



Brownsville Independent School District

Agenda Category: General Function Board of Education Meeting: 08/05/2025

Item Title: Recommend Approval to Adopt TASB
Policy FD (LOCAL) and FM (LOCAL)

X Action
Information
Discussion

BACKGROUND:

Background:

Recent legislation shifts the UIL homeschool participation process from an **opt-in** to an **opt-out** model. Under this new law, school districts are required to allow homeschool students to participate in UIL activities unless the board adopts a policy to opt out. For the 2025–2026 school year, school boards must adopt an opt-out policy by **September 1, 2025**. If a district opts out, homeschool students may participate at the closest school that allows such participation. However, schools are not required to accept homeschool students residing outside their district. UIL is currently working on implementing rules, including how homeschool students must be offered participation “in the same manner” as enrolled students.

Senate Bill 401 - Texas Senate Bill 401 (SB 401), titled "Relating to participation by non-enrolled students in University Interscholastic League-sponsored activities", allows school districts to create policies that limit or deny non-enrolled students' participation in University Interscholastic League (UIL) activities. The bill takes effect at the start of the 2025-2026 school year.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:

N/A

RECOMMENDATION:

Recommend approval to adopt TASB Policy FD (LOCAL) and FM (LOCAL).


Maricela Z. Puente/ Gilbert Leal

Submitted by: Principal/Program Director

Dr. Nereida Cantu

Recommended by: Officer Chief Operations Officer

Dr. Linda Gallegos

Approved by: Chief Human Resources Officer

Approved for Submission to Board of Education:


Dr. Jesus H. Chavez, Superintendent

When Necessary, Additional Background May Follow This.

PROPOSED REVISIONS

Persons Age 21 and Over	The District shall admit persons who are at least age 21 and under age 26 for the purpose of completing the requirements for a high school diploma.
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 Person Standing in Parental Relation	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.
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.
<u>Students Not Enrolled</u>	<u>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. [See EEL and FM]</u>
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

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	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	<p>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:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">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.
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	<p>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.</p> <p>[See EI]</p>

Withdrawal

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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).]

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

FM
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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 ten extracurricular absences not related to post-district competition, a maximum of five absences for post-district competition prior to state, and a maximum of two absences for state competition.

No Pass / No Play

Students in Level II or Level III courses in English language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, and languages other than English shall maintain an average of 60 or above to be eligible to participate in UIL activities. [See EIC(LOCAL)] Students in all other courses must meet UIL eligibility requirements.

**Board-approved
Activities**

Organizations and activities that are approved by the Board are considered to be school-sanctioned and, therefore, come under the provisions regarding extracurricular absences, no-pass, no-play rules, and the ten-day rule, unless a sponsoring organization has more stringent provisions for student eligibility.

**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.

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