



Agenda of Policy Committee Meeting

The Board of Trustees Belton Independent School District

A Policy Committee Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Belton Independent School District will be held October 3, 2022, beginning at 5:00 PM in the Tiger Room, 400 N. Wall Street, Belton, TX 76513. One or more trustees may participate via video conference.

The subjects to be discussed or considered or upon which any formal action may be taken are listed below. Items do not have to be taken in the same order as shown on this meeting notice.

1. Call to Order

2. Public Comments

3. Review and Discuss the Following Items:

- A. Board Operating Procedures 3
- B. Texas Association of School Board's Initiated Localized Policy Update 119 -
1st Reading
 - 1. EHBB(LOCAL): Special Programs - Gifted and Talented 16
Students
 - 2. FFBA(LOCAL): Crisis Intervention - Trauma-Informed Care 19
 - 3. FFH(LOCAL): Student Welfare - Freedom from Discrimination,
Harassment, and Retaliation 20
- C. TASB Policy Review Local Policies to Address - 1st Reading
 - 1. BDAA(LOCAL): Officers and Officials - Duties and 30
Requirements of Board Officers
 - 2. CQ(LOCAL): Technology Resources 31
 - 3. DNA(LOCAL): Performance Appraisal - Evaluation of 34
Teachers

4. EB(LOCAL): School Year	36
5. FNAA(LOCAL): Student Expression - Distribution of Nonschool Literature	37
D. Legislative Priorities	39
4. Issues/Concerns for Future Agenda or Administrative Reports	
5. Adjourn	



Board Operating Procedures

The Superintendent and the Board function as a team. A structured approach to developing a district vision and setting goals is enhanced by first developing a system of standard operating procedures. The Board of Trustees is the corporate policy making body for the District. The Superintendent and staff provide the leadership to accomplish the District's mission and annual goals, through policy implementation. The Belton ISD Board Operating Procedures have been established based on legal policies and policies adopted by the Board of Trustees.

The Belton ISD Board of Trustees annually reviews these Operating Procedures to effectively communicate with staff and patrons of the District.

Trustees

Jeff Norwood	President
Ty Taggart	Vice President
Manuel Alcozer	Secretary
Suzanne M. McDonald	Trustee
Janet Leigh	Trustee
Chris Flor	Trustee
Erin Bass	Trustee

Administration

Dr. Matt Smith	Superintendent
Dr. Malinda Golden	Deputy Superintendent
Dr. Deanna Lovesmith	Assistant Superintendent for Teaching & Learning
Todd Schiller	Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources
Michael Morgan	Assistant Superintendent for Operations
Vacancy	Chief Financial Officer
Elizabeth Cox	Executive Director of Communications & Community Engagement

Operating Procedure Review

These operating procedures will be reviewed annually by the Board through the Policy Committee.

Board Ethics

Board members shall promote the best interests of the District as a whole and shall adhere to the following ethical standards:

Respect

- Be fair, just, and impartial in all decisions and actions.

- Accord others respect.
- Share views while working toward consensus.
- Respect the majority decision as the decision of the Board.
- Encourage expressions of different opinions and listen with an open mind to other's ideas.

Accountability

- Be accountable to the public by accurately representing District policies, programs, priorities, and progress.
- Work to ensure prudent and accountable use of District resources.
- Diligently prepare for and attend Board meetings.

Communication

- Be responsive to the community by seeking its involvement in District affairs and by communicating District priorities and concerns.
- Avoid personal involvement in activities the Board has delegated to the Superintendent.

Integrity

- Make no personal promise or private action that may compromise the Board members' performance or responsibilities.
- Tell the truth.
- Do not disclose information that is confidential by law or that will needlessly harm the District if disclosed.
- Seek continuing education that will enhance the Board members' ability to fulfill their duties effectively.
- Be continuously guided by what is best for all students of the District.

Fairness

- Base decisions on fact rather than supposition, opinion, or public favor.
- Refuse to surrender judgment to any individual or group at the expense of the District as a whole.

Lawfulness

- Uphold all applicable laws, rules, policies, and governance procedures consistently.
- Focus attention on fulfilling the Board's responsibilities of goal setting, policymaking, and evaluation.

Board Meetings

Agenda Preparation

- The Board President and the Superintendent jointly create the agenda with input from the rest of the Board.
- Two standing agenda items will be at the end of each meeting agenda:
 - "Board Requests for New Information and/or Reports."
 - "Calendar of Events."

Opening of Regularly Scheduled Meetings & Maintaining Decorum

- Board meetings are held in public to conduct the business of the district, as distinguished from public meetings. The Board shall not tolerate disruption of the Board meeting by members of the public. If, after at least one warning, any person continues to disrupt the meeting by his or her words or actions, the presiding officer may request assistance from the administration and/or law enforcement officials to have the person removed from the meeting. Notwithstanding, a single outburst or incident may be so disruptive that the individual may be removed without an initial warning. All individuals attending meetings will be expected to comply with applicable guidelines from the District regarding emergency procedures and/or in accordance with executive order issued by duly authorized local, state, and/or federal authorities.
- At the beginning of each regularly scheduled meeting, the Board President will open the meeting by stating, "Please rise for a moment of silent prayer or meditation and remain standing for the pledge of allegiance and honors to the Texas flag."
- Typically, after the Board President opens the meeting, the Board will allow Public Comments.

Board Member Response in Public Participation Section of the Board Meeting

- Public Comments will be posted on the Board's meeting notice as a separate agenda item. At Regular Meetings, the Board shall permit public comment, regardless of whether the topic is an item on the agenda posted with notice of the meeting. At Special Meetings, public comment shall be limited to items on the agenda posted with notice of the meeting. An individual's comments shall not exceed three (3) minutes per meeting except as permitted by Board Policy. See BED(LEGAL) & (LOCAL).
- The Board President may limit time and adjust placement of Public Comments if there is a large number of speakers or topics on the agenda. It is within the discretion of the presiding officer to reduce the amount of time allotted to individual speakers. Below is a sample of a sliding scale that may be used by the Board President for effective meeting management:

Number of Speakers	Minutes
1-15	3
16-30	2
31-40	1.5
More than 40	1

Individuals needing translation services may be allotted additional time in accordance with BED(LEGAL).

- The Board President will share specific expectations/guidance with the Board and the public prior to the public participation segment of the Board meeting. The Board President shall inform the audience that the Board cannot engage with the audience during Public Comments.
- Board members will be attentive to speakers who come before the Board in the public participation segment of the meeting.
- Board members will refrain from demonstrating negative non-verbal communications.
- The Board does not allow the use of video, slides, or other electronic presentations during Public Comments. Posters are not allowed at the speaker's podium.

- Speakers must be recognized by the presiding officer and will address the Board from the speaker's podium. No speaker will approach the dais.
- If citizens bring a written statement or support materials, they should provide enough copies for the seven Board Members and the Superintendent. Copies must be provided to the Executive Assistant to the Superintendent at the time the individual signs up to speak in Public Comment.
- Citizens may also contact the Board at: [Board of Trustees / Board Members \(bisd.net\)](http://bisd.net)

Quorum

Generally, any time four or more members are gathered and discuss Board business, it is considered a meeting under the Texas Open Meetings Act. See BE(Legal).

A "walking quorum" occurs when members of a governmental body gather in numbers that do not physically constitute a quorum at any one time but who, through successive gatherings, secretly discuss a public matter with a quorum of the body with the objective of avoiding an open meeting. A governmental body may be subject to both civil and criminal liability for conducting business by a "walking quorum."

Consent Agenda

A consent agenda will be used for items of routine and/or recurring nature, generally requiring no discussion and grouped together under one heading. The Superintendent will automatically place the following items on the consent agenda.

1. Routine items;
2. Annual renewals (i.e., Region 12 and Texas Education Agency items);
3. Financial items to include, but not limited to, monthly financial reports, budget amendments, expenditures over \$50,000, gifts, grants and bequests, certification of annual tax roll, monthly, quarterly, and annual investment reports, and other financial reports as needed;
4. Minutes of regular and special Board meetings;
5. Updates of Board policy;
6. Routine personnel items; and
7. Routine bid recommendations.

A Board member can request an item be removed from the consent agenda for individual consideration and voting through notice to the Superintendent and Board President as soon as practical prior to the meeting, or in sufficient time, as determined by the Superintendent, to enable staff to present information at the meeting necessary to address a Board member's question or concern.

Board Member Requests for Information

Questions from Board members concerning non-agenda information will be answered, when appropriate, in an administrative report by the Superintendent.

or

- May be placed on a future Board meeting agenda.
- Updates will be provided as needed by the Superintendent. Board members will notify the Superintendent when answers to their questions are not forthcoming from the contact person in the time promised.
- Board members, acting in their official capacity, have the right to seek information through the Superintendent's office. Written questions and corresponding responses will be distributed to all Board members in a timely manner.
- A Board member shall not have access to confidential student records unless there is a legitimate educational interest as defined by Board policy FL(LEGAL) in the records and the member is acting in his/her official capacity.
- Board members shall make formal information requests directly to the Superintendent. The Superintendent may direct other administrators to respond.
- Board members can e-mail or call the Superintendent or executive staff to ask questions or make informal requests for information.
- If the request requires a material amount of time or resources, the Superintendent shall notify the Board President.
- Board members will keep the Superintendent informed.

Closed Sessions

Closed Meetings shall include only items allowed by law and policy.

- If a Closed Meeting is allowed, the Board shall not conduct the Closed Meeting unless a quorum of the Board first convenes in an Open Meeting for which proper notice has been given and in which the presiding officer has publicly announced the sections of the Open Meetings Act or other applicable law under which the Closed Meeting is held.
- A final action, decision, or vote on a matter deliberated in a Closed Meeting shall be made only in an Open Meeting for which proper notice has been given.
- The Board shall keep a certified agenda of the proceedings of each Closed Meeting.
- No Board member shall participate in a Closed Meeting that is not documented by a certified agenda or a tape recording.
- All information provided and opinions shared in Closed Meeting shall remain confidential unless otherwise agreed upon by the Board. Non-compliance may result in private and or public censure.

Parliamentary Procedures

The Board shall observe the parliamentary procedures as outlined in Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised.

Board Elections or Appointments

Five Board positions are by place and two are at large. In the event of a vacancy prior to the completion of a three-year term, the Board may appoint a replacement to complete the term or may order a special election to fill the vacancy in accordance with Board Policy BBC(LEGAL).

Evaluation of the Board

- The Board shall conduct a self-evaluation annually.
- The evaluation shall consider such items as role recognition, relationship with others, performance at Board meetings, self-improvement activities and other issues consistent with the Framework for School Board Development.

Evaluation of the Superintendent

- The annual evaluation of the Superintendent and review of the Superintendent's contract will typically be done in January.
- The Board President obtains input from all Board members, completes the appraisal document and reviews the document and comments with the Superintendent prior to the next regularly scheduled board meeting.
- The Superintendent's evaluation is generally conducted in closed session but can be conducted in open session at the request of the Superintendent.

Selection of Board Officers

The Board shall elect a President, a Vice President, and a Secretary who shall be members of the Board. Each officer should have completed their annual required continuing education hours on time and completed one year of board service.

Board officers shall serve for a one-year term or until a successor is elected. Officers may serve three (3) consecutive terms, except in extenuating circumstances as determined by the Board.

Meeting Minutes

- Board minutes from previous meetings will be placed in the Board packet for approval at the next Regular Board meeting.
- Approved Board minutes will be posted on the District website.

Board Committees

- The Board will for the most part, function as a Committee of the Whole in a workshop meeting to review and discuss key issues.
- All workshops will be posted in accordance with the Open Meetings Act.
- For efficiency, the Board will divide into two standing committees, Policy and Facilities. Board members have the option each year of which committee they wish to serve. The Board President is not formally on either committee but may choose to attend any or all committee meetings.
- The Board President may create additional committees to address special topics.

Communication

How serious does information need to be before it is communicated to the Board?

- It must be important to the District. It may be fact or rumor.
- The information could be one of District liability, staff, or student risk or safety.
- All information is to be shared equitably with all members of the team in an appropriate/ethical manner.
- The Superintendent will determine means of communication depending upon the severity of the situation.

Board Member Communication with the Media

- The team strives to maintain a positive relationship with the media.
- The Superintendent or his/her designee shall be the official spokesperson for the District to the media on issues of media attention.

- The Board President or his/her designee shall be the official spokesperson for the Board to the media on issues of media attention.
- In speaking as an individual, the Board member should:
 - Clarify that he/she is speaking as an individual and not for the Board, and
 - Remind the media representative(s) of the position or the action of the Board or the issue in question.

Board Dissention

- Board members shall honor action taken by the Board when making any individual statement related to school business.
- Board members shall not communicate with any other Board members for purposes of soliciting votes with respect to Board business items.
- It is expected that Board members will attempt to informally work out any personal and professional conflicts with each other such that the members continue to work in a collaborative and effective manner.
- If disputes arise between Board members related to Board business or these Board Operating Procedures that cannot be resolved through communications between the members, the Board President will attempt to informally mediate the dispute and achieve resolution. In the event the dispute remains unresolved, the issue may be presented to the Board for resolution in a closed meeting if the item falls under accepted closed meeting topics. If the issue is not resolved during a closed meeting, the Board may take action as allowed by Board policy.

Citizen Request/Complaint to Individual Board Members

Parents and community members wishing to contact the School Board regarding a specific school, teacher, or child are encouraged to begin at the level closest to the concern. The Board requests students and parents discuss their concerns and complaints through informal conferences with the appropriate teacher, principal or other campus administrator. Concerns should be expressed as soon as possible to allow early resolution at the lowest possible administrative level.

1. Step One: Contact the teacher, coach, guidance counselor, etc.
2. Step Two: Contact the principal. (If a parent or community member has a school-wide concern, this becomes Step One.)
3. Step Three: Contact the District office responsible for the area of concern.
4. Step Four: Email the Superintendent of Schools, who may begin an investigation or refer the matter to an appropriate administrator.

5. Step Five: Email all of the Trustees on the Board. The Board President or Executive Director of Communications and Community Engagement will acknowledge receipt of the email and copy the Superintendent of Schools.

If an informal conference regarding a complaint fails to reach the outcome requested by the student or parent, the student or parent may initiate the formal process described in the following policies:

- FNG(LOCAL)
- FNG(LEGAL)

Even after initiating the formal complaint process, students and parents are encouraged to seek informal resolution of their concerns, and they may withdraw a formal complaint at any time if a resolution has been reached.

Neither the Board nor any District employee shall unlawfully retaliate against any student or parent for bringing a concern or complaint.

Other Issues

Citizens wishing to express themselves regarding school district policy, boundaries, finances or other responsibilities of the Board which have not been placed on a regular agenda, are encouraged to use one or more of these alternatives.

- Contact the appropriate school department.
- Speak at the Public Comment section held during each Regular Board meeting.
- Board members discourage citizens from providing anonymous information and, in general, will not act upon it (except for fraud, unlawful or other questionable Belton ISD activities which can be reported in confidence).
- Writing or speaking to the Board in a disrespectful tone is considered unprofessional and is counterproductive.

Building Trust between Administration and Board

- As much as possible, staff should be made aware of Board member questions in advance of the Board meeting.
- Care enough to privately address a fellow Board member if he/she is inappropriate.
- Provide the same information to all of the Board and the staff in an appropriate and timely manner.
- Board members will read their packet in advance.
- Staff will provide supportive data for Board decision-making.
- The agenda item cover memo will be used by staff to guide their work in supplying adequate and clear information on agenda items.
- The Board may table an item that does not have supportive data.

- The Board, Superintendent, and staff will be open and respectful of each other.

Guidelines for Skillful Team Discussion

- Allow equal voice.
- Listen to understand.
- Allow one speaker at a time.
- Be brief and to the point.
- Take responsibility for yourself.
- Strive for consensus.

Board Member Visits to Campuses

- Board members may be invited to attend public events, receptions, groundbreakings, dedications, ribbon cuttings, and other campus events. In such cases, notifying the Superintendent is not necessary.
- Board members who wish to visit a campus to view a program or activity in their official capacity shall notify the Superintendent and coordinate the visit with the principal.
- Board members visiting a campus in an unofficial capacity should adhere to campus rules.
- Board members are encouraged to interact with staff members but are never to give staff and other employees any directives.
- The Superintendent may schedule group Board visits on topics of interest. There must be less than a quorum present.

Board Attendance at District Events

- The Board will be provided weekly updates of calendar events and sent calendar invitations when available.
- Board members will show support of key events through their attendance at those events as representatives of the Board.

Board Training

Candidate workshops: The Board may conduct a training for interested school board candidates each year.

In the first year of service, a Board member shall receive at least 10 hours of continuing education in fulfillment of assessed needs. Up to 5 of the required 10 hours may be fulfilled through online instruction, provided that the training is designed and offered by a registered provider, incorporates interactive activities that assess learning and provide feedback to the learner, and offers an opportunity for interaction with the instructor. Newly elected Board member training shall include, but not be limited to:

- Local District Orientation (within 120 days of taking the oath of office, at least 3 hours in length);
- Open Meetings Act (not less than 1 and not more than 2 hours within 90 days of taking the oath of office);
- Public Information Act (not less than 1 and not more than 2 hours within 90 days of taking the oath of office);
- Local Orientation to the Texas Education Code (within 1 year before or 120 days after taking the oath of office at least 3 hours in length); and
- Evaluating and Improving Student Outcomes (formerly SB 1566), within 120 days of taking the oath of office.

After the first year of service, a Board member shall receive at least 5 hours of continuing education annually in fulfillment of assessed needs. A Board member may fulfill the 5 hours of continuing education through online instruction, provided that the training is designed and offered by a registered provider, incorporates interactive activities that assess learning and provide feedback to the learner, and offers an opportunity for interaction with the instructor. Experienced Board members are required to complete training to include:

- Team building with Superintendent including goal setting and review of the State Board of Education's governance framework distributed annually by the Board President to all Board members and the Superintendent (3 hours annually);
- Continuing education in assessed needs (5 hours annually);
- Evaluating and Improving Student Outcomes (formerly SB 1566), 3 hours training every 2 years);
- Post-Legislative Update to the Texas Education Code, following a legislative session;
- Child Abuse Prevention (1 hour every 2 years); and
- Cybersecurity (1 hour annually).

The Board must meet minimum annual training requirements for the period January 1 through December 31.

The Board President shall also receive continuing education related to leadership duties of the Board President as some portion of the annual requirement.

The Texas Education Code requires the President of the Board to announce the status of earned training credits for each member of the Board of Trustees annually. The announcement is a

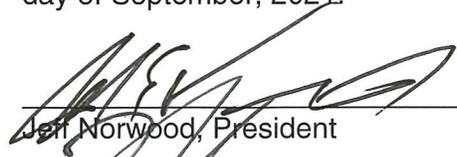
progress report on the training Board members have received to date. This announcement occurs at the last regular Board meeting prior to an election of trustees (typically April).

Board members are encouraged to join the Texas Association of School Boards (TASB) and attend the TASB convention, as well as other relevant conventions, conferences, or clinics.

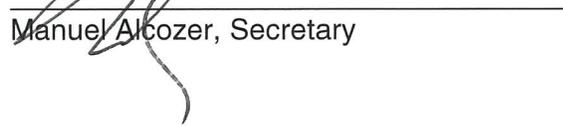
The Board is committed to attend required training and will strive to annually attend a conference together with the goal of 100% participation by the Board and Superintendent.

Review and Adoption

These Operating Procedures were approved at a meeting of the Board of Trustees on the 20th day of September, 2021.



Jeff Norwood, President



Manuel Alcozer, Secretary

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 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 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.

Reassessment	If the District reassesses students in the gifted and talented program, the reassessment shall be based on a student's performance in response to services and shall occur no more than once in elementary grades, once in middle school grades, and once in high school grades.
Transfer Students	When a student identified as gifted by a previous school district enrolls in the District, the selection 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.
Interdistrict	[See FDD(LEGAL) for information regarding transfer students and the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunities for Military Children]
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	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. 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.
Exit Provisions	The District shall monitor student performance in response to gifted and talented program services. If at any time the selection committee or a parent determines it is in the best interest of the student to exit the program, 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 committee regarding selection for or exit from the gifted and talented program. Appeals shall be made first to the selection 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.

Funding

The District's gifted and talented program shall address effective use of funds for programs and services consistent with the standards in the state plan for gifted and talented students.

~~The District shall annually report to the Texas Education Agency (TEA) regarding funding used to implement the District's gifted and talented program. The District shall annually certify to TEA:~~

- ~~1. The establishment of a gifted and talented program by the District; and~~
- ~~2. That the District's program is consistent with the state plan for gifted and talented students.~~

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.

**Trauma-Informed
Care Program**

The District's trauma-informed care program, as included in the District improvement plan, shall provide for the integration of trauma-informed care practices in the school environment, including increasing staff and parent awareness of trauma-informed care, implementation of trauma-informed practices and care by District and campus staff, and providing information about available counseling options for students affected by trauma or grief.

Training

The District shall provide training in trauma-informed care to District educators as required by law [and the Board-approved District professional development plan](#). The District improvement plan shall specify required training for any other District employees as applicable.

~~Annual Report~~

~~The District shall provide an annual report to the Texas Education Agency on the number of employees who have participated in trauma-informed care training.~~

Note: This policy addresses discrimination, including harassment, and retaliation against District students. For provisions regarding discrimination, including harassment, and retaliation against District employees, see DIA. For reporting requirements related to child abuse and neglect, see FFG. Note that FFH shall be used in conjunction with FFI (bullying) for certain prohibited conduct.

**Statement of
Nondiscrimination**

~~The District prohibits discrimination, including harassment, against any student on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, gender, national origin, age, disability, or any other basis prohibited by law. The District prohibits dating violence, as defined by this policy. Retaliation against anyone involved in the complaint process is a violation of District policy and is prohibited.~~

Discrimination

~~Discrimination against a student is defined as conduct directed at a student on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, gender, national origin, age, disability, or any other basis prohibited by law, that adversely affects the student.~~

Prohibited Conduct

In this policy, the term “prohibited conduct” includes discrimination, harassment, dating violence, and retaliation as defined by this policy, even if the behavior does not rise to the level of unlawful conduct.

Prohibited conduct also includes sexual harassment as defined by Title IX. [See FFH(LEGAL)]

**Prohibited
Harassment
Prohibited
harassment
Statement
of
Nondiscrimination**

The District prohibits discrimination, including harassment, against any student. Discrimination is defined as treating a student or group of students differently from similarly situated students on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, gender, national origin, age, disability, or any other basis prohibited by law. One type of harassment this policy prohibits is dating violence, as defined below. Retaliation against anyone exercising their rights under this policy is a violation of District policy and is prohibited.

Harassment

Harassment of a student is defined as physical, verbal, or nonverbal conduct based on the student’s race, color, religion, sex, gender, national origin, age, disability, or any other basis prohibited by law, when the conduct is so severe, ~~persistent, or~~ pervasive, and objectively offensive 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. Has the purpose or effect of substantially or unreasonably interfering with the student's academic performance; or
3. Otherwise adversely affects the student's educational opportunities.

Harassment~~Prohibited harassment~~ includes dating violence as defined by law and this policy.

Examples

Examples of prohibited harassment may include offensive or derogatory language directed at another person's religious beliefs or practices, accent, skin color, or need for accommodation; threatening, intimidating, or humiliating conduct; offensive jokes, name calling, slurs, or rumors; cyberharassment; 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.

**Title IX Sexual
Based Harassment**

As required by law, the District shall follow the procedures below at Response to **Title IX Sexual Harassment**~~—Title IX~~ upon a report of sex-based harassment, including sexual harassment, gender-based harassment, and dating violence, when such allegations, if proved, would meet the definition of sexual harassment **in an education program or activity and against a person in the United States** under Title IX. [See FFH(LEGAL)]

**Other 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:

1. 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, **and objectively offensive** 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 other 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. [See DH]

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

Examples

Examples of sexual harassment of a student may include 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, contact, or communications, including electronic communication.

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.

Gender-Based Harassment

Gender-based harassment includes physical, verbal, or nonverbal conduct based on the student's gender, the student's expression of characteristics perceived as stereotypical for the student's gender, or the student's failure to conform to stereotypical notions of masculinity or femininity. For purposes of this policy, gender-based harassment 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. Has the purpose or effect of substantially or unreasonably interfering with the student's academic performance; or
3. Otherwise adversely affects the student's educational opportunities.

Examples	Examples of gender-based harassment directed against a student, regardless of the student's or the harasser's actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity, may include offensive jokes, name-calling, slurs, or rumors; cyberharassment; physical aggression or assault; threatening or intimidating conduct; or other kinds of aggressive conduct such as theft or damage to property.
Dating Violence	<p>Dating violence occurs when a person in a current or past dating relationship uses physical, sexual, verbal, or emotional abuse to harm, threaten, intimidate, or control the other person in the relationship. Dating violence also occurs when a person commits these acts against a person in a marriage or dating relationship with the individual who is or was once in a marriage or dating relationship with the person committing the offense.</p> <p>For purposes of this policy, dating violence is considered prohibited harassment if the conduct is so severe, persistent, or pervasive that the conduct:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">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; or3. Otherwise adversely affects the student's educational opportunities.
Examples	Examples of dating violence against a student may include physical or sexual assaults; name-calling; put-downs; or threats directed at the student, the student's family members, or members of the student's household. Additional examples may include destroying property belonging to the student, threatening to commit suicide or homicide if the student ends the relationship, attempting to isolate the student from friends and family, stalking, threatening a student's spouse or current dating partner, or encouraging others to engage in these behaviors.
Reporting Procedures	Any student who believes that he or she has experienced prohibited conduct and any person who believes that another student
Student Report	has experienced prohibited conduct should promptly report the alleged acts to a teacher, school counselor, principal, other District employee, or the appropriate District official listed in this policy.
Employee Report	Any District employee who suspects or receives direct or indirect notice that a student or group of students has or may have experienced prohibited conduct shall promptly notify the appropriate District official listed in this policy and take any other steps required by this policy.

STUDENT WELFARE
FREEDOM FROM DISCRIMINATION, HARASSMENT, AND RETALIATION

FFH
(LOCAL)

Definition of District Officials	For the purposes of this policy, District officials are the Title IX coordinator, the ADA/Section 504 coordinator, and the Superintendent.
<i>Title IX Coordinator</i>	Reports of discrimination based on sex, including sexual harassment, gender-based harassment, or dating violence, may be directed to the designated Title IX coordinator for students. [See FFH(EXHIBIT)]
<i>ADA / Section 504 Coordinator</i>	Reports of discrimination based on disability may be directed to the designated ADA/Section 504 coordinator for students. [See FFH(EXHIBIT)]
<i>Superintendent</i>	The Superintendent shall serve as coordinator for purposes of District compliance with all other nondiscrimination laws.
Alternative Reporting Procedures	<p>An individual shall not be required to report prohibited conduct to the person alleged to have committed the conduct. Reports concerning prohibited conduct, including reports against the Title IX coordinator or ADA/Section 504 coordinator, may be directed to the Superintendent.</p> <p>A report against the Superintendent may be made directly to the Board. If a report is made directly to the Board, the Board shall appoint an appropriate person to conduct an investigation.</p>
Timely Reporting	To ensure the District's prompt investigation, reports of prohibited conduct shall be made as soon as possible after the alleged act or knowledge of the alleged act.
Notice to Parents	<p>The District official or designee shall promptly notify the parents of any student alleged to have experienced prohibited conduct by a District employee or another adult.</p> <p>[For parental notification requirements regarding an allegation of educator misconduct with a student, see FFF.]</p> <p>When the District receives a report of prohibited conduct that includes dating violence, the appropriate District official shall immediately notify the parent or guardian of the student who has been identified in the report as the alleged victim or perpetrator.</p>
Investigation of Reports Other Than Title IX	The following procedures apply to all allegations of prohibited conduct other than allegations of harassment prohibited by Title IX. [See FFH(LEGAL)] For allegations of sex-based harassment that, if proved, would meet the definition of sexual harassment under Title IX, including sexual harassment, gender-based harassment, and dating violence, see the procedures below at Response to Title IX Sexual Harassment — Title IX .

	<p>The District may request, but shall not require, a written report. If a report is made orally, the District official shall reduce the report to written form.</p>
Initial Assessment	<p>Upon receipt or notice of a report, the District official shall determine whether the allegations, if proved, would constitute prohibited conduct as defined by this policy. If so, the District shall promptly undertake an investigation, except as provided below at Criminal Investigation.</p> <p>If the District official determines that the allegations, if proved, would not constitute prohibited conduct as defined by this policy, the District official shall refer the complaint for consideration under FFI.</p>
Interim Action	<p>If appropriate and regardless of whether a criminal or regulatory investigation regarding the alleged conduct is pending, the District shall promptly take interim action calculated to address prohibited conduct or bullying prior to the completion of the District's investigation.</p>
District Investigation	<p>The investigation may be conducted by the District official or a designee, such as the principal, or by a third party designated by the District, such as an attorney. When appropriate, the principal shall be involved in or informed of the investigation.</p> <p>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.</p>
Criminal Investigation	<p>If a law enforcement or regulatory agency notifies the District that a criminal or regulatory investigation has been initiated, the District shall confer with the agency to determine if the District investigation would impede the criminal or regulatory investigation. The District shall proceed with its investigation only to the extent that it does not impede the ongoing criminal or regulatory investigation. After the law enforcement or regulatory agency has finished gathering its evidence, the District shall promptly resume its investigation.</p>
Concluding the Investigation	<p>Absent extenuating circumstances, such as a request by a law enforcement or regulatory agency for the District to delay its investigation, the investigation should be completed within ten District business days from the date of the report; however, the investigator shall take additional time if necessary to complete a thorough investigation.</p>

	<p>The investigator shall prepare a written report of the investigation. The report shall include a determination of whether prohibited conduct or bullying occurred. The report shall be filed with the District official overseeing the investigation.</p>
<i>Notification of Outcome</i>	<p>Notification of the outcome of the investigation shall be provided to both parties in compliance with FERPA.</p>
District Action <i>Prohibited Conduct</i>	<p>If the results of an investigation indicate that prohibited conduct occurred, the District shall promptly respond by taking appropriate disciplinary action in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct and may take corrective action reasonably calculated to address the conduct.</p>
Corrective Action	<p>Examples of corrective action may include a training program for those involved in the report, a comprehensive education program for the school community, counseling to the victim and the student who engaged in prohibited conduct, follow-up inquiries to determine if any new incidents or any instances of retaliation have occurred, involving parents and students in efforts to identify problems and improve the school climate, increasing staff monitoring of areas where prohibited conduct has occurred, and reaffirming the District's policy against discrimination, and harassment, and retaliation.</p>
<i>Bullying</i>	<p>If the results of an investigation indicate that bullying occurred, as defined by FFI, the District official shall refer to FFI for appropriate notice to parents and District action. The District official shall refer to FDB for transfer provisions.</p>
<i>Improper Conduct</i>	<p>If the investigation reveals improper conduct that did not rise to the level of prohibited conduct or bullying, the District may take disciplinary action in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct or other corrective action reasonably calculated to address the conduct.</p>
Confidentiality	<p>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.</p>
Appeal	<p>A student or parent who is dissatisfied with the outcome of the investigation may appeal through FNG(LOCAL), beginning at the appropriate level. A student or parent has the shall be informed of his or her right to file a complaint with the United States Department of Education Office for Civil Rights.</p>

**Response to Title IX
Sexual Harassment–
Title IX**

General Response

For purposes of the District’s response to reports of harassment prohibited by Title IX, definitions can be found in FFH(LEGAL).

When the District receives notice or an allegation of conduct that, if proved, would meet the definition of sexual harassment under Title IX, the Title IX coordinator shall promptly contact the complainant to:

- Discuss the availability of supportive measures and inform the complainant that they are available, with or without the filing of a formal complaint;
- Consider the complainant’s wishes with respect to supportive measures; and
- Explain to the complainant the option and process for filing a formal complaint.

The District’s response to sexual harassment shall treat complainants and respondents equitably by offering supportive measures to both parties, as appropriate, and by following the Title IX formal complaint process before imposing disciplinary sanctions or other actions that are not supportive measures against a respondent.

If a formal complaint is not filed [or dismissed](#), the District reserves the right to investigate and respond to prohibited conduct in accordance with Board policies and the Student Code of Conduct. [The Title IX coordinator also reserves the right to sign a formal complaint, initiating the Title IX grievance process, if it would be deliberately indifferent not to investigate and respond to the prohibited conduct in accordance with Board policies and the Student Code of Conduct.](#)

Title IX Formal
Complaint Process

To distinguish the process described below from the District’s general grievance policies [see DGBA, FNG, and GF], this policy refers to the grievance process required by Title IX regulations for responding to formal complaints of sexual harassment as the District’s “Title IX formal complaint process.”

The Superintendent shall ensure the development of a Title IX formal complaint process that complies with legal requirements. [See FFH(LEGAL)] The formal complaint process shall be posted on the District’s website. In compliance with Title IX regulations, the District’s Title IX formal complaint process shall address the following basic requirements:

1. Equitable treatment of complainants and respondents;
2. An objective evaluation of all relevant evidence;

3. A requirement that the Title IX coordinator, investigator, decision-maker, or any person designated to facilitate an informal resolution process not have a conflict of interest or bias;
4. A presumption that the respondent is not responsible for the alleged sexual harassment until a determination is made at the conclusion of the Title IX formal complaint process;
5. Time frames that provide for a reasonably prompt conclusion of the Title IX formal complaint process, including time frames for appeals and any informal resolution process, and that allow for temporary delays or the limited extension of time frames with good cause and written notice as required by law;
6. A description of the possible disciplinary sanctions and remedies that may be implemented following a determination of responsibility for the alleged sexual harassment;
7. A statement of the standard of evidence to be used to determine responsibility for all Title IX formal complaints of sexual harassment;
8. Procedures and permissible bases for the complainant and respondent to appeal a determination of responsibility or a dismissal of a Title IX formal complaint or any allegations therein;
9. A description of the supportive measures available to the complainant and respondent;
10. A prohibition on using or seeking information protected under a legally recognized privilege unless the individual holding the privilege has waived the privilege;
11. Additional formal complaint procedures in 34 C.F.R. 106.45(b), including written notice of a formal complaint, consolidation of formal complaints, recordkeeping, and investigation procedures; and
12. Other local procedures as determined by the Superintendent.

Standard of
Evidence

The standard of evidence used to determine responsibility in a Title IX formal complaint of sexual harassment shall be the preponderance of the evidence.

Retaliation

The District prohibits retaliation by a student or District employee against a student alleged to have experienced discrimination or harassment, including dating violence, or another student who, in good faith, makes a report of harassment or discrimination, files a complaint of harassment or discrimination, serves as a witness, or participates in an investigation. The definition of prohibited retaliation under this policy also includes retaliation against a student

who refuses to participate in any manner in an investigation under Title IX. [In the absence of a formal complaint, allegations of retaliation shall be investigated under Investigation of Reports Other Than Title IX, above.](#)

Examples

Examples of retaliation may include threats, intimidation, coercion, rumor spreading, ostracism, assault, destruction of property, unjustified punishments, or unwarranted grade reductions. Unlawful retaliation does not include petty slights or annoyances.

False Claim

A student who intentionally makes a false claim or offers false statements in a District investigation regarding discrimination or harassment, including dating violence, shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action in accordance with law.

Records Retention

The District shall retain copies of allegations, investigation reports, and related records regarding any prohibited conduct in accordance with the District's records control schedules, but for no less than the minimum amount of time required by law. [See CPC]

[For Title IX recordkeeping and retention provisions, see FFH(LEGAL) and the District's Title IX formal complaint process.]

Access to Policy and Procedures

Information regarding this policy and any accompanying procedures shall be distributed annually in the employee and student handbooks. Copies of the policy and procedures shall be posted on the District's website, to the extent practicable, and readily available at each campus and the District's administrative offices.

PROPOSED REVISIONS

Board Officers	The Board shall elect a President, a Vice President, and a Secretary who shall be members of the Board. The Board may assign a District employee to provide clerical assistance to the Board. Officers shall be elected by majority vote of the members present and voting.
Vacancy	A vacancy among officers of the Board shall be filled by majority action of the Board.
Term and Duties	Board officers shall serve for a term of one year or until a successor is elected. Officers may succeed themselves in office in accordance with limitations imposed in the Board Operating Procedures . Each officer shall perform any legal duties of the office and other duties as required by action of the Board.
President	In addition to the duties required by law, the President of the Board shall: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Preside at all Board meetings unless unable to attend.2. Have the right to discuss, make motions and resolutions, and vote on all matters coming before the Board.
Vice President	The Vice President of the Board shall: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Act in the capacity and perform the duties of the President of the Board in the event of the absence or incapacity of the President.2. Become President only upon being elected to the position.
Secretary	The Secretary of the Board shall: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Ensure that an accurate record is kept of the proceedings of each Board meeting.2. Ensure that notices of Board meetings are posted and sent as required by law.3. In the absence of the President and Vice President, call the meeting to order and act as presiding officer.4. Sign or countersign documents as directed by action of the Board.

PROPOSED REVISIONS

Note: For Board member use of District technology resources, see BBI. For student use of personal electronic devices, see FNCE.

Availability of Access

For purposes of this policy, “technology resources” means electronic communication systems and electronic equipment.

Access to the District’s technology resources, including the internet, shall be made available to students and employees primarily for instructional and administrative purposes and in accordance with administrative regulations.

Limited Personal Use

Limited personal use of the District’s technology resources shall be permitted if the use:

1. Imposes no tangible cost on the District;
2. Does not unduly burden the District’s technology resources; and
3. Has no adverse effect on an employee’s job performance or on a student’s academic performance.

Use by Members of the Public

Access to the District’s technology resources, including the internet, shall be made available to members of the public, in accordance with administrative regulations. Such use shall be permitted so long as the use:

1. Imposes no tangible cost on the District; and
2. Does not unduly burden the District’s technology resources. ~~and~~

~~3.—Is supervised by the District.~~

Acceptable Use

The Superintendent shall develop and implement administrative regulations, guidelines, and user agreements consistent with the purposes and mission of the District and with law and policy.

Access to the District’s technology resources is a privilege, not a right. All users shall be required to acknowledge receipt and understanding of all administrative regulations governing use of the District’s technology resources and shall agree in writing to allow monitoring of their use and to comply with such regulations and guidelines. Noncompliance may result in suspension of access or termination of privileges and other disciplinary action consistent

with District policies. [See DH, FN series, FO series, and the Student Code of Conduct] Violations of law may result in criminal prosecution as well as disciplinary action by the District.

Internet Safety

The Superintendent shall develop and implement an internet safety plan to:

1. Control students' access to inappropriate materials, as well as to materials that are harmful to minors;
2. Ensure student safety and security when using electronic communications;
3. Prevent unauthorized access, including hacking and other unlawful activities;
4. Restrict unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of personally identifiable information regarding students; and
5. Educate students about cyberbullying awareness and response and about appropriate online behavior, including interacting with other individuals on social networking websites and in chat rooms.

Filtering

Each District computer with internet access and the District's network systems shall have filtering devices or software that blocks access to visual depictions that are obscene, pornographic, inappropriate for students, or harmful to minors, as defined by the federal Children's Internet Protection Act and as determined by the Superintendent.

The Superintendent shall enforce the use of such filtering devices. Upon approval from the Superintendent, an administrator, supervisor, or other authorized person may disable the filtering device for bona fide research or other lawful purpose.

Monitored Use

Electronic mail transmissions and other use of the District's technology resources by students, employees, and members of the public shall not be considered private. Designated District staff shall be authorized to monitor the District's technology resources at any time to ensure appropriate use.

Disclaimer of Liability

The District shall not be liable for users' inappropriate use of the District's technology resources, violations of copyright restrictions or other laws, users' mistakes or negligence, and costs incurred by users. The District shall not be responsible for ensuring the availability of the District's technology resources or the accuracy, age appropriateness, or usability of any information found on the internet.

Record Retention

A District employee shall retain electronic records, whether created or maintained using the District's technology resources or using

personal technology resources, in accordance with the District's record management program. [See CPC]

Electronically Signed Documents

At the District's discretion, the District may make certain transactions available online, including student admissions documents, student grade and performance information, contracts for goods and services, and employment documents.

To the extent the District offers transactions electronically, the District may accept electronic signatures in accordance with this policy.

When accepting electronically signed documents or digital signatures, the District shall comply with rules adopted by the Department of Information Resources, to the extent practicable, to:

- Authenticate a digital signature for a written electronic communication sent to the District;
- Maintain all records as required by law;
- Ensure that records are created and maintained in a secure environment;
- Maintain appropriate internal controls on the use of electronic signatures;
- Implement means of confirming transactions; and
- Train staff on related procedures as necessary.

PROPOSED REVISIONS – 8/22/22

T-TESS

The District shall appraise teachers annually using the Texas Teacher Evaluation and Support System (T-TESS) in accordance with law and administrative regulations.

The Board shall approve a list of certified appraisers who can appraise a teacher in place of the teacher’s supervisor.

<u>Annual Appraisal</u>	<u>District teachers shall be appraised annually with a summative annual appraisal.</u>
<u>Exception</u>	<u>Teachers who are eligible for less frequent evaluations in accordance with law [see DNA(LEGAL)] and the local criteria established in this policy shall be appraised in accordance with the provisions below.</u>
<u>Less-Than-Annual Eligibility</u>	<u>In addition to meeting the eligibility requirements in state rules, to be eligible for less-than-annual observation under the T-TESS, a teacher shall have:</u> <u>1. Received ratings of accomplished or distinguished on at least 10 of the 17 dimensions and have no areas that are below proficient or ratings of at least proficient on 17 of the 17 dimensions on the previous year’s summative annual appraisal; and</u> <u>2. Been employed by the District for at least one year.</u>
<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Eligible teachers shall participate in the full observation cycle as follows:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><u>• Every twothree years if the eligible teacher has received ratings of accomplished or distinguished on 10 of the 17 dimensions and no areas that are below proficient.</u><u>• Every threetwo years if the eligible teacher has received ratings of at least proficient on 17 of the 17 dimensions.</u> <u>When a principal is new to the campus, if a teacher’s assignment changes on the same campus, or a teacher transfers between schools within the District, the principal has the discretion to place an eligible teacher on a less than annual appraisal.</u> <u>During any school year when a complete appraisal is not scheduled for an eligible teacher, either the teacher or the principal may require that an appraisal be conducted by providing written notice to the other party.</u> <u>A teacher’s supervisor shall have the authority to return a teacher to the traditional appraisal cycle as a result of performance deficiencies documented in accordance with state rule.</u>

PERFORMANCE APPRAISAL
EVALUATION OF TEACHERS

DNA
(LOCAL)

Annual Review
Process

All teachers shall participate in a summative annual appraisal process that includes the elements in state rule.

The annual review process shall produce a document to be presented to the teacher, signed by the teacher and supervisor, and maintained in the personnel file.

PROPOSED REVISIONS

Note: This local policy has been revised in accordance with the District's [innovation plan](#).¹

School Start Date

In accordance with the District's innovation plan, the District is exempt from the state law that generally prohibits instruction for students from beginning before the fourth Monday in August.

School Calendar

The Superintendent shall be authorized to approve variations from the Board-adopted school calendar, as necessary.

School Closure

The Board delegates to the Superintendent the authority to close schools for reasons of public health and safety.

¹ Innovation Plan: <https://www.bisd.net/Page/369>

PROPOSED REVISIONS

Written or printed materials, handbills, photographs, pictures, films, tapes, or other visual or auditory materials not sponsored by the District or by a District-affiliated school-support organization shall not be sold, circulated, distributed, or posted on any District premises by any District student, except in accordance with this policy.

The District shall not be responsible for, nor shall the District endorse, the contents of any nonschool literature distributed by students.

For purposes of this policy, "distribution" means the circulation of more than 30 ~~ten~~ copies of material from a source other than the District.

Materials distributed under the supervision of instructional personnel as a part of instruction or other authorized classroom activities shall not be considered nonschool literature and shall not be governed by this policy.

[For distribution of nonschool literature by nonstudents, see GKDA]

Limitations on Content

Nonschool literature shall not be distributed by students on District property if:

1. The materials are obscene, vulgar, or otherwise inappropriate for the age and maturity of the audience.
2. The materials endorse actions endangering the health or safety of students.
3. The materials promote illegal use of drugs, alcohol, or other controlled substances.
4. The distribution of such materials would violate the intellectual property rights, privacy rights, or other rights of another person.
5. The materials contain defamatory statements about public figures or others.
6. The materials advocate imminent lawless or disruptive action and are likely to incite or produce such action.
7. The materials are hate literature or similar publications that scurrilously attack ethnic, religious, or racial groups or contain content aimed at creating hostility and violence, and the materials would materially and substantially interfere with school activities or the rights of others.

8. There is reasonable cause to believe that distribution of the nonschool literature would result in material and substantial interference with school activities or the rights of others.

Prior Review

All nonschool literature intended for distribution by students on school campuses or other District premises under this policy shall be submitted to the principal or designee for prior review in accordance with the following:

1. Materials shall include the name of the person or organization sponsoring the distribution.
2. Using the standards found in this policy at Limitations on Content, the principal or designee shall approve or reject submitted materials within two school days of the time the materials were received.

Exceptions to Prior Review

Prior review shall not be required for distribution of nonschool literature by District students only in the following circumstances:

1. Distribution of materials by a student to other attendees during a meeting of a noncurriculum-related student group authorized to meet at school during noninstructional time in accordance with FNAB(LOCAL); or
2. Distribution of nonschool materials in circumstances for which exceptions to prior review are authorized at GKDA(LOCAL).

Even when prior review is not required, all other provisions of this policy shall apply.

Time, Place, and Manner Restrictions

Each campus principal shall designate times, locations, and means by which nonschool literature that is appropriate for distribution, as provided in this policy, may be made available or distributed by students to students or others at the principal's campus.

The executive director of communications and community engagement shall designate times, locations, and means for distribution of nonschool literature by students at District facilities other than school campuses, in accordance with this policy.

Violations of Policy

Failure to comply with this policy regarding distribution of nonschool literature shall result in appropriate administrative action, including but not limited to confiscation of nonconforming materials, suspension of a noncurriculum-related student group's use of District facilities, and/or other disciplinary action in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct.

Appeals

Decisions made by the administration in accordance with this policy may be appealed in accordance with FNG(LOCAL).

Belton ISD Draft Legislative Priorities

June 14, 2022 - Second Draft

Address School Finance to Account for Growth and Current Economic Conditions

(Position Statement) As Belton ISD experiences accelerated fast growth, adequate funding is essential to student success. Now more than ever, Belton ISD needs state funding to match the needs of our students and staff without increasing a local tax burden on our residents.

1. Increase the basic allotment to account for the extreme rise in inflation we are experiencing.
2. Prioritize a stable, predictable funding stream for public schools by funding schools based on enrollment instead of attendance.
3. Increase the Fast Growth Allotment to acknowledge a growing statewide need while also increasing the amount disbursed to fast growth school districts appropriately.
4. Fully fund mandates and eliminate unfunded mandates.

Improve Support for Student Learning and Growth

(Position Statement) Students and families in Texas deserve an educational experience that promotes true learning in both skills and content. High-stakes standardized testing does not motivate students or teachers to grow and learn nor does it positively impact the mental health of our community. Now is the opportune time to invest in learning experiences that empower students to thrive in future careers while also addressing the growing mental health concerns in our society.

1. Limit the STAAR assessments to only those necessary to meet federal requirements.
2. Support districts' efforts to develop and implement more effective, targeted assessment systems for student learning and growth.
3. Support districts in the creation of Community Based Accountability Systems instead of the state A-F accountability system that is primarily based on STAAR results.
4. Increase state-wide support for mental health resources by funding school counselor ratios of 250:1 (students per counselor) or providing additional resources for access to mental health professionals.
5. Expand funding for new programs in high wage, high demand career fields by shifting funding from high-stakes standardized testing to a funding stream for the expansion of innovative programs.

Increase Local Control

(Position Statement) Belton ISD is projected to serve more than 14,000 students from three municipalities across 198 square miles in the next school year. Our district is represented by seven locally elected trustees who are best able to respond to the needs of our students, staff, families, and communities. Protecting and increasing the authority of our locally elected officials supports the delivery of thoughtful, effective public education to meet the needs of our community.

1. Maintain the May election date as an option for school district bond and board elections.
2. Eliminate required, misleading information for bond ballot language while ensuring ballot language is transparent for voters.

3. Empower school districts to partner with local governments to provide incentive programs that further economic development while benefiting public school students.
4. Reject further state-imposed restrictions on school district elections.