



DISCUSSION OF TASB BOARD POLICY UPDATE 125

BDAA: Officers and Officials, Duties and Requirements of Board Officers

In BDAA(LOCAL), a sentence at the beginning of the policy stating that the board may assign a district employee to provide clerical assistance is recommended for removal. As is the practice in most districts, the superintendent manages the assignment of staff and would determine the employee who would provide clerical support to the board.

If your board's practice is for the vice president to automatically fill a vacancy created in the office of board president, new language is recommended to clarify that the vice president will serve in the role of board president until the board reorganizes and holds new officer elections.

BDB: Board Internal Organization, Board Committees

Substantial revisions are recommended to BDB(LOCAL), and those revisions coordinate with BDF(LOCAL), which is also included in this update.

First, the policy subtopic name has been changed to Board Committees to better capture the content of the policy. The recommendations provide additional guidance to the board in forming committees and include text to address the dissolving of any board committee. Because this policy code is intended to address committees that are composed only of board members, the text addressing special committees is recommended for placement at BDF(LOCAL).

BDF: Board Internal Organization, Advisory Committees

For most districts, BDF(LOCAL) is a new policy recommended for inclusion in your policy manual. For those that already had BDF(LOCAL), revisions are recommended to the existing policy. The new policy language provides guidance on the formation of advisory committees composed of staff, parents, community members, or students. These committees could also include board members in a number less than a quorum. The remainder of the policy aligns with BDB(LOCAL) on board committees. The language addresses dissolving advisory committees and reporting committee recommendations to the board.

EI: Academic Achievement

In policy EI(LOCAL), the minor change at Partial Credit is recommended to more accurately reflect that whether a student receives partial credit is based on the average of both halves of a two-semester course rather than the combined grade. For example, if a student receives a grade of 70 in the first semester of a course and a 60 in the second semester, the overall average for the course is 65. Based on the policy language, the student would receive credit for the first semester and would need to retake the second semester of the course. This would be the practice in a district that has decided to award partial credit.

FDE: Admissions, School Safety Transfers

In FDE(LOCAL), “bullying” has been added to the list of offenses for which a district must gather data for purposes of the Unsafe School Choice Option. According to the Unsafe School Choice Option Guidance Handbook, published by the Texas Education Agency, a student who is the victim of bullying is eligible for a school safety transfer.

FEC: Attendance, Attendance for Credit

The revisions to FEC(LOCAL) are recommended to better align with practices that are common in most districts. The policy now authorizes the establishment of attendance committees rather than having committee membership appointed by the board. At Methods for Regaining Credit or Awarding a Final Grade, the specific deadline for submitting a petition for credit or a final grade is recommended for deletion and replaced with a reference to administrative regulations. Lastly, at Imposing Conditions for Awarding Credit or a Final Grade, the revised text clarifies that the district is not required to assign seat time equivalent to the time the student has been absent.