



(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 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 make 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 us:

School Districts and Education Service Centers, call 800-580-7529 or email policy.service@tasb.org.

Community Colleges, call 800-580-1488 or email colleges@tasb.org.

FISCAL MANAGEMENT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES
FINANCIAL ETHICS

CAA
(LOCAL)

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

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

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

Fraud and Financial Impropriety

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

Definition

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

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

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

**Financial Controls
and Oversight**

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

Fraud Prevention

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

Reports

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

Reports of suspected fraud or financial impropriety shall be treated as confidential to the extent permitted by law. Limited disclosure

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may be necessary to complete a full investigation or to comply with law. All employees involved in an investigation shall be advised to keep information about the investigation confidential.

*Protection from
Retaliation*

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

Fraud Investigations

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

Response

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

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

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

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

Federal Awards
Disclosure

~~The~~ In connection with federal awards, the District shall promptly disclose, ~~in a timely manner~~ in writing ~~to the federal awarding agency or pass-through entity, all violations~~ whenever the District has credible evidence of the commission of a violation of federal criminal law involving fraud, conflict of interest, bribery, or gratuity violations ~~potentially affecting~~ found in federal law, including the Civil False Claims Act. This provision applies to any activities or subawards of a federal ~~grant~~ award. [See CBB]

Analysis of Fraud

After any investigation substantiates a report of fraud or financial impropriety, the Superintendent ~~or designee~~ shall analyze conditions or factors that may have contributed to the fraudulent or improper activity. The Superintendent ~~or designee~~ shall ensure that

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appropriate administrative procedures are developed and implemented to prevent future misconduct. These measures shall be presented to the Board for review.

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The administration of District funds and the investment of those funds shall be handled as the highest public trust. Investments shall be made in a manner that will provide the maximum security of principal with both liquidity and diversification limitations in order to meet the daily cash flow needs of the District. All investments shall be in accordance with the Public Funds Investment Act, the Public Funds Collateral Act, and federal and state laws. This investment policy applies to all assets of the District. Investments shall be made with judgment and care, under circumstances then prevailing, that a person of prudence, discretion, and intelligence would exercise in the management of his or her own affairs, not for speculation but for investment, considering the probable safety of principal, as well as the probable income to be derived.

Investment Authority

The chief financial officer (CFO) or other person designated by Board resolution shall serve as the investment officer(s) of the District and shall invest District funds as directed by the Board, in accordance with the District's written investment policy and generally accepted accounting procedures while meeting the daily cash flow demands of the District. Authority as investment officer shall be effective until rescinded by the Board or termination of the person's employment with the District.

In accordance with law, the investment officer(s) shall, within 12 months of assuming duties, attend ten hours of investment training from a Board-authorized source and shall attend eight hours of investment training at least once in each subsequent two-year period. [See CDA(LEGAL)]

Any business or personal business relationship between the investment officer and any business organization offering to engage in financial transactions with the District shall be disclosed. Disclosure will be made in accordance with District regulations and the Public Funds Investment Act.

Scope

This investment policy applies to all financial assets of the District.

Investment Strategy

District funds shall be invested as separate portfolios defined by their type of funds. The strategy developed for each type of fund group shall address the varying needs, goals, and objectives of each fund. The strategy for the portfolios shall be to ensure that cash flows are matched with adequate liquidity. In each fund type, this may be accomplished by purchasing high credit quality, short-term securities in a ladder structure and using constant dollar investment pools or banks and other liquid alternatives for liquidity. The maximum dollar weighted average maturity for all District portfolios shall be 365 days or less to accomplish this strategy.

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Investments of the following fund categories shall be consistent with this policy and in accordance with the strategy defined below.

Sinking Fund

*Strategy and
Authority*

Sinking funds established for bond issues shall be invested until a specified long-term maturity date in order to retire the bonds. The ongoing coupon interest shall be used to make interest payments annually. The long-term nature of the funds requires parameters and a strategy distinct from that of operating funds.

Sinking funds shall be established as a separate sub-fund of the District portfolio. In order to invest in longer funds and capture maximum interest, the maximum stated maturity on any investment shall not be longer than the final termination date of the sinking fund itself (initially 20 years).

Operating,
Custodial, and
Special Revenue
Funds

Investment strategies for the operating funds (including any commingled pools containing operating, custodial, or special revenue funds) shall have as their primary objectives safety, investment liquidity, and maturity sufficient to meet anticipated cash flow requirements. The objectives shall be accomplished by purchasing high credit quality, short-term securities in a ladder structure and shall include a liquidity buffer.

Internal Service
Funds

Investment strategies for internal service funds shall have as their objectives safety, investment liquidity, and maturity sufficient to meet anticipated cash flow requirements. The objectives shall be accomplished by purchasing high credit quality, short-term securities in a ladder structure and shall include a liquidity buffer.

Debt Service Funds

Investment strategies for debt service funds shall have as their objectives sufficient investment liquidity to timely meet debt service payment obligations in accordance with provisions in the bond documents. Each successive debt service liability shall be met before extensions are made.

Capital
Improvement Funds

Investment strategies for capital improvement funds shall have as their objective sufficient investment liquidity to timely meet capital project obligations. The objectives shall be accomplished by purchasing high credit quality, short-term securities in a ladder structure to match expected liabilities.

Investment Officer

The investment officer shall observe financial market indicators, study financial trends, and use available educational tools in order to maintain appropriate managerial expertise.

Safety

Safety of principal shall be the foremost objective of the investment program. Investments shall be made in a manner that ensures the

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preservation of capital in the overall portfolio. No individual investment transaction shall be undertaken that jeopardizes the capital position of the overall portfolio.

Liquidity

The District's investment portfolio shall remain sufficiently liquid to enable the District to meet all operating requirements that might be reasonably anticipated. The District shall have procedures to determine its cash flow requirements according to generally accepted financial and accounting procedures. Liquidity shall be further ensured through diversification of the portfolio.

Maximum Maturity

To the extent possible, the District shall attempt to match its investments with anticipated cash flow requirements. In no case, except for sinking fund investments, shall the District invest in instruments in which the stated maturity is greater than three years from the date of purchase. Escrow sinking funds shall be invested with a maximum maturity matching the termination date of the escrow.

Yield

The District's investment portfolio shall be designed with the objective of attaining a reasonable market yield throughout budgetary and economic cycles, commensurate with the District's investment risk constraints and cash flow needs. The District's primary investment strategy shall be buy and hold. Based on the authorized securities and strategy, the one-year U.S. Treasury Bill shall be used as the benchmark for portfolio risk and performance.

Monitoring Rating Changes

The investment officer or investment adviser shall monitor at least weekly the credit ratings of all authorized investments in the portfolio, based on independent information from a nationally recognized rating agency. If any security falls below the minimum rating required by this policy, the investment officer or adviser shall notify the chief financial officer within five business days of the loss of rating, conditions affecting the rating, and the possible loss of principal with the liquidation options available.

Authorized Financial Dealers and Institutions

Any investment adviser to the District or any vendor with whom the District makes investment transactions, including brokers, pools, and banks, must review the District's investment policy and submit a written statement stating an authorized representative has received and thoroughly reviewed the District's investment policy.

It shall be certified that the firm has implemented reasonable procedures and controls in an effort to preclude investment transactions conducted between the District and the organization that are not authorized by the District's investment policy, except to the extent that this authorization is dependent on an analysis of the makeup of the District's entire portfolio or requires an interpretation of subjective investment standards.

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A list of the brokers/dealers authorized to do business with the District shall be reviewed and adopted by the Board or the committee appointed by the Board annually.

**Sellers of
Investments**

Prior to handling investments on behalf of the District, a broker/dealer or a qualified representative of a business organization must submit required written documents in accordance with law. [See Sellers of Investments, CDA(LEGAL)]

Representatives of brokers/dealers and representatives with distributors of investment pools shall be registered with the Texas State Securities Board and must have membership in the Securities Investor Protection Corporation (SIPC) and be in good standing with the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA). Distributors of investment pools shall also be a registrant in good standing with the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board (MSRB).

**Authorized
Investments**

From those investments authorized by law and described further in the Public Funds Investment Act, the Board shall permit investment of District funds, including bond proceeds and pledged revenue to the extent allowed by law, in only the following investment types, consistent with the strategies and maturities defined in this policy:

1. Obligations of, or guaranteed by, the U.S. Government, its agencies and instrumentalities not to exceed three years to stated maturity and excluding mortgage-backed securities. Sinking fund investments may be matched to the final termination of the escrow.
2. Fully insured or collateralized certificates of deposit from the District's depository bank or a bank doing business in Texas under the terms of a written depository agreement with that bank, not to exceed one year to stated maturity.
3. Fully collateralized repurchase agreements with a defined termination date as defined by the Public Funds Investment Act with banks doing business in Texas or primary dealers, transacted under an executed bond market association master repurchase agreement, with 102 percent collateral. Flex repurchase agreements may be used for bond proceeds and shall not exceed the expenditure schedule of proceeds.
4. Commercial paper rated no less than A1/P1 or its equivalent by two nationally recognized rating agencies, not to exceed three months to stated maturity.
5. AAA-SEC-registered money market mutual funds that strive to maintain a \$1 NAV, as defined by the Public Funds Investment Act.

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6. AAA-rated, constant-dollar, Texas public funds investment pools that strive to maintain a \$1 NAV, as defined by the Public Funds Investment Act.
7. Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC)-insured brokered certificate of deposit securities from a bank in any state in the United States, delivered versus payment to the District's safekeeping depository, not to exceed one year to maturity. Before purchasing, the investment officer or adviser must verify the [FDIC status¹](#) of the bank to ensure that the bank is insured by the FDIC.
8. Debt obligations of any state or political entity of any state rated AA or better by a nationally recognized rating agency with a maximum stated maturity of three years.

Investment Instrument (excluding any escrow fund investment)	Maximum Maturity	Maximum Percent of Portfolio
U.S. Obligations	3 years	100
Obligations of U.S. Agencies /Instrumentalities	3 years	80
Commercial Paper	90 days	25
Constant Dollar Public Funds Investment Pools	1 day	100
Fully Collateralized Repurchase Agreements	90 days	30
Fully Collateralized Flex Repurchase Agreements (per Bond Funds)	N/A	100
Depository Certificates of Deposit	1 year	40
Brokered Certificates of Deposit	1 year	20
State and Local GO Debt Issues	3 years	35

**Safekeeping and
Custody**

All security transactions, including collateral for repurchase agreements, entered into by the District shall be conducted on a delivery-versus-payment basis. Securities shall be held by an independent third-party custodian designated by the District and evidenced by original safekeeping receipts.

Collateralization

Collateralization shall be required on time and demand deposits and repurchase agreements. In order to anticipate market changes and provide a level of security for all funds, the collateralization

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level shall be 102 percent of market value of principal and accrued interest. Mortgage-backed collateral for time and demand deposit is required at 110 percent margin. Acceptable collateral shall include only obligations of the U.S. Government, its agencies and instrumentalities, including mortgage-backed securities and municipal bonds of any state rated A or better by two nationally recognized rating agencies; and letters of credit from the Federal Home Loan Bank (FHLB). Preference shall be given to banks offering securities as collateral.

Collateral shall always be held by an independent third party with which the District has a current custodial agreement. A clearly marked evidence of ownership (safekeeping receipt/report) must be supplied to the District and retained. The custodian shall be required to provide monthly collateral reports directly to the District.

The bank or counter-party shall be responsible for monitoring and maintaining the margins daily.

The right of collateral substitution is granted, with prior District approval.

**Soliciting Bids /
Offers**

Investment securities, including certificates of deposit, shall be purchased or sold after a minimum of three offers/bids are taken to verify that the District is receiving fair market value/price for the investment. In order to get the best return on its investments, the District may solicit bids in writing, by telephone, or electronically. Competitive bids need not be solicited from investment pools. The investment officers shall analyze the pool rates' relative value to other securities.

Interest Rate Risk

To reduce exposure to changes in interest rates that could adversely affect the value of investments, the District shall use final stated maturities and weighted-average-maturity limits and diversification.

The District shall monitor interest rate risk using weighted average maturity and specific identification.

Internal Controls

A system of internal controls shall be established in writing and shall include specific procedures designating who has authority to purchase securities and execute investment transactions for the District. The internal controls shall be designed to protect against losses of public funds arising from fraud, employee error, misrepresentation of third parties, unanticipated changes in financial markets, or imprudent actions by employees and officers of the District. Controls deemed most important shall include:

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1. Separation of transaction authority from accounting and recordkeeping.
2. Avoidance of collusion.
3. Custodial safekeeping.
4. Clear delegation of authority.
5. Written confirmation of telephone transactions.
6. Documentation of dealer questionnaires, quotations, bids, evaluations, transactions, and rationale.

In conjunction with the annual financial audit, the District's auditors shall perform a compliance audit of management controls on investments and adherence to this policy, as well as a review of the quarterly reports sent to the Board.

Monitoring Credit
Rating

An investment that requires a minimum rating by the Act of this policy shall not qualify as an authorized investment during the period the investment does not have the minimum rating. The District shall take all prudent measures that are consistent with this policy to liquidate an investment that does not have the minimum rating.

The investment officer or investment adviser shall monitor, on no less than a weekly basis, the credit rating on all authorized, rated investments in the portfolio based upon independent information from a nationally recognized rating agency. If any security falls below the minimum rating required by policy, the investment officer or adviser shall notify the CFO of the loss of rating, conditions affecting the rating, and possible loss of principal, with liquidation options available.

Monitoring Brokered
Certificates of
Deposit

The investment officer or adviser shall monitor, on no less than a weekly basis, the status and ownership of all banks issuing brokered certificates of deposit owned by the District, based upon information from the FDIC. If any bank has been acquired or merged with another bank in which brokered certificates of deposit are owned, the investment officer or adviser shall immediately liquidate any brokered certificate of deposit that places the District above FDIC insurance level.

The District's independent auditing firm shall review these controls.

Reports

An investment report shall be prepared quarterly by the investment officers in accordance with the Public Funds Investment Act. The reports shall be written, signed, and submitted in a timely manner to the Board. At a minimum, the report shall contain the following:

1. The detail of each investment and depository position held.

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2. The beginning and ending market and book value of the portfolio for the period reported.
3. Changes to the market value during the period.
4. Fully accrued interest and total investment income for the period.
5. The book and market value of each security held.
6. The stated maturity date for each security.
7. The weighted average maturity for the portfolio.
8. The yield of the benchmark and the portfolio.

The prices used for valuation of market value shall be obtained from an independent source such as the *Wall Street Journal* or an investment adviser or broker not involved with the sale of the particular security.

This policy shall be reviewed and adopted annually by the Board and may be amended as conditions warrant. All changes made to the policy shall be disclosed in the adopting resolutions.

¹ FDIC website: <http://www.fdic.gov/>

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

CY
(LOCAL)

Intellectual Property	All copyrights, trademarks, and other intellectual property rights be- longing to the District shall remain with the District at all times. Ex- cept as provided by law, policy, or written authorization from the Superintendent, the use of District intellectual property shall be lim- ited to District-related purposes.
Students	A student shall retain all rights to their own work created as part of instruction or using District technology resources.
Employees <i>District Ownership</i>	As an agent of the District, an employee, including a student em- ployee, shall not have rights to work he or she creates created on District time or using District technology resources. The District shall own any work or work product created by a District employee in the course and scope of his or her District employment, including the right to obtain patents or copyrights.
<i>Employee Ownership</i>	If the employee obtains a patent for such work, the employee shall grant a non-exclusive, non-transferable, perpetual, royalty-free, Districtwide license to the District for use of the patented work. A District employee shall own any work or work product produced on his or her own personal time, away from his or her job and with personal equipment and materials, including the right to obtain pa- tents or copyrights.
<i>Permission A District employee may apply to the</i> Exception	The Superintendent or designee shall have the authority to permit use of District materials and equipment in his or her creative devel- oping the employee's own projects, provided the employee agrees either in writing to grant to the District a non-exclusive, non-transfer- able nonexclusive, nontransferable , perpetual, royalty-free, District- wide license to use the work, or permits the District to be listed as co-author or co-inventor if the District contribution to the work is substantial. District materials do not include student work, all rights to which are retained by the student.
Works Made for Hire Independent Contractors	The District may hire an independent contractor for specially com- missioned work(s) works under a written works-made-for-hire agreement that provides that the District shall own the work prod- uct created under the agreement, as permitted by copyright law. In- dependent contractors shall comply with copyright law in all works commissioned.
Return of Intellectual Property	Upon the termination of any person's association with the District, all permission to possess, receive, or modify the District's intellec- tual property shall also immediately terminate. All such persons shall return to the District all intellectual property, including but not limited to any copies, no matter how kept or stored, and whether directly or indirectly possessed by such person.

Copyright

Unless the proposed use of a copyrighted work is an exception under the “fair use” guidelines maintained by the Superintendent ~~or designee~~, the District shall require an employee or student to obtain a license or permission from the copyright holder before copying, modifying, displaying, performing, distributing, or otherwise employing the copyright holder’s work for instructional, curricular, or extracurricular purposes. This policy does not apply to any work sufficiently documented to be in the public domain.

Technology Use

~~All persons are prohibited from using~~ Use of District technology in violation of any law, including copyright law, ~~is prohibited~~. Only appropriately licensed ~~images, applications~~, programs, or ~~other software~~ may be used with District technology resources. ~~No person shall use the~~ The District’s technology resources ~~shall not be used~~ to post, publicize, or duplicate information in violation of copyright law. The ~~Board shall direct the~~ Superintendent ~~or designee to~~ shall employ all reasonable measures to prevent the use of District technology resources in violation of the law. ~~All persons~~ Any person using District technology resources in violation of law shall lose user privileges in addition to other sanctions. [See BBI and CQ]

~~Electronic Media~~

~~Unless a license or permission is obtained, electronic media in the classroom~~ Performances and Displays

The display and performance of copyrighted material, including motion pictures ~~and other audiovisual~~, dramatic works, ~~must be used in~~ musical performances, or other audio and visual works, may only occur as part of instructional activities and in accordance with the following:

- As a regular part of teaching and directly related to the ~~course of~~ curriculum;
- During face-to-face teaching activities ~~as defined by law~~;
- When viewed in a classroom or designated place of instruction; and
- With a lawfully made copy or through authorized access.

Designated Agent

The District shall designate an agent to receive notification of alleged online copyright infringement and shall notify the U.S. Copyright Office of the designated agent’s identity. The District shall include on its ~~Web site~~ website information on how to contact the District’s designated agent and a copy of the District’s copyright policy. Upon notification, the District’s designated agent shall take all actions necessary to remedy any violation. The District shall provide the designated agent appropriate training and resources necessary to protect the District.

If a content owner reasonably believes that the District’s technology resources have been used to infringe upon a copyright, the owner may notify the designated agent.

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Trademark

The District protects all District and campus trademarks, including names, logos, mascots, and symbols, from unauthorized use.

School-Related Use

The District grants permission to students, student organizations, parent organizations and other District-affiliated school-support or booster organizations to use, without charge, District and campus trademarks to promote a group of students, an activity or event, a campus, or the District, if the use is in furtherance of a school-related business or activity. The Superintendent ~~or designee~~ shall determine what constitutes use in furtherance of a school-related business or activity and is authorized to revoke permission if the use is improper or does not conform to administrative regulations.

Public Use

Members of the ~~general~~ public, outside organizations, vendors, commercial manufacturers, wholesalers, and retailers shall not use District trademarks without the written ~~permission of~~ authorization from the Superintendent ~~or designee~~. Any production of merchandise with District trademarks for sale or distribution must be pursuant to a trademark licensing agreement and may be subject to the payment of royalties.

Any individual, organization, or business that uses District ~~or campus~~ trademarks without appropriate authorization ~~shall~~ may be subject to legal action.

EMPLOYEE STANDARDS OF CONDUCT

DH
(LOCAL)

Each District employee shall perform his or her duties in accordance with state and federal law, District policy, and ethical standards. The District holds all employees accountable to the Educators' Code of Ethics. [See DH(EXHIBIT)]

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

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

**Violations of
Standards of
Conduct**

Each employee shall comply with the standards of conduct set out in this policy and with any other policies, regulations, and guidelines that impose duties, requirements, or standards attendant to his or her status as a District employee. Violation of any policies, regulations, or guidelines, including intentionally making a false claim, offering a false statement, or refusing to cooperate with a District investigation, may result in disciplinary action, including termination of employment. [See DCD and DF series]

Weapons Prohibited

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

Exceptions

No violation of this policy occurs when:

1. Use or possession of a firearm by a specific employee is authorized by CKE(REGULATION) or campus guardian as permitted by law and policy--;
2. A District employee who holds a Texas handgun license stores a handgun or other firearm in a locked vehicle in a parking lot, parking garage, or other parking area provided by the District, provided the handgun or other firearm is not in plain view; or
3. The use, possession, or display of an otherwise prohibited weapon takes place as part of a District-approved activity supervised by proper authorities. [See FOD]

**Electronic
Communication**

Use with Students

A certified employee, licensed employee, or any other employee designated in writing by the Superintendent or a campus principal may use electronic communication, as this term is defined by law, with currently enrolled students only about matters within the scope of the employee's professional responsibilities.

Unless an exception has been made in accordance with the employee handbook or other administrative regulations, an employee

EMPLOYEE STANDARDS OF CONDUCT

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shall not use a personal electronic communication platform, application, or account to communicate with currently enrolled students.

Unless authorized above, all other employees are prohibited from using electronic communication directly with students who are currently enrolled in the District. The employee handbook or other administrative regulations shall further detail:

1. Exceptions for family and social relationships;
2. The circumstances under which an employee may use text messaging to communicate with individual students or student groups;
3. Hours of the day during which electronic communication is discouraged or prohibited; and
4. Other matters deemed appropriate by the Superintendent ~~or designee~~.

In accordance with ethical standards applicable to all District employees [see DH(EXHIBIT)], an employee shall be prohibited from using electronic communications in a manner that constitutes prohibited harassment or abuse of a District student; adversely affects the student's learning, mental health, or safety; includes threats of violence against the student; reveals confidential information about the student; or constitutes an inappropriate communication with a student, as described in the Educators' Code of Ethics.

An employee shall have no expectation of privacy in electronic communications with students. Each employee shall comply with the District's requirements for records retention and destruction to the extent those requirements apply to electronic communication. [See CPC]

Personal Use	All employees shall be held to the same professional standards in their public use of electronic communication as for any other public conduct. If an employee's use of electronic communication violates state or federal law or District policy, or interferes with the employee's ability to effectively perform his or her job duties, the employee is subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination of employment.
Reporting Improper Communication	In accordance with administrative regulations, an employee shall notify his or her supervisor when a student engages in improper electronic communication with the employee.
Disclosing Personal Information	An employee shall not be required to disclose his or her personal email address or personal phone number to a student.

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Safety Requirements	Each employee shall adhere to District safety rules and regulations and shall report unsafe conditions or practices to the appropriate supervisor.
Harassment or Abuse	<p>An employee shall not engage in prohibited harassment, including sexual harassment, of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Other employees. [See DIA]2. Students. [See FFH; see FFG regarding child abuse and neglect.] <p>While acting in the course of employment, an employee shall not engage in prohibited harassment, including sexual harassment, of other persons, including Board members, vendors, contractors, volunteers, or parents.</p> <p>An employee shall report child abuse or neglect as required by law. [See FFG]</p>
Relationships with Students	<p>An employee shall not form romantic or other inappropriate social relationships with students. Any sexual relationship between a student and a District employee is always prohibited, even if consensual. [See FFH]</p> <p>As required by law, the District shall notify the parent of a student with whom an educator is alleged to have engaged in certain misconduct. [See FFF]</p>
Tobacco and Nicotine Products and E-Cigarettes	<p>An employee shall not smoke or use tobacco products or e-cigarettes on District property, in District vehicles, or at school-related activities. [See also GKA]</p> <p>An employee is prohibited from possessing or using any type of tobacco product, e-cigarette, or any other electronic vaporizing device while on school property, in a District vehicle, or while attending an off-campus school-related activity. An employee is also prohibited from possessing or using any type of nicotine product, including nicotine pouches, regardless of whether the product contains tobacco, while on District property, in a District vehicle, or while attending an off-campus school-related activity.</p> <p>An employee's supervisor is authorized to approve an exception to this policy for a smoking cessation product.</p>
Alcohol and Drugs / Notice of Drug-Free Workplace	As a condition of employment, an employee shall abide by the terms of the following drug-free workplace provisions. An employee shall notify the Superintendent in writing if the employee is convicted for a violation of a criminal drug statute occurring in the workplace in accordance with Arrests, Indictments, Convictions, and Other Adjudications, below.

EMPLOYEE STANDARDS OF CONDUCT

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

1. Any controlled substance or dangerous drug as defined by law, including but not limited to marijuana, any narcotic drug, hallucinogen, stimulant, depressant, amphetamine, or barbiturate.
2. Alcohol or any alcoholic beverage.
3. Any abusable glue, aerosol paint, or any other chemical substance for inhalation.
4. Any other intoxicant or mood-changing, mind-altering, or behavior-altering drug.

An employee need not be legally intoxicated to be considered “under the influence” of a controlled substance.

Exceptions

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

1. Manufactures, possesses, or dispenses a substance listed above as part of the employee’s job responsibilities;
2. Uses or possesses a controlled substance or drug authorized by a licensed physician prescribed for the employee’s personal use; or
3. Possesses a controlled substance or drug that a licensed physician has prescribed for the employee’s child or other individual for whom the employee is a legal guardian.

Sanctions

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

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

Notice

Employees shall receive a copy of this policy.

**Arrests, Indictments,
Convictions, and
Other Adjudications**

An employee shall notify the human resource services department within three calendar days of any arrest, indictment, conviction, no contest or guilty plea, or other adjudication of the employee for any

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felony, any offense involving moral turpitude, and any of the other offenses as indicated below:

1. Crimes involving school property or funds;
2. Crimes involving attempt by fraudulent or unauthorized means to obtain or alter any certificate or permit that would entitle any person to hold or obtain a position as an educator;
3. Crimes that occur wholly or in part on school property or at a school-sponsored activity; or
4. Crimes involving moral turpitude, which include:
 - Dishonesty; fraud; deceit; theft; misrepresentation;
 - Deliberate violence;
 - Base, vile, or depraved acts that are intended to arouse or gratify the sexual desire of the actor;
 - Felony possession or conspiracy to possess, or any misdemeanor or felony transfer, sale, distribution, or conspiracy to transfer, sell, or distribute any controlled substance defined in Chapter 481 of the Health and Safety Code;
 - Felony driving while intoxicated (DWI); or
 - Acts constituting abuse or neglect under the Texas Family Code.

Dress and Grooming

An employee's dress and grooming shall be clean, neat, in a manner appropriate for his or her assignment, and in accordance with any additional standards established by his or her supervisor and approved by the Superintendent.

Dyslexia and Related Disorders

The District shall comply with all applicable state rules ~~and standards adopted by the State Board of Education and guidance published by the commissioner of education to implement the program to test~~ regarding students ~~for~~with dyslexia and related disorders, including the “Dyslexia Handbook” and the provision of dyslexia instruction for students with dyslexia or a related disorder as determined by the student’s admission, review, and dismissal committee.

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.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS
GIFTED AND TALENTED STUDENTS

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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 identification 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 placement 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.

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No Reassessment	The District shall not perform routine reassessments.
Transfer Students Interdistrict	<p>When a student identified as gifted by a previous school district enrolls in the District, the selectionplacement 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 placement committee or a parent determines it is in the best interest of the student to exit the program is not meeting the student's educational needs , 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 placement committee regarding selection for or exit from services in the gifted and talented program. Appeals shall be made first to the selection placement 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, administrators, teachers, school counselors, students in the gifted and talented program, and the community.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS
GIFTED AND TALENTED STUDENTS

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Funding

The ~~District's~~ Superintendent shall develop administrative procedures to ensure that 100 percent of the state funds allocated for the gifted and talented program ~~shall address effective use of funds for programs~~ are spent providing and ~~services consistent with the standards in the state plan~~ enhancing the District's program and that a method accounting for expenditures related to the gifted and talented ~~students~~ program is established and aligns with the Texas Education Agency's financial compliance guidance.

**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.

STUDENT WELFARE
CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

FFG
(LOCAL)

**Program to Address
Child Sexual Abuse,
Trafficking, and
Maltreatment**

The District's program to address child sexual abuse, trafficking, and other maltreatment of children, as included in the District improvement plan and the student handbook, shall include:

1. Methods for increasing staff, student, and parent awareness regarding these issues, including prevention techniques and knowledge of likely warning signs indicating that a child may be a victim;
2. Age-appropriate, research-based antivictimization programs for students;
3. Actions that a child who is a victim should take to obtain assistance and intervention; and
4. Available counseling options for affected students.

Training

The District shall provide training to employees as required by law and District policy. Training shall address techniques to prevent and recognize sexual abuse, trafficking, and all other maltreatment of children, including children with significant cognitive disabilities. [See DMA]

[See BBD for Board member training requirements and BJCB for Superintendent continuing education requirements.]

**Reporting Child
Abuse and Neglect**

Any person who has reasonable cause to believe that a child's physical or mental health or welfare has been adversely affected by abuse or neglect has a legal responsibility, under state law, to immediately report the suspected abuse or neglect to an appropriate authority.

As defined in state law, child abuse and neglect include both sex and labor trafficking of a child.

The following individuals have an additional legal obligation to submit a written or oral report within 48 hours of learning of the facts giving rise to the suspicion of abuse or neglect:

1. Any District employee, agent, or contractor who suspects a child's physical or mental health or welfare has been adversely affected by abuse or neglect.
2. A professional who has reasonable cause to believe that a child has been or may be abused or neglected or may have been a victim of indecency with a child. A professional is anyone licensed or certified by the state who has direct contact with children in the normal course of duties for which the individual is licensed or certified.

A person is required to make a report if the person has reasonable cause to believe that an adult was a victim of abuse or neglect as a

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

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

Oral Reports

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

Restrictions on Reporting

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

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

Making a Report

Reports may be made to any of the following:

1. A state or local law enforcement agency;
2. The Child Protective Services (CPS) division of ~~the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS)~~ at (800)-252-5400 or the [Texas Abuse Hotline Website](#)¹;
3. A local CPS office; or
4. If applicable, the state agency operating, licensing, certifying, or registering the facility in which the suspected abuse or neglect occurred.

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

An individual does not fulfill his or her responsibilities under the law by only reporting suspicion of abuse or neglect to a campus princi-

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pal, school counselor, or another District staff member. Furthermore, the District is prohibited from requiring an employee to first report his or her suspicion to a District or campus administrator.

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

Confidentiality

~~In accordance with state law, the~~ The identity of a person making a report of suspected child abuse or neglect shall be kept confidential and disclosed only in accordance with the law and the rules of the investigating agency.

Immunity

A person who in good faith reports or assists in the investigation of a report of child abuse or neglect is immune from civil or criminal liability.

**Failing to Report
Suspected Child
Abuse or Neglect**

By failing to report suspicion of child abuse or neglect, an employee:

1. May be placing a child at risk of continued abuse or neglect;
2. Violates the law and may be subject to legal penalties, including criminal sanctions for knowingly failing to make a required report;
3. Violates Board policy and may be subject to disciplinary action, including possible termination of employment; and
4. May have his or her certification from the State Board for Educator Certification suspended, revoked, or canceled in accordance with 19 Administrative Code Chapter 249.

It is a criminal offense to coerce someone into suppressing or failing to report child abuse or neglect.

**Responsibilities
Regarding
Investigations**

In accordance with law, District officials shall be prohibited from:

1. Denying an investigator's request to interview a child at school in connection with an investigation of child abuse or neglect;
2. Requiring that a parent or school employee be present during the interview; or
3. Coercing someone into suppressing or failing to report child abuse or neglect.

District personnel shall cooperate fully and without parental consent, if necessary, with an investigation of reported child abuse or neglect. [See GKA]

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

COMMUNITY RELATIONS
CONDUCT ON SCHOOL PREMISES

GKA
(LOCAL)

**Access to District
Property**

Authorized District officials, including school resource officers and District police officers if applicable, may refuse to allow a person access to property under the District's control in accordance with law.

District officials may request assistance from law enforcement in an emergency or when a person is engaging in behavior rising to the level of criminal conduct.

**Ejection or
Exclusion under
Education Code
37.105**

In accordance with Education Code 37.105, a District official shall provide a person refused entry to or ejected from property under the District's control written information explaining the right to appeal such refusal of entry or ejection under the District's grievance process.

A person appealing under the District's grievance process shall be permitted to address the Board in person within 90 calendar days of filing the initial complaint, unless the complaint is resolved before the Board considers it. [See FNG and GF]

**Off-Campus
Activities**

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

Prohibitions

Tobacco and
E-Cigarettes

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

Weapons

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

Exceptions

No violation of this policy occurs when:

1. A Texas handgun license holder stores a handgun or other firearm in a locked vehicle in a parking lot, parking garage, or other parking area provided by the District, as long as the handgun or other firearm is not in plain view; or
2. The use, possession, or display of an otherwise prohibited weapon takes place as part of a District-approved activity supervised by proper authorities. [See FOD]