

<b>Prohibited Classroom Instruction or Activities</b>	An employee is prohibited from intentionally or knowingly engaging in or assigning to another individual instruction, guidance, activities, or programming prohibited by law [see EMB].
<b>Prohibited Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Duties</b>	An employee shall be subject to disciplinary action, including termination of employment, if the employee, intentionally or knowingly: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Engages in diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) duties.</li><li>Assigns to another individual DEI duties.</li></ul> [See BT(LEGAL)]
<b>Social Transitioning</b>	An employee shall be prohibited from assisting a District student with social transitioning, as the term is defined in law. This prohibition includes providing any information to a District student about social transitioning or guidelines intended to assist a District student with social transitioning.
<b>Safety Requirements</b>	Each employee shall adhere to District safety rules and regulations and shall report unsafe conditions or practices to the appropriate supervisor.
<b>Harassment or Abuse</b>	An employee shall not engage in prohibited harassment, including sexual harassment, of: <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>Other employees. [See DIA]</li><li>Students. [See FFH; see FFG regarding child abuse and neglect.]</li></ol> 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]
<b>Relationships with Students</b>	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] As required by law, the District shall notify the parent of a student with whom an educator or District employee or person acting as a service provider for the District is alleged to have engaged in certain misconduct. [See FFF] [See FFF for parent notification requirements and DHB and DHC for reporting requirements.]

**Tobacco and  
Nicotine Products  
and E-Cigarettes**

An employee is prohibited from possessing or using any type of tobacco product, e-cigarette, or any other electronic vaporizing device while on school property, in a District vehicle, or while attending an off-campus school-related activity. An employee is also prohibited from possessing or using any type of nicotine product, including nicotine pouches, regardless of whether the product contains tobacco, while on District property, in a District vehicle, or while attending an off-campus school-related activity.

An employee's supervisor is authorized to approve an exception to this policy for a smoking cessation product.

**Alcohol and Drugs /  
Notice of Drug-Free  
Workplace**

As a condition of employment, an employee shall abide by the terms of the following drug-free workplace provisions. An employee shall notify the Superintendent in writing if the employee is convicted for a violation of a criminal drug statute occurring in the workplace in accordance with Arrests, Indictments, Convictions, and Other Adjudications, below.

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 or at school-related activities during or outside of usual working hours:

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:

1. Manufactures, possesses, or dispenses a substance listed above as part of the employee's job responsibilities;
2. Uses or possesses a controlled substance or drug authorized by a licensed physician prescribed for the employee's personal use; or

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3. 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.

**Sanctions**

An employee who violates these drug-free workplace provisions shall be subject to disciplinary sanctions. Sanctions may include:

1. Referral to drug and alcohol counseling or rehabilitation programs;
2. Referral to employee assistance programs;
3. Termination from employment with the District; and
4. Referral to appropriate law enforcement officials for prosecution.

**Notice**

Employees shall receive a copy of this policy.

**Arrests, Indictments, Convictions, 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;
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.

<b>Dress and Grooming</b>	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.
<b>Personal Use of District Funds or Property</b>	District personnel shall not borrow, take a loan, or otherwise obtain the use of District funds or property for personal use or convenience. The appropriation of District funds for the purpose of cashing personal checks shall likewise be prohibited.
<b>Paging / Cellular Devices</b>	A school employee shall not use paging/cellular devices during working hours or while driving a District vehicle, except as permitted by the Superintendent. The use of a paging/cellular device shall be allowed only during the employee's lunchtime and conference period.
<b>Definition</b>	A "paging/cellular device" is a telecommunications device that emits an audible signal, vibrates, displays a message, or otherwise summons or delivers a communication to the user.

<b>Instructional Plan and Course Syllabus</b>	Prior to the beginning of each semester, each teacher shall provide a copy of the teacher's instructional plan or course syllabus for each class for which the teacher provides instruction.  The teacher shall provide this information to the District administration and the parent of each student enrolled in the teacher's class. Additional copies of the instructional plan or course syllabus shall be made available to a parent of a student enrolled upon that parent's request.
<b>District Website</b>	The Superintendent shall develop administrative procedures for the posting of the instructional plans and course syllabi for each class offered in the District on the District's website.

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**Note:** For information related to the accounting of instructional materials, as this term is defined by state law and rule, see CMD.

For information related to the selection process of library materials, see EFB.

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The District shall provide instructional materials designed to teach the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills and further the District's educational mission. Although the Superintendent shall ensure that professional staff select instructional materials in accordance with District policy and administrative regulations, the ultimate authority for determining and approving the curriculum and instructional program of the District lies with the Board.

**Objectives** In this policy, "instructional materials" may include textbooks, supplementary resources for classroom use, and any other instructional resources, including electronic resources, used for formal or informal teaching and learning purposes. The primary objectives of instructional materials are to implement, enrich, and support the District's educational program.

**Selection** Instructional materials that are textbooks and related supplemental materials, which may include items from the list of resources adopted by the State Board of Education, shall be chosen in accordance with administrative regulations and the objectives above.

The Board shall rely on District professional staff to select and acquire instructional materials that:

1. Enrich and support the curriculum consistent with the general educational goals of the state and District, the aims and objectives of individual schools and specific courses, and the District and campus improvement plans.
2. Are appropriate for the subject area and for the age, ability level, learning styles, interests, and social and emotional development of the students for whom they are selected.
3. Meet high standards for artistic quality, literary style, authenticity, educational significance, factual content, physical format, presentation, readability, and technical quality.
4. Present various sides of controversial issues so that students have an opportunity to develop, under guidance, skills in critical analysis and in making informed judgments in their daily lives. [See also EMB regarding instruction about controversial issues.]
5. Promote literacy.

District professional staff may select additional instructional materials in accordance with administrative regulations and the criteria above.

Administrators, teachers, other District personnel, parents, and community members, as appropriate, may recommend instructional materials for selection. Gifts of instructional materials shall be evaluated according to these criteria and accepted or rejected in accordance with CDC(LOCAL).

Selection of instructional materials is an ongoing process that includes the removal of materials no longer appropriate and the periodic replacement or repair of materials that still have educational value.

**Parent Request for  
Instructional Material  
Review**

The Superintendent shall develop administrative regulations to ensure compliance with state law and rules that a parent or guardian of a District student may request an instructional materials review for a subject area in the grade level in which their student is enrolled on the basis of the following:

1. The material is not aligned with District-adopted materials; or
2. The material does not have the appropriate rigor for the grade level for the subject area in which the instructional material is used.

The regulations shall also address procedures for submitting a parent petition to review instructional materials, the appeal process if a petition for review is denied, criteria for reviewing any appeal, and timelines for each step in the process.

**Reconsideration of  
Instructional  
Materials**

A District employee or a parent or guardian of a District student may request reconsideration of instructional material used in the District's educational program on the basis that the instructional material fails to meet the standards set forth in this policy.

**Guiding Principles**

The following principles shall guide the Board and staff in responding to a request for reconsideration of instructional materials:

1. A complainant may raise an objection to an instructional material used in a school's educational program, despite the fact that the professional staff selecting the materials were qualified to make the selection, followed the proper procedure, and adhered to the objectives for instructional materials set out in this policy.
2. A parent's ability to exercise control over instruction extends only to his or her own child as set forth in Education Code Chapter 26.

3. Access to a challenged material shall not be restricted during the reconsideration process, except the District may deny access to a child if requested by the child's parent.

The major criterion for the final decision on challenged instructional materials is the appropriateness of the material for its intended educational use. No challenged instructional material shall be removed solely because of the ideas expressed therein.

**Informal  
Reconsideration**

When the District or a campus receives an objection to the appropriateness of an instructional material, the appropriate administrator shall try to resolve the matter informally. The administrator shall explain the selection process and discuss the intended educational purpose for the instructional material. If appropriate, the administrator may offer a concerned parent an alternative instructional material to be used by that parent's child in place of the challenged material.

If the complainant wishes to make a formal challenge, the administrator shall provide the complainant a copy of this policy and a form to request a formal reconsideration of the instructional material.

**Formal Request for  
Reconsideration**

A complainant shall make any formal request to reconsider an instructional material on the form provided by the District and shall submit the completed and signed form to the principal. Upon receipt of the form, the principal shall appoint a reconsideration committee.

The reconsideration committee shall include at least one member of the instructional staff who has experience using the challenged material with students or is familiar with the challenged material's content. Other members of the committee may include District-level staff, secondary-level students, parents, and any other appropriate individuals.

All members of the committee shall review the challenged instructional material in its entirety. As soon as reasonably possible, the committee shall meet and determine whether the challenged material conforms to the principles of selection set out in this policy and whether the challenged material will continue to be used in the educational program. The committee shall prepare a written report of its findings. The Superintendent, other appropriate administrators, and the complainant shall receive copies of the report.

**Frequency of  
Review**

After an instructional material has been reviewed through formal reconsideration, it shall not be reviewed again until it is evaluated in the periodic local selection process.

Appeal

The complainant may appeal the decision of the reconsideration committee in accordance with appropriate complaint policies, starting at the appropriate level. [See DGBA, FNG, and GF]

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**Note:** Unless otherwise noted, the terms "video recording," "video surveillance," and "video monitoring" shall also include any associated audio recordings. In addition, the term "classroom" shall also include other special education settings subject to video and audio recording required by law.

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To promote student safety, the District shall comply with requests for video and audio monitoring of certain self-contained-special education classrooms as required by law. Regular or continual monitoring of video recordings shall be prohibited. Video recordings shall not be used for teacher evaluation or monitoring or for any purpose other than the promotion of student safety.

The Superintendent is responsible for coordinating the provision of equipment to campuses in compliance with the law.

The Superintendent shall ensure that administrative regulations are developed to implement this policy.

<b>Requests</b> For Following Year	A parent of a student receiving special education services and whose placement for the following school year will be in a self-containedspecial education classroom eligible for video surveillance may request in writing that a video camera be placed in the classroom by the end of the current school year or by the tenth business day after the student's admission, review, and dismissal (ARD) committee determines the student's placement, whichever is later. If such a request is made, the campus shall begin operation of the camera by the deadlines in law.
For Current Year	Written requests from a parent, assistant principal, principal, staff member, or the Board shall be submitted and processed in accordance with the procedures in law.
Response	As required by law, the District shall provide a response to the requester not later than the seventh business day after receipt of the request.
Notice	Before a camera is activated, the principal shall provide advance written notice to staff on the campus and to parents of the students assigned to or engaging in school activities in the classroom that video and audio surveillance will be conducted in the classroom.
Installation and Operation	The classroom subject to the request shall begin operation of video surveillance not later than the time frames required in law, except when the District is granted an extension of time.

When the District has installed video cameras in a classroom as required by law, the District shall operate the cameras during the instructional day at all times when one or more students are in the classroom. For purposes of this policy, the instructional day shall be defined as the portion of a school day during which instruction is taking place in the classroom.

For the school year in which a campus receives a request for video and audio surveillance, the campus shall continue to operate and maintain any video cameras placed in the classroom for as long as the classroom continues to satisfy the requirements in Education Code 29.022(a). However, the campus may discontinue operation of the video camera during the year if the requester withdraws the request in writing and no request is submitted to continue the surveillance. Before a camera is deactivated, the principal shall provide advance written notice to staff on the campus and to parents of the students assigned to or engaging in school activities in the classroom that video and audio surveillance will be discontinued in the classroom and of the opportunity to request continued video and audio surveillance.

Video cameras must be capable of recording video and audio of all areas of the classroom, including a room attached to the classroom used for time out as defined by law. No visual monitoring, other than incidental coverage, shall be conducted of the inside of a bathroom or other area used for changing a student's clothes.

The District shall post notice at the entrance to a classroom in which video cameras are placed stating that video and audio surveillance is conducted in that classroom.

**Retention of Recordings**

Video recordings shall be retained for at least three months after the date of the recording but may be retained for a longer period in accordance with the District's records management program, or as required by law. [See CPC]

**Confidentiality of Recordings**

Video recordings made in accordance with this policy shall be confidential and shall only be released or viewed by the individuals and in the limited circumstances permitted by law. The following individuals shall have authority to view video recordings to the extent permitted by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA):

1. A District employee or a parent of a student who is involved in an alleged incident documented by a recording and reported to the District;
2. Appropriate Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) personnel as part of an investigation of alleged abuse or neglect of a child;

3. A peace officer, school nurse, District administrator trained in de-escalation and restraint techniques, or human resource staff member in response to a report of an alleged incident or an investigation of an employee or a report of alleged abuse committed by a student; and
4. Appropriate Texas Education Agency or State Board for Educator Certification personnel or their agents as part of an investigation.

For purposes of this policy, the term "human resource staff member" shall include the Superintendent, a principal, an assistant principal or other campus administrator, and any supervisory position within the District's human resources office. If an individual listed in items 2-42-4, above, believes that a recording shows a violation of District policy or campus procedures, the individual may allow access to the recording by appropriate legal and human resources personnel designated by the District for the purpose of determining whether a policy or procedure has been violated.

Any person who suspects that child abuse or neglect has occurred shall report this suspicion as required by law and District policy. [See FFG]

**Reporting an Incident**

A person alleging that an incident, as defined by law, has occurred in a classroom in which video surveillance is conducted shall file a report on the form provided by the District with the principal as soon as possible after the person suspects the alleged incident. If possible, an incident report form shall be filed within 4824 hours of the facts giving rise to the allegation. The principal shall promptly view, or direct an authorized individual to view, the video surveillance footage to identify the relevant portion of the recording. No later than ~~ten District business days~~10 District business days after the report is filed, the principal or designee shall respond by notifying the person whether the alleged incident was recorded in the District's video surveillance footage and shall initiate other steps as required by law, District policy, or local procedures.

**Complaints**

Complaints related to video and audio recordings under this policy shall be filed in accordance with DGBA, FNG, or GF, as applicable. A complainant who is dissatisfied with the outcome of the District's complaint process may appeal in writing to the commissioner of education in accordance with Education Code 7.057 and 19 Administrative Code 103.1303. A parent, staff member, or District administrator may request an expedited review in accordance with 19 Administrative Code 103.1303.

<b>Relation to Essential Knowledge and Skills</b>	<p>The District shall establish instructional objectives that relate to the essential knowledge and skills for grade-level subjects or courses. These objectives shall address the skills needed for successful performance in the next grade or next course in a sequence of courses.</p> <p>Assignments, tests, projects, classroom activities, and other instructional activities shall be designed so that each student's performance indicates the level of mastery of the designated District objectives.</p>
<b>Guidelines for Grading</b>	<p>The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that each campus or instructional level develops guidelines for teachers to follow in determining grades for students. These guidelines shall ensure that grading reflects a student's relative mastery of an assignment and that a sufficient number of grades are taken to support the grade average assigned. Guidelines for grading shall be clearly communicated to students and parents.</p>
	<p>The District shall permit a student who meets the criteria detailed in the grading guidelines a reasonable opportunity to redo an assignment or retake a test for which the student received a failing grade.</p>
<b>Progress Reporting</b>	<p>The District shall issue grade reports/report cards every nine weeks on a form approved by the Superintendent or designee. Performance shall be measured in accordance with this policy and the standards established in EIE.</p>
<b>Interim Reports</b>	<p>Interim progress reports shall be issued for all students after the third or fourth week of each grading period. Supplemental progress reports may be issued at the teacher's discretion.</p>
<b>Conferences</b>	<p><del>In addition to conferences scheduled on the campus calendar,</del> Each year, the District shall provide at least two opportunities for in-person conferences between each parent and the student's teacher. Additional conferences may be requested by a teacher or parent as needed.</p>
<b>Academic Dishonesty</b>	<p>A student found to have engaged in academic dishonesty shall be subject to grade penalties on assignments or tests and disciplinary penalties in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct. Academic dishonesty includes cheating or copying the work of another student, plagiarism, the use of artificial intelligence to complete an assignment in part or in whole unless approved by the classroom teacher [see CQD], and unauthorized communication between students during an examination. The determination that a student has engaged in academic dishonesty shall be based on the judgment of the classroom teacher or another supervising professional employee, taking into consideration written materials, observation,</p>

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ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT  
GRADING/PROGRESS REPORTS TO PARENTS

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er-information from students, or the use of an artificial intelligence  
detection tool selected by the District.

**Parent Portal**

The District shall establish a parent portal on the District's website through which parents may submit comments to campus administrators, District administrators, and the Board.

The Superintendent shall develop administrative regulations related to the portal, including placement on the District or campus websites and how campus or District administrators are to address comments received from parents through the portal.

<b>Release from School</b>	A student shall not be released from school at times other than regular dismissal hours except with the permission of the principal of the school. The teacher shall determine that such permission has been granted before allowing the student to leave.
<b>Exception for Released Time Course</b>	<p>For purposes of this policy, a "released time course" shall have the same definition as provided in law.</p> <p>A student shall be permitted to attend a released time course in accordance with the following requirements:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. The parent or guardian has provided written consent for the student to attend the released time course;</li><li>2. The private entity offering the released time course maintains attendance records and will make those records available to the District;</li><li>3. The private entity, parent or guardian, or student assumes responsibility for transportation, including transportation for a student with a disability, to and from the location at which the released course is offered;</li><li>4. The private entity assumes liability for the student enrolled in the released time course while the student is under the private entity's care; and</li><li>5. The student is responsible for any school work and assignments issued during the student's absence from the District.</li></ol> <p>The District shall be prohibited from using District funds, excluding de minimis costs, to facilitate the student attending a released time course.</p> <p>A private entity shall be prohibited from offering the released time course on District property unless the use is in accordance with policy GKD.</p> <p>The District shall not interfere with a parent's or guardian's ability to request or access a released time course for the student.</p>

No employee shall give any student prescription medication, non-prescription medication, herbal substances, anabolic steroids, or dietary supplements of any type, except as authorized by this or other District policy.

<b>Medication Provided by Parent</b>	<p>The Superintendent shall designate the employees who are authorized to administer medication that has been provided by a student's parent. An authorized employee is permitted to administer the following medication in accordance with administrative regulations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Prescription medication in accordance with legal requirements.</li><li>2. Nonprescription medication, <del>upon a parent's written request, when properly labeled and in the original container</del> in accordance with legal requirements.</li><li>3. Herbal substances or dietary supplements provided by the parent and only if required by the individualized education program or Section 504 plan for a student with disabilities.</li></ol>
<b>Medication Provided by District</b>	Except as required by law and provided by this policy, the District shall not purchase medication to administer to a student.
Opioid Antagonist	This provision shall be applicable to every campus.
On Campus	The District authorizes school personnel who have been adequately trained to administer an opioid antagonist in accordance with law and this policy. Administration of an opioid antagonist shall only be permitted when an authorized and trained individual reasonably believes a person is experiencing an opioid-related overdose.
	Each applicable campus shall have at least one individual who is authorized and trained to administer an opioid antagonist present during regular school hours.
Maintenance, Availability, Training, and Reporting	<p>Each applicable campus shall have at least two unused, unexpired opioid antagonist doses available.</p> <p>All opioid antagonists shall be stored in a secure location and shall be easily accessible by individuals who are authorized and trained to administer an opioid antagonist.</p> <p>The Superintendent shall develop administrative regulations addressing acquisition, maintenance, expiration, and disposal of opioid antagonists in the District, as well as reporting, employee training, and emergency notification requirements.</p>

<b>Psychotropics</b>	Except as permitted by law, an employee shall not: <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Recommend to a student or a parent that the student use a psychotropic drug;</li><li>2. Suggest a particular diagnosis; or</li><li>3. Exclude the student from a class or a school-related activity because of the parent's refusal to consent to psychiatric evaluation or examination or treatment of the student.</li></ol>
<b>Medical Treatment</b>	A student's parent, legal guardian, or other person having lawful control shall annually complete and sign a form that provides emergency information and addresses authorization regarding medical treatment. A student who has reached age 18 shall be permitted to complete this form.  The District shall seek appropriate emergency care for a student as required or deemed necessary.

<b>Threat Assessment and Safe and Supportive Team</b>	In compliance with law, the Superintendent shall ensure that a multidisciplinary threat assessment and safe and supportive team is established to serve each campus. The Superintendent shall appoint team members. The team shall be responsible for developing and implementing a safe and supportive school program at each campus served by the team and shall support the District in implementing its multi-hazard emergency operations plan.
Training	Each team shall complete training provided by an approved provider on evidence-based threat assessment programs.
Student Reports	Each campus shall establish a clear procedure for a student to report concerning behavior exhibited by another student for assessment by the team or other appropriate District employee.
Employee Confidentiality	A District employee who reports a potential threat may elect for the employee's identity to remain confidential and not be subject to disclosure under the state's public information law. The employee's identity shall only be revealed when necessary for the team, the District, or law enforcement to investigate the reported threat.
Notification to Teaching Staff of Threat	The District shall maintain a record of the identity of a District employee who elects for the employee's identity to remain confidential.
Imminent Threats or Emergencies	As soon as safe and practicable after an administrator or team receives information regarding a threat against a campus, including a threat made through social media, the appropriate administrator or the team shall immediately provide to each member of the teaching staff, including teacher aides, who may be directly affected by the threat a statement containing the following information: <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. The existence of the threat;</li><li>2. The nature of the threat; and</li><li>3. Any other pertinent detail to ensure student and staff safety.</li></ol>
Threat Assessment Process	The Superintendent shall develop administrative regulations to ensure that the required notice is provided to the teaching staff in accordance with law. The administrative regulations may also address notification of other appropriate employees on the affected campus.

the threat assessment and safe and supportive team shall conduct threat assessments using a process that includes:

1. Identifying individuals, based on referrals, tips, or observations, whose behavior has raised concerns due to threats of violence or exhibition of behavior that is harmful, threatening, or violent.
2. Conducting an individualized assessment based on reasonably available information to determine whether the individual poses a threat of violence or poses a risk of harm to self or others and the level of risk.
3. Implementing appropriate intervention and monitoring strategies, if the team determines an individual poses a threat of harm to self or others. These strategies may include referral of a student for a mental health assessment and escalation procedures as appropriate.

For a student or other individual the team determines poses a serious risk of violence to self or others, the team shall immediately report to the Superintendent, who shall immediately attempt to contact the student's parent or guardian. Additionally, the Superintendent shall coordinate with law enforcement authorities as necessary and take other appropriate action in accordance with the District's multihazard emergency operations plan.

For a student the team identifies as at risk of suicide, the team shall follow the District's suicide prevention program.

For a student the team identifies as having a substance abuse issue, the team shall follow the District's substance abuse program.

For a student whose conduct may constitute a violation of the District's Student Code of Conduct, the team shall make a referral to the campus behavior coordinator or other appropriate administrator to consider disciplinary action.

As appropriate, the team may refer a student:

1. To a local mental health authority or health-care provider for evaluation or treatment; or
2. For a full individualized and initial evaluation for special education services.

The team shall not provide any mental health-care services, except as permitted by law.

Guidance to School Community	The team shall provide guidance to students and District employees on recognizing harmful, threatening, or violent behavior that may pose a threat to another person, the campus, or the community and methods to report such behavior to the team, including through anonymous reporting.
Reports	The team shall provide reports to the Texas Education Agency as required by law.

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**Note:** See policies DHB and DHC for information on other required reports regarding alleged misconduct against a student.

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The District shall notify a parent of a student with whom ~~an educator~~ District employee or a person acting as a service provider for the District is alleged to have engaged in misconduct, informing the parent:

1. As soon as feasible that the alleged misconduct may have occurred;
2. Whether the ~~educator~~ individual was terminated following an investigation of the alleged misconduct or resigned before completion of the investigation; and
3. Whether a report was submitted to the Texas Education Agency or State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC) concerning the alleged misconduct.

For purposes of this policy, misconduct is defined as an ~~educator's~~ individual's alleged abuse or commission of an otherwise unlawful act with ~~the~~ a student or involvement in a romantic relationship, or soliciting or engaging in sexual contact with ~~the~~ a student.

**Notice of Suspected  
Criminal Offense**

Except as provided by state law regarding child abuse investigations, the District shall notify a parent not later than one business day after the date an employee first suspects that a criminal offense has been committed against the parent's child.

[See also FFG for reporting requirements related to child abuse and FFH for parental notification requirements regarding prohibited conduct as defined by that policy.]

<b>Program to Address Child Sexual Abuse, Trafficking, and Maltreatment</b>	<p>The District's program to address child sexual abuse, trafficking, and other maltreatment of children, as included in the District improvement plan and the student handbook, shall include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Methods for increasing staff, student, and parent awareness regarding these issues, including prevention techniques and knowledge of likely warning signs indicating that a child may be a victim;</li><li>2. Age-appropriate, research-based antivictimization programs for students;</li><li>3. Actions that a child who is a victim should take to obtain assistance and intervention; and</li><li>4. Available counseling options for affected students.</li></ol>
<b>Training</b>	<p>The District shall provide training to employees as required by law and District policy. Training shall address techniques to prevent and recognize sexual abuse, trafficking, and all other maltreatment of children, including children with significant cognitive disabilities. [See DMA]</p> <p>[See BBD for Board member training requirements and BJCB for Superintendent continuing education requirements.]</p>
<b>Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect</b>	<p>Any person who has reasonable cause to believe that a child's physical or mental health or welfare has been adversely affected by abuse or neglect has a legal responsibility, under state law, to immediately report the suspected abuse or neglect to an appropriate authority.</p> <p>As defined in state law, child abuse and neglect include both sex and labor trafficking of a child.</p> <p>The following individuals have an additional legal obligation to submit a written or oral report within 4824 hours of learning of the facts giving rise to the suspicion of abuse or neglect:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Any District employee, agent, or contractor who suspects a child's physical or mental health or welfare has been adversely affected by abuse or neglect.</li><li>2. A professional who has reasonable cause to believe that a child has been or may be abused or neglected or may have been a victim of indecency with a child. A professional is anyone licensed or certified by the state who has direct contact with children in the normal course of duties for which the individual is licensed or certified.</li></ol> <p>A person is required to make a report if the person has reasonable cause to believe that an adult was a victim of abuse or neglect as a</p>

child and the person determines in good faith that disclosure of the information is necessary to protect the health and safety of another child or an elderly or disabled person.

[For parental notification requirements regarding an allegation of educator misconduct with a student, see FFF.]

**Oral Reports**

As required by law, an oral report made to the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) is recorded.

**Restrictions on Reporting**

In accordance with law, an employee is prohibited from using or threatening to use a parent's refusal to consent to administration of a psychotropic drug or to any other psychiatric or psychological testing or treatment of a child as the sole basis for making a report of neglect, unless the employee has cause to believe that the refusal:

1. Presents a substantial risk of death, disfigurement, or bodily injury to the child; or
2. Has resulted in an observable and material impairment to the growth, development, or functioning of the child.

**Making a Report**

Reports may be made to any of the following:

1. A state or local law enforcement agency, as defined in law;
2. The Child Protective Services (CPS) division of DFPS at 800-252-5400 or the Texas Abuse Hotline website<sup>1</sup>;
3. A local CPS office; or
4. If applicable, the state agency operating, licensing, certifying, or registering the facility in which the suspected abuse or neglect occurred.

However, if the suspected abuse or neglect involves a person responsible for the care, custody, or welfare of the child, the report must be made to DFPS, unless the report is to the state agency that operates, licenses, certifies, or registers the facility where the suspected abuse or neglect took place; or the report is to the Texas Juvenile Justice Department as a report of suspected abuse or neglect in a juvenile justice program or facility. As defined by law, a person responsible for the care, custody, or welfare of a child includes school personnel and volunteers and day-care workers. [See FFG(LEGAL)]

An individual does not fulfill his or her responsibilities under the law by only reporting suspicion of abuse or neglect to a campus principal, school counselor, or another District staff member. Furthermore, the District is prohibited from requiring an employee to first report his or her suspicion to a District or campus administrator.

In accordance with law, an individual must provide their name and telephone number when making a report. If the individual making the report is a school employee, agent, or contractor, they must also provide their business address and profession.

<b>Confidentiality</b>	The identity of a person making a report of suspected child abuse or neglect shall be kept confidential and disclosed only in accordance with the law and the rules of the investigating agency.
<b>Immunity</b>	A person who in good faith reports or assists in the investigation of a report of child abuse or neglect is immune from civil or criminal liability.
<b>Failing to Report Suspected Child Abuse or Neglect</b>	<p>By failing to report suspicion of child abuse or neglect, an employee:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. May be placing a child at risk of continued abuse or neglect;</li><li>2. Violates the law and may be subject to legal penalties, including criminal sanctions for knowingly failing to make a required report;</li><li>3. Violates Board policy and may be subject to disciplinary action, including possible termination of employment; and</li><li>4. May have his or her certification from the State Board for Educator Certification suspended, revoked, or canceled in accordance with 19 Administrative Code Chapter 249.</li></ol>
<b>Responsibilities Regarding Investigations</b>	<p>It is a criminal offense to coerce someone into suppressing or failing to report child abuse or neglect.</p> <p>In accordance with law, District officials shall be prohibited from:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Denying an investigator's request to interview a child at school in connection with an investigation of child abuse or neglect;</li><li>2. Requiring that a parent or school employee be present during the interview; or</li><li>3. Coercing someone into suppressing or failing to report child abuse or neglect.</li></ol> <p>District personnel shall cooperate fully and without parental consent, if necessary, with an investigation of reported child abuse or neglect. [See GKA]</p>

<sup>1</sup> Texas Abuse Hotline website: <http://www.txabusehotline.org>

<b>Complaints</b>	In this policy, the terms "complaint" and "grievance" shall have the same meaning.
<b>Other Complaint Processes</b>	<p>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 has been followed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Complaints alleging discrimination or harassment based on race, color, religion, sex, gender, national origin, age, or disability shall be submitted in accordance with the FFH-series.</li><li>2. Complaints concerning dating violence shall be submitted in accordance with the FFH-series.</li><li>3. Complaints concerning retaliation related to discrimination and harassment shall be submitted in accordance with the FFH-series.</li><li>4. Complaints concerning bullying or retaliation related to bullying shall be submitted in accordance with FFI.</li><li>5. Complaints concerning failure to award credit or a final grade on the basis of attendance shall be submitted in accordance with FEC.</li><li>6. Complaints concerning expulsion shall be submitted in accordance with FOD and the Student Code of Conduct.</li><li>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.</li><li>8. Complaints within the scope of Section 504, including complaints concerning identification, evaluation, or educational placement of a student with a disability, shall be submitted in accordance with FB and the procedural safeguards handbook.</li><li>9. Complaints within the scope of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, including complaints concerning identification, evaluation, educational placement, or discipline of a student with a disability, shall be submitted in accordance with EHBAE, FOF, and the procedural safeguards handbook provided to parents of all students referred to special education.</li><li>10. Complaints concerning instructional resources shall be submitted in accordance with the EF series.</li></ol>

11. Complaints concerning a commissioned peace officer who is an employee of the District shall be submitted in accordance with the CKE series.
12. Complaints concerning intradistrict transfers or campus assignment shall be submitted in accordance with FDB.
13. Complaints concerning admission, placement, or services provided for a homeless student shall be submitted in accordance with FDC.
14. Complaints concerning disputes regarding a student's eligibility for free or reduced-priced meal programs shall be submitted in accordance with COB.

Complaints regarding refusal of entry to or ejection from District property based on Education Code 37.105 shall be filed in accordance with this policy. However, the timelines shall be adjusted as necessary to permit the complainant to address the Board in person within 90 calendar days of filing the initial complaint, unless the complaint is resolved before the Board considers it. [See GKA(LEGAL)]

**Notice to Students and Parents**

The District shall inform students and parents of this policy through appropriate District publications and on the District's website.

**Guiding Principles  
Informal Process**

The Board encourages students and parents to discuss their concerns with the appropriate teacher, principal, or other appropriate campus or District 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 Filing Deadlines**

**After Informal Process**

If a student or parent has engaged in the informal process in an attempt to resolve the complaint with the District and has not reached a resolution during the process, the student or parent shall have the later of:

- Ninety calendar days to file a complaint from 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
- Thirty calendar days to file a complaint from the date on which the District provided information to the student or parent regarding how to file a grievance.

[See Formal Process, below]

**No Prior Informal Process**

If the student or parent has not engaged in the informal process, the student or parent shall have no more than 60 calendar days from 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 to file a complaint using the appropriate forms.

**Deadline Extensions** All deadlines shall be strictly followed unless otherwise required by law or modified by mutual written consent.

**Formal Process** A 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** The complaint form shall be filed 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 for any complaint on a matter related to a campus. For a complaint that arises on a matter that is unrelated to a campus, the complaint shall be filed with the appropriate District-level administrator.

If the subject matter of the complaint requires a Board decision, is a complaint about a Board member, or is a complaint about the Superintendent, the complaint shall be initiated at the Board level. A preliminary hearing to develop a record or recommendation for the Board may be conducted by an appropriate administrator.

A Board member shall be permitted to file a complaint under this policy, but, if the complaint is considered by the Board or Board committee, the Board member shall be prohibited from voting on the Board's or Board committee's decision.

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.

**Option to Continue Informal Process** Even after initiating the formal complaint process, the complainant is encouraged to seek informal resolution of their concerns. A complainant whose concerns are resolved may withdraw a formal complaint at any time.

<b>Notice of Complaint</b>	A District employee against whom a complaint has been filed shall be provided notice of the complaint in accordance with administrative regulations. The employee shall have sufficient opportunity to submit a written response to the complaint that shall be included in the record of the complaint.
<b>Freedom from Retaliation</b>	Neither the Board nor any District employee shall unlawfully retaliate against any student or parent for bringing a concern or complaint.
<b>General Provisions</b>	Complaint forms and appeal notices may be filed by hand-delivery, by electronic communication, <del>including email and fax</del> , or by 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 shall be timely filed if they are received by the close of business on the deadline, as indicated by the date/time shown on the electronic communication. 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 business days after the deadline.
<b>Scheduling ConferencesHearings</b>	The District shall make reasonable attempts to schedule <del>conferenceshearings</del> at a mutually agreeable time. If a <del>student or parent</del> complainant fails to appear at a scheduled <del>conferencehearing</del> , the District may hold the <del>conferencehearing</del> and issue a decision in the <del>student's or parent's</del> complainant's absence.
<b>Response At Levels One and Two, "response" Decision</b>	A "decision" shall mean a written communication to the <del>student or parent</del> complainant from the appropriate administrator. <del>Responses may be hand-delivered, sent by electronic communication to the student's or parent's email 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.</del>
<b>Days</b>	<del>"Days" shall mean District business days, unless otherwise noted. In calculating timelines under this policy, the day a document is filed is "day zero." The following business day is "day one."</del> that provides an explanation of the basis of the decision, an indication of each document that supports the decision, and any relief or redress to be provided. A decision shall be issued on the merits of the concern raised in the complaint notwithstanding any procedural errors or the type of relief or redress requested.
	The decision shall also include information regarding the filing of an appeal in accordance with this policy. After a hearing at Level Three, the decision shall include information on submitting an appeal to the commissioner.

A decision may be hand-delivered, sent by electronic communication to the complainant's email address of record, or sent by U.S. Mail to the complainant's mailing address of record. Mailed decisions shall be timely if they are postmarked by U.S. Mail on or before the deadline.

Representative	<p>"Representative" shall mean any person who or organization that is designated by the <del>student or parent</del> complainant to represent the <del>student or parent</del> complainant in the complaint process. A student may be represented by an adult at any level of the complaint.</p> <p>The <del>student or parent</del> complainant may designate a representative through written notice to the District at any level of this process. <del>If the student or parent</del> The representative may participate in person or by telephone conference call. If the complainant designates a representative with fewer than three business days' notice to the District before a scheduled <del>conference or hearing</del>, the District may reschedule the <del>conference or hearing</del> 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.</p>
Consolidating Complaints	<p><del>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</del> To promote efficiency in addressing complaints, the appropriate administrator shall determine if separate or serial complaints arising from <del>any</del> an event or series of events that have been or could have been addressed in a previous complaint.</p>
Untimely Filings	<p><del>All time limits shall be strictly followed unless modified by mutual written consent.</del></p> <p><del>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 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.</del> related events shall be consolidated.</p>
Costs Incurred	<p>Each party shall pay its own costs incurred in the course of the complaint.</p>
Complaint and Appeal Forms	<p>Complaints and appeals 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 included with the complaint form. If the <del>student or parent</del> complainant does not have copies of these documents, copies may be presented at the Level One <del>conference</del> hearing. After the Level</p>

~~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 hearing, the complainant may supplement the record with additional documents or include additional claims.~~

**Record** A record of each complaint hearing shall be created and retained in accordance with this policy. The record shall include documents submitted by the complainant, documents determined relevant by District personnel, and the decision.

**Remand** A complaint or appeal form that is incomplete in any material aspect ~~may~~ shall be dismissed but may be refiled with all the required information if the re-filing is within the designated time for filing. refiled, if at Level One, and remanded at all other levels in order to develop an adequate record of the complaint.

If an adequate record has not been developed, the appropriate administrator may remand the complaint to a lower level. The Board or Board committee may remand a complaint to a lower level if at the Board level of review an adequate record has not been developed.

**Assignment of Hearing Officer** When a District employee is the subject of a complaint, the hearing shall be conducted by an administrator who is in a supervisory or higher organizational role. The District employee who is the subject of the complaint shall recuse themselves from reviewing the complaint at any level in the process.

**Level One**

**Complaint forms must be filed:**

- ~~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~~
- ~~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.~~

~~Absent extenuating circumstances, the administrator shall provide the student or parent a written response within ten days following the conference. In reaching a decision, the administrator may consider information provided at the Level One conference and any other relevant Level Two documents or information the administrator investigation~~

~~The appropriate administrator shall investigate as necessary and schedule 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.~~

The District may conduct an investigation at any level in the complaint process. If the District and the complainant mutually agree, all deadlines shall be suspended during an investigation.

At Level One, the appropriate hearing officer shall hold a hearing with the complainant within 10 calendar days after receipt of the written complaint. The hearing officer may set reasonable time limits for the hearing.

The hearing officer shall provide the complainant a decision within 20 calendar days following the hearing. In reaching a decision, the hearing officer may consider information provided with the complaint form and any other relevant documents or information the hearing officer believes will help resolve the complaint.

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

The appeal notice must be filed in writing, on a form provided by the District, within 20 calendar days of the date of the written Level One response decision or, if no response was received, within 20 calendar days of the Level One response decision deadline.

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

The Level One record shall include:

1. The original complaint form and any attachments.
2. All other documents submitted by the student or parent complainant at Level One.
3. ~~If the complaint is against a District employee, the written response of the District employee, if any.~~
- 3.4. The decision issued at Level One and any attachments.

4.5. All other documents relied upon by the Level One administratorhearing officer in reaching the Level One decision.

~~The Superintendent or designee shall schedule a conference within ten~~hearing officer shall hold a hearing within 10 calendar days after the appeal notice is filed. The conference shall be limited to the issues and documents considered at Level One. 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 conferencehearing officer may set reasonable time limits for the hearing.

The Superintendent or designeehearing officer shall provide the student or parent a written response within tencomplainant a decision within 20 calendar days following the conferencehearing. In reaching a decision, the Superintendent or designeehearing officer may consider the Level One record, any additional information provided atprior to the Level Two conferencehearing, and any other relevant documents or information the Superintendent or designeehearing officer believes will help resolve the complaint.

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

Level Three

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

The appeal notice must be filed in writing, on a form provided by the District, within ten20 calendar days of the date of the written Level Two responsesdecision or, if no response was received, within tendecision has been communicated to the complainant, within 20 calendar days of the Level Two responsesdecision deadline.

~~The Superintendent or designee shall inform the student or parent of the date, time, and place of the Board~~Unless the Board delegates a committee in accordance with law, the Board shall hear the appeal of the Level Two decision.

After receiving notice of the appeal, the Board or Board committee shall hold a meeting to discuss the complaint no later than 60 calendar days after the date on which the Level Two decision was made.

The Superintendent shall inform the complainant whether the Board or a Board committee will hear the appeal and of the date,

time, and place of the meeting at which the complaint will be on the agenda for presentation to the Board, or Board committee.

~~The Superintendent or designee shall provide the Board the record of the Level Two appeal. The student or parent~~ At least five business days before the Board or Board committee meeting, the Superintendent shall provide the complainant a description of any information the Board intends to rely on that is not contained in the record created at the previous hearing levels, including any preliminary hearing.

The Superintendent shall provide the Board the record of the Level Two appeal. The complainant 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~~ Any other documents submitted by the complainant at Level Two.
- 3.4. The decision issued at Level Two and any attachments.
- 4.5. 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 complainant may request that the complaint be heard in open or closed meeting. The District shall honor that request unless the Texas Open Meetings Act or other applicable law requires otherwise. [See BE]

At the meeting, the presiding officer may set reasonable time limits and guidelines for the presentation, including an opportunity for the student or parent complainant 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 re-

~~quest that the administration provide an explanation for the decisions at the preceding levels.~~ members.

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

The Board or Board committee shall then consider the complaint. It ~~may give notice of its~~ shall make a 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 no later than 30 calendar days after the date of the Board or Board committee meeting at which the complaint was presented. The complainant shall be provided a decision in accordance with this policy and state law.

**Student Code of  
Conduct**

The District's rules of discipline are maintained in the Board-adopted Student Code of Conduct and are established to support an environment conducive to teaching and learning.

Rules of conduct and discipline shall not have the effect of discriminating on the basis of gender, race, color, disability, religion, ethnicity, or national origin.

At the beginning of the school year and throughout the school year as necessary, the Student Code of Conduct shall be:

1. Posted and prominently displayed at each campus or made available for review in the principal's office, as required by law; and
2. Made available on the District's website and/or as a hard copy to students, parents, teachers, administrators, and others on request.

**Revisions**

Revisions to the Student Code of Conduct approved by the Board during the year shall be made available promptly to students and parents, teachers, administrators, and others.

**Extracurricular  
Standards of  
Behavior**

With the approval of the principal and Superintendent, sponsors and coaches of extracurricular activities may develop and enforce standards of behavior that are higher than the District-developed Student Code of Conduct and may condition membership or participation in the activity on adherence to those standards. Extracurricular standards of behavior may take into consideration conduct that occurs at any time, on or off school property.

A student shall be informed of any extracurricular behavior standards at the beginning of each school year or when the student first begins participation in the activity. A student and his or her parent shall sign and return to the sponsor or coach a statement that they have read the extracurricular behavior standards and consent to them as a condition of participation in the activity.

Standards of behavior for an extracurricular activity are independent of the Student Code of Conduct. Violations of these standards of behavior that are also violations of the Student Code of Conduct may result in independent disciplinary actions.

A student may be removed from participation in extracurricular activities or may be excluded from school honors for violation of extracurricular standards of behavior for an activity or for violation of the Student Code of Conduct.

<b>"Parent" Defined</b>	Throughout the Student Code of Conduct and discipline policies, the term "parent" includes a parent, legal guardian, or other person having lawful control of the child.
<b>General Discipline Guidelines</b>	A District employee shall adhere to the following general guidelines when imposing discipline: <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. A student shall be disciplined when necessary to improve the student's behavior, to maintain order, or to protect other students, school employees, or property.</li><li>2. A student shall be treated fairly and equitably. Discipline shall be based on an assessment of the circumstances of each case. Factors to consider shall include:<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. The seriousness of the offense;</li><li>b. The student's age;</li><li>c. The frequency of misconduct;</li><li>d. The student's attitude;</li><li>e. The potential effect of the misconduct on the school environment;</li><li>f. Requirements of Chapter 37 of the Education Code; and</li><li>g. The Student Code of Conduct adopted by the Board.</li></ol></li><li>3. Before a student under 18 is assigned to detention outside regular school hours, notice shall be given to the student's parent to inform him or her of the reason for the detention and permit arrangements for necessary transportation.</li></ol>
<b>Corporal Punishment</b>	The Board prohibits the use of corporal punishment in the District. Students shall not be spanked, paddled, or subjected to other physical force as a means of discipline for violations of the Student Code of Conduct.
<b>Physical Restraint</b>	<b>Note:</b> A District employee may restrain a student with a disability who receives special education services only in accordance with law. [See FOF(LEGAL)]
	Within the scope of an employee's duties, a District employee may physically restrain a student if the employee reasonably believes restraint is necessary in order to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Protect a person, including the person using physical restraint, from physical injury.</li></ol>

2. Obtain possession of a weapon or other dangerous object.
3. Protect property from serious damage.
4. Remove a student refusing a lawful command of a school employee from a specific location, including a classroom or other school property, in order to restore order or to impose disciplinary measures.

**Video and Audio Monitoring** Video and audio recording equipment shall may be used for safety purposes to monitor student behavior on District property.

~~The~~ When video and audio recording equipment is in use, the District shall post signs notifying students and parents about the District's use of video and audio recording equipment. Students shall not be notified when the equipment is turned on.

**Use of Recordings** The principal shall review recordings as needed, and evidence of student misconduct shall be documented. A student found to be in violation of the District's Student Code of Conduct shall be subject to appropriate discipline.

**Access to Recordings** Recordings shall remain in the custody of the campus principal and shall be maintained as required by law. A parent or student who wishes to view a recording in response to disciplinary action taken against the student may request such access under the procedures set out by law. [See FL(LEGAL)]

<b>Complaints</b>	In this policy, the terms "complaint" and "grievance" shall have the same meaning.
<b>Other Complaint Processes</b>	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: <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Complaints concerning instructional resources shall be filed submitted in accordance with the EF series.</li><li>2. Complaints concerning a commissioned peace officer who is an employee of the District shall be filed submitted in accordance with the CKE series.</li></ol>
<b>Guiding Principles</b>	Complaints regarding refusal of entry to or ejection from District property based on Education Code 37.105 shall be filed in accordance with this policy. However, the timelines shall be adjusted as necessary to permit the complainant to address the Board in person within 90 calendar days of filing the initial complaint, unless the complaint is resolved before the Board considers it. [See GKA(LEGAL)]
<b>Informal Process</b>	The Board encourages the public to discuss concerns with an 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.
<b>Filing Deadlines</b>	If a member of the public has engaged in the informal process in an attempt to resolve the complaint with the District and has not reached a resolution during the process, the individual must file a complaint within 15 business days of the date the individual first knew, or with reasonable diligence should have known, of the decision or action giving rise to the complaint or grievance.
<b>Deadline Extensions</b>	All deadlines shall be strictly followed unless otherwise required by law or modified by mutual written consent.
<b>Formal Process</b>	An individual may initiate the formal process described below by timely filing a written complaint form.  <del>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.</del>  <del>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</del>

**level.** 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.

The complaint form shall be filed with the lowest level administrator who has the authority to remedy the alleged problem. In most circumstances, the individual shall file a Level One complaint with the campus principal for any complaint on a matter related to a campus. For a complaint that arises on a matter that is unrelated to a campus, the complaint shall be filed with the appropriate District-level administrator.

If the subject matter of the complaint requires a Board decision, is a complaint about a Board member, or is a complaint about the Superintendent, the complaint shall be initiated at the Board level. A preliminary hearing to develop a record or recommendation for the Board may be conducted by an appropriate administrator.

A Board member shall be permitted to file a complaint under this policy, but, if the complaint is considered by the Board or Board committee, the Board member shall be prohibited from voting on the Board's or Board committee's decision.

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.

**Option to Continue Informal Process** Even after initiating the formal complaint process, the complainant is encouraged to seek informal resolution of their concerns. A complainant whose concerns are resolved may withdraw a formal complaint at any time.

**Notice of Complaint** A District employee against whom a complaint has been filed shall be provided notice of the complaint in accordance with administrative regulations. The employee shall have sufficient opportunity to submit a written response to the complaint that shall be included in the record of the complaint.

**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 email and fax~~, or by 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 shall be timely filed if they are received by the close of business on the deadline, as indicated by the date/time shown on the electronic

communication. Mail filings shall be timely filed if they are post-marked by U.S. Mail on or before the deadline and received by the appropriate administrator or designated representative no more than three business days after the deadline.

Scheduling Conferences Hearings	The District shall make reasonable attempts to schedule <del>conferences</del> hearings at a mutually agreeable time. If the <del>individual</del> complainant fails to appear at a scheduled <del>conference</del> hearing, the District may hold the <del>conference</del> hearing and issue a decision in the <del>individual's</del> complainant's absence.
Response At Levels One and Two, "response" Decision	A "decision" shall mean a written communication to the <del>individual</del> complainant from the appropriate administrator. <del>Responses may be hand-delivered, sent by electronic communication to the individual's email address of record, or sent by U.S. Mail to the individual's mailing address of record.</del> Mailed responses that provides an explanation of the basis of the decision, an indication of each document that supports the decision, and any relief or redress to be provided. A decision shall be issued on the merits of the concern raised in the complaint notwithstanding any procedural errors or the type of relief or redress requested.  The decision shall also include information regarding the filing of an appeal in accordance with this policy. After a hearing at Level Three, the decision shall include information on submitting an appeal to the commissioner.
Days	<del>A decision may be hand-delivered, sent by electronic communication to the complainant's email address of record, or sent by U.S. Mail to the complainant's mailing address of record. Mailed decisions shall be timely if they are postmarked by U.S. Mail on or before the deadline.</del>  <del>"Days" shall mean District business days, unless otherwise noted. In calculating timelines under this policy, the day a document is filed is "day zero." The following business day is "day one."</del>
Representative	"Representative" shall mean any person who or organization that is designated by <del>an individual</del> a complainant to represent the <del>individual</del> complainant in the complaint process.  The <del>individual</del> complainant may designate a representative through written notice to the District at any level of this process. <del>If the individual</del> The representative may participate in person or by telephone conference call. If the complainant designates a representative with fewer than three business days' notice to the District before a scheduled <del>conference or hearing</del> , the District may reschedule the <del>conference or hearing</del> 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	<p><del>Complaints arising out of an event or a series of related events shall be addressed in one complaint. An individual shall not file To promote efficiency in addressing complaints, the appropriate administrator shall determine if separate or serial complaints arising from any an event or series of events that have been or could have been addressed in a previous complaint.</del></p>
Untimely Filings	<p><del>All time limits shall be strictly followed unless modified by mutual written consent.</del></p> <p><del>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 related events shall be consolidated.</del></p>
Costs Incurred	<p>Each party shall pay its own costs incurred in the course of the complaint.</p>
Complaint and Appeal Forms	<p>Complaints and appeals 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 included with the complaint form. If the individual complainant does not have copies of these documents, they copies may be presented at the Level One conference hearing. After the Level One conference, no new documents may be submitted by the individual unless the individual did not know the documents existed before the Level One conference hearing, the complainant may supplement the record with additional documents or include additional claims.</p>
Record	<p>A record of each complaint hearing shall be created and retained in accordance with this policy. The record shall include documents submitted by the complainant, documents determined relevant by District personnel, and the decision.</p>
Remand	<p>A complaint or appeal form that is incomplete in any material aspect <del>may shall be dismissed but may be refiled with all the required information if the refiled is within the designated time for filing.</del> refiled, if at Level One, and remanded at all other levels in order to develop an adequate record of the complaint.</p> <p>If an adequate record has not been developed, the appropriate administrator may remand the complaint to a lower level. The Board or Board committee may remand a complaint to a lower level if at the Board level of review an adequate record has not been developed.</p>

<b>Assignment of Hearing Officer</b>	When a District employee is the subject of a complaint, the hearing shall be conducted by an administrator who is in a supervisory or higher organizational role. The District employee who is the subject of the complaint shall recuse themselves from reviewing the complaint at any level in the process.
<b>Level One</b>	<p><b>Complaint forms must be filed:</b></p> <p>3. <del>Within 15 days of the date the individual first knew, or with reasonable diligence should have known, of the decision or action giving rise to the complaint or grievance; and</del></p> <p>4. <del>With the lowest level administrator who has the authority to remedy the alleged problem.</del></p> <p><del>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.</del></p> <p><del>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.</del></p> <p><del>The appropriate administrator shall investigate as necessary and schedule a conference with the individual within ten days after receipt of the written complaint. The administrator may set reasonable time limits for the conference.</del></p> <p><b>Absent extenuating circumstances, the administrator shall provide the complainant a written response within ten days following the conference. In reaching a decision, the administrator may consider information provided at the Level One conference and any other relevant documents or information the administrator has in its possession.</b></p> <p>The District may conduct an investigation at any level in the complaint process. If the District and the complainant mutually agree, all deadlines shall be suspended during an investigation.</p> <p>At Level One, the appropriate hearing officer shall hold a hearing with the complainant within 10 calendar days after receipt of the written complaint. The hearing officer may set reasonable time limits for the hearing.</p> <p>The hearing officer shall provide the complainant a decision within 20 calendar days following the hearing. In reaching a decision, the hearing officer may consider information provided with the complaint form and any other relevant documents or information the hearing officer believes will help resolve the complaint.</p> <p>If the individual complainant did not receive the relief requested at Level One or if the time for a response decision has expired, he or she the complainant may request a conference with the Superintendent or designee hearing at Level Two to appeal the Level One decision.</p>

The appeal notice must be filed in writing, on a form provided by the District, within ~~ten~~20 calendar days of the date of the ~~written~~ Level One ~~response~~decision or, if no ~~response~~was received, ~~within~~~~ten~~decision has been communicated to the complainant, within 20 calendar days of the Level One ~~response~~decision deadline.

After receiving notice of the appeal, the Level One ~~administrator~~ hearing officer shall prepare and forward a record of the Level One complaint to the Level Two ~~administrator~~. ~~The individual may request~~ hearing officer and provide a copy of the Level One record to the complainant.

The Level One record shall include:

1. The original complaint form and any attachments.
2. ~~All~~Any other documents submitted by the ~~individual~~complainant at Level One.
3. ~~If~~ the complaint is against a District employee, the written response of the District employee, if any.
- 3.4. The decision issued at Level One and any attachments.
- 4.5. All other documents relied upon by the Level One ~~administrator~~ hearing officer in reaching the Level One decision.

~~The Superintendent or designee shall schedule a conference within~~ ~~ten~~hearing officer shall hold a hearing within 10 calendar days after the appeal notice is filed. ~~The conference shall be limited to the issues and documents considered at Level One.~~ At the conference, ~~the individual 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~~ hearing officer may set reasonable time limits for the hearing.

~~The Superintendent or designee~~ hearing officer shall provide the ~~individual a written response within~~ ~~ten~~complainant a decision within 20 calendar days following the ~~conference~~ hearing. In reaching a decision, the ~~Superintendent or designee~~ hearing officer may consider the Level One record, any additional information provided at prior to the Level Two ~~conference~~ hearing, and any other relevant documents or information the ~~Superintendent or designee~~ hearing officer believes will help resolve the complaint.

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

Level Three

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

The appeal notice must be filed in writing, on a form provided by the District, within ~~ten~~ 20 calendar days of the date of the ~~written~~ Level Two ~~response~~ decision or, if no ~~response was received~~, ~~within ten~~ decision has been communicated to the complainant, within 20 calendar days of the Level Two ~~response~~ decision deadline.

~~The Superintendent or designee shall inform the individual of the date, time, and place of the Board~~ Unless the Board delegates a committee in accordance with law, the Board shall hear the appeal of the Level Two decision.

After receiving notice of the appeal, the Board or Board committee shall hold a meeting to discuss the complaint no later than 60 calendar days after the date on which the Level Two decision was made.

The Superintendent shall inform the complainant whether the Board or a Board committee will hear the appeal and of the date, time, and place of the meeting at which the complaint will be on the agenda for presentation to the Board or Board committee.

~~The Superintendent or designee shall provide the Board the record of the Level Two appeal. The individual~~ At least five business days before the Board or Board committee meeting, the Superintendent shall provide the complainant a description of any information the Board intends to rely on that is not contained in the record created at the previous hearing levels, including any preliminary hearing.

The Superintendent shall provide the Board the record of the Level Two appeal. The complainant 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.~~
- 4.3. ~~All~~ Any other documents relied upon submitted by the administration in reaching the complainant at Level Two decision.
4. The appeal shall be limited to the issues and documents considered decision issued at Level Two, except that if at the Level Three hearing and any attachments.

5. All other documents relied upon by the administration ~~intends to rely on evidence not included in the Level Two record, the administration shall provide the individual notice of the nature of the evidence at least three days before the hearing in~~ reaching the Level Two decision.

~~The District shall determine whether complainant may request that the complaint will be presented heard in open or closed meeting, in accordance with~~ The District shall honor that request unless the Texas Open Meetings Act and/or other applicable law requires otherwise. [See BE]

~~The~~ At the meeting, the presiding officer may set reasonable time limits and guidelines for the presentation, including an opportunity for the individual complainant 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.~~ members.

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

~~The Board or Board committee shall then consider the complaint. It may give notice of its shall make a 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 no later than 30 calendar days after the date of the Board or Board committee meeting at which the complaint was presented. The complainant shall be provided a decision in accordance with this policy and state law.~~

<b>Access to District Property</b>	Authorized District officials, including school resource officers and District police officers if applicable, may refuse to allow a person access to property under the District's control in accordance with law.  District officials may request assistance from law enforcement in an emergency or when a person is engaging in behavior rising to the level of criminal conduct.
<b>Ejection or Exclusion under Education Code 37.105</b>	In accordance with Education Code 37.105, a District official shall provide a person refused entry to or ejected from property under the District's control written information explaining the right to appeal such refusal of entry or ejection under the District's grievance process.  A person appealing under the District's grievance process shall be permitted to address the Board in person within 90 calendar days of filing the initial complaint, unless the complaint is resolved before the Board considers it. [See FNG and GF]
<b>Off-Campus Activities</b>	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.
<b>Prohibitions</b>	
Tobacco and E-Cigarettes	The District prohibits smoking and the use of tobacco products, e-cigarettes, or other electronic vaporizing devices on District property, in District vehicles, or at school-related activities.
Weapons	The District prohibits the unlawful use, possession, or display of any firearm, location-restricted knife, club, or prohibited weapon, as defined at FNCG, on all District property at all times.
<b>Exceptions</b>	No violation of this policy occurs when: <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. A Texas individual who holds a handgun license holder in accordance with state law stores a handgun or other firearm in a locked vehicle in a parking lot, parking garage, or other parking area provided by the District, as long as the handgun or other firearm is not in plain view; or</li><li>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]</li></ol>