

No. _____



UNITED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT AGENDA ACTION ITEM

TOPIC First and Final Reading of Policy FO (LOCAL): Student Discipline

SUBMITTED BY: Juan Cruz **OF:** Attorney

APPROVED FOR TRANSMITTAL TO SCHOOL BOARD: _____

DATE ASSIGNED FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION: July 22, 2009

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the United ISD Board of Trustees approve First and Final Reading of Policy FO (LOCAL): Student Discipline.

RATIONALE:

BUDGETARY INFORMATION

BOARD POLICY REFERENCE AND COMPLIANCE:

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GENERAL GUIDELINES

The schools shall strive to provide for the basic welfare, educational opportunity, and safety of all students. Student conduct in the schools shall be supervised in an attempt to provide for reasonable order and courtesy and the recognition of student rights and responsibilities.

School authorities shall give clear guidance to staff members concerning discipline procedures, teacher authority, and limitations as to personal actions.

District personnel shall adhere to the following general guidelines when imposing discipline:

1. A student shall be disciplined when necessary to improve the student's behavior, to maintain essential order, or to protect other students, school employees, or property.
2. Students shall be treated fairly and equitably. Discipline shall be based on a careful assessment of the circumstances of each case. Factors to consider shall include:
 - a. The seriousness of the offense;
 - b. The student's age;
 - c. The frequency of misconduct;
 - d. The student's attitude;
 - e. The potential effect of the misconduct on the school environment;
 - f. Requirements of Chapter 37 of the Education Code; and
 - g. The Student Code of Conduct adopted by the Board.

STUDENT CODE OF
CONDUCT

The Student Code of Conduct containing information regarding student discipline shall be distributed at the beginning of the school year to students, parents, teachers, and administrators. The Student Code of Conduct shall be provided also to newly hired professional employees, newly enrolled students, and any other person upon request. 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 Web site.

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.

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'PARENTS' DEFINED	Throughout the Student Code of Conduct and discipline policies, the term "parents" includes a parent, legal guardian, or other person having lawful control of the child.
DETENTION	For violations of the Student Code of Conduct or campus or classroom rules, teachers or administrators may detain students after school hours on one or more days, as provided by the discipline management program and/or Student Code of Conduct. Before being assigned to detention, a student shall be informed of the behavior that allegedly constitutes the violation and shall be given an opportunity to explain his or her version of the incident. The period of time for which a student is assigned to detention shall be used for educational purposes.
NOTICE TO PARENTS	When detention is assigned, notice shall first be given to the student's parent to inform him or her of the reason for the detention and permit arrangements for the necessary transportation. Except in the case of a student who is 18 years of age or older, the detention shall not begin until the parents have been notified. The student's parents, if the student is a minor, may be required to provide transportation when the student has been assigned to detention.
CORPORAL PUNISHMENT	The Board prohibits the use of corporal punishment in the District. Students shall not be spanked, paddled, or otherwise physically disciplined for violations of the Student Code of Conduct by any employee, parent and/or legal guardian, or patron of the District.
PHYSICAL RESTRAINT	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: 1. Protect a person, including the person using physical restraint, from physical injury. 2. Obtain possession of a weapon or other dangerous object. 3. 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. 4. Control an irrational student. 5. Protect property from serious damage. If such action becomes necessary, the employee is required to report the incident to the principal within 24 hours of the occurrence.
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

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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. Extracurricular behavioral standards shall not have the effect of discriminating on the basis of gender, race, color, disability, religion, ethnicity, or national origin.

Students shall be informed of any extracurricular behavior standards at the beginning of each school year or when the students first begin participation in the activity. Students and their parents 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.

Revised July 2009: 1st and Final reading