

EMPLOYEE STANDARDS OF CONDUCT

DH
(LOCAL)

An employee shall be courteous to another employee and the public, working together in a cooperative spirit to serve the best interests of the District. An employee wishing to express criticism or professional concerns shall do so through appropriate administrative procedures or the collaborative process. Such expressions shall be considered in light of their relation to the implementation of campus goals and objectives and/or the District's mission. [See BQB and AE]

EachA District employee shall be expected to adhere to the standards of conduct set out in the "Educators' Code of Ethics." [See DH(EXHIBIT)]

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

PARTICIPATION IN
COMMUNITY
ACTIVITIES

An employee of the District shall be encouraged to maintain as many community contacts as possible in order to keep the public informed about the educational program.

Every school employee shall have the privilege and is strongly urged to accept the responsibility of taking an active part in community life. He or she is expected to participate in community activities in such a way to bring credit to the schools.

VIOLATIONS OF
STANDARDS OF
CONDUCT

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

ELECTRONIC MEDIA

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

USE WITH
STUDENTS

In accordance with administrative regulations, a certified or licensed employee, or any other employee designated in writing by the Superintendent or a campus principal, may use electronic media to communicate with currently enrolled students about matters within the scope of the employee's professional responsibilities. All other employees are prohibited from using electronic media to communicate directly with students who are currently enrolled in the District. The regulations shall address:

1. Exceptions for family and social relationships;

EMPLOYEE STANDARDS OF CONDUCT

DH
(LOCAL)

2. The circumstances under which an employee may use text messaging to communicate with students; and
3. Other matters deemed appropriate by the Superintendent or designee.

Each employee shall comply with the District's requirements for records retention and destruction to the extent those requirements apply to electronic media. [See CPC]

PERSONAL USE

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

SAFETY
REQUIREMENTS

Each employee shall adhere to District safety rules and regulations and shall report unsafe conditions or practices to the appropriate supervisor.

HARASSMENT OR
ABUSE

An employee shall not engage in prohibited harassment, including sexual harassment, of:

1. Other employees. [See DIA]
2. Students. [See FFH; see FFG regarding child abuse and neglect]

While acting in the course of employment, an employee shall not engage in prohibited harassment, including sexual harassment, of other persons, including Board members, vendors, contractors, volunteers, or parents.

An employee shall report child abuse or neglect as required by law. [See FFG]

RELATIONSHIPS WITH
STUDENTS

An employee shall not form romantic or other inappropriate social relationships with students. Any sexual relationship between a student and a District employee is always prohibited, even if consensual. [See FFH]

TOBACCO USE

An employee shall not use tobacco products on District premises, in District vehicles, or at school or school-related activities. [See also GKA]

Each District employee shall enforce policies prohibiting tobacco on school property.

ALCOHOL AND DRUGS

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EMPLOYEE STANDARDS OF CONDUCT

DH
(LOCAL)

An employee shall not manufacture, distribute, dispense, possess, use, or be under the influence of any of the following substances during working hours while at school or at school-related activities during or outside of usual working hours:

1. Any controlled substance or dangerous drug as defined by law, including but not limited to marijuana, any narcotic drug, hallucinogen, stimulant, depressant, amphetamine, or barbiturate.
2. Alcohol or any alcoholic beverage.
3. Any abusable glue, aerosol paint, or any other chemical substance for inhalation.
4. Any other intoxicant or mood-changing, mind-altering, or behavior-altering drug.

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

EXCEPTIONS

An employee who manufactures, possesses, or dispenses a substance listed above as part of the employee’s job responsibilities, or who uses a drug authorized by a licensed physician prescribed for the employee’s personal use shall not be considered to have violated this policy.

NOTICE

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

A copy of this policy, a purpose of which is to eliminate drug abuse from the workplace, shall be provided to each employee at the beginning of each year or upon employment.

ARRESTS,
INDICTMENTS,
CONVICTIONS, AND
OTHER
ADJUDICATIONS

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

1. Crimes involving school property or funds;
2. Crimes involving attempt by fraudulent or unauthorized means to obtain or alter any certificate or permit that would entitle any person to hold or obtain a position as an educator;
3. Crimes that occur wholly or in part on school property or at a school-sponsored activity; or
4. Crimes involving moral turpitude, which include:
 - Dishonesty; fraud; deceit; theft; misrepresentation;

EMPLOYEE STANDARDS OF CONDUCT

DH
(LOCAL)

- Deliberate violence;
- Base, vile, or depraved acts that are intended to arouse or gratify the sexual desire of the actor;
- Felony possession or conspiracy to possess, or any misdemeanor or felony transfer, sale, distribution, or conspiracy to transfer, sell, or distribute any controlled substance defined in Chapter 481 of the Health and Safety Code;
- Felony driving while intoxicated (DWI); or
- Acts constituting abuse or neglect under the Texas Family Code.

DRESS AND
GROOMING

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

STATEMENT OF
POLICY

Bigotry and racism are in conflict with the mission, goals, and objectives of the District to provide the best education and work environment possible for all of its students and employees. Accordingly, it is the policy of the District to maintain a learning and working environment that is free from such conduct.

PROHIBITED
ACTIONS

An employee shall be in violation of this policy if, on school grounds, at school-sanctioned activities, or in vehicles dispatched by the District he or she:

1. Directs personal insults (whether written or oral), including epithets, slurs, and insults based on a person's race, ethnicity, color, religion, national origin, sex, or disabling condition, which are addressed to an individual.
2. Threatens with physical harm or actually harms a person on the basis of that person's race, ethnicity, color, religion, national origin, sex, or disabling condition.
3. Defaces school property or materials in such a manner as to demean the race, ethnicity, color, religion, national origin, sex, or disabling condition of an individual or group.
4. Damages, defaces, or destroys private property of any person on the basis of that person's race, ethnicity, color, religion, national origin, sex, or disabling condition.

For sex discrimination/sex abuse, see DAA(LEGAL) and DIA(LOCAL).