur wholly or in part on school property or at a school-sponsored activity;
4. Drug and alcohol-related misdemeanor offenses, including public intoxication, driving while intoxicated, and possession of marijuana or any controlled substance; or
5. Any offense which results in revocation or suspension of a driver's license for any reason if the position requires that the employee hold a valid Texas driver's license. [See CNB(REGULATION)]

EMPLOYEE STANDARDS OF CONDUCT

DH
(LOCAL)

6. Crimes involving moral turpitude, including those identified by the Texas Administrative Code:
 - Dishonesty; fraud; deceit; theft; misrepresentation;
 - Deliberate violence;
 - Base, vile, or depraved acts that are intended to arouse or gratify the sexual desire of the actor;
 - Felony possession or conspiracy to possess, or any misdemeanor or felony transfer, sale, distribution, or conspiracy to transfer, sell, or distribute any controlled substance defined in Chapter 481 of the Health and Safety Code;
 - Felony driving while intoxicated (DWI); or
 - Acts constituting abuse or neglect under the Texas Family Code.

Computer Use

The unauthorized use and/or intentional misuse of computers, computer software, or computer systems is prohibited. [See CQ(LOCAL) and Violations of Standards of Conduct, above]

Dress and Grooming

An employee's dress and grooming shall be clean, neat, in a manner appropriate for his or her assignment, and in accordance with any additional standards established by his or her supervisor and approved by the Superintendent.

¹ Texas Abuse Hotline website: <http://www.txabusehotline.org>

ADD – POLICY

**Instructional Plan
and Course Syllabus**

Prior to the beginning of each semester, each teacher shall provide a copy of the teacher's instructional plan or course syllabus for each class for which the teacher provides instruction.

The teacher shall provide this information to the District administration and the parent of each student enrolled in the teacher's class. Additional copies of the instructional plan or course syllabus shall be made available to a parent of a student enrolled upon that parent's request.

District Website

The Superintendent shall develop administrative procedures for the posting of the instructional plans and course syllabi for each class offered in the District on the District's website.

INSTRUCTIONAL RESOURCES
INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

EFA
(LOCAL)

Note: For information related to the accounting of instructional materials, as this term is defined by state law and rule, see CMD.

For information related to the selection process of library materials, see EFB.

The District shall provide instructional materials designed to teach the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills and further the District's educational mission. Although the Superintendent shall ensure that professional staff select instructional materials in accordance with District policy and administrative regulations, the ultimate authority for determining and approving the curriculum and instructional program of the District lies with the Board.

Objectives

In this policy, "instructional materials" may include textbooks, supplementary resources for classroom use, and any other instructional resources, including electronic resources, used for formal or informal teaching and learning purposes. The primary objectives of instructional materials are to implement, enrich, and support the District's educational program.

Selection

Instructional materials that are textbooks and related supplemental materials, which may include items from the list of resources adopted by the State Board of Education, shall be chosen in accordance with administrative regulations and the objectives above.

The Board shall rely on District professional staff to select and acquire instructional materials that:

1. Enrich and support the curriculum consistent with the general educational goals of the state and District, the aims and objectives of individual schools and specific courses, and the District and campus improvement plans.
2. Are appropriate for the subject area and for the age, ability level, learning styles, interests, and social and emotional development of the students for whom they are selected.
3. Meet high standards for artistic quality, literary style, authenticity, educational significance, factual content, physical format, presentation, readability, and technical quality.
4. Present various sides of controversial issues so that students have an opportunity to develop, under guidance, skills in critical analysis and in making informed judgments in their daily lives. [See also EMB regarding instruction about controversial issues.]
5. Promote literacy.

INSTRUCTIONAL RESOURCES
INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

EFA
(LOCAL)

District professional staff may select additional instructional materials in accordance with administrative regulations and the criteria above.

Administrators, teachers, other District personnel, parents, and community members, as appropriate, may recommend instructional materials for selection. Gifts of instructional materials shall be evaluated according to these criteria and accepted or rejected in accordance with CDC(LOCAL).

Selection of instructional materials is an ongoing process that includes the removal of materials no longer appropriate and the periodic replacement or repair of materials that still have educational value.

Controversial Issues

District professional staff shall endeavor to maintain a balanced collection representing various views when selecting instructional resources on controversial issues. Resources shall be chosen to clarify historical and contemporary forces by presenting and analyzing intergroup tension and conflict objectively, placing emphasis on recognizing and understanding social and economic problems.

District resources for student instruction, employee training, and professional learning shall not promote or endorse race or sex stereotyping or race or sex scapegoating.

Race or sex stereotyping is defined as ascribing character traits, values, moral and ethical codes, privileges, status, or beliefs to a race or sex, or to an individual because of his or her race or sex.

Race or sex scapegoating is defined as assigning fault, blame, or bias to a race or sex, or to members of a race or sex because of their race or sex.

[See also EMB regarding instruction about controversial issues and EHAA regarding human sexuality instruction.]

**Parent Request for
Instructional Material
Review**

The Superintendent shall develop administrative regulations to ensure compliance with state law and rules that a parent or guardian of a District student may request an instructional materials review for a subject area in the grade level in which their student is enrolled on the basis of the following:

1. The material is not aligned with District-adopted materials; or
2. The material does not have the appropriate rigor for the grade level for the subject area in which the instructional material is used.

The regulations shall also address procedures for submitting a parent petition to review instructional materials, the appeal process if a

INSTRUCTIONAL RESOURCES
INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

EFA
(LOCAL)

[petition for review is denied, criteria for reviewing any appeal, and timelines for each step in the process.](#)

**Reconsideration of
Instructional
Materials**

A District employee or a parent or guardian of a District student may request reconsideration of instructional material used in the District's educational program on the basis that the instructional material fails to meet the standards set forth in this policy.

Guiding Principles

The following principles shall guide the Board and staff in responding to a request for reconsideration of instructional materials:

1. A complainant may raise an objection to an instructional material used in a school's educational program, despite the fact that the professional staff selecting the materials were qualified to make the selection, followed the proper procedure, and adhered to the objectives for instructional materials set out in this policy.
2. A parent's ability to exercise control over instruction extends only to his or her own child as set forth in Education Code Chapter 26.
3. Access to a challenged material shall not be restricted during the reconsideration process, except the District may deny access to a child if requested by the child's parent.

The major criterion for the final decision on challenged instructional materials is the appropriateness of the material for its intended educational use. No challenged instructional material shall be removed solely because of the ideas expressed therein.

Informal
Reconsideration

When the District or a campus receives an objection to the appropriateness of an instructional material, the appropriate administrator shall try to resolve the matter informally. The administrator shall explain the selection process and discuss the intended educational purpose for the instructional material. If appropriate, the administrator may offer a concerned parent an alternative instructional material to be used by that parent's child in place of the challenged material.

If the complainant wishes to make a formal challenge, the administrator shall provide the complainant a copy of this policy and a form to request a formal reconsideration of the instructional material.

Formal Request for
Reconsideration

A complainant shall make any formal request to reconsider an instructional material on the form provided by the District and shall submit the completed and signed form to the assistant superintendent of teaching and learning. Upon receipt of the form, the assistant superintendent of teaching and learning shall appoint a reconsideration committee.

INSTRUCTIONAL RESOURCES
INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

EFA
(LOCAL)

The reconsideration committee shall include at least one member of the instructional staff who has experience using the challenged material with students or is familiar with the challenged material's content. Other members of the committee may include District-level staff, secondary-level students, parents, and any other appropriate individuals.

All members of the committee shall review the challenged instructional material in its entirety. As soon as reasonably possible, the committee shall meet and determine whether the challenged material conforms to the principles of selection set out in this policy and whether the challenged material will continue to be used in the educational program. The committee shall prepare a written report of its findings. The Superintendent, other appropriate administrators, and the complainant shall receive copies of the report.

*Frequency of
Review*

After an instructional material has been reviewed through formal reconsideration, it shall not be reviewed again until it is evaluated in the periodic local selection process.

Appeal

The complainant may appeal the decision of the reconsideration committee in accordance with appropriate complaint policies, starting at the appropriate level. [See DGBA, FNG, and GF]

SPECIAL EDUCATION
VIDEO/AUDIO MONITORING

EHBAF
(LOCAL)

Note: Unless otherwise noted, the terms “video recording,” “video surveillance,” and “video monitoring” shall also include any associated audio recordings. In addition, the term “classroom” shall also include other special education settings subject to video and audio recording required by law.

To promote student safety, the District shall comply with requests for video and audio monitoring of certain ~~self-contained~~ special education classrooms as required by law. Regular or continual monitoring of video recordings shall be prohibited. Video recordings shall not be used for teacher evaluation or monitoring or for any purpose other than the promotion of student safety.

The Superintendent is responsible for coordinating the provision of equipment to campuses in compliance with the law.

The Superintendent shall ensure that administrative regulations are developed to implement this policy.

Requests

For Following Year

A parent of a student receiving special education services and whose placement for the following school year will be in a ~~self-contained~~ special education classroom eligible for video surveillance may request in writing that a video camera be placed in the classroom by the end of the current school year or by the ~~tenth~~ 10th business day after the student’s admission, review, and dismissal (ARD) committee determines the student’s placement, whichever is later. If such a request is made, the campus shall begin operation of the camera by the deadlines in law.

[See EHBAF(REGULATION) and EHBAF(EXHIBIT-A)]

For Current Year

Written requests from a parent, assistant principal, principal, staff member, or the Board shall be submitted and processed in accordance with the procedures in law. [See EHBAF(REGULATION) and EHBAF(EXHIBIT-A)]

Response

As required by law, the District shall provide a response to the requester not later than the seventh business day after receipt of the request.

Notice

Before a camera is activated, the principal shall provide advance written notice to staff on the campus and to parents of the students assigned to or engaging in school activities in the classroom that video and audio surveillance will be conducted in the classroom.

**Installation and
Operation**

The classroom subject to the request shall begin operation of video surveillance not later than the time frames required in law, except when the District is granted an extension of time.

SPECIAL EDUCATION
VIDEO/AUDIO MONITORING

EHBAF
(LOCAL)

When the District has installed video cameras in a classroom as required by law, the District shall operate the cameras during the instructional day at all times when one or more students are in the classroom. For purposes of this policy, the instructional day shall be defined as the portion of a school day during which instruction is taking place in the classroom.

For the school year in which a campus receives a request for video and audio surveillance, the campus shall continue to operate and maintain any video cameras placed in the classroom for as long as the classroom continues to satisfy the requirements in Education Code 29.022(a). However, the campus may discontinue operation of the video camera during the year if the requester withdraws the request in writing and no request is submitted to continue the surveillance. Before a camera is deactivated, the principal shall provide advance written notice to staff on the campus and to parents of the students assigned to or engaging in school activities in the classroom that video and audio surveillance will be discontinued in the classroom and of the opportunity to request continued video and audio surveillance.

Video cameras must be capable of recording video and audio of all areas of the classroom, including a room attached to the classroom used for time out as defined by law. No visual monitoring, other than incidental coverage, shall be conducted of the inside of a bathroom or other area used for changing a student's clothes.

The District shall post notice at the entrance to a classroom in which video cameras are placed stating that video and audio surveillance is conducted in that classroom.

**Retention of
Recordings**

Video recordings shall be retained for at least three months after the date of the recording but may be retained for a longer period in accordance with the District's records management program, or as required by law. [See CPC]

**Confidentiality of
Recordings**

Video recordings made in accordance with this policy shall be confidential and shall only be released or viewed by the individuals and in the limited circumstances permitted by law. The following individuals shall have authority to view video recordings to the extent permitted by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA):

1. A District employee or a parent of a student who is involved in an alleged incident documented by a recording and reported to the District;
2. Appropriate Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) personnel as part of an investigation of alleged abuse or neglect of a child;

SPECIAL EDUCATION
VIDEO/AUDIO MONITORING

EHBAF
(LOCAL)

3. A peace officer, school nurse, District administrator trained in de-escalation and restraint techniques, or human resource staff member in response to a report of an alleged incident or an investigation of an employee or a report of alleged abuse committed by a student; and
4. Appropriate Texas Education Agency or State Board for Educator Certification personnel or their agents as part of an investigation.

For purposes of this policy, the term “human resource staff member” shall include the Superintendent, a principal, an assistant principal or other campus administrator, and any supervisory position within the District’s human resources office. If an individual listed in items ~~2-4~~2-4, above, believes that a recording shows a violation of District policy or campus procedures, the individual may allow access to the recording by appropriate legal and human resources personnel designated by the District for the purpose of determining whether a policy or procedure has been violated.

Any person who suspects that child abuse or neglect has occurred shall report this suspicion as required by law and District policy.
[See FFG]

Reporting an Incident

A person alleging that an incident, as defined by law, has occurred in a classroom in which video surveillance is conducted shall file a report on the form provided by the District with the principal as soon as possible after the person suspects the alleged incident. If possible, an incident report form shall be filed within ~~48~~24 hours of the facts giving rise to the allegation. The principal shall promptly view, or direct an authorized individual to view, the video surveillance footage to identify the relevant portion of the recording. No later than ~~ten~~10 District business days after the report is filed, the principal or designee shall respond by notifying the person whether the alleged incident was recorded in the District’s video surveillance footage and shall initiate other steps as required by law, District policy, or local procedures. [See EHBAF(REGULATION) and EHBAF(EXHIBIT-B)]

Complaints

Complaints related to video and audio recordings under this policy shall be filed in accordance with DGBA, FNG, or GF, as applicable. A complainant who is dissatisfied with the outcome of the District’s complaint process may appeal in writing to the commissioner of education in accordance with Education Code 7.057 and 19 Administrative Code 103.1303. A parent, staff member, or District administrator may request an expedited review in accordance with 19 Administrative Code 103.1303.

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT
GRADING/PROGRESS REPORTS TO PARENTS

EIA
(LOCAL)

Relation to Essential Knowledge and Skills

The District shall establish instructional objectives that relate to the essential knowledge and skills for grade-level subjects or courses. These objectives shall address the skills needed for successful performance in the next grade or next course in a sequence of courses.

Assignments, tests, projects, classroom activities, and other instructional activities shall be designed so that each student's performance indicates the level of mastery of the designated District objectives.

Recording Grades

Only the teacher of record or the principal's designee shall record student grades.

Procedures for Grading

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that a District committee develops procedures for teachers to follow in determining grades for students. These procedures shall ensure that grading reflects a student's relative mastery of an assignment and that a sufficient number of grades are taken to support the grade average assigned. Grades shall not be reduced for disciplinary reasons except in cases of late assignments or academic dishonesty. Grades shall not be increased or reduced for participation or lack of participation in any extracurricular activities. Guidelines for grading shall be clearly communicated to students and parents.

The District shall permit a student who meets the criteria detailed in the grading guidelines a reasonable opportunity to redo an assignment or retake a test for which the student received a failing grade. [See EIA(REGULATION)]

Grade Reporting

The District shall issue grade reports/report cards every ~~nine~~nine weeks on a form approved by the Superintendent or designee. Performance shall be measured in accordance with this policy and the standards established in EIE.

Progress Reports

Interim progress reports shall be issued for all secondary students after the ~~third~~third week of each grading period and, for elementary students, at the midpoint of the grading period. Supplemental progress reports may be issued at the teacher's discretion.

Conferences

~~In addition to conferences scheduled on the campus calendar,~~Each year, the District shall provide at least two opportunities for in-person conferences between each parent and the student's teacher. Additional conferences may be requested by a teacher or parent as needed.

Academic Dishonesty

A student found to have engaged in academic dishonesty shall be subject to grade penalties on assignments or tests and disciplinary penalties in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct. Academic dishonesty includes cheating or copying the work of another

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT
GRADING/PROGRESS REPORTS TO PARENTS

EIA
(LOCAL)

student, plagiarism, the use of artificial intelligence to complete an assignment in part or in whole unless approved by the classroom teacher [\[see CQD\]](#), and unauthorized communication between students during an examination. The determination that a student has engaged in academic dishonesty shall be based on clear and compelling evidence gathered by the classroom teacher or another supervising professional employee. Evidence may include, but is not limited to, written materials, observations, other credible information from students or others, or the use of an artificial intelligence detection tool selected by the District.

ADD – POLICY

Parent Portal

The District shall establish a parent portal on the District's website through which parents may submit comments to campus administrators, District administrators, and the Board.

The Superintendent shall develop administrative regulations related to the portal, including placement on the District or campus websites and how campus or District administrators are to address comments received from parents through the portal.

**Students Release
from School**

~~A student shall not be released from school during the at times other than regular school hours. The principal may grant released time to a student who is eligible for graduation during the current school year and who also meets additional requirements established by the District. [See FEF(REGULATION)]~~dismissal hours except with the permission of the principal of the school. The teacher shall determine that such permission has been granted before allowing the student to leave.

Exception for
Released Time
Course

For purposes of this policy, a "released time course" is a course in religious instruction offered by a private entity.

A student shall be permitted to attend a released time course in accordance with the following requirements:

1. The parent or guardian has provided written consent for the student to attend the released time course;
2. The private entity offering the released time course maintains attendance records and will make those records available to the District;
3. The private entity, parent or guardian, or student assumes responsibility for transportation, including transportation for a student with a disability, to and from the location at which the released course is offered;
4. The private entity assumes liability for the student enrolled in the released time course while the student is under the private entity's care; and
5. The student is responsible for any school work and assignments issued during the student's absence from the District.

The District shall be prohibited from using District funds, excluding de minimis costs, to facilitate the student attending a released time course.

~~Parents or legal guardians who seek~~A private entity shall be prohibited from offering the released time for their child must have the principal's approvalcourse on District property unless the use is in accordance with policy GKD.

The District shall not interfere with a parent's or guardian's ability to request or access a released time course for the student.

WELLNESS AND HEALTH SERVICES
MEDICAL TREATMENT

FFAC
(LOCAL)

No employee shall give any student prescription medication, non-prescription medication, herbal substances, anabolic steroids, or dietary supplements of any type, except as authorized by this or other District policy.

**Medication Provided
by Parent**

The Superintendent shall designate the employees who are authorized to administer medication that has been provided by a student's parent, legal guardian, other person having lawful control. An authorized employee is permitted to administer the following medication in accordance with administrative regulations:

1. Prescription medication in accordance with legal requirements.
2. Nonprescription medication, ~~upon written request of a parent, legal guardian, or other person having lawful control, when properly labeled and in the original container~~ in accordance with legal requirements.
3. Herbal substances or dietary supplements provided by the parent, legal guardian, or other person having lawful control, and only if required by the individualized education program or Section 504 plan for a student with disabilities.

**Medication Provided
by District**

Except as required by law and provided by this policy, the District shall not purchase medication to administer to a student.

Opioid Antagonist

This provision shall be applicable to every campus.

On Campus

The District authorizes school personnel who have been adequately trained to administer an opioid antagonist in accordance with law and this policy. Administration of an opioid antagonist shall only be permitted when an authorized and trained individual reasonably believes a person is experiencing an opioid-related overdose.

Each applicable campus shall have at least one individual who is authorized and trained to administer an opioid antagonist present during regular school hours.

*Maintenance,
Availability,
Training, and
Reporting*

Each applicable campus shall have at least two unused, unexpired opioid antagonist doses available.

All opioid antagonists shall be stored in a secure location and shall be easily accessible by individuals who are authorized and trained to administer an opioid antagonist.

The Superintendent shall develop administrative regulations addressing acquisition, maintenance, expiration, and disposal of opioid antagonists in the District, as well as reporting, employee training, and emergency notification requirements.

WELLNESS AND HEALTH SERVICES
MEDICAL TREATMENT

FFAC
(LOCAL)

Psychotropics

Except as permitted by law, an employee shall not:

1. Recommend to a student or a parent, legal guardian, or other person having lawful control that the student use a psychotropic drug;
2. Suggest a particular diagnosis; or
3. Exclude the student from a class or a school-related activity because of the refusal of the parent, legal guardian, or other person having lawful control to consent to psychiatric evaluation or examination or treatment of the student.

Medical Treatment

A student's parent, legal guardian, or other person having lawful control shall annually complete and sign a form that provides emergency information and addresses authorization regarding medical treatment. A student who has reached age 18 shall be permitted to complete this form.

The District shall seek appropriate emergency care for a student as required or deemed necessary.

STUDENT WELFARE
CRISIS INTERVENTION

FFB
(LOCAL)

**Threat Assessment
and Safe and
Supportive Team**

In compliance with law, the Superintendent shall ensure that a multidisciplinary threat assessment and safe and supportive team is established to serve each campus. The Superintendent shall appoint team members. The team shall be responsible for developing and implementing a safe and supportive school program at each campus served by the team and shall support the District in implementing its multi-hazard emergency operations plan.

Training

Each team shall complete training provided by an approved provider on evidence-based threat assessment programs.

Student Reports

Each campus shall establish a clear procedure for a student to report concerning behavior exhibited by another student for assessment by the team or other appropriate District employee.

Employee
Confidentiality

A District employee who reports a potential threat may elect for the employee's identity to remain confidential and not be subject to disclosure under the state's public information law. The employee's identity shall only be revealed when necessary for the team, the District, or law enforcement to investigate the reported threat.

The District shall maintain a record of the identity of a District employee who elects for the employee's identity to remain confidential.

Notification to
Teaching Staff of
Threat

As soon as safe and practicable after an administrator or team receives information regarding a threat against a campus, including a threat made through social media, the appropriate administrator or the team shall immediately provide to each member of the teaching staff, including teacher aides, who may be directly affected by the threat a statement containing the following information:

1. The existence of the threat;
2. The nature of the threat; and
3. Any other pertinent detail to ensure student and staff safety.

The Superintendent shall develop administrative regulations to ensure that the required notice is provided to the teaching staff in accordance with law. The administrative regulations may also address notification of other appropriate employees on the affected campus.

Imminent Threats or
Emergencies

A member of the team or any District employee may act immediately to prevent an imminent threat or respond to an emergency, including contacting law enforcement directly.

Threat Assessment
Process

The District shall develop procedures as recommended by the Texas School Safety Center. In accordance with those procedures,

the threat assessment and safe and supportive team shall conduct threat assessments using a process that includes:

1. Identifying individuals, based on referrals, tips, or observations, whose behavior has raised concerns due to threats of violence or exhibition of behavior that is harmful, threatening, or violent.
2. Conducting an individualized assessment based on reasonably available information to determine whether the individual poses a threat of violence or poses a risk of harm to self or others and the level of risk.
3. Implementing appropriate intervention and monitoring strategies, if the team determines an individual poses a threat of harm to self or others. These strategies may include referral of a student for a mental health assessment and escalation procedures as appropriate.

For a student or other individual the team determines poses a serious risk of violence to self or others, the team shall immediately report to the Superintendent, who shall immediately attempt to contact the student's parent or guardian. Additionally, the Superintendent shall coordinate with law enforcement authorities as necessary and take other appropriate action in accordance with the District's multihazard emergency operations plan.

For a student the team identifies as at risk of suicide, the team shall follow the District's suicide prevention program.

For a student the team identifies as having a substance abuse issue, the team shall follow the District's substance abuse program.

For a student whose conduct may constitute a violation of the District's Student Code of Conduct, the team shall make a referral to the campus behavior coordinator or other appropriate administrator to consider disciplinary action.

As appropriate, the team may refer a student:

1. To a local mental health authority or health-care provider for evaluation or treatment; or
2. For a full individualized and initial evaluation for special education services.

The team shall not provide any mental health-care services, except as permitted by law.

STUDENT WELFARE
CRISIS INTERVENTION

FFB
(LOCAL)

Guidance to School Community	The team shall provide guidance to students and District employees on recognizing harmful, threatening, or violent behavior that may pose a threat to another person, the campus, or the community and methods to report such behavior to the team, including through anonymous reporting.
Reports	The team shall provide reports to the Texas Education Agency as required by law.

Note: See policies DHB and DHC for information on other required reports regarding alleged misconduct against a student.

The District shall notify a parent of a student with whom ~~an educator~~ a District employee or a person acting as a service provider for the District is alleged to have engaged in misconduct, informing the parent:

1. As soon as feasible that the alleged misconduct may have occurred;
2. Whether the ~~educator~~ individual was terminated following an investigation of the alleged misconduct or resigned before completion of the investigation; and
3. Whether a report was submitted to the Texas Education Agency or State Board for Educator Certification (~~SBEC~~) concerning the alleged misconduct.

For purposes of this policy, misconduct is defined as an ~~educator's~~ individual's alleged abuse or commission of an otherwise unlawful act with ~~the~~ a student or involvement in a romantic relationship, or soliciting or engaging in sexual contact with ~~the~~ a student.

Notice of Suspected Criminal Offense

Except as provided by state law regarding child abuse investigations, the District shall notify a parent not later than one business day after the date an employee first suspects that a criminal offense has been committed against the parent's child.

[See also FFG for reporting requirements related to child abuse and FFH for parental notification requirements regarding prohibited conduct as defined by that policy.]

STUDENT WELFARE
CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

FFG
(LOCAL)

**Program to Address
Child Sexual Abuse,
Trafficking, and
Maltreatment**

The District's program to address child sexual abuse, trafficking, and other maltreatment of children, as included in the District improvement plan and the student handbook, shall include:

1. Methods for increasing staff, student, and parent awareness regarding these issues, including prevention techniques and knowledge of likely warning signs indicating that a child may be a victim;
2. Age-appropriate, research-based antivictimization programs for students;
3. Actions that a child who is a victim should take to obtain assistance and intervention; and
4. Available counseling options for affected students.

Training

The District shall provide training to employees as required by law and District policy. Training shall address techniques to prevent and recognize sexual abuse, trafficking, and all other maltreatment of children, including children with significant cognitive disabilities. [See DMA]

[See BBD for Board member training requirements and BJCB for Superintendent continuing education requirements.]

**Reporting Child
Abuse and Neglect**

Any person who has reasonable cause to believe that a child's physical or mental health or welfare has been adversely affected by abuse or neglect has a legal responsibility, under state law, to immediately report the suspected abuse or neglect to an appropriate authority.

As defined in state law, child abuse and neglect include both sex and labor trafficking of a child.

The following individuals have an additional legal obligation to submit a written or oral report within ~~48~~²⁴ hours of learning of the facts giving rise to the suspicion of abuse or neglect:

1. Any District employee, agent, or contractor who suspects a child's physical or mental health or welfare has been adversely affected by abuse or neglect.
2. A professional who has reasonable cause to believe that a child has been or may be abused or neglected or may have been a victim of indecency with a child. A professional is anyone licensed or certified by the state who has direct contact with children in the normal course of duties for which the individual is licensed or certified.

A person is required to make a report if the person has reasonable cause to believe that an adult was a victim of abuse or neglect as a

STUDENT WELFARE
CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

FFG
(LOCAL)

child and the person determines in good faith that disclosure of the information is necessary to protect the health and safety of another child or an elderly or disabled person.

[For parental notification requirements regarding an allegation of ~~educator~~ misconduct with a student, see FFF.]

Oral Reports

As required by law, an oral report made to the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) is recorded.

Restrictions on Reporting

In accordance with law, an employee is prohibited from using or threatening to use a parent's refusal to consent to administration of a psychotropic drug or to any other psychiatric or psychological testing or treatment of a child as the sole basis for making a report of neglect, unless the employee has cause to believe that the refusal:

1. Presents a substantial risk of death, disfigurement, or bodily injury to the child; or
2. Has resulted in an observable and material impairment to the growth, development, or functioning of the child.

Making a Report

Reports may be made to any of the following:

1. A ~~state or local~~ law enforcement agency, [as defined in law](#);
2. The Child Protective Services (CPS) division of DFPS at 800-252-5400 or the [Texas Abuse Hotline website](#)¹;
3. A local CPS office; or
4. If applicable, the state agency operating, licensing, certifying, or registering the facility in which the suspected abuse or neglect occurred.

However, if the suspected abuse or neglect involves a person responsible for the care, custody, or welfare of the child, the report must be made to DFPS, unless the report is to the state agency that operates, licenses, certifies, or registers the facility where the suspected abuse or neglect took place; or the report is to the Texas Juvenile Justice Department as a report of suspected abuse or neglect in a juvenile justice program or facility. As defined by law, a person responsible for the care, custody, or welfare of a child includes school personnel and volunteers and day-care workers. [See FFG(LEGAL)]

An individual does not fulfill his or her responsibilities under the law by only reporting suspicion of abuse or neglect to a campus principal, school counselor, or another District staff member. Furthermore, the District is prohibited from requiring an employee to first report his or her suspicion to a District or campus administrator.

STUDENT WELFARE
CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

FFG
(LOCAL)

In accordance with law, an individual must provide their name and telephone number when making a report. If the individual making the report is a school employee, agent, or contractor, they must also provide their business address and profession.

Confidentiality

The identity of a person making a report of suspected child abuse or neglect shall be kept confidential and disclosed only in accordance with the law and the rules of the investigating agency.

Immunity

A person who in good faith reports or assists in the investigation of a report of child abuse or neglect is immune from civil or criminal liability.

**Failing to Report
Suspected Child
Abuse or Neglect**

By failing to report suspicion of child abuse or neglect, an employee:

1. May be placing a child at risk of continued abuse or neglect;
2. Violates the law and may be subject to legal penalties, including criminal sanctions for knowingly failing to make a required report;
3. Violates Board policy and may be subject to disciplinary action, including possible termination of employment; and
4. May have his or her certification from the State Board for Educator Certification suspended, revoked, or canceled in accordance with 19 Administrative Code Chapter 249.

It is a criminal offense to coerce someone into suppressing or failing to report child abuse or neglect.

**Responsibilities
Regarding
Investigations**

In accordance with law, District officials shall be prohibited from:

1. Denying an investigator's request to interview a child at school in connection with an investigation of child abuse or neglect;
2. Requiring that a parent or school employee be present during the interview; or
3. Coercing someone into suppressing or failing to report child abuse or neglect.

District personnel shall cooperate fully and without parental consent, if necessary, with an investigation of reported child abuse or neglect. [See GKA]

¹ Texas Abuse Hotline website: <http://www.txabusehotline.org>

STUDENT DISCIPLINE

FO
(LOCAL)

Student Code of Conduct

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

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

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

1. Posted and prominently displayed at each campus or made available for review in the principal's office, as required by law; and
2. Made available on the District's website and/or as a hard copy to students, parents, teachers, administrators, and others on request.

Revisions

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

Extracurricular Standards of Behavior

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

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

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

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

STUDENT DISCIPLINE

FO
(LOCAL)

“Parent” Defined

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

General Discipline Guidelines

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

1. A student shall be disciplined when necessary to improve the student’s behavior, to maintain order, or to protect other students, school employees, or property.
2. A student shall be treated fairly and equitably. Discipline shall be based on an assessment of the circumstances of each case. Factors to consider shall include:
 - a. The seriousness of the offense;
 - b. The student’s age;
 - c. The frequency of misconduct;
 - d. The student’s attitude;
 - e. The potential effect of the misconduct on the school environment;
 - f. Requirements of Chapter 37 of the Texas Education Code Chapter 37.001, et. seq., along with other relevant authority interpreting state and federal law related to student discipline; and
 - g. The Student Code of Conduct adopted by the Board.
3. Before a student under 18 is assigned to detention outside regular school hours, notice shall be given to the student’s parent to inform him or her of the reason for the detention and permit arrangements for necessary transportation.

Corporal Punishment

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

Physical Restraint

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

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

STUDENT DISCIPLINE

FO
(LOCAL)

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

**Video and Audio
Monitoring**

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

Use of Recordings

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

Access to
Recordings

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

COMMUNITY RELATIONS
CONDUCT ON SCHOOL PREMISES

GKA
(LOCAL)

Note: ~~This local policy has been revised in accordance with the District's innovation plan.[†]~~

Access to District Property

Authorized District officials, including school resource officers and District police officers if applicable, may refuse to allow a person access to property under the District's control in accordance with law.

District officials may request assistance from law enforcement in an emergency or when a person is engaging in behavior rising to the level of criminal conduct.

Ejection or Exclusion under Education Code 37.105

In accordance with ~~the District's innovation plan, the District is exempt from the state law requiring~~ [Education Code 37.105](#), a District official ~~to~~[shall](#) provide a person refused entry to or ejected from property under the District's control written information explaining the right to appeal such refusal of entry or ejection under the District's grievance process. ~~The District permits designated employees to refuse entry or eject a person whose behavior is deemed inappropriate without warning or written notice regarding the appeal process.~~

A person appealing under the District's grievance process shall be permitted to address the Board in person within 90 calendar days of filing the initial complaint, unless the complaint is resolved before the Board considers it. [See FNG and GF]

Off-Campus Activities

Employees shall be designated to ensure appropriate conduct of participants and others attending a school-related activity at non-District or out-of-District facilities. Those so designated shall coordinate their efforts with persons in charge of the facilities.

Prohibitions

Tobacco and
E-Cigarettes

The District prohibits smoking and the use of tobacco products, e-cigarettes, or other electronic vaporizing devices on District property, in District vehicles, or at school-related activities.

Weapons

The District prohibits the unlawful use, possession, or display of any firearm, location-restricted knife, club, or prohibited weapon, as defined at FNCG, on all District property at all times.

Exceptions

No violation of this policy occurs when:

1. ~~A Texas~~[An individual who holds a](#) handgun license ~~holder in~~[accordance with state law](#) stores a handgun or other firearm in a locked vehicle in a parking lot, parking garage, or other parking area provided by the District, as long as the handgun or other firearm is not in plain view; or

COMMUNITY RELATIONS
CONDUCT ON SCHOOL PREMISES

GKA
(LOCAL)

2. The use, possession, or display of an otherwise prohibited weapon takes place as part of a District-approved activity supervised by proper authorities. [See FOD]

~~i~~ Innovation Plan: <https://www.ccisd.net/our-promise/district-innovation>