

Explanatory Notes

TASB Localized Policy Manual Update 119

Smithville ISD

ATTN(NOTE)

GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THIS UPDATE

Please note: Unless otherwise noted, references to legislative bills throughout these explanatory notes refer to Senate Bills (SB) or House Bills (HB) from the 87th Legislature Regular and Special Sessions.

AIB(LEGAL)

ACCOUNTABILITY: PERFORMANCE REPORTING

Quality of learning indicators for remote instruction performance reporting have been added from SB 15 (Second Called Session). (See page 6.)

BBB(LEGAL)

BOARD MEMBERS: ELECTIONS

Provisions have been added to this legally referenced policy on elections for a more complete presentation of applicable legal content.

BBBA(LEGAL)

ELECTIONS: CONDUCTING ELECTIONS

Upon the board's receipt of certification that a candidate is unopposed in an election, SB 1 (Second Called Session) requires the board to cancel the election and declare each unopposed candidate elected to office.

SB 1 also changed the definition for *eligible county polling place*. Other revisions are to better match legal sources.

BBE(LEGAL)

BOARD MEMBERS: AUTHORITY

Provisions on board authority that are addressed at other codes have been removed to eliminate duplication.

BBG(LEGAL)

BOARD MEMBERS: COMPENSATION AND EXPENSES

A revision clarifies that an officer *or employee* may participate in the comptroller's contract for travel services when traveling for official business. The comptroller can no longer charge fees for these services.

BBI(LEGAL)

BOARD MEMBERS: TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES AND ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS

Revisions are to update citations and better reflect legal sources.

BDAA(LEGAL)

OFFICERS AND OFFICIALS: DUTIES AND REQUIREMENTS OF BOARD OFFICERS

Revisions are to better reflect legal sources.

BDB(LEGAL)

BOARD INTERNAL ORGANIZATION: INTERNAL COMMITTEES

Provisions on board committees have been revised based on current legal authority.

BE(LEGAL)

BOARD MEETINGS

This legally referenced policy on board meetings has been revised to reorder and add some existing legal provisions, delete nonessential provisions, and better reflect legal sources.

BQ(LEGAL)

PLANNING AND DECISION-MAKING PROCESS

Revised Administrative Code rules resulted in changes to shared services arrangements for DAEP services.

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CCGA(LEGAL)

AD VALOREM TAXES: EXEMPTIONS AND PAYMENTS

As provided by SB 611 (Regular Session) and Senate Joint Resolution 35 and approved by voters in November 2021, the surviving spouse of a member of the U.S. armed forces who is fatally injured in the line of duty is entitled to the residence homestead property tax exemption as long as the surviving spouse remains unmarried. (See page 5.)

CDB(LEGAL)

OTHER REVENUES: SALE, LEASE, OR EXCHANGE OF SCHOOL-OWNED PROPERTY

Revisions are to better reflect statutory sources.

CDC(LEGAL)

OTHER REVENUES: GIFTS AND SOLICITATIONS

SB 3 (Second Called Session) revised the provisions on prohibited use of private funding for certain curriculum and professional development purposes.

CH(LEGAL)

PURCHASING AND ACQUISITION

We have added a reference on page 12 to amended rules from the Texas Department of Information Resources on purchasing information technology commodity items.

CI(LEGAL)

SCHOOL PROPERTIES DISPOSAL

Revisions are to better reflect statutory sources.

CPC(LEGAL)

OFFICE MANAGEMENT: RECORDS MANAGEMENT

Revisions to this legally referenced policy are based on revised Administrative Code rules from the Texas State Library and Archives Commission (TSLAC) published in [Bulletin B: Electronic Records Standards and Procedures](#). An [overview of Bulletin B](#) is available on the TSLAC website.

CPC(LOCAL)

OFFICE MANAGEMENT: RECORDS MANAGEMENT

Recent updates by the Texas State Library and Archives Commission (TSLAC) to [Bulletin B: Electronic Records Standards and Procedures](#) prompted recommended revisions to this local policy on records management. The new rules add local policy requirements for district management of electronic records.

To meet these requirements, new policy provisions delegate to the records management officer the responsibility to develop procedures for the management of electronic records that comply with the district's records control schedules and meet minimum components required by law.

The [Regulations Resource Manual](#) includes updated sample procedures on this topic, and the *Legal Issues in Update 119* memo describes common legal concerns and best practices specific to [this policy topic](#).

CQA(LEGAL)

TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES: DISTRICT, CAMPUS, AND CLASSROOM WEBSITES

Based on HB 1525 (Regular Session) and SB 9 (Second Called Session), we have added the requirement to post curriculum materials on human sexuality instruction and instruction related to the prevention of child abuse, family violence, dating violence, and sex trafficking to the extent the materials are in the public domain. (See item 42.)

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CRD(LEGAL)

INSURANCE AND ANNUITIES MANAGEMENT: HEALTH AND LIFE INSURANCE

Revisions to TRS-ActiveCare provisions are based on amended Administrative Code rules. New text addresses prohibitions on offering alternative group health coverage (see page 2) and highlights the information that must be submitted with written elections to participate in TRS-ActiveCare (see page 3).

CS(LEGAL)

FACILITY STANDARDS

Changes throughout this legally referenced policy on facility standards are from new Administrative Code rules that add extensive standards for capital improvement projects on or after November 1, 2021, and revised Administrative Code rules on the standards applicable to these projects before November 1, 2021.

CV(LEGAL)

FACILITIES CONSTRUCTION

Changes to this legally referenced policy on facilities construction are from new Administrative Code rules that add extensive facility standards for construction of capital improvement projects on or after November 1, 2021.

An existing provision has been added on page 3 regarding the board's notice of delegation.

DC(LEGAL)

EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES

We have added on page 4 new Administrative Code rules addressing the monthly certified statement of employment the district must submit to TRS for retirees employed by the district.

DEAA(LEGAL)

COMPENSATION PLAN: INCENTIVES AND STIPENDS

Changes reflect revised Administrative Code rules on the local optional teacher designation system and mentor teacher programs.

DECB(LEGAL)

LEAVES AND ABSENCES: MILITARY LEAVE

This legally referenced policy on military leave has been updated based on revisions to the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA).

DFE(LEGAL)

TERMINATION OF EMPLOYMENT: RESIGNATION

Provisions on contract abandonment are revised based on amended rules from the State Board for Educator Certification. The reasons an educator may abandon a contract for good cause now include the educator's reasonable belief that the educator had written permission from the district to resign. Several new mitigating factors have also been added.

DG(LEGAL)

EMPLOYEE RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES

SB 3 (Second Called Session) broadened a provision from HB 3979 (Regular Session) so that a teacher may not be compelled to discuss a widely debated and controversial issue of public policy or social affairs for any course or subject. The provision is no longer limited to social studies courses in the required curriculum. (See page 5.)

DHC(LEGAL)

EMPLOYEE STANDARDS OF CONDUCT: REPORTS TO TEXAS EDUCATION AGENCY

Amended Administrative Code rules revise terminology from *solicitation of sexual conduct* to *solicitation of sexual contact* to better align with statute.

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DMA(LEGAL)

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT: REQUIRED STAFF DEVELOPMENT

Revisions are to update citations and better reflect statutory wording.

DMA(LOCAL)

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT: REQUIRED STAFF DEVELOPMENT

SB 1267 (Regular Session) requires the board to annually review the State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC) clearinghouse regarding best practices and industry recommendations for professional development and adopt a professional development policy based on the training recommendations in the clearinghouse.

To meet the policy requirements, the recommended local policy text reflects that the board shall annually approve the district's professional development plan, which must be guided by the clearinghouse; note any differences from the clearinghouse recommendations; and include a schedule of required professional development.

Please note: SB 1267 requires SBEC to publish the clearinghouse by June 1, 2022, and districts to adopt a professional development policy by August 1, 2022. TASB Policy and Legal Services recommend that the board adopt DMA(LOCAL) and approve the district professional development plan by August 1, or as soon as possible thereafter, to ensure compliance with the bill.

DP(LEGAL)

PERSONNEL POSITIONS

Provisions on school psychological services have been updated based on revised Administrative Code rules.

E(LEGAL)

INSTRUCTION

The E section table of contents has been updated to add the new code EHDF, which includes provisions on local remote learning programs, and to update the subtitle for EFB, Library Materials.

EF(LEGAL)

INSTRUCTIONAL RESOURCES

SB 3 (Second Called Session) requires a district to provide login credentials to parents to access learning management or online learning portals used for student instructional materials.

EHAA(LEGAL)

BASIC INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM: REQUIRED INSTRUCTION (ALL LEVELS)

Effective with the 2022–23 school year, SB 9 (Second Called Session) provides that the SHAC must recommend the appropriate grade levels and curriculum for instruction on child abuse, family violence, dating violence, and sex trafficking.

The bill also imposes several requirements regarding curriculum materials on those topics, including:

- Revised parental notification and new parental consent provisions;
- Posting of proposed and adopted curriculum materials and options for a parent to purchase copyrighted materials from the publisher; and
- New board policy on adopting curriculum materials [see EHAA(LOCAL), below].

The [*Regulations Resource Manual*](#) includes a sample board resolution for convening the SHAC and a sample parental consent form.

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EHAA(LOCAL)

BASIC INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM: REQUIRED INSTRUCTION (ALL LEVELS)

New provisions are recommended based on SB 9 (Second Called Session), which imposes several requirements for instruction on the prevention of child abuse, family violence, dating violence, and sex trafficking, including a board policy on adopting curriculum materials. The policy follows the steps required by law, including board adoption of a resolution to convene the school health advisory council (SHAC) to hold meetings and make recommendations to the board at a public meeting, as well as board confirmation that the recommendations meet the requirements in law before taking action by a record vote.

The [Regulations Resource Manual](#) includes a sample board resolution for convening the SHAC and a sample parental consent form.

EHB(LOCAL)

CURRICULUM DESIGN: SPECIAL PROGRAMS

This policy requiring the district to provide regular training opportunities for teachers of students with dyslexia is recommended to meet TEA policy requirements for the ongoing TEA special education [cyclical monitoring reviews](#).

Please note: This policy will need to be adopted by the board and linked to the [Legal Framework](#) by the August 31, 2022, deadline. See TEA's FAQ on [Special Education Operating Procedures](#).

EHBAA(LEGAL)

SPECIAL EDUCATION: IDENTIFICATION, EVALUATION, AND ELIGIBILITY

Amended Administrative Code rules now refer to a student with an *auditory impairment* as a student who is *deaf or hard of hearing* to match statute. (See page 5.)

EHBAA(LOCAL)

SPECIAL EDUCATION: IDENTIFICATION, EVALUATION, AND ELIGIBILITY

This policy requiring the district to ensure that a student who is transitioning from early childhood intervention (ECI) has an individualized education program (IEP) developed and implemented by the child's third birthday is recommended to meet TEA policy requirements for the ongoing TEA special education [cyclical monitoring reviews](#).

Please note: This policy will need to be adopted by the board and linked to the [Legal Framework](#) by the August 31, 2022, deadline. See TEA's FAQ on [Special Education Operating Procedures](#).

EHBAB(LEGAL)

SPECIAL EDUCATION: ARD COMMITTEE AND INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION PROGRAM

Amended Administrative Code rules revise the list of individuals who must be included in ARD committee meetings for students with deaf-blindness and revise terminology addressing students who are deaf or hard of hearing. Participating special education teachers or providers must be appropriately certified or licensed as required by federal law. The rules also address, as reflected on page 5, IEP implementation for students who enroll in a new district during the summer.

A new Administrative Code rule prohibits consideration of eligibility for supplemental special education services when developing or revising a student's IEP, determining the appropriate educational setting, or in the provision of a free appropriate public education. (See page 8.)

EHBAC(LEGAL)

SPECIAL EDUCATION: STUDENTS IN NONDISTRICT PLACEMENT

We have removed a repealed Administrative Code provision on out-of-state placement.

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EHBB(LOCAL)

SPECIAL PROGRAMS: GIFTED AND TALENTED STUDENTS

HB 1525 (Regular Session) removed the statutory requirement for a district to annually certify to the commissioner of education that the district's gifted and talented program is consistent with the Texas State Plan for the Education of Gifted/Talented Students. We recommend deletion of the corresponding local policy provision.

EHBC(LEGAL)

SPECIAL PROGRAMS: COMPENSATORY/ACCELERATED SERVICES

Reporting provisions on expenditure of the state compensatory education allotment have been added from the Administrative Code.

EHDE(LEGAL)

ALTERNATIVE METHODS FOR EARNING CREDIT: DISTANCE LEARNING

A new provision from SB 15 (Second Called Session) explains how off-campus electronic courses or programs are counted for purposes of average daily attendance. (See page 12.)

EHDF(LEGAL)

ALTERNATIVE METHODS FOR EARNING CREDIT: LOCAL REMOTE LEARNING PROGRAM

Provisions on local remote learning programs from SB 15 (Second Called Session) are reflected in this new legally referenced policy. All provisions in the bill expire on September 1, 2023.

EIF(LEGAL)

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT: GRADUATION

Revised Administrative Code rules provide additional detail on the requirement for a student to complete a financial aid application to meet graduation requirements. The rules, beginning on page 3 of this policy, require the board to adopt the TEA-provided form a student may submit to opt out of the financial aid application requirement and require adoption of a board policy to address the methods by which a student can confirm submission of a financial aid application. See EIF(LOCAL), below.

EIF(LOCAL)

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT: GRADUATION

Revised Administrative Code rules require a board policy to address the methods by which a student can confirm completion and submission of a financial aid application to meet graduation requirements. The recommended text aligns with TEA guidance and addresses methods for both the free application for federal financial aid (FAFSA) and the Texas application for state financial aid (TASFA). Please contact your policy consultant if you have questions or need additional edits to this policy.

Additional [TEA guidance](#) on this topic is available.

The [Regulations Resource Manual](#) includes sample procedures on this topic, and the *Legal Issues in Update 119* memo describes common legal concerns and best practices specific to [this policy topic](#).

EKB(LEGAL)

TESTING PROGRAMS: STATE ASSESSMENT

HB 3261 (Regular Session) allows a district to administer a state assessment instrument on the first instructional day of the week upon authorization by the commissioner of education.

EMB(LEGAL)

MISCELLANEOUS INSTRUCTIONAL POLICIES: TEACHING ABOUT CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES

SB 3 (Second Called Session) revised provisions on instructional requirements and prohibitions, including prohibited concepts and activities.

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FEC(LEGAL)

ATTENDANCE: ATTENDANCE FOR CREDIT

From SB 15 (Second Called Session) we have added a provision permitting a district to exempt students from the 90 percent attendance requirement for courses that are offered under a local remote learning program.

FFBA(LOCAL)

CRISIS INTERVENTION: TRAUMA-INFORMED CARE

SB 1267 (Regular Session) requires training in trauma-informed care to be provided in accordance with the board's professional development policy. Therefore, at Training, a reference has been added to the district's professional development plan. See DMA(LOCAL), above, for more information.

SB 1267 also repealed the requirement for a district to annually report to TEA the number of employees who participated in trauma-informed care training. We recommend deleting the local policy provision.

FFG(LEGAL)

STUDENT WELFARE: CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

Revisions are to update citations and better reflect legal sources.

FFH(LEGAL)

STUDENT WELFARE: FREEDOM FROM DISCRIMINATION, HARASSMENT, AND RETALIATION

From SB 9 (Second Called Session) we have added the following on page 2:

- New policy requirements on dating violence, including parental notification upon a report of dating violence [see FFH(LOCAL), below]; and
- A provision requiring districts to make available to students age-appropriate materials on the dangers of dating violence and resources for students seeking help.

Other revisions are to better reflect legal sources.

FFH(LOCAL)

STUDENT WELFARE: FREEDOM FROM DISCRIMINATION, HARASSMENT, AND RETALIATION

To meet new board policy requirements from SB 9 (Second Called Session), we recommend text at Notice to Parents, which requires the district, upon receipt of a report of dating violence, to immediately notify the parent of the student identified as the alleged victim or perpetrator.

District policy must also include reporting procedures and guidelines for students who are victims of dating violence and include a clear statement that dating violence is not tolerated at school. No changes to your district's policy are recommended regarding these elements based on the district's existing policy provisions, which include reporting procedures and a statement of nondiscrimination that specifically prohibits dating violence.

Additional revisions are recommended to clarify the definition of prohibited conduct and the district's response to such conduct.

FM(LEGAL)

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Provisions from HB 25 (Third Called Session) address transgender students in athletic activities sponsored or authorized by a district and prohibit a student from participating in an athletic competition that is designated for a biological sex that differs from the biological sex stated on the student's official birth certificate. (See page 8.)

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FNA(LEGAL)

STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES: STUDENT EXPRESSION

We have added the recent U.S. Supreme Court case on student speech, *Mahanoy Area School District v B.L.* The case holds that public schools may have a special interest in regulating some off-campus student speech where the district's interest is sufficient to overcome the student's interest in free expression, such as in situations of serious or severe bullying or harassment, threats, or breaches of school security devices.

FOC(LEGAL)

STUDENT DISCIPLINE: PLACEMENT IN A DISCIPLINARY ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION SETTING

Revisions are to better reflect legal sources.

FOCA(LEGAL)

PLACEMENT IN A DISCIPLINARY ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION SETTING: DISCIPLINARY ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION PROGRAM OPERATIONS

Amended Administrative Code rules resulted in revisions to shared services arrangements for DAEP services and to provisions regarding transitions for students in DAEP.

FOF(LEGAL)

STUDENT DISCIPLINE: STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

From HB 785 (Regular Session) we have added a provision requiring the commissioner of education to adopt rules regarding the use of restraint and time-out with a student who is receiving special education services. (See page 8.)

GKA(LEGAL)

COMMUNITY RELATIONS: CONDUCT ON SCHOOL PREMISES

An existing statutory provision has been added to clarify the effect of failing to post signs at each entrance to the premises or other property indicating that firearms and other weapons are prohibited. (See page 8.)

GKD(LEGAL)

COMMUNITY RELATIONS: NONSCHOOL USE OF SCHOOL FACILITIES

We have added existing statutory provisions regarding the use of district facilities by places of worship.

GKG(LEGAL)

COMMUNITY RELATIONS: SCHOOL VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

We have updated for clarification the provisions on obtaining criminal history record information.