

Approval of Update 98 Local Policies – First Reading

January 21, 2014

SUMMARY:

Update 98 represents the first of two post-legislative updates and encompasses changes in law from the 83rd Legislative Session. Local policies included in Update 98 address several topics such as board member authority, employee grievances and records, employee standards of conduct, reductions in force, teacher evaluations, school day interruptions, grading and student attendance.

Local policies included in Update 98:

- BBE(LOCAL): BOARD MEMBERS - AUTHORITY
- DBA(LOCAL): EMPLOYMENT REQUIREMENTS AND RESTRICTIONS - CREDENTIALS AND RECORDS
- DFFA(LOCAL): REDUCTION IN FORCE - FINANCIAL EXIGENCY
- DFFB(LOCAL): REDUCTION IN FORCE - PROGRAM CHANGE
- DGBA(LOCAL): PERSONNEL-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS - EMPLOYEE COMPLAINTS/GRIEVANCES
- DH(LOCAL): EMPLOYEE STANDARDS OF CONDUCT
- DNA(LOCAL): PERFORMANCE APPRAISAL - EVALUATION OF TEACHERS
- EC(LOCAL): SCHOOL DAY
- EIA(LOCAL): ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT - GRADING/PROGRESS REPORTS TO PARENTS
- EIC(LOCAL): ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT - CLASS RANKING
- FEA(LOCAL): ATTENDANCE - COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE
- FEC(LOCAL): ATTENDANCE - ATTENDANCE FOR CREDIT
- FFB(LOCAL): STUDENT WELFARE - CRISIS INTERVENTION

PREVIOUS BOARD ACTION:

The Board discussed TASB Update 98 policy revisions at the December 10, 2013 board meeting.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Update 98 includes 84 legal and 13 local policies.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES:

The district must have school policies that are consistent with current laws and appropriately communicate local policy issues. Policies are classified as either “Legal” or “Local” in design. A “Legal” policy is a statement of existing law or of binding legal decisions and as such do not require Board approval. Local policies are decisions made at the local level that reflect district decisions and practices and do require approval. Legal policies are always included in updates so local policy development occurs within the context of binding law.

BENEFIT OF ACTION:

To allow the Board to evaluate and ensure that these policies reflect the practices of the District.

PROCEDURAL AND REPORTING IMPLICATIONS:

Because the law requires districts to adopt a local policy so quickly, districts are allowed to implement the process for emergency adoption with one reading.

ALTERNATIVES:

The following options are available to the Board:

- continue to study the policy
- modify the existing language
- approve policies as written and submitted by TASB

SUPERINTENDENT’S RECOMMENDATION:

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve TASB Update 98 local policies on first reading as presented.

PERSONS RESPONSIBLE:

James K. Wilson III, Superintendent
Randy Stout, DISD Legal Advisor

ATTACHMENT:

TASB Update 96 Local Policies