Each marked-up (LOCAL) policy in this collection reflects an automated comparison of the updated policy with its precursor, as found in TASB Policy Service records.

The comparison is generated by commercially available software with changes shown in red. Additions are underlined and deletions are struck through. While the software competently identifies simple changes, it generally handles major rewrites of policies—including the rearrangement of existing provisions, with or without extensive editing—with less dexterity. For further assistance in parsing changes, please refer to the explanatory notes in your Localized Policy Manual update packet, if applicable, or contact your Policy Consultant/Analyst.

Denton ISD 061901

# OFFICERS AND OFFICIALS DUTIES AND REQUIREMENTS OF DEPOSITORY

BDAE (LOCAL)

SELECTING A DEPOSITORY

The Superintendent or designee shall have the authority to determine the method of selecting a depository in accordance with BDAE(LEGAL).

ALLOWABLE COLLATERAL

Eligible securities for collateralization of deposits are those defined as "eligible securities" by the Public Funds Collateral Act. <u>[See CDA]</u>

MONITORING COLLATERAL ADEQUACY The District shall require monthly reports with market values of pledged securities from all financial institutions with which the District has collateralized deposits. The investment officers shall monitor adequacy of collateralization levels to verify market values and total collateral positions.

RELEASE OF PLEDGED SECURITIES The investment officer or designee shall approve in writing the release or substitution of any securities pledged to the District that are being held by any organization.

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BDAE(LOCAL)-A

#### **EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES**

DC (LOCAL)

#### PERSONNEL DUTIES

The Superintendent shall define the qualifications, duties, and responsibilities of all positions and shall ensure that job descriptions are current and accessible to employees and supervisors.

#### POSTING VACANCIES

The Superintendent or designee shall establish guidelines for advertising employment opportunities and posting notices of vacancies. These guidelines shall advance the Board's commitment to equal opportunity employment and to recruiting well-qualified candidates. Current District employees may apply for any vacancy for which they have appropriate qualifications.

### SELECTION OF CERTAIN POSITIONS

When it is determined a vacancy does or will exist in a position for an assistant/associate/deputy superintendent, executive director, director, principal, or administrative assistant the Superintendent shall:

- 1. Appoint a search committee comprised of:
  - a. The Superintendent and at least one other central office administrator.
  - b. Two principals.
  - c. Two teachers.
- 2. Charge the search committee to:
  - a. Establish the criteria and requirements for the vacant position based upon state requirements, Board policies, and local needs and establish a time limit within which the selection process shall be completed.
  - Advertise the vacancy within the educational community within the state or region where deemed advisable by the search committee.
  - Review all applications and evaluate the applications based on the criteria established by the search committee.
  - Select not less than two nor more than five persons for subsequent in-depth personal interview by the search committee.
  - e. Make necessary arrangements for the interview of the applicants selected for subsequent interview. The search committee may, at its discretion, invite other interested parties such as Board members, principals, and teachers to meet the candidates.
  - f. Obtain and evaluate recommendations obtained by the search committee or furnished by the candidates.

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#### **EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES**

DC (LOCAL)

g. Recommend to the Superintendent one or more candidates for the vacant position.

The Board may modify this procedure prior to the commencement of the selection process for any vacancy subject to this procedure.

In the event of conflict between this policy, applicable law, or other accreditation requirements, this policy shall be construed in such manner as to conform with the law or other accreditation requirements.

## EMPLOYING RELATED PERSONS

In all cases involving employment, fair and equitable practices shall be observed. Persons responsible for employment in the District shall avoid any act or practice that might be interpreted as preferential consideration shown to a relative.

After July 1, 2001, no person shall be employed, given assurance of employment, or recommended to the Board who is related by blood within the third degree, or by marriage within the second degree to any District employee serving in an administrative capacity as a director, executive director, assistant/associate/deputy superintendent, or Superintendent.

If a current employee is promoted to one of the administrative positions listed above and has a relative employed by the District who is related by blood within the third degree, or by marriage within the second degree to a District employee, the employment of one of the two employees shall be discontinued on or before the beginning of the school year following the expiration of ten months from the date of promotion.

Additionally, if District employees marry during any school year, and one of the employees serves in an administrative capacity as a director, executive director, assistant/associate/deputy superintendent, or Superintendent, then the employment of either the administrator or spouse shall be discontinued on or before the beginning of the school year following the expiration of ten months from the date of marriage. This provision shall not restrict the authority of the Superintendent to reassign staff.

#### **APPLICATIONS**

All applicants shall complete the application form supplied by the District. Information on applications shall be confirmed before a contract is offered for a contractual position, and before hiring or as soon as possible thereafter for a noncontractual position.

## CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORD

The District shall obtain criminal history record information on a person the District intends to employ.

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#### **EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES**

DC (LOCAL)

EMPLOYMENT OF CONTRACTUAL PERSONNEL The Superintendent has sole authority to make recommendations to the Board regarding the selection of contractual personnel.

The Board retains final authority for employment of contractual personnel. [See DCA, DCB, DCC, and DCE as appropriate]

EMPLOYMENT OF NONCONTRACTUAL PERSONNEL The Board delegates to the Superintendent final authority to employ and dismiss noncontractual employees on an at-will basis. [See DCD]

EXIT INTERVIEWS AND EXIT REPORTS

An exit interview shall be conducted, if possible, and an exit report shall be prepared for every employee who leaves employment with the District.

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DGBA (LOCAL)

#### **GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

INFORMAL PROCESS

The Board encourages employees to discuss their concerns and complaints through informal conferences with their supervisor, principal, or other appropriate administrator.

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

DIRECT COMMUNICATION WITH BOARD MEMBERS Employees shall not be prohibited from communicating with Board members regarding District operations except when communication between an employee and a Board member would be inappropriate because of a pending hearing or appeal related to the employee.

FORMAL PROCESS

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

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

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

## FREEDOM FROM RETALIATION

Neither the Board nor any District employee shall unlawfully retaliate against an employee for bringing a concern or complaint. [See DG]

## NOTICE TO EMPLOYEES

The principal of each campus and other supervisory personnel shall inform employees of this policy. Employees shall be provided a copy of the policy at the onset of each school year and shall be informed of revisions as they occur.

## SPECIFIC COMPLAINTS

For more information on how to proceed with complaints regarding:

- 1. Alleged discrimination, including violations of Title IX or Section 504, see DAA.
- 2. Instructional materials, see EFA.
- 3. A commissioned peace officer who is an employee of the District, see CKE.

## OTHER REVIEW PROCESSES

Complaints alleging certain forms of harassment, including harassment by a supervisor, shall be processed in accordance with DHCDIA.

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DGBA (LOCAL)

Complaints arising from any of the following must be addressed through the local and statutory processes indicated below:

- The proposed nonrenewal of a term contract issued under Chapter 21 of the Texas Education Code, in accordance with DFBB.
- The proposed termination or suspension without pay of an employee on a probationary, term, or continuing contract issued under Chapter 21 of the Texas Education Code during the contract term, in accordance with DFAA, DFBA, or DFCA, respectively.
- 3. Grievances concerning a teacher's evaluation, in accordance with DNA.

This policy shall apply to all other employee complaints.

#### **DEFINITIONS**

For purposes of this policy, terms are defined as follows:

## COMPLAINT / GRIEVANCE

The terms "complaint" and "grievance" shall have the same meaning. A complaint under this policy may include:

- 1. Grievances concerning an employee's wages, hours, or conditions of work;
- 2. Specific allegations of unlawful discrimination in employment based on the employee's sex, race, religion, national origin, age, or disability;
- Specific allegations of unlawful discrimination or retaliation based on the employee's exercise of legally protected rights; or
- 4. Specific allegations of adverse personnel action based on the employee's good faith report to an appropriate law enforcement authority of a violation of a law by the District or a District employee, i.e., "whistleblower complaints." [See DG]
- 5. Complaints arising from the dismissal or termination of an atwill employee. [See DCD]
- Complaints arising from the termination at end of year of the probationary contract of a professional employee. [See DFAA]

**FILING** 

Complaint forms and appeal notices may be filed by hand-delivery or the U.S.Postal Service, certified mail, return receipt requested. Hand-delivered filings shall be timely filed if received by the appropriate administrator or designee by the close of business on the deadline. Mail filings shall be timely filed if they are properly addressed with sufficient postage and postmarked by the U.S. Postal

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DGBA (LOCAL)

Service on the deadline and received by the appropriate administrator or designated representative no more than three days after the deadline.

RESPONSE

At Levels One and Two, "response" shall mean a written communication to the employee from the appropriate administrator. Responses may be hand-delivered or sent by the U.S.Postal Service to the employee's mailing address of record. Mailed responses shall be timely if they are properly addressed with sufficient postage and postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service on the deadline and received by the employee or designated representative no more than three days after the response deadline.

**DAYS** 

"Days" shall mean District business days. In calculating time lines under this policy, the day a document is filed is "day zero," and all deadlines shall be determined by counting the following day as "day one."

REPRESENTATIVE

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

<u>DESIGNATION OF</u> REPRESENTATIVE The employee may designate a representative through written notice to the District at any level of this process. If the employee designates a representative with fewer than three days' notice to the District before a scheduled conference or hearing, the District may reschedule the conference or hearing to a later date, if desired, in order to include the District's counsel.

WHISTLEBLOWER COMPLAINTS

Whistleblower complaints shall be filed within the time specified by law. Such complaints shall first be filed in accordance with LEVEL TWO, below. Time lines for the employee and the District set out in this policy may be shortened to allow the Board to make a final decision within 60 days of the initiation of the complaint. [See DG]

GENERAL PROVISIONS

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

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

**UNTIMELY FILINGS** 

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

If a complaint form or appeal notice is not timely filed, the complaint may be dismissed, on written notice to the employee, at any

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point during the complaint process. The employee may appeal the dismissal by seeking review in writing within ten days, starting at the level at which the complaint was dismissed. Such appeal shall be limited to the issue of timeliness.

**COSTS INCURRED** 

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

**COMPLAINT FORM** 

Complaints under this policy shall be submitted on the form at DGBA(EXHIBIT) or in writing in narrative form providing the same information requested in DGBA(EXHIBIT).

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

A complaint form that is incomplete in any material aspect may be dismissed, but may be refiled with all the requested information if the refiling is within the designated time for filing a complaint.

COMPLAINTS
AGAINST
SUPERVISORS

Complaints alleging a supervisor's violation of law may be made to the Superintendent beginning at Level Two. A complaint alleging a violation of law by the Superintendent may be made directly to the Board beginning at Level Three.

LEVEL ONE

Complaint forms must be filed:

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

In most circumstances, employees on a school campus shall file Level One complaints with the campus principal; other District employees shall file Level One complaints with their immediate supervisor.

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

If the complaint is not filed with the appropriate administrator, the receiving administrator must note the date and time the complaint

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form was received and immediately forward the complaint form to the appropriate administrator.

The appropriate administrator shall hold a conference with the employee within ten days after receipt of the written complaint.

The administrator shall have ten days following the conference to provide the employee a written response.

**LEVEL TWO** 

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

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

The Superintendent or designee shall hold a conference within ten days after the appeal notice is filed. At the conference, the Superintendent or designee shall consider only the issues and documents presented at Level One and identified in the Level Two appeal notice. The Superintendent or designee shall have ten days following the conference to provide the employee a written response.

LEVEL THREE

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

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

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

The Superintendent or designee shall provide the Board with copies of the complaint form, all responses, all appeal notices, and all written documentation previously submitted by the employee or the administration. The Board shall consider only those issues and documents presented at the preceding levels and identified in the appeal notice.

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

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# PERSONNEL-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS EMPLOYEE COMPLAINTS/GRIEVANCES

DGBA (LOCAL)

The presiding officer may set reasonable time limits and guidelines for the presentation. The Board shall hear the complaint and may request that the administration provide an explanation for the decisions at the preceding levels.

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

The Board shall then consider the complaint. It may give notice of its decision orally or in writing at any time up to and including the next regularly scheduled Board meeting. If for any reason the Board fails to reach a decision regarding the complaint by the end of the next regularly scheduled meeting, the lack of a response by the Board upholds the administrative decision at Level Two.

ADMISSIONS

### PERSONS AGE 21 AND OVER

The District shall not admit into its public schools any person age 21 or over unless otherwise required by law. [See FD(EXHIBIT)]

REGISTRATION FORMS

Appropriate registration forms shall be completed annually and signed by the student's parent, legal guardian, or other person having lawful control. Students who have reached age 18 shall be permitted to complete and sign these forms themselves.—[See FD(EXHIBIT)]

MINOR LIVING APART

PERSON STANDING IN PARENTAL RELATION A minor student residing in the District but whose parent, guardian, or other person having lawful control under a court order does not reside in the District shall present a Power of Attorney assigning responsibility for the student in all school-related matters to an adult resident of the District.- [See FD(EXHIBIT)]

**MISCONDUCT** 

Any such student who has engaged in misconduct that results in any of the consequences found in Education Code 25.001(d) shall not be permitted to attend a District school.

**EXCEPTIONS** 

Based on the individual student's circumstance, the Superintendent shall have authority to grant exceptions to the Power of Attorney requirement and to the exclusion for misconduct.

RESIDENCY REVIEW The Superintendent shall determine whether a minor student residing in the District separate and apart from a parent, guardian, or other person having lawful control is present in the District for the primary purpose of participating in extracurricular activities.

NONRESIDENT STUDENT IN GRANDPARENT'S AFTER-SCHOOL CARE The parent and grandparent of a nonresident student requesting admission under Education Code 25.001(b)(9) shall provide to the Superintendent the required information on the grandparent's residency and complete a form provided by the District describing the extent of after-school care to be provided by the grandparent.

The Superintendent shall have authority to approve such admissions requests in accordance with criteria approved by the Board. [See FD(EXHIBIT)]

DEFINITION: SUBSTANTIAL CARE For the purposes of this policy, the definition of substantial amount of after-school care shall consist of at least four hours per school day for four days during the regular school week.

FULL-TIME REQUIREMENT In addition to the general eligibility for admission, students who are not disabled or in an alterative school program shall be enrolled as full-time students within the District who take the full curriculum required by the State Board of Education.

For the purposes of this policy, a full-time student shall be defined as a student in attendance a minimum of six instructional hours of

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the school day. Graduating seniors may be released on approval from the principal or the principal's designee.

NONENROLLED STUDENTS

Only students currently enrolled in the District shall be allowed to participate in the academic or extracurricular programs of the District, with the exception of special education programs, as provided by current law or State Board rules. [See also FM(LOCAL)]

PLACEMENT

ACCREDITED

SCHOOLS

Students entering a District school from accredited public, private, or parochial schools after grade 1 shall provide evidence of prior schooling outside the District. They shall be placed initially at the grade level reached elsewhere, pending observation by the classroom teacher, guidance personnel, and the principal. On the basis of these observations and results of tests that may be administered by appropriate District personnel, the principal shall determine the final grade placement.

For the purposes of this policy, "accredited" shall be defined as accreditation by TEA, an equivalent agency from another state, or an accrediting association recognized by the Commissioner of Education.

## NONACCREDITED SCHOOLS

Students entering a District school from nonaccredited public, private, or parochial schools, including homeschools, shall be placed initially at the discretion of the principal, pending observation by classroom teachers, guidance personnel, and the principal. Criteria for placement may include:

- 1. Scores on achievement tests, which may be administered by appropriate District personnel.
- 2. Recommendation of the sending school.
- Prior academic record.
- 4. Chronological age and social and emotional development of the student.
- 5. Other criteria deemed appropriate by the principal.

TRANSFER CREDIT

The District shall validate high school credit for courses of transfer students from nonaccredited public, private, or parochial schools by testing or by other evidence that the courses meet State Board requirements and standards.

WITHDRAWAL

Minor students may withdraw from school by presenting a request signed by the student's parent or guardian and stating the reason for the withdrawal. Students 18 or older may request withdrawal without a parent's or guardian's signature.

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[For District withdrawal of students no longer in attendance, see FEA(LOCAL)]

# ATTENDANCE COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE

FEA (LOCAL)

Students in violation of the compulsory attendance law shall be reported to the District attendance officer, who may institute court action as provided by law.

### STUDENTS AGE 18 AND OVER

A student who voluntarily attends school after the student's eighteenth birthday shall be required to attend school until the end of the school year.

TRUANCY

Students absent from school without permission of parent(s) or guardian(s), or absent from class without the principal's permission, shall be considered truant and shall be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct.

## WITHDRAWAL FOR NONATTENDANCE

The District may initiate withdrawal of a student under the age of 18 for nonattendance under the following conditions:

- The student has been absent ten consecutive school days; and
- 2. Repeated efforts by the attendance officer and/or principal to locate the student have been unsuccessful.

For withdrawal of students 18 or older, see FEA(LEGAL).

## STUDENTS IN HOMESCHOOLS

When the District becomes aware that a student is being or will be homeschooled, the Superintendent or designee may request in writing a letter of notification from the parents of their intention to homeschool using a curriculum designed to meet basic education goals of reading, spelling, grammar, mathematics, and a study of good citizenship.

If the parents refuse to submit a letter of notification or if the District has evidence that the school-age child is not being homeschooled within legal requirements, the District may investigate further and, if warranted, shall pursue legal action to enforce the compulsory attendance law.

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## ATTENDANCE ATTENDANCE FOR CREDIT

FEC (LOCAL)

# ATTENDANCE COMMITTEES

The Board shall establish an attendance committee or as many committees as necessary for efficient implementation of Education Code 25.092.

The Superintendent or designee shall make the specific appointments in accordance with legal requirements.

PARENTAL NOTICE OF EXCESSIVE ABSENCES A student and the student's parent or guardian shall be given written notice prior to and at such time when a student's attendance in any class drops below 90 percent of the days the class is offered.

METHODS FOR REGAINING CREDIT

When a student's attendance drops below 90 percent <u>but remains</u> at least at 75 percent of the days the class is offered, the student may earn credit for the class by completing a plan approved by the principal. This plan must provide for the student to meet the instructional requirements of the class as determined by the principal.

If the student fails to successfully complete the plan, or when a student's attendance drops below 75 percent of the days the class is offered, the student, parent, or representative may request award of credit by submitting a written petition to the appropriate attendance committee. The attendance committee shall review the student's entire attendance record and the reasons for absences, and shall determine whether to award credit.

Additional learning activities, such as those listed below, may be assigned by a campus counselor or assistant principal as designated by the principal. Documentation of the activities shall be the responsibility of the student and parent and shall be a major criteria in the determination of credit(s) awarded or denied by the attendance committee.

Petitions for credit may be filed at any time the student receives notice, but, in any event, no later than 30 days after the last day of classes.

The attendance committee shall review the student's entire attendance record and the reasons for absences and shall determine whether to award credit. The campus attendance committee may also, whether a petition is filed or not, review the records of all students whose attendance drops below 90 percent of the days the class is offered, whether or not a petition is filed.

Students who have lost credit because of excessive absences may regain credit by fulfilling the requirements established by the attendance committee.

PERSONAL ILLNESS

When a student's absence for personal illness exceeds five consecutive days, the student shall present a statement from a physi-

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# ATTENDANCE ATTENDANCE FOR CREDIT

FEC (LOCAL)

cian or health clinic verifying the illness or condition that caused the student's extended absence from school.

If the student has established a questionable pattern of absences, the attendance committee may also require a physician's or clinic's statement of illness after a single day's absence as a condition of classifying the absence as one for which there are extenuating circumstances.

## PRINCIPAL'S DECISION

For students and/or parents who disagree with the principal's decision in reference to excused absences, reconciliation may be pursued through FNG(LOCAL), beginning at Level Two.

### GUIDELINES ON EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES

The attendance committee shall adhere to the following guidelines to determine attendance for credit:

### DAYS OF ATTENDANCE

 All absences shall be considered in determining whether a student has attended the required percentage of days. If make-up work is completed, absences for religious holy days, required court appearances, and health-care appointments shall be considered days of attendance for this purpose. [See FEB]

### TRANSFERS / MIGRANT STUDENTS

2. A transfer or migrant student incurs absences only after his or her enrollment in the District.

## BEST INTEREST STANDARD

- In reaching consensus regarding a student's absences, the committee shall attempt to ensure that its decision is in the best interest of the student.
- The Superintendent or designee shall develop administrative regulations addressing the committee's documentation of the decision.

### DOCUMENTATION

5. The committee shall consider the acceptability and authenticity of documented reasons for the student's absences.

## CONSIDERATION OF CONTROL

6. The committee shall consider whether the absences were for reasons out of the student's or parent's control.

### STUDENT'S ACADEMIC RECORD

 The committee shall consider whether or not the student has completed assignments, mastered the essential knowledge and skills, and maintained passing grades in the course or subject.

### INFORMATION FROM STUDENT OR PARENT

8. The student or parent shall be given an opportunity to present any information to the committee about the absences and to discuss ways to earn or regain credit.

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# ATTENDANCE ATTENDANCE FOR CREDIT

FEC (LOCAL)

### IMPOSING CONDITIONS FOR AWARDING CREDIT

The committee may impose any of the following conditions for receiving credit lost because of excessive absences:

- Complete Completing additional assignments, projects, or activities, as specified by the administration, such as individual papers or oral reports, library or lab activities committee or teacher.
- 2. Satisfying time-on-task requirements before and/or after school.
- 3. Attending tutorial sessions as scheduled.
- 4. Attending Saturday classes.
- Maintaining the attendance standards for the rest of the semester.
- 6. Taking an examination to earn credit.

In all cases, the student must also earn a passing grade in order to receive credit. In awarding credit, the campus attendance committee shall consider the additional learning activity documentation.

#### **APPEAL PROCESS**

A <u>parent or</u> student may initiate an appeal at any time after alternative learning activities have been completed. The principal shall inform the student by written noticedecision of the appeal process and when the attendance committee will meet. Documentation of the student's alternative learning activity shall be the major criteria for the determination of gain or loss of credit in each class. The student shall assume the primary responsibility for the alternative learning activity documentation being furnished to the attendance committee for review accordance with FNG(LOCAL) beginning at Level Two.

#### CAMPUS APPEAL LEVEL 1

A student may appeal to the attendance committee for credit lost due to his or her absences providing that the student is passing in the subject(s) for which he or she is appealing for credit.

The student shall use the appeal form that shall be available in the counselor/administrator's office.

The attendance committee shall review all written/oral appeals within three weeks before the end of the semester. If the committee needs, it may interview the student prior to making a decision regarding the credit.

## DISTRICT APPEAL LEVEL 2

The student or the student's parents may appeal in writing the campus level decision to the central office level within three days of receipt of the campus attendance committee notice.

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# ATTENDANCE ATTENDANCE FOR CREDIT

FEC (LOCAL)

The attendance appeal committee at the central office level shall be made up of three administrators appointed by the Superintendent.

BOARD APPEAL LEVEL 3 The student or the student's parents may appeal in writing the central office level decision to the Board within three days of receipt of the notice. The appeal to the Board shall be considered by those members present. The Board may consider the appeal upon written documentation or may choose to have the hearing *de novo*.

FFH (LOCAL)

#### Note:

This policy addresses harassment of District students. For provisions regarding harassment of District employees, see DIA. For reporting requirements related to child abuse and neglect, see FFG.

The District prohibits sexual harassment, dating violence, and harassment based on a person's race, color, gender, national origin, disability, or religion.

Employees shall not tolerate harassment of students and shall make reports as required at REPORTING PROCEDURES, below.

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:

- 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 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.

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

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3. Otherwise adversely affects the student's educational opportunities.

#### **EXAMPLES**

Examples of sexual harassment of a student may include, but are not limited to, 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, communications, or contact.

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.

#### **DATING VIOLENCE**

Dating violence occurs when one partner in a dating relationship, either past or current, intentionally uses physical, sexual, verbal, or emotional abuse to harm, threaten, intimidate, or control the other partner.

Examples of dating violence against a student may include, but are not limited to, physical or sexual assaults, name-calling, put-downs, threats to hurt the student or the student's family members or members of the student's household, destroying property belonging to the student, threats to commit suicide or homicide if the student ends the relationship, attempts to isolate the student from friends and family, stalking, or encouraging others to engage in these behaviors.

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. <u>Has the purpose or effect of substantially or unreasonably interfering with the student's academic performance; or</u>
- 3. Otherwise adversely affects the student's educational opportunities.

# OTHER PROHIBITED HARASSMENT

Prohibited harassment of a student is defined as physical, verbal, or nonverbal conduct based on the student's race, color, gender, national origin, disability, or religion that is so severe, persistent, or pervasive that the conduct:

 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
- Otherwise adversely affects the student's educational opportunities.

#### **EXAMPLES**

Examples of prohibited harassment may include, but are not limited to, offensive or derogatory language directed at another person's religious beliefs or practices, accent, skin color, or need for accommodation; threatening or intimidating conduct; offensive jokes, name calling, slurs, or rumors; 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.

## REPORTING PROCEDURES

Any student who believes that he or she has experienced prohibited harassment should immediately report the alleged acts to a teacher, counselor, principal, or other District employee.

Any District employee who receives notice that a student has or may have experienced prohibited harassment is required to immediately report the alleged acts to an appropriate person designated below.

Any other person who knows or believes that a student has experienced prohibited harassment should immediately report the alleged acts to the appropriate person designated below.

Reports of known or suspected child abuse or neglect shall be made as required by law. [See FFG]

#### TIMELY REPORTING

Reports of harassment shall be made as soon as possible after the alleged acts. A failure to promptly report alleged harassment may impair the District's ability to investigate and address the harassment.

Oral or written reports of prohibited harassment shall normally be made to the campus principal. A person shall not be required to report harassment to the alleged harasser; nothing in this policy prevents a person from reporting harassment directly to one of the District officials below:

### DISTRICT OFFICIALS

- 1. For sexual harassment, the Title IX coordinator. [See FB(LOCAL)]
- 2. For all other prohibited harassment, the Superintendent.

A report against the Title IX coordinator may be made directly to the Superintendent; a report against the Superintendent may be made directly to the Board.

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NOTIFICATION OF REPORT

Upon receipt of a report of harassment, a principal shall immediately notify the appropriate District official listed above.

**NOTICE TO PARENTS** 

The principal or District official shall promptly notify the parents of any student alleged to have experienced prohibited harassment by a District employee or another adult associated with the District. In cases of student-to-student harassment, the District shall promptly notify the parents of any student alleged to have experienced harassment when the allegations presented, if proven, would constitute sexual harassment or other prohibited harassment as defined by District policy.

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.

INVESTIGATION OF THE REPORT

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

Upon receipt or notification of a report, the District official shall determine whether the allegations, if proven, would constitute sexual harassment or other prohibited harassment as defined by District policy. If so, the District official shall immediately authorize or undertake an investigation.

If appropriate, the District shall promptly take interim action to prevent harassment during the course of an investigation.

The investigation may be conducted by the District official or a designee, such as the campus principal, or by a third party designated by the District, such as an attorney. When appropriate, the campus principal shall be involved in or informed of the investigation.

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.

The District's obligation to conduct an investigation is not satisfied by the fact that a criminal or regulatory investigation regarding the same or similar allegations is pending.

CONCLUDING THE INVESTIGATION

Absent extenuating circumstances, the investigation should be completed within ten business days from the date of the report; however, the investigator shall take additional time if necessary to complete a thorough investigation.

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The investigator shall prepare a written report of the investigation. The report shall be filed with the District official overseeing the investigation.

DISTRICT ACTION If the results of an investigation indicate that prohibited harassment

occurred, the District shall promptly respond by taking appropriate disciplinary or corrective action reasonably calculated to address

the harassment.

The District may take disciplinary action based on the results of an investigation, even if the District concludes that the conduct did not rise to the level of harassment prohibited by law or District policy.

APPEAL A student, including a complainant, may appeal through

FNG(LOCAL), beginning at the appropriate level. A complainant shall be informed of his or her right to file a complaint with the United States Department of Education Office for Civil Rights.

RETALIATION Retaliation against a student alleged to have experienced harass-

ment, a witness, or another person who makes a report or participates in an investigation is strictly prohibited. A person who makes a good faith report of prohibited harassment shall not suffer retaliation for making the report. A person who intentionally makes a false claim, offers false statements, or refuses to cooperate with a District investigation regarding prohibited harassment is subject to

appropriate discipline.

RECORDS RETENTION Retention of records shall be in accordance with FB(LOCAL).

ACCESS TO POLICY Information regarding this policy shall be distributed annually to

District employees and included in the student handbook. Copies of the policy shall be readily available at each campus and the Dis-

trict's administrative offices.

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# COMMUNITY RELATIONS VISITORS TO THE SCHOOLS

GKC (LOCAL)

All visitors to the schools, including parents and Board members, are welcome to visit the campus; however, prominent Prominent notices shall be posted at each campus that requiring all visitors must to first report to the principal's campus administrative office. This shall apply to parents, Board members, volunteers, social service workers, invited speakers, maintenance and repair persons not employed by the District, vendors, representatives of the news media, former students, and any other visitors.

Visits to individual classrooms during instructional time shall be permitted only with the <u>principal's and teacher's</u> approval of the <u>principal or designee</u>, and such visits shall not be permitted if their duration or frequency interferes with the delivery of instruction or disrupts the normal school environment.

REGISTERED SEX OFFENDERS ON DISTRICT PREMISES The Superintendent, working with campus administrators, shall develop and implement procedures regarding campus visitors who are identified as sex offenders. These procedures shall address:

- 1. Parental rights;
- 2. Escort by District personnel;
- 3. Access to common areas of the campus;
- 4. Access to classrooms;
- 5. Drop off and release of students;
- 6. Eligibility to serve as volunteers; and

ADOPTED:

7. Any other relevant issues.