



(LOCAL) Policy Comparison Packet

This packet is generated by an automated process that compares the updated policy to the district's current policy, as found in TASB Policy Service records.

In this packet, you will find:

- Policies being recommended for revision (annotated)
- New policies (not annotated)

Policies recommended for deletion are not included. If you want to include the text of these policies in the information given to the Board, you may download them from *Policy On Line*.

Annotations are shown as follows.

- *Deletions* are shown in a red strike-through font: ~~deleted text~~.
- *Additions* are shown in a blue, bold font: **new text**.
- Blocks of text that have been *moved* without alteration are shown in green, with double underline and double strike-through formatting to distinguish the text's destination from its origin: ~~moved text~~ becomes moved text.
- *Revision bars* appear in the right margin, as above.

NOTE: While the annotation software competently identifies simple changes, large or complicated changes—as in an extensive rewrite—may be more difficult to follow. In addition, Policy Service's recent migration to Word 2013 causes some margin notes to appear as a tracked change where no change has taken place.

For further assistance in understanding policy changes, please refer to the explanatory notes in your Localized Policy Manual update packet or contact your policy consultant.

Policy.Service@tasb.org

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Board Authority

The Board has final authority to determine and interpret the policies that govern the schools and, subject to the mandates and limits imposed by state and federal authorities, has complete and full control of the District. Board action shall be taken only in meetings that comply with the Open Meetings Act. [See BE(LEGAL)]

Transacting Business

When a proposal is presented to the Board, the Board shall hold a discussion and reach a decision. Although there may be dissenting votes, which are a matter of public record, each Board decision shall be an action by the whole Board binding upon each member.

Individual Authority for Committing the Board

Board members as individuals shall not exercise authority over the District, its property, or its employees. Except for appropriate duties and functions of the Board President, an individual member may act on behalf of the Board only with the express authorization of the Board. Without such authorization, no individual member may commit the Board on any issue. [See BDAA]

Individual Access to Information

An individual Board member, acting in his or her official capacity, shall have the right to seek information pertaining to District fiscal affairs, business transactions, governance, and personnel matters, including information that properly may be withheld from members of the ~~general~~ public in accordance with the Public Information Chapter of the Government Code. [See GBA]

Limitations

If a Board member is not acting in his or her official capacity, the Board member has no greater right to District records than a member of the public.

An individual Board member shall not have access to confidential student records unless the member is acting in his or her official capacity and has a legitimate educational interest in the records in accordance with policy FL.

A Board member who is denied access to a record under this provision may ask the Board to determine whether the record should be provided or may file a request under the Public Information Act. [See GBAA]

Requests for Records

An individual Board member shall seek access to records or request copies of records from the Superintendent or other designated custodian of records, [who shall respond within the time frames required by law.](#) When a custodian of records other than the Superintendent provides access to records or copies of records to an individual Board member, the provider shall inform the Superintendent of the records provided.

In accordance with law, the District shall track and report any requests under this provision, including the cost of responding to one

or more requests by any individual Board member for 200 or more pages of material in a 90-day period.

Requests for
Reports

No individual Board member shall direct or require District employees to prepare reports derived from an analysis of information in existing District records or to create a new record compiled from information in existing District records. Directives to the Superintendent or other custodian of records regarding the preparation of reports shall be by Board action.

Confidentiality

At the time a Board member is provided access to confidential records or to reports compiled from such records, the Superintendent or other District employee shall advise the Board member of the responsibility to comply with confidentiality requirements.

**Referring
Complaints**

If employees, parents, students, or other members of the public bring concerns or complaints to an individual Board member, he or she shall refer them to the Superintendent or another appropriate administrator, who shall proceed according to the applicable complaint policy. [See (LOCAL) policies at DGBA, FNG, and GF]

When the concern or complaint directly pertains to the Board's own actions or policy, for which there is no administrative remedy, the Board member may request that the issue be placed on the agenda.

**Visits to District
Facilities**

A Board member shall adhere to any posted requirements for visitors to first report to the main office of a District facility, including a school campus. Visits during the school or business day shall not be permitted if their duration or frequency interferes with the delivery of instruction or District operations. [See also GKC]

Investment Authority

The finance director and accountant designated by Board resolution shall serve as the investment officers of the District and shall invest District funds as directed by the Board and in accordance with the District's written investment policy and generally accepted accounting procedures. All investment transactions except investment pool funds and mutual funds shall be settled on a delivery versus payment basis.

**Approved
Investment
Instruments**

From those investments authorized by law and described further in CDA(LEGAL) under ~~Authorized Investments~~~~AUTHORIZED INVESTMENTS~~, the Board shall permit investment of District funds in only the following investment types, consistent with the strategies and maturities defined in this policy:

1. Obligations of, or guaranteed by, governmental entities as permitted by Government Code 2256.009.
2. Certificates of deposit and share certificates as permitted by Government Code 2256.010.
3. Fully collateralized repurchase agreements permitted by Government Code 2256.011.
4. A securities lending program as permitted by Government Code 2256.0115.
5. Banker's acceptances as permitted by Government Code 2256.012.
6. Commercial paper as permitted by Government Code 2256.013.
7. No-load money market mutual funds and no-load mutual funds as permitted by Government Code 2256.014.
8. A guaranteed investment contract as an investment vehicle for bond proceeds, provided it meets the criteria and eligibility requirements established by Government Code 2256.015.
9. Public funds investment pools as permitted by Government Code 2256.016.

Safety

The primary goal of the investment program is to ensure safety of principal, to maintain liquidity, and to maximize financial returns within current market conditions in accordance with this policy. Investments shall be made in a manner that ensures the preservation of capital in the overall portfolio, and offsets during a 12-month period any market price losses resulting from interest-rate fluctuations by income received from the balance of the portfolio. No indi-

vidual investment transaction shall be undertaken that jeopardizes the total capital position of the overall portfolio.

Investment Management

In accordance with Government Code 2256.005(b)(3), the quality and capability of investment management for District funds shall be in accordance with the standard of care, investment training, and other requirements set forth in Government Code Chapter 2256.

Liquidity and Maturity

Any internally created pool fund group of the District shall have a maximum dollar weighted maturity of 180 days. The maximum allowable stated maturity of any other individual investment owned by the District shall not exceed one year from the time of purchase. The Board may specifically authorize a longer maturity for a given investment, within legal limits.

The District's investment portfolio shall have sufficient liquidity to meet anticipated cash flow requirements.

Diversity

The investment portfolio shall be diversified in terms of investment instruments, maturity scheduling, and financial institutions to reduce risk of loss resulting from overconcentration of assets in a specific class of investments, specific maturity, or specific issuer.

Monitoring Market Prices

The investment officers shall monitor the investment portfolio and shall keep the Board informed of significant changes in the market value of the District's investment portfolio. Information sources may include financial/investment publications and electronic media, available software for tracking investments, depository banks, commercial or investment banks, financial advisers, and representatives/advisers of investment pools or money market funds. Monitoring shall be done at least quarterly, as required by law, and more often as economic conditions warrant by using appropriate reports, indices, or benchmarks for the type of investment.

Monitoring Rating Changes

In accordance with Government Code 2256.005(b), the investment officers shall develop a procedure to monitor changes in investment ratings and to liquidate investments that do not maintain satisfactory ratings.

Funds / Strategies

Investments of the following fund categories shall be consistent with this policy and in accordance with the applicable strategy defined below. All strategies described below for the investment of a particular fund should be based on an understanding of the suitability of an investment to the financial requirements of the District and consider preservation and safety of principal, liquidity, marketability of an investment if the need arises to liquidate before maturity, diversification of the investment portfolio, and yield.

Operating Funds

OTHER REVENUES
INVESTMENTS

CDA
(LOCAL)

| | |
|---|---|
| | Investment strategies for operating funds (including any commingled pools containing operating funds) shall have as their primary objectives preservation and safety of principal, investment liquidity, and maturity sufficient to meet anticipated cash flow requirements. |
| Agency Funds | Investment strategies for agency funds shall have as their primary objectives preservation and safety of principal, investment liquidity, and maturity sufficient to meet anticipated cash flow requirements. |
| Trust and Agency Funds | Investment strategies for trust and agency funds shall have as their primary objectives preservation and safety of principal, investment liquidity, and maturity sufficient to meet anticipated cash flow requirements. |
| Debt Service Funds | Investment strategies for debt service funds shall have as their primary objective sufficient investment liquidity to timely meet debt service payment obligations in accordance with provisions in the bond documents. Maturities longer than one year are authorized provided legal limits are not exceeded. |
| Capital Project Funds | Investment strategies for capital project funds shall have as their primary objective sufficient investment liquidity to timely meet capital project obligations. Maturities longer than one year are authorized provided legal limits are not exceeded. |
| Special Revenue Funds | Investment strategies for special revenue funds shall have as their primary objectives preservation and safety of principal, investment liquidity, and maturity sufficient to meet anticipated cash flow requirements. |
| Safekeeping and Custody | The District shall retain clearly marked receipts providing proof of the District's ownership. The District may delegate, however, to an investment pool the authority to hold legal title as custodian of investments purchased with District funds by the investment pool. |
| Sellers of Investments Brokers / Dealers | Prior to handling investments on behalf of the District, a broker/dealer or a qualified representative of a business organization-brokers/dealers must submit required written documents in accordance with law. [See Sellers of Investments SELLERS OF INVESTMENTS , CDA(LEGAL)] Representatives of brokers/dealers shall be registered with the Texas State Securities Board and must have membership in the Securities Investor Protection Corporation (SIPC), and be in good standing with the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA). |
| Soliciting Bids for CDs | In order to get the best return on its investments, the District may solicit bids for certificates of deposit in writing, by telephone, or electronically, or by a combination of these methods. |

Interest Rate Risk

To reduce exposure to changes in interest rates that could adversely affect the value of investments, the District shall use final and weighted-average-maturity limits and diversification.

The District shall monitor interest rate risk using weighted average maturity and specific identification.

Internal Controls

A system of internal controls shall be established and documented in writing and must include specific procedures designating who has authority to withdraw funds. Also, they shall be designed to protect against losses of public funds arising from fraud, employee error, misrepresentation by third parties, unanticipated changes in financial markets, or imprudent actions by employees and officers of the District. Controls deemed most important shall include:

1. Separation of transaction authority from accounting and recordkeeping and electronic transfer of funds.
2. Avoidance of collusion.
3. Custodial safekeeping.
4. Clear delegation of authority.
5. Written confirmation of telephone transactions.
6. Documentation of dealer questionnaires, quotations and bids, evaluations, transactions, and rationale.
7. Avoidance of bearer-form securities.

These controls shall be reviewed by the District's independent auditing firm.

Portfolio Report

In addition to the quarterly report required by law and signed by the District's investment officers, a comprehensive report on the investment program and activity shall be presented annually to the Board.

Annual Review

The Board shall review this investment policy and investment strategies not less than annually and shall document its review in writing, which shall include whether any changes were made to either the investment policy or investment strategies.

Annual Audit

In conjunction with the annual financial audit, the District shall perform a compliance audit of management controls on investments and adherence to the District's established investment policies.

**Emergency
Operations Plan**

The Superintendent shall ensure updating of the District's Emergency Operations Plan and ongoing staff training.

As required by law, the emergency operations plan shall include the District's procedures addressing reasonable security measures when District property is used as a polling place.

**Hazardous Traffic
Conditions and
High-Risk Areas**

If the District applies for the additional transportation allotment provided by the state for students who live within two miles of a school campus, the Board shall adopt a resolution to identify hazardous traffic conditions or areas presenting a high risk of violence within two miles of the school campus. The resolution shall include the specific hazardous or high-risk areas in which transportation shall be provided, and the District shall publish the locations of these routes. The Board shall adopt a revised resolution when necessary to accurately reflect changes to the conditions or areas.

Food Donations

The Superintendent shall be authorized to develop regulations for campuses regarding the use of a prepaid meal card or account to purchase meals served at school. The regulations shall address:

1. ~~The length of the grace period during which a student may continue to donate food in accordance with law. a meal card or account that is exhausted or insufficient; and~~
2. ~~Parent notification in the event of an exhausted card or account, including a schedule for repayment.~~

~~No fees or interest shall be charged in connection with meals purchased with an exhausted card or account.~~

TERMINATION OF EMPLOYMENT

DF
(LOCAL)

**Board's Designee for
Certain Termination
Actions**

The Superintendent shall serve as the Board's designee to suspend a contract employee without pay, provide written notice that the person's contract is void, and terminate employment as soon as practicable when the District:

1. Receives notice that an individual's certificate has been revoked by the State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC) for reasons that require immediate action by the District; or
2. Becomes aware that a contract employee has been convicted of or has received deferred adjudication for a felony offense.

[See also DFAA, DFBA, and DFCA, as appropriate.]

Each District employee shall perform his or her duties in accordance with state and federal law, District policy, and ethical standards. ~~The District holds all employees accountable to the Educators' Code of Ethics.~~ [See DH(EXHIBIT)]

Each District employee shall recognize and respect the rights of students, parents, other employees, and members of the community and shall work cooperatively with others to serve the best interests of the District.

An employee wishing to express concern, complaints, or criticism shall do so through appropriate channels. [See DGBA]

Violations of Standards of Conduct

Each employee shall comply with the standards of conduct set out in this policy and with any other policies, regulations, and guidelines that impose duties, requirements, or standards attendant to his or her status as a District employee. Violation of any policies, regulations, or guidelines may result in disciplinary action, including termination of employment. [See DCD and DF series]

Weapons Prohibited

The District prohibits the use, possession, or display of any firearm, ~~location-restricted~~~~illegal~~ knife, club, or prohibited weapon, as defined at FNCG, on District property at all times.

Exceptions

No violation of this policy occurs when:

1. A District employee who holds a Texas handgun license stores a handgun or other firearm in a locked vehicle in a parking lot, parking garage, or other parking area provided by the District, provided the handgun or other firearm is not loaded and not in plain view; or

~~The~~~~the~~ use, possession, or display of an otherwise prohibited weapon takes place as part of a District-approved activity supervised by proper authorities. [See FOD]

Electronic Communication Media

~~Electronic media includes all forms of social media, such as text messaging, instant messaging, electronic mail (e-mail), web logs (blogs), electronic forums (chat rooms), video-sharing websites, editorial comments posted on the Internet, and social network sites. Electronic media also includes all forms of telecommunication, such as landlines, cell phones, and web-based applications.~~

Use with Students

~~In accordance with administrative regulations, a~~ certified ~~employee, or~~ licensed employee, or any other employee designated in writing by the Superintendent or a campus principal, may use electronic communication, as this term is defined by law, ~~media to~~ ~~communicate~~ with currently enrolled students ~~only~~ about matters within the scope of the employee's professional responsibilities.

Unless an exception has been made in accordance with the employee handbook or other administrative regulations, an employee shall not use a personal electronic communication platform, application, or account to communicate with currently enrolled students.

Unless authorized above, ~~all~~ other employees are prohibited from using electronic ~~communication media to communicate~~ directly with students who are currently enrolled in the District. The employee handbook or other administrative regulations shall further detail ~~address~~:

1. Exceptions for family and social relationships;
2. The circumstances under which an employee may use text messaging to communicate with individual students or student groups; ~~and~~
 1. Hours of the day during which electronic communication is discouraged or prohibited; and
3. Other matters deemed appropriate by the Superintendent or designee.

In accordance with ethical standards applicable to all District employees [see DH(EXHIBIT)], an employee shall be prohibited from using electronic communications in a manner that constitutes prohibited harassment or abuse of a District student; adversely affects the student's learning, mental health, or safety; includes threats of violence against the student; reveals confidential information about the student; or constitutes an inappropriate communication with a student, as described in the Educators' Code of Ethics.

An employee shall have no expectation of privacy in electronic communications with students. Each employee shall comply with the District's requirements for records retention and destruction to the extent those requirements apply to electronic ~~communication media~~. [See CPC]

Personal Use

~~All employees~~ ~~An employee~~ shall be held to the same professional standards in ~~their~~ ~~his or her~~ public use of electronic ~~communication media~~ as for any other public conduct. If an employee's use of electronic ~~communication media~~ violates state or federal law or District policy, or interferes with the employee's ability to effectively perform his or her job duties, the employee is subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination of employment.

Reporting Improper Communication

In accordance with administrative regulations, an employee shall notify his or her supervisor when a student engages in improper electronic communication with the employee.

EMPLOYEE STANDARDS OF CONDUCT

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(LOCAL)

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| Disclosing Personal Information | An employee shall not be required to disclose his or her personal e-mail address or personal phone number to a student. |
| Safety Requirements | Each employee shall adhere to District safety rules and regulations and shall report unsafe conditions or practices to the appropriate supervisor. |
| Harassment or Abuse | <p>An employee shall not engage in prohibited harassment, including sexual harassment, of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Other employees. [See DIA]2. Students. [See FFH; see FFG regarding child abuse and neglect.] <p>While acting in the course of employment, an employee shall not engage in prohibited harassment, including sexual harassment, of other persons, including Board members, vendors, contractors, volunteers, or parents.</p> <p>An employee shall report child abuse or neglect as required by law. [See FFG]</p> |
| Relationships with Students | <p>An employee shall not form romantic or other inappropriate social relationships with students. Any sexual relationship between a student and a District employee is always prohibited, even if consensual. [See FFH]</p> <p>As required by law, the District shall notify the parent of a student with whom an educator is alleged to have engaged in certain misconduct. [See FFF]</p> |
| Tobacco and E-Cigarettes | An employee shall not smoke or use tobacco products or e-cigarettes on District property, in District vehicles, or at school-related activities. [See also GKA] |
| Alcohol and Drugs / Notice of Drug-Free Workplace | <p>As a condition of employment, an employee shall abide by the terms of the following drug-free workplace provisions. An employee shall notify the Superintendent in writing if the employee is convicted for a violation of a criminal drug statute occurring in the workplace in accordance with Arrests, Indictments, Convictions, and Other Adjudications, below.</p> <p>An employee shall not manufacture, distribute, dispense, possess, use, or be under the influence of any of the following substances during working hours while on District property or at school-related activities during or outside of usual working hours:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Any controlled substance or dangerous drug as defined by law, including but not limited to marijuana, any narcotic drug, |

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hallucinogen, stimulant, depressant, amphetamine, or barbiturate.

2. Alcohol or any alcoholic beverage.
3. Any abusable glue, aerosol paint, or any other chemical substance for inhalation.
4. Any other intoxicant or mood-changing, mind-altering, or behavior-altering drug.

An employee need not be legally intoxicated to be considered "under the influence" of a controlled substance.

Exceptions

It shall not be considered a violation of this policy if the employee:

1. Manufactures, possesses, or dispenses a substance listed above as part of the employee's job responsibilities;
2. Uses or possesses a controlled substance or drug authorized by a licensed physician prescribed for the employee's personal use; or
3. Possesses a controlled substance or drug that a licensed physician has prescribed for the employee's child or other individual for whom the employee is a legal guardian.

Sanctions
~~Notice~~

~~Each employee who violates these shall be given a copy of the District's notice regarding drug-free schools. [See DI(EXHIBIT)]~~

~~A copy of this policy, a purpose of which is to eliminate drug abuse from the workplace provisions shall be subject to disciplinary sanctions. Sanctions may include: , shall be provided to each employee at the beginning of each year or upon employment.~~

2. Referral to drug and alcohol counseling or rehabilitation programs;
3. Referral to employee assistance programs;
4. Termination from employment with the District; and
5. Referral to appropriate law enforcement officials for prosecution.

Notice

Employees shall receive a copy of this policy.

**Arrests, Indictments,
Convictions, and
Other Adjudications**

An employee shall notify his or her principal or immediate supervisor within three calendar days of any arrest, indictment, conviction, no contest or guilty plea, or other adjudication of the employee for any felony, any offense involving moral turpitude, and any of the other offenses as indicated below:

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1. Crimes involving school property or funds;
2. Crimes involving attempt by fraudulent or unauthorized means to obtain or alter any certificate or permit that would entitle any person to hold or obtain a position as an educator;
3. Crimes that occur wholly or in part on school property or at a school-sponsored activity; or
4. Crimes involving moral turpitude, which include:
 - Dishonesty; fraud; deceit; theft; misrepresentation;
 - Deliberate violence;
 - Base, vile, or depraved acts that are intended to arouse or gratify the sexual desire of the actor;
 - Felony possession or conspiracy to possess, or any misdemeanor or felony transfer, sale, distribution, or conspiracy to transfer, sell, or distribute any controlled substance defined in Chapter 481 of the Health and Safety Code;
 - Felony driving while intoxicated (DWI); or
 - Acts constituting abuse or neglect under the Texas Family Code.

Dress and Grooming

An employee's dress and grooming shall be clean, neat, in a manner appropriate for his or her assignment, and in accordance with any additional standards established by his or her supervisor and approved by the Superintendent.

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 ~~and settings~~ as required by law ~~to promote student safety in those settings~~. 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 **Notice**

~~A parent, Trustee, or staff member making a request~~ for video surveillance may request 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 ~~under this policy shall submit the~~ request is made, to the campus shall begin operation of the camera by the deadlines in law.

Written requests from a parent, assistant principal, ~~on a form provided by the District, and the~~ 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 requestor not later than the seventh business day after receipt of the request.

Notice

Before a camera is activated, the ~~within ten District business days.~~ 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 ~~or setting~~ that video and audio surveillance will be conducted in the classroom ~~or setting.~~ ~~The Superintendent shall develop administrative regulations as necessary to implement these request, response, and notice provisions.~~

**Installation and
Operation**

The classroom subject to the request shall begin operation of video surveillance not later than the time frames required in law, except when the District is granted an extension of time.

When the District has installed video cameras in a classroom ~~or other setting~~ as required by law, the District shall operate the cameras during the instructional day at all times when students are in the classroom. ~~or other setting~~. 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 ~~or other setting~~.

For the school year in which a campus receives a request for video and audio surveillance, ~~the~~A campus shall continue to operate and maintain any video cameras placed in the classroom ~~or other setting~~ for as long as the classroom ~~or other setting~~ 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 requestor withdraws the request in writing and no request is submitted to continue the 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, ~~or setting, except that no video surveillance~~ shall be conducted of the inside of a bathroom or other area used for toileting or diapering a student or removing or changing a student's clothes.

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

**Retention of
Recordings**

Video recordings shall be retained for at least ~~three~~six 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 accessed or viewed by the individuals and in the limited circumstances permitted by law. ~~Contractors and District personnel with job duties related to the installation, operation, or maintenance of video equipment, or the retention of video recordings, who incidentally view recordings when performing regular job duties such as ensuring the proper functioning of the equipment or pulling specific footage shall not be considered in violation of the confidentiality provisions.~~

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 for which a complaint has been** reported to the District;
2. Appropriate Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) personnel as part of an investigation of alleged abuse or neglect of a child;
3. A peace officer, school nurse, District administrator trained in de-escalation and restraint techniques, or human resource staff member in response to a **report of an alleged incident-complaint** or an investigation of an **employee or a report of alleged abuse committed by a student incident**; and
4. Appropriate TEA or State Board for Educator Certification personnel or their agents as part of an investigation.

For purposes of this policy, the term “human resource staff member” shall include the Superintendent, a principal, an assistant principal or other campus administrator, and any supervisory position within the District’s human resources office. If an individual listed in items 2 through 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 **or other setting** 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 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, including requesting an expedited review.](#)

~~ACADEMIC GUIDANCE PROGRAM~~

~~EJ
(LOCAL)~~

~~**Guidance and
Counseling Services**~~

~~The District's guidance and counseling services shall be designed primarily to provide ongoing assistance to enhance the educational development of all students and shall be included in and monitored through the District and campus planning process. [See BQ series]~~

~~**Areas of Student
Need**~~

~~The services may assist individuals or groups of students in:~~

- ~~1.— Improving academic achievement.~~
- ~~2.— Improving school attendance.~~
- ~~3.— Improving school attitudes.~~
- ~~4.— Developing self-confidence.~~
- ~~5.— Developing healthy interpersonal relationships.~~
- ~~6.— Developing life satisfaction.~~
- ~~7.— Obtaining information to assist in choosing a potential career.~~

~~Guidance services shall be coordinated with the regular instructional program so that they contribute to a unified educational program. Guidance services shall operate with central coordination and shall be a cooperative project of the entire professional staff. Teachers shall use opportunities in the classroom, in extracurricular activities, and in contacts with parents to achieve guidance objectives. Qualified counselors shall supervise the standardized testing program and provide personal, academic, and career guidance to students who need such services. [See FFE]~~

Students in violation of the compulsory attendance law shall be reported to the District attendance officer, who may institute court action as provided by law.

Excused Absences

In addition to excused absences required by law, the District shall excuse absences for the following purposes.

Higher Education
Visits

The District shall excuse a student for up to two days during the student's junior year and up to two days during the student's senior year to visit an accredited institution of higher education. A student shall be required to submit verification of such visits in accordance with administrative regulations.

Armed Services
Enlistment

The District shall excuse a student 17 years of age or older for up to four days during a school year for activities related to pursuing enlistment in a branch of the U.S. Armed Services or Texas National Guard. A student shall be required to submit verification of such activities in accordance with administrative regulations.

Early Voting or
Election Clerk

The District shall excuse a student for up to two days per school year to serve as an early voting or election clerk. A student shall be required to submit verification of service in accordance with administrative regulations.

[For extracurricular activity absences, see FM.]

**Withdrawal for
Nonattendance**

The District may initiate withdrawal of a student under the age of 19 for nonattendance under the following conditions:

1. The student has been absent ten consecutive school days; and
2. Repeated efforts by the attendance officer and/or principal to locate the student have been unsuccessful.

[For District-initiated withdrawal of students 19 or older, see FEA(LEGAL).]

**Students Attending
Homeschools**

Students who are homeschooled are exempt from the compulsory attendance law to the same extent as students enrolled in other private schools.

Adequate documentation of homeschooling for withdrawal shall consist of either a statement of withdrawal in accordance with FD(LOCAL) indicating the date homeschooling began, or a signed and dated letter from a parent or guardian indicating that his or her child is being homeschooled and the date the homeschooling began.

The District may request from a parent or guardian a letter of assurance that a child is being educated using a curriculum designed

ATTENDANCE
COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE

FEA
(LOCAL)

to meet basic education goals of reading, spelling, grammar, mathematics, and a study of good citizenship.

Enforcing
Compulsory
Attendance

If a parent or guardian refuses to submit a requested statement or letter, or if the District has evidence that a school-aged child is not being homeschooled within legal requirements, the District may investigate further and, if warranted, shall pursue legal action to enforce the compulsory attendance law.

WELLNESS AND HEALTH SERVICES
PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS

FFAA
(LOCAL)

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.

~~TUBERCULOSIS
SCREENING~~

UIL
PARTICIPATIONPARTI
CIPATION

A student desiring to participate in the UIL athletic program shall submit annually a statement from a health-care provider authorized under UIL rules indicating that the student has been examined and is physically able to participate in the athletic program.

ADDITIONAL
SCREENING

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

~~ADDITIONAL
SCREENING
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.

The District shall notify a parent of a student with whom an educator is alleged to have engaged in misconduct, informing the parent:

1. As soon as feasible that the alleged misconduct may have occurred;
2. Whether the educator was terminated following an investigation of the alleged misconduct or resigned before completion of the investigation; and
3. Whether a report was submitted to the State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC) concerning the alleged misconduct.

For purposes of this policy, misconduct is defined as an educator's alleged abuse or commission of an otherwise unlawful act with the student or involvement in a romantic relationship, or soliciting or engaging in sexual contact with the student.

[See also FFG for reporting requirements related to child abuse and FFH for parental notification requirements regarding prohibited conduct as defined by that policy.]

Note: This policy addresses bullying of District students. For purposes of this policy, the term bullying includes cyberbullying.

For provisions regarding discrimination and harassment involving District students, see FFH. Note that FFI shall be used in conjunction with FFH for certain prohibited conduct. For reporting requirements related to child abuse and neglect, see FFG.

~~**Note:** This policy addresses bullying of District students. For provisions regarding discrimination and harassment involving District students, see FFH. Note that FFI shall be used in conjunction with FFH for certain prohibited conduct. For reporting requirements related to child abuse and neglect, see FFG.~~

Bullying Prohibited

The District prohibits bullying, including cyberbullying, as defined by state law ~~this policy~~. Retaliation against anyone involved in the complaint process is a violation of District policy and is prohibited.

Definition

~~Bullying occurs when a student or group of students engages in written or verbal expression, expression through electronic means, or physical conduct that occurs on school property, at a school-sponsored or school-related activity, or in a vehicle operated by the District and that:~~

- ~~1. Has the effect or will have the effect of physically harming a student, damaging a student's property, or placing a student in reasonable fear of harm to the student's person or of damage to the student's property; or~~
- ~~2. Is sufficiently severe, persistent, and pervasive enough that the action or threat creates an intimidating, threatening, or abusive educational environment for a student.~~

~~This conduct is considered bullying if it:~~

- ~~1. Exploits an imbalance of power between the student perpetrator and the student victim through written or verbal expression or physical conduct; and~~
- ~~2. Interferes with a student's education or substantially disrupts the operation of a school.~~

Examples

Bullying of a student could occur by physical contact or through electronic means and may include hazing, threats, taunting, teas-

ing, confinement, assault, demands for money, destruction of property, theft of valued possessions, name calling, rumor spreading, or ostracism.

Retaliation

The District prohibits retaliation by a student or District employee against any person who in good faith makes a report of bullying, serves as a witness, or participates in an investigation.

Examples

Examples of retaliation may include threats, rumor spreading, ostracism, assault, destruction of property, unjustified punishments, or unwarranted grade reductions. Unlawful retaliation does not include petty slights or annoyances.

False Claim

A student who intentionally makes a false claim, offers false statements, or refuses to cooperate with a District investigation regarding bullying shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action.

Timely Reporting

Reports of bullying shall be made as soon as possible after the alleged act or knowledge of the alleged act. A failure to immediately report may impair the District's ability to investigate and address the prohibited conduct.

Reporting Procedures

Student Report

To obtain assistance and intervention, any student who believes that he or she has experienced bullying or believes that another student has experienced bullying should immediately report the alleged acts to a teacher, school counselor, principal, or other District employee. [The Superintendent shall develop procedures allowing a student to anonymously report an alleged incident of bullying.](#)

Employee Report

Any District employee who suspects or receives notice that a student or group of students has or may have experienced bullying shall immediately notify the principal or designee.

Report Format

A report may be made orally or in writing. The principal or designee shall reduce any oral reports to written form.

Notice of Report

[When an allegation of bullying is reported, the principal or designee shall notify a parent of the alleged victim on or before the third business day after the incident is reported. The principal or designee shall also notify a parent of the student alleged to have engaged in the conduct within a reasonable amount of time after the incident is reported.](#)

Prohibited Conduct

The principal or designee shall determine whether the allegations in the report, if proven, would constitute prohibited conduct as defined by policy FFH, including dating violence and harassment or discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, gender, national origin, or disability. If so, the District shall proceed under policy FFH. If the allegations could constitute both prohibited conduct

and bullying, the investigation under FFH shall include a determination on each type of conduct.

Investigation of Report

The principal or designee shall conduct an appropriate investigation based on the allegations in the report. The principal or designee shall promptly take interim action calculated to prevent bullying during the course of an investigation, if appropriate.

Concluding the Investigation

Absent extenuating circumstances, the investigation should be completed within ten District business days from the date of the initial report alleging bullying; however, the principal or designee shall take additional time if necessary to complete a thorough investigation.

The principal or designee shall prepare a final, written report of the investigation. The report shall include a determination of whether bullying occurred, and if so, whether the victim used reasonable self-defense. A copy of the report shall be sent to the Superintendent or designee.

Notice to Parents

If an incident of bullying is confirmed, the principal or designee shall promptly notify the parents of the victim and of the student who engaged in bullying.

District Action

Bullying

If the results of an investigation indicate that bullying occurred, the District shall promptly respond by taking appropriate disciplinary action in accordance with the District's Student Code of Conduct and may take corrective action reasonably calculated to address the conduct. [The District may notify law enforcement in certain circumstances.](#)

Discipline

A student who is a victim of bullying and who used reasonable self-defense in response to the bullying shall not be subject to disciplinary action.

The discipline of a student with a disability is subject to applicable state and federal law in addition to the Student Code of Conduct.

Corrective Action

Examples of corrective action may include a training program for the individuals involved in the complaint, a comprehensive education program for the school community, follow-up inquiries to determine [whether](#) if any new incidents or any instances of retaliation have occurred, involving parents and students in efforts to identify problems and improve the school climate, increasing staff monitoring of areas where bullying has occurred, and reaffirming the District's policy against bullying.

Transfers

The principal or designee shall refer to FDB for transfer provisions.

Counseling

The principal or designee shall notify the victim, the student who engaged in bullying, and any students who witnessed the bullying of available counseling options.

Improper Conduct

If the investigation reveals improper conduct that did not rise to the level of prohibited conduct or bullying, the District may take action in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct or any other appropriate corrective action.

Confidentiality

To the greatest extent possible, the District shall respect the privacy of the complainant, persons against whom a report is filed, and witnesses. Limited disclosures may be necessary in order to conduct a thorough investigation.

Appeal

A student who is dissatisfied with the outcome of the investigation may appeal through FNG(LOCAL), beginning at the appropriate level.

Records Retention

Retention of records shall be in accordance with CPC(LOCAL).

Access to Policy and Procedures

This policy and any accompanying procedures shall be distributed annually in the employee and student handbooks. Copies of the policy and procedures shall be posted on the District's [website](#) ~~Web site~~, to the extent practicable, and shall be readily available at each campus and the District's administrative offices.

INFORMATION ACCESS
REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION

GBAA
(LOCAL)

CHARGING
FOR PERSONNEL
TIME

As authorized by law, after personnel of the District collectively have spent 36 hours of time producing public information for a requestor during the District's fiscal year, the District shall charge the requestor for any additional personnel time spent producing information for the requestor after personnel of the District have collectively spent:

1. 36 hours of time during the District's fiscal year; or
15 hours of time during a one-month period, in accordance with law.

~~Campus Principals and District administrators, as well as other designated employees are authorized to:~~

~~2. Refuse entry onto school grounds to persons who do not have legitimate business at the school;~~

~~3.1. Request any unauthorized person to enter or may eject any person from property under the District's control in accordance with law. unacceptable conduct to leave the school grounds;~~

~~4. District personnel may request assistance from law enforcement officers in an emergency or when a person is engaging in behavior rising to the level of criminal conduct; and~~

~~5.2. Seek prosecution for violations of law as permitted by statute.~~

Off-Campus Activities

Employees shall be designated to ensure appropriate conduct of participants and others attending a school-related activity at non-District or out-of-District facilities. Those so designated shall coordinate their efforts with persons in charge of the facilities.

Prohibitions

Tobacco and
E-Cigarettes

The District prohibits smoking and the use of tobacco products and e-cigarettes on District property, in District vehicles, or at school-related activities.

Weapons

The District prohibits the unlawful use, possession, or display of any firearm, ~~location-restricted~~ illegal knife, club, or prohibited weapon, as defined at FNCG, on all District property at all times.

Exceptions

Exception

No violation of this policy occurs when:

1. A Texas handgun license holder stores a handgun or other firearm in a locked vehicle in a parking lot, parking garage, or other parking area owned or provided by the District, as long as the handgun or other firearm is not loaded and not in plain view; or

The use, possession, or display of an otherwise prohibited weapon takes place as part of a District-approved activity supervised by proper authorities. [See FOD]

Notice

Parents and patrons of the District are welcome to visit District schools and attend District events as allowed by District policy. However, each visitor to a school campus must sign or check in at the campus ~~main~~administrative office, list the reason for the visit, and display his or her driver's license or other government-issued form of photographic identification prior to proceeding elsewhere on campus. This requirement applies to parents, social service workers, volunteers, ~~Board members~~, invited speakers, maintenance and repair persons not employed by the District, vendors, representatives of the news media, former students, and any other visitors. This policy will be available in each campus ~~main~~administrative office.

[See BBE(LOCAL) for visits to District facilities by Board members.]

Classroom Visitation

Visits to individual classrooms during instructional time shall be permitted only with the principal's approval and in consultation with the teacher. Such visits shall not be permitted if their duration or frequency interferes with the delivery of instruction or disrupts the school environment.

~~**Disruptive Conduct**~~

~~If a visitor's conduct becomes disruptive, abusive, threatening, or violent, the administration may require the visitor to leave immediately. Depending on the severity of the conduct, the visitor may be prohibited from being present on any District property for a period of time authorized by the Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee.~~

Sex Offenders

The District may use the computerized central database maintained by the Texas Department of Public Safety or any other database accessible to the District to determine whether a campus ~~visitor is~~ ~~visitors are~~ registered sex ~~offender~~offenders. Visitor-management technology may also be used to verify this information.

Generally

No adult who has ever pled guilty, has ever pled *nolo contendere*, has ever been found guilty of a "reportable conviction or adjudication," or is required to register with the sex offender registry under Chapter 62 of the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure and whose victim was under age 18 at the time of the offense (hereinafter called a "sex offender") may enter or be present upon any District property. Except as otherwise provided in this policy, any adult sex offender meeting the above criteria will be asked to leave District property, and law enforcement may be notified.

Voting

Where a sex offender is a lawfully registered and qualified voter whose polling place is on District property, he or she may enter

Parent Sex
Offender

such property for early voting or on election day, during polling hours, solely for the purpose of casting his or her vote.

Where a student's parent, guardian, or other person having lawful control of the student under a valid court order is a sex offender as defined above, that person may only enter District property under the following limited circumstances:

- To attend a scheduled conference with school personnel to discuss the student's academic or social progress, promotion/retention, assignment/reassignment, attendance, participation in school-related activities, or discipline;
- To attend an admission, review, and dismissal (ARD) or individualized education program (IEP) meeting or other conference where evaluation or placement decisions may be made respecting the student's special education services;
- To pick up assignments from the campus administrative office;
- To transport the student to or from school;
- To attend the student's high school graduation; or
- To attend any meeting requested by the campus administration.

The individual will be supervised and accompanied by school personnel at all times. The individual must sign out at the campus administrative office upon departure. If the individual is on District property for any other purpose and without permission, he or she will be subject to removal and/or arrest.

Should a sex offender parent, guardian, or other person having lawful control of the student under a valid court order seek to enter District property for any other purpose, he or she must submit a Sex Offender Visitation Request Form [see GKC(EXHIBIT)] and obtain written permission from the Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee. Until written permission based upon the request form is received, the individual submitting the request may not enter District property except under the limited circumstances set out above.

The individual will not be permitted to enter or be present on school property if:

1. The individual's parental rights have been terminated;
2. The individual's presence at school is prohibited by court order or conditions of probation; or

3. The Superintendent determines that the individual poses a unique threat to student safety.

In those cases, communications regarding the student will be conducted by alternate means such as telephone, mail, or electronic communications. Where the administration determines that a meeting is necessary, it will identify an appropriate meeting place where students are not present.

Volunteers

No adult sex offender as defined above may serve as a volunteer with the District and may not participate in school-related activities or field trips.

Contractors,
Vendors, and Other
Third Parties

Except in an emergency and with approval of the Superintendent or designee, contractors, vendors, or other third parties shall not permit an employee who is a sex offender to enter District property. It is the contractor's responsibility to check the sex offender registry prior to sending any employee onto District property. [See also CH]

A campus principal shall have the authority to offer a representative of a patriotic society an opportunity to speak to students during regular school hours about membership in the society.

The principal shall have discretion over the date and time of such visits and is authorized to limit this opportunity to a single school day and to limit a presentation by a patriotic society to ten minutes in length.

[For more information about patriotic societies, see GKD(LEGAL).]