

PROPOSED REVISIONS

Meeting Place and Time

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 Monday of each month at ~~6:30 p.m.~~**6:00 p.m.** When determined necessary and for the convenience of Board members, the Board President may change the date, time, or location of a regular meeting with proper notice.

Special or Emergency Meetings

The Board President shall call special meetings at the Board President's discretion or on request by 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 ~~fifth~~**tenth** District business day before regular meetings and the ~~third~~**seventh** District business 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 a Board member.

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 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 not have authority to remove from the agenda a subject requested by a Board member without that Board member's specific authorization.

Notice to Members

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

Closed Meeting

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

BOARD MEETINGS

BE
(LOCAL)

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

Order of Business

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

Rules of Order

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

Voting

Voting shall be by voice vote or show of hands, as directed by the Board President. Any member may abstain from voting, and a member's vote or failure to vote shall be recorded upon that member's request. [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.

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

BOARD MEETINGS

BE
(LOCAL)

shall not interfere with debate so long as members wish to address themselves to an item under consideration.

PLANNING AND DECISION-MAKING PROCESS
DISTRICT-LEVEL

BQA
(LOCAL)

PROPOSED POLICY

District-Level Committee	In compliance with law, the District shall establish a District-level committee to advise the Board or its designee in establishing and reviewing the District improvement plan [see BQ], as well as the District's educational goals, performance objectives, and major District-wide classroom instructional programs.
Board's Designee	The Superintendent shall serve as the Board's designee and shall regularly consult with the committee.
Meetings	The chairperson of the committee shall set its agenda and shall schedule at least two meetings per year, including the public meeting required by law.
Communications	The Superintendent shall ensure that the District-level committee establishes communication strategies to periodically obtain broad-based community, parent, and staff input and provide information to those persons regarding the recommendations of the committee.
Composition	The committee shall be composed of members who shall represent campus-based professional staff, District-level professional staff, parents, businesses, and the community. When practicable, professional staff representation shall include a representative with the primary responsibility for educating students with disabilities. For purposes of this policy, District-level professional staff shall be defined as professionals who have responsibilities at more than one campus, including, but not limited to, central office staff.
Selected Representatives	Parent, community member, and business representatives shall be selected in accordance with this policy and administrative regulations.
<i>Parents</i>	The committee shall include at least two parents of students currently enrolled in the District. The Superintendent shall, through various channels, inform all parents of District students about the committee's duties and composition and shall solicit volunteers.
<i>Community Members</i>	The committee shall include at least two community members selected by a process that provides for adequate representation of the community's diversity. The Superintendent shall use several methods of communication to ensure that community residents are informed of the committee and are provided the opportunity to participate and shall solicit volunteers. Community representatives must reside in the District.
<i>Business Representatives</i>	The committee shall include at least two business representatives selected by a process that provides for adequate representation of the community's diversity. The Superintendent shall use several

PLANNING AND DECISION-MAKING PROCESS
DISTRICT-LEVEL

BQA
(LOCAL)

methods of communication to ensure that area businesses are informed of the committee and are provided the opportunity to participate and shall solicit volunteers. Business representatives do not need to reside in or operate businesses in the District.

**Professional Staff
Elections**

Professional staff representatives shall be nominated and elected in accordance with this policy and administrative regulations.

Classroom teacher representatives shall comprise at least two-thirds of the total professional staff representation on the committee and shall be nominated and elected by classroom teachers assigned to each respective campus.

At least one campus-based nonteaching professional representative shall be nominated and elected by the campus-based nonteaching professional staff.

At least one District-level professional representative, other than the Superintendent, shall be nominated and elected by the District-level professional staff.

An employee's affiliation or lack of affiliation with any organization or association shall not be a factor in either the nomination or election of the employee to the committee. [See DGA]

A nominee must consent before the person's name may appear on a ballot. Election of the committee shall be held at a time determined by the Board or its designee.

Terms

All representatives shall serve staggered two-year terms and shall be limited to two consecutive terms on the committee.

Vacancy

A vacancy during a term shall be filled for the remainder of the term by election or selection as appropriate for the category.

PROPOSED REVISIONS

Campus-Level Committees

In compliance with law, each campus shall establish a campus-level committee to ensure that effective planning and site-based decision-making occur to direct and support the improvement of student performance for all students. The committees shall assist the principal, as the Board's designee, in establishing and reviewing the goals, performance objectives, and major classroom instructional programs of each campus.

Each committee shall assist with the development, evaluation, and revision of the respective campus improvement plan and shall approve campus staff development needs identified in the campus improvement plan [see BQ and DMA].

Meetings

The principal shall be responsible for the agenda and shall schedule at least two meetings per year, including the public meeting required by law.

Communications

The principal shall ensure that the campus-level committee establishes communication strategies to periodically obtain broad-based community, parent, and staff input and provide information to those persons regarding the recommendations of the committee.

Composition

The committee shall be composed of members who shall represent campus-based professional staff, District-level professional staff, parents, businesses, and the community. When practicable, professional staff representation shall include a representative with the primary responsibility for educating students with disabilities. For purposes of this policy, District-level professional staff shall be defined as professionals who have responsibilities at more than one campus, including, but not limited to, central office staff.

Selected Representatives

Parent, community member, and business representatives shall be selected in accordance with this policy and administrative regulations.

Parents

The committee shall include at least two parents of students currently enrolled in the District. The principal shall, through various channels, inform all parents of campus students about the committee's duties and composition and shall solicit volunteers.

Community Members

The committee shall include at least two community members selected by a process that provides for adequate representation of the community's diversity. The principal shall use several methods of communication to ensure that community residents are informed of the committee and are provided the opportunity to participate and shall solicit volunteers. Community representatives must reside in the District.

PLANNING AND DECISION-MAKING PROCESS
CAMPUS-LEVEL

BQB
(LOCAL)

<i>Business Representatives</i>	<p>The committee shall include at least two business representatives selected by a process that provides for adequate representation of the community's diversity. The principal shall use several methods of communication to ensure that area businesses are informed of the committee and are provided the opportunity to participate and shall solicit volunteers. Business representatives do not need to reside in or operate businesses in the District.</p>
Professional Staff Elections	<p>Professional staff representatives shall be nominated and elected in accordance with this policy and administrative regulations.</p> <p>Classroom teacher representatives shall comprise at least two-thirds of the professional staff representation on the committee and shall be nominated and elected by classroom teachers assigned to the campus.</p> <p>At least one campus-based nonteaching professional representative shall be nominated and elected by all professional staff assigned to the campus.</p> <p>At least one District-level professional representative shall be nominated and elected by District-level professional staff.</p> <p>An employee's affiliation or lack of affiliation with any organization or association shall not be a factor in either the nomination or election of the employee to the committee. [See DGA]</p> <p>A nominee must consent before the person's name may appear on the ballot. Election of the committee shall be held at a time determined by the Board or its designee.</p>
Terms	<p>All representatives shall serve staggered two-year terms and - shall be limited to two consecutive terms on the committee.</p>
Vacancy	<p>A vacancy during a term shall be filled for the remainder of the term by election or selection as appropriate for the category.</p>

FISCAL MANAGEMENT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

CA
(LOCAL)

DELETE POLICY

Financial Policy and Objectives

The District has developed this policy to support its mission and its goals and objectives. The District's financial policy, goals, and objectives shall support the District's mission and goals. The District shall maintain a high level of financial stability and shall not compromise long-term financial integrity to achieve short-term benefits. In an effort to provide adequate cash flow for its operations, the District shall maintain an unreserved, undesignated fund balance equal to a minimum of \$4 million of operation costs.

The District has an unreserved, undesignated fund balance less than the two and one-half months of operating costs. In order to achieve a fund balance with a minimum of two and one-half months of operation costs by August 2017, the administration shall implement the following financial plan:

1. A budget with site-based decision-making committees and instructional programs input shall be developed and submitted for Board approval.
2. Staffing patterns and funding formulas based on a per-pupil basis shall be developed as per the Financial Solvency Review Methodology. [See Exhibit A at the end of this policy]
3. Surplus funds shall be restricted towards the unreserved, undesignated fund balance.
4. Funds from operations shall provide adequate support to instructional programs, the capital program, and debt service requirements.
5. Revenue levels shall be evaluated with administrative recommendations yearly in consideration of bond ratings, facility and construction requirements, current business conditions, economic projections, student growth assumptions, and the projected level of expenditures.

General fund expenditures shall maintain the following priorities of obligation:

1. Payments of all legal and reasonable expenditures relating to maintenance and operations of the District's operating fund.
2. Payments to special revenue funds that require a matching for federal or state grant, including the food services fund, the athletic fund, and the construction fund.
3. Payments to meet all debt service requirements of outstanding bond indebtedness including debt service fund.

FISCAL MANAGEMENT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

CA
(LOCAL)

All net surpluses after maintaining the \$4 million operations amount in fund balance and payments as outlined above may be used to fund necessary capital equipment purchases, facility expansion, and renovation. All remaining funds shall go toward maintaining a budgeted ending cash balance that will increase the fund balance. This amount shall be determined by first adding budgeted operations and maintenance cost and debt service requirements if any are required from the general fund. This total shall be divided by 12 and then multiplied by two and one-half to calculate the two and one-half months' operating costs requirement at any time during the fiscal year.

Long-Term Financing

In the absence of surplus funds, the District shall utilize long-term financing for capital projects and equipment. Available mechanisms include the following:

1. Public property finance contractual obligation;
2. General obligation bonds;
3. Time warrant;
4. Delinquent tax notes; and
5. Any other legal mechanism.

Short-Term Financing

The District shall strive to minimize its short-term financing by maintaining a \$4 million undesignated fund balance. Based on cash flow projections, the administration may recommend that the Board utilize short-term financing to satisfy the cash flow requirements of the District. Available mechanisms include the following:

1. Tax anticipation notes;
2. Tax warrants; and
3. Delinquent tax notes.

Reporting

The District shall prepare reports of financial operations as follows:

1. A monthly operating and financial report, requiring review finance committee and/or the Board, as the Board deems necessary.
2. An annual financial plan detailing revenues, expenditures, and capital outlay, which shall be presented for approval prior to August 31 of each year. A February analysis and review shall be presented to the Board for approval each year.
3. An annual audit by an outside professional auditing firm, which will include all necessary details in reconciling all of the

FISCAL MANAGEMENT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

CA
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year's financial operations. The audit report shall be submitted for review and approval to the Board 90 days after the end of the District's fiscal year.

EXHIBIT A

Financial Solvency Review Methodology				
School District Mean Student-to-Staff Ratios				
Group (# of WADA or Enrolled Students)	Mean WADA-to-All-Staff Ratio	85% of Mean WADA-to-All-Staff Ratio	Mean Enroll-to-Teacher Ratio	85% of Mean Enroll-to-Teacher Ratio
1,600 to 2,999	11.83	10.14	12.45	11.50
3,000 to 4,999	12.05	10.06	13.52	12.15
5,000 to 9,999	12.24	10.24	14.29	12.58

PROPOSED REVISIONS

Note: For purposes of this policy, the terms “gift” and “donation” have the same meaning.

Unsolicited Gifts

Authority to Accept

The Board delegates to the Superintendent the authority to accept unsolicited gifts on behalf of the District. However, any gift **with a cost or market value of \$5,000 or more, any gift** that the potential donor has expressly made conditional upon the District's use for a specified purpose, or any gift of real property, shall require Board approval.

Once accepted, a gift becomes the sole property of the District.

Criteria for Acceptance

The District shall not accept any gift that would violate or conflict with policies of or actions by the Board or with federal or state law.

Before the Superintendent accepts a gift or recommends acceptance of a gift to the Board, as applicable, the Superintendent shall consider whether the gift:

1. Has a purpose consistent with the District's educational philosophy, goals, and objectives;
2. Places any restrictions on a campus or District program;
3. Would support a program that the Board may be unable or unwilling to continue when the donation of funds is exhausted;
4. Would result in ancillary or ongoing costs for the District;
5. Requires employment of additional personnel;
6. Requires or implies the endorsement of a specific business or product [see GKB for advertising opportunities];
7. Would result in inequitable funding, equipment, or resources among District schools or programs;
8. Obligates the District or a campus to engage in specific actions; or
9. Affects the physical structure of a building or would require extensive maintenance on the part of the District.

Solicitations

An employee who solicits gifts on behalf of the District or for use in the fulfillment of his or her professional responsibilities shall comply with relevant state and federal law and any District administrative regulations.

OTHER REVENUES
GIFTS AND SOLICITATIONS

CDC
(LOCAL)

All donations solicited on behalf of the District, including solicitations in the name of the District or a campus, or donations solicited using District or campus resources, become the sole property of the District.

Web-Based
Solicitations

An employee may solicit web-based donations of money or items for use by the employee in fulfilling his or her professional responsibilities or for the District's use, including "crowdfunding." However, an employee shall obtain prior approval from the ~~employee's supervisor~~ **chief financial officer** before using the name or image of the District, a campus, or any student.

TRANSPORTATION MANAGEMENT
DISTRICT VEHICLES

CNB
(LOCAL)

PROPOSED REVISIONS

**No Nonschool Use
Permitted**

The District shall **not** permit use of District vehicles for nonschool purposes.

~~Nonschool use of District vehicles shall be permitted only with approval from the Superintendent or designee. Such use shall not be permitted when in conflict with school use. In granting approval, the Superintendent or designee shall not make decisions based on the viewpoints expressed by the requestors.~~

~~Nonschool users shall agree to comply with all administrative regulations and to pay all applicable fees to cover the cost of such use.~~

**Emergency Use
Exception**

In case of emergencies or disasters, the Superintendent or designee may authorize the use of District vehicles by civil defense, health, or emergency service authorities.

School-Related Use

The Superintendent or designee shall develop administrative regulations for requesting, scheduling, and using District vehicles for extracurricular activities, field trips, and other school-related purposes.

[See GKD regarding nonschool use of school facilities]

PROPOSED REVISIONS

The Superintendent shall oversee the performance of records management functions prescribed by state and federal law:

- Records administrator, as prescribed by Local Government Code 176.001 and 176.0065. [See BBFA]
- Officer for public information, as prescribed by Government Code 552.201–.205. [See GBAA]
- Public information coordinator, as prescribed by Government Code 552.012. [See BBD]

Local Government Records Act

“Local Government
Record”

Records
Management
Officer

The term “local government record” shall pertain to all items identified as such by the Local Government Records Act.

The ~~Superintendent~~ **executive director of communications** shall serve as and perform the duties of the District’s records management officer as prescribed by Local Government Code 203.023 and shall administer the District’s records management program pertaining to local government records in compliance with the Local Government Records Act.

Notification

The records management officer shall file his or her name with the Texas State Library and Archives Commission (TSLAC) within 30 days of assuming the position.

Electronic Records

The records management officer shall develop procedures for the management of electronic records that comply with the District’s records control schedules and meet the minimum components required by law.

The procedures shall:

1. Specify the objectives of the electronic records management program;
2. Identify the responsibilities of employees who create, receive, or maintain electronic records;
3. Ensure the maintenance of electronic records until the expiration of the applicable retention period and final disposition; and
4. Ensure that electronic records that must be protected from unauthorized use or disclosure are appropriately protected as required by law, regulation, or other applicable requirements.

OFFICE MANAGEMENT
RECORDS MANAGEMENT

CPC
(LOCAL)

Records Control
Schedules

The records management officer shall file with the TSLAC a written declaration that the District has adopted records control schedules that comply with records retention schedules issued by the TSLAC as provided by law.

Website Postings

The District's records management program shall address the length of time records will be posted on the District's website when the law does not specify a posting period.

**Records Destruction
Practices**

All local government records shall be considered District property and any unauthorized destruction or removal shall be prohibited. The District shall follow its records control schedules, records management program, and all applicable laws regarding records destruction. However, the District shall preserve records, including electronically stored information, and suspend routine record destruction practices where appropriate and in accordance with procedures developed by the records management officer. Such procedures shall describe the circumstances under which local government records scheduled for destruction must be retained. Notification shall be given to appropriate staff when routine record destruction practices must be suspended and when they may be resumed.

Training

The records management officer shall receive appropriate training regarding the Local Government Records Act and shall ensure that custodians of records, as defined by law, and other applicable District staff are trained on the District's records management program, including this policy and corresponding procedures.

PROPOSED REVISIONS

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. 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 ~~\$25,000~~ **\$50,000**, 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.~~

Change orders valued at or above \$50,000 shall require Board approval. The Superintendent shall be authorized to approve change orders of a lesser amount.

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
CREDENTIALS AND RECORDS

DBA
(LOCAL)

PROPOSED REVISIONS

~~**Note:** — This local policy has been revised in accordance with the District's innovation plan.⁴~~

Updating Credentials

All employees who have earned certificates, endorsements, or degrees of higher rank since the previous school year shall file with the District:

1. An official college transcript showing the highest degree earned and date conferred.
2. Proof of the certificate or endorsement.

Contract Personnel

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that contract personnel possess valid credentials before issuing contracts.

~~**State Teacher
Certification**~~

~~The Board shall have the authority in accordance with the District's innovation plan to hire an uncertified individual to teach a secondary-level science, technology, engineering, arts, and math (STEAM) course and a career and technical education (CTE) course in accordance with the District's innovation plan. All other teaching assignments shall require certification in accordance with state law. [See DK]~~

**Social Security
Number**

The District shall not use an employee's social security number as an employee identifier, except for tax purposes [see DC]. In accordance with law, the District shall keep an employee's social security number confidential.

⁴ ~~Innovation Plan: <https://www.ucisd.net/>~~

PROPOSED REVISIONS

Personnel Duties	The Superintendent shall define the qualifications, duties, and responsibilities of all positions and shall ensure that job descriptions are current and accessible to employees and supervisors.
Posting Vacancies	The Superintendent or designee shall establish guidelines for advertising employment opportunities and posting notices of vacancies. These guidelines shall advance the Board's commitment to equal opportunity employment and to recruiting well-qualified candidates. Current District employees may apply for any vacancy for which they have appropriate qualifications.
Applications	<p>All applicants shall complete the application form supplied by the District. Information on applications shall be confirmed before a contract is offered for a contractual position and before hiring or as soon as possible thereafter for a noncontractual position.</p> <p>[For information related to the evaluation of criminal history records, see DBAA.]</p>
Employment of Contractual Personnel	<p>The Superintendent has sole authority to make recommendations to the Board regarding the selection of contractual personnel.</p> <p>The Board retains final authority for employment of contractual personnel; however, from May 1 to September 1 the Board delegates to the Superintendent final authority to employ contractual personnel. The Superintendent shall inform the Board of all persons hired under this authority.</p> <p>[See DCA, DCB, DCC, and DCE as appropriate]</p>
Employment of Noncontractual Personnel	<hr/> <p>Note: For employment of a bus driver related to a Board member or the Superintendent, see DBE(LEGAL).</p> <hr/> <p>The Board delegates to the Superintendent final authority to employ and dismiss noncontractual employees on an at-will basis. [See DCD]</p>
Employment Assistance Prohibited	No District employee shall assist another employee of the District or of any school district in obtaining a new job if the employee knows, or has probable cause to believe, that the other employee 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 CJ for prohibitions relating to contractors and agents and DH(EXHIBIT) for the Educators' Code of Ethics.]

COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS
LEAVES AND ABSENCES

DEC
(LOCAL)

PROPOSED REVISIONS; see page 2

**Leave
Administration**

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

Definitions

The term "immediate family" is defined as:

Immediate Family

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

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

Family Emergency

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

Leave Day

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

School Year

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

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.

COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS
LEAVES AND ABSENCES

DEC
(LOCAL)

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

Medical Certification

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

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

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

State Personal Leave

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

**Nondiscretionary
Use**

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

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

Discretionary Use

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

*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 three consecutive workdays.

Local Leave

Each full-time ~~contractual professional employee and paraprofessional/auxiliary~~ employee shall earn five, six, or seven paid local

COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS
LEAVES AND ABSENCES

DEC
(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 personal leave. [See State Personal Leave, above]

Mental Health Leave

A District peace officer who experiences a traumatic event in the scope of employment shall be granted a maximum of 10 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.

The Superintendent shall develop regulations regarding mental health leave that address the following:

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; and
4. Other procedures deemed necessary for administering this provision.

Quarantine Leave

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.

The Superintendent shall develop regulations regarding quarantine leave that address the following:

1. Continuation of all employment benefits and compensation for the duration of the leave;
2. Reimbursement for reasonable costs related to the quarantine; and
3. 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.

COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS
LEAVES AND ABSENCES

DEC
(LOCAL)

**Family and Medical
Leave**

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

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

Twelve-Month
Period

For purposes of an employee's entitlement to FMLA leave, the 12-month period shall be measured backward from the date an employee uses FMLA leave.

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

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

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

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.

No Paid Leave
Offset

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.

The District shall not 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 beginning on the original effective date of this program.

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

1. The employee is employed on a full-time basis.
2. The employee's retirement is voluntary, i.e., the employee is not being discharged or nonrenewed.
3. The employee is retiring under the Teacher Retirement System of Texas (TRS).
4. The employee provides advance written notice of intent to retire. Contract employees must provide written notice at least 90 days before the last day of employment. Noncontract employees must provide written notice at least two weeks before the last day of employment.
5. The employee shall have at least ten consecutive years of service with the District to receive payment for accumulated state and local leave.

The employee shall receive payment for each day of accumulated state and/or local leave at a rate established by the Board, in accordance with the following:

1. The employee shall receive payment for each day of accumulated local leave, to a maximum of \$3,000, at the employee's daily rate.

COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS
LEAVES AND ABSENCES

DEC
(LOCAL)

2. A contract employee shall receive payment for each day of accumulated state leave, to a maximum of \$3,000, at the employee's daily rate.
3. A noncontract employee shall receive payment for each day of accumulated state leave, to a maximum of \$1,500, at the employee's daily rate.

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.

PROPOSED REVISIONS

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.
19. Any activity, school-connected or otherwise, that, because of publicity given it, or knowledge of it among students, faculty, or the community, impairs or diminishes the employee's effectiveness in the District.
20. Any breach by the employee of an employment contract or any reason specified in the employee's employment contract.
21. Failure to maintain an effective working relationship, or maintain good rapport, with parents, the community, or colleagues.
22. A significant lack of student progress attributable to the educator.
23. Behavior that presents a danger of physical harm to a student or to other individuals.
24. Assault on a person on District property or at a school-related function, or on an employee, student, or student's parent regardless of time or place.
25. Use of profanity in the course of performing any duties of employment, whether on or off school premises, in the presence of students, staff, or members of the public, if reasonably characterized as unprofessional.
26. Falsification of records or other documents related to the District's activities.
27. Falsification or omission of required information on an employment application.
28. Misrepresentation of facts to a supervisor or other District official in the conduct of District business.

TERM CONTRACTS
NONRENEWAL

DFBB
(LOCAL)

29. Failure to fulfill requirements for state licensure or certification, including passing certification or licensing examinations required by state or federal law or by the District, for the employee's assignment.
30. Failure to maintain licensing and certification requirements, including the completion of required continuing education hours, for the employee's assignment.
31. Failure to complete certification or permit renewal requirements, or failure to fulfill the requirements of a deficiency plan, under an Emergency Permit or a Temporary Classroom Assignment Permit.
32. Any attempt to encourage or coerce a child to withhold information from the child's parent or from other District personnel.
33. Any reason that makes the employment relationship void or voidable, such as a violation of federal, state, or local law.
34. 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.~~

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 initial notice or any subsequent notice shall contain the hearing procedures. The employee shall be given notice of the hearing date as soon as it is set.**

~~The Board has chosen to designate Request for Hearing~~

~~If the type of employee desires a hearing for proposed nonrenewals on a case-by-case basis. In~~**after receiving**~~the notice of proposed nonrenewal, the employee shall receive notice of whether~~**notify**~~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~~**writing**~~not later than the 15th day after the date the employee received the notice of proposed nonrenewal.~~

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

Request for Hearing

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

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

Hearing Procedures

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

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

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

A record of the hearing shall be made 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.

No Hearing

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

TERMINATION OF EMPLOYMENT
RESIGNATION

DFE
(LOCAL)

PROPOSED REVISIONS

**General
Requirements**

All resignations shall be submitted in writing to the Superintendent or other person designated by Board action in accordance with this policy. The employee shall give reasonable notice and shall include in the letter a statement of the reasons for resigning. A prepaid certified or registered letter of resignation shall be considered submitted upon mailing.

At-Will Employees

The Superintendent shall be authorized to accept the resignation of an at-will employee at any time. The Superintendent may delegate to other administrators the authority to accept a resignation of an at-will employee.

Contract Employees

The Superintendent, **human resources manager**, or other person designated by Board action shall be authorized to receive a contract employee's resignation effective at the end of the school year or submitted after the last day of the school year and before the penalty-free resignation date. If an employee provides a resignation to a supervisor who has not been designated by the Board to accept resignations, the supervisor shall instruct the employee to submit the resignation to the Superintendent, **human resources manager**, or other person designated by Board action. The resignation requires no further action by the District and is accepted upon receipt by the Superintendent, **human resources manager**, or other person designated by Board action.

The Superintendent, ~~a campus principal~~ **human resources manager**, or other person designated by Board action shall be authorized to accept a contract employee's resignation submitted or effective at any other time. However, a campus principal shall accept a resignation of a contract employee assigned to his or her campus only in the Superintendent's absence. If an employee provides a resignation to a supervisor who has not been designated by the Board to accept resignations, the supervisor shall instruct the employee to submit the resignation to the Superintendent, **human resources manager**, or other person designated by Board action. The Superintendent, **human resources manager**, or other person designated by Board action shall either accept the resignation or submit the matter to the Board in order to pursue sanctions allowed by law.

**Withdrawal of
Resignation**

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

PROPOSED REVISIONS (see page 7)

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:

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 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.

Guiding Principles

Informal Process

The Board encourages employees to discuss their concerns with their supervisor, principal, or other 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.

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 except when communication between an employee and a Board member would be inappropriate because of a pending hearing or appeal related to the employee.
Formal Process	<p>An employee may initiate the formal process described below by timely filing a written complaint form.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The process described in this policy shall not be construed to create new or additional rights beyond those granted by law or Board policy, nor to require a full evidentiary hearing or “mini-trial” at any level.</p>
Freedom from Retaliation	Neither the Board nor any District employee shall unlawfully retaliate against an employee for bringing a concern or complaint.
Whistleblower Complaints	<p>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.</p> <p>[See DG]</p>
Complaints Against Supervisors	Complaints alleging a violation of law by a supervisor may be made to the Superintendent or designee. Complaint forms alleging a violation of law by the Superintendent may be submitted directly to the Board or designee.
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 days after the deadline.
Scheduling Conferences	The District shall make reasonable attempts to schedule conferences at a mutually agreeable time. If the employee fails to appear at a scheduled conference, the District may hold the conference and issue a decision in the employee’s absence.

PERSONNEL-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS
EMPLOYEE COMPLAINTS/GRIEVANCES

DGBA
(LOCAL)

Response	At Levels One and Two, "response" shall mean a written communication to the employee from the appropriate administrator. Responses 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 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	<p>"Representative" shall mean any person who or an organization that does not claim the right to strike and is designated by the employee to represent him or her in the complaint process.</p> <p>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 days' notice to the District before a scheduled conference or hearing, the District may reschedule the conference or hearing to a later date, if desired, in order to include the District's counsel. The District may be represented by counsel at any level of the process.</p>
Consolidating Complaints	<p>Complaints arising out of an event or a series of related events shall be addressed in one complaint. Employees shall not file separate or serial complaints arising from any event or series of events that have been or could have been addressed in a previous complaint.</p> <p>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.</p>
Untimely Filings	<p>All time limits shall be strictly followed unless modified by mutual written consent.</p> <p>If a complaint form or appeal notice is not timely filed, the complaint may be dismissed, on written notice to the employee, at any point during the complaint process. The employee may appeal the dismissal by seeking review in writing within ten days from the date of the written dismissal notice, starting at the level at which the complaint was dismissed. Such appeal shall be limited to the issue of timeliness.</p>
Costs Incurred	Each party shall pay its own costs incurred in the course of the complaint.

PERSONNEL-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS
EMPLOYEE COMPLAINTS/GRIEVANCES

DGBA
(LOCAL)

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

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

Audio Recording

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

Level One

Complaint forms must be filed:

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

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

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

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

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

PERSONNEL-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS
EMPLOYEE COMPLAINTS/GRIEVANCES

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(LOCAL)

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

Level Two

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

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

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

The Level One record shall include:

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

The Superintendent or designee shall schedule a conference within ten 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 Superintendent or designee may set reasonable time limits for the conference.

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

PERSONNEL-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS
EMPLOYEE COMPLAINTS/GRIEVANCES

DGBA
(LOCAL)

Level Three

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

If the employee did not receive the relief requested at Level Two or if the time for a response 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 ten days of the date of the written Level Two response or, if no response was received, within ten days of the Level Two response deadline.

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

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

The Level Two record shall include:

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

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

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

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

In addition to any other record of the Board meeting required by law, the Board shall prepare a separate record of the Level Three

PERSONNEL-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS
EMPLOYEE COMPLAINTS/GRIEVANCES

DGBA
(LOCAL)

presentation. The Level Three presentation, including the presentation by the employee or the employee's representative, any presentation from the administration, and questions from the Board with responses, shall be recorded by audio recording, video/audio recording, or court reporter.

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

EMPLOYEE STANDARDS OF CONDUCT
SEARCHES AND ALCOHOL/DRUG TESTING

DHE
(LOCAL)

PROPOSED REVISIONS

**Reasonable
Suspicion Searches**

The District reserves the right to conduct searches when the District has reasonable suspicion to believe that a search will uncover evidence of work-related misconduct. The District may search the employee, the employee's personal items, work areas, lockers, and private vehicles parked on District premises or worksites or used in District business. Searches that reveal a violation of the District's standards of conduct may result in disciplinary action. [See DH]

**Reasonable
Suspicion Alcohol
and Drug Testing**

The District may remove an employee from duty and require testing if there is reasonable suspicion that the employee is under the influence of alcohol or drugs used in violation of District policy. The determination of reasonable suspicion may be based on specific observations of the appearance, behavior, speech, or body odors of the employee whose motor ability, emotional equilibrium, or mental acuity seems to be impaired while on duty or other relevant information. Any employee who is asked to submit to drug or alcohol testing shall be given the opportunity to provide relevant information about prescription or nonprescription medications that may affect the screening.

A District employee who refuses to comply with a directive to submit to testing based upon reasonable suspicion shall be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination.

A District employee confirmed to have violated the District's policy pertaining to alcohol or drugs may be subject to disciplinary action. [See DF series and DH]

Note: The following provisions apply to employees who are covered by the federal Department of Transportation (DOT) rules.

**Federally Required
DOT Testing
Program**

In accordance with DOT rules, the District shall establish an alcohol and controlled substances testing program to help prevent accidents and injuries resulting from the misuse of alcohol and controlled substances by the drivers of commercial motor vehicles, including school buses. The primary purpose of the testing program is to prevent impaired employees from performing safety-sensitive functions.

The Superintendent shall designate a District official who shall be responsible for ensuring that information is disseminated to employees covered under this testing program regarding prohibited driver conduct, alcohol and controlled substances tests, and the consequences that follow positive test results.

EMPLOYEE STANDARDS OF CONDUCT
SEARCHES AND ALCOHOL/DRUG TESTING

DHE
(LOCAL)

Drug-Related
Violations

The following constitute drug-related violations under the DOT rules:

1. Refusing to submit to a required test for alcohol or controlled substances.
2. Providing an adulterated, ~~a~~ diluted, or a substituted specimen on an alcohol or controlled substances test.
3. Testing positive for alcohol, at a concentration of 0.04 or above, in a post-accident test.
4. Testing positive for controlled substances in a post-accident test.
5. Testing positive for alcohol, at a concentration of 0.04 or above, in a random test.
6. Testing positive for controlled substances in a random test.
7. Testing positive for alcohol, at a concentration of 0.04 or above, in a reasonable suspicion test.
8. Testing positive for controlled substances in a reasonable suspicion test.

An employee who operates a commercial motor vehicle, including a bus, and commits a drug-related DOT violation as defined above shall not be eligible for reinstatement as a driver.

Alcohol Results
Between 0.02 and
0.04

In accordance with DOT rules, a driver tested under this policy and found to have an alcohol concentration of 0.02 or greater, but less than 0.04, shall be suspended from driving duties for at least 24 hours.

[In the event of a **subsequent** positive test result for alcohol of 0.02 or greater **but less than 0.04**, see the disciplinary consequences at District-Imposed Consequences, below.]

Reasonable
Suspicion DOT
Testing

Only supervisors specifically trained in accordance with federal regulations may, based upon reasonable suspicion, remove a driver from a safety-sensitive position and require testing for alcohol and/or controlled substances. The determination of reasonable suspicion shall be based on specific observations of the appearance, behavior, speech, or body odors of the driver whose motor ability, emotional equilibrium, or mental acuity seems to be impaired. Such observations must take place just preceding, during, or just after the period of the workday that the driver is on duty.

The observations may include indication of the chronic and withdrawal effects of controlled substances. Within 24 hours of the observed behavior, the supervisor shall provide a signed, written rec-

EMPLOYEE STANDARDS OF CONDUCT
SEARCHES AND ALCOHOL/DRUG TESTING

DHE
(LOCAL)

ord documenting the observations leading to a controlled substance reasonable suspicion test.

**District-Defined
Violations**

~~An employee violates District policy if he or she tests positive for alcohol at a concentration of 0.02 or greater.~~

**District-Imposed
Consequences**

In addition to the consequences established by federal law, a District employee confirmed to have violated the District's policy pertaining to alcohol or controlled substances, **including a second or subsequent positive test result for alcohol of 0.02 or greater but less than 0.04**, shall be subject to District-imposed discipline, as determined by his or her supervisor and the Superintendent. Such discipline may include any appropriate action from suspension without pay during the period of removal from safety-sensitive functions, up to and including termination of employment. [See DF series]

In cases where a driver is also employed in a nondriving capacity by the District, disciplinary action imposed for violation of alcohol and controlled substances policies shall apply to the employee's functions and duties that involve driving. Additionally, upon recommendation of the employee's supervisor, disciplinary measures up to and including termination of employment with the District may be considered.

PROPOSED REVISIONS

~~**Note:** This local policy has been revised in accordance with the District's innovation plan.⁴~~

Superintendent's Authority

All personnel are employed subject to assignment and reassignment by the Superintendent or designee when the Superintendent determines that the assignment or reassignment is in the best interest of the District. Reassignment shall be defined as a transfer to another position, department, or facility that does not necessitate a change in the employment contract of a contract employee. Any change in an employee's contract shall be in accordance with policy DC.

Any employee may request reassignment within the District to another position for which he or she is qualified.

Assignment of Relatives

District employees who are related within the first degree by blood or marriage shall not be assigned on the same campus or within the same support service function except with approval of the Superintendent ~~and the Board~~.

Supervising relatives

District employees with the responsibility of supervising other District personnel shall not supervise persons to whom they are related within the first degree by blood or marriage.

~~The above provisions on assignment and supervision of employees by members of their family became effective with the 1994-95 school year.~~

Campus Assignments

The principal's criteria for approval of campus assignments and reassignments shall be consistent with District policy regarding equal opportunity employment, and with staffing patterns approved in the District and campus plans. [See BQ series] In exercising their authority to approve assignments and reassignments, principals shall work cooperatively with the central office staff to ensure the efficient operation of the District as a whole.

State Teacher Certification

~~The Board shall have the authority in accordance with the District's innovation plan to hire an uncertified individual to teach a secondary-level science, technology, engineering, arts, and math (STEAM) course and a career and technical education (CTE) course in accordance with the District's innovation plan. [See DBA.]~~

Supplemental Duties

Noncontractual supplemental duties for which supplemental pay is received may be discontinued by either party at any time. An employee who wishes to relinquish a paid supplemental duty may do so by notifying the Superintendent or designee in writing. Paid supplemental duties are not part of the District's contractual obligation

ASSIGNMENT AND SCHEDULES

DK
(LOCAL)

to the employee, and an employee shall hold no expectation of continuing assignment to any paid supplemental duty.

**Work Calendars and
Schedules**

Subject to the Board-adopted budget and compensation plan and in harmony with employment contracts, the Superintendent shall determine required work calendars for all employees. [See DC, EB]

Daily time schedules for all employees shall be determined by the Superintendent or designee and principals.

⁴~~Innovation Plan: <https://www.ucisd.net/>~~

PROPOSED REVISIONS

~~**Note:** This local policy has been revised in accordance with the District's innovation plan.⁴~~

School Calendar

The Superintendent shall be authorized to approve variations from the Board-adopted school calendar, as necessary.

~~School Start Date~~

~~The District shall be exempt from state law that generally prohibits a school year from beginning prior to the fourth Monday in August.~~

School Closure

The Board delegates to the Superintendent the authority to close schools for reasons of public health and safety.

~~⁴Innovation Plan: <https://www.ucisd.net/>~~

PROPOSED REVISIONS (see page 3)

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 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 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.

SPECIAL EDUCATION
VIDEO/AUDIO MONITORING

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

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

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

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

**Retention of
Recordings**

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

**Confidentiality of
Recordings**

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

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

SPECIAL EDUCATION
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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, **safety systems monitor**, and any supervisory position within the District’s human resources office. If an individual listed in items 2–4, above, believes that a recording shows a violation of District policy or campus procedures, the individual may allow access to the recording by appropriate legal and human resources personnel designated by the District for the purpose of determining whether a policy or procedure has been violated.

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

**Reporting an
Incident**

A person alleging that an incident, as defined by law, has occurred in a classroom in which video surveillance is conducted shall file a report on the form provided by the District with the principal as soon as possible after the person suspects the alleged incident. If possible, an incident report form shall be filed within 48 hours of the facts giving rise to the allegation. The principal shall promptly view, or direct an authorized individual to view, the video surveillance footage to identify the relevant portion of the recording. No later than ~~ten District business days~~ **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.

PROPOSED REVISIONS

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 an assignment or retake a test for which the student received a failing grade.

Progress Reporting

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

Interim Reports

~~When the student is failing, interim progress reports shall be issued at the end of each three-week and six-week period for the nine-week grading system.~~ **Interim progress reports shall be issued in accordance with law for a student who demonstrates consistent unsatisfactory performance. Other interim reports shall be issued as established by campus grading guidelines. Supplemental progress reports may be issued at the teacher's discretion.**

Conferences

~~A conference shall be requested by the teacher when a student's grade falls below passing at the end of any grade reporting period, including an interim reporting period.~~ **In addition to conferences scheduled on the campus calendar, 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

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GRADING/PROGRESS REPORTS TO PARENTS

EIA
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student, plagiarism, 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.

PROPOSED REVISIONS

Consistent Application for Graduating Class

The District shall apply the same class rank calculation method and rules for local graduation honors for all students in a graduating class, regardless of the school year in which a student first earned high school credit.

Calculation

The District shall include in the calculation of class rank semester grades earned in high school credit courses taken **in any grade level** in the following subject areas only: English, mathematics, science, social studies, and languages other than English.

The class rank calculation shall not include semester grades from a course that is retaken after a passing grade has been earned, and the new grade shall not be recorded on the transcript.

The calculation shall include failing grades.

Note: The following provisions shall apply to students in the graduating class of ~~2025~~, 2026, and 2027.

Weighted Grade System

Categories

Advanced

The District shall categorize and weight eligible courses as Advanced, Honors, and Regular in accordance with provisions of this policy and as designated in appropriate District publications.

Eligible **Advanced Placement (AP)** courses shall be categorized and weighted as Advanced courses.

Honors

Eligible dual credit courses and other courses locally designated as honors shall be categorized and weighted as Honors courses.

Regular

All other eligible courses shall be categorized and weighted as Regular courses.

Weighted Numerical Grade Average

The District shall assign weights to semester grades earned in eligible courses and ~~shall~~ calculate a weighted numerical grade average in accordance with the following:

Category	Weight
Advanced	plus 12
Honors	plus 10
Regular	plus 0

Points shall be added to failing grades.

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CLASS RANKING

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The District shall record unweighted numerical grades on student transcripts.

Note: The following provisions shall apply to students beginning with the graduating class of 2028.

Weighted Grade System

Categories

*Advanced /
Honors*

The District shall categorize and weight eligible courses as Advanced/Honors and Regular in accordance with provisions of this policy and as designated in appropriate District publications.

Eligible **Advanced Placement (AP)** courses, dual credit courses, and other courses locally designated as advanced/honors shall be categorized and weighted as Advanced/Honors courses.

Regular

All other eligible courses shall be categorized and weighted as Regular courses.

Weighted Numerical
Grade Average

The District shall assign weights to semester grades earned in eligible courses and ~~shall~~ calculate a weighted numerical grade average in accordance with the following:

Category	Weight
Advanced/ Honors	plus 10
Regular	plus 0

Points shall be added to failing grades.

The District shall record unweighted numerical grades on student transcripts.

Note: The following provisions shall apply to all students, regardless of their graduating class.

Transferred Grades

When a student transfers semester grades for courses that would be eligible under the Regular category and the District has accepted the credit, the District shall include the grades in the calculation of class rank.

When a student transfers semester grades for courses that would be eligible to receive additional weight under the District's weighted grade system, the District shall assign additional weight to the grades based on the categories and grade weight system used by the District only if **a** similar or **an** equivalent courses ~~are-is~~ offered to the same class of students in the District.

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT
CLASS RANKING

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(LOCAL)

**Local Graduation
Honors**

For the purpose of determining honors to be conferred during graduation activities, the District shall calculate class rank in accordance with this policy and administrative regulations by using grades available at the time of calculation at the end of the third nine-week grading period of the senior year.

For the purpose of applications to institutions of higher education, the District shall also calculate class rank as required by state law. The District's eligibility criteria for local graduation honors shall apply only for local recognitions and shall not restrict class rank for the purpose of automatic admission under state law. [See EIC(LEGAL)]

**Valedictorian and
Salutatorian**

The valedictorian and salutatorian shall be the eligible students with the highest and second highest rank, respectively. To be eligible for this local graduation honor, a student must:

1. Have been continuously enrolled in the District high school for four semesters immediately preceding graduation, excluding summer sessions (a student holding migrant status is exempt from being continuously enrolled; however, he or she shall follow the requirement to be enrolled in the District high school for the four semesters immediately preceding graduation);
2. Be graduating after exactly eight semesters of enrollment in high school; and
3. Have completed the foundation program with the distinguished level of achievement.

Breaking Ties

For students in the graduating class of 2026 and 2027, in case of a tie in weighted numerical grade averages after calculation to the third decimal place, the District shall calculate a weighted numerical grade average using only eligible grades in Advanced and Honors courses taken by each student involved in the tie to determine recognition as valedictorian or salutatorian.

Beginning with the graduating class of 2028, in case of a tie in weighted numerical grade averages after calculation to the third decimal place, the District shall calculate a weighted numerical grade average using only eligible grades in Advanced/Honors courses taken by each student involved in the tie to determine recognition as valedictorian or salutatorian.

If the tie is not broken after applying these methods, the District shall recognize all students involved in the tie as sharing the honor and title.

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT
CLASS RANKING

EIC
(LOCAL)

Local Honors

The District shall recognize the top 10 students who have been enrolled continuously in the District high school for four semesters immediately preceding graduation, excluding summer sessions (a student holding migrant status is exempt from being continuously enrolled; however, he or she shall follow the requirement to be enrolled in the District high school for the four semesters immediately preceding graduation).

Highest-Ranking Graduate

The student meeting the local eligibility criteria for recognition as the valedictorian shall also be considered the highest-ranking graduate for purposes of receiving the honor graduate certificate from the state of Texas.

PROPOSED REVISIONS

Curriculum Mastery

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

Students Receiving
Special Education
Services

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

Standards for Mastery

In addition to the factors in law that must be considered for promotion, mastery shall be determined as follows: Course assignments and unit evaluation shall be used to determine student grades in a subject. An average of 70 **or above on a scale of 100 based on course-level, grade-level standards (essential knowledge and skills) shall be considered a passing grade**~~or higher shall be considered a passing grade.~~

2. Mastery of the skills necessary for success at the next level shall be validated by assessments that may either be incorporated into unit or final exams or may be administered separately. Mastery of at least 70 percent of the objectives shall be required.

~~Grades 1-8~~

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

Grades 1-5

In grades 1-5, promotion to the next grade level shall be based on a grade of 70 or above in language arts and mathematics.

Grades 6-8

In grades 6-8, promotion to the next grade level shall be based on an overall grade average of 70 or above in all subject areas.

Grades 9-12

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

PROPOSED REVISIONS

Course Requirements	To graduate, a student must complete the courses required by the District in addition to those mandated by the state.
Foundation Program	The courses that satisfy District requirements under the foundation program, including courses for the distinguished level of achievement and courses for endorsements offered by the District, shall be listed in appropriate District publications.
Without an Endorsement	The District requires no additional credits beyond the number mandated by the state to graduate under the foundation program without an endorsement. Graduation under the foundation program without an endorsement shall be permitted only as authorized under state law and rules.
With an Endorsement	The District requires no additional credits beyond the number mandated by the state to graduate under the foundation program with an endorsement.
Distinguished Level of Achievement	The District requires no additional credits beyond the number mandated by the state to graduate under the foundation program with the distinguished level of achievement.
Fine Arts Substitutions	<p>To the extent permitted by state rules, the District shall award state graduation credit in fine arts for participation in an approved community-based fine arts program.</p> <p>Students certified to participate at this level shall not be dismissed from any part of the regular school day. [See EIF(LEGAL)]</p>
Physical Education Substitutions	<p>To the extent permitted by state rules, the District shall award state graduation credit in physical education for participation in approved activities and elective courses.</p> <p>The District shall award state graduation credit in physical education for appropriate private or commercially sponsored physical activity programs conducted either on or off campus, upon approval by the commissioner of education. [See also EHAC]</p> <p>Students certified to participate at this level shall not be dismissed from any part of the regular school day. [See EIF(LEGAL)]</p>
Financial Aid Application Confirmation	<p>As confirmation of a student's completion and submission of a free application for federal student aid (FAFSA) or a Texas application for state financial aid (TASFA), the District shall accept the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. A screenshot that includes the processed date field in ApplyTexas Counselor Suite FAFSA data;

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GRADUATION

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(LOCAL)

2. Notification, such as a copy of an email, from the United States Department of Education verifying completion of the FAFSA;
3. A copy or screenshot of the FAFSA acknowledgment page;
4. A screenshot of the TASFA submission acknowledgment page (from those institutions that offer an electronic form);
5. An acknowledgment receipt from an institution of higher education (IHE); or
6. A copy of a financial aid award letter from an IHE.

[For students who choose not to complete and submit a FAFSA or a TASFA, see EIF(LEGAL).]

The District shall maintain individual student documentation of the financial aid application requirement as an education record. [See FL]

PROPOSED REVISIONS

Persons Age 21 and Over	The District shall not admit into its public schools any person age 21 or over unless otherwise required by law.
Registration Forms	The student's parent, legal guardian, or other person having lawful control shall annually complete registration forms. A student who has reached age 18 shall be permitted to complete these forms.
Proof of Residency	In accordance with administrative regulations, the parent, guardian, or other person having lawful control of the student under order of a court shall present proof of residency. The District may investigate stated residency as necessary.
Minor Living Apart	A minor student residing in the District but whose parent, guardian, or other person having lawful control under a court order does not reside in the District shall present a power of attorney or an authorization agreement as provided in Chapter 34 of the Family Code assigning responsibility for the student in all school-related matters to an adult resident of the District.
Person Standing in Parental Relation	
Misconduct	A minor student living apart who has engaged in misconduct that results in any of the consequences found in Education Code 25.001(d) shall not be permitted to attend a District school.
Exceptions	Based on an individual student's circumstance, the Superintendent shall have authority to grant exceptions to the requirement for a power of attorney or authorization agreement and to the exclusion for misconduct.
Extracurricular Activities	The Superintendent shall determine whether a minor student living apart is present in the District for the primary purpose of participating in extracurricular activities.
Students Not Enrolled	A student enrolled in a private school, including a homeschool, shall not be eligible for concurrent enrollment in the District nor for participation in curricular or extracurricular activities, except as required by law. [See EEL and FM]
Nonresident Student in Grandparent's After-School Care	<p>The parent and grandparent of a nonresident student requesting admission under Education Code 25.001(b)(9) shall provide to the Superintendent the required information on the grandparent's residency and complete a form provided by the District describing the extent of after-school care to be provided by the grandparent.</p> <p>The Superintendent shall have authority to approve or deny such admissions requests in accordance with criteria approved by the Board.</p>
"Accredited" Defined	For the purposes of this policy, "accredited" shall be defined as accreditation by TEA, an equivalent agency from another state, or an

accrediting association recognized by the commissioner of education.

**Grade-Level
Placement**

Accredited Schools

The parent, guardian, or other person having lawful control of a student enrolling in a District school from an accredited public, private, or parochial school shall provide evidence of the prior schooling outside the District. The student shall be placed initially at the grade level reached elsewhere, pending observation by the classroom teacher, guidance personnel, and the principal. On the basis of these observations and results of tests that may be administered by appropriate District personnel, the principal shall determine the final grade placement.

Nonaccredited
Schools

A student enrolling in a District school from a nonaccredited public, private, or parochial school, including a homeschool, shall be placed initially at the discretion of the principal, pending observation by classroom teachers, guidance personnel, and the principal. Criteria for placement may include:

- 1. Scores on achievement tests, which may be administered by appropriate District personnel.**
- 2. Recommendation of the sending school.**
- 3. Prior academic record.**
- 4. Chronological age and social and emotional development of the student.**
- 5. Other criteria deemed appropriate by the principal.**

~~A student entering enrolling in a District school from a nonaccredited public, private, or parochial school, including a homeschool, shall be placed initially at the discretion of the principal, pending observation by classroom teachers, guidance personnel, and the principal. Criteria for placement may include:~~

~~Nonaccredited private schools shall be asked to furnish the following information in regard to each student coming into the District:~~

- ~~1. Latest standardized test scores for the student. These Scores on achievement tests must be scored by a testing agency and not hand scored by the school. If a standardized test is not available, the District shall test the student.~~
- ~~2. Report card grades or course grades for the current and prior year(s) as deemed necessary by the District.~~

~~The District shall allow admission of a student on a probationary status from nonaccredited private schools at any grade level without specific course subject matter testing to determine grade level or competency. The following shall apply:~~

- ~~1. The District shall determine from the information received from the nonaccredited private school the course level and grade level at which a student will enter the District. Admission of the student to District classes shall be on a probationary basis for a period of six weeks, during which time the student's competency and progress in the grade and subject level will be monitored. Parents or legal guardians shall be notified of this procedure when they enroll the student.~~
- ~~2. If at the end of or prior to the end of the probationary period it is determined that the student has not been placed in the proper grade or course level, the student will be placed in the level **may be administered by** appropriate for his or her competency and ability. The District personnel shall make this decision.~~
- ~~3. If at the end of the probationary period the student is performing satisfactorily, the student shall be removed from probation and given credit for courses passed prior to entering the District. The grades a student brings to the District shall be accepted.~~

Foreign Exchange Students

~~In order to ensure the best possible experiences for foreign exchange students, the guidelines listed below shall be followed:~~

- ~~1. Sponsoring agencies shall be approved by the United States Information Agency. Each sponsoring agency shall have a representative/contact person who resides within the area and who has power to make decisions for the agency.~~
- ~~2. The sponsoring agency and the host family shall complete all forms necessary for the placement of the exchange student before June 1 preceding the school year in which the student will be enrolled. The student shall provide the District with:
 - ~~a. A translated, certified, and legal copy of his or her parent's or legal guardian's consent enabling the host family to act on behalf of the student.~~
 - ~~b. Health records for the District's inspection and duplication.~~
 - ~~c. Translated, certified, and official copies of all student records, grades, transcripts, and coursework in the English language.~~~~

~~3. Exchange students shall be classified according to age and ability, and may be eligible for graduation only if they meet District and TEA requirements.~~

~~4. All foreign exchange students shall comply with all federal, state, and District rules/regulations.~~

~~While the foreign exchange student is enrolled in a school within the District, the adult with authority to act for the student shall be available for and shall participate in school meetings and conferences regarding the status and/or progress of the student when requested by the principal, teacher, counselor, or other school professional designated by the principal.~~

Transfer of Credit

Accredited Texas
Public Schools

Credit toward state graduation requirements earned in an accredited public school district in Texas shall be transferable and recognized by the District.

Other Accredited or
Nonaccredited
Schools

Before recognizing credit in a course earned in an accredited non-public school, an accredited school outside of Texas, or a nonaccredited school, appropriate personnel shall evaluate a student's records and transcript. The District may require the student to demonstrate mastery of the content or use alternative methods to verify course content for the award of credit.

Transition
Assistance

In accordance with law, when a student who is identified as homeless or in substitute care enrolls in the District, the District shall assess the student's available records and other relevant information to ensure credit, including proportionate credit, is awarded appropriately for all subjects and courses taken prior to enrollment.

[See EI]

Withdrawal

A parent or guardian wishing to withdraw a minor student shall present a signed statement that includes the reason for the withdrawal. A student who is 18 or older may submit a withdrawal statement without a parent's or guardian's signature.

[For District withdrawal of students no longer in attendance, see FEA(LOCAL).]

PROPOSED REVISIONS

The District shall support the general wellness of all students by implementing ~~measureable~~-measurable goals to promote sound nutrition and student health and to reduce childhood obesity.

[See EHAA for information regarding the District's coordinated school health program.]

Development, Implementation, and Review of Guidelines and Goals

The local school health advisory council (SHAC), on behalf of the District, shall review and consider evidence-based strategies and techniques and shall develop nutrition guidelines and wellness goals as required by law. In the development, implementation, and review of these guidelines and goals, the SHAC shall permit participation by parents, students, representatives of the District's food service provider, physical education teachers, school health professionals, members of the Board, school administrators, and members of the public.

[See BDF for required membership of the SHAC.]

Wellness Plan

The SHAC shall develop a wellness plan to implement the District's nutrition guidelines and wellness goals. The wellness plan shall, at a minimum, address:

1. Strategies for soliciting involvement by and input from persons interested in the wellness plan and policy;
2. Objectives, benchmarks, and activities for implementing the wellness goals;
3. Methods for measuring implementation of the wellness goals;
4. The District's standards for foods and beverages provided, but not sold, to students during the school day on a school campus; and
5. The manner of communicating to the public applicable information about the District's wellness policy and plan.

The SHAC shall review and revise the plan on a regular basis and recommend revisions to the wellness policy when necessary.

Nutrition Guidelines

Foods and Beverages Sold

The District's nutrition guidelines for reimbursable school meals and all other foods and beverages sold or marketed to students during the school day shall be designed to promote student health and reduce childhood obesity and shall be at least as restrictive as federal regulations and guidance, except when the District allows an exemption for fundraising activities as authorized by state and federal rules. [See CO and FJ]

STUDENT WELFARE
WELLNESS AND HEALTH SERVICES

FFA
(LOCAL)

Foods and Beverages Provided	The District shall establish standards for all foods and beverages provided, but not sold, to students during the school day. These standards shall be addressed in the District's wellness plan.
Wellness Goals	
Nutrition Promotion and Education	<p>The District shall implement, in accordance with law, a coordinated school health program with a nutrition education component. [See EHAA] The District's nutrition promotion activities shall encourage participation in the National School Lunch Program, the School Breakfast Program, and any other supplemental food and nutrition programs offered by the District.</p> <p>The District establishes the following goals for nutrition promotion:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The District's food service staff, teachers, and other District personnel shall consistently promote healthy nutrition messages in cafeterias, classrooms, and other appropriate settings.2. The District shall share educational nutrition information with families and the general public to promote healthy nutrition choices and positively influence the health of students. <p>The District establishes the following goals for nutrition education:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The District shall deliver nutrition education that fosters the adoption and maintenance of healthy eating behaviors.2. The District shall make nutrition education a District-wide priority and shall integrate nutrition education into other areas of the curriculum, as appropriate.3. The District shall provide professional development so that teachers and other staff responsible for the nutrition education program are adequately prepared to effectively deliver the program.
Physical Activity	<p>The District shall implement, in accordance with law, a coordinated health program with physical education and physical activity components and shall offer at least the required amount of physical activity for all grades. [See BDF, EHAA, EHAB, and EHAC]</p> <p>The District establishes the following goals for physical activity:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The District shall provide an environment that fosters safe, enjoyable, and developmentally appropriate fitness activities for all students, including those who are not participating in physical education classes or competitive sports.2. The District shall provide appropriate staff development and encourage teachers to integrate physical activity into the academic curriculum where appropriate.

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- ~~3. The District shall make appropriate before-school and after-school physical activity programs available and shall encourage students to participate.~~
- ~~4. The District shall make appropriate training and other activities available to District employees in order to promote enjoyable, lifelong physical activity for District employees and students.~~
- ~~5. The District shall encourage parents to support their children's participation, to be active role models, and to include physical activity in family events.~~
- ~~6. The District shall encourage students, parents, staff, and community members to use the District's recreational facilities, such as tracks, playgrounds, and the like, that are available outside of the school day. [See GKD]~~

Other School-Based
Activities

The District establishes the following goals to create an environment conducive to healthful eating and physical activity and to promote and express a consistent wellness message through other school-based activities:

- ~~1. The District shall allow sufficient time for students to eat meals in cafeteria facilities that are clean, safe, and comfortable.~~
- ~~2. The District shall promote wellness for students and their families at suitable District and campus activities.~~
- ~~3. The District shall promote employee wellness activities and involvement at suitable District and campus activities.~~

Implementation

The ~~assistant superintendent of administration and operations~~**director of recovery services** shall oversee the implementation of this policy and the development and implementation of the wellness plan and appropriate administrative procedures.

Evaluation

The District shall comply with federal requirements for evaluating this policy and the wellness plan.

Public Notification

The District shall annually inform and update the public about the content and implementation of the wellness policy, including posting on its website copies of the wellness policy, the wellness plan, and the required implementation assessment.

Records Retention

The District shall retain all the required records associated with the wellness policy, in accordance with law and the District's records management program. [See CPC and FFA(LEGAL)]

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TB Testing Requirements

~~Students entering District schools for the first time in any grade shall provide evidence of having received a tuberculosis skin test since the fourth birthday. Students who transfer to the District from another district shall receive a current tuberculin test or have a record of receiving such a test in the preceding 24 months. Students who received the tuberculin test in a country other than the United States shall receive a current tuberculin test. Students with histories of BCG vaccinations shall also receive a current tuberculin test.~~

~~Students found to have positive tuberculin reactions shall be evaluated by a physician or provide documentation of a prior evaluation by a physician for determination of any need for therapy, preventative therapy, or future medical evaluations. The physician's recommendations shall be followed and kept as part of the student's school medical record.~~

~~The guidelines regarding tuberculosis testing shall be followed; however, they may be eliminated whenever county health officials deem appropriate.~~

Tuberculosis Screening

All students entering District schools for the first time in any grade shall provide evidence of having received a tuberculosis screening in accordance with regional and county health department guidelines.

Required Medical Clearance

Prior to participating in a designated University Interscholastic League (UIL) program or other District extracurricular program identified by the Superintendent, a student shall undergo a physical examination in accordance with the required schedule established by the UIL and shall submit a statement from an authorized health-care provider indicating that the student has been examined and medically cleared to participate in the program. In years that a physical examination is not required, the student shall complete a medical appraisal form. A student may be required to have a physical examination based on answers to the appraisal form.

Additional Screening

The District may provide additional screening as District and community resources permit.

Referrals

Parents of students identified through any screening programs as needing treatment or further examination shall be advised of the need and referred to appropriate health agencies.

Notice of Lice

A school nurse or administrator who discovers or becomes aware that a child enrolled in a District elementary school has lice shall provide written or electronic notice to parents within the time frames prescribed in law.

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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.
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.

Emergency Basis

The District shall purchase certain nonprescription medications to administer to students only on an emergency basis and in accordance with:

1. Protocols established by the District's medical adviser who must be licensed to practice medicine in the state of Texas; and
2. Parental consent given on the emergency treatment form.

The Superintendent shall designate the employees who are authorized to administer nonprescription medication under these protocols and permissions

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**

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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.

Epinephrine

The District authorizes school personnel who have agreed in writing and been adequately trained to administer an unassigned epinephrine auto-injector in accordance with law and this policy. Administration of epinephrine shall only be permitted when an authorized and trained individual reasonably believes a person is experiencing anaphylaxis.

On Campus

Authorized and trained individuals may administer an unassigned epinephrine auto-injector at any time to a person experiencing anaphylaxis on a school campus.

The District shall ensure that at each campus a sufficient number of authorized individuals are trained to administer epinephrine so that at least one trained individual is present on campus during all hours the campus is open. In accordance with state rules, the campus shall be considered open for this purpose during regular on-campus school hours and whenever school personnel are physically on site for school-sponsored activities.

Maintenance, Availability, and Training

The Superintendent shall develop administrative regulations designating a coordinator to manage policy implementation and addressing annual training of authorized individuals in accordance with law; procedures for auto-injector use; and acquisition or purchase, maintenance, expiration, disposal, and availability of unassigned epinephrine auto-injectors at each campus.

Notice to Parents

In accordance with law, the District shall provide notice of the policy to parents regarding the epinephrine program, including notice of any change to or discontinuation of this program.

Opioid Antagonist

This provision shall be applicable to each campus that serves students in grades 6-12.

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.

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	<p>Each applicable campus shall have at least one individual who is authorized and trained to administer an opioid antagonist present during regular school hours.</p>
<p><i>Maintenance, Availability, Training, and Reporting</i></p>	<p>Each applicable campus shall have at least two unused, unexpired opioid antagonist doses available.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
<p>Medication for Respiratory Distress</p>	<p>The District authorizes school personnel who have been adequately trained to administer unassigned medication for respiratory distress in accordance with law and this policy. Administration of this type of medication shall only be permitted when an authorized and trained individual reasonably believes a person is experiencing respiratory distress.</p>
<p>On-Campus</p>	<p>Authorized and trained individuals may administer unassigned medication for respiratory distress at any time a person is experiencing this type of distress on a school campus.</p> <p>The District shall ensure that at each campus a sufficient number of authorized individuals are trained to administer this medication so that at least one trained individual is present on campus during regular school hours as defined in state rules.</p>
<p><i>Maintenance, Availability, and Training</i></p>	<p>The Superintendent shall develop administrative regulations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Designating a coordinator to manage policy implementation;2. Addressing annual training of authorized individuals in accordance with law;3. Listing the trained individuals authorized to administer unassigned medication for respiratory distress;4. Addressing procedures for use; and5. Addressing acquisition or purchase, maintenance, expiration, disposal, and availability of unassigned medication for respiratory distress at each campus.
<p>Notice to Parents</p>	<p>In accordance with law, the District shall provide notice of the policy to parents regarding the administration of unassigned</p>

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	<p>medication to a person experiencing respiratory distress, including notice of any change to or discontinuation of these provisions.</p>
<p><i>After Administration of Medication</i></p>	<p>After the administration of unassigned medication to a student experiencing respiratory distress, the coordinator shall provide written notice to the student's parent, the health-care provider authorizing the unassigned medication for respiratory distress, and the student's primary health-care provider.</p>
<p>Psychotropics</p>	<p>Except as permitted by law, an employee shall not:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Recommend to a student or a parent that the student use a psychotropic drug;2. Suggest a particular diagnosis; or3. 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.
<p>Medical Treatment</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>The District shall seek appropriate emergency care for a student as required or deemed necessary.</p>
<p>Compliance with Do Not Resuscitate Orders</p>	<p>The District's medical adviser shall develop guidelines and procedures to assist staff in complying with do not resuscitate (DNR) orders.</p> <p>If a student for whom the school has an out-of-hospital DNR order on file experiences cardiac arrest, respiratory arrest, or otherwise is not breathing, District personnel shall initiate such actions as specified in the written DNR order that is signed by the parent(s)/guardian(s) and witnessed by the director of special education and one other District professional employee. The student's individual protocol shall require the campus nurse, the parent(s)/guardian(s), and the emergency service agency to be notified immediately.</p> <p>The director of special education, the parent(s)/guardian(s), and one other adult shall review the District's policy and the protocol for out-of-hospital DNR orders for each student each semester to ensure that no changes in law would impact compliance with the policy and protocol by District employees.</p>

PROPOSED REVISIONS

Extracurricular Activity Absences

The District shall make no distinction between absences for UIL activities and absences for other extracurricular activities approved by the Board.

~~A student shall be allowed in a school year a maximum of 20 extracurricular absences not related to post-district competition; however, a student shall be allowed unlimited absences for participation in post-district, state, or national competition.~~

~~A student shall be permitted additional extracurricular absences in accordance with administrative procedures when he or she has a passing average in all courses and receives prior approval from the campus principal.~~

The District shall not limit an eligible student's absences related to participation in extracurricular activities. [See Record of Absences in FM(LEGAL)]

[For eligibility of a private school student, including a homeschool student, to participate in extracurricular activities, see FD(LOCAL).]

Advanced / Honors Courses

Since the Board encourages participation in advanced academics, a high school student enrolled in Advanced Placement (AP), Honors, and dual credit courses in the subjects of English language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, economics, and languages other than English shall be exempt from maintaining a 70 average to be eligible for extracurricular participation.

Minimum Grade to Be Exempt

A student must have a minimum grade of 60 in the course or subject listed above at the time eligibility is determined.

[See FM(LEGAL), Exempt Courses]

Use of District Facilities

School-sponsored student groups may use District facilities with prior approval of the appropriate administrator. Other student groups may use District facilities in accordance with policy FNAB.

PROPOSED REVISIONS

**Transportation for
Student Travel**

Students who participate in school-sponsored trips shall be required to use transportation provided by the District to and from the event, except as otherwise permitted in administrative regulations.

**In-State Overnight
Trips**

Any in-state overnight trips taken by student organizations and other student groups shall require approval from the Superintendent.

Out-of-State Trips

Any out-of-state trips taken by student organizations or other student groups shall require approval from the ~~Board~~ **Superintendent**.

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**Student Expression
of Religious
Viewpoints**

The District shall treat a student's voluntary expression of a religious viewpoint, if any, on an otherwise permissible subject in the same manner the District treats a student's voluntary expression of a secular or other viewpoint on an otherwise permissible subject and may not discriminate against the student based on a religious viewpoint expressed by the student on an otherwise permissible subject.

~~Nothing in this policy is intended to aid, abet, command, counsel, induce, order, or procure school organized or officially sanctioned religious activity. Permitting students to speak from a religious viewpoint at the events identified in this policy signifies neither approval nor disapproval of that speech. It does signify the District's constitutional duty to tolerate genuine student-initiated religious expression.~~

**Student Speakers at
Nongraduation
Events**

The District hereby creates a limited public forum for student speakers at all school events at which a student is to publicly speak. For each speaker, the District shall set a maximum time limit ~~of no more than three minutes~~ **reasonable and appropriate to address the audience occasion.**

**Introductory
Speakers**

Student speakers shall introduce:

1. Football games;
2. Opening announcements and greetings for the school day; and
3. Student-led assemblies; student-led activities such as honor society inductions, fundraisers, and DARE programs; and pep rallies.
4. The forum shall be limited in the manner provided by this section on nongraduation events.

**Eligibility and
Selection**

Only those students in the highest two grade levels of the school at which the student is publicly speaking and who hold one of the following positions of honor based on neutral criteria are eligible to use the limited public forum: student council officers, class officers of the highest grade level in the school, honor societies, and students in UIL-recognized activities.

An eligible student shall be notified of the student's eligibility, and a student who wishes to participate as an introducing speaker shall submit the student's name to the student council, principal's office, or other area designated by the campus during an announced period of not less than three days.

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The announced period shall be repeated each semester, at the beginning of each semester or at the end of the preceding semester so speakers are in place for the next semester. The names of the volunteering student speakers shall be randomly drawn until all names have been selected, and the names shall be listed in the order drawn.

*Assignment of
Introductory
Speakers*

Each selected student shall be matched chronologically to the event for which the student shall be giving the introduction. Each student shall rotate after each speaking event. The list of student speakers shall be chronologically repeated as needed, in the same order. The District may repeat the selection process each semester rather than once a year.

*Content of
Student
Introductions*

The subject of the student introductions must be related to the purpose of the event and to the purpose of marking the opening of the event; honoring the occasion, the participants, and those in attendance; bringing the audience to order; and focusing the audience on the purpose of the event. A student must stay on the subject, and the student may not engage in obscene, vulgar, offensively lewd, or indecent speech. The District shall treat a student's voluntary expression of a religious viewpoint, if any, on an otherwise permissible subject in the same manner the District treats a student's voluntary expression of a secular or other viewpoint on an otherwise permissible subject and may not discriminate against the student based on a religious viewpoint expressed by the student on an otherwise permissible subject.

Disclaimer

For as long as there is a need to dispel confusion over the non-sponsorship of the student's speech, at each event in which a student shall deliver an introduction, a disclaimer shall be stated in written or oral form, or both, such as, "The student giving the introduction for this event is a volunteering student selected on neutral criteria to introduce the event. The content of the introduction is the private expression of the student and does not reflect the endorsement, sponsorship, position, or expression of the District."

**Other Student
Speakers**

Certain students who have attained special positions of honor in the school have traditionally addressed school audiences from time to time as a tangential component of their achieved positions of honor, such as student council officers, class officers, honor society officers, and the like, and have attained their positions based on neutral criteria. Nothing in this policy eliminates the continuation of the practice of having these students address school audiences in the normal course of their respective positions.

The District shall create a limited public forum for the speakers and shall treat a student's voluntary expression of a religious viewpoint, if any, on an otherwise permissible subject in the same manner the

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	<p>District treats a student's voluntary expression of a secular or other viewpoint on an otherwise permissible subject and may not discriminate against the student based on a religious viewpoint expressed by the student on an otherwise permissible subject.</p>
Student Speakers at Graduation Ceremonies	<p>The District hereby creates a limited public forum consisting of an opportunity for a student to speak to begin graduation ceremonies and another student to speak to end graduation ceremonies. For each speaker, the District shall set a maximum time limit of no more than three minutes reasonable and appropriate to address the audience occasion.</p>
Opening and Closing Remarks	<p>The forum shall be limited in the manner provided by this section on student speakers at graduation. [See also FMH(LEGAL)]</p>
Eligibility	<p>Only students who are graduating and who hold one of the following neutral criteria positions of honor shall be eligible to use the limited public forum: student council officers, class officers of the graduating class, or the top three academically ranked graduates.</p> <p>A student who shall otherwise have a speaking role in the graduation ceremonies is ineligible to give the opening and closing remarks. The names of the eligible volunteering students shall be randomly drawn. The first name drawn shall give the opening and the second name drawn shall give the closing.</p>
Content of Opening and Closing Remarks	<p>The topic of the opening and closing remarks must be related to the purpose of the graduation ceremony and to the purpose of marking the opening and closing of the event; honoring the occasion, the participants, and those in attendance; bringing the audience to order; and focusing the audience on the purpose of the event.</p>
Other Student Graduation Speakers	<p>In addition to the students giving the opening and closing remarks, the valedictorian, salutatorian, farewell address speaker, class officers delivering a class gift, and students leading the invocation and benediction may have speaking roles at graduation ceremonies.</p> <p>For each speaker, the District shall set a maximum time limit of no more than three minutes to address the audience. The address shall be reasonable and appropriate to the occasion and to the position held by the speaker. For this purpose, the District creates a limited public forum for these students to deliver the addresses. The subject of the addresses must be related to the purpose of the graduation ceremony, marking and honoring the occasion, honoring the participants and those in attendance, and the student's perspective on purpose, achievement, life, school, graduation, and looking forward to the future.</p>

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The student must stay on the subject, and the student may not engage in obscene, vulgar, offensively lewd, or indecent speech. The District shall treat a student's voluntary expression of a religious viewpoint, if any, on an otherwise permissible subject in the same manner the District treats a student's voluntary expression of a secular or other viewpoint on an otherwise permissible subject and may not discriminate against the student based on a religious viewpoint expressed by the student on an otherwise permissible subject.

Disclaimer

A written disclaimer shall be printed in the graduation program that states, "The students who shall be speaking at the graduation ceremony were selected based on neutral criteria to deliver messages of the students' own choices. The content of each student speaker's message is the private expression of the individual student and does not reflect any position or expression of the District or the board of trustees, or the District's administration, or employees of the District, or the views of any other graduate. The contents of these messages were prepared by the student volunteers, and the District refrained from any interaction with student speakers regarding the student speakers' viewpoints on permissible subjects."

**Religious
Expression in Class
Assignments**

Students may express the students' beliefs about religion in homework, artwork, and other written and oral assignments free from discrimination based on the religious content of the students' submission. Homework and classroom work shall be judged by ordinary academic standards of substance and relevance and against other legitimate pedagogical concerns identified by the school. Students may not be penalized or rewarded on account of religious content. If a teacher's assignment involves writing a poem, the work of a student who submits a poem in the form of a prayer (for example, a psalm) should be judged on the basis of academic standards, including literary quality, and not penalized or rewarded on account of its religious content.

**Freedom to Organize
Religious Groups
and Activities**

Students may organize prayer groups, religious clubs, "see you at the pole" gatherings, and other religious gatherings before, during, and after school to the same extent that students are permitted to organize other noncurricular student activities and groups. [See FNAB(LOCAL)] Religious groups must be given the same access to school facilities for assembling as is given to other noncurricular groups, without discrimination based on the religious content of the group's expression. If student groups that meet for nonreligious activities are permitted to advertise or announce the groups' meetings, for example, by advertising in a student newspaper, putting up posters, making announcements on a student activities bulletin board or public address system, or handing out leaflets, school authorities may not discriminate against groups that meet for prayer

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or other religious speech. School authorities may disclaim sponsorship of noncurricular groups and events, provided they administer the disclaimer in a manner that does not favor or disfavor groups that meet to engage in prayer or other religious speech.

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Written or printed materials, handbills, photographs, pictures, films, tapes, or other visual or auditory materials not sponsored by the District or by a District-affiliated school-support organization shall not be sold, circulated, distributed, or posted on any District premises by any District student, except in accordance with this policy.

The District shall not be responsible for, nor shall the District endorse, the contents of any nonschool literature distributed by students.

For purposes of this policy, "distribution" means the circulation of more than ~~ten~~ 10 copies of material from a source other than the District.

Materials distributed under the supervision of instructional personnel as a part of instruction or other authorized classroom activities shall not be considered nonschool literature and shall not be governed by this policy.

[For distribution of nonschool literature by nonstudents, see GKDA]

Limitations on Content

Nonschool literature shall not be distributed by students on District property if:

1. The materials are obscene, vulgar, or otherwise inappropriate for the age and maturity of the audience.
2. The materials endorse actions endangering the health or safety of students.
3. The materials promote illegal use of drugs, alcohol, or other controlled substances.
4. The distribution of such materials would violate the intellectual property rights, privacy rights, or other rights of another person.
5. The materials contain defamatory statements about public figures or others.
6. The materials advocate imminent lawless or disruptive action and are likely to incite or produce such action.
7. The materials are hate literature or similar publications that scurrilously attack ethnic, religious, or racial groups or contain content aimed at creating hostility and violence, and the materials would materially and substantially interfere with school activities or the rights of others.

STUDENT EXPRESSION
DISTRIBUTION OF NONSCHOOL LITERATURE

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8. There is reasonable cause to believe that distribution of the nonschool literature would result in material and substantial interference with school activities or the rights of others.

Prior Review

All nonschool literature intended for distribution by students on school campuses or other District premises under this policy shall be submitted to the principal ~~or designee~~ for prior review in accordance with the following:

1. Materials shall include the name of the person or organization sponsoring the distribution.
2. Using the standards found in this policy at Limitations on Content, the principal ~~or designee~~ shall approve or reject submitted materials within two school days of the time the materials were received.

Exceptions to Prior Review

Prior review shall not be required for distribution of nonschool literature by District students only in the following circumstances:

1. Distribution of materials by a student to other attendees during a meeting of a noncurriculum-related student group authorized to meet at school during noninstructional time in accordance with FNAB(LOCAL); or
2. Distribution of nonschool materials in circumstances for which exceptions to prior review are authorized at GKDA(LOCAL).

Even when prior review is not required, all other provisions of this policy shall apply.

Time, Place, and Manner Restrictions

Each campus principal shall designate times, locations, and means by which nonschool literature that is appropriate for distribution, as provided in this policy, may be made available or distributed by students to students or others at the principal's campus.

The Superintendent shall designate times, locations, and means for distribution of nonschool literature by students at District facilities other than school campuses, in accordance with this policy.

Violations of Policy

Failure to comply with this policy regarding distribution of nonschool literature shall result in appropriate administrative action, including but not limited to confiscation of nonconforming materials, suspension of a noncurriculum-related student group's use of District facilities, and/or other disciplinary action in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct.

Appeals

Decisions made by the administration in accordance with this policy may be appealed in accordance with FNG(LOCAL).

STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES
INVESTIGATIONS AND SEARCHES

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(LOCAL)

PROPOSED REVISIONS(see page 2)

**Questioning
Students**

District officials may question a student regarding the student's own conduct or the conduct of other students. In the context of school discipline, students may not refuse to answer questions based on a right not to incriminate themselves.

For provisions pertaining to student questioning by law enforcement officials or other state or local governmental authorities, see GRA(LOCAL).

District Property

Desks, lockers, District-provided technology, and similar items are the property of the District and are provided for student use as a matter of convenience. District property is subject to search or inspection at any time without notice. Students have no expectation of privacy in District property. Students shall be fully responsible for the security and contents of District property assigned to them. No student shall place or keep in a desk, locker, District-provided technology, or similar item any article or material prohibited by law, District policy, or the Student Code of Conduct. Students shall be responsible for any prohibited item found in District property provided to the student.

Searches in General

District officials may conduct searches of students, their belongings, and their vehicles in accordance with state and federal law and District policy. Searches of students shall be conducted in a reasonable and nondiscriminatory manner.

District officials may initiate a search in accordance with law, including, for example, based on reasonable suspicion, voluntary consent, or pursuant to District policy providing for suspicionless security procedures, including the use of metal detectors.

In accordance with the Student Code of Conduct, students are responsible for prohibited items found in their possession, including items in their personal belongings or in vehicles parked on District property.

**Reasonable-
Suspicion Searches**

Searches should be reasonable at their inception and in scope. If there is reasonable suspicion to believe that searching a student's person, belongings, or vehicle will reveal evidence of a violation of the Student Code of Conduct, a District official may conduct a search in accordance with law and District regulations.

**Suspicionless
Searches**

For purposes of this policy, a suspicionless search is a search carried out based on lawful security procedures, such as metal detector searches or random drug testing.

***Metal Detector
Searches***

In order to maintain a safe and disciplined learning environment, the District reserves the right to subject students to metal detector

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searches when entering a District campus and at off-campus, school-sponsored activities.

Use of Trained Dogs

The District reserves the right to use trained dogs to conduct screening for concealed prohibited items. Such procedures shall be unannounced. The dogs shall not be used with students; however, students may be asked to leave personal belongings in an area that will be screened. If a dog alerts to an item or an area, it may be searched by District officials.

Random Drug-Testing Program

The District requires the random drug-testing of any student in grades 9-12 who chooses to participate in school-sponsored extracurricular activities or request a permit to park a vehicle on school property.

The Superintendent shall develop regulations for the implementation of the District's random student drug-testing program that address the following:

1. Covered activities and purpose of the program;
2. Written consent and confidentiality of results;
3. Testing procedures and collection process; and
4. Applicable consequences.

Appeal

A student or parent may appeal a decision made under the random drug-testing program in accordance with FNG(LOCAL). The student shall be ineligible for participation in extracurricular activities or reinstatement of parking privileges while the appeal is pending.

STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES
STUDENT AND PARENT COMPLAINTS/GRIEVANCES

FNG
(LOCAL)

PROPOSED REVISIONS (see page 7)

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:

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)]

Notice to Students and Parents

The District shall inform students and parents of this policy through appropriate District publications.

Guiding Principles

Informal Process

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

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

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

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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 postmarked by U.S. Mail on or before the deadline and received by the appropriate administrator or designated representative no more than three days after the deadline.

Scheduling
Conferences

The District shall make reasonable attempts to schedule conferences at a mutually agreeable time. If a student or parent fails to appear at a scheduled conference, the District may hold the conference and issue a decision in the student's or parent's absence.

Response

At Levels One and Two, "response" shall mean a written communication to the student or parent from the appropriate administrator. Responses may be hand-delivered, 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 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" shall mean any person who or organization that is designated by the student or parent to represent the student or parent in the complaint process. A student may be represented by an adult at any level of the complaint.

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

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 separate or serial complaints arising from any event or series of events that have been or could have been addressed in a previous complaint.

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Untimely Filings	<p>All time limits shall be strictly followed unless modified by mutual written consent.</p> <p>If a complaint form or appeal notice is not timely filed, the complaint may be dismissed, on written notice to the student or parent, at any point during the complaint process. The student or parent may appeal the dismissal by seeking review in writing within ten days from the date of the written dismissal notice, starting at the level at which the complaint was dismissed. Such appeal shall be limited to the issue of timeliness.</p>
Costs Incurred	<p>Each party shall pay its own costs incurred in the course of the complaint.</p>
Complaint 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 to the complaint form. If the student or parent does not have copies of these documents, copies may be presented at the Level One conference. After the Level One conference, no new documents may be submitted by the student or parent unless the student or parent did not know the documents existed before the Level One conference.</p> <p>A complaint or appeal form that is incomplete in any material aspect may be dismissed but may be refiled with all the required information if the refiling is within the designated time for filing.</p>
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; and2. With the lowest level administrator who has the authority to remedy the alleged problem. <p>In most circumstances, students and parents shall file Level One complaints with the campus principal.</p> <p>If the only administrator who has authority to remedy the alleged problem is the Superintendent or designee, the complaint may begin at Level Two following the procedure, including deadlines, for filing the complaint form at Level One.</p> <p>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.</p>

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

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

Level Two

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

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

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

The Level One record shall include:

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

The Superintendent or designee shall schedule a conference within ten 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 Superintendent or designee may set reasonable time limits for the conference.

The Superintendent or designee shall provide the student or parent a written response within ten days following the conference. The

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

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

Level Three

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

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

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

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

The Level Two record shall include:

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

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

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

The presiding officer may set reasonable time limits and guidelines for the presentation, including an opportunity for the student or par-

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ent and administration to each make a presentation and provide rebuttal and an opportunity for questioning by the Board. The Board shall hear the complaint and may request that the administration provide an explanation for the decisions at the preceding levels.

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

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

PROPOSED REVISIONS (see page 6)

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 in accordance with the EF series.
2. Complaints concerning a commissioned peace officer who is an employee of the District shall be filed 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.

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.

Freedom from Retaliation

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

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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 postmarked by U.S. Mail on or before the deadline and received by the appropriate administrator or designated representative no more than three days after the deadline.

Scheduling
Conferences

The District shall make reasonable attempts to schedule conferences at a mutually agreeable time. If the individual fails to appear at a scheduled conference, the District may hold the conference and issue a decision in the individual's absence.

Response

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

Days

"Days" shall mean District business days, 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 to represent the individual in the complaint process.

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

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 separate or serial complaints arising from any event or series of events that have been or could have been addressed in a previous complaint.

Untimely Filings

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

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

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

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

Level One

Complaint forms must be filed:

1. Within 15 days of the date the individual first knew, or with reasonable diligence should have known, of the decision or action giving rise to the complaint or grievance; and
2. With the lowest level administrator who has the authority to remedy the alleged problem.
3. If the only administrator who has authority to remedy the alleged problem is the Superintendent or designee, the complaint may begin at Level Two following the procedure, including deadlines, for filing the complaint form at Level One.

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

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

Level Two

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

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

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

The Level One record shall include:

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

The Superintendent or designee shall schedule a conference within ten 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 Superintendent or designee may set reasonable time limits for the conference.

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

Level Three

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

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

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

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

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

The Level Two record shall include:

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

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

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

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

In addition to any other record of the Board meeting required by law, the Board shall prepare a separate record of the Level Three

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presentation. The Level Three presentation, including the presentation by the individual or his or her representative, any presentation from the administration, and questions from the Board with responses, shall be recorded by audio recording, video/audio recording, or court reporter.

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

PROPOSED REVISIONS

	<p>The District has established a limited open forum for nonschool use of District facilities in accordance with this policy.</p> <p>The District shall provide equal access to youth groups designated in federal law, including the Boy Scouts, as it provides to other nonschool users of District facilities. [See Patriotic Societies in GKD(LEGAL)]</p>
Scope of Use	<p>The District shall permit nonschool use of designated District facilities for educational, recreational, civic, or social activities when these activities do not conflict with school District use or with this policy.</p> <p>Approval shall not be granted for any purpose that would damage District property or to any group that has damaged District property.</p> <hr/> <p>Note: See the following policies for other information regarding facilities use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Use by employee professional organizations: DGA• Use of facilities for school-sponsored and school-related activities: FM• Use by noncurriculum-related student groups: FNAB• Use by District-affiliated school-support organizations: GE <hr/>
Nonprofit Fundraising	<p>The District shall permit nonprofit organizations to conduct fundraising events on District property when these activities do not conflict with school District use or with this policy.</p>
For-Profit Use	<p>The District shall permit individuals and for-profit organizations to use its facilities for financial gain when these activities do not conflict with school District use or with this policy.</p>
Campaign-Related Use	<p>Except to the extent that a District facility is used as an official polling place, District facilities shall not be available for use by individuals or groups for political advertising, campaign communications, or electioneering, as those terms are used in state law.</p>
Scheduling	<p>Requests for nonschool use of District facilities shall be considered on a first-come, first-served basis.</p> <p>Academic and extracurricular activities sponsored by the District shall always have priority when any use is scheduled. [See FM] The Superintendent shall have authority to cancel a scheduled</p>

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	nonschool use if an unexpected conflict arises with a District activity.
Approval of Use	The Superintendent is authorized to approve any nonschool use of any District facility.
Exception	No approval shall be required for nonschool-related recreational use of the District's unlocked, outdoor recreational facilities, such as the track, playgrounds, tennis courts, and the like, when the facilities are not in use by the District or for a scheduled nonschool purpose.
Emergency Use	In case of emergencies or disasters, the Superintendent may authorize the use of District facilities by civil defense, health, or emergency service authorities.
Use Agreement	Any organization or individual approved for a nonschool use of District facilities shall be required to complete a written agreement indicating receipt and understanding of this policy and any applicable administrative regulations and acknowledging that the District is not liable for any personal injury or damages to personal property related to the nonschool use.
Fees for Use	<p>Nonschool users shall be charged a fee for the use of designated District facilities.</p> <p>The Superintendent shall establish and publish a schedule of fees based on the cost of the physical operation of the facilities, as well as any applicable personnel costs for supervision, custodial services, food services, security, and technology services.</p>
Exceptions	<p>Fees shall not be charged when District facilities are used:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. For public meetings sponsored by state or local governmental agencies; or2. By District employee professional organizations [see DGA].
Required Conduct	<p>Persons or groups using District facilities shall:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Conduct business in an orderly manner.2. Abide by all laws and policies, including but not limited to those prohibiting the use, sale, or possession of alcoholic beverages, illegal drugs, and firearms and the use of tobacco products, or e-cigarettes, or other electronic vaporizing devices on schoolDistrict property. [See GKA]3. Make no alteration, temporary or permanent, to schoolDis-trict property without prior written consent from the Superintendent.

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All groups using District facilities shall be responsible for the cost of repairing any damages incurred during use and shall be required to indemnify the District for the cost of any such repairs.