

Approval of TASB Update 118 Policy Revisions – 1st Reading December 14, 2021

SUMMARY:

Local policies included in Update 118:

TASB Policy Update 118 encompasses changes in law from the 87th Legislative Session that have an immediate effect on the governance and management of the District. Recommended changes to local policies address the following topics:

- Activity funds
- Cybersecurity
- Resignations by contract employees
- School counselor duties
- Human sexuality instruction
- Accelerated instruction and retention and promotion
- School safety transfers
- Optional excused absences for students and attendance for credit
- Child abuse and neglect reporting
- Student records

In addition to these local changes, it is recommended that an additional change be made to policy DFE (LOCAL). This change will allow supervisors not designated by the Board to accept resignations on the employee's behalf, then provide the resignation to the Superintendent or other person designated by Board action.

Changes to the policy manual based on bills from the special called sessions will be included in Update 119.

Local policies included in Update 118:

- CFD(LOCAL):
- CQB(LOCAL):
- DFE(LOCAL):
- DP(LOCAL):
- EHAA(LOCAL):
- EHBC(LOCAL):
- EIE(LOCAL):
- FDE(LOCAL):
- FEA(LOCAL):
- FEC(LOCAL):
- FFG(LOCAL):
- FL(LOCAL):

PREVIOUS BOARD ACTION:

The Board discussed and reviewed TASB Update 118 during the Workshop portion of the board meeting on November 16, 2021.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Update 118 contains revisions to 120 legal policies and 12 local policies.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES:

The District must have school policies that are consistent with current laws and appropriately communicate local policy issues. Policies are classified as either "Legal" or "Local" in design. A "Legal" policy is a statement of existing law or of binding legal decisions and as such do not require Board approval. Local policies are decisions made at the local level that reflect district decisions and practices and do require approval. Legal policies are always included in updates so local policy development occurs within the context of binding law.

BENEFIT OF ACTION:

To allow the Board to evaluate and ensure that these policies reflect the practices of the District.

PROCEDURAL AND REPORTING IMPLICATIONS:

Because the law requires Districts to adopt a local policy so quickly, districts are allowed to implement the process for emergency adoption with one reading.

ALTERNATIVES:

The following options are available to the Board:

- continue to study the policy
- modify the existing language
- approve policies as written and submitted by TASB

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION:

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the TASB Update 118 local policy revisions.

PERSONS RESPONSIBLE:

James K. Wilson III, Superintendent
Deron Robinson, General Counsel

ATTACHMENT:

TASB Update 118 Local Policy Comparison Packet