

(LOCAL) Policy Comparison Packet

Each marked-up (LOCAL) policy in this collection reflects an automated comparison of the updated policy with its precursor, as found in the TASB Policy Service records.

The comparison is generated by an automated process that shows changes as follows.

- *Deletions* are shown in a red strike-through font: ~~deleted text~~.
- *Additions* are shown in a blue, bold font: **new text**.
- Blocks of text that have been *moved* without alteration are shown in green, with double underline and double strike-through formatting to distinguish the text's destination from its origin: ~~moved text~~ becomes moved text.
- *Revision bars* appear in the right margin, as above.

While the annotation software competently identifies simple changes, large or complicated changes—as in an extensive rewrite—may be more difficult to follow.

For further assistance in understanding changes, please refer to the explanatory notes in your Localized Policy Manual update packet or contact your policy consultant.

Please Note:

At **Update 103** you may see some duplicated margin notes in the policy comparison documents. They look like a tracked change where no clear change has taken place, like so:

MARGIN NOTE

MARGIN NOTE

This is an unintended side effect of Policy Service's recent migration to Word 2013, which revealed formatting issues in some margin notes that had not been apparent in earlier versions of Word. Fixing those formatting issues during Update 103 editing has now caused Word to annotate some margin notes where the wording itself hasn't changed, resulting in the effect described above.

We apologize for any inconvenience. If you would like assistance cleaning up the tracked changes in your local policy comparison documents, please contact TASB Policy Service, and we'll be glad to help.

Policy.Service@tasb.org

800-580-7529

512-467-0222

BOARD POLICIES

BF
(LOCAL)

Within the context of current law, the District shall be guided by Board-adopted written policies that are given appropriate distribution and are accessible to staff members, parents, students, and community residents.

ORGANIZATION

Legally referenced policies contain provisions from federal and state statutes and regulations, case law, and other legal authority that together form the framework for local decision making and implementation. These policies are binding on the District until the cited provisions are repealed, revised, or superseded by legislative, regulatory, or judicial action.

At each policy code the legally referenced policy and the Board-adopted local policy must be read together to further a full understanding of a topic.

TERMS

The terms “Trustee” and “Board member” are used interchangeably in the local policy manual. Both terms are intended to reflect all the duties and obligations of the office.

[See AB for District name terminology.]

HARMONY WITH LAW

Newly enacted law is applicable when effective. No policy or regulation, or any portion thereof, shall be operative if it is found to be in conflict with applicable law.

SEVERABILITY

If any portion of a policy or its application to any person or circumstance is found to be invalid, that invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of policy that can be given effect without the invalid provision or application; and to this end the provisions of this policy manual are declared to be severable.

POLICY
DEVELOPMENT

Policies and policy amendments may be initiated by the Superintendent, Board members, school personnel, or community citizens, but generally shall be recommended for the Board’s consideration by the Superintendent.

OFFICIAL POLICY
MANUAL

The Board shall designate one copy of the local policy manual as the official policy manual of the District. The official copy shall be kept in the **central administration** ~~Superintendent’s~~ office, and the Superintendent or designee shall be responsible for its accuracy and integrity and shall maintain a historical record of the District’s policy manual.

ADOPTION AND
AMENDMENT

Local policies may be adopted or amended by a majority of the Board at any regular or special meeting, provided that Board members have had advance written notice of the proposed change and that it has been placed on the agenda for such meeting.

BOARD POLICIES

BF
(LOCAL)

Local policies become effective upon Board adoption or at a future date designated by the Board at the time of adoption.

TASB LOCALIZED
UPDATES

After Board review of legally referenced policies and adoption of local policies, the new material shall be incorporated into the official policy manual and into other localized policy manuals maintained by the District. If discrepancies occur between different copies of the manual ~~distributed throughout the District~~, the version contained in the official policy manual shall be regarded as authoritative.

All Trustees, employees, vendors, contractors, **agents**, consultants, volunteers, and any other parties who are involved in the District's financial transactions shall act with integrity and diligence in duties involving the District's fiscal resources.

Note: See the following policies and/or administrative regulations regarding conflicts of interest, ethics, and financial oversight:

- Code of ethics:
for Board members—BBF
for employees—DH
- Financial conflicts of interest:
for public officials—BBFA
for all employees—DBD
for vendors—CHE
- **Compliance with state and federal grant and award requirements: CB, CBB**
- Financial conflicts **and gifts and gratuities regarding** federal funds: **CB, CBB**
- Systems for monitoring the District's investment program: CDA
- Budget planning and evaluation: CE
- Compliance with accounting regulations: CFC
- Activity fund management: CFD
- Criminal history record information for employees: **DBAA, DC**
- Disciplinary action for fraud by employees: DCD, DCE, and DF series

FRAUD AND
FINANCIAL
IMPROPRIETY

The District prohibits fraud and financial impropriety, as defined below, in the actions of its Trustees, employees, vendors, contractors, **agents**, consultants, volunteers, and others seeking or maintaining a business relationship with the District.

DEFINITION

Fraud and financial impropriety shall include but not be limited to:

1. Forgery or unauthorized alteration of any document or account belonging to the District.
2. Forgery or unauthorized alteration of a check, bank draft, or any other financial document.

FISCAL MANAGEMENT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES
FINANCIAL ETHICS

CAA
(LOCAL)

3. Misappropriation of funds, securities, supplies, or other District assets, including employee time.
4. Impropriety in the handling of money or reporting of District financial transactions.
5. Profiteering as a result of insider knowledge of District information or activities.
6. Unauthorized disclosure of confidential or proprietary information to outside parties.
7. Unauthorized disclosure of investment activities engaged in or contemplated by the District.
8. Accepting or seeking anything of material value from contractors, vendors, or other persons providing services or materials to the District, except as otherwise permitted by law or District policy. [See **CB**, DBD]
9. Inappropriately destroying, removing, or using records, furniture, fixtures, or equipment.
10. Failure to provide financial records required by **federal**, state, or local entities.
11. Failure to disclose conflicts of interest as required by law or District policy.
12. Any other dishonest act regarding the finances of the District.
- 13. Failure to comply with requirements imposed by law, the awarding agency, or a pass-through entity for state and federal awards.**

FINANCIAL CONTROLS
AND OVERSIGHT

Each employee who supervises or prepares District financial reports or transactions shall set an example of honest and ethical behavior and shall actively monitor his or her area of responsibility for fraud and financial impropriety.

FRAUD PREVENTION

The Superintendent or designee shall maintain a system of internal controls to deter and monitor for fraud or financial impropriety in the District.

REPORTS

Any person who suspects fraud or financial impropriety in the District shall report the suspicions immediately to any supervisor, the Superintendent or designee, the Board President, or local law enforcement.

Reports of suspected fraud or financial impropriety shall be treated as confidential to the extent permitted by law. Limited disclosure may be necessary to complete a full investigation or to comply with

FISCAL MANAGEMENT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES
FINANCIAL ETHICS

CAA
(LOCAL)

law. All employees involved in an investigation shall be advised to keep information about the investigation confidential.

PROTECTION
FROM
RETALIATION

Neither the Board nor any District employee shall unlawfully retaliate against a person who in good faith reports perceived fraud or financial impropriety. [See DG]

FRAUD
INVESTIGATIONS

In coordination with legal counsel and other internal or external departments or agencies, as appropriate, the Superintendent, Board President, or a designee shall promptly investigate reports of potential fraud or financial impropriety.

RESPONSE

If an investigation substantiates a report of fraud or financial impropriety, the Superintendent or designee shall promptly inform the Board of the report, the investigation, and any responsive action taken or recommended by the administration.

If an employee is found to have committed fraud or financial impropriety, the Superintendent or designee shall take or recommend appropriate disciplinary action, which may include termination of employment. If a contractor or vendor is found to have committed fraud or financial impropriety, the District shall take appropriate action, which may include cancellation of the District's relationship with the contractor or vendor.

When circumstances warrant, the Board, Superintendent, or designee may refer matters to appropriate law enforcement or regulatory authorities. In cases involving monetary loss to the District, the District may seek to recover lost or misappropriated funds.

The final disposition of the matter and any decision to file a criminal complaint or to refer the matter to the appropriate law enforcement or regulatory agency for independent investigation shall be made in consultation with legal counsel.

FEDERAL AWARDS
DISCLOSURE

The District shall disclose, in a timely manner in writing to the federal awarding agency or pass-through entity, all violations of federal criminal law involving fraud, bribery, or gratuity violations potentially affecting a federal grant award. [See CBB]

ANALYSIS OF FRAUD

After any investigation substantiates a report of fraud or financial impropriety, the Superintendent or designee shall analyze conditions or factors that may have contributed to the fraudulent or improper activity. The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that appropriate administrative procedures are developed and implemented to prevent future misconduct. These measures shall be presented to the Board for review.

STATE AND FEDERAL REVENUE SOURCES

CB
(LOCAL)

GRANTS AND AWARDS The Superintendent shall be authorized to:

1. Apply, on behalf of the Board, for any and all special federal and state grants and awards as deemed appropriate for the District's operations;
2. Approve commitment of District funds for matching, cost sharing, cooperative, or jointly funded projects up to the amounts specifically allowed under the District budget approved by the Board; and
3. Approve grant and award amendments as necessary.

The District shall comply with all requirements for state and federal grants and awards imposed by law, the awarding agency, or an applicable pass-through entity. The Superintendent shall develop and enforce financial management systems, internal control procedures, procurement procedures, and other administrative procedures as needed to provide reasonable assurance that the District is complying with requirements for state and federal grants and awards.

[See CAA, CBB]

FEDERAL AWARDS
CONFLICT OF
INTEREST

Each employee, Board member, or agent of the District who is engaged in the selection, award, or administration of a contract supported by a federal grant or award and who has a potential conflict of interest as defined at Code of Federal Regulations, title 2, section 200.318, shall disclose to the District, in writing, any conflict that meets the disclosure threshold in Chapter 176 of the Local Government Code. [See CBB]

In addition, each employee, Board member, or agent of the District shall comply with any other conflict of interest requirements imposed by the granting agency or a pass-through entity.

For purposes of this policy, "immediate family member" shall have the same meaning as "family member" as described in Chapter 176 of the Government Code. [See BBFA]

For purposes of this policy, "partner" shall have the same meaning as defined in Business Organizations Code Chapter 1, Subchapter A.

An employee, Board member, or agent of the District who is required to disclose a conflict in accordance with the provisions above shall not participate in the selection, award, or administration of a contract supported by a federal grant or award.

STATE AND FEDERAL REVENUE SOURCES

CB
(LOCAL)

GIFTS AND
GRATUITIES

Employees, Board members, and agents of the District shall not solicit any gratuities, favors, or items from a contractor or a party to a subcontractor for a federal grant or award and shall not accept:

1. Any single item with a value at or above \$50; or
2. Items from a single contractor or subcontractor that have an aggregate monetary value exceeding \$100 in a 12-month period.

[See BBFB, CBB, DBD. In the event of a violation of these requirements, see CAA and DH.]

SAFETY PROGRAM/RISK MANAGEMENT
EMERGENCY PLANS

CKC
(LOCAL)

EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN	The Superintendent shall ensure updating of the District's Emergency Operations Plan and ongoing staff training.
FIREARMS PURPOSE	The Board adopts these provisions regarding firearms to address concerns about effective and timely response to emergency situations at a District school, including: invasion of a school by an armed outsider; a hostage situation; actions of a student who is armed and poses a direct threat of physical harm to himself, herself, or others; and similar circumstances.
AUTHORIZATION	Pursuant to its authority under Texas Penal Code 46.03(a)(1), the Board may, from time to time, authorize specific District employees or officials to possess certain firearms on school property, at school-sponsored or school-related events, and at Board meetings, to the extent allowed by law. The Board shall issue written authorization to approved employees and officials. Participation in this safety program is strictly voluntary and is not a requirement of any position as an employee or elected official of the District.
REVOCATION	The Board or its designee may revoke such authorization at any time. The authorization to possess certain firearms on school property, at school-sponsored or school-related events, and at Board meetings shall be automatically revoked if an employee or official is placed on administrative leave, resigns, is nonrenewed, is terminated, or no longer serves the District in an official capacity.
CONCEALED HANDGUN LICENSEES	<p>Only a District employee or official who maintains a current license to carry a concealed handgun issued by the State of Texas, in accordance with state law, shall be eligible for authorization to possess a firearm on District property.</p> <p>A District employee or official who is a concealed handgun license holder but who has not been specifically authorized by Board action under this policy shall not be permitted to possess a firearm on school property except in accordance with the limited provisions of DHGKA(LOCAL).</p>
TRAINING	Each District employee or official who is authorized to possess a firearm on District property shall be provided additional training in crisis intervention, management of hostage situations, and other topics as the Board may determine necessary or appropriate.
PERMITTED AMMUNITION	Only District-approved ammunition shall be permitted in firearms authorized to be on District property.

SAFETY PROGRAM/RISK MANAGEMENT
SECURITY PERSONNEL

CKE
(LOCAL)

~~SCHOOL RESOURCE
OFFICERS~~
SCHOOL
RESOURCE OFFICERS

To implement the District's comprehensive safety programs, the District has entered into an agreement with a local law enforcement agency for school resource officers. School resource officers shall provide services consistent with the terms of the agreement, the comprehensive safety programs, and Board policy.

TRAINING

All school resource officers shall receive at least the minimum amount of education and training required by law.

The Superintendent shall develop regulations regarding the use of a prepaid meal card or account to purchase meals served at school. The regulations shall address:

1. The length of the grace period during which a student may continue to purchase meals with a meal card or account that is exhausted or insufficient; and
2. Parent notification in the event of an exhausted card or account, including a schedule for repayment.

No fees or interest shall be charged in connection with meals purchased with an exhausted card or account.

EMPLOYMENT REQUIREMENTS AND RESTRICTIONS
CONFLICT OF INTEREST

DBD
(LOCAL)

Note: For conflicts of interest and gifts and gratuities related to federal grants and awards, see CB and CBB.

DISCLOSURE ~~—~~
GENERAL STANDARD

An employee shall disclose to his or her immediate supervisor a personal financial interest, a business interest, or any other obligation or relationship that in any way creates a potential conflict of interest with the proper discharge of assigned duties and responsibilities or with the best interest of the District.

SPECIFIC
DISCLOSURES
SUBSTANTIAL
INTEREST

The Superintendent shall file an affidavit with the Board President disclosing a substantial interest, as defined by Local Government Code 171.002, in any business or real property that the Superintendent or any of his or her relatives in the first degree may have.

Any other employee who is in a position to affect a financial decision involving any business entity or real property in which the employee has a substantial interest, as defined by Local Government Code 171.002, shall file an affidavit with the Superintendent; however, the employee shall not be required to file an affidavit for the substantial interest of a relative.

INTEREST IN
PROPERTY

The Superintendent shall be required to file an affidavit disclosing interest in property in accordance with Government Code 553.002.

~~CONFLICTS
DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT~~

~~No employee other than the Superintendent shall be required to file the conflicts disclosure statement, as promulgated by the Texas Ethics Commission and as specified by Local Government Code 176.003-.004.~~

ANNUAL FINANCIAL
MANAGEMENT
REPORT

The Superintendent, as the executive officer of the District, shall provide to the District in a timely manner information necessary for the District's annual financial management report.

[See BBFA]

GIFTS

An employee shall not accept or solicit any gift, favor, service, or other benefit that could reasonably be construed to influence the employee's discharge of assigned duties and responsibilities. [See CAA, **CB**, and **CBB**]

ENDORSEMENTS

An employee shall not recommend, endorse, or require students to purchase any product, material, or service in which the employee has a financial interest or that is sold by a company that employs or retains the District employee during nonschool hours. No employee shall require students to purchase a specific brand of school supplies if other brands are equal and suitable for the intended instructional purpose.

EMPLOYMENT REQUIREMENTS AND RESTRICTIONS
CONFLICT OF INTEREST

DBD
(LOCAL)

SALES

An employee shall not use his or her position with the District to attempt to sell products or services.

**NONSCHOOL
EMPLOYMENT**

An employee shall disclose in writing to his or her immediate supervisor any outside employment that in any way creates a potential conflict of interest with the proper discharge of assigned duties and responsibilities or with the best interest of the District.

~~NONSCHOOL
EMPLOYMENT~~

PRIVATE TUTORING

An employee shall disclose in writing to his or her immediate supervisor any private tutoring of District students for pay.

~~PRIVATE TUTORING~~

EMPLOYEE STANDARDS OF CONDUCT

DH
(LOCAL)

Each District employee shall perform his or her duties in accordance with state and federal law, District policy, and ethical standards. [See DH(EXHIBIT)]

Each District employee shall recognize and respect the rights of students, parents, other employees, and members of the community and shall work cooperatively with others to serve the best interests of the District.

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

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]

WEAPONS
PROHIBITED

The District prohibits the use, possession, or display of any firearm, illegal knife, club, or prohibited weapon, as defined at FNCG, on District property at all times.

~~ELECTRONIC MEDIA~~
EXCEPTIONS

No violation of this policy occurs when:

- 1. Use or possession of a firearm by a specific employee is authorized by Board action. [See CKC]**
- 2. The use, possession, or display of an otherwise prohibited weapon takes place as part of a District-approved activity supervised by proper authorities. [See FOD]**

ELECTRONIC MEDIA

Electronic media includes all forms of social media, such as text messaging, instant messaging, electronic mail (e-mail), ~~web~~Web logs (blogs), electronic forums (chat rooms), video-sharing ~~web-sites~~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~~Web-based applications.

USE WITH
STUDENTS

~~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~~
~~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 AND
E-CIGARETTES USE~~

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

ALCOHOL AND DRUGS

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

EMPLOYEE STANDARDS OF CONDUCT

DH
(LOCAL)

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

It shall not be considered a violation of this policy if the employee:

**MANUFACTURER EX
CEPTIONS**

~~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.~~

1. **Uses or possesses a controlled substance or drug authorized by a licensed physician prescribed for the employee's personal use; or**
2. **Possesses a controlled substance or drug that a licensed physician has prescribed for the employee's child or other individual for whom the employee is a legal guardian.**

NOTICE

Each employee shall be given a copy of the District's notice regarding drug-free schools. [See D1(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, INDICTM
ENTS, CONVICTIONS,
AND OTHER
ADJUDICATIONS 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;

EMPLOYEE STANDARDS OF CONDUCT

DH
(LOCAL)

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;
 - 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.

Note: This policy addresses discrimination, harassment, and retaliation involving District employees. ~~In this policy, the term “employees” includes former employees and applicants for employment.~~ For discrimination, harassment, and retaliation involving students, see FFH. For reporting requirements related to child abuse and neglect, see FFG.

DEFINITIONS

Solely for purposes of this policy, the term “employees” includes former employees, applicants for employment, and unpaid interns.

**STATEMENT OF
NONDISCRIMINATION
STATEMENT OF
NONDISCRIMINATION**

The District prohibits discrimination, including harassment, against any employee on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, national origin, age, disability, or any other basis prohibited by law. Retaliation against anyone involved in the complaint process is a violation of District policy.

**DISCRIMINATION
DISCRIMINATION**

Discrimination against an employee is defined as conduct directed at an employee on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, national origin, age, disability, or any other basis prohibited by law, that adversely affects the employee’s employment.

HARASSMENT

Prohibited harassment of an employee is defined as physical, verbal, or nonverbal conduct based on an employee’s race, color, religion, gender, national origin, age, disability, or any other basis prohibited by law, when the conduct is so severe, persistent, or pervasive that the conduct:

1. Has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with the employee’s work performance;
2. Creates an intimidating, threatening, hostile, or offensive work environment; or
3. Otherwise adversely affects the employee’s performance, environment, or employment opportunities.

EXAMPLES

Examples of prohibited harassment may include offensive or derogatory language directed at another person’s religious beliefs or practices, accent, skin color, gender identity, or need for workplace accommodation; threatening or intimidating conduct; offensive jokes, name calling, slurs, or rumors; physical aggression or assault; display of graffiti or printed material promoting racial, ethnic, or other stereotypes; or other types of aggressive conduct such as theft or damage to property.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT

Sexual harassment is a form of sex discrimination defined as unwelcome sexual advances; requests for sexual favors; sexually

EMPLOYEE WELFARE
FREEDOM FROM DISCRIMINATION, HARASSMENT, AND RETALIATION

DIA
(LOCAL)

motivated physical, verbal, or nonverbal conduct; or other conduct or communication of a sexual nature when:

1. Submission to the conduct is either explicitly or implicitly a condition of an employee's employment, or when submission to or rejection of the conduct is the basis for an employment action affecting the employee; or
2. The conduct is so severe, persistent, or pervasive that it has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with the employee's work performance or creates an intimidating, threatening, hostile, or offensive work environment.

EXAMPLES

Examples of sexual harassment may include sexual advances; touching intimate body parts; coercing or forcing a sexual act on another; jokes or conversations of a sexual nature; and other sexually motivated conduct, communication, or contact.

RETALIATION

The District prohibits retaliation against an employee who makes a claim alleging to have experienced discrimination or harassment, or another employee who, in good faith, makes a report, serves as a witness, or otherwise participates in an investigation.

An employee who intentionally makes a false claim, offers false statements, or refuses to cooperate with a District investigation regarding harassment or discrimination is subject to appropriate discipline.

EXAMPLES

EXAMPLES

Examples of retaliation may include termination, refusal to hire, demotion, and denial of promotion. Retaliation may also include threats, unjustified negative evaluations, unjustified negative references, or increased surveillance.

PROHIBITED
CONDUCT PROHIBITED
CONDUCT

In this policy, the term "prohibited conduct" includes discrimination, harassment, and retaliation as defined by this policy, even if the behavior does not rise to the level of unlawful conduct.

REPORTING
PROCEDURES

An employee who believes that he or she has experienced prohibited conduct or believes that another employee has experienced prohibited conduct should immediately report the alleged acts. The employee may report the alleged acts to his or her supervisor or campus principal.

Alternatively, the employee may report the alleged acts to one of the District officials below.

DEFINITION
OF DEFINITION OF
DISTRICT OFFICIALS

For the purposes of this policy, District officials are the Title IX coordinator, the ADA/Section 504 coordinator, and the Superintendent.

EMPLOYEE WELFARE
FREEDOM FROM DISCRIMINATION, HARASSMENT, AND RETALIATION

DIA
(LOCAL)

TITLE IX
COORDINATOR

Reports of discrimination based on sex, including sexual harassment, may be directed to the **designated Title IX coordinator**. ~~[See DIA(EXHIBIT)] Title IX coordinator. The District designates the following person to coordinate its efforts to comply with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, as amended:~~

~~Name: Randy Burks~~

~~Position: Business Manager~~

~~Address: 7049 Buffalo Gap Road, Abilene, TX 79606~~

~~Telephone: (325) 692-4353~~

ADA / SECTION 504
COORDINATOR

Reports of discrimination based on disability may be directed to the **designated ADA/Section 504 coordinator**. ~~[See DIA(EXHIBIT)] The District designates the following person to coordinate its efforts to comply with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended, which incorporates and expands upon the requirements of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended:~~

SUPERINTENDENT

~~Name: Nick Pruitt~~

~~Position: Assistant Superintendent~~

~~Address: 7049 Buffalo Gap Road, Abilene, TX 79606~~

~~Telephone: (325) 692-4353~~

~~SUPERINTENDENT~~

The Superintendent shall serve as coordinator for purposes of District compliance with all other antidiscrimination laws.

**ALTERNATIVE
REPORTING
PROCEDURES**

~~ALTERNATIVE
REPORTING
PROCEDURES~~

An employee shall not be required to report prohibited conduct to the person alleged to have committed it. Reports concerning prohibited conduct, including reports against the Title IX coordinator or ADA/Section 504 coordinator, may be directed to the Superintendent.

A report against the Superintendent may be made directly to the Board. If a report is made directly to the Board, the Board shall appoint an appropriate person to conduct an investigation.

TIMELY REPORTING

Reports of prohibited conduct shall be made as soon as possible after the alleged act or knowledge of the alleged act. A failure to promptly report may impair the District's ability to investigate and address the prohibited conduct.

NOTICE OF REPORT

Any District supervisor who receives a report of prohibited conduct shall immediately notify the appropriate District official listed above and take any other steps required by this policy.

EMPLOYEE WELFARE
FREEDOM FROM DISCRIMINATION, HARASSMENT, AND RETALIATION

DIA
(LOCAL)

INVESTIGATION OF
THE REPORT

The District may request, but shall not insist upon, a written report. If a report is made orally, the District official shall reduce the report to written form.

Upon receipt or notice of a report, the District official shall determine whether the allegations, if proven, would constitute prohibited conduct as defined by this policy. If so, the District official shall immediately authorize or undertake an investigation, regardless of whether a criminal or regulatory investigation regarding the same or similar allegations is pending.

If appropriate, the District shall promptly take interim action calculated to prevent prohibited conduct during the course of an investigation.

The investigation may be conducted by the District official or a designee, such as the campus principal, or by a third party designated by the District, such as an attorney. When appropriate, the campus principal or supervisor shall be involved in or informed of the investigation.

The investigation may consist of personal interviews with the person making the report, the person against whom the report is filed, and others with knowledge of the circumstances surrounding the allegations. The investigation may also include analysis of other information or documents related to the allegations.

CONCLUDING THE
INVESTIGATION

Absent extenuating circumstances, the investigation should be completed within ten District business days from the date of the report; however, the investigator shall take additional time if necessary to complete a thorough investigation.

The investigator shall prepare a written report of the investigation. The report shall be filed with the District official overseeing the investigation.

DISTRICT ACTION

If the results of an investigation indicate that prohibited conduct occurred, the District shall promptly respond by taking appropriate disciplinary or corrective action reasonably calculated to address the conduct.

The District may take action based on the results of an investigation, even if the conduct did not rise to the level of prohibited or unlawful conduct.

CONFIDENTIALITY

To the greatest extent possible, the District shall respect the privacy of the complainant, persons against whom a report is filed, and witnesses. Limited disclosures may be necessary in order to conduct a thorough investigation and comply with applicable law.

EMPLOYEE WELFARE
FREEDOM FROM DISCRIMINATION, HARASSMENT, AND RETALIATION

DIA
(LOCAL)

APPEAL

A complainant who is dissatisfied with the outcome of the investigation may appeal through DGBA(LOCAL), beginning at the appropriate level.

The complainant may have a right to file a complaint with appropriate state or federal agencies.

RECORDS RETENTION

Copies of reports alleging prohibited conduct, investigation reports, and related records shall be maintained by the District for a period of at least three years. [See CPC]

ACCESS TO POLICY

This policy shall be distributed annually to District employees. Copies of the policy shall be readily available at each campus and the District administrative offices.

Students in violation of the compulsory attendance law shall be reported to the District attendance officer, who may institute court action as provided by law.

EXCUSED ABSENCES

In addition to excused absences required by law, the District shall excuse absences for the following purposes.

**HIGHER
EDUCATION VISITS**
~~STUDENTS AGE 18
AND OVER
HIGHER EDUCATION
VISITS~~

~~A student who voluntarily attends school after the student's 18th birthday shall be required to attend school until the end of the school year.~~

The District shall excuse a student for up to two days during the student's junior year and up to two days during the student's senior year to visit an accredited institution of higher education. A student shall be required to submit verification of such visits in accordance with administrative regulations.

**EARLY VOTING OR
ELECTION CLERK**
~~EARLY VOTING OR
ELECTION CLERK~~

The District shall excuse a student for up to two days per school year to serve as an early voting or election clerk. A student shall be required to submit verification of service in accordance with administrative regulations.

[For extracurricular activity absences, see FM.]

WITHDRAWAL FOR
NONATTENDANCE

The District may initiate withdrawal of a student under the age of ~~19~~¹⁸ for nonattendance under the following conditions:

1. The student has been absent ten consecutive school days; and
2. Repeated efforts by the attendance officer and/or principal to locate the student have been unsuccessful.

[For District-initiated withdrawal of students ~~19~~¹⁸ or older, see FEA(LEGAL).]-

STUDENTS IN
HOMESCHOOLS

When the District becomes aware that a student is being or will be homeschooled, the Superintendent or designee may request in writing a letter of notification from the parents of their intention to homeschool using a curriculum designed to meet basic education goals of reading, spelling, grammar, mathematics, and a study of good citizenship.

If the parents refuse to submit a letter of notification or if the District has evidence that the school-age child is not being homeschooled within legal requirements, the District may investigate further and, if warranted, shall pursue legal action to enforce the compulsory attendance law.

	<p>This policy shall apply to a student who has not been in attendance for 90 percent of the days the class is offered.</p>
<p>CONSIDERATION OF ALL ABSENCES</p>	<p>All absences shall be considered in determining whether a student has attended the required percentage of days under this policy.</p>
<p>ATTENDANCE COMMITTEES</p>	<p>The Board shall establish an attendance committee or as many committees as necessary for efficient implementation of Education Code 25.092.</p> <p>The Superintendent or designee shall make the specific appointments in accordance with legal requirements.</p>
<p>PARENTAL NOTICE OF EXCESSIVE ABSENCES</p>	<p>A student and the student's parent or guardian shall be given written notice prior to and at such time when a student's attendance in any class drops below 90 percent of the days the class is offered.</p>
<p>METHODS FOR REGAINING CREDIT OR AWARDING A FINAL GRADE</p> <p>METHODS FOR REGAINING CREDIT OR AWARDING A FINAL GRADE</p>	<p>When a student's attendance drops below 90 percent but remains at least at 75 percent of the days the class is offered, the student may earn credit for the class or a final grade by completing a plan approved by the principal. This plan must provide for the student to meet the instructional requirements of the class as determined by the principal.</p> <p>If the student fails to successfully complete the plan, or when a student's attendance drops below 75 percent of the days the class is offered, the student, parent, or representative may request award of credit or a final grade by submitting a written petition to the appropriate attendance committee.</p> <p>Petitions for credit or a final grade may be filed at any time the student receives notice but, in any event, no later than 30 days after the last day of classes.30 days after the last day of classes.</p> <p>The attendance committee shall review the student's entire attendance record and the reasons for absences and shall determine whether to award credit or a final grade. The attendance committee may also, whether a petition is filed or not, review the records of all students whose attendance drops below 90 percent of the days the class is offered.</p> <p>Students who have lost credit or have not received a final grade because of excessive absences may regain credit or be awarded a final grade by fulfilling the requirements established by the attendance committee.</p>
<p>PERSONAL ILLNESS</p>	<p>When a student's absence for personal illness exceeds threethree consecutive days, the principal or attendance committee may require that the student present a statement from a physician or</p>

ATTENDANCE
ATTENDANCE FOR CREDIT

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(LOCAL)

health clinic verifying the illness or condition that caused the student's extended absence from school as a condition of classifying the absence as one for which there are extenuating circumstances.

If a student has established a questionable pattern of absences, the principal or attendance committee may require that a student present a physician's or clinic's statement of illness after a single day's absence as a condition of classifying the absence as one for which there are extenuating circumstances.

GUIDELINES ON
EXTENUATING
CIRCUMSTANCES

The attendance committee shall adhere to the following guidelines to determine attendance for award of credit or a final grade:

DAYS OF
ATTENDANCE

1. ~~All absences shall be considered in determining whether a student has attended the required percentage of days.~~ If makeup work is completed satisfactorily, excused absences that are allowed under compulsory attendance requirements shall be considered days of attendance for **award of credit or final grade**. ~~this purpose.~~ [See FEA(LLEGAL) at EXCUSED ABSENCES FOR COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE DETERMINATIONS.}]

TRANSFERS /
MIGRANT
STUDENTS

2. A transfer or migrant student incurs absences only after his or her enrollment in the District.

~~BEST INTEREST
STANDARD~~

- ~~1. In reaching consensus regarding a student's absences, the committee shall attempt to ensure that its decision is in the best interest of the student. The Superintendent or designee shall develop administrative regulations addressing the committee's documentation of the decision.~~

DOCUMENTATION

- ~~4.3.~~ The committee shall consider the acceptability and authenticity of documented reasons for the student's absences.

CONSIDERATION OF
CONTROL

- ~~5.4.~~ The committee shall consider whether the absences were for reasons out of the student's or parent's control.

STUDENT'S
ACADEMIC RECORD

- ~~6.5.~~ The committee shall consider whether or not the student has completed assignments, mastered the essential knowledge and skills, and maintained passing grades in the course or subject.

INFORMATION
FROM STUDENT OR
PARENT

- ~~7.6.~~ The student or parent shall be given an opportunity to present any information to the committee about the absences and to discuss ways to earn or regain credit or be awarded a final grade.

BEST INTEREST
STANDARD

7. In reaching consensus regarding a student's absences, the committee shall attempt to ensure that its decision is in the

ATTENDANCE
ATTENDANCE FOR CREDIT

FEC
(LOCAL)

best interest of the student. The Superintendent or designee shall develop administrative regulations addressing the committee's documentation of the decision.

IMPOSING
CONDITIONS FOR
AWARDING CREDIT
OR A FINAL GRADE

The committee may impose any of the following conditions for students with excessive absences to regain credit or be awarded a final grade:

1. Completing additional assignments, as specified by the committee or teacher.
2. Attending tutorial sessions as scheduled, which may include Saturday classes or before- and after-school programs.
3. Maintaining the attendance standards for the rest of the semester.
4. Taking an examination to earn credit. [See EHDB]
5. Attending a flexible school day program.
6. Attending summer school.

In all cases, the student must also earn a passing grade in order to receive credit.

APPEAL PROCESS

A parent or student may appeal the decision of the attendance committee in accordance with FNG(LOCAL). ~~beginning at Level Three.~~

COMMUNITY RELATIONS
CONDUCT ON SCHOOL PREMISES

GKA
(LOCAL)

Principals and other designated employees are authorized to:

1. Refuse entry onto school grounds to persons who do not have legitimate business at the school;
2. Request any unauthorized person or any person engaging in unacceptable conduct to leave the school grounds;
3. Request assistance of law enforcement officers in cases of emergency; and
4. Seek prosecution for violations of law as permitted by statute.

OFF-CAMPUS
ACTIVITIES

Employees shall be designated to ensure appropriate conduct of participants and others attending a school-related activity at non-District or out-of-District facilities. Those so designated shall coordinate their efforts with persons in charge of the facilities.

PROHIBITIONS
TOBACCO AND
E-CIGARETTES

The District prohibits **smoking and the use of tobacco products and e-cigarettes on District property, in District vehicles, or at school-related activities.**

~~WEAPONS~~
~~PROHIBITED~~

The District prohibits the unlawful use, possession, or display of any firearm, illegal knife, club, or prohibited weapon, as defined at FNCG, on all District property at all times.

EXCEPTION

No violation of this policy occurs when the use, possession, or display of an otherwise prohibited weapon takes place as part of a District-approved activity supervised by proper authorities. **[See FOD]**

RELATIONS WITH GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES
STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL AUTHORITIES

GRA
(LOCAL)

CHILD ABUSE
INVESTIGATION

When a representative of the Department of Family and Protective Services or another lawful authority ~~requests~~~~desires~~ to question or interview a student at school as part of a child abuse investigation, the principal shall cooperate fully with the official's requests regarding the conditions of the interview or questioning.

~~OTHER~~
QUESTIONING OF
STUDENTS

When law enforcement officers or other lawful authorities ~~re-~~~~quest~~~~desire~~ to question or interview a student at school for any purpose other than a child abuse investigation, the following guidelines shall apply:

1. The principal shall verify and record the identity of the officer or other authority and request an explanation of the need to question or interview the student at school.
2. The principal ordinarily shall make reasonable efforts to notify the student's ~~parent~~~~parents~~ or other person having lawful control of the student. If the interviewer raises what the principal considers to be a valid objection to the notification, ~~the~~ ~~parent~~~~parents~~ shall not be notified.
3. The principal or a designee ordinarily shall be present during the questioning or interview. If the interviewer raises what the principal considers to be a valid objection to a third party's presence, the interview shall be conducted without that person's presence.

STUDENTS TAKEN
INTO CUSTODY

Before a student at school is arrested or taken into custody by a law enforcement officer or other legally authorized person, the principal shall verify the official's identity. To the best of his or her ability, the principal shall verify the official's authority to take custody of the student ~~[see GRA]~~ and then shall deliver over the student.

The principal shall immediately notify the Superintendent and ordinarily shall notify the ~~parent~~~~parents~~ or other person having lawful control of the student. If the officer or other authorized person raises what the principal considers to be a valid objection to notifying the ~~parent~~~~parents~~ at that time, the principal shall not notify the ~~parent~~.

~~[See FO for notification requirements by the campus behavior coordinator under Education Code Chapter 37.]~~~~parents.~~