

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 third Tuesday of each month at a time specified on the meeting notice. 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 two members of the Board.

The Board President shall call an emergency meeting when it is determined by the Board President or two 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 ~~sixth business~~ 10th calendar day before regular meetings and the ~~sixth business~~ 10th calendar day before special meetings.

Preparation

In consultation with the Board President, the Superintendent shall prepare the agenda for all Board meetings. Any Board member may request that a subject be included on the agenda for a meeting, and the Superintendent shall include on the preliminary agenda of the meeting all topics that have been timely submitted by ~~at two~~ Board ~~member~~ members.

Before the official agenda is finalized for any meeting, the Superintendent shall consult the Board President to ensure that the agenda and the topics included meet with the Board President's approval. In reviewing the preliminary agenda, the Board President shall ensure that any topics the Board or ~~individual~~ at least two Board members have requested to be addressed are either on that agenda or scheduled for deliberation at an appropriate time in the near future. The Board President shall place an item on the agenda if the item is requested by two Board members. The Board President shall not have authority to remove from the agenda a subject requested by ~~at least two~~ Board ~~member~~ members without ~~that Board member's specific authorization~~ specific authorization from those Board members.

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.

BOARD MEETINGS

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(LOCAL)

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

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.

Limit on Participation	Audience participation at a Board meeting 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.
Special Meetings	At all other Board meetings, public comment shall be limited to items on the agenda posted with notice of the meeting.
Procedures	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 the Board's procedures on public comment and shall indicate the agenda item or topic on which they wish to address the Board. Public comment 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 five 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, establishing an overall time limit of 30 minutes for 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.

**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.

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.

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 The Board delegates to the Superintendent the authority to:

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; 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 cybersecurity training requirements.

Security Breach and Cybersecurity Incident Notifications 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:

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.

The District shall disclose a breach or incident involving sensitive, protected, or confidential student information as required by law.

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 cheat or 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]

**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

Prior to advertising, the Board shall determine 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**. To assist the Board, the Superintendent shall recommend the project delivery/contract award method that he or she determines provides the best value to the District. [See CV series generally and CBB(LEGAL) for requirements if federal funds are involved.]

For construction contracts valued at or above ~~\$100,000~~ **\$100,000**, the Superintendent shall also 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 by the Board or its designee prior to any changes being made in the approved plans or the actual construction of the facility.

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 Board has accepted the work.

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.

EMPLOYMENT REQUIREMENTS AND RESTRICTIONS
CONFLICT OF INTEREST

DBD
(LOCAL)

**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.

An employee shall not at any time engage in any outside employment that:

1. Affects his or her usefulness as an employee in the District.
2. Makes time or energy demands that would interfere with the employee's effectiveness in performing regular assigned duties.
3. Compromises or embarrasses the District.
4. Adversely affects his or her employment status or professional standing.
5. Conflicts with assigned duties.

An employee shall not engage in any other employment or in any private business during the hours necessary to fulfill appropriate assigned duties.

Private Tutoring

An employee shall disclose in writing to his or her immediate supervisor any private tutoring of District students for pay.

**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	<ol style="list-style-type: none">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 <i>in loco parentis</i>.3. Parent, stepparent, parent-in-law, or other individual who stands <i>in loco parentis</i> 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. <p>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).</p>
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 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 five consecutive workdays 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.

Discretionary Use

Discretionary use of leave is at the individual employee's discretion, subject to limitations set out below.

COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS
LEAVES AND ABSENCES

DEC
(LOCAL)

*Request for
Leave*

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.

Discretionary use of state personal leave shall not exceed five consecutive workdays.

Local Leave

Each employee shall earn five, six, or seven paid local leave days per school year in accordance with administrative regulations.

Local leave shall accumulate without limit.

Local leave shall be used according to the terms and conditions of state sick leave accumulated before the 1995–96 school year, except that an employee may contribute local leave to a sick leave bank. [See DEC(LEGAL)]

Sick Leave Bank

The District shall establish a sick leave bank that employees may join through contribution of local leave.

Leave contributed to the bank shall be solely for the use of participating employees. An employee who is a member of the bank may request leave from the bank if the employee or a member of the employee's immediate family experiences a catastrophic illness or injury and the absence extends at least 10 consecutive days after the employee has exhausted all paid leave and any applicable compensatory time.

The Superintendent shall develop regulations for the operation of the sick leave bank that address the following:

1. Membership in the sick leave bank, including the number of days an employee must contribute to become a member;
2. Procedures to request leave from the sick leave bank;
3. The maximum number of days per school year a member employee may receive from the sick leave bank;
4. The committee or administrator authorized to consider requests for leave from the sick leave bank and criteria for granting requests; and
5. Other procedures deemed necessary for the operation of the sick leave bank.

COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS
LEAVES AND ABSENCES

DEC
(LOCAL)

Appeal	All decisions regarding the sick leave bank may be appealed by submitting a letter to the sick leave bank facilitator in accordance with administrative regulations.
Mental Health Leave	<p>A District peace officer who experiences a traumatic event in the scope of employment shall be granted a maximum of three days of mental health leave per traumatic event. Such leave shall be provided in accordance with administrative regulations and shall not be deducted from the employee's pay or leave balance.</p> <p>The Superintendent shall develop regulations regarding mental health leave that address the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Circumstances or reasons under which an eligible employee may use mental health leave;2. Procedures for requesting mental health leave and maintaining the anonymity of the requester;3. The administrator authorized to approve requests for mental health leave; and4. Other procedures deemed necessary for administering this provision.
Quarantine Leave	<p>A District peace officer shall be granted quarantine leave when ordered by the local health authority or the peace officer's supervisor to quarantine or isolate due to possible or known exposure to a communicable disease while on duty. Such leave shall be provided in accordance with administrative regulations and shall not be deducted from the employee's pay or leave balance.</p> <p>The Superintendent shall develop regulations regarding quarantine leave that address the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Continuation of all employment benefits and compensation for the duration of the leave;2. Reimbursement for reasonable costs related to the quarantine; and3. Other procedures deemed necessary for administering this provision.
Line of Duty Illness or Injury Leave of Absence	Following a leave of absence with full pay as required by law, the District shall not extend the leave of absence for a police officer's line of duty illness or injury. In accordance with law, the police officer may use accumulated leave.
Family and Medical Leave	The District shall make FMLA leave available to employees in accordance with DECA(LEGAL) and the following provisions.

COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS
LEAVES AND ABSENCES

DEC
(LOCAL)

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 Twelve Month FMLA Exception Period	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. For purposes of an employee's entitlement to FMLA leave, the 12-month period shall be July 1 through June 30.
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.
Temporary Disability Leave	Any full-time employee shall be eligible for temporary disability leave. For an eligible employee whose position requires educator certification by the State Board for Educator Certification or by the District, the maximum length of temporary disability leave shall be 180 calendar days. For an eligible employee whose position does not require educator certification, the maximum length of temporary disability leave shall be 90 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.

COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS
LEAVES AND ABSENCES

DEC
(LOCAL)

**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 state and local leave accumulated by an employee hired by the District before September 19, 1991, or hired after this date whose employment contract includes payment for accumulated 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's retirement is voluntary, i.e., the employee is not being discharged or nonrenewed.
2. The employee is retiring under the Teacher Retirement System of Texas (TRS).
3. The employee has at least 10 consecutive years of service with the District.

If an employee who meets the eligibility criteria above experiences death while employed with the District or within 90 days after retirement from the District, the District shall pay the employee's estate for the unused leave in accordance with these provisions.

The employee shall receive payment for each day of accumulated state and local leave, to a maximum of 150 days, 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.

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.

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

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.

Complaints

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

Other Complaint Processes

Employee complaints shall be filed in accordance with this policy, except as required by the policies listed below. Some of these policies require appeals to be submitted in accordance with DGBA after the relevant complaint process [has been followed](#):

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

Notice to Employees

The District shall inform employees of this policy through appropriate District publications [and on the District’s website](#).

**~~Guiding Principles~~
Informal Process**

The Board encourages employees to discuss their concerns with their supervisor, principal, or other appropriate [campus or District](#) administrator who has the authority to address the concerns. Concerns should be expressed as soon as possible to allow early resolution at the lowest possible administrative level.

Informal resolution shall be encouraged but shall not extend any deadlines in this policy, except by mutual written consent.

PERSONNEL-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS
EMPLOYEE COMPLAINTS/GRIEVANCES

DGBA
(LOCAL)

~~Direct
Communication with
Board Members~~
~~Employees shall not
be prohibited from
communicating with
a member of the
Board regarding
District operations~~
~~Formal Process
communication
between an
employee and a
Board member
would be
inappropriate
because of a
pending hearing or
appeal related to the
employee~~
Filing
Deadlines

If an employee has engaged in the informal process in an attempt to resolve the complaint with the District and has not reached a resolution during the process, the employee must file a complaint within 15 business days of the date the employee first knew, or with reasonable diligence should have known, of the decision or action giving rise to the complaint or grievance.

All deadlines shall be strictly followed unless otherwise required by law or modified by mutual written consent.

An employee may initiate the formal process described below by timely filing a written complaint form.

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

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

The complaint form shall be filed with the lowest level administrator who has the authority to remedy the alleged problem. In most circumstances, the employee shall file Level One complaints with the campus principal for any complaint on a matter related to a campus. For a complaint that arises on a matter that is unrelated to a campus, the complaint shall be filed with the appropriate District-level administrator.

If the subject matter of the complaint requires a Board decision, is a complaint about a Board member, or is a complaint about the Superintendent, the complaint shall be initiated at the Board level. A preliminary hearing to develop a record or recommendation for the Board may be conducted by an appropriate administrator.

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

Option to Continue
Informal Process

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

PERSONNEL-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS
EMPLOYEE COMPLAINTS/GRIEVANCES

DGBA
(LOCAL)

Notice of Complaint	A District employee against whom a complaint has been filed shall be provided notice of the complaint in accordance with administrative regulations. The employee shall have sufficient opportunity to submit a written response to the complaint that shall be included in the record of the complaint.
Freedom from Retaliation	Neither the Board nor any District employee shall unlawfully retaliate against an employee for bringing a concern or complaint.
Whistleblower Complaints	Whistleblower complaints shall be filed within the time specified by law and may be made to the Superintendent or designee beginning at Level Two. Timelines for the employee and the District set out in this policy may be shortened to allow the Board to make a final decision within 60 calendar days of the initiation of the complaint. [See DG]
Complaints Against Supervisors	Complaints alleging a violation of law by a supervisor may be made to the Superintendent or designee . Complaint forms . Complaints alleging a violation of law by the Superintendent may be submitted directly to the Board or Board's designee.
Direct Communication with Board Members	Employees shall not be prohibited from communicating with a member of the Board regarding District operations except when communication between an employee and a Board member would be inappropriate because of a pending hearing or appeal related to the employee.
General Provisions Filing	Complaint forms and appeal notices may be filed by hand-delivery, by electronic communication, including email and fax , or by U.S. Mail. Hand-delivered filings shall be timely filed if received by the appropriate administrator or designee by the close of business on the deadline. Filings submitted by electronic communication shall be timely filed if they are received by the close of business on the deadline, as indicated by the date/time shown on the electronic communication. Mail filings shall be timely filed if they are post-marked by U.S. Mail on or before the deadline and received by the appropriate administrator or designated representative no more than three business days after the deadline.
Scheduling Conferences Hearings	The District shall make reasonable attempts to schedule conferences hearings at a mutually agreeable time. If the employee fails to appear at a scheduled conference hearing, the District may hold the conference hearing and issue a decision in the employee's absence.
Response At Levels One, Two, and Three, "response"Decision	A "decision" shall mean a written communication to the employee from the appropriate administrator. Responses that provides an explanation of the basis of the decision, an indication of each document that supports the decision, and any relief or redress to be

provided. A decision shall be issued on the merits of the concern raised in the complaint notwithstanding any procedural errors or the type of relief or redress requested.

The decision shall also include information regarding the filing of an appeal in accordance with this policy. After a hearing at Level Four, the decision shall include information on submitting an appeal to the commissioner.

A decision may be hand-delivered, sent by electronic communication to the employee's email address of record, or sent by U.S. Mail to the employee's mailing address of record. Mailed ~~responses~~ ~~de-~~ ~~isions~~ shall be timely if they are postmarked by U.S. Mail on or before the deadline.

Days

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

Representative
Representative

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

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

Consolidating
Complaints

~~Complaints arising out of an event or a series of related events shall be addressed in one complaint. Employees shall not file To promote efficiency in addressing complaints, the appropriate administrator shall determine if separate or serial complaints arising from any an event or series of events that have been or could have been addressed in a previous complaint.~~

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

Untimely Filings

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

~~If a complaint form or appeal notice is not timely filed, the complaint may be dismissed, on written notice to the employee, at any point during the complaint process. The employee may appeal the~~

~~dismissal by seeking review in writing within 10 days from the date of the written dismissal notice, starting at the level at which the complaint was dismissed. Such appeal shall be limited to the issue of timeliness.~~

~~Costs Incurred~~ related events shall be consolidated.

Costs Incurred

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

Complaint and Appeal Forms

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

Copies of any documents that support the complaint should be ~~attached to~~ included with the complaint form. If the employee does not have copies of these documents, ~~they~~ copies may be presented at the Level One ~~conference~~ hearing. After the Level One ~~conference~~, ~~no new documents may be submitted by the employee unless the employee did not know the documents existed before the Level One conference~~ hearing, the employee may supplement the record with additional documents or include additional claims.

Record

A record of each complaint hearing shall be created and retained in accordance with this policy. The record shall include documents submitted by the employee who filed the complaint, documents determined relevant by District personnel, and the decision.

Remand

A complaint or appeal form that is incomplete in any material aspect ~~may~~ shall be ~~dismissed but may be refiled with all the required information if the re-filing is within the designated time for filing.~~ re-filed, if at Level One, and remanded at all other levels in order to develop an adequate record of the complaint.

If an adequate record has not been developed, the appropriate administrator may remand the complaint to a lower level. The Board or Board committee may remand a complaint to a lower level if at the Board level of review an adequate record has not been developed.

Assignment of Hearing Officer

When a District employee is the subject of a complaint, the hearing shall be conducted by an administrator who is in a supervisory or higher organizational role. The District employee who is the subject of the complaint shall recuse themselves from reviewing the complaint at any level in the process.

Investigation

The District may conduct an investigation at any level in the complaint process. If the District and the employee mutually agree, all deadlines shall be suspended during an investigation.

Audio Recording

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

Complaint Levels

Level One

~~Complaint forms must be filed:~~

- ~~8. Within 15 days of the date the employee first knew, or with reasonable diligence should have known, of the decision or action giving rise to the complaint or grievance; and~~
- ~~9. With the lowest level administrator who has the authority to remedy the alleged problem.~~

~~In most circumstances, employees on a school campus shall file Level One complaints with the campus principal; other District employees shall file Level One complaints with their immediate supervisor.~~

~~If the complaint is against the supervisor or principal and alleges a violation of law in the workplace, the Level One complaint shall be filed with the director or the executive director who oversees the employee who is the subject of the complaint.~~

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

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

~~The appropriate administrator shall investigate as necessary and schedule a conference with the employee within 10 days after receipt of the written complaint. The administrator may set reasonable time limits for the conference.~~

~~Absent extenuating circumstances, the administrator shall provide the employee a written response within 10 days following the conference. The written response shall set forth the basis of the decision. In reaching a decision, the administrator may consider information provided at the Level One conference and any other relevant documents or information the administrator.~~ At Level One, the appropriate hearing officer shall hold a hearing with the employee within 10 calendar days after receipt of the written com-

Level Two

plaint. The hearing officer may set reasonable time limits for the hearing.

The hearing officer shall provide the employee a decision within 20 calendar days following the hearing. In reaching a decision, the hearing officer may consider information provided with the complaint form and any other relevant documents or information the hearing officer believes will help resolve the complaint.

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

The appeal notice must be filed in writing, on a form provided by the District, within ~~10~~ 20 calendar days of the date of the ~~written~~ Level One ~~response~~ decision or, if no ~~response was received~~ decision has been communicated to the employee, within ~~10~~ 20 calendar days of the Level One ~~response~~ decision deadline.

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

The Level One record shall include:

1. The original complaint form and any attachments.
2. ~~All~~ Any other documents submitted by the employee at Level One.
3. ~~The~~ If the complaint is against a District employee, the written response of the District employee, if any.
- ~~3-4.~~ 4. The decision issued at Level One and any attachments.
- ~~4-5.~~ 5. All other documents relied upon by the Level One ~~administra-
ter~~ hearing officer in reaching the Level One decision.

The ~~Level Two administrator shall schedule a conference within 10~~ hearing officer shall hold a hearing within 10 calendar days after the appeal notice is filed. The ~~conference shall be limited to the issues and documents considered at Level One. At the conference, the employee may provide information concerning any documents or information relied upon by the administration for the Level One decision. The Level Two administrator may set reasonable time limits for the conference~~ hearing officer may set reasonable time limits for the hearing.

The ~~Level Two administrator~~ hearing officer shall provide the employee a ~~written response~~ decision within ~~40~~20 calendar days following the ~~conference~~. The ~~written response shall set forth the basis of the decision~~ hearing. In reaching a decision, the ~~Level Two administrator~~ hearing officer may consider the Level One record, any additional information provided ~~at~~prior to the Level Two ~~conference~~ hearing, and any other relevant documents or information the ~~Level Two administrator~~ hearing officer believes will help resolve the complaint.

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

Level Three

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

The appeal notice must be filed in writing, on a form provided by the District, within ~~40~~20 calendar days of the date of the ~~written~~ Level Two ~~response~~ decision or, if no ~~response was received~~ decision has been communicated to the employee, within ~~40~~20 calendar days of the Level Two ~~response~~ decision deadline.

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

The Level Two record shall include:

1. The Level One record.
2. The notice of appeal from Level One to Level Two
- ~~2.~~3. Any other documents submitted by the complainant at Level Two.
- ~~3.~~4. The ~~written response~~ decision issued at Level Two and any attachments.
- ~~4.~~5. All other documents relied upon by the Level Two ~~administrator~~ hearing officer in reaching the Level Two decision.

The ~~Level Three administrator shall schedule a conference within 40~~ hearing officer shall hold a hearing within 10 calendar days after the appeal notice is filed. The ~~conference shall be limited to the issues and documents considered at Level Two. At the conference, the employee may provide information concerning any documents~~

~~or information relied upon by the administration for the Level One and Level Two decisions. The Level Three administrator may set reasonable time limits for the conference~~hearing officer may set reasonable time limits for the hearing.

The ~~Level Three administrator~~hearing officer shall provide the employee a ~~written response~~decision within 1020 calendar days following the ~~conference~~.~~The written response shall set forth the basis of the decision~~hearing. In reaching a decision, the ~~Level Three administrator~~hearing officer may consider the Level ~~One and Level Two records~~,record, any additional information provided ~~at prior~~ to the Level Three ~~conference~~hearing, and any other relevant documents or information the ~~Level Three administrator~~hearing officer believes will help resolve the complaint.

Recordings of the Level One, Level Two, and Level Three ~~confer-~~enceshearings, if any, shall be maintained with the Level ~~One, Level Two~~; and Level Three records.

Level Four

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

The appeal notice must be filed in writing, on a form provided by the District, within 1020 calendar days of the date of the ~~written~~ Level Three ~~response~~decision or, if no ~~response was received~~decision has been communicated to the employee, within 1020 calendar days of the Level Three ~~response~~decision deadline.

~~The Superintendent or designee shall inform the employee of the date, time, and place of the Board~~Unless the Board delegates a committee in accordance with law, the Board shall hear the appeal of the Level Three decision.

After receiving notice of the appeal, the Board or Board committee shall hold a meeting to discuss the complaint no later than 60 calendar days after the date on which the Level Three decision was made.

The Superintendent shall inform the employee whether the Board or a Board committee will hear the appeal and of the date, time, and place of the meeting at which the complaint will be on the agenda for presentation to the Board or Board committee.

~~The Superintendent or designee~~At least five business days before the Board or Board committee meeting, the Superintendent shall provide the employee a description of any information the Board intends to rely on that is not contained in the record created at the previous hearing levels, including any preliminary hearing.

The Superintendent shall provide the Board the record of the Level Three appeal. The employee may request a copy of the Level Three record.

The Level Three record shall include:

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

~~The appeal shall be limited to the issues and documents considered at Level Three, except that if at the Level Four hearing the administration intends to rely on evidence not included in the Level Three record, the administration shall provide the employee notice of the nature of the evidence at least three days before the hearing.~~

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

The employee may request that the complaint be heard in open or closed meeting. The District shall honor that request unless the Texas Open Meetings Act or other applicable law requires otherwise. [See BE]

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

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

The Board or Board committee shall then consider the complaint. It ~~may give notice of its~~ shall make a decision orally or in writing at any time up to and including the next regularly scheduled Board meeting. ~~If the Board does not make a decision regarding the complaint by the end of the next regularly scheduled meeting, the lack of a response by the Board upholds the administrative decision at Level Three~~ no later than 30 calendar days after the date of the Board or Board committee meeting at which the complaint was presented. The employee shall be provided a decision in accordance with this policy and state law.

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. Use or possession of a firearm by a specific employee is authorized by Board action [see the CKE series];
2. 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
3. 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]

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

EMPLOYEE STANDARDS OF CONDUCT

DH
(LOCAL)

shall not use a personal electronic communication platform, application, or account to communicate with currently enrolled students.

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;
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.

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

1. Other employees. [See DIA]
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.

An employee shall report child abuse or neglect as required by law. [See FFG]

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.]

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

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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.

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, and 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; or
4. Crimes involving moral turpitude, which include:
 - 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.

EMPLOYEE STANDARDS OF CONDUCT

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(LOCAL)

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.

INSTRUCTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS
LESSON PLANS

EEP
(LOCAL)

**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.

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.

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 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 principal. Upon receipt of the form, the principal shall appoint a reconsideration committee.

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]

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.

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.

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.

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;

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 ~~2-42-4~~, 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 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.

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.

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.

Guidelines for Grading

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that each campus or instructional level develops guidelines for teachers to follow in determining grades for students. These guidelines 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. 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 a major assignment or retake a major grade assessment for which the student received a failing grade.

Progress Reporting

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

Interim Reports

Interim progress reports shall be issued for secondary students after the ~~third~~third week of each grading period and during the fourth week of each grading period for elementary students. 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 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 the judgment of the classroom teacher or another supervising professional employee, taking into consideration written materials, observation, ~~or~~ information from students, [or the use of an artificial intelligence detection tool selected by the District.](#)

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.

**Student Welfare:
Parental Authority
and Partnership**

Overview

The Board has an obligation to provide all students with a safe, healthy, supportive, respectful, and developmentally appropriate learning environment. The Board intends to foster trust and transparency between the District and the parents of its students. To that end, the Board supports the fundamental rights of parents to direct the care and upbringing of their children, including the right to be informed of and involved in all aspects of their children's education.

Purpose

The objectives of this policy are:

1. To reiterate the Board's commitment to the inherent authority of parents to raise their minor children and receive full and accurate information about their children.
2. To emphasize that parents ~~will~~ shall be full partners with educators in the education of their children.
3. To ensure neutrality and objectivity in classroom instruction.
4. To encourage a productive academic environment focused on developmentally appropriate student learning.
5. To safeguard the privacy and security of all students with sex-specific privacy spaces, including bathrooms, changing facilities, showers, and locker rooms.
6. Fluidity content is excluded from the classroom and instructional materials.
7. District staff ~~will~~ shall not diagnose or treat gender dysphoria and ~~will~~ shall respect the right of the parent to determine what is best for the welfare of their child.

Definitions

In this policy, the following definitions apply:

Gender Fluidity

Any belief, theory, or ideology that:

1. Espouses the view that gender is merely a social construct;
2. Espouses the view that it is possible for a person to be any gender or no gender (i.e. non-binary);

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(LOCAL)

3. Espouses the view that an individual's biological sex should be changed to "match" a gender different from that person's biological sex; and
4. Support hormone therapy or other medical treatments or procedures to temporarily or permanently alter a person's body so that is "matches" a gender different from that person's biological sex.

Parent

A person standing in parental relation. The term does not include a person as to whom the parent-child relationship has been terminated or a person not entitled to possession of or access to a child under a court order.

Child or Minor

A person under 18 years of age who is not and has not been married or who has not had the disabilities of a minor removed for general purposes. Except as provided by federal law, all rights of a parent shall be exercised by a student who is 18 years of age or older or whose disabilities of minority have been removed for general purposes, unless the student has been determined to be incompetent or the student's rights have been otherwise restricted by a court order.

Biological Sex

The sex of such person:

1. As listed on the person's official birth certificate, subject to the requirements of Tex. Educ. Code § 33.0834;
2. If the person's official birth certificate is unobtainable, as listed on another government-issued record; or
3. As modified by a court order.

Parental Rights and Authority

The fundamental right of parents to direct the upbringing of their children is inherent and shall not be compromised.

The District shall operate under the following guiding principles:

1. Parents have the right to raise their children, including their moral and religious upbringing.
2. School officials ~~will~~ shall partner with parents concerning their children's education.
3. Except where limited by law, parents are entitled to full information regarding their children's school activities, including all written records, state assessments, and teaching materials.
4. Parents have the right to make medical decisions for their children.

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The District ~~will~~shall only withhold information about a student from the student's parents to the extent authorized by law, and only to the minimum extent necessary.

This policy controls over any other Board policy that may conflict with these statements.

Student Gender Identity and Parental Notification and Consent

District staff shall not refer to or address minor students by a different name or pronouns that differ from their biological sex, in the course and scope of their employment, without written authorization from a parent.

In the event an adult student or a minor student with written authorization from a parent requests the use of specific pronouns, District staff interacting with the student may comply with the request.

The District cannot and ~~will~~shall not compel District employees or other students to address or refer to students in any manner that would violate the speaker's First Amendment rights. Any District employee who objects to using a student's preferred pronouns inconsistent with the student's biological sex ~~will~~shall not be forced to do so. In those cases, District employees may refer to the student by last name or other neutral means, with a focus on respecting the dignity of students and rights of their parents.

The document authorizing the change of name and/or pronoun shall be kept on file in the District's administrative offices. This policy does not require parental consent for shortened versions of the legal name of a student.

The District shall not be responsible for the diagnosis and treatment of gender dysphoria. The Board acknowledges that District volunteers and staff, including counselors are not employed as experts in diagnosing, affirming, or treating gender dysphoria or related mental health conditions and are prohibited from doing so. Parents have the right to determine whether to seek professional and medical support for their child.

Except in kindergarten-grade 5, the District ~~will~~shall only send notifications to the parents if their minor child requests he or she be identified as transgender, changes his or her name, or use different pronouns at school. The administration may create a process that allows District personnel to fulfill their obligation to provide the parental notice required by this paragraph. Such notice may be given by designated District administration, campus counselor, or a family support specialist.

Age-Appropriate Instruction

Except where required by state-approved curriculum requirements, the District ~~will~~shall not require instruction on human sexuality. Classroom instruction, announcements on human sexuality, or

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messaging of gender-related concepts ~~will~~shall not be given in kindergarten through grade 5. Neutral and objective instruction on human sexuality may occur, if reasonably related to the course curriculum, in classes during grades ~~9-12~~9 through 12. Parents must be:

1. Notified at the beginning of the school that the course involves those topics; and
2. Provided an opportunity to temporarily remove their children from the instruction as described below.

Except where required by law, the District ~~will~~shall not test or grade students based on human sexuality instruction.

Parents retain the authority to temporarily remove their children from instruction provided the student still meets grade level or graduation requirements, completes required tests, and is not prevented from attending class during the entire semester. Additionally, in classes involving human sexuality instruction, parents retain the authority to remove their children from any portion of human sexuality instruction without penalty.

Controversial
Materials

Consideration of controversial issues has a legitimate place in the instructional program of the District.

For purposes of this policy, a controversial issue means anything that is the subject of intense public argument, disagreement, or disapproval. This includes issues which may have political, social, or personal impacts on students and/or the community, and it includes issues that are likely to arouse both support and opposition in the community.

Properly introduced and conducted, the consideration of such issues can help students learn to identify important issues, explore fully and fairly all sides of an issue, carefully weigh the values and factors involved, and develop techniques for formulating and evaluating positions.

The Board ~~will~~permits the introduction of controversial issues provided that their use in the instructional program:

1. Is related to the instructional goals of the course of study;
2. Is age-appropriate for the students;
3. Does not influence or persuade students to a particular point of view;
4. Encourages analytical thinking and open-mindedness;
5. Does not create a hostile school environment; or

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6. Must be educational and pertain to material in alignment with SBOE and TEA guidelines under House Bill HB1605 Legislative 88th Regular Session.

Safeguarding Sex-Specific Spaces and District Privacy Facilities

Sex-specific spaces ~~will~~shall be protected to provide students privacy, safety, and accessibility.

The District administration, staff, and faculty ~~will~~shall comply with the Texas Education Code and UIL regulations regarding privacy facilities, restrooms, locker rooms and sports.

The District ~~will~~shall maintain privacy facilities separated by biological sex. Individuals ~~will~~shall use the privacy facilities corresponding to their biological sex unless a reasonable accommodation is granted for students seeking privacy.

Exceptions to this policy include custodial or maintenance staff when the privacy facility is not occupied by a member of the opposite sex and persons rendering medical assistance or aid during a natural disaster, emergency, or when there is a serious threat to student safety.

Any student may request to use an alternative private restroom, such as the nurse's office, and the District ~~will~~shall work with the student to implement the accommodation.

Nothing in this policy ~~will~~shall be construed to prohibit schools from adopting policies necessary to accommodate students with disabilities or young children in need of physical assistance when using privacy facilities.

Gender Fluid Materials

No course of instruction, unit of study, materials, instructional materials, or any other curricular or District-sponsored extracurricular offerings adopting, supporting, or promoting gender fluidity ~~will~~shall be used or introduced in any District classroom. This prohibition ~~will~~shall also include any such materials or instructional materials that a teacher or administrator might seek to provide to any student, including any situation in which a teacher or administrator would allow a student to "borrow" such materials or instructional materials from the District staff member's private collection. Any materials or instructional materials adopting, supporting, or promoting gender fluidity, including but not limited to displays, communications, and related signage, is prohibited in the District's schools and classrooms.

No District staff ~~will~~shall instruct, refer, or otherwise guide any student to any Internet website, chat room, or other online forum for publication for instruction or other information regarding gender fluidity, unless such website, chat room, or other online forum has

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been approved for use in the District's instructional materials or
without parental consent. [See EFA]

Release from School

A student shall not be released from school at times other than regular 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" shall have the same definition as provided in law.

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.

A private entity shall be prohibited from offering the released time course 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. 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 a parent's written request, when properly labeled and in the original container in accordance with legal requirements.~~
3. Herbal substances or dietary supplements provided by the parent 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.

Athletic Program

The District shall purchase nonprescription medication that may be used to prevent or treat illness or injury in the District's athletic program. Only a licensed athletic trainer or a physician licensed to practice medicine in the state of Texas may administer this medication and may do so only if:

1. The District has prior written consent for medication to be administered [see Medical Treatment, below]; and
2. The administration of a medication by an athletic trainer is in accordance with a standing order or procedures approved by a physician licensed to practice medicine in the state of Texas.

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.

Psychotropics

Except as permitted by law, an employee shall not:

1. Recommend to a student or a parent 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 parent's refusal 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.

**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

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(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.]

**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 4824 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

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.

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>

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Complaints

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

Other Complaint Processes

Student or parent complaints shall be filed in accordance with this policy, except as required by the policies listed below. Some of these policies require appeals to be submitted in accordance with FNG after the relevant complaint process [has been followed](#):

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

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11. Complaints concerning a commissioned peace officer who is an employee of the District shall be submitted in accordance with the CKE series.
12. Complaints concerning intradistrict transfers or campus assignment shall be submitted in accordance with FDB.
13. Complaints concerning admission, placement, or services provided for a homeless student shall be submitted in accordance with FDC.
14. Complaints concerning disputes regarding a student's eligibility for free or reduced-priced meal programs shall be submitted in accordance with COB.

Complaints regarding refusal of entry to or ejection from District property based on Education Code 37.105 shall be filed in accordance with this policy. However, the timelines shall be adjusted as necessary to permit the complainant 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 GKA(LEGAL)]

**Extracurricular
Activity Complaints**

For a complaint concerning a student's participation in an extracurricular activity that does not involve a violation of a right guaranteed by Education Code Chapter 26, [of a Board policy](#), or [of a provision of Education Code Title II](#), the Level ~~Two~~Three decision is final and may not be appealed to the Board.

**Notice to Students
and Parents**

The District shall inform students and parents of this policy through appropriate District publications [and on the District's website](#).

**~~Guiding Principles~~
Informal Process**

The Board encourages students and parents to discuss their concerns with the appropriate teacher, principal, or other [appropriate campus or District administrator](#) who has the authority to address the concerns. Concerns should be expressed as soon as possible to allow early resolution at the lowest possible administrative level.

**~~Informal resolution shall be encouraged but shall not extend any deadlines in this policy, except~~Filing
Deadlines**

[If a student or parent has engaged in the informal process in an attempt to resolve the complaint with the District and has not reached a resolution during the process, the student or parent shall have the later of:](#)

After Informal
Process

- [Ninety calendar days to file a complaint from the date the student or parent first knew, or with reasonable diligence should have known, of the decision or action giving rise to the complaint; or](#)

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- Thirty calendar days to file a complaint from the date on which the District provided information to the student or parent regarding how to file a grievance.

[See Formal Process, below]

No Prior Informal Process

If the student or parent has not engaged in the informal process, the student or parent shall have no more than 60 calendar days from the date the student or parent first knew, or with reasonable diligence should have known, of the decision or action giving rise to the complaint or grievance to file a complaint using the appropriate forms.

Deadline Extensions

All deadlines shall be strictly followed unless otherwise required by law or modified by mutual written consent.

Formal Process

A student or parent may initiate the formal process described below by timely filing a written complaint form.

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

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

~~Freedom from Retaliation~~ The complaint form shall be filed with the lowest level administrator who has the authority to remedy the alleged problem. In most circumstances, students and parents shall file Level One complaints with the campus principal for any complaint on a matter related to a campus. For a complaint that arises on a matter that is unrelated to a campus, the complaint shall be filed with the appropriate District-level administrator.

If the subject matter of the complaint requires a Board decision, is a complaint about a Board member, or is a complaint about the Superintendent, the complaint shall be initiated at the Board level. A preliminary hearing to develop a record or recommendation for the Board may be conducted by an appropriate administrator.

A Board member shall be permitted to file a complaint under this policy, but, if the complaint is considered by the Board or Board committee, the Board member shall be prohibited from voting on the Board's or Board committee's decision.

If the complaint is not filed with the appropriate administrator, the receiving administrator must note the date and time the complaint

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	form was received and immediately forward the complaint form to the appropriate administrator.
Option to Continue Informal Process	Even after initiating the formal complaint process, the complainant is encouraged to seek informal resolution of their concerns. A complainant whose concerns are resolved may withdraw a formal complaint at any time.
Notice of Complaint	A District employee against whom a complaint has been filed shall be provided notice of the complaint in accordance with administrative regulations. The employee shall have sufficient opportunity to submit a written response to the complaint that shall be included in the record of the complaint.
Freedom from Retaliation	Neither the Board nor any District employee shall unlawfully retaliate against any student or parent for bringing a concern or complaint.
General Provisions Filing	Complaint forms and appeal notices may be filed by hand-delivery, by electronic communication, including email and fax, or by U.S. Mail. Hand-delivered filings shall be timely filed if received by the appropriate administrator or designee by the close of business on the deadline. Filings submitted by electronic communication shall be timely filed if they are received by the close of business on the deadline, as indicated by the date/time shown on the electronic communication. Mail filings shall be timely filed if they are post-marked by U.S. Mail on or before the deadline and received by the appropriate administrator or designated representative no more than three business days after the deadline.
Scheduling Conferences Hearings	The District shall make reasonable attempts to schedule conferences hearings at a mutually agreeable time. If a student or parent complainant fails to appear at a scheduled conference hearing , the District may hold the conference hearing and issue a decision in the student's or parent's complainant's absence.
Response	At Levels One, Two, and Three, "response" shall mean a written communication to the student or parent from the appropriate administrator. Responses may be hand-delivered, sent by electronic communication to the student's or parent's email address of record, or sent by U.S. Mail to the student's or parent's mailing address of record. Mailed responses shall be timely if they are post-marked by U.S. Mail on or before the deadline.

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~~Days~~

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

A "decision" shall mean a written communication to the complainant from the appropriate administrator that provides an explanation of the basis of the decision, an indication of each document that supports the decision, and any relief or redress to be provided. A decision shall be issued on the merits of the concern raised in the complaint notwithstanding any procedural errors or the type of relief or redress requested.

The decision shall also include information regarding the filing of an appeal in accordance with this policy. After a hearing at Level Four, the decision shall include information on submitting an appeal to the commissioner.

A decision may be hand-delivered, sent by electronic communication to the complainant's email address of record, or sent by U.S. Mail to the complainant's mailing address of record. Mailed decisions shall be timely if they are postmarked by U.S. Mail on or before the deadline.

Representative

"Representative" shall mean any person who or organization that is designated by the ~~student or parent~~complainant to represent the ~~student or parent~~complainant in the complaint process. A student may be represented by an adult at any level of the complaint.

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

Consolidating
Complaints

~~Complaints arising out of an event or a series of related events shall be addressed in one complaint. A student or parent shall not file~~To promote efficiency in addressing complaints, the appropriate administrator shall determine if separate or serial complaints arising from ~~any~~an event or series of ~~events that have been or could have been addressed in a previous complaint.~~

Untimely Filings

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

~~If a complaint form or appeal notice is not timely filed, the complaint may be dismissed, on written notice to the student or parent, at any point during the complaint process. The student or parent may appeal the dismissal by seeking review in writing within 10 days from the date of the written dismissal notice, starting at the~~

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	<p>level at which the complaint was dismissed. Such appeal shall be limited to the issue of timelinessrelated events shall be consolidated.</p>
Costs Incurred	Each party shall pay its own costs incurred in the course of the complaint.
Complaint and Appeal Forms	<p>Complaints and appeals under this policy shall be submitted in writing on a form provided by the District.</p> <p>Copies of any documents that support the complaint should be attached toincluded with the complaint form. If the student or parent complainant does not have copies of these documents, copies may be presented at the Level One conferencehearing. After the Level One conference, no new documents may be submitted by the student or parent unless the student or parent did not know the documents existed before the Level One conferencehearing, the complainant may supplement the record with additional documents or include additional claims.</p>
Record	A record of each complaint hearing shall be created and retained in accordance with this policy. The record shall include documents submitted by the complainant, documents determined relevant by District personnel, and the decision.
Remand	<p>A complaint or appeal form that is incomplete in any material aspect mayshall be dismissed but may be refiled with all the required information if the refiling is within the designated time for filingre-filed, if at Level One, and remanded at all other levels in order to develop an adequate record of the complaint.</p> <p>If an adequate record has not been developed, the appropriate administrator may remand the complaint to a lower level. The Board or Board committee may remand a complaint to a lower level if at the Board level of review an adequate record has not been developed.</p>
Assignment of Hearing Officer	When a District employee is the subject of a complaint, the hearing shall be conducted by an administrator who is in a supervisory or higher organizational role. The District employee who is the subject of the complaint shall recuse themselves from reviewing the complaint at any level in the process.
Level One	<p>Complaint forms must be filed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Within 15 days of the date the student or parent first knew, or with reasonable diligence should have known, of the decision or action giving rise to the complaint or grievance; and

~~2. With the lowest level administrator who has the authority to remedy the alleged problem.~~

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

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

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

~~The appropriate administrator shall investigate as necessary and schedule a conference with the student or parent within 10 days after receipt of the written complaint. The administrator may set reasonable time limits for the conference.~~

~~Absent extenuating circumstances, the administrator shall provide the student or parent a written response within 10 days following the conference. The written response shall set forth the basis of the decision. In reaching a decision, the administrator may consider information provided at the Level One conference and any other relevant documents or information the administrator~~
Complaint Levels
Level Two
Investigation

The District may conduct an investigation at any level in the complaint process. If the District and the complainant mutually agree, all deadlines shall be suspended during an investigation.

At Level One, the appropriate hearing officer shall hold a hearing with the complainant within 10 calendar days after receipt of the written complaint. The hearing officer may set reasonable time limits for the hearing.

The hearing officer shall provide the complainant a decision within 20 calendar days following the hearing. In reaching a decision, the hearing officer may consider information provided with the complaint form and any other relevant documents or information the hearing officer believes will help resolve the complaint.

If the ~~student or parent~~ complainant did not receive the relief requested at Level One or if the time for a ~~response~~ decision has expired, the ~~student or parent~~ complainant may request a ~~conference with the designated administrator~~ hearing at Level Two to appeal the Level One decision.

The appeal notice must be filed in writing, on a form provided by the District, within ~~40~~ 20 calendar days of the date of the ~~written~~ Level One ~~response~~ decision or, if no ~~response was received~~, ~~within 10~~ decision has been communicated to the complainant, within 20 calendar days of the Level One ~~response~~ decision deadline.

After receiving notice of the appeal, the Level One ~~administrator~~ **hearing officer** shall prepare and forward a record of the Level One complaint to the Level Two ~~administrator~~. ~~The student or parent may request~~ **hearing officer and provide** a copy of the Level One record ~~to the complainant~~.

The Level One record shall include:

1. The original complaint form and any attachments.
2. ~~All~~ **Any** other documents submitted by the ~~student or parent~~ **complainant** at Level One.
3. ~~The~~ **if** the complaint is against a District employee, the written response ~~of the District employee, if any~~.
- ~~3.4.~~ **The decision** issued at Level One and any attachments.
- ~~4.5.~~ All other documents relied upon by the Level One ~~administra~~ **tor** ~~hearing officer~~ in reaching the Level One decision.

The ~~Level Two administrator~~ shall ~~schedule a conference within 40~~ **hearing officer shall hold a hearing within 10 calendar days** after the appeal notice is filed. The ~~conference shall be limited to the issues and documents considered at Level One. At the conference, the student or parent may provide information concerning any documents or information relied upon by the administration for the Level One decision. The Level Two administrator may set reasonable time limits for the conference~~ **hearing officer may set reasonable time limits for the hearing**.

The ~~Level Two administrator~~ **hearing officer** shall provide the ~~student or parent a written response within 10~~ **complainant a decision within 20 calendar days** following the ~~conference~~. ~~The written response shall set forth the basis of the decision~~ **hearing**. In reaching a decision, the ~~Level Two administrator~~ **hearing officer** may consider the Level One record, **any additional** information provided ~~at~~ **prior to** the Level Two ~~conference~~ **hearing**, and any other relevant documents or information the ~~Level Two administrator~~ **hearing officer** believes will help resolve the complaint.

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

Level Three

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

The appeal notice must be filed in writing, on a form provided by the District, within ~~10~~20 calendar days of the date of the ~~written~~ Level Two ~~response~~decision or, if no ~~response was received,~~ ~~within 10~~decision has been communicated to the complainant, within 20 calendar days of the Level Two ~~response~~decision deadline.

After receiving notice of the appeal, the Level Two ~~administrator~~hearing officer shall prepare and forward a record of the Level Two ~~appeal~~complaint to the Level Three ~~administrator~~.~~The student or parent may request~~hearing officer and provide a copy of the Level Two record to the complainant.

The Level Two record shall include:

1. The Level One record.
2. The notice of appeal from Level One to Level Two.
3. ~~The written response~~Any other documents submitted by the complainant at Level Two.
- ~~3.4.~~ 4. The decision issued at Level Two and any attachments.
- ~~4.5.~~ 5. All other documents relied upon by the Level Two ~~administra~~torhearing officer in reaching the Level Two decision.

The ~~Level Three administrator~~ shall schedule a conference within ~~10~~hearing officer shall hold a hearing within 10 calendar days after the appeal notice is filed. The ~~conference shall be limited to the issues and documents considered at Level One and Level Two and identified in the Level Three appeal notice. At the conference, the student or parent may provide information concerning any documents or information relied upon by the administration for the Level Two decision. The Level Three administrator may set reasonable time limits for the conference~~hearing officer may set reasonable time limits for the hearing.

The ~~Level Three administrator~~hearing officer shall provide the ~~student or parent a written response within 10~~complainant a decision within 20 calendar days following the ~~conference~~.~~The written response shall set forth the basis of the decision~~hearing. In reaching a decision, the ~~Level Three administrator~~hearing officer may consider the Level One and Level Two ~~records~~,record, any additional information provided ~~at prior to~~ the Level Three ~~conference~~hearing, and any other relevant documents or information the ~~Level Three administrator~~hearing officer believes will help resolve the complaint.

Disciplinary
Alternative
Education Program
Assignment

Level Four
Level Four

Recordings of the Level One, Level Two, and Level Three ~~confer-
ences~~hearings, if any, shall be maintained with the Level ~~One,
Level Two,~~ and Level Three records.

~~A student or parent may appeal the decision to place a student in a
disciplinary alternative education program (DAEP) to the Superin-
tendent's designee for student discipline and placement. An appeal
regarding assignment to a DAEP shall not be appealed to the
Board.~~

With the exception of complaints regarding extracurricular activities
~~and or a DAEP placement~~, described above, if the ~~student or par-
ent~~complainant did not receive the relief requested at Level Three
or if the time for a ~~response~~decision has expired, the ~~student or
parent~~complainant may appeal the decision to the Board.

The appeal notice must be filed in writing, on a form provided by
the District, within ~~10~~20 calendar days of the date of the ~~written
Level Three response~~decision or, if no ~~response was received,
within 10~~decision has been communicated to the complainant,
within 20 calendar days of the Level Three ~~response~~decision dead-
line.

~~The Superintendent or designee shall inform the student or parent
of the date, time, and place of the Board~~Unless the Board dele-
gates a committee in accordance with law, the Board shall hear the
appeal of the Level Three decision.

After receiving notice of the appeal, the Board or Board committee
shall hold a meeting to discuss the complaint no later than 60 cal-
endar days after the date on which the Level Three decision was
made.

The Superintendent shall inform the complainant whether the
Board or a Board committee will hear the appeal and of the date,
time, and place of the meeting at which the complaint will be on the
agenda for presentation to the Board. ~~or Board committee.~~

~~The Superintendent or designee shall provide the Board the record
of the Level Three appeal. The student or parent~~At least five busi-
ness days before the Board or Board committee meeting, the Su-
perintendent shall provide the complainant a description of any in-
formation the Board intends to rely on that is not contained in the
record created at the previous hearing levels, including any prelimi-
nary hearing.

The Superintendent shall provide the Board the record of the Level
Three appeal. The complainant may request a copy of the Level
Three record.

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The Level Three record shall include:

1. The Level One record.
2. The Level Two record.
3. The notice of appeal from Level Two to Level Three.
4. ~~The written response~~ Any other documents submitted by the complainant at Level Three.
- 4.5. The decision issued at Level Three and any attachments.
- 5-6. All other documents relied upon by the administration in reaching the Level Three decision.

~~The appeal shall be limited to the issues and documents considered at Level Three, except that if at the Level Four hearing the administration intends to rely on evidence not included in the Level Three record, the administration shall provide the student or parent notice of the nature of the evidence at least three days before the hearing.~~

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

The complainant may request that the complaint be heard in open or closed meeting. The District shall honor that request unless the Texas Open Meetings Act or other applicable law requires otherwise. [See BE]

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

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

The Board or Board committee shall then consider the complaint. It ~~may give notice of its~~ shall make a decision orally or in writing at

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~~any time up to and including the next regularly scheduled Board meeting. If the Board does not make a decision regarding the complaint by the end of the next regularly scheduled meeting, the lack of a response by the Board upholds the administrative decision at Level Three~~no later than 30 calendar days after the date of the Board or Board committee meeting at which the complaint was presented. The complainant shall be provided a decision in accordance with this policy and state law.

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.

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*** 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 Education Code; and
 - g. The Student Code of Conduct adopted by the Board.
3. Before a student under 18 is assigned to detention outside regular school hours, notice shall be given to the student's parent to inform him or her of the reason for the detention and permit arrangements for necessary transportation.

Corporal Punishment

The Board prohibits the use of corporal punishment in the District. 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:

1. Protect a person, including the person using physical restraint, from physical injury.

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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.

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

Use of Recordings

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

Access to Recordings

Recordings shall remain in the custody of the campus principal or the director of transportation, as applicable, 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)]

Complaints

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

Other Complaint Processes

Complaints by members of the public shall be filed in accordance with this policy, except as required by the policies listed below. Some of these policies require appeals to be submitted in accordance with GF after the relevant complaint process:

1. Complaints concerning instructional resources shall be ~~filed-~~ **submitted** in accordance with the EF series.
2. Complaints concerning a commissioned peace officer who is an employee of the District shall be ~~filed~~ **submitted** in accordance with the CKE series.

Complaints regarding refusal of entry to or ejection from District property based on Education Code 37.105 shall be filed in accordance with this policy. However, the timelines shall be adjusted as necessary to permit the complainant 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 GKA(LEGAL)]

~~Guiding Principles~~ Informal Process

The Board encourages the public to discuss concerns with an appropriate administrator who has the authority to address the concerns. Concerns should be expressed as soon as possible to allow early resolution at the lowest possible administrative level.

Informal resolution shall be encouraged but shall not extend any deadlines in this policy, except by mutual written consent.

Filing Deadlines

If a member of the public has engaged in the informal process in an attempt to resolve the complaint with the District and has not reached a resolution during the process, the individual must file a complaint within 15 business days of the date the individual first knew, or with reasonable diligence should have known, of the decision or action giving rise to the complaint or grievance.

Deadline Extensions

All deadlines shall be strictly followed unless otherwise required by law or modified by mutual written consent.

Formal Process

An individual may initiate the formal process described below by timely filing a written complaint form.

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

~~The process described in this policy shall not be construed to create new or additional rights beyond those granted by law or Board~~

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

The complaint form shall be filed with the lowest level administrator who has the authority to remedy the alleged problem. In most circumstances, the individual shall file a Level One complaint with the campus principal for any complaint on a matter related to a campus. For a complaint that arises on a matter that is unrelated to a campus, the complaint shall be filed with the appropriate District-level administrator.

If the subject matter of the complaint requires a Board decision, is a complaint about a Board member, or is a complaint about the Superintendent, the complaint shall be initiated at the Board level. A preliminary hearing to develop a record or recommendation for the Board may be conducted by an appropriate administrator.

A Board member shall be permitted to file a complaint under this policy, but, if the complaint is considered by the Board or Board committee, the Board member shall be prohibited from voting on the Board’s or Board committee’s decision.

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

Option to Continue Informal Process

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

Notice of Complaint

A District employee against whom a complaint has been filed shall be provided notice of the complaint in accordance with administrative regulations. The employee shall have sufficient opportunity to submit a written response to the complaint that shall be included in the record of the complaint.

Freedom from Retaliation

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

General Provisions
Filing

Complaint forms and appeal notices may be filed by hand-delivery, by electronic communication, ~~including email and fax,~~ or by U.S. Mail. Hand-delivered filings shall be timely filed if received by the appropriate administrator or designee by the close of business on the deadline. Filings submitted by electronic communication shall be timely filed if they are received by the close of business on the

deadline, as indicated by the date/time shown on the electronic communication. Mail filings shall be timely filed if they are post-marked by U.S. Mail on or before the deadline and received by the appropriate administrator or designated representative no more than three **business** days after the deadline.

Scheduling
~~Conferences~~Hearin
gs

The District shall make reasonable attempts to schedule ~~confer-
ences~~hearings at a mutually agreeable time. If the ~~individual~~com-
plainant fails to appear at a scheduled ~~conference~~hearing, the Dis-
trict may hold the ~~conference~~hearing and issue a decision in the
~~individual's~~complainant's absence.

Response
~~At Levels One, Two,
and Three,
"response"~~Decision

A "decision" shall mean a written communication to the ~~individual-
complainant~~ from the appropriate administrator. ~~Responses may
be hand-delivered, sent by electronic communication to the individ-
ual's email address of record, or sent by U.S. Mail to the individ-
ual's mailing address of record. Mailed responses that provides an~~
explanation of the basis of the decision, an indication of each docu-
ment that supports the decision, and any relief or redress to be
provided. A decision shall be issued on the merits of the concern
raised in the complaint notwithstanding any procedural errors or
the type of relief or redress requested.

The decision shall also include information regarding the filing of
an appeal in accordance with this policy. After a hearing at Level
Four, the decision shall include information on submitting an ap-
peal to the commissioner.

A decision may be hand-delivered, sent by electronic communica-
tion to the complainant's email address of record, or sent by U.S.
Mail to the complainant's mailing address of record. Mailed deci-
sions shall be timely if they are postmarked by U.S. Mail on or be-
fore the deadline.

Days

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

Representative

"Representative" shall mean any person who or organization that is
designated by ~~an individual~~a complainant to represent the ~~individu-
al~~complainant in the complaint process.

The ~~individual~~complainant may designate a representative through
written notice to the District at any level of this process. ~~If the indi-
vidual~~The representative may participate in person or by telephone
conference call. If the complainant designates a representative
with fewer than three **business** days' notice to the District before a
scheduled ~~conference or~~hearing, the District may reschedule the
~~conference or~~hearing to a later date, if desired, in order to include

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the District's counsel. The District may be represented by counsel at any level of the process.

Consolidating
Complaints

~~Complaints arising out of an event or a series of related events shall be addressed in one complaint. An individual shall not file~~ To promote efficiency in addressing complaints, the appropriate administrator shall determine if separate or serial complaints arising from ~~any~~ an event or series of ~~events that have been or could have been addressed in a previous complaint.~~

Untimely Filings

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

~~If a complaint form or appeal notice is not timely filed, the complaint may be dismissed, on written notice to the individual, at any point during the complaint process. The individual may appeal the dismissal by seeking review in writing within 10 days from the date of the written dismissal notice, starting at the level at which the complaint was dismissed. Such appeal shall be limited to the issue of timeliness~~ related events shall be consolidated.

Costs Incurred

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

Complaint and
Appeal Forms

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

Copies of any documents that support the complaint should be ~~attached to~~ included with the complaint form. If the ~~individual~~ complainant does not have copies of these documents, ~~they~~ copies may be presented at the Level One ~~conference~~ hearing. After the Level One ~~conference~~, ~~no new documents may be submitted by the individual unless the individual did not know the documents existed before the Level One conference~~ hearing, the complainant may supplement the record with additional documents or include additional claims.

Record

A record of each complaint hearing shall be created and retained in accordance with this policy. The record shall include documents submitted by the complainant, documents determined relevant by District personnel, and the decision.

Remand

A complaint or appeal form that is incomplete in any material aspect ~~may~~ shall be ~~dismissed but may be refiled with all the required information if the refiling is within the designated time for filing~~ refiled, if at Level One, and remanded at all other levels in order to develop an adequate record of the complaint.

If an adequate record has not been developed, the appropriate administrator may remand the complaint to a lower level. The Board

or Board committee may remand a complaint to a lower level if at the Board level of review an adequate record has not been developed.

**Assignment of
Hearing Officer**

When a District employee is the subject of a complaint, the hearing shall be conducted by an administrator who is in a supervisory or higher organizational role. The District employee who is the subject of the complaint shall recuse themselves from reviewing the complaint at any level in the process.

Level One

~~Complaint forms must be filed:~~

- ~~3. Within 15 days of the date the individual first knew, or with reasonable diligence should have known, of the decision or action giving rise to the complaint or grievance; and~~
- ~~4. With the lowest level administrator who has the authority to remedy the alleged problem.~~

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

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

~~The appropriate administrator shall investigate as necessary and schedule a conference with the individual within 10 days after receipt of the written complaint. The administrator may set reasonable time limits for the conference.~~

~~Absent extenuating circumstances, the administrator shall provide the individual a written response within 10 days following the conference. The written response shall set forth the basis of the decision. In reaching a decision, the administrator may consider information provided at the Level One conference and any other relevant documents or information the administrator~~
Complaint Levels
Level One
Level Two
Investigation

The District may conduct an investigation at any level in the complaint process. If the District and the complainant mutually agree, all deadlines shall be suspended during an investigation.

At Level One, the appropriate hearing officer shall hold a hearing with the complainant within 10 calendar days after receipt of the written complaint. The hearing officer may set reasonable time limits for the hearing.

The hearing officer shall provide the complainant a decision within 20 calendar days following the hearing. In reaching a decision, the hearing officer may consider information provided with the complaint form and any other relevant documents or information the hearing officer believes will help resolve the complaint.

If the ~~individual~~ complainant did not receive the relief requested at Level One or if the time for a ~~response~~ decision has expired, ~~he or she~~ the complainant may request a ~~conference with the designated administrator~~ hearing at Level Two to appeal the Level One decision.

The appeal notice must be filed in writing, on a form provided by the District, within ~~10~~ 20 calendar days of the date of the ~~written~~ Level One ~~response~~ decision or, if no ~~response was received,~~ ~~within 10~~ decision has been communicated to the complainant, within 20 calendar days of the Level One ~~response~~ decision deadline.

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

The Level One record shall include:

1. The original complaint form and any attachments.
2. ~~All~~ Any other documents submitted by the ~~individual~~ complainant at Level One.
3. ~~The~~ If the complaint is against a District employee, the written response of the District employee, if any.
- ~~3.~~4. The decision issued at Level One and any attachments.
- ~~4.~~5. All other documents relied upon by the Level One ~~administra-~~ tor hearing officer in reaching the Level One decision.

The ~~Level Two administrator shall schedule a conference within 10~~ hearing officer shall hold a hearing within 10 calendar days after

the appeal notice is filed. The ~~conference shall be limited to the issues and documents considered at Level One. At the conference, the individual may provide information concerning any documents or information relied upon by the administration for the Level One decision. The Level Two administrator may set reasonable time limits for the conference~~hearing officer may set reasonable time limits for the hearing.

The ~~Level Two administrator~~hearing officer shall provide the individual a written response within 10 ~~complainant a decision within 20 calendar days following the conference. The written response shall set forth the basis of the decision~~hearing. In reaching a decision, the ~~Level Two administrator~~hearing officer may consider the Level One record, any additional information provided at prior to the Level Two ~~conference~~hearing, and any other relevant documents or information the ~~Level Two administrator~~hearing officer believes will help resolve the complaint.

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

Level Three

If the individual ~~complainant~~ did not receive the relief requested at Level Two or if the time for a ~~response~~decision has expired, ~~he or she~~the complainant may request a ~~conference with the Superintendent or designee~~hearing at Level Three to appeal the Level Two decision.

The appeal notice must be filed in writing, on a form provided by the District, within 10 ~~20 calendar days of the date of the written Level Two response~~decision or, if no ~~response was received, within 10~~decision has been communicated to the complainant, within 20 calendar days of the Level Two ~~response~~decision deadline.

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

The Level Two record shall include:

1. The Level One record.
2. The notice of appeal from Level One to Level Two
- ~~2-3.~~ Any other documents submitted by the complainant at Level Two.

~~3.4.~~ The written response issued at Level Two and any attachments.

~~4.5.~~ All other documents relied upon by the Level Two ~~administrator~~ ~~hearing officer~~ in reaching the Level Two decision.

The ~~Level Three administrator shall schedule a conference within 10~~ ~~hearing officer shall hold a hearing within 10~~ calendar days after the appeal notice is filed. The ~~conference shall be limited to the issues and documents considered at Level Two. At the conference, the individual may provide information concerning any documents or information relied upon by the administration for the Level One and Level Two decisions. The Level Three administrator may set reasonable time limits for the conference~~ ~~hearing officer may set reasonable time limits for the hearing.~~

The ~~Level Three administrator~~ ~~hearing officer~~ shall provide the individual a written response within ~~10~~ ~~complainant a decision within 20~~ calendar days following the ~~conference. The written response shall set forth the basis of the decision~~ ~~hearing.~~ In reaching a decision, the ~~Superintendent or designee~~ ~~hearing officer~~ may consider the ~~Level One and Level Two records,~~ ~~record,~~ any additional information provided ~~at prior to~~ the Level Three ~~conference~~ ~~hearing,~~ and any other relevant documents or information the ~~Level Three administrator~~ ~~hearing officer~~ believes will help resolve the complaint.

Recordings of the Level One, Level Two, and Level Three ~~confer-~~ ~~ences~~ ~~hearings,~~ if any, shall be maintained with the Level ~~One,~~ ~~Level Two,~~ and Level Three records.

Level Four

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

The appeal notice must be filed in writing, on a form provided by the District, within ~~10~~ ~~20~~ calendar days of the date of the ~~written~~ ~~Level Three response~~ ~~decision~~ or, if no ~~response was received,~~ ~~within 10~~ ~~decision has been communicated to the complainant,~~ ~~within 20~~ calendar days of the Level Three ~~response~~ ~~decision~~ deadline.

~~The Superintendent or designee shall inform the individual of the date, time, and place of the Board~~ ~~Unless the Board delegates a committee in accordance with law, the Board shall hear the appeal of the Level Three decision.~~

After receiving notice of the appeal, the Board or Board committee shall hold a meeting to discuss the complaint no later than 60 calendar days after the date on which the Level Three decision was made.

The Superintendent shall inform the complainant whether the Board or a Board committee will hear the appeal and of the date, time, and place of the meeting at which the complaint will be on the agenda for presentation to the Board or Board committee.

~~The Superintendent or designee shall provide the Board the record of the Level Three appeal. The individual~~At least five business days before the Board or Board committee meeting, the Superintendent shall provide the complainant a description of any information the Board intends to rely on that is not contained in the record created at the previous hearing levels, including any preliminary hearing.

The Superintendent shall provide the Board the record of the Level Three appeal. The complainant may request a copy of the Level Three record.

The Level Three record shall include:

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

~~The appeal shall be limited to the issues and documents considered at Level Three, except that if at the Level Four hearing the administration intends to rely on evidence not included in the Level Three record, the administration shall provide the individual notice of the nature of the evidence at least three days before the hearing.~~

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

The complainant may request that the complaint be heard in open or closed meeting. The District shall honor that request unless the Texas Open Meetings Act or other applicable law requires otherwise. [See BE]

At the meeting, the presiding officer may set reasonable time limits and guidelines for the presentation, including an opportunity for the individual complainant and administration to each make a presenta-

tion and provide rebuttal and an opportunity for questioning by ~~the Board. The Board shall hear the complaint and may request that the administration provide an explanation for the decisions at the preceding levels.~~ ~~members.~~

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

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

no later than 30 calendar days after the date of the Board or Board committee meeting at which the complaint was presented. The complainant shall be provided a decision in accordance with this policy and state law.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS
CONDUCT ON SCHOOL PREMISES

GKA
(LOCAL)

**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 Education Code 37.105, a District official 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.

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
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]