

## (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.

To see these same annotations in Word format, where you can further modify the text or alter the presentation of tracked changes themselves, see “(LOCAL) Policy Comparison (Word docs/Zip),” also found online in Local Manual Updates.

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

Harts Bluff ISD  
225907

BOARD MEETINGS

BE  
(LOCAL)

MEETING PLACE AND TIME

~~The~~ Unless otherwise provided in the notice for a **Board** meeting shall reflect the date, time, and location of the meeting.

~~regular, Board meetings shall be held at the administration building Board room.~~

MEETING TIME

Regular meetings of the Board shall **normally** be held on the third Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. When determined necessary and for the convenience of **Board members**~~Trustees~~, the Board President may change the date, ~~or time, or location~~ of a regular meeting **with proper** notice. ~~The notice. for that meeting shall reflect the changed date or time.~~

SPECIAL OR EMERGENCY MEETINGS

~~The~~ **Board** time and place of special and emergency meetings shall be as set out in the notice for the meeting.

~~The~~ President ~~of the Board~~ shall call special meetings at the **Board** President's discretion or on request by three members of the Board.

The **Board** President shall call an emergency meeting when it is determined by the **Board** President or three members of the Board that an emergency or urgent public necessity, as defined by law, warrants the meeting.

AGENDA

DEADLINE

The deadline for submitting items for inclusion on the agenda is ~~noon of the the~~ third calendar day before regular meetings and ~~noon of the the~~ third calendar day before special meetings.

PREPARATION

In consultation with the Board President, the Superintendent shall prepare the agenda for all Board meetings. Any **Board member**~~Trustee~~ may request that a subject be included on the agenda for a meeting, and the Superintendent shall include on the preliminary agenda of the meeting all ~~Trustee requested~~ topics that have been timely submitted **by a Board member**.

Before the official agenda is finalized for any meeting, the Superintendent shall consult the Board President to ensure that the agenda and the topics included meet with the **Board** President's approval. In reviewing the preliminary agenda, the **Board** President shall ensure that any topics the Board or individual **Board members**~~Trustees~~ have requested to be addressed are either on that agenda or scheduled for deliberation at an appropriate time in the near future. The Board President shall not have authority to remove from the agenda a subject requested by a **Board member**~~Trustee~~ without that **Board member's**~~Trustee's~~ specific authorization.

NOTICE TO MEMBERS

Members of the Board shall be given notice of regular and special meetings at least 72 hours prior to the scheduled time of the meet-

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BOARD MEETINGS

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(LOCAL)

- ing and at least two hours prior to the time of an emergency meeting.
- CLOSED MEETING Notice of all meetings shall provide for the possibility of a closed meeting during an open meeting, **in accordance with** ~~as provided~~ by law. ~~{See BEC}~~
- The Board may conduct a closed meeting when the agenda subject is one that may properly be discussed in closed meeting. [See BEC]
- ORDER OF BUSINESS The order of business for regular Board meetings shall be as set out in the agenda accompanying the notice of the meeting. At the meeting, the order in which posted agenda items are taken may be changed by consensus of Board members.
- RULES OF ORDER The Board shall observe the parliamentary procedures as found in *Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised*, except as otherwise provided in Board procedural rules or by law. Procedural rules may be suspended at any Board meeting by majority vote of the members present.
- VOTING Voting shall be by voice vote or show of hands, as directed by the **Board** President. Any member may abstain from voting, and a member's vote or failure to vote shall be recorded upon that member's request. [See BDAA(LOCAL) for the Board President's voting rights]
- CONSENT AGENDA When the agenda is prepared, the Board President shall determine items, if any, that qualify to be placed on the consent agenda. A consent agenda shall include items of a routine and/or recurring nature grouped together under one action item. For each item listed as part of a consent agenda, the Board shall be furnished with background material. All such items shall be acted upon by one vote without separate discussion, unless a Board member requests that an item be withdrawn for individual consideration. The remaining items shall be adopted under a single motion and vote.
- MINUTES Board action shall be carefully recorded by the **Board** Secretary or clerk; when approved, these minutes shall serve as the legal record of official Board actions. The written minutes of all meetings shall be approved by vote of the Board and signed by the **Board** President and the **Board** Secretary ~~of the Board~~.
- The official minutes of the Board shall be retained on file in the office of the Superintendent and shall be available for examination during regular office hours.
- DISCUSSIONS AND LIMITATION Discussions shall be addressed to the **Board** President ~~of the Board~~ and then the entire membership. Discussion shall be directed solely to the business currently under deliberation, and the

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BOARD MEETINGS

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(LOCAL)

Board President shall halt discussion that does not apply to the business before the Board.

The Board President shall also halt discussion if the Board has agreed to a time limitation for discussion of an item, and that time limit has expired. Aside from these limitations, the **Board** President shall not interfere with debate so long as members wish to address themselves to an item under consideration.

DATE ISSUED: ~~11/19/2014~~ 12/2/2002  
~~UPDATE 101 LDU-39-03~~  
BE(LOCAL)-A

ADOPTED:

3 of 3

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PURCHASING AND ACQUISITION

CH  
(LOCAL)

**PURCHASING AUTHORITY** The Board delegates to the Superintendent or designee the authority to make budgeted purchases for goods or services. However, any single, budgeted purchase of goods or services that costs \$10,000 or more, regardless of whether the goods or services are competitively purchased, shall require Board approval before a transaction may take place.

**PURCHASING METHOD** The Board delegates to the Superintendent or designee the authority to determine the method of purchasing in accordance with CH(LEGAL).

**COMPETITIVE BIDDING** If competitive bidding is chosen as the purchasing method, the Superintendent or designee shall prepare bid specifications. All bids shall be ~~submitted in accordance~~ ~~sealed envelopes, plainly marked~~ with ~~administrative regulations, the name of the bidder~~ and the ~~submission of any electronic bids shall also be in accordance with Board-adopted rules~~ ~~time of opening~~. All bidders shall be invited to attend the bid opening. Any bid may be withdrawn prior to the scheduled time for opening. Bids received after the specified time shall not be considered.

The District may reject any and all bids.

**COMPETITIVE SEALED PROPOSALS** If competitive sealed proposals are chosen as the purchasing method, the Superintendent or designee shall prepare the request for proposals and/or specifications for items to be purchased. All proposals shall be ~~submitted in accordance~~ ~~sealed envelopes, plainly marked~~ with ~~administrative regulations, the name of the proposer~~ and the ~~submission of any electronic proposals shall also be in accordance with Board-adopted rules~~ ~~time of opening~~. Proposals received after the specified time shall not be considered. Proposals shall be opened at the time specified, and all proposers shall be invited to attend the proposal opening. Proposals may be withdrawn prior to the scheduled time of opening. Changes in the content of a proposal, and in prices, may be negotiated after proposals are opened.

The District may reject any and all proposals.

**ELECTRONIC BIDS OR PROPOSALS** **Bids or proposals that the District has chosen to accept through electronic transmission shall be administered in accordance with Board-adopted rules. Such rules shall safeguard the integrity of the competitive procurement process; ensure the identification, security, and confidentiality of electronic bids or proposals; and ensure that the electronic bids or proposals remain effectively unopened until the proper time.**

DATE ISSUED: 11/19/2014~~7/2006~~  
UPDATE ~~10179~~  
CH(LOCAL)-A

~~ADOPTED:~~

Harts Bluff ISD  
225907

PURCHASING AND ACQUISITION

CH  
(LOCAL)

RESPONSIBILITY FOR DEBTS	The Board shall assume responsibility for debts incurred in the name of the District so long as those debts are for purchases made in accordance with <b>the adopted budget, state law</b> , Board policy, and <b>the District's purchasing</b> <del>current administrative</del> procedures. <b>[See CE]</b> The Board shall not be responsible for debts incurred by persons or organizations not directly under Board control. Persons making unauthorized purchases shall assume full responsibility for all such debts.
PURCHASE COMMITMENTS	All purchase commitments shall be made by the Superintendent or designee <del>on a properly drawn and issued purchase order,</del> in accordance with administrative <b>procedures, including the District's purchasing</b> procedures.
PERSONAL PURCHASES	District employees shall not be permitted to <b>make purchases</b> <del>purchase supplies or equipment</del> for personal use through the District's business office.

PERSONNEL-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS  
EMPLOYEE COMPLAINTS/GRIEVANCES

DGBA  
(LOCAL)

COMPLAINTS

In this policy, the terms “complaint” and “grievance” shall have the same meaning.

OTHER COMPLAINT  
PROCESSES

Employee complaints shall be filed in accordance with this policy, except as **required by the policies listed below. Some of these policies require appeals to be submitted in accordance with DGBA after the relevant complaint process**~~provided below:~~

1. Complaints alleging discrimination, including violations of Title IX (gender), Title VII (sex, race, color, religion, national origin), ADEA (age), or Section 504 (disability), shall be submitted in accordance with DIA.
2. Complaints alleging certain forms of harassment, including harassment by a supervisor and violation of Title VII, shall be submitted in accordance with DIA.
3. Complaints concerning retaliation relating to discrimination and harassment shall be submitted in accordance with DIA.
4. Complaints concerning instructional materials shall be submitted in accordance with EFA.
5. Complaints concerning a commissioned peace officer who is an employee of the District shall be submitted in accordance with CKE.
6. Complaints concerning the proposed nonrenewal of a term contract issued under Chapter 21 of the Education Code shall be submitted in accordance with DFBB.
7. Complaints concerning the proposed termination or suspension without pay of an employee on a probationary, term, or continuing contract issued under Chapter 21 of the Education Code during the contract term shall be submitted in accordance with DFAA, DFBA, or DFCA.

NOTICE TO  
EMPLOYEES

The District shall inform employees of this policy **through appropriate District publications.**

GUIDING PRINCIPLES  
INFORMAL  
PROCESS

The Board encourages employees to discuss their concerns ~~and complaints through informal conferences~~ with their supervisor, principal, or other appropriate administrator **who has the authority to address the concerns. -**

Concerns should be expressed as soon as possible to allow early resolution at the lowest possible administrative level.

**Informal resolution shall be encouraged but shall not extend any deadlines in this policy, except by mutual written consent.**

PERSONNEL-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS  
EMPLOYEE COMPLAINTS/GRIEVANCES

DGBA  
(LOCAL)

DIRECT COMMUNICATION WITH BOARD MEMBERS	Employees shall not be prohibited from communicating with a member of the Board regarding District operations except when communication between an employee and a Board member would be inappropriate because of a pending hearing or appeal related to the employee.
FORMAL PROCESS	<p><b>An employee</b><del>If an informal conference regarding a complaint fails to reach the outcome requested by the employee, he or she</del> may initiate the formal process described below by timely filing a written complaint form.</p> <p>Even after initiating the formal complaint process, employees are encouraged to seek informal resolution of their concerns. An employee whose concerns are resolved may withdraw a formal complaint at any time.</p> <p>The process described in this policy shall not be construed to create new or additional rights beyond those granted by law or Board policy, nor to require a full evidentiary hearing or “mini-trial” at any level.</p>
FREEDOM FROM RETALIATION	Neither the Board nor any District employee shall unlawfully retaliate against an employee for bringing a concern or complaint.
WHISTLEBLOWER COMPLAINTS	Whistleblower complaints shall be filed within the time specified by law and may be made to the Superintendent or designee beginning at Level Two. Time lines for the employee and the District set out in this policy may be shortened to allow the Board to make a final decision within 60 calendar days of the initiation of the complaint. [See DG]
COMPLAINTS AGAINST SUPERVISORS	Complaints alleging a violation of law by a supervisor may be made to the Superintendent or designee. <b>Complaint forms</b> <del>Complaints</del> alleging a violation of law by the Superintendent may be <b>submitted</b> <del>made</del> directly to the Board or designee.
GENERAL PROVISIONS FILING	Complaint forms and appeal notices may be filed by hand-delivery, <b>by electronic communication, including e-mail and fax, or by fax, or</b> U.S. Mail. Hand-delivered filings shall be timely filed if received by the appropriate administrator or designee by the close of business on the deadline. <b>Filings submitted by electronic communication</b> <del>Fax filings</del> shall be timely filed if they are received <b>by the close of business on</b> <del>on or before</del> the deadline, as indicated by the date/time shown on the <b>electronic communication</b> <del>fax copy</del> . Mail filings shall be timely filed if they are postmarked by U.S. Mail on or before the deadline and received by the appropriate administrator or designated representative no more than three days after the deadline.



**SCHEDULING  
CONFERENCES**

**The District shall make reasonable attempts to schedule conferences at a mutually agreeable time. If the employee fails to appear at a scheduled conference, the District may hold the conference and issue a decision in the employee's absence.**

RESPONSE

At Levels One and Two, "response" shall mean a written communication to the employee from the appropriate administrator. Responses may be hand-delivered, **sent by electronic communication to the employee's e-mail address of record**, or sent by U.S. Mail to the employee's mailing address of record. Mailed responses shall be timely if they are postmarked by U.S. Mail on or before the deadline.

DAYS

"Days" shall mean District business days, unless otherwise noted. In calculating time lines under this policy, the day a document is filed is "day zero." The following business day is "day one."

REPRESENTATIVE

"Representative" shall mean any person who or an organization that does not claim the right to strike and is designated by the employee to represent him or her in the complaint process.

The employee may designate a representative through written notice to the District at any level of this process. The representative may participate in person or by telephone conference call. If the employee designates a representative with fewer than three days' notice to the District before a scheduled conference or hearing, the District may reschedule the conference or hearing to a later date, if desired, in order to include the District's counsel. The District may be represented by counsel at any level of the process.

CONSOLIDATING  
COMPLAINTS

Complaints arising out of an event or a series of related events shall be addressed in one complaint. Employees shall not **file bring** separate or serial complaints arising from any event or series of events that have been or could have been addressed in a previous complaint.

When two or more complaints are sufficiently similar in nature and remedy sought to permit their resolution through one proceeding, the District may consolidate the complaints.

UNTIMELY FILINGS

All time limits shall be strictly followed unless modified by mutual written consent.

If a complaint form or appeal notice is not timely filed, the complaint may be dismissed, on written notice to the employee, at any point during the complaint process. The employee may appeal the dismissal by seeking review in writing within ten days from the date of the written dismissal notice, starting at the level at which the complaint was dismissed. Such appeal shall be limited to the issue of timeliness.

PERSONNEL-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS  
EMPLOYEE COMPLAINTS/GRIEVANCES

DGBA  
(LOCAL)

COSTS INCURRED	Each party shall pay its own costs incurred in the course of the complaint.
COMPLAINT <b>AND APPEAL FORMS</b> <del>FORM</del>	<p>Complaints <b>and appeals</b> under this policy shall be submitted in writing on a form provided by the District.</p> <p>Copies of any documents that support the complaint should be attached to the complaint form. If the employee does not have copies of these documents, they may be presented at the Level One conference. After the Level One conference, no new documents may be submitted by the employee unless the employee did not know the documents existed before the Level One conference.</p> <p>A complaint <b>or appeal</b> form that is incomplete in any material aspect may be dismissed, but may be refiled with all the required information if the refiling is within the designated time for filing <del>a</del> <b>complaint</b>.</p>
AUDIO RECORDING	As provided by law, an employee shall be permitted to make an audio recording of a conference or hearing under this policy at which the substance of the employee's complaint is discussed. The employee shall notify all attendees present that an audio recording is taking place.
LEVEL ONE	<p>Complaint forms must be filed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Within 15 days of the date the employee first knew, or with reasonable diligence should have known, of the decision or action giving rise to the complaint or grievance; and</li><li>2. With the lowest level administrator who has the authority to remedy the alleged problem.</li></ol> <p>In most circumstances, employees on a school campus shall file Level One complaints with the campus principal; other District employees shall file Level One complaints with their immediate supervisor.</p> <p>If the only administrator who has authority to remedy the alleged problem is the Superintendent or designee, the complaint may begin at Level Two following the procedure, including deadlines, for filing the complaint form at Level One.</p> <p>If the complaint is not filed with the appropriate administrator, the receiving administrator must note the date and time the complaint form was received and immediately forward the complaint form to the appropriate administrator.</p> <p>The appropriate administrator shall investigate as necessary and <b>schedule</b><del>hold</del> a conference with the employee within ten days after</p>

receipt of the written complaint. The administrator may set reasonable time limits for the conference.

**Absent extenuating circumstances, the** administrator shall provide the employee a written response within ten days following the conference. The written response shall set forth the basis of the decision. In reaching a decision, the administrator may consider information provided at the Level One conference and any other relevant documents or information the administrator believes will help resolve the complaint.

#### LEVEL TWO

If the employee did not receive the relief requested at Level One or if the time for a response has expired, the employee may request a conference with the Superintendent or designee to appeal the Level One decision.

The appeal notice must be filed in writing, on a form provided by the District, within ten days of the date of the written Level One response or, if no response was received, within ten days of the Level One response deadline.

After receiving notice of the appeal, the Level One administrator shall prepare and forward a record of the Level One complaint to the Level Two administrator. The employee may request a copy of the Level One record.

The Level One record shall include:

1. The original complaint form and any attachments.
2. All other documents submitted by the employee at Level One.
3. The written response issued at Level One and any attachments.
4. All other documents relied upon by the Level One administrator in reaching the Level One decision.

The Superintendent or designee shall **schedule** a conference within ten days after the appeal notice is filed. The conference shall be limited to the issues **and documents considered** presented by the employee at Level One ~~and identified in the Level Two appeal notice~~. At the conference, the employee may provide information concerning any documents or information relied upon by the administration for the Level One decision. The Superintendent or designee may set reasonable time limits for the conference.

The Superintendent or designee shall provide the employee a written response within ten days following the conference. The written response shall set forth the basis of the decision. In reaching a

decision, the Superintendent or designee may consider the Level One record, information provided at the Level Two conference, and any other relevant documents or information the Superintendent or designee believes will help resolve the complaint.

Recordings of the Level One and Level Two conferences, if any, shall be maintained with the Level One and Level Two records.

### LEVEL THREE

If the employee did not receive the relief requested at Level Two or if the time for a response has expired, the employee may appeal the decision to the Board.

The appeal notice must be filed in writing, on a form provided by the District, within ten days of the date of the written Level Two response or, if no response was received, within ten days of the Level Two response deadline.

The Superintendent or designee shall inform the employee of the date, time, and place of the Board meeting at which the complaint will be on the agenda for presentation to the Board.

The Superintendent or designee shall provide the Board the record of the Level Two appeal. The employee may request a copy of the Level Two record.

The Level Two record shall include:

1. The Level One record.
2. The notice of appeal from Level One to Level Two.
3. The written response issued at Level Two and any attachments.
4. All other documents relied upon by the administration in reaching the Level Two decision.

**The appeal shall be limited to the issues and documents considered at Level Two, except that if** at the Level Three hearing the administration intends to rely on evidence not included in the Level Two record, the administration shall provide the employee notice of the nature of the evidence at least three days before the hearing.

The District shall determine whether the complaint will be presented in open or closed meeting in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act and other applicable law. [See BE]

The presiding officer may set reasonable time limits and guidelines for the presentation, including an opportunity for the employee and administration to each make a presentation and provide rebuttal and an opportunity for questioning by the Board. The Board shall

hear the complaint and may request that the administration provide an explanation for the decisions at the preceding levels.

In addition to any other record of the Board meeting required by law, the Board shall prepare a separate record of the Level Three presentation. The Level Three presentation, including the presentation by the employee or the employee's representative, any presentation from the administration, and questions from the Board with responses, shall be recorded by audio recording, video/audio recording, or court reporter.

The Board shall then consider the complaint. It may give notice of its decision orally or in writing at any time up to and including the next regularly scheduled Board meeting. If the Board does not make a decision regarding the complaint by the end of the next regularly scheduled meeting, the lack of a response by the Board upholds the administrative decision at Level Two.

SCHOOL YEAR

EB  
(LOCAL)

SCHOOL CALENDAR

The Superintendent shall be authorized to approve variations from the Board-adopted school calendar, as necessary.

SCHOOL CLOSURE

The Board delegates to the Superintendent the authority to close schools for reasons of public health and safety.

~~GRADING/PROGRESS REPORTS TO PARENTS  
MAKEUP WORK~~

EIAB  
(LOCAL)

	<del>Students shall be expected to make up assignments and tests after absences. Students shall receive a zero for any assignment or test not made up within the allotted time.</del>
<del>TESTS</del>	<del>Students shall be permitted to take tests administered in any class missed because of absence.</del>  <del>For any class missed, the teacher may assign the student make-up work based on the instructional objectives for the subject or course and the needs of the individual student in mastering the essential knowledge and skills or in meeting subject or course requirements.</del>  <del>A student shall be responsible for obtaining and completing the make-up work in a satisfactory manner and within the time specified by the teacher.</del>
<del>LATE PROJECTS</del>	<del>Teachers may assign a late penalty to any project turned in after the due date in accordance with previously established guidelines approved by the principal and disseminated to students.</del>
<del>UNEXCUSED ABSENCES</del>	<del>The grade for make-up work after an unexcused absence shall be zero.</del>
<del>SUSPENSION</del>	<del>The District shall not impose a grade penalty for make-up work after an absence because of suspension.</del>

Harts Bluff ISD  
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STUDENT WELFARE  
CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

FFG  
(LOCAL)

REPORTING CHILD  
ABUSE AND NEGLECT

Any person who has cause to believe that a child has been or may be abused or neglected by any person shall make a report immediately as required by law.

Reports shall be made in accordance with FFG(EXHIBIT).



STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES  
STUDENT AND PARENT COMPLAINTS/GRIEVANCES

FNG  
(LOCAL)

COMPLAINTS

In this policy, the terms “complaint” and “grievance” shall have the same meaning.

OTHER COMPLAINT  
PROCESSES

Student or parent complaints shall be filed in accordance with this policy, except as **required by the policies listed below. Some of these policies require appeals to be submitted in accordance with FNG after the relevant complaint process**~~provided below:~~

1. Complaints alleging discrimination or harassment based on race, color, gender, national origin, disability, or religion shall be submitted in accordance with FFH.
2. Complaints concerning dating violence shall be submitted in accordance with FFH.
3. Complaints concerning retaliation related to discrimination and harassment shall be submitted in accordance with FFH.
4. Complaints concerning bullying or retaliation related to bullying shall be submitted in accordance with FFI.
5. Complaints concerning **failure to award**~~loss of~~ **credit or a final grade** on the basis of attendance shall be submitted in accordance with FEC.
- ~~6. Complaints concerning removal to a disciplinary alternative education program shall be submitted in accordance with FOC and the Student Code of Conduct.~~
- ~~7.6.~~ Complaints concerning expulsion shall be submitted in accordance with FOD and the Student Code of Conduct.
- ~~8.7.~~ Complaints concerning any final decisions of the gifted and talented selection committee regarding selection for or exit from the gifted program shall be submitted in accordance with EHBB.
- ~~9.8.~~ Complaints concerning identification, evaluation, or educational placement of a student with a disability within the scope of Section 504 shall be submitted in accordance with FB and the procedural safeguards handbook.
- ~~10.9.~~ Complaints concerning identification, evaluation, educational placement, or discipline of a student with a disability within the scope of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act shall be submitted in accordance with EHBAE, FOF, and the procedural safeguards handbook provided to parents of all students referred to special education.
- ~~11.10.~~ Complaints concerning instructional materials shall be submitted in accordance with EFA.

STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES  
STUDENT AND PARENT COMPLAINTS/GRIEVANCES

FNG  
(LOCAL)

	<p><del>12.11.</del> Complaints concerning a commissioned peace officer who is an employee of the District shall be submitted in accordance with CKE.</p> <p><del>13.12.</del> Complaints concerning intradistrict transfers or campus assignment shall be submitted in accordance with FDB.</p> <p><del>14.13.</del> Complaints concerning admission, placement, or services provided for a homeless student shall be submitted in accordance with FDC.</p>
NOTICE TO STUDENTS AND PARENTS	The District shall inform students and parents of this policy <b>through appropriate District publications.</b>
GUIDING PRINCIPLES	The Board encourages students and parents to discuss their concerns <del>and complaints through informal conferences</del> with the appropriate teacher, principal, or other campus administrator <b>who has the authority to address the concerns.</b>
INFORMAL PROCESS	Concerns should be expressed as soon as possible to allow early resolution at the lowest possible administrative level. <b>Informal resolution shall be encouraged but shall not extend any deadlines in this policy, except by mutual written consent.</b>
FORMAL PROCESS	<del>If an informal conference regarding a complaint fails to reach the outcome requested by the student or parent, the</del> student or parent may initiate the formal process described below by timely filing a written complaint form.  Even after initiating the formal complaint process, students and parents are encouraged to seek informal resolution of their concerns. A student or parent whose concerns are resolved may withdraw a formal complaint at any time.  The process described in this policy shall not be construed to create new or additional rights beyond those granted by law or Board policy, nor to require a full evidentiary hearing or “mini-trial” at any level.
FREEDOM FROM RETALIATION	Neither the Board nor any District employee shall unlawfully retaliate against any student or parent for bringing a concern or complaint.
GENERAL PROVISIONS	Complaint forms and appeal notices may be filed by hand-delivery, <b>by electronic communication, including e-mail and fax, or</b> <del>by fax, or</del> U.S. Mail. Hand-delivered filings shall be timely filed if received by the appropriate administrator or designee by the close of business on the deadline. <b>Filings submitted by electronic communication</b> <del>Fax filings</del> shall be timely filed if they are received
FILING	
DATE ISSUED: <b>11/19/2014</b> <del>9/24/2012</del>	
UPDATE <b>10195</b>	
FNG(LOCAL)-A	

STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES  
STUDENT AND PARENT COMPLAINTS/GRIEVANCES

FNG  
(LOCAL)

by the close of business ~~on or before~~ the deadline, as indicated by the date/time shown on the **electronic communication** ~~fax copy~~. Mail filings shall be timely filed if they are postmarked by U.S. Mail on or before the deadline and received by the appropriate administrator or designated representative no more than three days after the deadline.

**SCHEDULING  
CONFERENCES**

**The District shall make reasonable attempts to schedule conferences at a mutually agreeable time. If a student or parent fails to appear at a scheduled conference, the District may hold the conference and issue a decision in the student's or parent's absence.**

RESPONSE

At Levels One and Two, "response" shall mean a written communication to the student or parent from the appropriate administrator. Responses may be hand-delivered, **sent by electronic communication to the student's or parent's e-mail address of record**, or sent by U.S. Mail to the student's or parent's mailing address of record. Mailed responses shall be timely if they are postmarked by U.S. Mail on or before the deadline.

DAYS

"Days" shall mean District business days. In calculating time lines under this policy, the day a document is filed is "day zero." The following business day is "day one."

REPRESENTATIVE

"Representative" shall mean any person who or organization that is designated by the student or parent to represent the student or parent in the complaint process. A student may be represented by an adult at any level of the complaint.

The student or parent may designate a representative through written notice to the District at any level of this process. If the student or parent designates a representative with fewer than three days' notice to the District before a scheduled conference or hearing, the District may reschedule the conference or hearing to a later date, if desired, in order to include the District's counsel. The District may be represented by counsel at any level of the process.

CONSOLIDATING  
COMPLAINTS

Complaints arising out of an event or a series of related events shall be addressed in one complaint. A student or parent shall not **file** ~~bring~~ separate or serial complaints arising from any event or series of events that have been or could have been addressed in a previous complaint.

UNTIMELY FILINGS

All time limits shall be strictly followed unless modified by mutual written consent.

If a complaint form or appeal notice is not timely filed, the complaint may be dismissed, on written notice to the student or parent, at any point during the complaint process. The student or parent

STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES  
STUDENT AND PARENT COMPLAINTS/GRIEVANCES

FNG  
(LOCAL)

may appeal the dismissal by seeking review in writing within ten days from the date of the written dismissal notice, starting at the level at which the complaint was dismissed. Such appeal shall be limited to the issue of timeliness.

COSTS INCURRED

Each party shall pay its own costs incurred in the course of the complaint.

COMPLAINT **AND**  
**APPEAL**  
**FORMS**~~FORM~~

Complaints **and appeals** under this policy shall be submitted in writing on a form provided by the District.

Copies of any documents that support the complaint should be attached to the complaint form. If the student or parent does not have copies of these documents, copies may be presented at the Level One conference. After the Level One conference, no new documents may be submitted by the student or parent unless the student or parent did not know the documents existed before the Level One conference.

A complaint **or appeal** form that is incomplete in any material aspect may be dismissed, but may be refiled with all the required information if the refile is within the designated time for filing ~~a~~ **complaint**.

LEVEL ONE

Complaint forms must be filed:

1. Within 15 days of the date the student or parent first knew, or with reasonable diligence should have known, of the decision or action giving rise to the complaint or grievance; and
2. With the lowest level administrator who has the authority to remedy the alleged problem.

In most circumstances, students and parents shall file Level One complaints with the campus principal.

If the only administrator who has authority to remedy the alleged problem is the Superintendent or designee, the complaint may begin at Level Two following the procedure, including deadlines, for filing the complaint form at Level One.

If the complaint is not filed with the appropriate administrator, the receiving administrator must note the date and time the complaint form was received and immediately forward the complaint form to the appropriate administrator.

The appropriate administrator shall investigate as necessary and **schedule**~~hold~~ a conference with the student or parent within ten days after receipt of the written complaint. The administrator may set reasonable time limits for the conference.

**Absent extenuating circumstances, the** administrator shall provide the student or parent a written response within ten days following the conference. The written response shall set forth the basis of the decision. In reaching a decision, the administrator may consider information provided at the Level One conference and any other relevant documents or information the administrator believes will help resolve the complaint.

LEVEL TWO

If the student or parent did not receive the relief requested at Level One or if the time for a response has expired, the student or parent may request a conference with the Superintendent or designee to appeal the Level One decision.

The appeal notice must be filed in writing, on a form provided by the District, within ten days of the date of the written Level One response or, if no response was received, within ten days of the Level One response deadline.

After receiving notice of the appeal, the Level One administrator shall prepare and forward a record of the Level One complaint to the Level Two administrator. The student or parent may request a copy of the Level One record.

The Level One record shall include:

1. The original complaint form and any attachments.
2. All other documents submitted by the student or parent at Level One.
3. The written response issued at Level One and any attachments.
4. All other documents relied upon by the Level One administrator in reaching the Level One decision.

The Superintendent or designee shall **schedule** a conference within ten days after the appeal notice is filed. The conference shall be limited to the issues **and documents considered** ~~presented by the student or parent at Level One and identified in the Level Two appeal notice.~~ At the conference, the student or parent may provide information concerning any documents or information relied upon by the administration for the Level One decision. The Superintendent or designee may set reasonable time limits for the conference.

The Superintendent or designee shall provide the student or parent a written response within ten days following the conference. The written response shall set forth the basis of the decision. In reaching a decision, the Superintendent or designee may consider the

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FNG  
(LOCAL)

Level One record, information provided at the Level Two conference, and any other relevant documents or information the Superintendent or designee believes will help resolve the complaint.

Recordings of the Level One and Level Two conferences, if any, shall be maintained with the Level One and Level Two records.

LEVEL THREE

If the student or parent did not receive the relief requested at Level Two or if the time for a response has expired, the student or parent may appeal the decision to the Board.

The appeal notice must be filed in writing, on a form provided by the District, within ten days of the date of the written Level Two response or, if no response was received, within ten days of the Level Two response deadline.

The Superintendent or designee shall inform the student or parent of the date, time, and place of the Board meeting at which the complaint will be on the agenda for presentation to the Board.

The Superintendent or designee shall provide the Board the record of the Level Two appeal. The student or parent may request a copy of the Level Two record.

The Level Two record shall include:

1. The Level One record.
2. The notice of appeal from Level One to Level Two.
3. The written response issued at Level Two and any attachments.
4. All other documents relied upon by the administration in reaching the Level Two decision.

**The appeal shall be limited to the issues and documents considered at Level Two, except that if** at the Level Three hearing the administration intends to rely on evidence not included in the Level Two record, the administration shall provide the student or parent notice of the nature of the evidence at least three days before the hearing.

The District shall determine whether the complaint will be presented in open or closed meeting in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act and other applicable law. [See BE]

The presiding officer may set reasonable time limits and guidelines for the presentation, including an opportunity for the student or parent and administration to each make a presentation and provide rebuttal and an opportunity for questioning by the Board. The Board shall hear the complaint and may request that the admin-

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istration provide an explanation for the decisions at the preceding levels.

In addition to any other record of the Board meeting required by law, the Board shall prepare a separate record of the Level Three presentation. The Level Three presentation, including the presentation by the student or parent or the student's representative, any presentation from the administration, and questions from the Board with responses, shall be recorded by audio recording, video/audio recording, or court reporter.

The Board shall then consider the complaint. It may give notice of its decision orally or in writing at any time up to and including the next regularly scheduled Board meeting. If the Board does not make a decision regarding the complaint by the end of the next regularly scheduled meeting, the lack of a response by the Board upholds the administrative decision at Level Two.

PUBLIC COMPLAINTS

GF  
(LOCAL)

COMPLAINTS

In this policy, the terms “complaint” and “grievance” shall have the same meaning.

OTHER COMPLAINT  
PROCESSES

Complaints by members of the public shall be filed in accordance with this policy, except as **required by the policies listed below. Some of these policies require appeals to be submitted in accordance with GF after the relevant complaint process**~~provided below:~~

1. Complaints concerning instructional materials shall be filed in accordance with EFA.
2. Complaints concerning a commissioned peace officer who is an employee of the District shall be filed in accordance with CKE.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES  
INFORMAL  
PROCESS

The Board encourages the public to discuss concerns ~~and complaints through informal conferences~~ with ~~an~~the appropriate administrator **who has the authority to address the concerns.** -

Concerns should be expressed as soon as possible to allow early resolution at the lowest possible administrative level.

**Informal resolution shall be encouraged but shall not extend any deadlines in this policy, except by mutual written consent.**

FORMAL PROCESS

**An individual**~~If an informal conference regarding a complaint fails to reach the outcome requested by an individual, he or she~~ may initiate the formal process described below by timely filing a written complaint form.

Even after initiating the formal complaint process, individuals are encouraged to seek informal resolution of their concerns. An individual whose concerns are resolved may withdraw a formal complaint at any time.

The process described in this policy shall not be construed to create new or additional rights beyond those granted by law or Board policy, nor to require a full evidentiary hearing or “mini-trial” at any level.

FREEDOM FROM  
RETALIATION

Neither the Board nor any District employee shall unlawfully retaliate against any individual for bringing a concern or complaint.

GENERAL  
PROVISIONS

FILING

Complaint forms and appeal notices may be filed by hand-delivery, **by electronic communication, including e-mail and fax, or by fax,**~~or~~ U.S. Mail. Hand-delivered filings shall be timely filed if received by the appropriate administrator or designee by the close of business on the deadline. **Filings submitted by electronic communication**~~Fax filings~~ shall be timely filed if they are received **by the close of business on**~~on or before~~ the deadline, as indicat-



ed by the date/time shown on the **electronic communication** ~~fax copy~~. Mail filings shall be timely filed if they are postmarked by U.S. Mail on or before the deadline and received by the appropriate administrator or designated representative no more than three days after the deadline.

**SCHEDULING  
CONFERENCES**

**The District shall make reasonable attempts to schedule conferences at a mutually agreeable time. If the individual fails to appear at a scheduled conference, the District may hold the conference and issue a decision in the individual's absence.**

RESPONSE

At Levels One and Two, "response" shall mean a written communication to the individual from the appropriate administrator. Responses may be hand-delivered, **sent by electronic communication to the individual's e-mail address of record**, or sent by U.S. Mail to the individual's mailing address of record. Mailed responses shall be timely if they are postmarked by U.S. Mail on or before the deadline.

DAYS

"Days" shall mean District business days. In calculating time lines under this policy, the day a document is filed is "day zero." The following business day is "day one."

REPRESENTATIVE

"Representative" shall mean any person who or organization that is designated by an individual to represent the individual in the complaint process.

The individual may designate a representative through written notice to the District at any level of this process. If the individual designates a representative with fewer than three days' notice to the District before a scheduled conference or hearing, the District may reschedule the conference or hearing to a later date, if desired, in order to include the District's counsel. The District may be represented by counsel at any level of the process.

CONSOLIDATING  
COMPLAINTS

Complaints arising out of an event or a series of related events shall be addressed in one complaint. An individual shall not **file** ~~bring~~ separate or serial complaints arising from any event or series of events that have been or could have been addressed in a previous complaint.

UNTIMELY FILINGS

All time limits shall be strictly followed unless modified by mutual written consent.

If a complaint form or appeal notice is not timely filed, the complaint may be dismissed, on written notice to the individual, at any point during the complaint process. The individual may appeal the dismissal by seeking review in writing within ten days from the date of the written dismissal notice, starting at the level at which the

complaint was dismissed. Such appeal shall be limited to the issue of timeliness.

COSTS INCURRED

Each party shall pay its own costs incurred in the course of the complaint.

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**Absent extenuating circumstances, the**~~The~~ administrator shall provide the individual a written response within ten days following the conference. The written response shall set forth the basis of the decision. In reaching a decision, the administrator may consider information provided at the Level One conference and any

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