

**Approval of TASB Update 96 Local Policies
and Revision to Policy DIA (Local) - First Reading
April 9, 2013**

SUMMARY:

TASB Update 96 focuses on three key issues prompted by the Commissioner of Education, new rules on instructional materials, new rules on student attendance accounting and a recent Commissioner decision that affects how state personal leave is accrued and calculated.

Local policies included in Update 96:

- DEC(LOCAL): Compensation And Benefits – Leaves and Absences
- EFAA(LOCAL): Instructional Materials – Selection and Adoption
- FEB(LOCAL): Attendance - Attendance Accounting

PREVIOUS BOARD ACTION:

The Board discussed TASB Update 96 policy revisions at the March 19, 2013 board meeting.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Update 96 includes 3 local policies, 7 legal policies and 1 exhibit. TASB Update 96 focuses on three key issues prompted by the Commissioner of Education, new rules on instructional materials, new rules on student attendance accounting and a recent Commissioner decision that affects how state personal leave is accrued and calculated. Other policies and topics in this update include board member powers and duties, the Framework for School Board Development, legal services for districts, bankruptcy discrimination and use of leave while on military duty.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES:

The district must have school policies that are consistent with current laws and appropriately communicate local policy issues. Policies are classified as either “Legal” or “Local” in design. A “Legal” policy is a statement of existing law or of binding legal decisions and as such do not require Board approval. Local policies are decisions made at the local level that reflect district decisions and practices and do require approval. Legal policies are always included in updates so local policy development occurs within the context of binding law.

BENEFIT OF ACTION:

To allow the Board to evaluate and ensure that these policies reflect the practices of the District.

PROCEDURAL AND REPORTING IMPLICATIONS:

Because the law requires districts to adopt a local policy so quickly, districts are allowed to implement the process for emergency adoption with one reading.

ALTERNATIVES:

The following options are available to the Board:

- continue to study the policy
- modify the existing language
- approve policies as written and submitted by TASB

SUPERINTENDENT’S RECOMMENDATION:

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve TASB Update 96 local policies and revision to Policy DIA (Local) on first reading as presented.

PERSONS RESPONSIBLE:

James K. Wilson III, Superintendent
Randy Stout, DISD Legal Advisor

ATTACHMENT:

TASB Update 96 Local Policies
DIA (Local)