



(LOCAL) Policy Comparisons

These documents are generated by an automated process that compares the updated policy to the current policy as found in TASB records.

In this packet, you will find:

- Policies being recommended for revision (annotated)
- New policies (not annotated)
- Policies recommended for deletion (annotated in PDF; not shown in Word)

Annotations are shown as follows:

- Deletions are in a red strike-through font: ~~deleted text~~.
- Additions are in a blue, bold font: **new text**.
- Blocks of text that were moved without changes are shown in green, with double underline and double strike-through formatting to distinguish the text's new placement from its original location: ~~moved text~~ becomes moved text.
- Revision bars appear in the right margin to show sections with changes.

Note: While the annotation software competently identifies simple changes, large or complicated changes—as in an extensive rewrite—may be more difficult to follow. In addition, TASB's recent changes to the policy templates to facilitate accessibility sometimes makes formatting changes appear tracked, even though the text remains the same.

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

Contact:

**School Districts and
Education Service Centers**

policy.service@tasb.org

800.580.7529
512.467.0222

Community Colleges

colleges@tasb.org

800.580.1488
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Update 119 Local Policy Overview

Introduction

Hello, and welcome to a brief overview of the local policy recommendations included in Update 119, presented by TASB Policy Service.

Update 119 covers recommended (LOCAL) policy revisions to address new laws from the 87th Legislature, Regular Session and the First, Second, and Third Called Sessions. Other revisions included in this update are in response to revisions to the Administrative Code.

While not covered in this publication, many of the (LEGAL) policies included in this update were also affected by legislative and regulatory changes.

TASB Numbered Update Reminders

You should also review your district's customized Update 119 materials for your specific policy recommendations. Please remember that (LEGAL) policies provide the legal framework for key areas of district operations; they are not adopted by the board.

CPC: Office Management, Records Management

Policy CPC(LOCAL) governs the district's records management program. Revisions to this policy are recommended to address new rules that the Texas State Library and Archives Commission, or TSLAC, adopted to address the management of electronic records. The recommended language delegates to the records management officer the responsibility to develop procedures for the management of these electronic records. These procedures must comply with the district's records control schedules and meet the minimum requirements established in the Administrative Code rules.

We have included in the [Regulations Resource Manual](#)¹ updated sample procedures on this topic.

DMA: Professional Development, Required Staff Development

The new text in DMA(LOCAL) is recommended to comply with [Senate Bill 1267](#)² from the Regular Session. That legislation requires the board to annually review the State Board for Educator Certification, or SBEC, clearinghouse. The SBEC clearinghouse is a collection of best practices and industry recommendations for professional development. The bill also

requires the board to adopt a professional development policy based on the training recommendations in the clearinghouse.

To avoid including the extensive professional development training details in board policy, the recommended DMA(LOCAL) text requires the creation of a professional development plan where all of these details will be found. The board must annually approve the professional development plan, which must meet three requirements.

First, the plan must be guided by the clearinghouse recommendations. Second, the plan must note any differences from the clearinghouse recommendations; and third, the plan must include a schedule of required professional development.

The bill requires SBEC to publish the clearinghouse by June 1, 2022, and districts to adopt a professional development policy by August 1, 2022. TASB Policy and Legal Services recommend that the board adopt DMA(LOCAL) and approve the district professional development plan by August 1, or as soon as possible thereafter, to ensure compliance with the law.

EHAA: Basic Instructional Program, Required Instruction (All Levels)

Included in policy EHAA(LOCAL) are new provisions that are recommended based on [Senate Bill 9](#)³ from the Second Called Session. The legislation imposes several requirements related to instruction on the prevention of child abuse, family violence, dating violence, and sex trafficking. The bill requires a board policy on adopting curriculum materials related to these topics.

The recommended policy provisions follow the required steps, including board adoption of a resolution to convene the school health advisory council, or SHAC, to hold meetings and make recommendations to the board at a public meeting. The board must then confirm that the SHAC recommendations meet the requirements in law before taking action by a record vote. This is similar to language provided in this policy at Update 118 to address the approval of human sexuality instruction and parental consent.

The [Regulations Resource Manual](#)⁴ includes a sample board resolution for convening the SHAC and a sample parental consent form.

EHB: Curriculum Design, Special Programs

EHBAA: Special Education, Identification, Evaluation, and Eligibility

In response to TEA policy requirements associated with the TEA special education [cyclical monitoring reviews](#),⁵ two new (LOCAL) policies are recommended for inclusion in the policy manual, EHB and EHBAA.

Policy EHB(LOCAL) requires the district to provide regular training opportunities for teachers of students with dyslexia. Policy EHBAA(LOCAL) ensures that a student who is transitioning from early childhood intervention has an individualized education program developed and implemented by the child's third birthday.

TASB Policy Service recommends that the board adopt these policies in advance of the scheduled special education monitoring review.

EHBB: Special Programs, Gifted and Talented Students

The recommended revision to policy EHBB(LOCAL) is prompted by [House Bill 1525](#)⁶ from the Regular Session. This bill removed the statutory requirement for a district to annually certify to the commissioner of education that the district's gifted and talented program is consistent with the Texas State Plan for the Education of Gifted and Talented Students. The corresponding provision in EHBB(LOCAL) is recommended for deletion.

EIF: Academic Achievement, Graduation

Policy EIF(LOCAL) includes new text recommended to comply with amended Administrative Code rules. The new rules require a board policy to address the methods by which a student can confirm completion and submission of a financial aid application. Completion and submission of this application is a requirement to graduate.

The recommended text aligns with TEA guidance and addresses methods for both the free application for federal financial aid, or FAFSA, and the Texas application for state financial aid, or TASFA. Additional guidance on this topic can be found on the [TEA website](#).⁷

The [Regulations Resource Manual](#)⁸ has been updated to include sample procedures regarding these financial aid applications.

FFBA: Crisis Intervention, Trauma-Informed Care

In policy FFBA(LOCAL), a reference to the district's board-approved professional development plan is recommended. The proposed revision addresses [Senate Bill 1267](#)⁹ from the Regular Session, which requires

training in trauma-informed care to be provided in accordance with the board's professional development policy.

The same bill also repealed the requirement for a district to annually report to TEA the number of employees who participated in trauma-informed care training; therefore, we recommend deleting that provision from the policy.

FFH: Student Welfare, Freedom from Discrimination, Harrassment, and Retaliation

The recommendations in policy FFH(LOCAL) address a new board policy requirement from [Senate Bill 9](#),¹⁰ which was enacted during the Second Called Session.

Upon receiving a report of dating violence that involves its students, the district is required to immediately notify the parent of the student identified as the alleged victim or perpetrator. The recommended text at Notice to Parents meets this requirement.

The new law also requires that the district's policy include reporting procedures and guidelines for students who are victims of dating violence and a clear statement that dating violence is not tolerated at school. No further changes are recommended regarding these elements based on the district's existing FFH(LOCAL) policy provisions, which include reporting procedures and a statement of nondiscrimination that specifically prohibits dating violence.

The remaining revisions are recommended to clarify the definition of prohibited conduct and the district's response to such conduct.

Thank You!

That covers the local policies in Update 119. We hope you find this overview helpful. Should you have any questions or want further clarification, please feel free to contact your assigned policy consultant at the [TASB Policy Service website](#).¹¹

¹ TASB *Regulations Resource Manual*: <https://pol.tasb.org/Home/Index/105>

² Senate Bill 1267: <https://capitol.texas.gov/tlodocs/87R/billtext/pdf/SB01267F.pdf>

³ Senate Bill 9: <https://capitol.texas.gov/tlodocs/872/billtext/pdf/SB00009F.pdf>

⁴ TASB *Regulations Resource Manual*: <https://pol.tasb.org/Home/Index/105>

⁵ TEA Differentiated Monitoring and Support web page: <https://tea.texas.gov/academics/special-student-populations/review-and-support/differentiated-monitoring-and-support-dms>

⁶ Senate Bill 1525: <https://capitol.texas.gov/tlodocs/87R/billtext/pdf/HB01525F.pdf>

⁷ TEA Financial Aid Requirement web page: <https://tea.texas.gov/academics/college-career-and-military-prep/financial-aid-requirement>

Instruction Sheet

TASB Localized Policy Manual Update 119

Robstown ISD

| Code | Type | Action To Be Taken | Note |
|------|---------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| ATTN | (NOTE) | No policy enclosed | See explanatory note |
| AIB | (LEGAL) | Replace policy | Revised policy |
| BBB | (LEGAL) | Replace policy | Revised policy |
| BBBA | (LEGAL) | Replace policy | Revised policy |
| BBE | (LEGAL) | Replace policy | Revised policy |
| BBG | (LEGAL) | Replace policy | Revised policy |
| BBI | (LEGAL) | Replace policy | Revised policy |
| BDAA | (LEGAL) | Replace policy | Revised policy |
| BDB | (LEGAL) | Replace policy | Revised policy |
| BE | (LEGAL) | Replace policy | Revised policy |
| BQ | (LEGAL) | Replace policy | Revised policy |
| CCGA | (LEGAL) | Replace policy | Revised policy |
| CDB | (LEGAL) | Replace policy | Revised policy |
| CDC | (LEGAL) | Replace policy | Revised policy |
| CH | (LEGAL) | Replace policy | Revised policy |
| CI | (LEGAL) | Replace policy | Revised policy |
| CPC | (LEGAL) | Replace policy | Revised policy |
| CPC | (LOCAL) | Replace policy | Revised policy |
| CQA | (LEGAL) | Replace policy | Revised policy |
| CRD | (LEGAL) | Replace policy | Revised policy |
| CS | (LEGAL) | Replace policy | Revised policy |
| CV | (LEGAL) | Replace policy | Revised policy |
| DC | (LEGAL) | Replace policy | Revised policy |
| DEAA | (LEGAL) | Replace policy | Revised policy |
| DECB | (LEGAL) | Replace policy | Revised policy |
| DFE | (LEGAL) | Replace policy | Revised policy |
| DG | (LEGAL) | Replace policy | Revised policy |
| DHC | (LEGAL) | Replace policy | Revised policy |
| DMA | (LEGAL) | Replace policy | Revised policy |
| DMA | (LOCAL) | ADD policy | See explanatory note |
| DP | (LEGAL) | Replace policy | Revised policy |
| E | (LEGAL) | Replace table of contents | Revised table of contents |
| EF | (LEGAL) | Replace policy | Revised policy |
| EHAA | (LEGAL) | Replace policy | Revised policy |

Instruction Sheet

TASB Localized Policy Manual Update 119

Robstown ISD

| Code | Type | Action To Be Taken | Note |
|-------|---------|--------------------|----------------------|
| EHAA | (LOCAL) | Replace policy | Revised policy |
| EHB | (LOCAL) | ADD policy | See explanatory note |
| EHBAA | (LEGAL) | Replace policy | Revised policy |
| EHBAA | (LOCAL) | ADD policy | See explanatory note |
| EHBAB | (LEGAL) | Replace policy | Revised policy |
| EHBAC | (LEGAL) | Replace policy | Revised policy |
| EHBB | (LOCAL) | Replace policy | Revised policy |
| EHBC | (LEGAL) | Replace policy | Revised policy |
| EHDE | (LEGAL) | Replace policy | Revised policy |
| EHDF | (LEGAL) | ADD policy | See explanatory note |
| EIF | (LEGAL) | Replace policy | Revised policy |
| EIF | (LOCAL) | Replace policy | Revised policy |
| EKB | (LEGAL) | Replace policy | Revised policy |
| EMB | (LEGAL) | Replace policy | Revised policy |
| FEC | (LEGAL) | Replace policy | Revised policy |
| FFBA | (LOCAL) | Replace policy | Revised policy |
| FFG | (LEGAL) | Replace policy | Revised policy |
| FFH | (LEGAL) | Replace policy | Revised policy |
| FFH | (LOCAL) | Replace policy | Revised policy |
| FM | (LEGAL) | Replace policy | Revised policy |
| FNA | (LEGAL) | Replace policy | Revised policy |
| FOC | (LEGAL) | Replace policy | Revised policy |
| FOCA | (LEGAL) | Replace policy | Revised policy |
| FOF | (LEGAL) | Replace policy | Revised policy |
| GKA | (LEGAL) | Replace policy | Revised policy |
| GKD | (LEGAL) | Replace policy | Revised policy |
| GKG | (LEGAL) | Replace policy | Revised policy |

TASB RECOMMENDATION

The Superintendent shall oversee the performance of records management functions prescribed by state and federal law:

- Records ~~administrator~~ **Administrator**, as prescribed by Local Government Code 176.001 and 176.0065.007 [See BBFA ~~and CHE~~]
- Officer for ~~public information~~ **Public Information**, as prescribed by Government Code 552.201–.205. [See GBAA]
- Public ~~information coordinator~~ **Information Coordinator**, as prescribed by Government Code 552.012. [See BBD]

Local Government Records Act

“Local Government
Record”

The term “local government record” shall pertain to all items identified as such by the Local Government Records Act.

Records
Management
Officer

The records management coordinator shall serve as and perform the duties of the District’s records management officer as prescribed by Local Government Code 203.023, and shall administer the District’s records management program pertaining to local government records in compliance with the Local Government Records Act.

Notification

The records management officer shall file his or her name with the Texas State Library and Archives Commission (TSLAC) within 30 days of assuming the position.

Electronic Records

The records management officer shall develop procedures for the management of electronic records that comply with the District’s records control schedules and meet the minimum components required by law.

The procedures shall:

1. Specify the objectives of the electronic records management program;
2. Identify the responsibilities of employees who create, receive, or maintain electronic records;
3. Ensure the maintenance of electronic records until the expiration of the applicable retention period and final disposition; and
4. Ensure that electronic records that must be protected from unauthorized use or disclosure are appropriately protected as required by law, regulation, or other applicable requirements.

OFFICE MANAGEMENT
RECORDS MANAGEMENT

CPC
(LOCAL)

| | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Records Control Schedules | The records management officer shall file with the TSLAC a written declaration that the District has adopted records control schedules that comply with records retention schedules issued by the TSLAC as provided by law. |
| Website Postings | The District's records management program shall address the length of time records will be posted on the District's website when the law does not specify a posting period. |
| Records Destruction Practices | All local government records shall be considered District property and any unauthorized destruction or removal shall be prohibited. The District shall follow its records control schedules, records management program, and all applicable laws regarding records destruction. However, the District shall preserve records, including electronically stored information, and suspend routine record destruction practices where appropriate and in accordance with procedures developed by the records management officer. Such procedures shall describe the circumstances under which local government records scheduled for destruction must be retained. Notification shall be given to appropriate staff when routine record destruction practices must be suspended and when they may be resumed. |
| Training | The records management officer shall receive appropriate training regarding the Local Government Records Act and shall ensure that custodians of records, as defined by law, and other applicable District staff are trained on the District's records management program, including this policy and corresponding procedures. |

CURRENT POLICY

The Superintendent shall oversee the performance of records management functions prescribed by state and federal law:

- Records Administrator, as prescribed by Local Government Code 176.001 and 176.007 [See BBFA and CHE]
- Officer for Public Information, as prescribed by Government Code 552.201–.205 [See GBAA]
- Public Information Coordinator, as prescribed by Government Code 552.012 [See BBD]

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The term “local government record” shall pertain to all items identified as such by the Local Government Records Act.

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CURRENT POLICY

destruction practices must be suspended and when they may be resumed.

Training

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TASB
RECOMMENDATION
TO ADD POLICY

The Superintendent shall recommend the District's professional development plan for all District employees. The Board shall annually review the professional development clearinghouse published by the State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC) and annually approve the District's professional development plan. The District's professional development plan must:

1. Be guided by the SBEC clearinghouse training recommendations;
2. Note any differences in the District's plan from the clearinghouse recommendations; and
3. Include a schedule of the required professional development for all District employees.

TASB
RECOMMENDATION

BASIC INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM
REQUIRED INSTRUCTION (ALL LEVELS)

EHAA
(LOCAL)

**Human Sexuality
Instruction**

The following process shall apply regarding the adoption of curriculum materials for the ~~District's~~ district's human sexuality instruction:

1. The Board shall adopt a resolution convening the District's school health advisory council (SHAC) to recommend curriculum materials for the instruction.
2. The SHAC shall hold at least two public meetings on the curriculum materials before adopting recommendations to present to the Board.
3. The SHAC recommendations must comply with the instructional content requirements in law, be suitable for the subject and grade level for which the materials are intended, and be reviewed by academic experts in the subject and grade level for which the materials are intended.
4. The SHAC shall present its recommendations to the Board at a public meeting.
5. After the Board ensures the recommendations from the SHAC meet the standards in law, the Board shall take action on the recommendations by a record vote at a public meeting.

**Instruction on
Prevention of Child
Abuse, Family
Violence, Dating
Violence, and Sex
Trafficking**

The following process shall apply regarding the adoption of curriculum materials for the District's instruction relating to the prevention of child abuse, family violence, dating violence, and sex trafficking:

1. The Board shall adopt a resolution convening the District's SHAC to recommend curriculum materials for the instruction.
2. The SHAC shall hold at least two public meetings on the curriculum materials before adopting recommendations to present to the Board.
3. The SHAC recommendations must comply with the instructional content requirements in law, be suitable for the subject and grade level for which the materials are intended, and be reviewed by academic experts in the subject and grade level for which the materials are intended.
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CURRENT POLICY

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4. The SHAC shall present its recommendations to the Board at a public meeting.
5. After the Board ensures the recommendations from the SHAC meet the standards in law, the Board shall take action on the recommendations by a record vote at a public meeting.

TASB
RECOMMENDATION
TO ADD POLICY

In accordance with administrative procedures, the District shall provide regular training opportunities for teachers of students with dyslexia that include new research and practices for educating students with dyslexia.

TASB
RECOMMENDATION
TO ADD POLICY

SPECIAL EDUCATION
IDENTIFICATION, EVALUATION, AND ELIGIBILITY

EHBAA
(LOCAL)

When a student transitions from early childhood intervention (ECI) to early childhood special education (ECSE) services, the District shall develop and implement an individualized education program (IEP) by the child's third birthday.

TASB RECOMMENDATION

SPECIAL PROGRAMS
GIFTED AND TALENTED STUDENTS

EHBB
(LOCAL)

| | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| Referral | Students may be referred for the gifted and talented program at any time by teachers, school counselors, parents, or other interested persons. |
| Screening and Identification Process | <p>The District shall provide assessment opportunities to complete the screening and identification process for referred students at least once per school year.</p> <p>The District shall schedule a gifted and talented program awareness session for parents that provides an overview of the assessment procedures and services for the program prior to beginning the screening and identification process.</p> |
| Parental Consent | The District shall obtain written parental consent before any special testing or individual assessment is conducted as part of the screening and identification process. All student information collected during the screening and identification process shall be an educational record, subject to the protections set out in policies at FL. |
| Identification Criteria | The Board-approved program for the gifted and talented shall establish criteria to identify gifted and talented students. The criteria shall be specific to the state definition of gifted and talented and shall ensure the fair assessment of students with special needs, such as the culturally different, the economically disadvantaged, and students with disabilities. |
| Assessments | Data collected through both objective and subjective assessments shall be measured against the criteria approved by the Board to determine individual eligibility for the program. Assessment tools may include, but are not limited to, the following: achievement tests, intelligence tests, creativity tests, behavioral checklists completed by teachers and parents, student/parent conferences, and available student work products. |
| Selection | A selection committee shall evaluate each referred student according to the established criteria and shall identify those students for whom placement in the gifted and talented program is the most appropriate educational setting. The committee shall be composed of at least three professional educators who have received training in the nature and needs of gifted students, as required by law. |
| Notification | The District shall provide written notification to parents of students who qualify for services through the District's gifted and talented program. Participation in any program or services provided for gifted students shall be voluntary, and the District shall obtain written permission from the parents before placing a student in a gifted and talented program. |

SPECIAL PROGRAMS
GIFTED AND TALENTED STUDENTS

EHBB
(LOCAL)

Reassessment

If the District reassesses students in the gifted and talented program, the reassessment shall be based on a student's performance in response to services and shall occur no more than once in elementary grades, once in middle school grades, and once in high school grades.

Transfer Students

Interdistrict

When a student identified as gifted by a previous school district enrolls in the District, the selection committee shall review the student's records and conduct assessment procedures when necessary to determine if placement in the District's program for gifted and talented students is appropriate.

[See FDD(LEGAL) for information regarding transfer students and the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunities for Military Children]

Intradistrict

A student who transfers from one campus in the District to the same grade level at another District campus shall continue to receive services in the District's gifted and talented program.

Furloughs

The District may place on a furlough any student who is unable to maintain satisfactory performance or whose educational needs are not being met within the structure of the gifted and talented program. A furlough may be initiated by the District, the parent, or the student.

In accordance with the Board-approved program, a furlough shall be granted for specified reasons and for a specified period of time. At the end of a furlough, the student may reenter the gifted and talented program, be placed on another furlough, or be exited from the program.

Exit Provisions

The District shall monitor student performance in response to gifted and talented program services. If at any time the selection committee or a parent determines it is in the best interest of the student to exit the program, the committee shall meet with the parent and student before finalizing an exit decision.

Appeals

A parent, student, or educator may appeal any final decision of the selection committee regarding selection for or exit from the gifted and talented program. Appeals shall be made first to the selection committee. Any subsequent appeals shall be made in accordance with FNG(LOCAL) beginning at Level Two.

Program Evaluation

The District shall annually evaluate the effectiveness of the District's gifted and talented program, and the results of the evaluation shall be used to modify and update the District and campus improvement plans. The District shall include parents in the evaluation process and shall share the information with Board members,

SPECIAL PROGRAMS
GIFTED AND TALENTED STUDENTS

EHBB
(LOCAL)

administrators, teachers, [school](#) counselors, students in the gifted and talented program, and the community.

Funding

The District's gifted and talented program shall address effective use of funds for programs and services consistent with the standards in the state plan for gifted and talented students.

~~The District shall annually report to the Texas Education Agency (TEA) regarding funding used to implement the District's gifted and talented program. The District shall annually certify to TEA:~~

- ~~1. The establishment of a gifted and talented program by the District; and~~
- ~~2. That the District's program is consistent with the state plan for gifted and talented students.~~

**Community
Awareness**

The District shall ensure that information about the District's gifted and talented program is available to parents and community members and that they have an opportunity to develop an understanding of and support for the program.

CURRENT POLICY

| | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| Referral | Students may be referred for the gifted and talented program at any time by teachers, counselors, parents, or other interested persons. |
| Screening and Identification Process | <p>The District shall provide assessment opportunities to complete the screening and identification process for referred students at least once per school year.</p> <p>The District shall schedule a gifted and talented program awareness session for parents that provides an overview of the assessment procedures and services for the program prior to beginning the screening and identification process.</p> |
| Parental Consent | The District shall obtain written parental consent before any special testing or individual assessment is conducted as part of the screening and identification process. All student information collected during the screening and identification process shall be an educational record, subject to the protections set out in policies at FL. |
| Identification Criteria | The Board-approved program for the gifted and talented shall establish criteria to identify gifted and talented students. The criteria shall be specific to the state definition of gifted and talented and shall ensure the fair assessment of students with special needs, such as the culturally different, the economically disadvantaged, and students with disabilities. |
| Assessments | Data collected through both objective and subjective assessments shall be measured against the criteria approved by the Board to determine individual eligibility for the program. Assessment tools may include, but are not limited to, the following: achievement tests, intelligence tests, creativity tests, behavioral checklists completed by teachers and parents, student/parent conferences, and available student work products. |
| Selection | A selection committee shall evaluate each referred student according to the established criteria and shall identify those students for whom placement in the gifted and talented program is the most appropriate educational setting. The committee shall be composed of at least three professional educators who have received training in the nature and needs of gifted students, as required by law. |
| Notification | The District shall provide written notification to parents of students who qualify for services through the District's gifted and talented program. Participation in any program or services provided for gifted students shall be voluntary, and the District shall obtain written permission from the parents before placing a student in a gifted and talented program. |

CURRENT POLICY

| | |
|---|--|
| Reassessment | If the District reassesses students in the gifted and talented program, the reassessment shall be based on a student's performance in response to services and shall occur no more than once in elementary grades, once in middle school grades, and once in high school grades. |
| Transfer Students Interdistrict | <p>When a student identified as gifted by a previous school district enrolls in the District, the selection committee shall review the student's records and conduct assessment procedures when necessary to determine if placement in the District's program for gifted and talented students is appropriate.</p> <p>[See FDD(LEGAL) for information regarding transfer students and the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunities for Military Children]</p> |
| Intradistrict | A student who transfers from one campus in the District to the same grade level at another District campus shall continue to receive services in the District's gifted and talented program. |
| Furloughs | <p>The District may place on a furlough any student who is unable to maintain satisfactory performance or whose educational needs are not being met within the structure of the gifted and talented program. A furlough may be initiated by the District, the parent, or the student.</p> <p>In accordance with the Board-approved program, a furlough shall be granted for specified reasons and for a specified period of time. At the end of a furlough, the student may reenter the gifted and talented program, be placed on another furlough, or be exited from the program.</p> |
| Exit Provisions | The District shall monitor student performance in response to gifted and talented program services. If at any time the selection committee or a parent determines it is in the best interest of the student to exit the program, the committee shall meet with the parent and student before finalizing an exit decision. |
| Appeals | A parent, student, or educator may appeal any final decision of the selection committee regarding selection for or exit from the gifted and talented program. Appeals shall be made first to the selection committee. Any subsequent appeals shall be made in accordance with FNG(LOCAL) beginning at Level Two. |
| Program Evaluation | The District shall annually evaluate the effectiveness of the District's gifted and talented program, and the results of the evaluation shall be used to modify and update the District and campus improvement plans. The District shall include parents in the evaluation process and shall share the information with Board members, |

CURRENT POLICY

administrators, teachers, counselors, students in the gifted and talented program, and the community.

The District's gifted and talented program shall address effective use of funds for programs and services consistent with the standards in the state plan for gifted and talented students.

The District shall annually report to the Texas Education Agency (TEA) regarding funding used to implement the District's gifted and talented program. The District shall annually certify to TEA:

1. The establishment of a gifted and talented program by the District; and
2. That the District's program is consistent with the state plan for gifted and talented students.

Community Awareness

The District shall ensure that information about the District's gifted and talented program is available to parents and community members and that they have an opportunity to develop an understanding of and support for the program.

TASB RECOMMENDATION

**Course
Requirements**

To graduate, a student must complete the courses required by the District in addition to those mandated by the state.

Foundation Program

The courses that satisfy District requirements under the foundation program, including courses for the distinguished level of achievement and courses for endorsements offered by the District, shall be listed in appropriate District publications.

Without an
Endorsement

The District requires no additional credits beyond the number mandated by the state to graduate under the foundation program without an endorsement. Graduation under the foundation program without an endorsement shall be permitted only as authorized under state law and rules.

With an
Endorsement

The District requires no additional credits beyond the number mandated by the state to graduate under the foundation program with an endorsement.

Distinguished Level
of Achievement

The District requires no additional credits beyond the number mandated by the state to graduate under the foundation program with the distinguished level of achievement.

**No Fine Arts
Substitutions**

The District shall not award state graduation credit in fine arts for participation in a community-based fine arts program.

**Physical Education
Substitutions**

To the extent permitted by state rules, the District shall award state graduation credit in physical education for participation in approved activities and elective courses.

Activities and
Courses

No Private or
Commercial
Programs

The District shall not award state graduation credit in physical education for private or commercially sponsored physical activity programs conducted either on or off campus. [See also EHAC]

**Financial Aid
Application
Confirmation**

As confirmation of a student's completion and submission of a free application for federal student aid (FAFSA) or a Texas application for state financial aid (TASFA), the District shall accept the following:

1. A screenshot that includes the processed date field in ApplyTexas Counselor Suite FAFSA data;
2. Notification, such as a copy of an email, from the United States Department of Education verifying completion of the FAFSA;
3. A copy or screenshot of the FAFSA acknowledgment page;
4. A screenshot of the TASFA submission acknowledgment page (from those institutions that offer an electronic form);

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5. An acknowledgment receipt from an institution of higher education (IHE); or
6. A copy of a financial aid award letter from an IHE.

[For students who choose not to complete and submit a FAFSA or a TASFA, see EIF(LEGAL).]

The District shall maintain individual student documentation of the financial aid application requirement as an education record. [See FL]

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Course Requirements

To graduate, a student must complete the courses required by the District in addition to those mandated by the state.

Foundation Program

The courses that satisfy District requirements under the foundation program, including courses for the distinguished level of achievement and courses for endorsements offered by the District, shall be listed in appropriate District publications.

Without an
Endorsement

The District requires no additional credits beyond the number mandated by the state to graduate under the foundation program without an endorsement. Graduation under the foundation program without an endorsement shall be permitted only as authorized under state law and rules.

With an
Endorsement

The District requires no additional credits beyond the number mandated by the state to graduate under the foundation program with an endorsement.

Distinguished Level
of Achievement

The District requires no additional credits beyond the number mandated by the state to graduate under the foundation program with the distinguished level of achievement.

No Fine Arts Substitutions

The District shall not award state graduation credit in fine arts for participation in a community-based fine arts program.

Physical Education Substitutions

To the extent permitted by state rules, the District shall award state graduation credit in physical education for participation in approved activities and elective courses.

Activities and
Courses

No Private or
Commercial
Programs

The District shall not award state graduation credit in physical education for private or commercially sponsored physical activity programs conducted either on or off campus. [See also EHAC]

TASB RECOMMENDATION

Trauma-Informed Care Program

The District's trauma-informed care program, as included in the District improvement plan, shall provide for the integration of trauma-informed care practices in the school environment, including increasing staff and parent awareness of trauma-informed care, implementation of trauma-informed practices and care by District and campus staff, and providing information about available counseling options for students affected by trauma or grief.

Training

The District shall provide training in trauma-informed care to District educators as required by law [and the Board-approved District professional development plan](#). The District improvement plan shall specify required training for any other District employees as applicable.

Annual Report

~~The District shall provide an annual report to the Texas Education Agency on the number of employees who have participated in trauma-informed care training.~~

CURRENT POLICY

Trauma-Informed Care Program

The District's trauma-informed care program, as included in the District improvement plan, shall provide for the integration of trauma-informed care practices in the school environment, including increasing staff and parent awareness of trauma-informed care, implementation of trauma-informed practices and care by District and campus staff, and providing information about available counseling options for students affected by trauma or grief.

Training

The District shall provide training in trauma-informed care to District educators as required by law. The District improvement plan shall specify required training for any other District employees as applicable.

Annual Report

The District shall provide an annual report to the Texas Education Agency on the number of employees who have participated in trauma-informed care training.

TASB RECOMMENDATION

STUDENT WELFARE
FREEDOM FROM DISCRIMINATION, HARASSMENT, AND RETALIATION

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Note: This policy addresses discrimination, including harassment, and retaliation against District students. For provisions regarding discrimination, including harassment, and retaliation against District employees, see DIA. For reporting requirements related to child abuse and neglect, see FFG. Note that FFH shall be used in conjunction with FFI (bullying) for certain prohibited conduct.

Statement of Nondiscrimination

~~The District prohibits discrimination, including harassment, against any student on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, gender, national origin, age, disability, or any other basis prohibited by law. The District prohibits dating violence, as defined by this policy. Retaliation against anyone involved in the complaint process is a violation of District policy and is prohibited.~~

Discrimination

~~Discrimination against a student is defined as conduct directed at a student on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, gender, national origin, age, disability, or any other basis prohibited by law, that adversely affects the student.~~

Prohibited Conduct

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

Prohibited conduct also includes sexual harassment as defined by Title IX. [See FFH(LEGAL)]

Prohibited Harassment

Prohibited harassment Statement of Nondiscrimination

The District prohibits discrimination, including harassment, against any student. Discrimination is defined as treating a student or group of students differently from similarly situated students on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, gender, national origin, age, disability, or any other basis prohibited by law. One type of harassment this policy prohibits is dating violence, as defined below. Retaliation against anyone exercising their rights under this policy is a violation of District policy and is prohibited.

Harassment

Harassment of a student is defined as physical, verbal, or nonverbal conduct based on the student's race, color, religion, sex, gender, national origin, age, disability, or any other basis prohibited by law, when the conduct is so severe, persistent, or pervasive that the conduct:

1. Affects a student's ability to participate in or benefit from an educational program or activity, or creates an intimidating, threatening, hostile, or offensive educational environment;

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2. Has the purpose or effect of substantially or unreasonably interfering with the student's academic performance; or
3. Otherwise adversely affects the student's educational opportunities.

~~Harassment~~**Prohibited harassment** includes dating violence as defined by law and this policy.

Examples

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

**Title IX Sexual
Sex-Based Harassment**

As required by law, the District shall follow the procedures below at Response to **Title IX Sexual Harassment**—~~Title IX~~ upon a report of sex-based harassment, including sexual harassment, gender-based harassment, and dating violence, when such allegations, if proved, would meet the definition of sexual harassment **in an education program or activity and against a person in the United States** under Title IX. [See FFH(LEGAL)]

**Other Sexual
Harassment**

By an Employee

Sexual harassment of a student by a District employee includes both welcome and unwelcome sexual advances; requests for sexual favors; sexually motivated physical, verbal, or nonverbal conduct; or other conduct or communication of a sexual nature when:

1. A District employee causes the student to believe that the student must submit to the conduct in order to participate in a school program or activity, or that the employee will make an educational decision based on whether or not the student submits to the conduct; or
2. The conduct is so severe, persistent, or pervasive that it:
 - a. Affects the student's ability to participate in or benefit from an educational program or activity, or otherwise adversely affects the student's educational opportunities; or
 - b. Creates an intimidating, threatening, hostile, or abusive educational environment.

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Romantic or other inappropriate social relationships between students and District employees are prohibited. Any sexual relationship between a student and a District employee is always prohibited, even if consensual. [See DH]

By Others

Sexual harassment of a student, including harassment committed by another student, includes unwelcome sexual advances; requests for sexual favors; or sexually motivated physical, verbal, or nonverbal conduct when the conduct is so severe, persistent, or pervasive that it:

1. Affects a student's ability to participate in or benefit from an educational program or activity, or creates an intimidating, threatening, hostile, or offensive educational environment;
2. Has the purpose or effect of substantially or unreasonably interfering with the student's academic performance; or
3. Otherwise adversely affects the student's educational opportunities.

Examples

Examples of sexual harassment of a student may include sexual advances; touching intimate body parts or coercing physical contact that is sexual in nature; jokes or conversations of a sexual nature; and other sexually motivated conduct, contact, or communications, including electronic communication.

Necessary or permissible physical contact such as assisting a child by taking the child's hand, comforting a child with a hug, or other physical contact not reasonably construed as sexual in nature is not sexual harassment.

**Gender-Based
Harassment**

Gender-based harassment includes physical, verbal, or nonverbal conduct based on the student's gender, the student's expression of characteristics perceived as stereotypical for the student's gender, or the student's failure to conform to stereotypical notions of masculinity or femininity. For purposes of this policy, gender-based harassment is considered prohibited harassment if the conduct is so severe, persistent, or pervasive that the conduct:

1. Affects a student's ability to participate in or benefit from an educational program or activity, or creates an intimidating, threatening, hostile, or offensive educational environment;
2. Has the purpose or effect of substantially or unreasonably interfering with the student's academic performance; or
3. Otherwise adversely affects the student's educational opportunities.

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FREEDOM FROM DISCRIMINATION, HARASSMENT, AND RETALIATION

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| Examples | Examples of gender-based harassment directed against a student, regardless of the student's or the harasser's actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity, may include offensive jokes, name-calling, slurs, or rumors; cyberharassment; physical aggression or assault; threatening or intimidating conduct; or other kinds of aggressive conduct such as theft or damage to property. |
| Dating Violence | <p>Dating violence occurs when a person in a current or past dating relationship uses physical, sexual, verbal, or emotional abuse to harm, threaten, intimidate, or control the other person in the relationship. Dating violence also occurs when a person commits these acts against a person in a marriage or dating relationship with the individual who is or was once in a marriage or dating relationship with the person committing the offense.</p> <p>For purposes of this policy, dating violence is considered prohibited harassment if the conduct is so severe, persistent, or pervasive that the conduct:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Affects a student's ability to participate in or benefit from an educational program or activity, or creates an intimidating, threatening, hostile, or offensive educational environment;2. Has the purpose or effect of substantially or unreasonably interfering with the student's academic performance; or3. Otherwise adversely affects the student's educational opportunities. |
| Examples | Examples of dating violence against a student may include physical or sexual assaults; name-calling; put-downs; or threats directed at the student, the student's family members, or members of the student's household. Additional examples may include destroying property belonging to the student, threatening to commit suicide or homicide if the student ends the relationship, attempting to isolate the student from friends and family, stalking, threatening a student's spouse or current dating partner, or encouraging others to engage in these behaviors. |
| Reporting Procedures | Any student who believes that he or she has experienced prohibited conduct and any person who believes that another student has experienced prohibited conduct should immediately report the alleged acts to a teacher, school counselor, principal, other District employee, or the appropriate District official listed in this policy. |
| Student Report | |
| Employee Report | Any District employee who suspects or receives direct or indirect notice that a student or group of students has or may have experienced prohibited conduct shall immediately notify the appropriate District official listed in this policy and take any other steps required by this policy. |

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FREEDOM FROM DISCRIMINATION, HARASSMENT, AND RETALIATION

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| Definition of District Officials | For the purposes of this policy, District officials are the Title IX coordinator, the ADA/Section 504 coordinator, and the Superintendent. |
| <i>Title IX Coordinator</i> | Reports of discrimination based on sex, including sexual harassment, gender-based harassment, or dating violence, may be directed to the designated Title IX coordinator for students. [See FFH(EXHIBIT)] |
| <i>ADA / Section 504 Coordinator</i> | Reports of discrimination based on disability may be directed to the designated ADA/Section 504 coordinator for students. [See FFH(EXHIBIT)] |
| <i>Superintendent</i> | The Superintendent shall serve as coordinator for purposes of District compliance with all other nondiscrimination laws. |
| Alternative Reporting Procedures | <p>An individual shall not be required to report prohibited conduct to the person alleged to have committed the conduct. Reports concerning prohibited conduct, including reports against the Title IX coordinator or ADA/Section 504 coordinator, may be directed to the Superintendent.</p> <p>A report against the Superintendent may be made directly to the Board. If a report is made directly to the Board, the Board shall appoint an appropriate person to conduct an investigation.</p> |
| Timely Reporting | To ensure the District's prompt investigation, reports of prohibited conduct shall be made as soon as possible after the alleged act or knowledge of the alleged act. |
| Notice to Parents | <p>The District official or designee shall promptly notify the parents of any student alleged to have experienced prohibited conduct by a District employee or another adult.</p> <p>[For parental notification requirements regarding an allegation of educator misconduct with a student, see FFF.]</p> <p>When the District receives a report of prohibited conduct that includes dating violence, the appropriate District official shall immediately notify the parent or guardian of the student who has been identified in the report as the alleged victim or perpetrator.</p> |
| Investigation of Reports Other Than Title IX | The following procedures apply to all allegations of prohibited conduct other than allegations of harassment prohibited by Title IX. [See FFH(LEGAL)] For allegations of sex-based harassment that, if proved, would meet the definition of sexual harassment under Title IX, including sexual harassment, gender-based harassment, and dating violence, see the procedures below at Response to Title IX Sexual Harassment — Title IX . |

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| | <p>The District may request, but shall not require, a written report. If a report is made orally, the District official shall reduce the report to written form.</p> |
| Initial Assessment | <p>Upon receipt or notice of a report, the District official shall determine whether the allegations, if proved, would constitute prohibited conduct as defined by this policy. If so, the District shall immediately undertake an investigation, except as provided below at Criminal Investigation.</p> <p>If the District official determines that the allegations, if proved, would not constitute prohibited conduct as defined by this policy, the District official shall refer the complaint for consideration under FFI.</p> |
| Interim Action | <p>If appropriate and regardless of whether a criminal or regulatory investigation regarding the alleged conduct is pending, the District shall promptly take interim action calculated to address prohibited conduct or bullying prior to the completion of the District's investigation.</p> |
| District Investigation | <p>The investigation may be conducted by the District official or a designee, such as the principal, or by a third party designated by the District, such as an attorney. When appropriate, the principal shall be involved in or informed of the investigation.</p> <p>The investigation may consist of personal interviews with the person making the report, the person against whom the report is filed, and others with knowledge of the circumstances surrounding the allegations. The investigation may also include analysis of other information or documents related to the allegations.</p> |
| Criminal Investigation | <p>If a law enforcement or regulatory agency notifies the District that a criminal or regulatory investigation has been initiated, the District shall confer with the agency to determine if the District investigation would impede the criminal or regulatory investigation. The District shall proceed with its investigation only to the extent that it does not impede the ongoing criminal or regulatory investigation. After the law enforcement or regulatory agency has finished gathering its evidence, the District shall promptly resume its investigation.</p> |
| Concluding the Investigation | <p>Absent extenuating circumstances, such as a request by a law enforcement or regulatory agency for the District to delay its investigation, the investigation should be completed within ten District business days from the date of the report; however, the investigator shall take additional time if necessary to complete a thorough investigation.</p> |

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| | <p>The investigator shall prepare a written report of the investigation. The report shall include a determination of whether prohibited conduct or bullying occurred. The report shall be filed with the District official overseeing the investigation.</p> |
| <i>Notification of Outcome</i> | <p>Notification of the outcome of the investigation shall be provided to both parties in compliance with FERPA.</p> |
| <i>District Action Prohibited Conduct</i> | <p>If the results of an investigation indicate that prohibited conduct occurred, the District shall promptly respond by taking appropriate disciplinary action in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct and may take corrective action reasonably calculated to address the conduct.</p> |
| <i>Corrective Action</i> | <p>Examples of corrective action may include a training program for those involved in the report, a comprehensive education program for the school community, counseling to the victim and the student who engaged in prohibited conduct, follow-up inquiries to determine if any new incidents or any instances of retaliation have occurred, involving parents and students in efforts to identify problems and improve the school climate, increasing staff monitoring of areas where prohibited conduct has occurred, and reaffirming the District's policy against discrimination, and harassment, and retaliation.</p> |
| <i>Bullying</i> | <p>If the results of an investigation indicate that bullying occurred, as defined by FFI, the District official shall refer to FFI for appropriate notice to parents and District action. The District official shall refer to FDB for transfer provisions.</p> |
| <i>Improper Conduct</i> | <p>If the investigation reveals improper conduct that did not rise to the level of prohibited conduct or bullying, the District may take disciplinary action in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct or other corrective action reasonably calculated to address the conduct.</p> |
| <i>Confidentiality</i> | <p>To the greatest extent possible, the District shall respect the privacy of the complainant, persons against whom a report is filed, and witnesses. Limited disclosures may be necessary in order to conduct a thorough investigation and comply with applicable law.</p> |
| <i>Appeal</i> | <p>A student or parent who is dissatisfied with the outcome of the investigation may appeal through FNG(LOCAL), beginning at the appropriate level. A student or parent has the shall be informed of his or her right to file a complaint with the United States Department of Education Office for Civil Rights.</p> |

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**Response to Title IX
Sexual Harassment—
Title IX**

General Response

For purposes of the District's response to reports of harassment prohibited by Title IX, definitions can be found in FFH(LEGAL).

When the District receives notice or an allegation of conduct that, if proved, would meet the definition of sexual harassment under Title IX, the Title IX coordinator shall promptly contact the complainant to:

- Discuss the availability of supportive measures and inform the complainant that they are available, with or without the filing of a formal complaint;
- Consider the complainant's wishes with respect to supportive measures; and
- Explain to the complainant the option and process for filing a formal complaint.

The District's response to sexual harassment shall treat complainants and respondents equitably by offering supportive measures to both parties, as appropriate, and by following the Title IX formal complaint process before imposing disciplinary sanctions or other actions that are not supportive measures against a respondent.

If a formal complaint is not filed or dismissed, the District reserves the right to investigate and respond to prohibited conduct in accordance with Board policies and the Student Code of Conduct. The Title IX coordinator also reserves the right to sign a formal complaint, initiating the Title IX grievance process, if it would be deliberately indifferent not to investigate and respond to the prohibited conduct in accordance with Board policies and the Student Code of Conduct.

Title IX Formal
Complaint Process

To distinguish the process described below from the District's general grievance policies [see DGBA, FNG, and GF], this policy refers to the grievance process required by Title IX regulations for responding to formal complaints of sexual harassment as the District's "Title IX formal complaint process."

The Superintendent shall ensure the development of a Title IX formal complaint process that complies with legal requirements. [See FFH(LEGAL)] The formal complaint process shall be posted on the District's website. In compliance with Title IX regulations, the District's Title IX formal complaint process shall address the following basic requirements:

1. Equitable treatment of complainants and respondents;
2. An objective evaluation of all relevant evidence;

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3. A requirement that the Title IX coordinator, investigator, decision-maker, or any person designated to facilitate an informal resolution process not have a conflict of interest or bias;
4. A presumption that the respondent is not responsible for the alleged sexual harassment until a determination is made at the conclusion of the Title IX formal complaint process;
5. Time frames that provide for a reasonably prompt conclusion of the Title IX formal complaint process, including time frames for appeals and any informal resolution process, and that allow for temporary delays or the limited extension of time frames with good cause and written notice as required by law;
6. A description of the possible disciplinary sanctions and remedies that may be implemented following a determination of responsibility for the alleged sexual harassment;
7. A statement of the standard of evidence to be used to determine responsibility for all Title IX formal complaints of sexual harassment;
8. Procedures and permissible bases for the complainant and respondent to appeal a determination of responsibility or a dismissal of a Title IX formal complaint or any allegations therein;
9. A description of the supportive measures available to the complainant and respondent;
10. A prohibition on using or seeking information protected under a legally recognized privilege unless the individual holding the privilege has waived the privilege;
11. Additional formal complaint procedures in 34 C.F.R. 106.45(b), including written notice of a formal complaint, consolidation of formal complaints, recordkeeping, and investigation procedures; and
12. Other local procedures as determined by the Superintendent.

Standard of
Evidence

The standard of evidence used to determine responsibility in a Title IX formal complaint of sexual harassment shall be the preponderance of the evidence.

Retaliation

The District prohibits retaliation by a student or District employee against a student alleged to have experienced discrimination or harassment, including dating violence, or another student who, in good faith, makes a report of harassment or discrimination, files a complaint of harassment or discrimination, serves as a witness, or participates in an investigation. The definition of prohibited retaliation under this policy also includes retaliation against a student

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who refuses to participate in any manner in an investigation under Title IX. [In the absence of a formal complaint, allegations of retaliation shall be investigated under Investigation of Reports Other Than Title IX, above.](#)

Examples

Examples of retaliation may include threats, intimidation, coercion, rumor spreading, ostracism, assault, destruction of property, unjustified punishments, or unwarranted grade reductions. Unlawful retaliation does not include petty slights or annoyances.

False Claim

A student who intentionally makes a false claim or offers false statements in a District investigation regarding discrimination or harassment, including dating violence, shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action in accordance with law.

Records Retention

The District shall retain copies of allegations, investigation reports, and related records regarding any prohibited conduct in accordance with the District's records control schedules, but for no less than the minimum amount of time required by law. [See CPC]

[For Title IX recordkeeping and retention provisions, see FFH(LEGAL) and the District's Title IX formal complaint process.]

Access to Policy and Procedures

Information regarding this policy and any accompanying procedures shall be distributed annually in the employee and student handbooks. Copies of the policy and procedures shall be posted on the District's website, to the extent practicable, and readily available at each campus and the District's administrative offices.

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practices, accent, skin color, or need for accommodation; threatening, intimidating, or humiliating conduct; offensive jokes, name calling, slurs, or rumors; cyberharassment; physical aggression or assault; display of graffiti or printed material promoting racial, ethnic, or other negative stereotypes; or other kinds of aggressive conduct such as theft or damage to property.

Sex-Based Harassment

As required by law, the District shall follow the procedures below at Response to Sexual Harassment—Title IX upon a report of sex-based harassment, including sexual harassment, gender-based harassment, and dating violence, when such allegations, if proved, would meet the definition of sexual harassment under Title IX. [See FFH(LEGAL)]

Sexual Harassment By an Employee

Sexual harassment of a student by a District employee includes both welcome and unwelcome sexual advances; requests for sexual favors; sexually motivated physical, verbal, or nonverbal conduct; or other conduct or communication of a sexual nature when:

1. A District employee causes the student to believe that the student must submit to the conduct in order to participate in a school program or activity, or that the employee will make an educational decision based on whether or not the student submits to the conduct; or
2. The conduct is so severe, persistent, or pervasive that it:
 - a. Affects the student's ability to participate in or benefit from an educational program or activity, or otherwise adversely affects the student's educational opportunities; or
 - b. Creates an intimidating, threatening, hostile, or abusive educational environment.

Romantic or other inappropriate social relationships between students and District employees are prohibited. Any sexual relationship between a student and a District employee is always prohibited, even if consensual. [See DH]

By Others

Sexual harassment of a student, including harassment committed by another student, includes unwelcome sexual advances; requests for sexual favors; or sexually motivated physical, verbal, or nonverbal conduct when the conduct is so severe, persistent, or pervasive that it:

1. Affects a student's ability to participate in or benefit from an educational program or activity, or creates an intimidating, threatening, hostile, or offensive educational environment;

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2. Has the purpose or effect of substantially or unreasonably interfering with the student's academic performance; or
3. Otherwise adversely affects the student's educational opportunities.

Examples

Examples of sexual harassment of a student may include sexual advances; touching intimate body parts or coercing physical contact that is sexual in nature; jokes or conversations of a sexual nature; and other sexually motivated conduct, contact, or communications, including electronic communication.

Necessary or permissible physical contact such as assisting a child by taking the child's hand, comforting a child with a hug, or other physical contact not reasonably construed as sexual in nature is not sexual harassment.

Gender-Based Harassment

Gender-based harassment includes physical, verbal, or nonverbal conduct based on the student's gender, the student's expression of characteristics perceived as stereotypical for the student's gender, or the student's failure to conform to stereotypical notions of masculinity or femininity. For purposes of this policy, gender-based harassment is considered prohibited harassment if the conduct is so severe, persistent, or pervasive that the conduct:

1. Affects a student's ability to participate in or benefit from an educational program or activity, or creates an intimidating, threatening, hostile, or offensive educational environment;
2. Has the purpose or effect of substantially or unreasonably interfering with the student's academic performance; or
3. Otherwise adversely affects the student's educational opportunities.

Examples

Examples of gender-based harassment directed against a student, regardless of the student's or the harasser's actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity, may include offensive jokes, name-calling, slurs, or rumors; cyberharassment; physical aggression or assault; threatening or intimidating conduct; or other kinds of aggressive conduct such as theft or damage to property.

Dating Violence

Dating violence occurs when a person in a current or past dating relationship uses physical, sexual, verbal, or emotional abuse to harm, threaten, intimidate, or control the other person in the relationship. Dating violence also occurs when a person commits these acts against a person in a marriage or dating relationship with the individual who is or was once in a marriage or dating relationship with the person committing the offense.

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For purposes of this policy, dating violence is considered prohibited harassment if the conduct is so severe, persistent, or pervasive that the conduct:

1. Affects a student's ability to participate in or benefit from an educational program or activity, or creates an intimidating, threatening, hostile, or offensive educational environment;
2. Has the purpose or effect of substantially or unreasonably interfering with the student's academic performance; or
3. Otherwise adversely affects the student's educational opportunities.

Examples

Examples of dating violence against a student may include physical or sexual assaults; name-calling; put-downs; or threats directed at the student, the student's family members, or members of the student's household. Additional examples may include destroying property belonging to the student, threatening to commit suicide or homicide if the student ends the relationship, attempting to isolate the student from friends and family, stalking, threatening a student's spouse or current dating partner, or encouraging others to engage in these behaviors.

Reporting Procedures

Student Report

Any student who believes that he or she has experienced prohibited conduct or believes that another student has experienced prohibited conduct should immediately report the alleged acts to a teacher, school counselor, principal, other District employee, or the appropriate District official listed in this policy.

Employee Report

Any District employee who suspects or receives direct or indirect notice that a student or group of students has or may have experienced prohibited conduct shall immediately notify the appropriate District official listed in this policy and take any other steps required by this policy.

Definition of District Officials

Title IX Coordinator

Reports of discrimination based on sex, including sexual harassment, gender-based harassment, or dating violence, may be directed to the designated Title IX coordinator for students. [See FFH(EXHIBIT)]

ADA / Section 504 Coordinator

Reports of discrimination based on disability may be directed to the designated ADA/Section 504 coordinator for students. [See FFH(EXHIBIT)]

Superintendent

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

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Note: This policy addresses discrimination, harassment, and retaliation against District students. For provisions regarding discrimination, harassment, and retaliation against District employees, see DIA. For reporting requirements related to child abuse and neglect, see FFG. Note that FFH shall be used in conjunction with FFI (bullying) for certain prohibited conduct.

**Statement of
Nondiscrimination**

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

Discrimination

Discrimination against a student is defined as conduct directed at a student on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, gender, national origin, age, disability, or any other basis prohibited by law, that adversely affects the student.

Prohibited Conduct

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

Prohibited conduct also includes sexual harassment as defined by Title IX. [See FFH(LEGAL)]

**Prohibited
Harassment**

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

1. Affects a student’s ability to participate in or benefit from an educational program or activity, or creates an intimidating, threatening, hostile, or offensive educational environment;
2. Has the purpose or effect of substantially or unreasonably interfering with the student’s academic performance; or
3. Otherwise adversely affects the student’s educational opportunities.

Prohibited harassment includes dating violence as defined by law and this policy.

Examples

Examples of prohibited harassment may include offensive or derogatory language directed at another person’s religious beliefs or

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Alternative Reporting Procedures

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

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

Timely Reporting

To ensure the District's prompt investigation, reports of prohibited conduct shall be made as soon as possible after the alleged act or knowledge of the alleged act.

Notice to Parents

The District official or designee shall promptly notify the parents of any student alleged to have experienced prohibited conduct by a District employee or another adult.

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

Investigation of Reports Other Than Title IX

The following procedures apply to all allegations of prohibited conduct other than allegations of harassment prohibited by Title IX. [See FFH(LEGAL)] For allegations of sex-based harassment that, if proved, would meet the definition of sexual harassment under Title IX, including sexual harassment, gender-based harassment, and dating violence, see the procedures below at Response to Sexual Harassment—Title IX.

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

Initial Assessment

Upon receipt or notice of a report, the District official shall determine whether the allegations, if proved, would constitute prohibited conduct as defined by this policy. If so, the District shall immediately undertake an investigation, except as provided below at Criminal Investigation.

If the District official determines that the allegations, if proved, would not constitute prohibited conduct as defined by this policy, the District official shall refer the complaint for consideration under FFI.

Interim Action

If appropriate and regardless of whether a criminal or regulatory investigation regarding the alleged conduct is pending, the District shall promptly take interim action calculated to address prohibited conduct or bullying prior to the completion of the District's investigation.

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| District Investigation | <p>The investigation may be conducted by the District official or a designee, such as the principal, or by a third party designated by the District, such as an attorney. When appropriate, the principal shall be involved in or informed of the investigation.</p> <p>The investigation may consist of personal interviews with the person making the report, the person against whom the report is filed, and others with knowledge of the circumstances surrounding the allegations. The investigation may also include analysis of other information or documents related to the allegations.</p> |
| Criminal Investigation | <p>If a law enforcement or regulatory agency notifies the District that a criminal or regulatory investigation has been initiated, the District shall confer with the agency to determine if the District investigation would impede the criminal or regulatory investigation. The District shall proceed with its investigation only to the extent that it does not impede the ongoing criminal or regulatory investigation. After the law enforcement or regulatory agency has finished gathering its evidence, the District shall promptly resume its investigation.</p> |
| Concluding the Investigation | <p>Absent extenuating circumstances, such as a request by a law enforcement or regulatory agency for the District to delay its investigation, the investigation should be completed within ten District business days from the date of the report; however, the investigator shall take additional time if necessary to complete a thorough investigation.</p> <p>The investigator shall prepare a written report of the investigation. The report shall include a determination of whether prohibited conduct or bullying occurred. The report shall be filed with the District official overseeing the investigation.</p> |
| <i>Notification of Outcome</i> | <p>Notification of the outcome of the investigation shall be provided to both parties in compliance with FERPA.</p> |
| District Action <i>Prohibited Conduct</i> | <p>If the results of an investigation indicate that prohibited conduct occurred, the District shall promptly respond by taking appropriate disciplinary action in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct and may take corrective action reasonably calculated to address the conduct.</p> |
| Corrective Action | <p>Examples of corrective action may include a training program for those involved in the report, a comprehensive education program for the school community, counseling to the victim and the student who engaged in prohibited conduct, follow-up inquiries to determine if any new incidents or any instances of retaliation have occurred, involving parents and students in efforts to identify problems and improve the school climate, increasing staff monitoring of</p> |

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If a formal complaint is not filed, the District reserves the right to investigate and respond to prohibited conduct in accordance with Board policies and the Student Code of Conduct.

Title IX Formal Complaint Process

To distinguish the process described below from the District's general grievance policies [see DGBA, FNG, and GF], this policy refers to the grievance process required by Title IX regulations for responding to formal complaints of sexual harassment as the District's "Title IX formal complaint process."

The Superintendent shall ensure the development of a Title IX formal complaint process that complies with legal requirements. [See FFH(LEGAL)] The formal complaint process shall be posted on the District's website. In compliance with Title IX regulations, the District's Title IX formal complaint process shall address the following basic requirements:

1. Equitable treatment of complainants and respondents;
2. An objective evaluation of all relevant evidence;
3. A requirement that the Title IX coordinator, investigator, decision-maker, or any person designated to facilitate an informal resolution process not have a conflict of interest or bias;
4. A presumption that the respondent is not responsible for the alleged sexual harassment until a determination is made at the conclusion of the Title IX formal complaint process;
5. Time frames that provide for a reasonably prompt conclusion of the Title IX formal complaint process, including time frames for appeals and any informal resolution process, and that allow for temporary delays or the limited extension of time frames with good cause and written notice as required by law;
6. A description of the possible disciplinary sanctions and remedies that may be implemented following a determination of responsibility for the alleged sexual harassment;
7. A statement of the standard of evidence to be used to determine responsibility for all Title IX formal complaints of sexual harassment;
8. Procedures and permissible bases for the complainant and respondent to appeal a determination of responsibility or a dismissal of a Title IX formal complaint or any allegations therein;
9. A description of the supportive measures available to the complainant and respondent;

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10. A prohibition on using or seeking information protected under a legally recognized privilege unless the individual holding the privilege has waived the privilege;
11. Additional formal complaint procedures in 34 C.F.R. 106.45(b), including written notice of a formal complaint, consolidation of formal complaints, recordkeeping, and investigation procedures; and
12. Other local procedures as determined by the Superintendent.

Standard of
Evidence

The standard of evidence used to determine responsibility in a Title IX formal complaint of sexual harassment shall be the preponderance of the evidence.

Retaliation

The District prohibits retaliation by a student or District employee against a student alleged to have experienced discrimination or harassment, including dating violence, or another student who, in good faith, makes a report of harassment or discrimination, files a complaint of harassment or discrimination, serves as a witness, or participates in an investigation. The definition of prohibited retaliation under this policy also includes retaliation against a student who refuses to participate in any manner in an investigation under Title IX.

Examples

Examples of retaliation may include threats, intimidation, coercion, rumor spreading, ostracism, assault, destruction of property, unjustified punishments, or unwarranted grade reductions. Unlawful retaliation does not include petty slights or annoyances.

False Claim

A student who intentionally makes a false claim or offers false statements in a District investigation regarding discrimination or harassment, including dating violence, shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action in accordance with law.

Records Retention

The District shall retain copies of allegations, investigation reports, and related records regarding any prohibited conduct in accordance with the District's records control schedules, but for no less than the minimum amount of time required by law. [See CPC]

[For Title IX recordkeeping and retention provisions, see FFH(LEGAL) and the District's Title IX formal complaint process.]

**Access to Policy and
Procedures**

Information regarding this policy and any accompanying procedures shall be distributed annually in the employee and student handbooks. Copies of the policy and procedures shall be posted on the District's website, to the extent practicable, and readily available at each campus and the District's administrative offices.

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areas where prohibited conduct has occurred, and reaffirming the District's policy against discrimination and harassment.

Bullying

If the results of an investigation indicate that bullying occurred, as defined by FFI, the District official shall refer to FFI for appropriate notice to parents and District action. The District official shall refer to FDB for transfer provisions.

Improper Conduct

If the investigation reveals improper conduct that did not rise to the level of prohibited conduct or bullying, the District may take disciplinary action in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct or other corrective action reasonably calculated to address the conduct.

Confidentiality

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

Appeal

A student or parent who is dissatisfied with the outcome of the investigation may appeal through FNG(LOCAL), beginning at the appropriate level. A student or parent shall be informed of his or her right to file a complaint with the United States Department of Education Office for Civil Rights.

Response to Sexual Harassment–Title IX

For purposes of the District's response to reports of harassment prohibited by Title IX, definitions can be found in FFH(LEGAL).

General Response

When the District receives notice or an allegation of conduct that, if proved, would meet the definition of sexual harassment under Title IX, the Title IX coordinator shall promptly contact the complainant to:

- Discuss the availability of supportive measures and inform the complainant that they are available, with or without the filing of a formal complaint;
- Consider the complainant's wishes with respect to supportive measures; and
- Explain to the complainant the option and process for filing a formal complaint.

The District's response to sexual harassment shall treat complainants and respondents equitably by offering supportive measures to both parties, as appropriate, and by following the Title IX formal complaint process before imposing disciplinary sanctions or other actions that are not supportive measures against a respondent.