

Abilene Independent School District Board Document - Agenda Item VII B

Meeting Date: August 4, 2025

Meeting Type: Regular Meeting

Item Type: Report

Future Action Required: Yes

If Yes, Month: Special Meeting

Subject: Student Code of Conduct

Background Information:

The Student Code of Conduct is reviewed and approved annually by the Board of Trustees. In legislative years, updates are made to align with newly enacted state laws. The 2025–2026 version includes significant revisions due to legislative changes, primarily driven by the following bills:

- **HB 6:** Major reforms to student discipline procedures
- **HB 1481:** Prohibition of personal communication device use during the school day
- **SB 326:** Requirement to address antisemitism in student behavior policies
- **SB 569:** Mandates consideration of virtual/hybrid education as an alternative to expulsion

Key Updates Include:

- **In-School Suspension (ISS):**
No maximum cap on ISS days; however, administrators must review each case every 10 school days to assess continued appropriateness.
- **Personal Communication Devices:**
Use of personal devices during the instructional day is prohibited. Districts must establish disciplinary consequences and make exceptions for medical, IEP, or Section 504 needs.
- **Antisemitism:**
Added as a general conduct violation. The district must use the state-defined standard to determine if conduct is motivated by antisemitism.
- **Artificial Intelligence Use:**
Misuse of AI (e.g., for cheating or prohibited conduct) is now classified as academic dishonesty.
- **Mandatory Expulsion for Title 5 Felonies:**
Expulsion is now required for Title 5 felony offenses, even when committed off campus.
- **Assault of a School Employee:**
Assault against school personnel is now a mandatory expellable offense.
- **Virtual Expulsion Option:**
Districts now have the authority to establish virtual programs for students who are expelled.

Attached Supporting Documents:

Board Slides of Presentation

Annotated Version/Redline of Student Code of Conduct

Dress and Grooming 2025 - 2026

Fiscal Implications:

None

Administrative Recommendation:

We recommend approval of the new Student Code of Conduct.

Contact Person:

Alison Camp

