

# **STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT**

## ***Purpose***

The Student Code of Conduct is the district's response to the requirements of Chapter 37 of the Texas Education Code.

The Code provides methods and options for managing students in the classroom and on school grounds, disciplining students, and preventing and intervening in student discipline problems.

The law requires the district to define misconduct that may—or must—result in a range of specific disciplinary consequences including removal from a regular classroom or campus, suspension, placement in a disciplinary alternative education program (DAEP), or expulsion from school. *If there is a conflict between the SCC and the Student Handbook, the SCC will control. If there is a conflict between the SCC and District policy, the more recently adopted provision will control.*

This Student Code of Conduct has been adopted by the West Orange-Cove CISD Board of Trustees and developed with the advice of the district-level committee. This Code provides information to parents and students regarding standards of conduct, consequences of misconduct, and procedures for administering discipline.

*Students may be subject to campus, classroom, extracurricular, and/or organization rules in addition to those found in the SCC. Students may face consequences under these additional rules as well as possible disciplinary action under the SCC. Further to the extent a student engages in misconduct that is not specifically addressed in the SCC, the student may still be disciplined if the misconduct disrupts or interferes with the educational process, learning environment or school safety.*

In accordance with state law, the Code will be posted at each school campus or will be available for review at the office of the campus principal. Parents will be notified of any conduct violation that may result in a student being suspended, placed in a DAEP, or expelled.

Because the Student Code of Conduct is adopted by the district's board of trustees it has the force of policy; therefore, in case of conflict between the Code and the student handbook, the Code will prevail.

**Please Note:** The discipline of students with disabilities who are eligible for services under federal law (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973) is subject to the provisions of those laws.

## ***CONTENTS***

This Code is organized into the following sections.

School District Authority and Jurisdiction	page	2
Standards for Student Conduct	page	2
General Conduct Violations	page	3-5
Discipline Management Techniques	page	5-6
Removal from the Regular Educational Setting	page	6-7
Suspension	page	8
DAEP Placement	page	8-12
Placement and/or Expulsion for Certain Serious Offenses	page	12
Expulsion	page	14-16
Glossary	page	18-21

## **School District Authority and Jurisdiction**

School rules and the authority of the district to administer discipline apply whenever the interest of the district is involved, on or off school grounds, in conjunction with or independent of classes and school-sponsored activities.

The district has disciplinary authority over a student:

1. During the regular school day and while the student is going to and from school on district transportation;
2. While the student is in attendance at any *school -sponsored* or school-related regardless of time or location;
3. *As provided in extracurricular or organization handbooks, by-laws or constitutions;*
4. *During lunch periods, including those in which a student leaves the campus;*
5. *While on school property;*
6. For any school-related misconduct, regardless of time or location;
7. When retaliation against a school employee or volunteer occurs or is threatened, regardless of time or location;
8. When criminal mischief is committed on or off school property or at a school-related event;
9. For certain offenses committed within 300 feet of school property as measured from any point on the school's real property boundary line;
10. For certain offenses committed while on school property or while attending a school-sponsored or school-related activity of another district in Texas;
11. When the student commits a felony, as provided by Texas Education Code 37.006 or 37.0081; and
12. When the student is required to register as a sex offender.

*A student's clothing, personal property, method of transportation, or school property used by the student (such as lockers or desks) may be searched when there is reasonable cause to believe the search will reveal articles or materials prohibited by the district. Students are responsible for ensuring that any personal property, method of transportation, or school property used by the student does not contain prohibited items. Students may be disciplined for possession of prohibited items discovered during a search. For more information about searches, please review the Student Handbook and local policy FNF.*

*Please take note: Nearly every year there is an incident involving a student whose vehicle is found to contain some prohibited item, and the student claims that he or she had no knowledge that it was in the vehicle. Students are held responsible for making sure that whatever vehicle they drive to and park on school property does not contain prohibited items. Therefore, it is important that the vehicle be checked before the student comes onto school property.*

*The district may terminate the transfer of a student for violating the SCC.*

*School administrators will report crimes as required by law and may contact local law enforcement regarding suspected criminal activity. Certain acts of misconduct may constitute criminal offenses in addition to violations of the SCC. Because student discipline is independent of criminal proceedings, disciplinary consequences may not be postponed pending the outcome of any criminal proceeding or affected by the outcome of any criminal proceeding.*

The district has the right to search a vehicle driven to school by a student and parked on school property whenever there is reasonable cause to believe it contains articles or materials prohibited by the district.

The district has the right to search a student's locker when there is reasonable cause to believe it contains articles or materials prohibited by the district.

School administrators will report crimes as required by law and will call local law enforcement when an administrator suspects that a crime has been committed on campus.

The district has the right to revoke the transfer of a nonresident student for violating the district's Code.

## **Standards for Student Conduct**

Each student is expected to:

- Demonstrate courtesy, even when others do not.
- Behave in a responsible manner, always exercising self-discipline.
- Attend all classes, regularly and on time (90 % attendance rule).
- Prepare for each class; take appropriate materials and assignments to class.
- Meet district and campus standards of grooming and dress.
- Obey all campus and classroom rules.
- Respect the rights and privileges of students, teachers, and other district staff and volunteers.
- Respect the property of others, including district property and facilities.
- Cooperate with and assist the school staff in maintaining safety, order, and discipline.
- Adhere to the requirements of the Student Code of Conduct.
- Seek changes in school policies in an orderly manner and through appropriate channels.
- Secondary students (grades 9-12) shall wear on their person at school and school-related activities, their authorized student identification card. Students must present their student ID card upon request by school personnel and in order to gain entrance to any school-related activity.

## **General Conduct Violations**

The categories of conduct below are prohibited at school and all school-related activities, but the list does not include the most serious offenses. In the subsequent sections on, Placement and/or Expulsion for Certain Serious Offenses, severe offenses that require or permit specific consequences are listed. Any offense, however, may be serious enough to result in Removal from the Regular Educational Setting as detailed in that section.

**Students shall not:**

### ***Disregard for Authority***

- Fail to comply with directives given by school personnel (insubordination).
- Leave school grounds or school-sponsored events without permission.
- Disobey rules for conduct on school buses.
- Refuse to accept discipline management techniques assigned by a teacher or principal.
- *Violate dress and grooming code criteria.*
- *Attempt to or successfully evade, avoid, or delay questioning by a district employee.*
- *Violate campus or classroom rules for behavior, or district policies.*

## ***Mistreatment of Others***

- Use profanity or vulgar language or make obscene gestures.
- Fight or scuffle. (For assault see DAEP Placement and Expulsion)
- Threaten a district student, employee or volunteer, including off school property if the conduct causes a substantial disruption to the educational environment.
- Engage in bullying, harassment or making hit lists. (See glossary for all three terms)
- Engage in harassment motivated by race, color, religion, national origin, disability, or age and directed toward another student or District employee.
- Engage in conduct that constitutes sexual harassment or sexual abuse, whether by word, gesture, or any other conduct, directed toward another person, including a district student employee, or volunteer.
- Engage in conduct that constitutes dating violence, including the intentional use of physical, sexual, verbal, or emotional abuse to harm, threaten, intimidate, or control another person with whom the student has or has had a dating relationship.
- Engage in inappropriate or indecent exposure of private body parts.
- Participate in hazing (see glossary)
- Cause an individual to act through the use of or threat of force (coercion).
- Commit extortion or blackmail (obtaining money or an object of value from an unwilling person).
- Engage in inappropriate verbal, physical, or sexual conduct directed toward another person, including a district student, employee or volunteer.

## ***Property Offenses***

- Damage or vandalize property owned by others. (For felony criminal mischief see DAEP Placement or Expulsion)
- Deface or damage school property—including textbooks, lockers, furniture, and other equipment—with graffiti or by other means.
- Steal from students, staff, or the school.
- Commit or assist in a robbery or theft even if it does not constitute a felony according to the Texas Penal Code. (For felony robbery and theft see DAEP Placement and Expulsion)
- Record the voice or image of another without the prior consent of the individuals being recorded or in any way that disrupts the educational environment or invades the privacy of others.

## ***Possession of Prohibited Items***

- Posses or use:
  - fireworks of any kind, smoke or stink bombs, or any other pyrotechnic device;
  - a razor, box cutter, chain, or any other object used in a way that threatens or inflicts bodily injury to another person;
  - a “look-alike” weapon;
  - an air gun or BB gun;
  - ammunition;
  - a stun gun;
  - knives, including a pocketknife or any other small knife:
    - mace or pepper spray;
    - pornographic material;
    - tobacco products;

- matches or a lighter;
- a laser pointer for other than an approved use; or
- any articles not generally considered to be weapons, including school supplies, when the principal or designee determines that a danger exists. (For weapons and firearms see DAEP Placement and Expulsion)

### ***Possession of Telecommunications Devices***

- Display, turn on, or use a cellular telephone or other telecommunications device on school property during the school day is prohibited.
- Possessing or controlling other devices (laser pointers, CD players, radios, stun guns or cameras, etc).

### ***Illegal Prescription, and Over-The Counter Drugs***

- Possess or sell seeds or pieces of marijuana in less than a usable amount. (For illegal drugs, alcohol, and inhalants see DAEP Placement and Expulsion)
- Possess use, give or sell paraphernalia related to any prohibited substance. (See glossary for “paraphernalia”)
- Possess or sell look-alike drugs or attempt to pass items off as drugs or contraband.
- Abuse the student’s own prescription drug, give a prescription drug to another student, or possess or be under the influence of another person’s prescription drug on school property or at a school-related event. (See glossary for “abuse”)
- Abuse over-the counter drugs. (See glossary for “abuse”)
- Be under the influence of prescription or over-the counter drugs that cause impairment of the physical or mental faculties. (See glossary for “under the influence”)
- Have or take prescription drugs or over- the- counter drugs at school other than as provided by district policy.

### ***Misuse of Computers and the Internet***

- Violate computer use policies, rules, or agreements signed by the student or the student’s parent.
- Attempt to access or circumvent passwords or other security-related information of the district, students, or employees or upload or create computer viruses, including off school property if the conduct causes a substantial disruption to the educational environment.
- Attempt to alter, destroy, or disable district computer equipment, district data, the data of others, or other networks connected to the district’s system, including off school property if the conduct causes a substantial disruption to the educational environment.
- Use the Internet or other electronic communications to threaten district students, employees or volunteers, including off school property if the conduct causes a substantial disruption to the educational-environment.
- Send or post electronic messages that are abusive, obscene, sexually oriented, threatening, harassing, damaging to another’s reputation, or illegal including off school property if the conduct causes a substantial disruption to the educational environment.
- Use e-mail or Web sites at school to encourage illegal behavior or threaten school safety.
- *Engage in online harassment as prohibited by Tex. Penal Code 33.07*

### ***Safety Transgressions***

- Violate ~~ing~~ safety rules as communicated in the student handbook, campus, classroom, or organizational rules.
- Possess published or electronic material that is designed to promote or encourage illegal behavior or that could threaten school safety.

- Engage in verbal (oral or written) exchanges that threaten the safety of another student, a school employee, or school property.
- Make false accusations or perpetrate hoaxes regarding school safety.
- Engage in any conduct that school officials might reasonably believe will substantially disrupt the school program or incite violence.
- Throw objects that can cause bodily injury or property damage.
- Discharge a fire extinguisher without valid cause.

### ***Miscellaneous Offenses***

- **Violate** dress and grooming standards as communicated in the student handbook.
- ~~Cheat or copy the work of another.~~ Academic dishonesty, including cheating, copying the work of another, plagiarism, or unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing an assignment.
- **Gamble.**
- **Falsify** records, passes, or other school-related documents.
- **Engage** in actions or demonstrations that substantially disrupt or materially interfere with school activities.
- Repeatedly **violate** other communicated campus or classroom standards of conduct.
- Violate ~~ing~~ extracurricular or honors organization standards of behavior.

The district may impose campus or classroom rules in addition to those found in the Code. These rules may be posted in classrooms or given to the student and may or may not constitute violations of the Code.

### **Discipline Management Techniques**

Discipline will be designed to *correct student behavior, encourage students to comply with school rules*, improve conduct and to encourage students to adhere to their responsibilities as members of the school community. Disciplinary action will draw on the professional judgment of teachers and administrators and on a range of discipline management techniques. Discipline will be correlated to the *severity and effect of the misconduct, seriousness of the offense*, the student's age and grade level, the frequency of *misbehavior*, the student's attitude *and demeanor*, the effect of the misconduct on the school environment, and *statutory-legal* requirements.

Because of these factors, discipline for a particular offense (unless otherwise specified by law) may bring into consideration varying techniques and responses.

### ***Students with Disabilities***

The discipline of students with disabilities is subject to applicable state and federal law in addition to the Student Code of Conduct. To the extent any conflict exists, state and/or federal law will prevail.

In accordance with the Education Code, a student who is enrolled in a special education program may not be disciplined for conduct meeting the definition of bullying, harassment, or making hit lists (see glossary) until an ARD committee meeting has been held to review the conduct.

In deciding whether to order suspension, DAEP placement, or expulsion, *regardless of whether the action is mandatory or discretionary* the district will take into consideration a disability that substantially impairs the student's capacity to appreciate the wrongfulness of the student's conduct.

### ***Techniques***

The following discipline management techniques may be used—alone or in combination—for behavior prohibited by the Student Code of Conduct or by campus or classroom rules:

- Verbal correction, (oral or written).
- Cooling-off time or "time-out."
- Seating changes within the classroom.
- Temporary confiscation of items that disrupt the educational process.
- Rewards or demerits.

- Behavioral contracts.
- Counseling by teachers, counselors, or administrative personnel.
- Parent-teacher conferences.
- Grade reductions for academic dishonesty for cheating, plagiarism, and as otherwise permitted by policy.
- Detention.
- Sending the student to the office or other assigned area, or to in-school suspension.

The Special Assignment Center (SAC) is an on-campus setting for students who commit disciplinary infractions. Students continue to receive instruction in each course to the maximum extent possible. This program maintains a closely supervised educational environment with restrictions on extracurricular activities. Students assigned to SAC will not be allowed to practice, participate, or attend extracurricular/co-curricular or honors activities.

If a student finishes his/her assignments successfully and has no discipline problems, he/she may be considered for early SAC dismissal with the approval of the principal.

- Withdrawal of privileges, such as participation in extracurricular activities, eligibility for seeking and holding honorary offices, or membership in school-sponsored clubs and organizations.
- Penalties identified in individual student organizations' extracurricular standards of behavior.
- Withdrawal or restriction of bus privileges.
- School-assessed and school-administered probation.
- Corporal punishment.
- Out-of-school suspension, as specified in the Suspension section of this Code.
- Placement in a DAEP, as specified in the DAEP section of this Code.
- Placement and/or expulsion in an alternative educational setting, as specified in the Placement and or Expulsion for Certain Serious Offenses section of this Code.
- Expulsion, as specified in the Expulsion section of this Code.
- Referral to an outside agency or legal authority for criminal prosecution in addition to disciplinary measures imposed by the district.
- Other strategies and consequences as determined by school officials.

### ***Notification***

The principal or appropriate administrator will notify a student's parent by phone or in writing *as soon as practicable* of any violation that may result in a suspension, placement in a DAEP, or expulsion. Notification will be made within three school days after the administrator becomes aware of the violation.

### ***Appeals***

Parental questions or complaints regarding disciplinary measures should be addressed to the teacher or campus administration, as appropriate, and in accordance with policy FNG (LOCAL). A copy of the policy may be obtained from the principal's office or the central administration office or through Policy On Line at the following address: [www.woccisd.net](http://www.woccisd.net).

Consequences will not be deferred pending the outcome of a grievance.

### **Removal from the Regular Educational Setting**

In addition to other discipline management techniques, misconduct may result in removal from the regular educational setting in the form of a routine referral or a formal removal.

### ***Routine Referral***

A routine referral occurs when a teacher sends a student to the principal's office as a discipline management technique. The principal may then employ additional techniques.

## **Formal Removal**

A teacher or administrator **may** remove a student from class for a behavior that violates this Code to maintain effective discipline in the classroom. A teacher **may** also initiate a formal removal from class if:

1. The student's behavior has been documented by the teacher as repeatedly interfering with the teacher's ability to teach his or her class; or with the student's classmates' ability to learn; or
2. The behavior is so unruly, disruptive, or abusive that the teacher cannot teach, and the students in the classroom cannot learn.

A teacher or administrator **must** remove a student from class if the student engages in behavior that under the Education Code requires or permits the student to be placed in a DAEP or expelled. When removing for those reasons, the procedures in the subsequent sections on DAEP or expulsion will be followed. Otherwise, within three school days of the formal removal, the appropriate administrator will schedule a conference with the student's parent; the student; the teacher, in the case of removal by a teacher; and any other administrator.

At the conference, the appropriate administrator will inform the student of the misconduct for which he or she is charged and the consequences. The administrator will give the student an opportunity to give his or her version of the incident.

When a student is removed from the regular classroom by a teacher and a conference is pending, the principal may place the student in:

- Another appropriate classroom
- In-school suspension
- Out-of-school suspension
- DAEP

## **Returning Student to Classroom**

When a student has been formally removed from class by a teacher for conduct against the teacher containing the elements of assault *resulting in bodily injury*, aggravated assault, sexual assault, aggravated sexual assault, murder, capital murder, or criminal attempt to commit murder or capital murder, the student may not be returned to the teacher's class without the teacher's consent.

When a student has been formally removed by a teacher for any other conduct, the student may be returned to the teacher's class without the teacher's consent, if the placement review committee determines that the teacher's class is the best or only alternative available.

## **Suspension**

### ***Misconduct***

Students may be suspended for any behavior listed in the Code as a general conduct violation, DAEP offense, or expellable offense.

In deciding whether to order *out-of-school* suspension, the district will take into consideration:

- Self-defense (see glossary),
- Intent or lack of intent at the time the student engaged in the conduct, and
- The student's disciplinary history.

### ***SUSPENSION Process***

State law allows a student to be suspended for no more than three school days per behavior violation, with no limit on the number of times a student may be suspended in a semester or school year.

Before being suspended a student will have an informal conference with the appropriate administrator who shall advise the student of the conduct of which he or she is accused. The student will be given the opportunity to explain his or her version of the incident before the administrator's decision is made.

The number of days of a student's suspension will be determined by the appropriate administrator, but will not exceed three school days.



The appropriate administrator will determine any restrictions on participation in school-sponsored or school-related extracurricular and co-curricular activities.

## **Disciplinary Alternative Education Program (DAEP) Placement**

For purpose of DAEP, elementary classification shall be kindergarten-grade 5 and secondary classification shall be grades 6-12.

Summer programs provided by the district shall serve students assigned to a DAEP in conjunction with other students.

A student who is expelled for an offense that otherwise would have resulted in a DAEP placement does not have to be placed in DAEP in addition to the expulsion.

In deciding whether to order placement in a DAEP, the district will take into consideration:

- Self-defense (see glossary),
- Intent or lack of intent at the time the student engaged in the conduct, and
- The student's disciplinary history.

### **Discretionary Placement: Misconduct That May Result in DAEP Placement**

A student **may** be placed in a DAEP for behaviors (pp.2-6) prohibited in the General Conduct Violations section of this Code.

#### **Misconduct Identified in State Law**

In accordance with state law, a student **may** be placed in a DAEP for any one of the following offenses: *misconduct if committed while on school property, within 300 feet of school property as measured from any point on the school's real property boundary line, or while attending a school-sponsored or school-related activity on or off school property:*

- ◆ *Possessing, giving, buying, or selling less than a usable amount of stems, seeds, or other pieces of marijuana.*
- ◆ *Possessing, using, selling, buying, or giving paraphernalia related to any prohibited substance, including but not limited to marijuana, a controlled substance, a dangerous drug, or an alcoholic beverage.*
- ◆ *Abusing the student's own prescription drug or using it in a way other than prescribed; giving, buying, or selling a prescription drug; possessing, using, or being under the influence of another person's prescription drug.*
- ◆ *Preparing a hit list.*
- ◆ *Engaging in serious or persistent misbehavior that violates this Code.*

*A student may be placed in DAEP for engaging in the following misconduct while off-campus and not in attendance at a school-sponsored or school-related activity:*

- ◆ *The administrator reasonably believes the student engaged in conduct punishable as a felony (other than a Title 5 felony), and the student's continued presence in the regular classroom is a threat to the safety of others or is detrimental to the educational process.*
- ◆ *Off-campus conduct for which DAEP placement is required by state law when the administrator does not learn of the conduct until more than a year passes after the conduct occurred.*
- ◆ *Engaging in online harassment in violation of Tex. Penal Code 33.07*

*Regardless of location, a student may be placed in DAEP if the student is a registered sex offender who is not under any form of court supervision. A registered sex offender who is not under any form of court supervision will be placed in regular classes if the student is not a threat to the safety of others, is not detrimental to the educational process, and such placement is not contrary to the best interests of the district's students.*

- ~~Possessing a knife, pocketknife or any knife with a blade from 0-3 inches in length.~~

- ~~Involvement in a public school fraternity, sorority, or secret society, including participating as a member or pledge, or soliciting another person to become a pledge or member of a public school fraternity, sorority, or secret society, or gang. (See glossary)~~
- ~~Involvement in criminal street gang activity. (See glossary)~~
- ~~Criminal mischief, not punishable as a felony.~~

In accordance with state law, a student **may** be placed in a DAEP if the superintendent or the superintendent's designee has reasonable belief (see glossary) that the student has engaged in conduct punishable as a felony, other than those listed as offenses involving injury to a person in Title 5 (see glossary) of the Texas Penal Code, that occurs off school property and not at a school-sponsored or school-related event, if the student's presence in the regular classroom threatens the safety of other students or teachers or will be detrimental to the educational process.

The appropriate administrator **may**, but is not required to, place a student in a DAEP for off-campus conduct for which DAEP placement is required by state law if the administrator does not have knowledge of the conduct before the first anniversary of the date the conduct occurred.

### ***Mandatory Placement: Misconduct That Requires DAEP Placement***

A student **must** be placed in a DAEP if the student:

- Engages in conduct relating to a false alarm or report (including a bomb threat) or a terroristic threat involving a public school. (See Glossary)
- Commits the following offenses on school property or within 300 feet of school property as measured from any point on the school's real property boundary line, or while attending a school-sponsored or school-related activity on or off school property:
  - Engages in conduct punishable as a felony.
  - Commits an assault (see glossary) under Penal Code 22.01(a) (1).
  - Sells, gives or delivers to another person, or possesses, uses, or is under the influence of marijuana, a controlled substance, or a dangerous drug in an amount not constituting a felony offense. (School-related felony drug offenses are addressed in the Expulsion section.) (See glossary for "under the influence")
  - Sells, gives, or delivers to another person an alcoholic beverage; commits a serious act or offense while under the influence of alcohol; or possesses, uses, or is under the influence of alcohol, if the conduct is not punishable as a felony offense. (School-related felony alcohol offenses are addressed in the Expulsion section.)
  - Behaves in a manner that contains the elements of an offense relating to abusable volatile chemicals.
  - Behaves in a manner that contains the elements of the offense of public lewdness or indecent exposure.
- Engages in expellable conduct and is ~~between six and nine years of age--younger than ten years old.~~
- Commits a federal firearms violation and is younger than six years of age.
- Possessing any knife with a blade of over 3 inches to 5 ½ inches in length.
- Engages in conduct that contains the elements of the offense of retaliation against any school employee or volunteer on or off school property. (Committing retaliation in combination with another expellable offense is addressed in the Expulsion section of this Code.)
- Engages in conduct punishable as a felony listed under Title 5 (see glossary) of the Texas Penal Code when the conduct occurs off school property and not at a school-sponsored or school-related event and:
  1. The student receives deferred prosecution (see glossary),
  2. A court or jury finds that the student has engaged in delinquent conduct (see glossary), or
  3. The superintendent or designee has a reasonable belief (see glossary) that the student engaged in the conduct.

### ***Sexual Assault and Campus Assignments***

~~If a student has been convicted of continuous sexual abuse of a young child or children or convicted of or placed on deferred adjudication for sexual assault or aggravated sexual assault against another student on the same campus, and if the victim's parent or another person with the authority to act on behalf of the victim requests that the board transfer the offending student to another campus, the offending student shall be transferred to another campus in the district. If there is no other campus in the district serving the grade level of the offending student, the offending student will be transferred to a DAEP.~~

~~Students who are (1) convicted of continuous sexual abuse of a young child or children: or (2) convicted, receive deferred adjudication or deferred prosecution, been found to have engaged in delinquent conduct of conduct in need of supervision, or placed on probation for either sexual assault or aggravated sexual assault against another student assigned to the same campus at the time the offense occurred will be placed in DAEP on the request of the victim's parents if the victim student does not wish to transfer, and there is only one campus serving that grade level. Placement in this circumstance may be for any length of time considered necessary.~~

### **Emergency Placement to DAEP**

~~In an emergency, the principal or the principal's designee may order the immediate placement of a student in a DAEP for any reason for which placement in a DAEP may be made on a nonemergency basis. (37.019) if the principal or the principal's designee reasonably believes the student's behavior is so unruly, disruptive, or abusive that it seriously interferes with a teacher's ability to communicate effectively with the students in a class, with the ability of the student's classmates to learn, or with the operation of school or a school-sponsored activity (37.019). Within a reasonable time after the emergency placement, but not later than the 10<sup>th</sup> day after the date of the placement or expulsion, the student shall be accorded the appropriate due process as required under Section 37.009.~~

### **Process**

Removals to a DAEP will be made by the District Hearing Committee.

### **Conference**

When a student is removed from class for a DAEP offense, the appropriate administrator will schedule a conference within three school days with the student's parent, the student, and the teacher, in the case of a teacher removal.

At the conference, the appropriate administrator will inform the student, orally or in writing, of the reasons for requesting removal and will give the student an explanation of the basis for the removal and an opportunity to respond to the reasons for the removal.

A *placement* conference will be scheduled by the District Hearing Committee as soon as possible.

*Until a placement conference can be held, the student may be placed in another appropriate classroom, in-school suspension, or out-of-school suspension. The student may not be returned to the regular classroom pending the placement conference.*

Following valid attempts to require attendance, the district may hold the *placement* conference and make a placement decision regardless of whether the student or the student's parents attend the conference.

### **Placement Order**

After the *placement* conference, if the student is placed in the DAEP, the District Hearing Committee will write a placement order. A copy of the DAEP placement order will be sent to the student and the student's parent.

Not later than the second business day after the conference, the District Hearing Committee will deliver to the juvenile court a copy of the placement order and all information required by Section 52.04 of the Family Code.

If the student is placed in the DAEP and the length of placement is inconsistent with the guidelines included in this Code, the placement order will give notice of the inconsistency.

### **Length of Placement**

The duration of a student's placement in a DAEP will be determined by the District Hearing Committee.

The duration of a student's placement will be determined on a case-by-case basis. DAEP placement will be correlated to the seriousness of the offense, the student's age and grade level, the frequency of misconduct, the student's attitude, and statutory requirements.

The maximum period of DAEP placement shall be one calendar year except as provided below.

*If during the term of DAEP placement the student engages in additional misconduct, additional conferences may be conducted and additional discipline may be imposed.*

### **Exceeds One Year**

Placement in a DAEP may exceed one year when a review by the district determines that:

1. The student is a threat to the safety of other students or to district employees, or
2. Extended placement is in the best interest of the student.

The statutory limitations on the length of a DAEP placement do not apply to a placement resulting from the District Hearing Committee's decision to place a student who engaged in the sexual assault of another student so that the students are not assigned to the same campus.

### **Exceeds School Year**

Students who commit offenses requiring placement in a DAEP at the end of one school year may be required to continue that placement at the start of the next school year to complete the assigned term of placement.

For placement in a DAEP to extend beyond the end of the school year, the District Hearing Committee must determine that:

1. The student's presence in the regular classroom or campus presents a danger of physical harm to the student or others, or
2. The student has engaged in serious or persistent misbehavior (see glossary) that violates the district's Code.

### **Exceeds 60 Days**

For placement in a DAEP to extend beyond 60 days or the end of the next grading period, whichever is sooner, a student's parent will be given notice and the opportunity to participate in a proceeding before the District Hearing Committee.

### **Appeals**

Questions or complaints from parents regarding disciplinary measures should be addressed to the campus administration, in accordance with policy FNG (LOCAL). A copy of this policy may be obtained from the principal's office or the central administration office or through Policy On Line at the following address: [www.woccisd.net](http://www.woccisd.net).

Disciplinary consequences will not be deferred pending the outcome of an appeal. The decision to place a student in a DAEP cannot be appealed beyond the board.

### **Restrictions during Placement**

Students assigned to DAEP will be required to attend at least 90% of the assignment length. *In order for a day to count toward the DAEP assignment, the student must be present for the entire day, arrive on time, complete all assignments, and not engage in additional violations of this Code.* The length of assignment will be adjusted if the student accrues excessive absences.

State law prohibits a student placed in a DAEP for *any mandatory or discretionary* reasons ~~specified in state law~~ from attending or participating in school-sponsored or school-related extracurricular activities. *This restriction applies until the student fulfills the DAEP assignment at this or another school district.*

The district will provide transportation to students in a DAEP.

~~For~~ *Graduating* seniors who *are in DAEP during the last week of school and whose DAEP placement extends through the last instructional day, assigned to a DAEP who are eligible to graduate and the placement in the program will continue through graduation the student* will not be allowed to participate in the graduation ceremony and related graduation activities *unless otherwise specified in the DAEP placement order.*

### **Placement Review**

A student placed in a DAEP will be provided a review of his or her status, including academic status, by the District Hearing Committee at intervals not to exceed 120 days. In the case of a high school student, the student's progress toward graduation and the student's graduation plan will also be reviewed. At the review, the student or the student's parent will be given the opportunity to present arguments for the student's return

to the regular classroom or campus. The student may not be returned to the classroom of a teacher who removed the student without that teacher's consent.

### ***Additional Misconduct***

If during the term of placement in a DAEP the student engages in additional conduct for which placement in a DAEP or expulsion is required or permitted, additional proceedings may be conducted, and the appropriate administrator may enter an additional disciplinary order as a result of those proceedings.

### ***Notice of Criminal Proceedings***

The office of the prosecuting attorney will notify the district if a student was placed in a DAEP for certain offenses including any felony, unlawful restraint, indecent exposure, assault, deadly conduct, terroristic threats, organized crime, certain drug offenses, or possession of a weapon, and:

1. Prosecution of a student's case was refused for lack of prosecutorial merit or insufficient evidence and no formal proceedings, deferred adjudication (see glossary), or deferred prosecution will be initiated; or
2. The court or jury found a student not guilty, or made a finding that the student did not engage in delinquent conduct or conduct indicating a need for supervision, and the case was dismissed with prejudice.

If a student was placed in a DAEP for such conduct, on receiving the notice from the prosecutor, the District Hearing Committee will review the student's placement and schedule a review with the student's parent not later than the third day after the District Hearing Committee receives notice from the prosecutor. The student may not be returned to the regular classroom pending the review.

After reviewing the notice and receiving information from the student's parent, the District Hearing Committee may continue the student's placement if there is reason to believe that the presence of the student in the regular classroom threatens the safety of other students or teachers.

The student or the student's parent may appeal to the Superintendent the District Hearing Committee's decision. The student may not be returned to the regular classroom pending the appeal. In the case of an appeal, the Superintendent will schedule a meeting, review the notice from the prosecutor and receive information from the student, the student's parent, and the District Hearing Committee, and confirm or reverse the decision of the Committee. The Superintendent will make a record of the proceedings.

If the Superintendent confirms the decision of the District Hearing Committee, the student and the student's parent may appeal to the Board. The student may not be returned to the regular classroom pending the appeal.

### ***Withdrawal during Process***

When a student violates the district's Code in a way that requires or permits the student to be placed in a DAEP and the student withdraws from the district before a placement order is completed, the district may complete the proceedings and issue a placement order. If the student then reenrolls in the district during the same or a subsequent school year, the district may enforce the order at that time, less any period of the placement that has been served by the student during enrollment in another district. If the appropriate administrator or the board fails to issue a placement order after the student withdraws, the next district in which the student enrolls may complete the proceedings and issue a placement order.

### ***Newly Enrolled Students***

The district will continue the DAEP placement of a student who enrolls in the district and was assigned to DAEP in an open-enrollment charter school or another district.

A newly enrolled student with a DAEP placement from a district in another state will be placed as any other newly enrolled student if the behavior committed is a reason for DAEP placement in the receiving district.

If the student was placed in a DAEP by a school district in another state for a period that exceeds one year, this district, by state law, will reduce the period of the placement so that the total placement does not exceed one year. After a review, however, the placement may be extended beyond a year if the district determines that the student is a threat to the safety of other students or employees or the extended placement is in the best interest of the student.

## ***Emergency Placement Procedure***

When an emergency placement occurs, the student will be given oral notice of the reason for the action. Not later than the tenth day after the date of the placement, the student will be given the appropriate District Hearing required for assignment to a DAEP.

## ***Placement and/or Expulsion for Certain Serious Offenses***

This section includes two categories of serious offenses for which the Education Code provides unique procedures and specific consequences.

### ***Registered Sex Offenders***

Upon receiving notification in accordance with state law that a student is currently required to register as a sex offender, the administration must remove the student from the regular classroom and determine appropriate placement unless the court orders JJAEP placement.

If the student is under any form of court supervision, including probation, community supervision, or parole, the placement will be in either DAEP or JJAEP for at least one semester.

If the student is not under any form of court supervision, the placement may be in DAEP or JJAEP for one semester or the placement may be in a regular classroom. The placement may not be in the regular classroom if the board or its designee determines that the student's presence:

1. Threatens the safety of other students or teachers,
2. Will be detrimental to the educational process, or
3. Is not in the best interests of the district's students.

### **Review Committee**

At the end of the first semester of a student's placement in an alternative educational setting and before the beginning of each school year for which the student remains in an alternative placement, the district shall convene a committee, in accordance with state law, to review the student's placement. The committee will recommend whether the student should return to the regular classroom or remain in the placement. Absent a special finding, the board or its designee must follow the committee's recommendation.

The placement review of a student with a disability who receives special education services must be made by the ARD committee.

### **Newly Enrolled Student**

If a student enrolls in the district during a mandatory placement as a registered sex offender, the district may count any time already spent by the student in a placement or may require an additional semester in an alternative placement without conducting a review of the placement.

### **Appeal**

A student or the student's parent may appeal the placement by requesting a conference with the superintendent, the student, and the student's parent. The conference is limited to the factual question of whether the student is required to register as a sex offender. Any decision of the superintendent under this section is final and may not be appealed.

### ***Certain Felonies***

Regardless of whether placement or expulsion is required or permitted by one of the reasons in the DAEP Placement or Expulsion sections, in accordance with Education Code 37.0081, a student **may** be expelled and placed in either DAEP or JJAEP if the board or its designee makes certain findings and the following circumstances exist in relation to a felony offense under Title 5 (see glossary) of the Texas Penal Code. The student must:

- Have received deferred prosecution for conduct defined as a Title 5 felony offense;
- Have been found by a court or jury to have engaged in delinquent conduct for conduct defined as a Title 5 felony offense;

- Have been charged with engaging in conduct defined as a Title 5 felony offense;
- Have been referred to a juvenile court for allegedly engaging in delinquent conduct for conduct defined as a Title 5 felony offense; or
- Have received probation or deferred adjudication or have been arrested for, charged with, or convicted of a Title 5 felony offense.

The district may expel the student and order placement under these circumstances regardless of:

1. The date on which the student's conduct occurred,
2. The location at which the conduct occurred,
3. Whether the conduct occurred while the student was enrolled in the district, or
4. Whether the student has successfully completed any court disposition requirements imposed in connection with the conduct.

### **Hearing and Required Findings**

The student must first have a hearing before the District Hearing Committee, who must determine that in addition to the circumstances above that allow for the expulsion, the student's presence in the regular classroom:

1. Threatens the safety of other students or teachers,
2. Will be detrimental to the educational process, or
3. Is not in the best interest of the district's students.

Any decision of the Hearing Committee under this section is final and may not be appealed.

### **Length of Placement**

The student is subject to the placement until:

1. The student graduates from high school,
2. The charges are dismissed or reduced to a misdemeanor offense, or
3. The student completes the term of the placement or is assigned to another program.

### **Newly Enrolled Students**

A student who enrolls in the district before completing a placement under this section from another school district must complete the term of the placement.

## **Expulsion**

### ***Discretionary Expulsion: Misconduct That May Result in Expulsion***

In deciding whether to order expulsion, the district will take into consideration:

1. Self-defense (see glossary),
2. Intent or lack of intent at the time the student engaged in the conduct, and
3. The student's disciplinary history.

A student **may** be expelled for:

### **Discretionary Expulsion: Misconduct That May Result in Expulsion**

#### **Any Location**

- Engaging in the following : ~~no matter where it takes place:  
Conduct that contains the elements of assault under Penal Code 22.01(a)(1) in retaliation against a school employee or volunteer.~~

- *Engaging in retaliation against a school employee or volunteer by committing a state-mandated expellable offense, regardless of location.*
- Criminal mischief, if punishable as a felony.
- Engaging in conduct that contains the elements of one of the following offenses against another student, without regard to where the conduct occurs:
  - Aggravated assault.
  - Sexual assault.
  - Aggravated sexual assault.
  - Murder.
  - Capital murder.
  - Criminal attempt to commit murder or capital murder.
  - Aggravated robbery.
- Engaging in conduct relating to a false alarm or report (including a bomb threat) or a terroristic threat involving a public school (*police report is to be filed*).
- *Engaging in online harassment in violation of Tex Penal Code 33.07*

#### **At School, Within 300 Feet, or at School Event**

- Committing any of the following offenses on or within 300 feet of school property, as measured from any point on the school's real property boundary line, or while attending a school-sponsored or school-related activity on or off school property:
  - Selling, giving, or delivering to another person, or possessing, using, or being under the influence of marijuana, a controlled substance, or a dangerous drug, if the conduct is not punishable as a felony.
  - Selling, giving, or delivering to another person, or possessing, using, or being under the influence of alcohol; or committing a serious act or offense while under the influence of alcohol, if the conduct is not punishable as a felony.
  - Engaging in conduct that contains the elements of an offense relating to abusable volatile chemicals.
  - Engaging in conduct that contains the elements of assault under Section 22.01(a) (1) against an employee or a volunteer.
  - Engaging in deadly conduct. (See glossary)

#### **Within 300 Feet of School**

- Engaging in the following conduct while within 300 feet of school property, as measured from any point on the school's real property boundary line:
  - Aggravated assault, sexual assault, or aggravated sexual assault.
  - Arson.
  - Murder, capital murder, or criminal attempt to commit murder or capital murder.
  - Indecency with a child, aggravated kidnapping, manslaughter, criminally negligent homicide, or aggravated robbery.
  - Continuous sexual abuse of a young child or children
  - Felony drug- or alcohol-related offense.
  - Use, exhibition, or possession of a firearm (as defined by state law), an illegal knife, a club, or prohibited weapon, or possession of a firearm (as defined by federal law).

#### **Property of Another District**

Committing any offense that is a state-mandated expellable offense if the offense is committed on the property of another district in Texas or while the student is attending a school-sponsored or school-related activity of a school in another district in Texas.



## While in DAEP

Engaging in serious offenses or persistent misbehavior (see glossary) that violates the district's Code, while placed in a DAEP.

### ***Mandatory Expulsion: Misconduct That Requires Expulsion***

A student **must** be expelled for any of the following offenses that occur on school property or while attending a school-sponsored or school-related activity on or off school property:

#### **Federal Law**

- Bringing to school a firearm, as defined by federal law. "Firearm" under federal law includes:
  - Any weapon (including a starter gun) that will, is designed to, or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive.
  - The frame or receiver of any such weapon.
  - Any firearm muffler or firearm weapon.
  - Any destructive device, such as any explosive, incendiary or poison gas bomb, or grenade.

#### **Texas Penal Code**

- Using, exhibiting, or possessing the following, as defined by the Texas Penal Code:
  - A firearm (any device designed, made, or adapted to expel a projectile through a barrel by using the energy generated by an explosion or burning substance or any device readily convertible to that use).
  - An illegal knife, such as a knife with a blade over 5½ inches; hand instrument, designed to cut or stab another by being thrown; dagger, including but not limited to a dirk, stiletto, and poniard; bowie knife; sword; or spear.
  - A club (see glossary) such as an instrument specially designed, made, or adapted for the purpose of inflicting serious bodily injury or death by striking a person with the instrument, including a blackjack, nightstick, mace, and tomahawk.
  - A prohibited weapon, such as an explosive weapon, a machine gun, a short-barrel firearm, a firearm silencer, a switchblade knife (including knives which are one handed openers or assisted openers, or otherwise designed to be opened by one-handed operation), knuckles, armor-piercing ammunition, a chemical dispensing device, or a zip gun. (See glossary)
- Behaving in a manner that contains elements of the following offenses under the Texas Penal Code:
  - Aggravated assault, sexual assault, or aggravated sexual assault.
  - Arson. (See glossary)
  - Murder, capital murder, or criminal attempt to commit murder or capital murder.
  - Indecency with a child.
  - Aggravated kidnapping.
  - Aggravated robbery.
  - Manslaughter.
  - Criminally negligent homicide.
  - Continuous sexual abuse of a young child or children.
  - *While on school property or within 300 feet of school property as measured from any point or the district's real property boundary line, or while attending a school-sponsored or school-related activity on or off school property, the student engages in B-behavior punishable as a felony that involves selling, giving, or delivering to another person, or possessing, using, or being under the influence of marijuana, a controlled substance, a dangerous drug, or alcohol; or committing a serious act or offense while under the influence of alcohol.*

- ~~Engaging in retaliation against a school employee or volunteer combined with one of the above-listed mandatory expulsion offenses, with the exception of a federal firearm offense, on or off school property or at school-related activity.~~
- *Conduct that contains the elements of assault resulting in bodily injury under Penal Code 22.01(a)(1) to a school employee or volunteer.*

### **Under Age Ten**

When a student under the age of ten engages in behavior that is expellable behavior, the student will not be expelled, but will be placed in a DAEP. A student under age six will not be placed in a DAEP unless the student commits a federal firearm offense.

### **Emergency**

In an emergency, the principal or the principal's designee may order the immediate expulsion of a student for any reason for which expulsion **may** be made on a nonemergency basis. *At the time of an emergency placement or expulsion, the student shall be given oral notice of the reason for the action. The reason must be a reason for which placement in a disciplinary alternative education program or expulsion may be made on a nonemergency basis. Within a reasonable time after the emergency placement or expulsion, but not later than the 10<sup>th</sup> day after the date of the placement or expulsion, the student shall be accorded the appropriate due process as required under section 37.009*

### **Process**

If a student is believed to have committed an expellable offense, the principal or other appropriate administrator will notify the District Hearing Committee and a hearing will be scheduled within ~~a reasonable time~~ *three days*. The student's parent will be invited in writing to attend the hearing.

Until a hearing can be held, the principal may place the student in:

- Another appropriate classroom
- In-school suspension
- Out-of-school suspension
- DAEP

### **Hearing**

A student facing expulsion will be given a District Hearing with appropriate due process. The student is entitled to:

1. Representation by the student's parent or another adult who can provide guidance to the student and who is not an employee of the district,
2. An opportunity to testify and to present evidence and witnesses in the student's defense, and
3. An opportunity to question the district's witnesses.

After providing notice to the student and parent of the hearing, the district may hold the hearing regardless of whether the student or the student's parent attends.

The Superintendent or Superintendent's designee (District Hearing Committee) has authority to conduct hearings and expel students.

### **Superintendent Review of Expulsion**

After the due process hearing, the expelled student may request that the Superintendent review the expulsion decision. The student or parent must submit a written request to the superintendent within ~~15~~ **7** workdays after receipt of the written decision. The superintendent must provide the student or parent written notice of the date, time, and place of the meeting at which the Superintendent will review the decision.

The Superintendent will review the record of the expulsion hearing and may also hear a statement from the student or parent.

The Superintendent may hear statements made by the parties at the review and will base his/her decision on evidence reflected in the record and any statements made by the parties at the review. The Superintendent will make and communicate his/her decision in writing to the parents. Consequences will not be deferred pending the outcome of the hearing.

## **Expulsion Order**

After the due process hearing, if the student is expelled, the Superintendent or District Hearing Committee will deliver to the student and the student's parent a copy of the order expelling the student.

Not later than the second business day after the hearing, the District Hearing Committee will deliver to the juvenile court a copy of the expulsion order and the information required by Section 52.04 of the Family Code.

If the length of the expulsion is inconsistent with the guidelines included in the Student Code of Conduct, the expulsion order will give notice of the inconsistency.

## ***Length of Expulsion***

The length of an expulsion will be correlated to the seriousness of the offense, the student's age and grade level, the frequency of misbehavior, the student's attitude, and statutory requirements.

The duration of a student's expulsion will be determined on a case-by-case basis. The maximum period of expulsion is one calendar year except as provided below.

An expulsion may not exceed one year unless, after review, the district determines that:

1. The student is a threat to the safety of other students or to district employees, or
2. Extended expulsion is in the best interest of the student.

State and federal law require a student to be expelled from the regular classroom for a period of at least one calendar year for bringing a firearm, as defined by federal law, to school. However, the superintendent or other appropriate administrator may modify the length of the expulsion on a case-by-case basis.

Students who commit offenses that require expulsion at the end of one school year may be expelled into the next school year to complete the term of expulsion.

## ***Withdrawal during Process***

When a student has violated the district's Code in a way that requires or permits expulsion from the district and the student withdraws from the district before the expulsion hearing takes place, the district may conduct the hearing after sending written notice to the parent and student.

If the student then reenrolls in the district during the same or subsequent school year, the district may enforce the expulsion order at that time, less any expulsion period that has been served by the student during enrollment in another district.

If the appropriate administrator fails to issue an expulsion order after the student withdraws, the next district in which the student enrolls may complete the proceedings.

## ***Additional Misconduct***

If during the expulsion, the student engages in additional conduct for which placement in a DAEP or expulsion is required or permitted, additional proceedings may be conducted, and the appropriate administrator may issue an additional disciplinary order as a result of those proceedings.

## ***Restrictions during Expulsion***

Expelled students are prohibited from being on school grounds or attending school-sponsored or school-related activities during the period of expulsion.

No district academic credit will be earned for work missed during the period of expulsion unless the student is enrolled in a JJAEP or another district-approved program.

## ***Newly Enrolled Students***

The district will continue the expulsion of any newly enrolled student expelled from another district or an open-enrollment charter school until the period of the expulsion is completed.

If a student expelled in another state enrolls in the district, the district may continue the expulsion under the terms of the expulsion order, may place the student in a DAEP for the period specified in the order, or may allow the student to attend regular classes if:

1. The out-of-state district provides the district with a copy of the expulsion order, and
2. The offense resulting in the expulsion is also an expellable offense in the district in which the student is enrolling.

If a student is expelled by a district in another state for a period that exceeds one year and the district continues the expulsion or places the student in a DAEP, the district will reduce the period of the expulsion or DAEP placement so that the entire period does not exceed one year, unless after a review it is determined that:

1. The student is a threat to the safety of other students or district employees, or
2. Extended placement is in the best interest of the student.

### ***Emergency Expulsion Procedures***

When an emergency expulsion occurs, the student will be given verbal notice of the reason for the action. Within ten days after the date of the emergency expulsion, the student will be given appropriate due process required for a student facing expulsion.

### ***DAEP Placement of Expelled Students***

The district may provide educational services to any expelled student in a DAEP; however, educational services in the DAEP must be provided if the student is less than ten years of age.

## **Glossary**

The glossary provides legal definitions and locally established definitions and is intended to assist in understanding terms related to the Student Code of Conduct.

**Abuse is improper or excessive use.**

**Armor-piercing ammunition** is handgun ammunition used in pistols and revolvers and designed primarily for the purpose of penetrating metal or body armor.

**Arson** is a crime that involves starting a fire or causing an explosion with intent to destroy or damage:

1. Any vegetation, fence, or structure on open-space land; or
2. Any building, habitation, or vehicle:
  - Knowing that it is within the limits of an incorporated city or town;
  - Knowing that it is insured against damage or destruction;
  - Knowing that it is subject to a mortgage or other security interest;
  - Knowing that it is located on property belonging to another;
  - Knowing that it has located within it property belonging to another; or
  - When the person starting the fire is reckless about whether the burning or explosion will endanger the life of some individual or the safety of the property of another.

**Assault** is defined in part by Texas Penal Code 22.01(a)(1) as intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly causing bodily injury (*physical pain, illness, or impairment of a physical condition*) to another.

**Bullying** is written or oral expression or physical conduct that a school district's board of trustees or the board's designee determines:

1. To 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. To be sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive *so that the action of threat, ~~to~~ creates* an intimidating, threatening, or abusive educational environment for a student.

**Chemical dispensing device** is a device designed, made, or adapted for the purpose of causing an adverse psychological or physiological effect on a human being. A small chemical dispenser sold commercially for personal protection is not in this category.

**Club** is an instrument specially designed, made, or adapted for the purpose of inflicting serious bodily injury or death. A blackjack, *nightstick*, mace, and tomahawk are in the same category.

**Criminal Street gang** is *an associate of* three or more persons *including students, who have having* a common identifying sign or symbol or an identifiable leadership *which seeks to perpetuate itself by taking in additional members on the basis of the decision of the membership rather than on the free choice of the*

*individual, and which who* continuously or regularly associate in the commission of criminal *and/or violent* activities.

**Dating violence** is the intentional use of physical, sexual, verbal, or emotional abuse by a person to harm, threaten, intimidate, or control another person with who the student has or has had a dating relationship, as defined by Section 71.0021 of the Family Code.

**Deadly conduct** occurs when a person recklessly engages in conduct that places another in imminent danger of serious bodily injury, such as knowingly discharging a firearm in the direction of an individual, habitation, building, or vehicle.

**Deferred adjudication** is an alternative to seeking a conviction in court that may be offered to a juvenile for delinquent conduct or conduct indicating a need for supervision.

**Deferred prosecution** may be offered to a juvenile as an alternative to seeking a conviction in court for delinquent conduct or conduct indicating a need for supervision.

**Delinquent conduct** is conduct that violates either state or federal law and is punishable by imprisonment or confinement in jail. It includes conduct that violates certain juvenile court orders, including probation orders, but does not include violations of traffic laws.

**Discretionary** means that something is left to or regulated by a local decision maker.

**Explosive weapon** is any explosive or incendiary bomb, grenade, rocket, or mine and its delivery mechanism that is designed, made, or adapted for the purpose of inflicting serious bodily injury, death, or substantial property damage, or for the principal purpose of causing such a loud report as to cause undue public alarm or terror.

**False Alarm or Report** occurs when a person knowingly initiates, communicates, or circulates a report of a present, past, or future bombing, fire, offense, or other emergency that he or she knows is false or baseless and that would ordinarily:

1. Cause action by an official or volunteer agency organized to deal with emergencies;
2. Place a person in fear of imminent serious bodily injury; or
3. Prevent or interrupt the occupation of a building, room, or place of assembly.

**Graffiti** are markings with aerosol paint or an indelible pen or marker on tangible property without the effective consent of the owner. The markings may include inscriptions, slogans, drawings, or paintings.

**Harassment** is:

1. Conduct that meets the definition established in district policies DIA(LOCAL) and FFH(LOCAL); or
2. Conduct that threatens to cause harm or bodily injury to another student, is sexually intimidating, causes physical damage to the property of another student, subjects another student to physical confinement or restraint, or maliciously and substantially harms another student's physical or emotional health or safety.

**Hazing** is an intentional or reckless act, on or off campus, by one person alone or acting with others, that endangers the mental or physical health or safety of a student for the purpose of pledging, initiation into, affiliation with, holding office in, or maintaining membership in an organization.

**Hit list** is a list of people targeted to be harmed, using a firearm, a knife, or any other object to be used with intent to cause bodily harm.

*Illegal Knife is a knife with a blade over 5 ½ inches; hand instrument designed to cut or stab another by being thrown; dagger, including but not limited to a dirk, stiletto, and poniard; bowie knife, sword; or spear.*

**Knuckles** is any instrument consisting of finger rings or guards made of a hard substance and designed or *made or* adapted for *the purpose of* inflicting serious bodily injury or death by striking a person with a fist enclosed in the knuckles.

**Machine gun** is any firearm that is capable of shooting more than two shots automatically, without manual reloading, by a single function of the trigger.

**Mandatory** means that something is obligatory or required because of an authority.

**Paraphernalia** are *articles or* devices that can be used for inhaling, ingesting, injecting, or otherwise introducing *marijuana*, a controlled substance, *or dangerous drug* into a human body, *including but not limited to roach clips, rolling paper, needles, baggies with residue, razor blades, or pipes.*

**Persistent misbehavior** is ~~three~~ **two** or more violations of the Code in general or repeated occurrences of the same violation.

**Possession** means to have an item on one's person or in one's personal property, including but not limited to clothing, purse, or backpack; a private vehicle used for transportation to or from school or school-related activities, including but not limited to an automobile, truck, motorcycle, or bicycle; or any other school property used by the student, including but not limited to a locker or desk, *regardless of the student's knowledge or intent to possess the item.*

**Public school fraternity, sorority, secret society, or gang** means an organization composed wholly or in part of students that seeks to perpetuate itself by taking additional members from the students enrolled in school based on a decision of its membership rather than on the free choice of a qualified student. Educational organizations listed in rather than on the free choice of a qualified student. Educational organizations listed in Section 37.121 (d) of the Education Code are excepted from this definition.

**Reasonable belief** is a determination made by the superintendent or designee using all available information, including the information furnished under Article 15.27 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

*Retaliation means to harm or threaten to harm another, (1) on account of their service as a district employee or volunteer; (2) to prevent or delay another's service to the district; or (3) because the person intends to report a crime.*

~~**Self-defense** is the use of force against another to the degree a person reasonably believes the force is immediately necessary to protect himself or herself occurs when the person who is not the aggressor in an encounter uses the minimum force required to remove himself or herself from immediate danger of harm. Actions that escalate or continue the encounter will not be self-defense.~~

**Serious offenses** include but are not limited to:

- Murder.
- Vandalism.
- Robbery or theft.
- Extortion, coercion, or blackmail.
- Actions or demonstrations that substantially disrupt or materially interfere with school activities.
- Hazing.
- Insubordination.
- Profanity, vulgar language, or obscene gestures.
- Fighting, committing physical abuse, or threatening physical abuse.
- Possession or distribution of pornographic materials.
- Leaving school grounds without permission.
- Sexual harassment of a student or district employee.
- Possession of or conspiracy to possess any explosive or explosive device.
- Falsification of records, passes, or other school-related documents.
- Refusal to accept discipline assigned by the teacher or principal.

**Short-barrel firearm** is a rifle with a barrel length of less than 16 inches or a shotgun with a barrel length of less than 18 inches, or any weapon made from a rifle or shotgun that, as altered, has an overall length of less than 26 inches.

**Switchblade** is any knife with a blade that folds, closes, or retracts into the handle or sheath and that opens automatically by pressing a button or by the force of gravity or centrifugal force. The term switchblade knife includes knives designed to be opened by one-handed operation, often referred to as one handed openers or assisted openers.

**Terroristic threat** is a threat of violence to any person or property with intent to:

1. Cause a reaction of any type by an official or volunteer agency organized to deal with emergencies;

2. Place any person in fear of imminent serious bodily injury;
3. Prevent or interrupt the occupation or use of a building; room, place of assembly, or place to which the public has access; place of employment or occupation; aircraft, automobile, or other form of conveyance; or other public place;
4. Cause impairment or interruption of public communications, public transportation, public water, gas, or power supply or other public service;
5. Place the public or a substantial group of the public in fear of serious bodily injury; or
6. Influence the conduct or activities of a branch or agency of the federal government, the state, or a political subdivision of the state (including the district).

**Title 5 offenses** are those that involve injury to a person and include murder; kidnapping; assault; sexual assault; unlawful restraint; coercing, soliciting, or inducing gang membership if it causes bodily injury to a child; indecency with a child; injury to a child, an elderly person, or a disabled person; abandoning or endangering a child; deadly conduct; terroristic threat; aiding a person to commit suicide; and tampering with a consumer product. [See FOC (EXHIBIT)]

**Under the influence** means lacking the normal use of mental or physical faculties. Impairment of a person's physical or mental faculties may be evidenced by a pattern of abnormal or erratic behavior ~~or~~ the presence of physical symptoms of drug or alcohol use, or by admission. A student "under the influence" need not be legally intoxicated to trigger disciplinary action.

**Use** means voluntarily introducing into one's body, by any means, a prohibited substance.

**Zip gun** is a device or combination of devices, not originally a firearm, but adapted to expel a projectile through a smooth-bore or rifled-bore barrel by using the energy generated by an explosion or burning substance.