

Explanatory Notes

TASB Localized Policy Manual Update 95

District: Brackett ISD

A25 (INDEX) CROSS-INDEX

The cross-index—shared by all localized policy manuals in districts throughout Texas, the *TASB Policy Reference Manual*, and the *TASB Regulations Resource Manual*—has been updated to reflect new terminology and topic relationships established by changes in law or regulation that have arisen since this document was last updated in 2010.

Please bear in mind that the cross-index is “generic” and presents a structure that serves all these manuals; your policy manual may not address some of the topics shown and may not include some of the policies indicated. This cross-index is also a key element used in searching Policy On Line.

A (LEGAL) BASIC DISTRICT FOUNDATIONS

The A section table of contents is being issued without revision to address a system configuration issue. You will not be charged for this page.

AB (LEGAL) DISTRICT NAME

This legally referenced policy is recommended for inclusion in the district’s policy manual. It includes existing statutory provisions that provide authority for the board to change the name of the district by a resolution, which must be sent to the commissioner.

AB (LOCAL) DISTRICT NAME

This policy is recommended for inclusion in the district’s manual to provide the official name of the district as determined by the board and to provide a basis for use of “the District” throughout the manual, consistent with policy style.

B (LEGAL) LOCAL GOVERNANCE

The B section table of contents is being issued without revision to address a system configuration issue. You will not be charged for these pages.

BBFA (EXHIBIT) ETHICS
CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURES

We have lightly edited this exhibit to update outdated language and simplify the portions of the affidavits that a notary public completes.

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C (LEGAL) BUSINESS AND SUPPORT SERVICES

The C section table of contents is being issued without revision to address a system configuration issue. You will not be charged for these pages.

CKA (LEGAL) SAFETY PROGRAM/RISK MANAGEMENT INSPECTIONS

At MANAGEMENT PLAN, item 7, we have added an existing statutory provision requiring asbestos inspectors and persons who design or carry out response actions to be licensed by the Texas Department of State Health Services.

CR (LEGAL) INSURANCE AND ANNUITIES MANAGEMENT

A revision at PREMIUM PAYMENTS has been made to better reflect statutory language. The revised language clarifies that the district may deduct commercial insurance premiums from an employee's salary only if the employee authorizes the action in writing.

CRE (LEGAL) INSURANCE AND ANNUITIES MANAGEMENT WORKERS' COMPENSATION

On page 4 we have added a Note with information from the 2011 Texas Supreme Court case, *Travis Central Appraisal District v. Norman*, which held that an employee claiming retaliatory discharge for filing a workers' compensation claim cannot bring suit against a school district without the district's consent. The Note further explains that the Texas Labor Code does not waive a school district's immunity and provide such consent.

CV (LEGAL) FACILITIES CONSTRUCTION

Government Code section 2267.059, as included at SUBMISSION on page 3, requires all public work bids and proposals to be sealed. Since Government Code Chapter 2267 prevails over other law relating to a public work contract, we have deleted from the policy the Education Code provisions that allow a district to receive public work bids or proposals through electronic transmission, which are not required to be sealed.

D (LEGAL) PERSONNEL

The D section table of contents is being issued without revision to address a system configuration issue. You will not be charged for these pages.

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DBD (EXHIBIT) EMPLOYMENT REQUIREMENTS AND RESTRICTIONS CONFLICT OF INTEREST

We have lightly edited this exhibit to update outdated language and simplify the portions of the affidavits that a notary public completes.

DCA (LEGAL) EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES PROBATIONARY CONTRACTS

This policy addressing employment under a probationary contract includes revisions at UPON REASSIGNMENT to better match statutory language and to duplicate this same language found at DFAC(LEGAL).

DF (EXHIBIT) TERMINATION OF EMPLOYMENT

As part of Update 95, several employment-related exhibits are recommended for inclusion in the district's policy manual. Along with the existing exhibits at DFBB providing notice of term contract nonrenewal, the exhibits added at Update 95 provide the district with an array of notices that can be used when the district is terminating or nonrenewing an employment contract under Chapter 21 of the Education Code. Most of the exhibits are customized based on the district's local policy choices.

The DF(EXHIBIT) includes forms to notify an employee when:

- The board has proposed termination of the employee's probationary, term, or continuing contract during the contract term; and
- The board has taken final action to terminate the contract.

DFAB (EXHIBIT) PROBATIONARY CONTRACTS TERMINATION AT END OF YEAR

As mentioned above, new exhibits recommended in Update 95 provide assistance when a district is terminating or nonrenewing a Chapter 21 employment contract. This exhibit provides an employee notice when the board has chosen to terminate an employee's probationary contract at the end of the contract period.

DFAC (LEGAL) PROBATIONARY CONTRACTS RETURN TO PROBATIONARY STATUS

This policy has been structured to reflect the two situations when an employee may be returned to a probationary contract status:

- At UPON REASSIGNMENT, the provisions explain that if an employee voluntarily accepts an assignment to a new professional capacity that requires a different class of certificate from the employee's previous assignment, the district may give the employee a probationary contract.

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- A district can also return an employee to probationary contract status IN LIEU OF DISCHARGE, TERMINATION, OR NONRENEWAL.

A change at NEW PROBATIONARY PERIOD has been made to better match statutory language.

DFBB (LEGAL) TERM CONTRACTS
NONRENEWAL

An existing statutory provision has been added on page 2 of this legally referenced policy to reflect the option provided by law for the district to have a HEARING EXAMINER appointed by the Commissioner of Education conduct a nonrenewal hearing instead of the board. The district's DFBB(LOCAL) reflects the board's decision that the board will conduct nonrenewal hearings.

Please note: Our records reflect that your district has a student enrollment below 5,000. Please contact your policy consultant if our records are incorrect and your district has 5,000 or more students enrolled.

DFBB (LOCAL) TERM CONTRACTS
NONRENEWAL

Recommended revisions to this local policy include:

- Updated cross-references to the reduction in force policies at items 9 and 10 in the list of REASONS for nonrenewal; and
- The addition of a paragraph at REQUEST FOR HEARING explaining that the board will hold the hearing within 15 days of receiving the request for a hearing and will notify the employee of the hearing date as soon as it is set.

Please note: Your district's current policy indicates that all nonrenewal hearings are held by the board. Please contact your policy consultant for alternative text if this does not reflect the practice in your district.

DFBB (EXHIBIT) TERM CONTRACTS
NONRENEWAL

Recommended revisions to this exhibit simplify the text in the notice of proposed term contract nonrenewal and add two additional forms:

- A form for the district to document how the notice of proposed nonrenewal was delivered to the employee, in accordance with provisions from the last legislative session requiring an attempt at hand delivery; and
- A form to provide the employee notice that the board voted to nonrenew the employee's term contract.

DFE (LOCAL) TERMINATION OF EMPLOYMENT
RESIGNATION

At CONTRACT EMPLOYEES, recommended language has been added to clarify that when an employee resigns effective at the end of the school year or submits a resignation after the last day of the school year and before the penalty-free resignation date, the district need not take action to accept the resignation because the resignation is considered to be automatically accepted upon receipt.

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A second change is based on a recent Commissioner of Education proposal for decision, *Harris v. Fort Bend Independent School District*, which indicated that although the Education Code allows the board to delegate to one or more individuals the authority to consent to a resignation during the school year, it does not allow the board to grant to the superintendent the authority to further delegate that responsibility to another employee. As a result, we recommend revising the policy language to give the superintendent or other person designated by Board action the authority to accept these resignations.

In Update 42 to the *Regulations Resource Manual*, to be issued in October and made available in the Policy Service Resource Library on myTASB, Policy Service will provide a sample resolution for the board to document when the board has delegated to someone in addition to the superintendent the authority to consent to mid-year contract resignations.

DFFA (EXHIBIT) REDUCTION IN FORCE FINANCIAL EXIGENCY

As mentioned above, new exhibits recommended in Update 95 provide assistance when a district is terminating or nonrenewing a Chapter 21 employment contract. This exhibit includes forms to notify an employee that:

- The board has proposed termination of the employee's probationary contract during the contract term due to financial exigency;
- The board has proposed termination of the employee's term contract during the contract term due to financial exigency; and
- The board has taken final action to terminate the contract.

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

Recommended changes clarify the types of complaints to which the district's complaint policy, DGBA(LOCAL), applies. Some employee complaints must be filed in accordance with another policy in lieu of being filed in accordance with DGBA(LOCAL). For example, an employee whose term contract has been proposed for nonrenewal must proceed in accordance with DFBB(LOCAL). Other complaints must be filed initially in accordance with another policy and then may proceed to DGBA(LOCAL) for further appeal. For example, if an employee files a sexual harassment complaint in accordance with DIA(LOCAL) and is dissatisfied with the outcome of the investigation, the employee may then appeal in accordance with DGBA(LOCAL).

To clarify when an employee should submit a complaint in accordance with a policy other than DGBA(LOCAL), recommended revisions:

- Move the OTHER COMPLAINT PROCESSES provision to the beginning of the policy;
- Reword the introductory sentence to indicate that the employee may need to file a complaint in accordance with another policy; and
- Provide better direction to other relevant policies.

The NOTICE TO EMPLOYEES about the complaint policy has also been moved closer to the beginning of the policy.

A revision at LEVEL THREE specifies that the Level Two record must include the notice of appeal from Level One to Level Two.

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DL (LEGAL) WORK LOAD

The Commissioner of Education decision *Canutillo Educators Association v. Canutillo Independent School District* provides guidance on teachers' PLANNING AND PREPARATION time by explaining that it must occur during the time students are receiving instruction, not before or after the school day.

Per an attorney general opinion, teachers may not be required to remain on campus during their 30-minute DUTY-FREE LUNCH break.

DMA (LEGAL) PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT REQUIRED STAFF DEVELOPMENT

We have moved to TRAINING SPECIFICS an existing statutory provision explaining that a district may use district-wide staff development that was developed and approved through the district-level decision process and added a margin note regarding staff development relating to instruction of STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES. In addition, effective with the 2012–13 school year staff development may include training related to bullying (see item 2 at TRAINING SPECIFICS). This change is from HB 1942 passed during the 82nd Legislative Session.

E (LEGAL) INSTRUCTION

The E section table of contents is being issued without revision to address a system configuration issue. You will not be charged for these pages.

EGA (LEGAL) CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT INNOVATIVE AND MAGNET PROGRAMS

As a result of recent revisions to the Administrative Code clarifying that dual language immersion programs are part of the bilingual education program, we have deleted provisions on dual language immersion from this policy on Innovative and Magnet Programs and moved the provisions to EHBE, Bilingual Education/ESL.

EHAA (LEGAL) BASIC INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM REQUIRED INSTRUCTION (ALL LEVELS)

As a result of changes to the Administrative Code, effective May 30, 2012, economics was moved to the FOUNDATION CURRICULUM as part of social studies.

EHAC (LEGAL) BASIC INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM REQUIRED INSTRUCTION (SECONDARY)

The required GRADES 9–12 COURSE OFFERINGS, beginning on page 2, have been revised based on changes to the Administrative Code, effective May 30, 2012:

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- In addition to Integrated Physics and Chemistry, Biology, Chemistry, and Physics, a district must now offer at least two additional science courses from those listed (see item 3);
- Economics is now listed as a required course under social studies (see item 4);
- Health Education has been deleted from the list of courses the district must offer; and
- A district must now offer at least four technology applications courses from those listed (see item 9).

In addition, a district must teach each course required for graduation at least once in any two consecutive years, and a district must teach a course with an end-of-course assessment each year or use alternate delivery methods, such as distance learning, so students can earn credit for those courses.

EHBAB (LEGAL) SPECIAL EDUCATION
ARD COMMITTEE AND INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION PROGRAM

At INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION PROGRAM (IEP), item 10 (see page 6), we have updated the text to reflect the current Education Code requirement for districts to begin transition planning not later than the first IEP to be in effect when the child is 14.

EHBE (LEGAL) SPECIAL PROGRAMS
BILINGUAL EDUCATION/ESL

Extensive changes to this legally referenced policy on bilingual education are based on changes to the Administrative Code, effective May 28, 2012.

- The Administrative Code now uses the term “English language learner” rather than “limited English proficient,” but includes a DEFINITION clarifying that the terms can be used interchangeably.
- At LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY ASSESSMENT COMMITTEES (LPAC), on page 2, LPACs must discharge their duties within “20 school days” rather than “4 weeks.”
- In districts and grade levels without a bilingual education program, the MEMBERSHIP OF THE LPAC must include a campus administrator. See page 2.
- Additional details on administration of the HOME LANGUAGE SURVEY have been added on page 3.
- At PARENTAL NOTICE AND CONSENT, beginning on page 3, a district may now identify, exit, or place a student in a bilingual education program without written approval from the student's parent under certain circumstances.
- As reflected on page 4, BILINGUAL AND ESL PROGRAMS must be selected from one of the program models outlined in the Administrative Code, as listed at BILINGUAL EDUCATION PROGRAM MODELS and ESL PROGRAM MODELS on page 6.
- As mentioned above, because a DUAL LANGUAGE IMMERSION PROGRAM (DLIP) is considered part of the bilingual education program, these provisions were moved from EGA with some minor changes.
- At FACILITIES, on page 9, recent immigrant English language learners may only be enrolled in newcomer centers for two years before they are returned to their home campus.

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- Documentation in a student's permanent record must be forwarded in the same manner as other student records to another school in which the student enrolls. See COOPERATION AMONG DISTRICTS on page 9.

Existing provisions from the Administrative Code were added at PROGRAM CONTENT, on page 5, to explain the elements that must be addressed in the ESL program; the required coordination between the ESL program and the regular education program; and to explain that the district must modify the instruction, pacing, and materials in bilingual and ESL programs to ensure that English language learners have a full opportunity to master the TEKS and that students participating in these programs may demonstrate mastery in either their home language or in English.

Please note: A district implementing a DLIP must have a local policy addressing certain aspects of the program. Please contact your policy consultant for sample language if your district has a DLIP.

EIE (LEGAL) ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT
RETENTION AND PROMOTION

A clarification from recent amendments to the Administrative Code has been added at EXCEPTION on page 3. The new language explains that a student in grades 5 or 8 may not be denied promotion to the next grade level because the student failed to perform satisfactorily on a reading or mathematics assessment intended for use above the student's grade level.

Minor rewording at STUDENTS WITH DYSLEXIA, on page 10, corresponds with terminology used in the revised Administrative Code rules.

EIE (LOCAL) ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT
RETENTION AND PROMOTION

Recommended changes at CURRICULUM MASTERY include the addition of a statement that the district shall comply with state and federal requirements, as included in the policy manual at the referenced codes, when determining methods for students with disabilities or students who are English language learners to demonstrate mastery of the curriculum. This sentence replaces more detailed text, previously included in the policy at STANDARDS FOR MASTERY, that listed the ways that English language learners could demonstrate mastery.

Text on STUDENTS RECEIVING SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES was revised and moved to the beginning of the policy, but it retains the requirement that the ARD committee must determine any modified promotion standards for such students.

At ACCELERATED INSTRUCTION, we have deleted text indicating that accelerated instruction is only required for students in grades 3 through 8; accelerated instruction requirements apply to all students who fail a state-mandated assessment.

In addition, new text at GRADE ADVANCEMENT TESTING acknowledges the exception for a student assessed in reading or mathematics above his or her enrolled grade level from the requirement to pass the grade 5 and 8 state-mandated assessments in order to be promoted to the next grade level.

EIF (LEGAL) ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT
GRADUATION

Beginning on page 4, amendments to the Administrative Code, effective May 30, 2012, update and clarify graduation requirements for each of the three graduation programs beginning with students entering grade 9 in the 2012–13 school year.

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The rules also resulted in minor rewording of the provisions on page 7 addressing a STUDENT WITH A DISABILITY OR ILLNESS who is unable to participate in physical activity. When a committee is formed for a student who is not receiving special education services or services under Section 504 to determine the student's ability to participate in physical activity, the committee must follow the same procedures required of an ARD or Section 504 committee.

On page 8, new provisions from the revised Administrative Code rules govern enrollment and course credit for courses with a required PREREQUISITE.

F (LEGAL) STUDENTS

The F section table of contents is being issued without revision to address a system configuration issue. You will not be charged for these pages.

FDA (LEGAL) ADMISSIONS INTERDISTRICT TRANSFERS

Changes to the Administrative Code, effective April 22, 2012, affect the calculation of tuition charged by the receiving district to the home district to educate students in grade levels not taught in the home district. The tuition payment is the sum of the excess maintenance and operations (M&O) revenue per enrollee and the excess debt revenue per enrollee. The base tuition limit was deleted from the calculation. (See TUITION FOR EDUCATION OUTSIDE DISTRICT.)

FNC (LEGAL) STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES STUDENT CONDUCT

Clarification about the contents of the discipline management program that must be included in the district improvement plan is from HB 1942 passed during the 82nd Legislative Session. The program is required to provide for prevention and education about unwanted physical or verbal aggression and sexual harassment, but HB 1942 deleted the language that required the program to include education about other forms of bullying.

FNF (LEGAL) STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES INTERROGATIONS AND SEARCHES

From *Horton v. Goose Creek Independent School District*, at USE OF TRAINED DOGS beginning on page 2, we have added further explanation about when a sniffer dog is considered to be reasonably reliable so that the district has reasonable cause to search a locker or a car. The case explains that the district does not need to show that the dog is infallible or reliable enough to provide probable cause, only that the dog is reasonably reliable.

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**FNG (LOCAL) STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES
STUDENT AND PARENT COMPLAINTS/GRIEVANCES**

To coordinate with the changes to the employee complaint policy [see DGBA(LOCAL), above], recommended changes to this policy clarify the types of student and parent complaints to which the district's complaint policy, FNG(LOCAL), applies. Some student and parent complaints must be filed in accordance with another policy in lieu of being filed in accordance with FNG(LOCAL). For example, a parent's complaint about Section 504 services to a student with a disability must proceed in accordance with FB(LOCAL). Other complaints must be filed initially in accordance with another policy and then may proceed to FNG(LOCAL) for further appeal. For example, if a student files a bullying complaint in accordance with FFI(LOCAL) and is dissatisfied with the outcome of the investigation, the student may then appeal in accordance with FNG(LOCAL).

To clarify when a student or parent should submit a complaint in accordance with a policy other than FNG(LOCAL), recommended revisions:

- Move the OTHER COMPLAINT PROCESSES provision to the beginning of the policy;
- Reword the introductory sentence to indicate that the student or parent may need to file a complaint in accordance with another policy and provide better direction to other relevant policies;
- Include retaliation from bullying at item 4;
- Include complaints concerning final decisions of the gifted and talented selection committee regarding selection for or exit from the gifted program at item 8; and
- Include complaints concerning admission, placement, or services provided for a homeless student at item 14.

The NOTICE TO STUDENTS AND PARENTS about the complaint policy has also been moved closer to the beginning of the policy.

A revision at LEVEL THREE specifies that the Level Two record must include the notice of appeal from Level One to Level Two.

G (LEGAL) COMMUNITY AND GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

The G section table of contents is being issued without revision to address a system configuration issue. You will not be charged for this page.

GF (LOCAL) PUBLIC COMPLAINTS

To coordinate with the changes to the employee and student and parent complaint policies [see DGBA(LOCAL) and FNG(LOCAL), above], recommended changes to this policy clarify the types of complaints listed at OTHER COMPLAINT PROCESSES that must be filed initially in accordance with another policy and then may proceed to GF(LOCAL) for appeal.

To clarify when a member of the public should submit a complaint in accordance with a policy other than GF(LOCAL), recommended revisions:

- Move the OTHER COMPLAINT PROCESSES provision to the beginning of the policy;

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- Reword the introductory sentence to indicate that a member of the public may need to file a complaint in accordance with another policy; and
- Provide better direction to the other relevant policies.

A revision at LEVEL THREE specifies that the Level Two record must include the notice of appeal from Level One to Level Two.

GKG (LEGAL) COMMUNITY RELATIONS
SCHOOL VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

The provisions of this policy addressing the CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORD of volunteers have been re-ordered for clarity. The general provisions establishing that volunteers are subject to a criminal history record review before they may perform volunteer duties were moved to the beginning of the section, and specific language referring to the criminal history record review requirements was added at APPLICABILITY and EXCEPTION. The note referring to DBAA was moved to the bottom of the section.