

Explanatory Notes

TASB Localized Policy Manual Update 123

Smithville ISD

ATTN(NOTE)

GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THIS UPDATE

Please note:

Unless otherwise noted, references to legislative bills throughout these explanatory notes refer to Senate Bills (SB) or House Bills (HB) from the 88th Legislature, regular and special sessions. All referenced bills have already gone into effect unless otherwise noted.

The Local Policy Overview for Update 123, available with your Update 123 materials under [Local Manual Updates](#) on Policy Online® (TASB login required), provides a general, high-level overview of the changes to the local policies included in the update. **Legal policies provide the legal framework for key areas of district operations and are not adopted by the board.**

AIB(LEGAL)

ACCOUNTABILITY: PERFORMANCE REPORTING

The Results Driven Accountability (RDA) section of the policy has been deleted. TEA included RDA information in the Accountability Manual starting in 2023 and repealed the RDA information in the Administrative Code. This change aims to streamline information used in academic accountability and RDA systems.

AIC(LEGAL)

ACCOUNTABILITY: INTERVENTIONS AND SANCTIONS

A citation to the Administrative Code has been included under Student Enrollment and Assignment, Enrollment Provision in Contract, regarding campuses that are closed and repurposed.

As 19 TAC 97.2005 has been repealed, the reference to Results Driven Accountability has been deleted from the section on Special Program Performance Determination.

AIE(LEGAL)

ACCOUNTABILITY: INVESTIGATIONS

The word "accreditation" has been removed as a descriptor for investigations in two places within the policy after an amendment to the Administrative Code, effective January 17, 2024.

BBA(LEGAL)

BOARD MEMBERS: ELIGIBILITY/QUALIFICATIONS

At Intent to Return, language from the Election Code has been included to minimize confusion regarding the specific requirements for establishing an intent to return to the individual's residence after a temporary absence.

BBB(LEGAL)

ELECTIONS: POST-ELECTION PROCEDURES

HB 5180 added new requirements for public inspection of election records. A reference has been added at Election Records regarding where to find information on public inspection of those records for districts who serve as custodians of their own election records.

BBD(LOCAL)

BOARD MEMBERS: TRAINING AND ORIENTATION

HB 3033 authorizes the attorney general to require trustees to complete training on the Public Information Act if the attorney general finds that there has been a violation of the Act. Language is recommended to make clear that this training after a violation cannot be delegated to the district's Public Information Act coordinator.

BBFA(LOCAL)

ETHICS: CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURES

Language is recommended to clarify that a trustee's ethical duty to disclose a financial or other personal interest in board transactions goes beyond the statutory conflicts of interest set out in state and federal law. The added language serves to demonstrate a commitment to avoid undue influence, increase transparency, and avoid the appearance of impropriety in public dealings.

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CCG(LLEGAL)

LOCAL REVENUE SOURCES: AD VALOREM TAXES

HB 3273, effective January 1, 2024, revised the Tax Code and requires a taxing unit, including a school district, to provide specific notice to property owners on its website. These provisions have been included in the Appraisal District Property Tax Database section of the policy.

CCGA(LLEGAL)

AD VALOREM TAXES: EXEMPTIONS AND PAYMENTS

This policy has been updated to indicate that a board that adopted an exemption for the 2022 tax year may not reduce the amount or repeal that exemption based on SB 2 from the second special session of the 88th Legislature. [See Homestead, Local Options.]

HB 4559, from the 88th regular session, increased the population range for certain districts to provide that the split payment option does not apply to the district's taxes collected by another taxing unit that has adopted that option. [See Split Payments, In Certain Counties.]

CCGB(LLEGAL)

AD VALOREM TAXES: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

HB 4559 increased the population threshold for determining a large municipality for provisions related to the appointment of reinvestment zone board members. [See Tax Increment Financing Act, Large Municipality.]

Substantial changes have also been made based on HB 5 to incorporate the Texas Jobs, Energy, Technology, and Innovation Act.

CCGB(LLOCAL)

AD VALOREM TAXES: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Substantial changes are recommended to remove provisions addressing expired laws related to Tax Code Chapter 313 agreements. If your district consulted with legal counsel to revise this policy, we recommend discussing the proposed revisions with them. If the district's agreements have expired completely, please contact your policy consultant for additional revisions.

CKB(LLEGAL)

SAFETY PROGRAM/RISK MANAGEMENT: ACCIDENT PREVENTION AND REPORTS

TEA's amendments to the Administrative Code rules for mandatory school drills necessitated reorganization of definitions and added clarity to several sections of the policy. Changes in this policy also reflect TEA's amendments to the Administrative Code rules related to active threat exercises.

CKC(LLOCAL)

SAFETY PROGRAM/RISK MANAGEMENT: EMERGENCY PLANS

A section on Notice Regarding Violent Activity is recommended to comply with legal requirements. Administrative procedures must be created to align with TEA's model standards.

CKE(LLOCAL)

SAFETY PROGRAM/RISK MANAGEMENT: SECURITY PERSONNEL

To address in one policy all security arrangements a district may have implemented, we have added CKE(LLOCAL) and moved the relevant provisions from CKEC(LLOCAL) to this code.

Significant revisions are recommended to the CKE policy series to promote compliance and clarification with HB 3 and other legal requirements.

Provisions relating to school resource officers have been edited to clarify that a district may have agreements with multiple law enforcement agencies depending on district needs and jurisdiction. A statement regarding the jurisdiction of school resource officers has been added. The policy also now includes a list of authority and duties as reflected in the controlling memorandum of understanding.

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Based on the district's security survey responses, new provisions have been added to address the jurisdiction of contracted security officers, the authorization process for such officers to possess firearms, the revocation of authority to possess a firearm, the duties of contracted security officers, and topics on which these officers will be trained.

The Legal Issues in Update 123 memo, available with your Update 123 materials under [Local Manual Updates](#) on Policy Online (TASB login required), describes common legal concerns and best practices specific to this policy's topic.

CKEC(LOCAL) SECURITY PERSONNEL: SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS

To address in one policy all security arrangements the district has implemented, we have deleted this policy and moved the provisions to CKE(LOCAL).

CKED(LEGAL) SECURITY PERSONNEL: OTHER SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS

The provisions of this policy address commissioned security officers with Level III training under the Department of Public Safety hired through a security services contractor or as a district employee in accordance with the Education Code and the Occupations Code.

CMD(LEGAL) EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES MANAGEMENT: INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS CARE AND ACCOUNTING

Cross-references throughout this policy have been updated to EFA since policy EF has been separated into EFA (instructional materials) and EFB (library materials).

CPC(LEGAL) OFFICE MANAGEMENT: RECORDS MANAGEMENT

Edits to this policy at Destruction of Records remove a reference to 13 TAC 7.123(c), which was deleted from Texas State Library and Archives Commission rules, effective March 6, 2024.

CQA(LEGAL) TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES: DISTRICT, CAMPUS, AND CLASSROOM WEBSITES

HB 3273, effective January 1, 2024, requires school districts to post a notice informing property owners of the property tax database maintained by the appraisal district. Language has been added at item 28 under the section on Other Required Internet Postings.

CQC(LEGAL) TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES: EQUIPMENT

A section on Guidelines for Use of Digital Devices has been added to address the TEA and Health and Human Services Commission model health and safety guidelines for the use of digital devices, which are required by the Education Code and were issued in October 2023.

CQC(LOCAL) TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES: EQUIPMENT

This new local policy is recommended to meet the legal requirement for the board to adopt a policy for the effective integration of digital devices in the district. The policy language adopts the model health and safety guidelines developed by TEA and the Health and Human Services Commission and clarifies that the superintendent must develop regulations for implementation.

DGBA(LOCAL) PERSONNEL-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS: EMPLOYEE COMPLAINTS/GRIEVANCES

Extensive revisions within the CKE policy series necessitated an update to the cross-reference in the list of other complaint processes.

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Also, to accommodate planned restructuring of policy DIA, we have revised the references to that code in this policy to reflect the DIA series. No other changes have been made to this policy.

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DHE(LEGAL) EMPLOYEE STANDARDS OF CONDUCT: SEARCHES AND ALCOHOL/DRUG TESTING

New Department of Transportation rules amend the department's regulated industry drug testing program. The language in the Reports to DPS section has been amended for clarity.

DNA(LEGAL) PERFORMANCE APPRAISAL: EVALUATION OF TEACHERS

Amendments to the Administrative Code allow districts to begin using the Alternate Domain I rubric as part of the Texas Teacher Evaluation and Support System (T-TESS) beginning with the 2024-25 school year. Language has been updated to reflect this change.

DP(LEGAL) PERSONNEL POSITIONS

The section on School Psychological Services has been amended to provide additional clarity and to set out the correct title for licensed specialists in school psychology (LSSPs) as indicated in the Administrative Code.

EEH(LOCAL) INSTRUCTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS: HOMEBOUND INSTRUCTION

TEA's revisions to the *Student Attendance Accounting Handbook (SAAH)* prompted recommended updates to this policy. Students may now receive homebound services for psychological, as well as medical, conditions. The *SAAH* also indicates that the weeks of confinement due to a medical or psychological condition do not need to be consecutive to qualify. The policy language has been updated to reflect this change.

EF(LEGAL) INSTRUCTIONAL RESOURCES

In order to clarify the differences in requirements for instructional materials and library materials, as well as to accommodate the new library collection development standards, policy EF has been divided into EFA (instructional material) and EFB (library material). The content in EF(LEGAL) has moved to either EFA or EFB, as appropriate.

EFA(LEGAL) INSTRUCTIONAL RESOURCES: INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

Content regarding instructional material review and federally required parental inspection has been moved from EF(LEGAL) to EFA(LEGAL).

EFA(LOCAL) INSTRUCTIONAL RESOURCES: INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

Revisions at Selection are recommended to clarify that instructional materials must be chosen in accordance with stated objectives and administrative regulations and may include items from the State Board of Education list.

At Reconsideration of Instructional Materials, the list of individuals who can submit a request for reconsideration has been revised. This change is recommended to align with the list provided in the new EFB(LOCAL), which permits an employee or parent or guardian to submit these requests. If the district would like to expand this list, please contact your policy consultant.

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Please review the information at Formal Reconsideration, which specifies who will receive forms requesting the reconsideration of instructional material and who will appoint a reconsideration committee. If the policy needs to identify a different position for these responsibilities, please contact your policy consultant for assistance with revisions.

The Legal Issues in Update 123 memo, available with your Update 123 materials under [Local Manual Updates](#) on Policy Online (TASB login required), describes common legal concerns and best practices specific to this policy's topic.

EFB(LLEGAL) INSTRUCTIONAL RESOURCES: LIBRARY MATERIALS

EFB(LLEGAL) has been revised to incorporate new library collection development standards adopted by the Texas State Library and Archives Commission (TSLAC), effective January 23, 2024. The policy includes a note regarding the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals enjoinder and the resulting unenforceability of certain statutes related to library material. The TSLAC Library Collection Development Standards are not currently enjoined by the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals.

EFB(LOCAL) INSTRUCTIONAL RESOURCES: LIBRARY MATERIALS

Revisions throughout this policy are to align with changes to the Administrative Code and the new collection development standards for school libraries as a result of HB 900. Please review the following information in your policy:

- The location of the form for formal reconsideration;
- The position for the person responsible for appointing the reconsideration committee; and
- The number of days allocated for appointing the committee, providing the material for review to the committee, and completing the committee's final report.

If any information needs to be updated or if further revisions to the policy are needed, please contact your policy consultant for assistance.

EHBAA(LLEGAL) SPECIAL EDUCATION: IDENTIFICATION, EVALUATION, AND ELIGIBILITY

A cross-reference to policy EHB has been included for additional requirements relating to the evaluation and identification process when dyslexia is a suspected disability. [See Determination of Initial Eligibility.]

EHBAB(LLEGAL) SPECIAL EDUCATION: ARD COMMITTEE AND INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION PROGRAM

The section on Supplemental Special Education Services (SSES) has been revised to reflect amended Administrative Code rules, effective April 18, 2023. The district is required to notify parents of SSES eligibility and related information during an ARD committee meeting.

A provision regarding an IEP supplement for each child who was enrolled in a district's special education program during the 2019-20 school year or the 2020-21 school year has been removed. That requirement expired on September 1, 2023.

EHBE(LLEGAL) SPECIAL PROGRAMS: BILINGUAL EDUCATION/ESL

Extensive revisions have been made throughout this policy to reflect amended rules relating to emergent bilingual students.

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EHBJ(LLEGAL)

SPECIAL PROGRAMS: INNOVATIVE AND MAGNET PROGRAMS

Changes to this policy stem from amended Administrative Code provisions relating to innovative courses. The amended rules became effective February 18, 2024.

EKB(LLEGAL)

TESTING PROGRAMS: STATE ASSESSMENT

Revisions have been made to remove language that does not require district action to aid in readability and clarity. Citations have also been updated based on rule changes.

FA(LLEGAL)

PARENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The cross-reference at Parental Rights relating to teaching materials has been updated to reflect the division of policy EF into EFA and EFB.

FFAC(LLEGAL)

WELLNESS AND HEALTH SERVICES: MEDICAL TREATMENT

A section on Telehealth in Medicaid Covered Services has been added to provide guidance from Administrative Code rules specific to telehealth services authorized as Texas Medicaid covered services.

The section on opioid antagonists has been updated to reflect new rules effective November 1, 2023.

Changes have also been made to the section on epinephrine auto-injectors to reflect amended Administrative Code rules.

Citations throughout have been updated based on rule amendments.

FNG(LLOCAL)

STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES: STUDENT AND PARENT COMPLAINTS/GRIEVANCES

Extensive revisions within the CKE policy series necessitated an update to the cross-reference in the list of other complaint processes.

Also, to accommodate planned restructuring of policy FFH, we have revised the references to that code in this policy to reflect the FFH series. No other changes have been made to this policy.

The Legal Issues in Update 123 memo, available with your Update 123 materials under [Local Manual Updates](#) on Policy Online (TASB login required), describes common legal concerns and best practices specific to this policy's topic.

GBA(LLEGAL)

PUBLIC INFORMATION PROGRAM: ACCESS TO PUBLIC INFORMATION

A cross-reference regarding economic development negotiations under Government Code Chapter 403 has been added.

GF(LLEGAL)

PUBLIC COMPLAINTS

The division of policy EF into EFA and EFB necessitated an update to the cross-reference in this policy.

GF(LLOCAL)

PUBLIC COMPLAINTS

Extensive revisions within the CKE policy series necessitated an update to the cross-reference in the list of other complaint processes. No other changes have been made to this policy.

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GKA(LLEGAL)

COMMUNITY RELATIONS: CONDUCT ON SCHOOL PREMISES

Amendments to the Code of Federal Regulations necessitated changes to the section regarding operation of a small unmanned aircraft system.

GRA(LLEGAL)

RELATIONS WITH GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES: STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL AUTHORITIES

The Definitions section has been revised to reflect amended Administrative Code rules that include school resource officers and contracted police officers in the definition of "school personnel and volunteers."

Language has been added at Notice to School Personnel to provide direction if the superintendent is the individual alleged to have committed child abuse or neglect.

The Students Taken into Custody section has been updated to incorporate appropriate legal citations and improve clarity.