



# Update 125 Local Policy Overview

## Introduction

Hello, and welcome to an overview of the local policy recommendations included in Update 125, presented by TASB Policy Service.

Update 125 covers several policies that address board operations, such as election of board officers, creation of board committees, and formation of advisory committees. These board procedures are not impacted by legislative action, but since these committees are coming into more use, we have provided recommendations to clarify board actions regarding their creation. The revisions to the policies on partial credit, attendance for credit, and school safety transfers are recommended to better align with state rules and agency publications and the practices most common in districts.

While not covered in this overview, many of the legal framework documents included in this update were affected by amendments to the Texas Administrative Code. If you wish to learn more about the changes to the legal framework, please review the Explanatory Notes included with your district's Update 125 materials, located in the [Local Manual Updates](#) section of Policy Online®.<sup>1</sup> Also, near the bottom of that section, is the Annotated Legal Framework Update packet. This packet will show a redlined version of the legal changes along with a brief explanation of the revisions.

## TASB Numbered Update Reminders

You should always review your district's customized update materials, available in the [Local Manual Updates](#) section of Policy Online, for specific policy recommendations. Please remember that the legal framework documents provide the legal context for key areas of district operations; they are not adopted by the board.

If you are the district's policy contact, after the board acts on the local policies in Update 125, don't forget to log in to Policy Online and go to [Local Manual Updates](#) to notify us of the board's action. Policy Online makes it easy to keep track of updates and notify us when the board takes action on policies in an update.

## BDAA: Officers and Officials, Duties and Requirements of Board Officers

In BDAA(LOCAL), a sentence at the beginning of the policy stating that the board may assign a district employee to provide clerical assistance is recommended for removal. As is the practice in most districts, the



superintendent manages the assignment of staff and would determine the employee who would provide clerical support to the board.

If your board's practice is for the vice president to automatically fill a vacancy created in the office of board president, new language is recommended to clarify that the vice president will serve in the role of board president until the board reorganizes and holds new officer elections.

### **BDB: Board Internal Organization, Board Committees**

Substantial revisions are recommended to BDB(LOCAL), and those revisions coordinate with BDF(LOCAL), which is also included in this update.

First, the policy subtopic name has been changed to Board Committees to better capture the content of the policy. The recommendations provide additional guidance to the board in forming committees and include text to address the dissolving of any board committee. Because this policy code is intended to address committees that are composed only of board members, the text addressing special committees is recommended for placement at BDF(LOCAL).

### **BDF: Board Internal Organization, Advisory Committees**

For most districts, BDF(LOCAL) is a new policy recommended for inclusion in your policy manual. For those that already had BDF(LOCAL), revisions are recommended to the existing policy. The new policy language provides guidance on the formation of advisory committees composed of staff, parents, community members, or students. These committees could also include board members in a number less than a quorum. The remainder of the policy aligns with BDB(LOCAL) on board committees. The language addresses dissolving advisory committees and reporting committee recommendations to the board.

### **EI: Academic Achievement**

In policy EI(LOCAL), the minor change at Partial Credit is recommended to more accurately reflect that whether a student receives partial credit is based on the average of both halves of a two-semester course rather than the combined grade. For example, if a student receives a grade of 70 in the first semester of a course and a 60 in the second semester, the overall average for the course is 65. Based on the policy language, the student would receive credit for the first semester and would need to retake the second semester of the course. This would be the practice in a district that has decided to award partial credit.



## **FDE: Admissions, School Safety Transfers**

In FDE(LOCAL), “bullying” has been added to the list of offenses for which a district must gather data for purposes of the Unsafe School Choice Option. According to the *Unsafe School Choice Option Guidance Handbook*, published by the Texas Education Agency, a student who is the victim of bullying is eligible for a school safety transfer.

## **FEC: Attendance, Attendance for Credit**

The revisions to FEC(LOCAL) are recommended to better align with practices that are common in most districts. The policy now authorizes the establishment of attendance committees rather than having committee membership appointed by the board. At Methods for Regaining Credit or Awarding a Final Grade, the specific deadline for submitting a petition for credit or a final grade is recommended for deletion and replaced with a reference to administrative regulations. Lastly, at Imposing Conditions for Awarding Credit or a Final Grade, the revised text clarifies that the district is not required to assign seat time equivalent to the time the student has been absent.

## **FFAC: Wellness and Health Services, Medical Treatment**

If your district’s FFAC(LOCAL) includes provisions about medication for respiratory distress, commonly referred to as asthma medication, that policy is included in your Update 125. The recommended revisions are prompted by the new rules adopted by the Department of State Health Services. The rules clarify what is addressed in the policies for those school districts that decide to maintain and administer unassigned medication for respiratory distress. For specific changes in the rule, please refer to the Annotated Legal Framework Update packet and review FFAC(LEGAL).

## **Thank You!**

That covers the local policies in Update 125. We hope you find this overview helpful. Should you have any questions or want further clarification, please contact your [assigned policy consultant](#),<sup>2</sup> and don’t forget to notify us of board action on this update using [Policy Online](#).

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<sup>1</sup> Policy Online Local Manual Updates (TASB login required):  
<https://pol.tasb.org/Member/LocalManualUpdates>

<sup>2</sup> Policy consultant contact information (TASB login required):  
<https://pol.tasb.org/Member/PolicyConsultant/Details>