



Agenda of Workshop Meeting

The Board of Trustees Belton Independent School District

A Workshop Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Belton Independent School District will be held September 18, 2023, beginning at 5:00 PM in the Dragon 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 the meeting notice.

1. Call to Order

2. Public Comments

3. Board Workshop:

A. Local Policy Update 121 - 1st Reading

- | | |
|--|----|
| 1. CCGB(LOCAL): Ad Valorem Taxes - Economic Development | 3 |
| 2. CFB(LOCAL): Accounting - Inventories | 8 |
| 3. CKEC(LOCAL): Security Personnel - School Resource Officers | 9 |
| 4. CLB(LOCAL): Buildings, Grounds, and Equipment Management - Maintenance | 10 |
| 5. CRF(LOCAL): Insurance and Annuities Management - Unemployment Insurance | 11 |

6. CVA(LOCAL): Facilities Construction - Competitive Bidding	12
7. CVB(LOCAL): Facilities Construction - Competitive Sealed Proposals	13
8. DEA(LOCAL): Compensation and Benefits - Compensation Plan	14
9. FD(LOCAL): Admissions	16
10. FFI(LOCAL): Student Welfare - Freedom from Bullying	19
B. CKE(LOCAL) Series: Safety Program/Risk Management - Security Personnel	22
C. EFB(LOCAL): Instructional Resources - Library Materials - 1st Reading	23
D. Discuss SB 763 and Policy Impact	29
4. Adjourn	

Note: The Texas Economic Development Act, Tax Code Chapter 313, Subchapters B and C, expired on December 31, 2022.

A limitation on appraised value approved before the expiration continues in effect according to the law as it existed immediately before its expiration, and the law is continued in effect for purposes of the limitation on appraised value.

Texas Economic Development Act

Purpose

These provisions outline the District’s procedures for accepting, reviewing, and considering applications and amendments to applications, and, when necessary, enforcing agreements under the Texas Economic Development Act (the Act), as set forth in Tax Code Chapter 313. [See CCGB(LEGAL)]

Definitions

In addition to the definitions set out in CCGB(LEGAL), the following definitions apply in this policy:

“Application review period” means the period during which the Board will consider and act on an application. The application review period begins on the application review start date and ends on the 151st day thereafter, unless the application review period is extended by Board action prior to the expiration date.

“Appraisal district” means each county appraisal district that appraises property that is the subject of an application.

“Large project application” means an application for which the qualified investment exceeds \$300,000.

Filing an Application

In the form and formats required by the comptroller, an applicant shall file with the Superintendent the original and copies of the completed application along with a searchable electronic copy certified to contain information identical to the original hard copy. [See CCGB(LEGAL) at Required Contents and Format]

The Superintendent shall hold any incomplete applications or applications submitted without the full application fee until the application is properly completed and the application fee is paid. The Superintendent’s determination of whether an application is complete shall be final.

Confidentiality of Applicant Information

If the Board decides to consider an application, information provided in connection with an application will not be considered confidential except as allowed by law. [See CCGB(LEGAL) at Confidential Business Information]

Amending an
Application

An applicant may seek to amend an application at any time prior to final Board action on the application. If an amended application is filed within 60 days of the end of the application review period, the application review period shall be extended automatically to the 61st day after the date on which the last amended application is filed, unless the Board takes action to extend the application review period otherwise.

The Superintendent shall review and forward to the comptroller any amended application or supplemental information on receipt.

Standard
Application Fee

An applicant shall pay a standard application fee of \$50,000 to the District to cover the District's costs in processing and considering the application. This fee is nonrefundable except as set forth in this policy:

1. For large project fees after the initial fee submission; or
2. If the application is rejected after an initial Board review.

The standard application fee does not include any amount charged by the comptroller to the applicant for the comptroller's economic impact evaluation.

*Large Project
Application Fee*

For a large project application, the Board may set an application fee higher than the standard application fee if the analysis or evaluation of the application warrants a higher fee. In this case, the applicant shall initially submit the standard application fee. If the Board sets a higher fee, the applicant may withdraw its application and any fee submitted if the applicant disagrees with the higher fee.

**Processing an
Application**

Upon receipt of an application and application fee, the Superintendent shall:

Before Initial Board
Review

1. Send the applicant written confirmation of receipt of the application and application fee.
2. Review the application and, as necessary, require the applicant to submit additional and/or supplementary information, including all required schedules.
3. Within seven days of receipt of a completed application, submit the application to the comptroller, together with any economic analysis of the proposed project submitted by the applicant.
4. Obtain necessary conflict of interest disclosures. [See BBFA(LEGAL)]

- Initial Board Review As soon as practical after an application is filed, the Board shall conduct an initial review of the application during which the Board may consider the Superintendent's recommendation and written or oral presentations concerning the application.
- If, after the initial review, the Board determines that the application is not in the best interests of the District, the Board shall reject the application and return to the applicant the application fee, less any necessary and reasonable costs of the initial review.
- If the Board accepts a large project application for further consideration, the Board may set an appropriate fee in accordance with this policy.
- After Initial Board Review If the Board elects to consider the completed application, the Superintendent shall:
1. Deposit the application fee and provide required written notice to the applicant and comptroller, with a copy to the appraisal district, that the District has received and will consider the completed application;
 2. Deliver to the comptroller a copy of the application and required material along with a request for an economic impact evaluation;
 3. Accept on behalf of the Board any amendments or supplements submitted by the applicant, and transmit copies to the comptroller within seven days of receipt;
 4. Direct appropriate District personnel to create a link from the District's website to the location on the comptroller's website where copies of applications are posted;
 5. Within the time allowed by law, provide all required supplemental information necessary to assist the comptroller and the Texas Education Agency (TEA) with the required analyses;
 6. On receipt, provide the applicant and District consultants with a copy of the economic impact evaluation and the school facilities impact analysis;
 7. Work with the applicant and District consultants to provide the District and the comptroller with copies of the proposed agreement in a timely manner [see CCGB(LEGAL) at Continued Eligibility];
 8. Take all action necessary or required to process the application;

9. Not later than 151 days after the application review start date, present to the Board an agreement for final approval or a request for extension of the application review period;
10. If an extension of the application review period is requested, report each such request to the comptroller within seven days of the decision to grant the extension; and
11. After Board action on the application, if any, transmit all necessary and required information to the comptroller, the applicant, and the appraisal district.

District Consultants On retention by the Board, District consultants, including legal counsel, shall review the application to ensure it includes all required information. District consultants shall also begin an analysis of the application, consider any legal implications of the application, draft and negotiate an appropriate revenue protection agreement, and evaluate the analyses from the comptroller and TEA on receipt.

District consultants shall be paid for services from the application fee and shall complete their analyses in time to assist the Board, as appropriate, in its initial review or final determination on the application.

Board Action on Application

Completed applications may be considered for approval by the Board only after completion of the economic impact evaluation and the school facilities impact analysis and receipt of the comptroller's certification, as required by the Act.

Public Hearing

The Board's final determination on an application shall be made after a public hearing at which the Superintendent, District consultants, the applicant, and members of the public may provide input and information concerning the proposed application. The comptroller's certification shall be disclosed at the public hearing.

The public hearing shall be held at a time that allows the Board to approve or disapprove an application before the expiration of the application review period, unless the deadline has been extended.

Findings of Fact

After the public hearing, the Board shall make specific written findings as required by law. [See CCGB(LEGAL) at Approval]

Adoption of Agreement

After considering the comptroller's certification, the economic impact evaluation, the school facilities impact analysis, information from District consultants, and any other relevant information, the Board may approve the application and enter into an agreement that complies with all legal requirements. [See CCGB(LEGAL) at Agreement] The Board shall also consider and adopt an agreement with the applicant to provide protection from or compensation for

any financial risks undertaken by the District in accepting the application.

Waiver of Jobs
Requirement

The Board may waive the new jobs creation requirement in accordance with the law. [See CCGB(LEGAL) at Waiver of New Jobs Creation Requirement] If an applicant makes a waiver request subsequent to the original application, the Board may charge the applicant a fee to cover the costs of any consultant required by the Board in making the requisite finding.

**Superintendent
Responsibilities
After Agreement**

During the term of any agreement, the Superintendent shall ensure that all reporting requirements are met in a timely manner by the District and the applicant. The Superintendent is authorized to delegate this function to District consultants.

**Statements
Regarding Conflicts
of Interest**

Each Board member and any District employee who is a local government official under Local Government Code Chapter 176 shall submit a conflict of interest statement confirming or denying the existence of a conflict of interest or a substantial business interest in each project that is the subject of an application, agreement, or amendment to an agreement with the District. Within 60 days after each Board election or the appointment of a Board member, each new Board member shall complete a statement. The completed statements shall be retained by the District with each affected application or agreement. If a conflict or substantial interest exists, the appropriate disclosure forms shall be completed and filed as required by law. [See BBFA(LEGAL)]

**Capitalization
Threshold**

The capitalization threshold for purposes of classifying individual capital assets shall be ~~\$5,000~~\$5,000.

The Superintendent shall determine the capitalization threshold for a group of assets, the individual cost of which does not exceed the capitalization threshold above but for which the cost in the aggregate is significant.

Reject adding CKEC(LOCAL)

To implement the District's comprehensive safety programs, the District has entered into agreements with local law enforcement agencies for school resource officers. School resource officers shall provide services consistent with the terms of the agreements, the comprehensive safety programs, and Board policy.

A school resource officer shall perform duties as described in the agreements and as included in the District improvement plan and the Student Code of Conduct. A school resource officer shall not be assigned routine classroom discipline or administrative tasks.

All school resource officers shall receive at least the minimum amount of education and training required by law.

Integrated Pest Management Program

The District is committed to following integrated pest management (IPM) guidelines as required by Chapter 1951 of the Occupations Code and Title 4, Chapter 7 of the Administrative Code in all pest control activities that take place on District property.

Definition

IPM is a pest management strategy that relies on accurate identification and scientific knowledge of target pests, reliable monitoring methods to assess pest presence, preventative measures to limit pest problems, and thresholds to determine when corrective control measures are needed. Under IPM, whenever economical and practical, multiple control tactics shall be used to achieve the best control of pests. These tactics shall ~~possibly~~ include, but are not limited to, the judicious use of pesticides.

Standards

The District's IPM program shall govern the District's use of pesticides, herbicides, and other chemical agents for the purpose of controlling pests, rodents, insects, and weeds in and around District facilities, [including residential property primarily used as student housing](#).

IPM Coordinator

The Superintendent shall designate the IPM coordinator(s), who shall be registered with the Texas Department of Agriculture. The IPM coordinator(s) shall receive training in accordance with law and shall provide training to District employees, as necessary.

Application Time Frame

The IPM coordinator(s), in addition to the responsibilities set out in CLB(LEGAL), shall coordinate with appropriate District administrators or other designated and trained employees regarding pesticide or herbicide applications in accordance with law. The IPM coordinator(s) shall determine when an emergency situation exists and an exception to the 48-hour notice requirement may be made.

No Unauthorized Application

If the IPM coordinator is a licensed applicator, the IPM coordinator may apply pesticides in accordance with law. No other employee or other person or entity shall be permitted to apply a pesticide or herbicide at a District facility, [including residential property primarily used as student housing](#), without the prior approval of the IPM coordinator and other than in the manner prescribed by law and the District's IPM program.

INSURANCE AND ANNUITIES MANAGEMENT
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

CRF
(LOCAL)

**Reasonable
Assurance**

The District shall issue letters of reasonable assurance, as appropriate, to employees in positions requiring less than 12 months of service whose services are anticipated to be needed at the beginning of the following school year. [See DCD and DCE]

Specifications

The Superintendent ~~or designee~~ shall ensure that detailed specifications are prepared for any construction project for which competitive bids are sought.

Bid Process

All bids shall be submitted in sealed envelopes, plainly marked with the name of the bid and the time of the bid opening. Bids shall be opened at the time specified. All interested parties shall be invited to attend the bid opening. Any bid may be withdrawn prior to the scheduled time for opening. Bids received after the specified time shall not be considered.

Safety Record

If the District considers the safety record of bidders in determining to whom to award a contract, the safety record shall be defined as a bidder's OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration) inspection logs for the last three years, a loss analysis from the bidder's insurance carrier, and a loss history covering all lines of insurance coverage carried by the bidder.

FACILITIES CONSTRUCTION
COMPETITIVE SEALED PROPOSALS

CVB
(LOCAL)

Specifications

The Superintendent ~~or designee~~ shall prepare a request for proposals for any construction project for which competitive sealed proposals are sought.

Process

All proposals shall be submitted in sealed envelopes, plainly marked with the name of the proposal and the time of the deadline for submission. Proposals shall be opened at the time specified. All offerors shall be invited to attend the proposal opening. Changes in the content of a proposal, and in prices, may be negotiated after proposals are opened.

Withdrawal and
Late Proposals

Any proposal may be withdrawn prior to the scheduled time for opening. Proposals received after the specified time shall not be considered.

Proposal
Acceptance

The District may reject any and all proposals.

Safety Record

If the safety record of offerors is considered in selecting a proposal, the record shall be defined as an offeror's OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration) inspection logs for the last three years, a loss analysis from the offeror's insurance carrier, and a loss history covering all lines of insurance coverage carried by the offeror.

COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS
COMPENSATION PLAN

DEA
(LOCAL)

The Superintendent shall recommend an annual compensation plan for all District employees. The compensation plan may include wage and salary structures, stipends, benefits, and incentives. [See also DEAA] The recommended plan shall support District goals for hiring and retaining highly qualified employees. The Board shall review and approve the compensation plan to be used by the District. The Board shall also determine the total compensation package for the Superintendent. [See BJ series]

Pay Administration

The Superintendent shall implement the compensation plan and establish procedures for plan administration consistent with the budget. The ~~Superintendent or designee shall classify~~ classification of each job title within the compensation plan shall be based on the qualifications, duties, and market value of the position.

Pay Schedule

The District shall pay all regular teachers in 12 monthly payments, unless an exception has been granted by the Superintendent. Part-time teachers may be paid according to an agreement between the teacher and the Superintendent.

All other salaried employees, including any salaried employees hired during the school year, shall be paid in accordance with administrative regulations.

Pay Increases

The Superintendent shall recommend to the Board an amount for employee pay increases as part of the annual budget. ~~The Superintendent or designee shall determine~~ Any pay adjustments for individual employees, shall be determined within the approved budget following established procedures.

~~Mid-Year~~ Midyear
Pay Increases

Contract
Employees

A contract employee's pay may be increased after performance on the contract has begun only if authorized by the compensation plan of the District or there is a change in the employee's job assignment or duties during the term of the contract that warrants additional compensation. Any such changes in pay that do not conform with the compensation plan shall require Board approval. [See DEA(LEGAL) for provisions on pay increases and public hearing requirements.]

~~Non-Contract~~ Noncon-
tract Employees

The Superintendent may grant a pay increase to a noncontract employee after duties have begun because of a change in the employee's job assignment or to address pay equity. The Superintendent shall report any such pay increases to the Board at the next regular meeting.

Pay During Closing

During an emergency closure, all employees shall continue to be paid for their regular duty schedule unless otherwise provided by Board action. Following an emergency closure, the Board shall

adopt a resolution or take other Board action establishing the purpose and parameters for such payments. [See EB for the authority to close schools]

**Premium Pay During
Emergency Closure**

Nonexempt employees who are required to work ~~during an emergency closure due to a natural disaster, health epidemic, inclement weather, or other event as declared by a federal, state, local official, Superintendent, or the Board,~~ to mitigate the reason for an emergency closing shall be paid at two times their regular rate of pay for all hours worked up to 40 hours per week. Staff required to work ~~will~~ shall be notified by their supervisor that there is an essential need that is requiring the employee to perform duties. All other nonexempt employees who are required to work during an emergency closing shall be paid their regular rate of pay.

Overtime for time worked over 40 hours in a week shall be calculated and paid according to law. [See DEAB] The Superintendent ~~or designee~~ shall approve all payments and ensure that accurate time records are kept of actual hours worked during emergency closings.

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.
Registration Forms	The student's parent, legal guardian, or other person having lawful control shall annually complete registration forms. A student who has reached age 18 shall be permitted to complete these forms.
Proof of Residency	At the time of initial registration and on an annual basis thereafter In accordance with administrative regulations, the parent, guardian, or other person having lawful control of the student under order of a court shall present proof of residency in accordance with administrative regulations developed by the Superintendent. The District may investigate stated residency as necessary.
Minor Living Apart	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 or an authorization agreement as provided in Chapter 34 of the Family Code assigning responsibility for the student in all school-related matters to an adult resident of the District.
Person Standing in Parental Relation	
Misconduct	A minor student living apart 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 an individual student's circumstance, the Superintendent shall have authority to grant exceptions to the requirement for a power of attorney or authorization agreement and to the exclusion for misconduct.
Extracurricular Activities	The Superintendent shall determine whether a minor student living apart 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 or deny such admissions requests in accordance with criteria approved by the Board.
"Accredited" Defined	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.

Grade-Level Placement

Accredited Schools

The parent, guardian, or other person having lawful control of a student enrolling in a District school from an accredited public, private, or parochial school shall provide evidence of the prior schooling outside the District. The student 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.

Nonaccredited Schools

A student enrolling in a District school from a nonaccredited public, private, or parochial school, including a homeschool, 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.
3. Prior academic record.
4. Chronological age and social and emotional development of the student.
5. Other criteria deemed appropriate by the principal.

Transfer of Credit

Accredited Texas Public Schools

Credit toward state graduation requirements earned in an accredited public school district in Texas shall be transferable and recognized by the District.

Other Accredited or Nonaccredited Schools

Before recognizing credit in a course earned in an accredited non-public school, an accredited school outside of Texas, or a nonaccredited school, appropriate personnel shall evaluate a student's records and transcript. The District may require the student to demonstrate mastery of the content or use alternative methods to verify course content for the award of credit.

Transition Assistance

In accordance with law, when a student who is identified as homeless or in substitute care, including foster care, enrolls in the District, the District shall assess the student's available records and other relevant information to **determine transfer of credit, including proportionate credit, is awarded appropriately for all subjects and courses taken prior to enrollment.**

[See EI]

Withdrawal

A parent or guardian wishing to withdraw a minor student shall present a signed statement that includes the reason for the withdrawal. A student who is 18 or older may submit a withdrawal statement without a parent's or guardian's signature.

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

Note: This policy addresses bullying of District students. For purposes of this policy, the term bullying includes cyber-bullying.

For provisions regarding discrimination and harassment involving District students, see FFH. Note that FFI shall be used in conjunction with FFH for certain prohibited conduct. For reporting requirements related to child abuse and neglect, see FFG.

Bullying Prohibited

The District prohibits bullying, including cyberbullying, as defined by state law. Retaliation against anyone involved in the complaint process is a violation of District policy and is prohibited.

Examples

Bullying of a student could occur by physical contact or through electronic means and may include hazing, threats, taunting, teasing, confinement, assault, demands for money, destruction of property, theft of valued possessions, name calling, rumor spreading, or ostracism.

Minimum Standards

In accordance with law, the Superintendent shall develop administrative procedures to ensure that minimum standards for bullying prevention are implemented.

Retaliation

The District prohibits retaliation by a student or District employee against any person who in good faith makes a report of bullying, serves as a witness, or participates in an investigation.

Examples

Examples of retaliation may include threats, 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, offers false statements, or refuses to cooperate with a District investigation regarding bullying shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action.

Timely Reporting

Reports of bullying shall be made as soon as possible after the alleged act or knowledge of the alleged act. A failure to immediately report may impair the District's ability to investigate and address the prohibited conduct.

Reporting Procedures

Student Report

To obtain assistance and intervention, any student who believes that he or she has experienced bullying or believes that another student has experienced bullying should immediately report the alleged acts to a teacher, school counselor, principal, or other District employee. The Superintendent shall develop procedures allowing a student to anonymously report an alleged incident of bullying.

Employee Report	Any District employee who suspects or receives notice that a student or group of students has or may have experienced bullying shall immediately notify the principal or designee.
Report Format	A report may be made orally or in writing. The principal or designee shall reduce any oral reports to written form.
Periodic Monitoring	The Superintendent shall periodically monitor the reported counts of bullying incidents, and that declines in the count may represent not only improvements in the campus culture because bullying declines but also declines in the campus culture because of a decline in openness to report incidents.
Notice of Report	When an allegation of bullying is reported, the principal or designee shall notify a parent of the alleged victim on or before the third business day after the incident is reported. The principal or designee shall also notify a parent of the student alleged to have engaged in the conduct within a reasonable amount of time after the incident is reported.
Prohibited Conduct	The principal or designee shall determine whether the allegations in the report, if proven, would constitute prohibited conduct as defined by policy FFH, including dating violence and harassment or discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, gender, national origin, or disability. If so, the District shall proceed under policy FFH. If the allegations could constitute both prohibited conduct and bullying, the investigation under FFH shall include a determination on each type of conduct.
Investigation of Report	The principal or designee shall conduct an appropriate investigation based on the allegations in the report. The principal or designee shall promptly take interim action calculated to prevent bullying during the course of an investigation, if appropriate.
Concluding the Investigation	<p>Absent extenuating circumstances, the investigation should be completed within ten District business days from the date of the initial report alleging bullying; however, the principal or designee shall take additional time if necessary to complete a thorough investigation.</p> <p>The principal or designee shall prepare a final, written report of the investigation. The report shall include a determination of whether bullying occurred, and if so, whether the victim used reasonable self-defense. A copy of the report shall be sent to the Superintendent or designee.</p>
Notice to Parents	If an incident of bullying is confirmed, the principal or designee shall promptly notify the parents of the victim and of the student who engaged in bullying.

District Action	
<i>Bullying</i>	If the results of an investigation indicate that bullying occurred, the District shall promptly respond by taking appropriate disciplinary action in accordance with the District's Student Code of Conduct and may take corrective action reasonably calculated to address the conduct. The District may notify law enforcement in certain circumstances.
<i>Discipline</i>	<p>A student who is a victim of bullying and who used reasonable self-defense in response to the bullying shall not be subject to disciplinary action.</p> <p>The discipline of a student with a disability is subject to applicable state and federal law in addition to the Student Code of Conduct.</p>
<i>Corrective Action</i>	Examples of corrective action may include a training program for the individuals involved in the complaint, a comprehensive education program for the school community, follow-up inquiries to determine whether 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 bullying has occurred, and reaffirming the District's policy against bullying.
<i>Transfers</i>	The principal or designee shall refer to FDB for transfer provisions.
<i>Counseling</i>	The principal or designee shall notify the victim, the student who engaged in bullying, and any students who witnessed the bullying of available counseling options.
<i>Improper Conduct</i>	If the investigation reveals improper conduct that did not rise to the level of prohibited conduct or bullying, the District may take action in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct or any other appropriate corrective action.
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.
Appeal	A student who is dissatisfied with the outcome of the investigation may appeal through FNG(LOCAL), beginning at the appropriate level.
Records Retention	Retention of records shall be in accordance with CPC(LOCAL).
Access to Policy and Procedures	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 shall be readily available at each campus and the District's administrative offices.

PROPOSED REVISIONS (additional Update 121 revisions)

School Resource Officers

To implement the District's comprehensive safety programs, the District has entered into agreements with local law enforcement agencies for school resource officers. School resource officers shall provide services consistent with the terms of the agreement, the comprehensive safety programs, and Board policy.

A school resource officer shall perform duties as described in the agreement and as included in the District improvement plan and the Student Code of Conduct. A school resource officer shall not be assigned routine classroom discipline or administrative tasks.

Training

All school resource officers shall receive at least the minimum amount of education and training required by law.

[See CKEC]

Contracted Security Officers

To assist with implementing the District's comprehensive safety programs, the District has entered into an agreement with a security services contractor for security officers in accordance with law. Security officers shall perform duties and provide services consistent with the terms of the agreement, the comprehensive safety programs, and Board policy.

The District shall ensure that each security officer receives specialized training in crisis intervention, management of hostage situations, and other topics the Board may determine necessary or appropriate.

A security officer shall not be assigned routine classroom discipline or administrative tasks. For purposes of this policy, routine discipline and District administrative tasks are defined as tasks that do not relate to the protection of property or persons or to the maintenance of public order.

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Note: For information related to the selection of instructional materials, see EF(LEGAL) and EFA.

Objectives

The District shall provide a wide range of library materials for students and faculty that support student achievement and present varying levels of difficulty, diversity of appeal, and a variety of points of view. The Superintendent shall ensure that librarians and other designated professional staff select library materials in accordance with District policy and administrative regulations.

In this policy, “library materials” may include printed and electronic library acquisitions and other ancillary or supplementary materials maintained in a campus library. In accordance with state and local guidelines, library collections should enrich and support the state and local curriculum. Collections should also provide materials of high interest to encourage student reading and learning for pleasure.

Library materials may be used to enhance the instructional program, for formal or informal teaching and learning purposes, and for voluntary inquiry or self-selected reading.

In accordance with state and local standards, school libraries are essential interactive collaborative learning environments, ever evolving to provide equitable physical and virtual access to ideas, information, and learning tools for the entire school community.

School libraries are essential, safe, and inviting centers for teaching and learning that provide equitable access to emerging technologies and physical and virtual collections of high quality, reflecting input from stakeholders.

Parental
Involvement

The District shall focus on maximizing transparency with parents and community members while meeting student needs and providing enrichment opportunities with library materials. Parental involvement in library acquisition, maintenance, and campus activities is encouraged.

To support transparency and access for the school community, the District shall establish means for parents and the public to review holdings, including information about titles and how materials are assessed.

Protection from
Inappropriate
Material

Library materials including materials available on display, in classroom libraries or available online, shall not include harmful materials which describe, depict, or portray sexually explicit content in a way that is offensive to prevailing standards in the local community with **respect to what is suitable for minors**.

“Sexually explicit material” means any communication, language, or material, including a written description, illustration, photographic image, video image, or audio file, other than library material directly related to the curriculum required under Section 28.002.

Library materials containing sexually relevant material as defined by Education Code 35.001 (3) requires parent permission to reserve, check out, or otherwise use outside the school library.

Library materials shall comply with the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA), including technology protection measures. [See CQ]

**Collection
Development
Standards**

Library materials shall be chosen in accordance with state law, this policy and administrative regulations and reviewed at least once every (5) years. The following selection criteria derived from the guidelines adopted by the Texas State Library and Archives Commission and local guidelines. In the selection of library materials, librarians and other professional staff shall make an effort to ensure that the materials:

1. Enrich and support the curriculum, taking into consideration students' varied interests, abilities, learning styles, and maturity levels.
2. Foster growth in factual knowledge, enjoyment of reading, literary appreciation, aesthetic values, and societal standards.
3. Develop a balanced collection presenting multiple viewpoints related to controversial issues to foster critical thinking skills and encourage discussion based on rational analysis [see EMB regarding instruction about controversial issues].
4. Represent many ethnic, religious, and cultural groups and their contributions to Texas, the nation, and the world community.
5. Have received favorable professional library reviews from state- and nationally recognized review publications.
6. Have received state or national awards or are included on recommended reading lists developed by library professionals and educators.
7. Have a high degree of potential user appeal and interest.

INSTRUCTIONAL RESOURCES
LIBRARY MATERIALS

EFB
(LOCAL)

8. Offer a global perspective that promotes equity of access, including print and nonprint materials such as electronic and multimedia, to meet the needs of individual learners.
9. Are requested or recommended by students and teachers.
10. Represent diverse viewpoints and cultures appropriate to each campus to ensure the collection embodies the unique background of its student population.
11. Are not **be harmful materials or obscene content which describe, depict, or portray sexually explicit content in a way that is offensive to prevailing standards in the local community with respect to what is suitable for minors.**

Parent Consideration

In general, a student is afforded the opportunity to self-select library materials as part of literacy development and the library program. District staff may assist a student in selecting library material; however, the ultimate determination of appropriateness **and access to library materials** remains with the student's parent. Parents are encouraged to communicate with the campus librarian/digital information specialist and their child's teacher about special considerations regarding library materials self-selected by their student. In accordance with state law and administrative regulations, parents may select alternative library materials for their student. [For information on parental rights regarding instructional materials and other instructional resources see EF(LEGAL).]

Challenged Resources

A parent of a District student, a student who is 18 years of age or older, an individual employee, or any District resident who is 18 years of age or older may challenge a library material maintained in the District's library program on the basis that the library material fails to meet the standards set forth in this policy. The number of library materials in review will be in balance with the resources available. The District shall make every attempt to ensure at least one library material a month is reviewed if applicable. Library materials will only be reviewed during the school year. Priority for review of books will be given to challenges filed by current District parents.

Guiding Principles

The following principles shall guide the Board and staff in responding to challenges of library materials:

1. A complainant may raise an objection to a library material used in the District's library program, despite the fact that the professional staff selecting the materials were qualified to make the selection, followed the proper procedure, and adhered to the objectives and criteria for library materials set out in this policy.

2. A parent's ability to exercise control over instruction and instructional resources, including library materials, extends only to his or her own child as set forth in Education Code Chapter 26.
3. Access to a challenged material shall not be restricted during the reconsideration process, except if the material is alleged to have content which is harmful or obscene in nature and a reasonable determination was made to restrict access to material to a student without parent permission, or if copies of the book are needed for the reconsideration committee process. The District may deny access of the material to a student if requested by the child's parent.

The major criterion for the final decision on challenged library materials is the appropriateness of the material for its intended use. No challenged library material shall be removed solely because of the ideas expressed therein.

Informal
Reconsideration

The school receiving a complaint about the appropriateness of any library material shall try to resolve the matter informally using the following procedure:

1. The librarian/digital information specialist or administrator shall explain the school's selection process, the criteria for selection, and the qualification of the professional staff who selected the library material.
2. The librarian/digital information specialist or administrator shall explain the intended purpose of the library material and any additional information regarding its use.
3. In the event the complainant is a concerned parent, the librarian/digital information specialist or administrator may offer an alternative library material to be used by the parent's child in place of the library material.
4. If a complainant wishes to make a formal challenge, the principal or designee shall provide the complainant a copy of this policy and EFB(EXHIBIT), Exhibit A to request a formal reconsideration of the library material.

Formal
Reconsideration

A complainant shall make any formal challenge to a library material on the form provided by the District and shall submit the completed and signed form to the assistant superintendent of teaching and learning or designee. Upon receipt of the form, the assistant superintendent of teaching and learning or designee shall appoint a reconsideration committee.

If a formal objection to a library material includes an allegation that the library material includes content, graphics or illustrations considered **harmful or obscene content which describe, depict or portray sexually explicit content in a way that is offensive and in contrast with prevailing standards in the local community with respect to what is suitable for minors**, the Assistant Superintendent of Teaching & Learning or District administrator, campus administrator, and at least one District librarian/digital information specialist shall review the specific content alleged to be harmful or obscene and make a reasonable determination to restrict access to the library material to any student without parent permission until the completion of the challenge process.

The formal reconsideration committee shall include a campus administrator, a librarian/digital information specialist, a classroom teacher, and at least 3 parents. The committee may include at least one member of the instructional staff who has experience using the challenged material with students or is familiar with the challenged material's content. Other members of the committee may also include a District administrator and any other appropriate staff member. The committee shall be comprised of a minimum of seven members and shall have an odd number of voting members.

All members of the committee shall review the challenged library material in its entirety. As soon as reasonably possible, the committee shall meet and determine whether the challenged material conforms to the principles of selection set out in this policy and whether the challenged material will continue to be used in the library program. The committee shall weigh the strengths and weaknesses of the challenged library material as a whole rather than on passages or sections that may be taken out of context. An exception of this is in relation to **harmful or obscene content which describe, depict or portray sexually explicit content in a way that is offensive and in contrast with prevailing standards in the local community with respect to what is suitable for minors**. "Sexually explicit material" means any communication, language, or material, including a written description, illustration, photographic image, video image, or audio file, other than library material directly related to the curriculum required under Section 28.002.

The committee shall determine by a majority vote, based on an individual anonymous vote, whether or not the challenged library material shall remain in use. The committee shall prepare a written report of its findings based on EFB(EXHIBIT), Exhibit B. The Superintendent, other appropriate administrators, and the complainant shall receive copies of the report.

INSTRUCTIONAL RESOURCES
LIBRARY MATERIALS

EFB
(LOCAL)

In the event of the receipt of multiple reconsideration forms for a single library material, the first form received will initiate the process, and subsequent challenge forms will not be processed.

Frequency of Review

After a library material has been reviewed through formal reconsideration, it shall not be reviewed again or a period of no less than five years. [See Maintenance of Library Materials, below.]

Appeal

The complainant may appeal the decision of the reconsideration committee in accordance with appropriate complaint policies, starting at the appropriate level. [See DGBA, FNG, and GF] Within this process, an appeal will start at Level Two with a District administrator.

Gifts and Donations

The District shall accept gifts and donations to a campus library with the understanding that the use and disposition of the materials and monies will be in accordance with District policy and the selection criteria noted above. [See CDC]

Maintenance of Library Materials

In accordance with state and local guidelines, collections shall be evaluated and updated regularly based on the collections' age, relevance, diversity, and variety. *If at any time a librarian/digital information specialist(s) considers a book to not meet the selection criteria, it will be removed from the library collection or moved to the appropriate grade level.* The Superintendent shall ensure administrative procedures are established for regular maintenance of the library collection on each campus. Standard maintenance procedures for any library collection include repair, replacement, and removal of materials as necessary. Regular maintenance shall also include scheduled inventories of the collection. Disposal of any District-owned library materials shall be in accordance with District policy and procedures. [See C]

PERSONNEL POSITIONS

DP
(LOCAL)

**Principal
Qualifications**

In addition to the minimal certification requirement, a principal shall have at least:

1. Working knowledge of curriculum and instruction;
2. The ability to evaluate instructional program and teaching effectiveness;
3. The ability to manage budgets and personnel and to coordinate campus functions;
4. The ability to explain policy, procedures, and data;
5. Strong communications, public relations, and interpersonal skills;
6. Prior experience in instructional leadership roles; and
7. Other qualifications deemed necessary by the Board and included in the job description.

School Counselors

In accordance with law, a school counselor shall spend 80 percent of the counselor's work time on duties that are components of a comprehensive school counseling program (CSCP). [See FFEA]

If the Board approves a determination by the administration that due to District or campus staffing needs or other reasons a school counselor is prevented from spending 80 percent of the counselor's work time on duties that are components of a CSCP, the Board shall direct the Superintendent to develop a revised job description for the school counselor that addresses the percentage of the school counselor's time that shall be spent on duties related to the components of a CSCP and the duties the school counselor is expected to perform in the remaining work time. The Superintendent shall report to the Board regarding adjustments to a school counselor's duties under this provision.

AN ACT

relating to allowing public schools to employ or accept as volunteers chaplains.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Subtitle D, Title 2, Education Code, is amended by adding Chapter 23 to read as follows:

CHAPTER 23. SCHOOL CHAPLAINS

Sec. 23.001. SCHOOL CHAPLAINS. (a) A school district or open-enrollment charter school may employ or accept as a volunteer a chaplain to provide support, services, and programs for students as assigned by the board of trustees of the district or the governing body of the school. A chaplain employed or volunteering under this chapter is not required to be certified by the State Board for Educator Certification.

(b) A school district or open-enrollment charter school that employs or accepts as a volunteer a chaplain under this chapter shall ensure that the chaplain complies with the applicable requirements under Subchapter C, Chapter 22, before the chaplain begins employment or volunteering at the district or school.

(c) A school district or open-enrollment charter school may

not employ or accept as a volunteer a chaplain who has been convicted of or placed on deferred adjudication community supervision for an offense for which a defendant is required to register as a sex offender under Chapter 62, Code of Criminal Procedure.

SECTION 2. Section 48.115(b), Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

(b) Funds allocated under this section must be used to improve school safety and security, including costs associated with:

(1) securing school facilities, including:

- (A) improvements to school infrastructure;
- (B) the use or installation of physical barriers;

and

(C) the purchase and maintenance of:

(i) security cameras or other security equipment; and

(ii) technology, including communications systems or devices, that facilitates communication and information sharing between students, school personnel, and first responders in an emergency;

(2) providing security for the district, including:

(A) employing school district peace officers, private security officers, and school marshals; and

(B) collaborating with local law enforcement agencies, such as entering into a memorandum of understanding for the assignment of school resource officers to schools in the district;

(3) school safety and security training and planning, including:

(A) active shooter and emergency response training;

(B) prevention and treatment programs relating to addressing adverse childhood experiences; and

(C) the prevention, identification, and management of emergencies and threats, using evidence-based, effective prevention practices and including:

(i) providing licensed counselors, social workers, chaplains, and individuals trained in restorative discipline and restorative justice practices;

(ii) providing mental health personnel and support, including chaplains;

(iii) providing behavioral health services, including services provided by chaplains;

(iv) establishing threat reporting systems; and

(v) developing and implementing programs focused on restorative justice practices, culturally relevant

instruction, and providing mental health support, including support provided by chaplains; and

(4) providing programs related to suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention, including programs provided by chaplains.

SECTION 3. Each board of trustees of a school district and each governing body of an open-enrollment charter school shall take a record vote not later than six months after the effective date of this Act on whether to adopt a policy authorizing a campus of the district or school to employ or accept as a volunteer a chaplain under Chapter 23, Education Code, as added by this Act.

SECTION 4. This Act applies beginning with the 2023-2024 school year.

SECTION 5. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2023.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 763 passed the Senate on April 25, 2023, by the following vote: Yeas 18, Nays 12; May 11, 2023, Senate refused to concur in House amendments and requested appointment of Conference Committee; May 15, 2023, House granted request of the Senate; May 23, 2023, Senate adopted Conference Committee Report by the following vote: Yeas 19, Nays 12.

Secretary of the Senate

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 763 passed the House, with amendments, on May 9, 2023, by the following vote: Yeas 89, Nays 58, one present not voting; May 15, 2023, House granted request of the Senate for appointment of Conference Committee; May 24, 2023, House adopted Conference Committee Report by the following vote: Yeas 84, Nays 60, one present not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

S.B. No. 763

Approved:

Date

Governor