

Agenda of Regular Meeting

The Board of Trustees Westwood Independent School District

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Westwood Independent School District will be held August 5, 2024, beginning at 5:30 PM in the Westwood Administration Office.

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 AND ESTABLISH QUORUM**
2. **ROLL CALL**
3. **INVOCATION**
4. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/TEXAS PLEDGE**
5. Board to consider and approve the agenda as presented
6. **Closed Session**
 - A. Acknowledge professional contracts
7. **Board to vote on items discussed in closed session**
8. **OPEN FORUM/AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**
9. **INFORMATION ITEMS**
 - A. **Bond Update**
 - B. **Finance Update**
 - C. **Curriculum Moment**

WESTWOOD ISD



Westwood's Finest

BE A PRIDEFUL PANTHER!

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READY |
Panthers are ready to learn!

POSITIVE |

Panthers will remain focused on the opportunities available in every challenge.

ACTIVE |

Panthers create a positive environment by being engaged and involved.

NOBLE |

Panthers treat others kindly and do the right things even when no one is watching.

TEAMWORK |

Panthers work together and lift each other up.

HEARTFUL |

Panthers are compassionate and are always thinking of others.

EXCELLENCE |

Panthers perform at their personal best and BELIEVE in themselves and others.



WESTWOOD INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT



August 2024 Curriculum Moment

4

Dr. Tracie Robinson
Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum,
Instruction and Leadership



Professional Learning 2024



- To provide authentic, enriching, and engaging learning experiences for all educators in Westwood ISD.
- Crafted to meet the unique needs of adult learners.



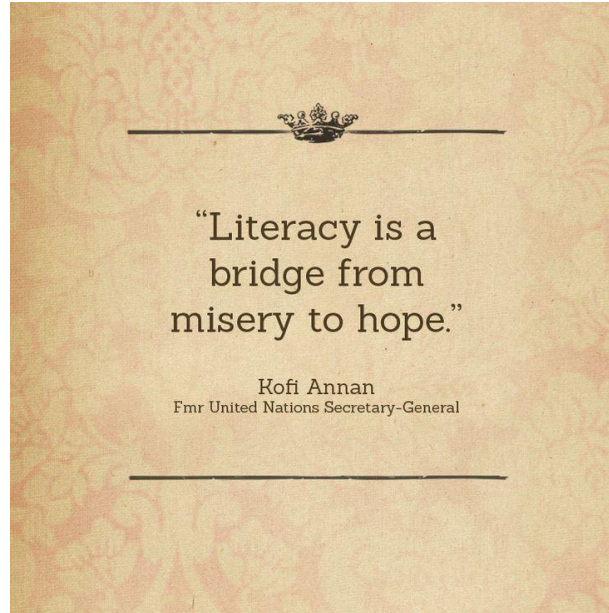
Professional Learning Westwood University



New Employee Academy

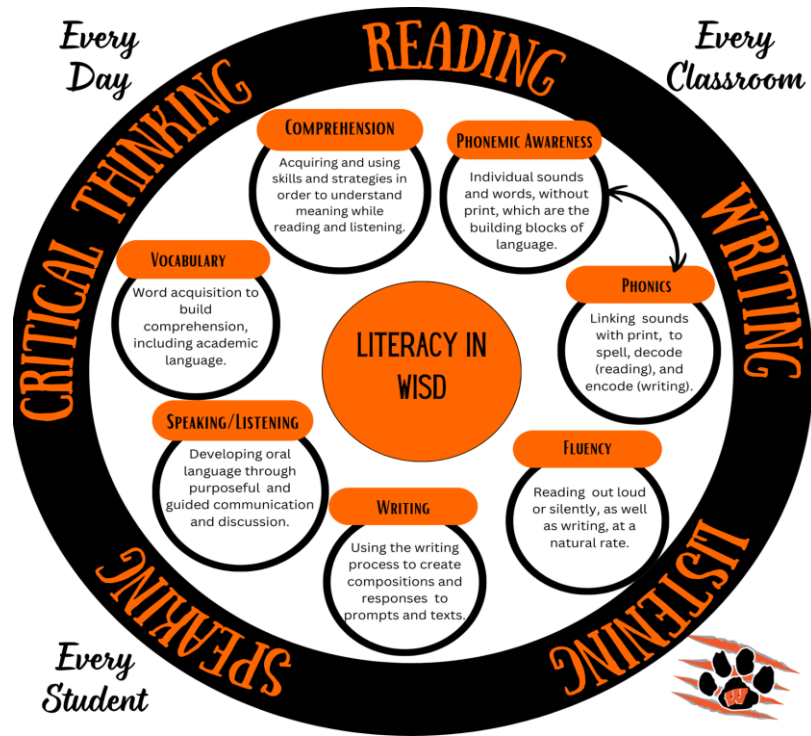


Focus on Literacy 2024-2025



Focus on Literacy

2024-2025



WESTWOOD ISD





Westwood ISD



Student Code of Conduct 2024–2025 School Year

If you have difficulty accessing the information in this document because of disability, please contact the district at ask@westwoodisd.net or (903) 729-1776.

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Westwood ISD Student Code of Conduct

2024-25 School Year

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Student Code of Conduct

Accessibility

If you have difficulty accessing the information in this document because of disability, please contact:

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Purpose

The Student Code of Conduct (“Code of Conduct”), as required by Chapter 37 of the Texas Education Code, provides methods and options for managing student behavior, preventing and intervening in student discipline problems, and imposing discipline.

The law requires the district to define misconduct that may—or must—result in a range of specific disciplinary consequences, including removal from a regular classroom or campus, out-of-school suspension, placement in a disciplinary alternative education program (DAEP), placement in a juvenile justice alternative education program (JJAEP), or expulsion from school.

This Code of Conduct has been adopted by the Westwood ISD board of trustees and developed with the advice of the district-level planning and decision-making committee. It provides information to parents and students regarding standards of conduct, consequences of misconduct, and procedures for administering discipline. This Code of Conduct remains in effect during summer school and at all school-related events and activities outside the school year until the board adopts an updated version for the next school year.

In accordance with state law, the Code of Conduct shall be posted at each school campus or shall be available for review at the campus principal’s office. Additionally, the Code of Conduct shall be available at the campus behavior coordinator’s office and posted on the district’s website. Parents shall be notified of any conduct violation that may result in a student being suspended, placed in a DAEP or JJAEP, expelled, or taken into custody by a law enforcement officer under Chapter 37 of the Education Code.

Because the Code of Conduct is adopted by the district’s board of trustees, it has the force of policy. In the event of a conflict between the Code of Conduct and the Student Handbook, the Code of Conduct shall prevail.

Please note: The discipline of students with disabilities who are eligible for services under federal law (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973) is subject to the provisions of those laws.

School District Authority and Jurisdiction

School rules and the district's authority to administer discipline apply whenever the interest of the district is involved, on or off school grounds, in conjunction with or independent of classes and school-sponsored activities.

The district has disciplinary authority over a student:

1. During the regular school day;
2. While the student is traveling on district transportation;
3. During lunch periods in which a student is allowed to leave campus;
4. At any school-related activity, regardless of time or location;
5. For any school-related misconduct, regardless of time or location;
6. When retaliation against a school employee, board member, or volunteer occurs or is threatened, regardless of time or location;
7. When a student engages in cyberbullying, as defined by Education Code 37.0832;
8. When criminal mischief is committed on or off school property or at a school-related event;
9. For certain offenses committed within 300 feet of school property as measured from any point on the school's real property boundary line;
10. For certain offenses committed while on school property or while attending a school-sponsored or school-related activity of another district in Texas;
11. When the student commits a felony, as provided by Education Code 37.006 or 37.0081; and
12. When the student is required to register as a sex offender.

Campus Behavior Coordinator

As required by law, a person at each campus must be designated to serve as the campus behavior coordinator (CBC). The designated person may be the principal or any other campus administrator selected by the principal. The CBC is primarily responsible for maintaining student discipline. The district shall post on its website and in the Student Handbook, for each campus, the email address and telephone number of the person serving as CBC. Contact information may be found at www.westwoodisd.net and at <https://www.westwoodisd.net/parents/student-code-of-conduct>.

Threat Assessment and Safe and Supportive School Team

The CBC or other appropriate administrator will work closely with the campus threat assessment and safe and supportive school team to implement the district's threat assessment policy and procedures, as required by law, and shall take appropriate disciplinary action in accordance with the Code of Conduct.

Searches

District officials may conduct searches of students, their belongings, and their vehicles in accordance with state and federal law and district policy. Searches of students shall be conducted in a reasonable and nondiscriminatory manner. Refer to the district's policies at FNF(LEGAL) and FNF(LOCAL) for more information regarding investigations and searches.

School District Authority and Jurisdiction

The district has the right to search a vehicle driven to school by a student and parked on school property whenever there is reasonable suspicion to believe it contains articles or materials prohibited by the district.

Desks, lockers, district-provided technology, and similar items are the property of the district and are provided for student use as a matter of convenience. District property is subject to search or inspection at any time without notice.

Reporting Crimes

The principal or CBC and other school administrators as appropriate shall report crimes as required by law and shall call local law enforcement when an administrator suspects that a crime has been committed on campus.

Security Personnel

The board utilizes district police officers to ensure the security and protection of students, staff, and property. In accordance with law, the board has coordinated with the CBC and other district employees to ensure appropriate law enforcement duties are assigned to these persons. Provisions addressing the various types of security personnel can be found in the CKE policy series.

The law enforcement duties of district police officers are

- Creating and maintaining safe, secure and orderly learning environments for students, teachers and staff.
- Establish a trusting channel of communication with the students, parents, and teachers.
- Serve as a positive role model to instill in student's good moral standards, good judgement and discretion, respect for other students, and a sincere concern for the school community.
- Promote citizen awareness of the law to enable students to become better informed and effective citizens, while empowering students with the knowledge of law enforcement efforts and obligations regarding enforcement as well as consequences for violations of the law.

“Parent” Defined

Throughout the Code of Conduct and related discipline policies, the term “parent” includes a parent, legal guardian, or other person having lawful control of the child.

Participating in Graduation Activities

The district has the right to limit a student’s participation in graduation activities for violating the district’s Code of Conduct.

Participation might include a speaking role, as established by district policy and procedures.

Students eligible to give the opening and closing remarks at graduation shall be notified by the campus principal. Notwithstanding any other eligibility requirements, in order to be considered eligible, a student shall not have engaged in any misconduct that resulted in an out-of-school suspension, removal to a DAEP, or expulsion during the semester immediately preceding graduation.

The valedictorian and salutatorian may also have speaking roles at graduation. No student shall be eligible to have such a speaking role if he or she engaged in any misconduct that resulted in an out-of-school suspension, removal to a DAEP, or expulsion during the semester immediately preceding graduation.

Unauthorized Persons

In accordance with Education Code 37.105, a school administrator, SRO, or district police officer shall have the authority to refuse entry to or eject a person from district property if the person refuses to leave peaceably on request and:

1. The person poses a substantial risk of harm to any person; or
2. The person behaves in a manner that is inappropriate for a school setting and persists in the behavior after being given a verbal warning that the behavior is inappropriate and may result in refusal of entry or ejection.

Appeals regarding refusal of entry or ejection from district property may be filed in accordance with policies FNG(LOCAL) or GF(LOCAL), as appropriate. However, the timelines for the district's grievance procedures shall be adjusted as necessary to permit the person to address the board in person within 90 calendar days, unless the complaint is resolved before a board hearing.

See **DAEP—Restrictions During Placement** on page 22 for information regarding a student assigned to DAEP at the time of graduation.

Standards for Student Conduct

Each student is expected to:

- Demonstrate courtesy, even when others do not.
- Behave in a responsible manner.
- Exercise self-discipline.
- Attend all classes regularly and on time.
- Bring appropriate materials and assignments to class.
- Meet district and campus standards of grooming and dress.
- Obey all campus and classroom rules.
- Respect the rights and privileges of students, teachers, and other district staff and volunteers.
- Respect the property of others, including district property and facilities.
- Cooperate with and assist the school staff in maintaining safety, order, and discipline.
- Adhere to the requirements of the Student Code of Conduct.

General Conduct Violations

The categories of conduct below are prohibited at school, in vehicles owned or operated by the district, and at all school-related activities, but the list does not include the most severe offenses. In the subsequent sections on **Out-of-School Suspension** on page 16, **DAEP Placement** on page 17, **Placement and/or Expulsion for Certain Offenses** on page 25, and **Expulsion** on page 28, those offenses that require or permit specific consequences are listed. Any offense, however, may be severe enough to result in **Removal from the Regular Educational Setting** as detailed on page 15.

Disregard for Authority

Students shall not:

- Fail to comply with directives given by school personnel.
- Leave school grounds or school-sponsored events without permission.
- Disobey rules for conduct in district vehicles.
- Refuse to accept discipline or consequence assigned by a teacher or principal.

Mistreatment of Others

Students shall not:

- Use profanity or vulgar language or make obscene gestures.
- Fight or scuffle. (For assault, see **DAEP—Placement and/or Expulsion for Certain Offenses** on page 25.)
- Threaten a district student, employee, or volunteer, including off school property if the conduct causes a substantial disruption to the educational environment.
- Engage in bullying, cyberbullying, harassment, or making hit lists. (See **glossary** for all four terms.)
- Release or threaten to release intimate visual material of a minor or a student who is 18 years of age or older without the student's consent.
- Engage in sexual or gender-based harassment or sexual abuse, whether by word, gesture, or any other conduct directed toward another person, including a district student, employee, board member, or volunteer.
- Engage in conduct that constitutes dating violence. (See **glossary**.)
- Engage in inappropriate or indecent exposure of private body parts.
- Participate in hazing. (See **glossary**.)
- Coerce an individual to act through the use or threat of force.
- Commit extortion or blackmail.
- Engage in inappropriate verbal, physical, or sexual conduct directed toward another person, including a district student, employee, or volunteer.
- Record the voice or image of another without the prior consent of the individual being recorded or in any way that disrupts the educational environment or invades the privacy of others.

Property Offenses

Students shall not:

- Damage or vandalize property owned by others. (For felony criminal mischief, see **DAEP— Placement and/or Expulsion for Certain Offenses** on page 25.)
- Deface or damage school property, including textbooks, technology and electronic resources, lockers, furniture, and other equipment, with graffiti or by other means.
- Steal from students, staff, or the school.
- Commit or assist in a robbery or theft, even if it does not constitute a felony according to the Penal Code. (For felony robbery, aggravated robbery, and theft, see **DAEP— Placement and/or Expulsion for Certain Offenses** on page 25.)
- Enter, without authorization, district facilities that are not open for operations.

Possession of Prohibited Items

Students shall not possess or use:

- Fireworks of any kind, smoke or stink bombs, or any other pyrotechnic device;
- A razor, box cutter, chain, or any other object used in a way that threatens or inflicts bodily injury to another person;
- A “look-alike” weapon that is intended to be used as a weapon or could reasonably be perceived as a weapon;
- An air gun or BB gun;
- Ammunition;
- A hand instrument designed to cut or stab another by being thrown;
- A firearm silencer or suppressor;
- *A location-restricted knife;
- *A club;
- *A firearm;
- A stun gun;
- Knuckles;
- A pocketknife or any other small knife;
- Mace or pepper spray;
- Pornographic material;
- Tobacco products, cigarettes, e-cigarettes, and any component, part, or accessory for an e-cigarette device;
- Matches or a lighter;
- A laser pointer, unless it is for an approved use; or
- Any articles not generally considered to be weapons, including school supplies, when the principal or designee determines that a danger exists.

*For weapons and firearms, see **DAEP—Placement and/or Expulsion for Certain Offenses** on page 25. In many circumstances, possession of these items is punishable by mandatory expulsion under federal or state law.

Possession of Telecommunications or Other Electronic Devices

Students shall not:

- Use a telecommunications device, including a cell phone, or other electronic device in violation of district and campus rules.

Illegal, Prescription, and Over-the-Counter Drugs

Students shall not:

- Possess, use, give, or sell alcohol or an illegal drug. (Also see **DAEP Placement** on page 17 and **Expulsion** on page 28 for mandatory and permissive consequences under state law.)
- Possess or sell seeds or pieces of marijuana in less than a usable amount.
- Possess, use, give, or sell paraphernalia related to any prohibited substance. (See **glossary** for “paraphernalia.”)
- Possess, use, abuse, or sell look-alike drugs or attempt to pass items off as drugs or contraband.
- Abuse the student’s own prescription drug, give a prescription drug to another student, or possess or be under the influence of another person’s prescription drug on school property or at a school-related event. (See **glossary** for “abuse.”)
- Abuse over-the-counter drugs. (See **glossary** for “abuse.”)
- Be under the influence of prescription or over-the-counter drugs that cause impairment to body or mind. (See **glossary** for “under the influence.”)
- Have or take prescription drugs or over-the-counter drugs at school other than as provided by district policy.

Misuse of Technology Resources and the Internet

Students shall not:

- Violate policies, rules, or agreements signed by the student or the student’s parent regarding the use of technology resources.
- Attempt to access or circumvent passwords or other security-related information of the district, students, or employees or upload or create computer viruses, including off school property if the conduct causes a substantial disruption to the educational environment.
- Attempt to alter, destroy, or disable district technology resources including, but not limited to, computers and related equipment, district data, the data of others, or other networks connected to the district’s system, including off school property if the conduct causes a substantial disruption to the educational environment.
- Use the internet or other electronic communications to threaten or harass district students, employees, board members, or volunteers, including off school property if the conduct causes a substantial disruption to the educational environment or infringes on the rights of another student at school.

General Conduct Violations

- Send, post, deliver, or possess electronic messages that are abusive, obscene, sexually oriented, threatening, harassing, damaging to another's reputation, or illegal, including cyberbullying and "sexting," either on or off school property, if the conduct causes a substantial disruption to the educational environment or infringes on the rights of another student at school.
- Use the internet or other electronic communication to engage in or encourage illegal behavior or threaten school safety, including off school property if the conduct causes a substantial disruption to the educational environment or infringes on the rights of another student at school.

Safety Transgressions

Students shall not:

- Possess published or electronic material that is designed to promote or encourage illegal behavior or that could threaten school safety.
- Engage in verbal (oral or written) exchanges that threaten the safety of another student, a school employee, or school property.
- Make false accusations or perpetrate hoaxes regarding school safety.
- Engage in any conduct that school officials might reasonably believe will substantially disrupt the school program or incite violence.
- Throw objects that can cause bodily injury or property damage.
- Discharge a fire extinguisher without valid cause.

Miscellaneous Offenses

Students shall not:

- Violate dress and grooming standards as communicated in the Student Handbook.
- Engage in academic dishonesty, which includes cheating or copying the work of another student, plagiarism, and unauthorized communication between students during an examination.
- Gamble.
- Falsify records, passes, or other school-related documents.
- Engage in actions or demonstrations that substantially disrupt or materially interfere with school activities.
- Repeatedly violate other communicated campus or classroom standards of conduct.

The district may impose campus or classroom rules in addition to those found in the Code of Conduct. These rules may be posted in classrooms or given to the student and may or may not constitute violations of the Code of Conduct.

Discipline Management Techniques

Discipline shall be designed to improve conduct and encourage students to be responsible members of the school community. Disciplinary action shall draw on the professional judgment of teachers and administrators and on a range of discipline management techniques, including restorative practices. Discipline shall be based on the seriousness of the offense, the student's age and grade level, the frequency of misbehavior, the student's attitude, the effect of the misconduct on the school environment, and statutory requirements.

Students with Disabilities

The discipline of students with disabilities is subject to applicable state and federal law in addition to the Code of Conduct. In the event of any conflict, the district shall comply with federal law. For more information regarding discipline of students with disabilities, see policy FOF(LEGAL).

In accordance with the Education Code, a student who receives special education services may not be disciplined for conduct meeting the definition of bullying, cyberbullying, harassment, or making hit lists (see **glossary**) until an Admission, Review, and Dismissal (ARD) committee meeting has been held to review the conduct.

In deciding whether to order suspension, DAEP placement, or expulsion, regardless of whether the action is mandatory or discretionary, the district shall take into consideration a disability that substantially impairs the student's capacity to appreciate the wrongfulness of the student's conduct.

Techniques

The following discipline management techniques may be used alone, in combination, or as part of progressive interventions for behavior prohibited by the Code of Conduct or by campus or classroom rules:

- Verbal correction, oral or written.
- Cooling-off time or a brief "time-out" period, in accordance with law.
- Seating changes within the classroom or vehicles owned or operated by the district.
- Temporary confiscation of items that disrupt the educational process.
- Rewards or demerits.
- Behavioral contracts.
- Counseling by teachers, school counselors, or administrative personnel.
- Parent-teacher conferences.
- Behavior coaching.
- Anger management classes.
- Mediation (victim-offender).
- Classroom circles.
- Family group conferencing.
- Grade reductions for cheating, plagiarism, and as otherwise permitted by policy.

Discipline Management Techniques

- Detention, including outside regular school hours.
- Sending the student to the office, another assigned area, or to in-school suspension (ISS).
- Assignment of school duties, such as cleaning or picking up litter.
- Withdrawal of privileges, such as participation in extracurricular activities, eligibility for seeking and holding honorary offices, or membership in school-sponsored clubs and organizations.
- Penalties identified in student organizations' extracurricular standards of behavior.
- Restriction or revocation of district transportation privileges.
- School-assessed and school-administered probation.
- Corporal punishment, unless the student's parent or guardian has provided a signed statement prohibiting its use.
- Out-of-school suspension, as specified in **Out-of-School Suspension** on page 16.
- Placement in a DAEP, as specified in **DAEP** on page 17.
- Expulsion and/or placement in an alternative educational setting, as specified in **Placement and/or Expulsion for Certain Offenses** on page 25.
- Expulsion, as specified in **Expulsion** on page 28.
- Referral to an outside agency or legal authority for criminal prosecution in addition to disciplinary measures imposed by the district.
- Other strategies and consequences as determined by school officials.

Prohibited Aversive Techniques

Aversive techniques are prohibited for use with students and are defined as techniques or interventions intended to reduce the reoccurrence of a behavior by intentionally inflicting significant physical or emotional discomfort or pain. Aversive techniques include:

- Using techniques designed or likely to cause physical pain, other than corporal punishment as permitted by district policy. [See policy FO(LOCAL).]
- Using techniques designed or likely to cause physical pain by electric shock or any procedure involving pressure points or joint locks.
- Directed release of noxious, toxic, or unpleasant spray, mist, or substance near a student's face.
- Denying adequate sleep, air, food, water, shelter, bedding, physical comfort, supervision, or access to a restroom facility.
- Ridiculing or demeaning a student in a manner that adversely affects or endangers the learning or mental health of the student or constitutes verbal abuse.
- Employing a device, material, or object that immobilizes all four of a student's extremities, including prone or supine floor restraint.
- Impairing the student's breathing, including applying pressure to the student's torso or neck or placing something in, on, or over the student's mouth or nose or covering the student's face.

Discipline Management Techniques

- Restricting the student's circulation.
- Securing the student to a stationary object while the student is standing or sitting.
- Inhibiting, reducing, or hindering the student's ability to communicate.
- Using chemical restraints.
- Using time-out in a manner that prevents the student from being able to be involved in and progress appropriately in the required curriculum or any applicable individualized education program (IEP) goals, including isolating the student using physical barriers.
- Depriving the student of one or more of the student's senses, unless the technique does not cause the student discomfort or complies with the student's IEP or behavior intervention plan (BIP).

Notification

The CBC shall promptly notify a student's parent by phone or in person of any violation that may result in in-school or out-of-school suspension, placement in a DAEP, placement in a JJAEP, or expulsion. The CBC shall also notify a student's parent if the student is taken into custody by a law enforcement officer under the disciplinary provisions of the Education Code.

A good-faith effort shall be made to provide written notice of the disciplinary action to the student, on the day the action was taken, for delivery to the student's parent. If the parent has not been reached by telephone or in person by 5:00 p.m. of the first business day after the day the disciplinary action was taken, the CBC shall send written notification by U.S. Mail. If the CBC is not able to provide notice to the parent, the principal or designee shall provide the notice.

Before the principal or appropriate administrator assigns a student under age 18 to detention outside regular school hours, notice shall be given to the student's parent to inform him or her of the reason for the detention and permit arrangements for necessary transportation.

Appeals

Questions from parents regarding disciplinary measures should be addressed to the teacher, campus administration, or CBC, as appropriate. Appeals or complaints regarding the use of specific discipline management techniques should be addressed in accordance with policy FNG(LOCAL). A copy of the policy may be obtained from the principal's office, the CBC's office, or the central administration office or through Policy Online® at the following address: www.westwoodisd.net

The district shall not delay a disciplinary consequence while a student or parent pursues a grievance. In the instance of a student who is accused of conduct that meets the definition of sexual harassment as defined by Title IX, the district will comply with applicable federal law, including the Title IX formal complaint process. See policies FFH(LEGAL) and (LOCAL).

Removal from the School Bus

A bus driver may refer a student to the principal's office or the CBC's office to maintain effective discipline on the bus. The principal or CBC must employ additional discipline management techniques, as appropriate, which can include restricting or revoking a student's bus riding privileges.

To transport students safely, the vehicle operator must focus on driving and not be distracted by student misbehavior. Therefore, when appropriate disciplinary management techniques fail to improve student behavior or when specific misconduct warrants immediate removal, the principal or the CBC may restrict or revoke a student's transportation privileges, in accordance with law.

Removal from the Regular Educational Setting

In addition to other discipline management techniques, misconduct may result in removal from the regular educational setting in the form of a routine referral or a formal removal.

Routine Referral

A routine referral occurs when a teacher sends a student to the CBC's office as a discipline management technique. The CBC shall employ alternative discipline management techniques, including progressive interventions. A teacher or administrator may remove a student from class for behavior that violates this Code of Conduct to maintain effective discipline in the classroom.

Formal Removal

A teacher may initiate a formal removal from class if:

1. A student's behavior has been documented by the teacher as repeatedly interfering with the teacher's ability to teach the class or with other students' ability to learn; or
2. The behavior is so unruly, disruptive, or abusive that the teacher cannot teach, and the students in the classroom cannot learn.

Within three school days of the formal removal, the CBC or appropriate administrator shall schedule a conference with the student's parent, the student, the teacher who removed the student from class, and any other appropriate administrator.

At the conference, the CBC or appropriate administrator shall inform the student of the alleged misconduct and the proposed consequences. The student shall have an opportunity to respond to the allegations.

When a student is removed from the regular classroom by a teacher and a conference is pending, the CBC or other administrator may place the student in:

- Another appropriate classroom.
- ISS.
- Out-of-school suspension.
- DAEP.

A teacher or administrator must remove a student from class if the student engages in behavior that under the Education Code requires or permits the student to be placed in a DAEP or expelled. When removing for those reasons, the procedures in the subsequent sections on DAEP or expulsion shall be followed.

Returning a Student to the Classroom

A student who has been formally removed from class by a teacher for conduct against the teacher containing the elements of assault, aggravated assault, sexual assault, or aggravated sexual assault may not be returned to the teacher's class without the teacher's consent.

A student who has been formally removed by a teacher for any other conduct may be returned to the teacher's class without the teacher's consent if the placement review committee determines that the teacher's class is the best or only alternative available.

Out-of-School Suspension

Misconduct

Students may be suspended for behavior listed in the Code of Conduct as a general conduct violation, DAEP offense, or expellable offense.

The district shall not use out-of-school suspension for students in grade 2 or below unless the conduct meets the requirements established in law.

A student below grade 3 or a student who is homeless shall not be placed in out-of-school suspension unless, while on school property or while attending a school-sponsored or school-related activity on or off school property, the student engages in:

- Conduct that contains the elements of a weapons offense, as provided in Penal Code sections 46.02 or 46.05;
- Conduct that contains the elements of assault, sexual assault, aggravated assault, or aggravated sexual assault, as provided by the Penal Code; or
- Selling, giving, or delivering to another person or possessing, using, or being under the influence of any amount of marijuana, an alcoholic beverage, or a controlled substance or dangerous drug as defined by federal or state law.

The district shall use a positive behavior program as a disciplinary alternative for students below grade 3 who commit general conduct violations instead of suspension or placement in a DAEP. The program shall meet the requirements of law.

Process

State law allows a student to be suspended for no more than three school days per behavior violation, with no limit on the number of times a student may be suspended in a semester or school year.

Before being suspended a student shall have an informal conference with the CBC or appropriate administrator, who shall inform the student of the alleged misconduct and give the student an opportunity to respond to the allegation before the administrator makes a decision.

The CBC shall determine the number of days of a student's suspension, not to exceed three school days.

In deciding whether to order out-of-school suspension, the CBC shall take into consideration:

1. Self-defense (see **glossary**),
2. Intent or lack of intent at the time the student engaged in the conduct,
3. The student's disciplinary history,
4. A disability that substantially impairs the student's capacity to appreciate the wrongfulness of the student's conduct,
5. A student's status in the conservatorship of the Department of Family and Protective Services (foster care), or
6. A student's status as homeless.

The appropriate administrator shall determine any restrictions on participation in school-sponsored or school-related extracurricular and cocurricular activities.

Coursework During Suspension

The district shall ensure a student receives access to coursework for foundation curriculum courses while the student is placed in in-school or out-of-school suspension, including at least one method of receiving this coursework that doesn't require the use of the internet.

A student removed from the regular classroom to ISS or another setting, other than a DAEP, will have an opportunity before the beginning of the next school year to complete each course the student was enrolled in at the time of removal. The district may provide the opportunity by any method available, including a correspondence course, another distance learning option, or summer school. The district will not charge the student for any method of completion provided by the district.

Disciplinary Alternative Education Program (DAEP) Placement

Disciplinary Alternative Education Program (DAEP) Placement

The DAEP shall be provided in a setting other than the student's regular classroom. An elementary school student may not be placed in a DAEP with a student who is not an elementary school student.

For purposes of DAEP, elementary classification shall be kindergarten–grade 6 and secondary classification shall be grades 7–12.

Summer programs provided by the district shall serve students assigned to a DAEP in conjunction with other students.

A student who is expelled for an offense that otherwise would have resulted in a DAEP placement does not have to be placed in a DAEP in addition to the expulsion.

In deciding whether to place a student in a DAEP, regardless of whether the action is mandatory or discretionary, the CBC shall take into consideration:

1. Self-defense (see **glossary**),
2. Intent or lack of intent at the time the student engaged in the conduct,
3. The student's disciplinary history,
4. A disability that substantially impairs the student's capacity to appreciate the wrongfulness of the student's conduct,
5. A student's status in the conservatorship of the Department of Family and Protective Services (foster care), or
6. A student's status as homeless.

Discretionary Placement: Misconduct That May Result in DAEP Placement

A student may be placed in a DAEP for the following conduct violations:

Misconduct Identified in State Law

In accordance with state law, a student **may** be placed in a DAEP for any of the following offenses:

- Engaging in bullying that encourages a student to commit or attempt to commit suicide.
- Inciting violence against a student through group bullying.
- Releasing or threatening to release intimate visual material of a minor or of a student who is 18 years of age or older without the student's consent.
- Involvement in a public school fraternity, sorority, or secret society, or gang including participating as a member or pledge, or soliciting another person to become a pledge or member of a public school fraternity, sorority, secret society, or gang. (See **glossary**.)
- Involvement in criminal street gang activity. (See **glossary**.)
- Any criminal mischief, including a felony.
- Assault (no bodily injury) with threat of imminent bodily injury.
- Assault by offensive or provocative physical contact.

Disciplinary Alternative Education Program (DAEP) Placement

In accordance with state law, a student **may** be placed in a DAEP if the superintendent or the superintendent's designee has reasonable belief (see **glossary**) that the student engaged in conduct punishable as a felony, other than aggravated robbery or those listed as offenses in Title 5 (see **glossary**) of the Penal Code, that occurs off school property and not at a school-sponsored or school-related event, if the student's presence in the regular classroom threatens the safety of other students or teachers or will be detrimental to the educational process.

The CBC **may** place a student in a DAEP for off-campus conduct for which DAEP placement is required by state law if the administrator does not have knowledge of the conduct before the first anniversary of the date the conduct occurred.

Mandatory Placement: Misconduct That Requires DAEP Placement

A student **must** be placed in a DAEP if the student:

- Engages in conduct relating to a false alarm or report (including a bomb threat) or a terroristic threat involving a public school. (See **glossary**.)
- Commits the following offenses on school property, within 300 feet of school property as measured from any point on the school's real property boundary line, or while attending a school-sponsored or school-related activity on or off school property:
 - Engages in conduct punishable as a felony.
 - Commits an assault (see **glossary**) under Penal Code 22.01(a)(1).
 - Sells, gives, or delivers to another person or possesses, uses, or is under the influence of a controlled substance or dangerous drug in an amount not constituting a felony offense. (School-related felony drug offenses are addressed in **Expulsion** on page 28.) (See **glossary** for "under the influence", "controlled substance," and "dangerous drug.")
 - Sells, gives, or delivers to another person or possesses, uses, or is under the influence of marijuana or THC. A student with a valid prescription for low-THC cannabis as authorized by Chapter 487 of the Health and Safety Code does not violate this provision.
 - Sells, gives, or delivers to another person an alcoholic beverage; commits a serious act or offense while under the influence of alcohol; or possesses, uses, or is under the influence of alcohol.
 - Behaves in a manner that contains the elements of an offense relating to abusable volatile chemicals.
 - Sells, gives, or delivers to another person or possesses or uses an e-cigarette.
 - Behaves in a manner that contains the elements of the offense of public lewdness or indecent exposure. (See **glossary**.)
 - Engages in conduct that contains the elements of an offense of harassment against an employee under Penal Code 42.07(a)(1), (2), (3), or (7).
- Engages in expellable conduct and is six to nine years of age.
- Commits a federal firearms violation and is younger than six years of age.
- Engages in conduct that contains the elements of the offense of retaliation against any school employee or volunteer on or off school property. (Committing retaliation in combination with another expellable offense is addressed in **Expulsion** on page 28.)

Disciplinary Alternative Education Program (DAEP) Placement

- Engages in conduct punishable as aggravated robbery or a felony listed under Title 5 (see **glossary**) of the Penal Code when the conduct occurs off school property and not at a school-sponsored or school-related event and:
 1. The student receives deferred prosecution (see **glossary**),
 2. A court or jury finds that the student has engaged in delinquent conduct (see **glossary**), or
 3. The superintendent or designee has a reasonable belief (see **glossary**) that the student engaged in the conduct.

Sexual Assault and Campus Assignments

A student shall be transferred to another campus if:

- The student has been convicted of continuous sexual abuse of a young child or disabled individual or convicted of or placed on deferred adjudication for sexual assault or aggravated sexual assault against another student on the same campus; and
- The victim's parent or another person with the authority to act on behalf of the victim requests that the board transfer the offending student to another campus.

If there is no other campus in the district serving the grade level of the offending student, the offending student shall be transferred to a DAEP.

Process

Removals to a DAEP shall be made by the CBC.

Conference

When a student is removed from class for a DAEP offense, the CBC or appropriate administrator shall schedule a conference within three school days with the student's parent, the student, and, in the case of a teacher removal, the teacher.

At the conference, the CBC or appropriate administrator shall provide the student:

- Information, orally or in writing, of the reasons for the removal;
- An explanation of the basis for the removal; and
- An opportunity to respond to the reasons for the removal.

Following valid attempts to require attendance, the district may hold the conference and make a placement decision regardless of whether the student or the student's parents attend the conference.

Consideration of Mitigating Factors

In deciding whether to place a student in a DAEP, regardless of whether the action is mandatory or discretionary, the CBC shall take into consideration:

1. Self-defense (see **glossary**),
2. Intent or lack of intent at the time the student engaged in the conduct,
3. The student's disciplinary history,
4. A disability that substantially impairs the student's capacity to appreciate the wrongfulness of the student's conduct,

Disciplinary Alternative Education Program (DAEP) Placement

5. A student's status in the conservatorship of the Department of Family and Protective Services (foster care), or
6. A student's status as homeless.

Placement Order

After the conference, if the student is placed in a DAEP, the CBC shall write a placement order. A copy of the DAEP placement order and information for the parent or person standing in parental relation to the student regarding the process for requesting a full individual and initial evaluation of the student for purposes of special education services shall be sent to the student and the student's parent.

Not later than the second business day after the conference, the board's designee shall deliver to the juvenile court a copy of the placement order and all information required by Section 52.04 of the Family Code.

If the student is placed in a DAEP and the length of placement is inconsistent with the guidelines included in this Code of Conduct, the placement order shall give notice of the inconsistency.

DAEP at Capacity

If a DAEP is at capacity at the time the CBC is deciding placement for conduct related to marijuana, THC, an e-cigarette, alcohol, or an abusable volatile chemical, the student shall be placed in ISS then transferred to a DAEP for the remainder of the period if space becomes available before the expiration of the period of the placement.

If a DAEP is at capacity at the time the CBC is deciding placement for a student who engaged in violent conduct, a student placed in a DAEP for conduct related to marijuana, THC, an e-cigarette, alcohol, or an abusable volatile chemical may be placed in ISS to make a position in the DAEP available for the student who engaged in violent conduct. If a position becomes available in a DAEP before the expiration of the period of the placement for the student removed, the student shall be returned to a DAEP for the remainder of the period.

Coursework Notice

The parent or guardian of a student placed in DAEP shall be given written notice of the student's opportunity to complete, at no cost to the student, a foundation curriculum course in which the student was enrolled at the time of removal and which is required for graduation. The notice shall include information regarding all methods available for completing the coursework.

Length of Placement

The CBC shall determine the duration of a student's placement in a DAEP.

The duration of a student's placement shall be determined case by case based on the seriousness of the offense, the student's age and grade level, the frequency of misconduct, the student's attitude, and statutory requirements.

The maximum period of DAEP placement shall be one calendar year, except as provided below.

Unless otherwise specified in the placement order, days absent from a DAEP shall not count toward fulfilling the total number of days required in a student's DAEP placement order.

Disciplinary Alternative Education Program (DAEP) Placement

The district shall administer the required pre- and post-assessments for students assigned to DAEP for a period of 90 days or longer in accordance with established district administrative procedures for administering other diagnostic or benchmark assessments.

Exceeds One Year

Placement in a DAEP may exceed one year when a review by the district determines that the student is a threat to the safety of other students or to district employees.

The statutory limitations on the length of a DAEP placement do not apply to a placement resulting from the board's decision to place a student who engaged in the sexual assault of another student so that the students are not assigned to the same campus.

Exceeds School Year

Students who are in a DAEP placement at the end of one school year may be required to continue that placement at the start of the next school year to complete the assigned term of placement.

For placement in a DAEP to extend beyond the end of the school year, the CBC or the board's designee must determine that:

1. The student's presence in the regular classroom or campus presents a danger of physical harm to the student or others, or
2. The student has engaged in serious or persistent misbehavior (see **glossary**) that violates the district's Code of Conduct.

Exceeds 60 Days

For placement in a DAEP to extend beyond 60 days or the end of the next grading period, whichever is sooner, a student's parent shall be given notice and the opportunity to participate in a proceeding before the board or the board's designee.

Appeals

Questions from parents regarding disciplinary measures should be addressed to the campus administration.

Student or parent appeals regarding a student's placement in a DAEP should be addressed in accordance with policy FNG(LOCAL). A copy of this policy may be obtained from the principal's office, the CBC's office, the central administration office, or through Policy Online® at the following address: www.westwoodisd.net

Appeals shall begin at Level One with the campus principal.

The district shall not delay disciplinary consequences pending the outcome of an appeal. The decision to place a student in a DAEP cannot be appealed beyond the board.

Restrictions During Placement

State law prohibits a student placed in a DAEP for reasons specified in state law from attending or participating in school-sponsored or school-related extracurricular activities.

Disciplinary Alternative Education Program (DAEP) Placement

A student placed in a DAEP shall not be provided transportation unless he or she is a student with a disability who is entitled to transportation in accordance with the student's IEP or Section 504 plan.

For seniors who are eligible to graduate and are assigned to a DAEP at the time of graduation, the last day of placement in the program shall be the last instructional day, and the student shall be allowed to participate in the graduation ceremony and related graduation activities unless otherwise specified in the DAEP placement order.

Placement Review

A student placed in a DAEP shall be provided a review of his or her status, including academic status, by the CBC or the board's designee at intervals not to exceed 120 days. In the case of a high school student, the student's progress toward graduation and the student's graduation plan shall also be reviewed. At the review, the student or the student's parent shall be given the opportunity to present arguments for the student's return to the regular classroom or campus. The student may not be returned to the classroom of a teacher who removed the student without that teacher's consent.

Additional Misconduct

If during the term of placement in a DAEP the student engages in additional misconduct for which placement in a DAEP or expulsion is required or permitted, additional proceedings may be conducted, and the CBC may enter an additional disciplinary order as a result of those proceedings.

Notice of Criminal Proceedings

When a student is placed in a DAEP for certain offenses, the office of the prosecuting attorney shall notify the district if:

1. Prosecution of a student's case was refused for lack of prosecutorial merit or insufficient evidence, and no formal proceedings, deferred adjudication (see **glossary**), or deferred prosecution will be initiated, or
2. The court or jury found a student not guilty or made a finding that the student did not engage in delinquent conduct or conduct indicating a need for supervision, and the case was dismissed with prejudice.

If a student was placed in a DAEP for such conduct, on receiving the notice from the prosecutor, the superintendent or designee shall review the student's placement and schedule a review with the student's parent not later than the third day after the superintendent or designee receives notice from the prosecutor. The student may not be returned to the regular classroom pending the review.

After reviewing the notice and receiving information from the student's parent, the superintendent or designee may continue the student's placement if there is reason to believe that the presence of the student in the regular classroom threatens the safety of other students or teachers.

The student or the student's parent may appeal the superintendent's decision to the board. The student may not be returned to the regular classroom pending the appeal. In the case of an appeal, the board shall, at the next scheduled meeting, review the notice from the prosecutor and receive information from the student, the student's parent, and the superintendent or

Disciplinary Alternative Education Program (DAEP) Placement

designee, and confirm or reverse the decision of the superintendent or designee. The board shall make a record of the proceedings.

If the board confirms the decision of the superintendent or designee, the student and the student's parent may appeal to the Commissioner of Education. The student may not be returned to the regular classroom pending the appeal.

Withdrawal During Process

When a student violates the district's Code of Conduct in a way that requires or permits the student to be placed in a DAEP and the student withdraws from the district before a placement order is completed, the CBC may complete the proceedings and issue a placement order. If the student then re-enrolls in the district during the same or a subsequent school year, the district may enforce the order at that time, less any period of the placement that has been served by the student during enrollment in another district. If the CBC or the board fails to issue a placement order after the student withdraws, the next district in which the student enrolls may complete the proceedings and issue a placement order.

Newly Enrolled Students

The district shall continue the DAEP placement of a student who enrolls in the district and was assigned to a DAEP in an open-enrollment charter school or another district including a district in another state.

When a student enrolls in the district with a DAEP placement from a district in another state, the district has the right to place the student in DAEP to the same extent as any other newly enrolled student if the behavior committed is a reason for DAEP placement in the receiving district.

State law requires the district to reduce a placement imposed by a district in another state that exceeds one year so that the total placement does not exceed one year. After a review, however, the placement may be extended beyond a year if the district determines that the student is a threat to the safety of other students or employees or the extended placement is in the best interest of the student.

Emergency Placement Procedure

When an emergency placement is necessary because the student's behavior is so unruly, disruptive, or abusive that it seriously interferes with classroom or school operations, the student shall be given oral notice of the reason for the action. Not later than the tenth day after the date of the placement, the student shall be given the appropriate conference required for assignment to a DAEP.

Transition Services

In accordance with law and district procedures, campus staff shall provide transition services to a student returning to the regular classroom from an alternative education program, including a DAEP. See policy FOCA(LEGAL) for more information.

Placement and/or Expulsion for Certain Offenses

This section includes two categories of offenses for which the Education Code provides unique procedures and specific consequences.

Registered Sex Offenders

Upon receiving notification in accordance with state law that a student is currently required to register as a sex offender, the district must remove the student from the regular classroom and determine appropriate placement unless the court orders JJAEP placement.

If the student is under any form of court supervision, including probation, community supervision, or parole, the student shall be placed in either DAEP or JJAEP for at least one semester.

If the student is not under any form of court supervision, the student may be placed in DAEP or JJAEP for one semester or placed in a regular classroom. The student may not be placed in the regular classroom if the board or its designee determines that the student's presence:

1. Threatens the safety of other students or teachers,
2. Will be detrimental to the educational process, or
3. Is not in the best interests of the district's students.

Review Committee

At the end of the first semester of a student's placement in an alternative educational setting and before the beginning of each school year for which the student remains in an alternative placement, the district shall convene a committee, in accordance with state law, to review the student's placement. The committee shall recommend whether the student should return to the regular classroom or remain in the placement. Absent a special finding, the board or its designee must follow the committee's recommendation.

The placement review of a student with a disability who receives special education services must be made by the ARD committee.

Newly Enrolled Students

If a student enrolls in the district during a mandatory placement as a registered sex offender, the district may count any time already spent by the student in a placement or may require an additional semester in an alternative placement without conducting a review of the placement.

Appeal

A student or the student's parent may appeal the placement by requesting a conference between the board or its designee, the student, and the student's parent. The conference is limited to the factual question of whether the student is required to register as a sex offender. Any decision of the board or its designee under this section is final and may not be appealed.

Certain Felonies

Regardless of whether DAEP placement or expulsion is required or permitted by one of the reasons in the DAEP Placement or Expulsion sections, in accordance with Education Code 37.0081, a student may be expelled and placed in either DAEP or JJAEP if the board or CBC makes certain findings and the following circumstances exist in relation to aggravated robbery or a felony offense under Title 5 (see **glossary**) of the Penal Code. The student must have:

Placement and/or Expulsion for Certain Offenses

- Received deferred prosecution for conduct defined as aggravated robbery or a Title 5 felony offense;
- Been found by a court or jury to have engaged in delinquent conduct for conduct defined as aggravated robbery or a Title 5 felony offense;
- Been charged with engaging in conduct defined as aggravated robbery or a Title 5 felony offense;
- Been referred to a juvenile court for allegedly engaging in delinquent conduct for conduct defined as aggravated robbery or a Title 5 felony offense; or
- Received probation or deferred adjudication or have been arrested for, charged with, or convicted of aggravated robbery or a Title 5 felony offense.

The district may expel the student and order placement under these circumstances regardless of:

1. The date on which the student's conduct occurred,
2. The location at which the conduct occurred,
3. Whether the conduct occurred while the student was enrolled in the district, or
4. Whether the student has successfully completed any court disposition requirements imposed in connection with the conduct.

Hearing and Required Findings

The student must first have a hearing before the board or its designee, who must determine that in addition to the circumstances above that allow for the expulsion, the student's presence in the regular classroom:

1. Threatens the safety of other students or teachers,
2. Will be detrimental to the educational process, or
3. Is not in the best interest of the district's students.

Any decision of the board or the board's designee under this section is final and may not be appealed.

Length of Placement

The student is subject to the placement until:

1. The student graduates from high school,
2. The charges are dismissed or reduced to a misdemeanor offense, or
3. The student completes the term of the placement or is assigned to another program.

Placement Review

A student placed in a DAEP or JJAEP under this section is entitled to a review of his or her status, including academic status, by the CBC or board's designee at intervals not to exceed 120 days. In the case of a high school student, the student's progress toward graduation and the student's graduation plan shall also be reviewed. At the review, the student or the student's parent shall have the opportunity to present arguments for the student's return to the regular classroom or campus.

Placement and/or Expulsion for Certain Offenses

Newly Enrolled Students

A student who enrolls in the district before completing a placement under this section from another school district must complete the term of the placement.

Expulsion

In deciding whether to order expulsion, regardless of whether the action is mandatory or discretionary, the CBC shall take into consideration:

1. Self-defense (see **glossary**),
2. Intent or lack of intent at the time the student engaged in the conduct,
3. The student's disciplinary history,
4. A disability that substantially impairs the student's capacity to appreciate the wrongfulness of the student's conduct,
5. A student's status in the conservatorship of the Department of Family and Protective Services (foster care), or
6. A student's status as homeless.

Discretionary Expulsion: Misconduct That May Result in Expulsion

Some of the following types of misconduct may result in mandatory placement in a DAEP, whether or not a student is expelled. (See **DAEP Placement** on page 17.)

Any Location

A student **may** be expelled for:

- Engaging in bullying that encourages a student to commit or attempt to commit suicide.
- Inciting violence against a student through group bullying.
- Releasing or threatening to release intimate visual material of a minor or of a student who is 18 years of age or older without the student's consent.
- Conduct that contains the elements of assault under Penal Code 22.01(a)(1) in retaliation against a school employee or volunteer.
- Criminal mischief, if punishable as a felony.
- Engaging in conduct that contains the elements of one of the following offenses against another student:
 - Aggravated assault.
 - Sexual assault.
 - Aggravated sexual assault.
 - Murder.
 - Capital murder.
 - Criminal attempt to commit murder or capital murder.
 - Aggravated robbery.
- Breach of computer security. (See **glossary**.)
- Engaging in conduct relating to a false alarm or report (including a bomb threat) or a terroristic threat involving a public school.

At School, Within 300 Feet, or at a School Event

A student **may** be expelled for committing any of the following offenses on or within 300 feet of school property, as measured from any point on the school's real property boundary line, or while attending a school-sponsored or school-related activity on or off school property:

- Selling, giving, or delivering to another person, or possessing, using, or being under the influence of any amount of marijuana, a controlled substance, or a dangerous drug, A student with a valid prescription for low-THC cannabis as authorized by Chapter 487 of the Health and Safety Code does not violate this provision. (See **glossary** for "under the influence.")
- Selling, giving, or delivering another person, or possessing, using, or being under the influence of alcohol; or committing a serious act or offense while under the influence of alcohol.
- Engaging in conduct that contains the elements of an offense relating to abusable volatile chemicals.
- Engaging in conduct that contains the elements of assault under Penal Code 22.01(a)(1) against an employee or a volunteer.
- Engaging in deadly conduct. (See **glossary**.)

Within 300 Feet of School

A student **may** be expelled for engaging in the following conduct while within 300 feet of school property, as measured from any point on the school's real property boundary line:

- Aggravated assault, sexual assault, or aggravated sexual assault.
- Arson. (See **glossary**.)
- Murder, capital murder, or criminal attempt to commit murder or capital murder.
- Indecency with a child.
- Aggravated kidnapping.
- Manslaughter.
- Criminally negligent homicide.
- Aggravated robbery.
- Continuous sexual abuse of a young child or disabled individual.
- Felony controlled substance or dangerous drug offenses, not including THC.
- Unlawfully carrying on or about the student's person a handgun or a location-restricted knife, as these terms are defined by state law. (See **glossary**.)
- Possessing, manufacturing, transporting, repairing, or selling a prohibited weapon, as defined by state law. (See **glossary**.)
- Possession of a firearm, as defined by federal law. (See **glossary**.)

Property of Another District

A student **may** be expelled for committing any offense that is a state-mandated expellable offense if the offense is committed on the property of another district in Texas or while the

student is attending a school-sponsored or school-related activity of a school in another district in Texas.

While in a DAEP

A student may be expelled for engaging in documented serious misbehavior that violates the district's Code of Conduct, despite documented behavioral interventions while placed in a DAEP. For purposes of discretionary expulsion from a DAEP, serious misbehavior means:

1. Deliberate violent behavior that poses a direct threat to the health or safety of others;
2. Extortion, meaning the gaining of money or other property by force or threat;
3. Conduct that constitutes coercion, as defined by Penal Code 1.07; or
4. Conduct that constitutes the offense of:
 - a. Public lewdness under Penal Code 21.07;
 - b. Indecent exposure under Penal Code 21.08;
 - c. Criminal mischief under Penal Code 28.03;
 - d. Hazing under Education Code 37.152; or
 - e. Harassment under Penal Code 42.07(a)(1) of a student or district employee.

Mandatory Expulsion: Misconduct That Requires Expulsion

A student **must** be expelled under federal or state law for any of the following offenses that occur on school property or while attending a school-sponsored or school-related activity on or off school property:

Under Federal Law

- Bringing to school or possessing at school, including any setting that is under the district's control or supervision for the purpose of a school activity, a firearm, as defined by federal law. (See **glossary**.)

Note: Mandatory expulsion under the federal Gun Free Schools Act does not apply to a firearm that is lawfully stored inside a locked vehicle or to firearms used in activities approved and authorized by the district when the district has adopted appropriate safeguards to ensure student safety.

Under the Penal Code

- Unlawfully carrying on or about the student's person the following, in the manner prohibited by Penal Code 46.02:
 - A handgun, defined by state law as any firearm designed, made, or adapted to be used with one hand. (See **glossary**.) *Note:* A student may not be expelled solely on the basis of the student's use, exhibition, or possession of a firearm that occurs at an approved target range facility that is not located on a school campus; while participating in or preparing for a school-sponsored, shooting sports competition or a shooting sports educational activity that is sponsored or supported by the Parks and Wildlife Department; or a shooting sports sanctioning organization working with the department. [See policy FNCG(LEGAL).]
 - A location-restricted knife, as defined by state law. (See **glossary**.)

- Possessing, manufacturing, transporting, repairing, or selling a prohibited weapon, as defined in state law. (See **glossary**.)
- Behaving in a manner that contains elements of the following offenses under the Penal Code:
 - Aggravated assault, sexual assault, or aggravated sexual assault.
 - Arson. (See **glossary**.)
 - Murder, capital murder, or criminal attempt to commit murder or capital murder.
 - Indecency with a child.
 - Aggravated kidnapping.
 - Aggravated robbery.
 - Manslaughter.
 - Criminally negligent homicide.
 - Continuous sexual abuse of a young child or disabled individual.
 - Behavior punishable as a felony that involves selling, giving, or delivering to another person or possessing, using, or being under the influence of a controlled substance or a dangerous drug.
- Engaging in retaliation against a school employee or volunteer combined with one of the above-listed mandatory expulsion offenses.

Under Age Ten

When a student under the age of ten engages in behavior that is expellable behavior, the student shall not be expelled, but shall be placed in a DAEP. A student under age six shall not be placed in a DAEP unless the student commits a federal firearm offense.

Process

If a student is believed to have committed an expellable offense, the CBC or other appropriate administrator shall schedule a hearing within a reasonable time. The student's parent shall be invited in writing to attend the hearing.

Until a hearing can be held, the CBC or other administrator may place the student in:

- Another appropriate classroom.
- ISS.
- Out-of-school suspension.
- DAEP.

Hearing

A student facing expulsion shall be given a hearing with appropriate due process. The student is entitled to:

1. Representation by the student's parent or another adult who can provide guidance to the student and who is not an employee of the district,

2. An opportunity to testify and to present evidence and witnesses in the student's defense, and
3. An opportunity to question the witnesses called by the district at the hearing.

After providing notice to the student and parent of the hearing, the district may hold the hearing regardless of whether the student or the student's parent attends.

The board of trustees delegates to the Superintendent or Superintendent's designee authority to conduct hearings and expel students.

Board Review of Expulsion

After the due process hearing, the expelled student may request that the board review the expulsion decisions. The student or parent must submit a written request to the superintendent within seven days after receipt of the written decision. The superintendent must provide the student or parent written notice of the date, time, and place of the meeting at which the board will review the decision.

The board shall review the record of the expulsion hearing in a closed meeting unless the parent requests in writing that the matter be held in an open meeting. The board may also hear a statement from the student or parent and from the board's designee.

The board shall consider and base its decision on evidence reflected in the record and any statements made by the parties at the review. The board shall make and communicate its decision orally at the conclusion of the presentation. Consequences shall not be deferred pending the outcome of the hearing.

Expulsion Order

Before ordering the expulsion, the board or CBC shall take into consideration:

1. Self-defense (see **glossary**),
2. Intent or lack of intent at the time the student engaged in the conduct,
3. The student's disciplinary history,
4. A disability that substantially impairs the student's capacity to appreciate the wrongfulness of the student's conduct,
5. A student's status in the conservatorship of the Department of Family and Protective Services (foster care), or
6. A student's status as homeless.

If the student is expelled, the board or its designee shall deliver to the student and the student's parent a copy of the order expelling the student.

Not later than the second business day after the hearing, the Superintendent or Superintendent's designee shall deliver to the juvenile court a copy of the expulsion order and the information required by Section 52.04 of the Family Code.

If the length of the expulsion is inconsistent with the guidelines included in the Code of Conduct, the expulsion order shall give notice of the inconsistency.

Length of Expulsion

The length of an expulsion shall be based on the seriousness of the offense, the student's age and grade level, the frequency of misbehavior, the student's attitude, and statutory requirements.

The duration of a student's expulsion shall be determined on a case-by-case basis. The maximum period of expulsion is one calendar year, except as provided below.

An expulsion may not exceed one year unless, after review, the district determines that:

1. The student is a threat to the safety of other students or to district employees, or
2. Extended expulsion is in the best interest of the student.

State and federal law require a student to be expelled from the regular classroom for a period of at least one calendar year for bringing a firearm, as defined by federal law, to school. However, the superintendent may modify the length of the expulsion on a case-by-case basis.

Students who commit offenses that require expulsion at the end of one school year may be expelled into the next school year to complete the term of expulsion.

Withdrawal During Process

When a student's conduct requires or permits expulsion from the district and the student withdraws from the district before the expulsion hearing takes place, the district may conduct the hearing after sending written notice to the parent and student.

If the student then re-enrolls in the district during the same or subsequent school year, the district may enforce the expulsion order at that time, less any expulsion period that has been served by the student during enrollment in another district.

If the CBC or the board fails to issue an expulsion order after the student withdraws, the next district in which the student enrolls may complete the proceedings.

Additional Misconduct

If during the expulsion, the student engages in additional conduct for which placement in a DAEP or expulsion is required or permitted, additional proceedings may be conducted, and the CBC or the board may issue an additional disciplinary order as a result of those proceedings.

Restrictions During Expulsion

Expelled students are prohibited from being on school grounds or attending school-sponsored or school-related activities during the period of expulsion.

No district academic credit shall be earned for work missed during the period of expulsion unless the student is enrolled in a JJAEP or another district-approved program.

Newly Enrolled Students

The district shall continue the expulsion of any newly enrolled student expelled from another district or an open-enrollment charter school until the period of the expulsion is completed.

If a student expelled in another state enrolls in the district, the district may continue the expulsion under the terms of the expulsion order, may place the student in a DAEP for the period specified in the order, or may allow the student to attend regular classes if:

1. The out-of-state district provides the district with a copy of the expulsion order, and
2. The offense resulting in the expulsion is also an expellable offense in the district in which the student is enrolling.

If a student is expelled by a district in another state for a period that exceeds one year and the district continues the expulsion or places the student in a DAEP, the district shall reduce the period of the expulsion or DAEP placement so that the entire period does not exceed one year, unless after a review it is determined that:

1. The student is a threat to the safety of other students or district employees, or
2. Extended placement is in the best interest of the student.

Emergency Expulsion Procedures

When an emergency expulsion is necessary to protect persons or property from imminent harm, the student shall be given verbal notice of the reason for the action. Within ten days after the date of the emergency expulsion, the student shall be given appropriate due process required for a student facing expulsion.

DAEP Placement of Expelled Students

The district may provide educational services to any expelled student in a DAEP; however, educational services in the DAEP must be provided if the student is less than ten years of age.

Transition Services

In accordance with law and district procedures, campus staff shall provide transition services for a student returning to the regular classroom from placement in an alternative education program, including a DAEP or JJAEP. See policies FOCA(LEGAL) and FODA(LEGAL) for more information.

Glossary

Abuse is improper or excessive use.

Aggravated robbery is defined in part by Penal Code 29.03(a) as when a person commits robbery and:

1. Causes serious bodily injury to another;
2. Uses or exhibits a deadly weapon; or
3. Causes bodily injury to another person or threatens or places another person in fear of imminent bodily injury or death, if the other person is:
 - a. 65 years of age or older, or
 - b. A disabled person.

Armor-piercing ammunition is defined by Penal Code 46.01 as handgun ammunition used in pistols and revolvers and designed primarily for the purpose of penetrating metal or body armor.

Arson is defined in part by Penal Code 28.02 as a crime that involves:

1. Starting a fire or causing an explosion with intent to destroy or damage:
 - a. Any vegetation, fence, or structure on open-space land; or
 - b. Any building, habitation, or vehicle:
 - (1) Knowing that it is within the limits of an incorporated city or town,
 - (2) Knowing that it is insured against damage or destruction,
 - (3) Knowing that it is subject to a mortgage or other security interest,
 - (4) Knowing that it is located on property belonging to another,
 - (5) Knowing that it has located within it property belonging to another, or
 - (6) When the person starting the fire is reckless about whether the burning or explosion will endanger the life of some individual or the safety of the property of another.
2. Recklessly starting a fire or causing an explosion while manufacturing or attempting to manufacture a controlled substance if the fire or explosion damages any building, habitation, or vehicle; or
3. Intentionally starting a fire or causing an explosion and in so doing:
 - a. Recklessly damaging or destroying a building belonging to another, or
 - b. Recklessly causing another person to suffer bodily injury or death.

Assault is defined in part by Penal Code 22.01 as intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly causing bodily injury to another; intentionally or knowingly threatening another with imminent bodily injury; or intentionally or knowingly causing physical contact with another that can reasonably be regarded as offensive or provocative.

Breach of computer security includes knowingly accessing a computer, computer network, or computer system without the effective consent of the owner as defined in Penal Code 33.02, if the conduct involves accessing a computer, computer network, or computer system owned by or operated on behalf of a school district and the student knowingly alters, damages, or deletes

school district property or information or commits a breach of any other computer, computer network, or computer system.

Bullying is defined as a single significant act or a pattern of acts by one or more students directed at another student that exploits an imbalance of power and involves engaging in written or verbal expression, expression through electronic means, or physical conduct that:

1. Has the effect or will have the effect of physically harming a student, damaging a student's property, or placing a student in reasonable fear of harm to the student's person or damage to the student's property;
2. Is sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive enough that the action or threat creates an intimidating, threatening, or abusive educational environment for a student;
3. Materially and substantially disrupts the educational process or the orderly operation of a classroom or school; or
4. Infringes on the rights of the victim at school.

Bullying includes cyberbullying. (See below.) This state law on bullying prevention applies to:

1. Bullying that occurs on or is delivered to school property or to the site of a school-sponsored or school-related activity on or off school property;
2. Bullying that occurs on a publicly or privately owned school bus or vehicle being used for transportation of students to or from school or a school-sponsored or school-related activity; and
3. Cyberbullying that occurs off school property or outside of a school-sponsored or school-related activity if the cyberbullying interferes with a student's educational opportunities or substantially disrupts the orderly operation of a classroom, school, or school-sponsored or school-related activity.

Chemical dispensing device is defined by Penal Code 46.01 as a device designed, made, or adapted for the purpose of dispensing a substance capable of causing an adverse psychological or physiological effect on a human being. A small chemical dispenser sold commercially for personal protection is not in this category.

Club is defined by Penal Code 46.01 as an instrument, specially designed, made, or adapted for the purpose of inflicting serious bodily injury or death by striking a person with the instrument, and includes but is not limited to a blackjack, nightstick, mace, and tomahawk.

Controlled substance means a substance, including a drug, an adulterant, and a dilutant, listed in Schedules I through V or Penalty Group 1, 1-A, 1-B, 2, 2-A, 3, or 4 of the Texas Controlled Substances Act. The term includes the aggregate weight of any mixture, solution, or other substance containing a controlled substance. The term does not include hemp, as defined by Agriculture Code 121.001, or the tetrahydrocannabinols (THC) in hemp.

Criminal street gang is defined by Penal Code 71.01 as three or more persons having a common identifying sign or symbol or an identifiable leadership who continuously or regularly associate in the commission of criminal activities.

Cyberbullying is defined by Education Code 37.0832 as bullying that is done through the use of any electronic communication device, including through the use of a cellular or other type of telephone, a computer, a camera, electronic mail, instant messaging, text messaging, a social media application, an internet website, or any other internet-based communication tool.

Dangerous drug is defined by Health and Safety Code 483.001 as a device or a drug that is unsafe for self-medication and that is not included in Schedules I through V or Penalty Groups 1 through 4 of the Texas Controlled Substances Act. The term includes a device or drug that federal law prohibits dispensing without prescription or restricts to use by or on the order of a licensed veterinarian.

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 another 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, as defined by Section 71.0021 of the Family Code.

Deadly conduct under Penal Code 22.05 occurs when a person recklessly engages in conduct that places another in imminent danger of serious bodily injury, such as knowingly discharging a firearm in the direction of an individual, habitation, building, or vehicle.

Deferred adjudication is an alternative to seeking a conviction in court that may be offered to a juvenile for delinquent conduct or conduct indicating a need for supervision.

Deferred prosecution may be offered to a juvenile as an alternative to seeking a conviction in court for delinquent conduct or conduct indicating a need for supervision.

Delinquent conduct is conduct that violates either state or federal law and is punishable by imprisonment or confinement in jail. It includes conduct that violates certain juvenile court orders, including probation orders, but does not include violations of traffic laws.

Discretionary means that something is left to or regulated by a local decision maker.

E-cigarette means an electronic cigarette or any other device that simulates smoking by using a mechanical heating element, battery, or electronic circuit to deliver nicotine or other substances to the individual inhaling from the device or a consumable liquid solution or other material aerosolized or vaporized during the use of an electronic cigarette or other device described by this provision. The term includes any device that is manufactured, distributed, or sold as an e-cigarette, e-cigar, or e-pipe or under another product name or description and a component, part, or accessory for the device, regardless of whether the component, part, or accessory is sold separately from the device.

Explosive weapon is defined by Penal Code 46.01 as any explosive or incendiary bomb, grenade, rocket, or mine and its delivery mechanism that is designed, made, or adapted for the purpose of inflicting serious bodily injury, death, or substantial property damage, or for the principal purpose of causing such a loud report as to cause undue public alarm or terror.

False alarm or report under Penal Code 42.06 occurs when a person knowingly initiates, communicates, or circulates a report of a present, past, or future bombing, fire, offense, or other emergency that he or she knows is false or baseless and that would ordinarily:

1. Cause action by an official or volunteer agency organized to deal with emergencies;
2. Place a person in fear of imminent serious bodily injury; or
3. Prevent or interrupt the occupation of a building, room, or place of assembly.

Firearm is defined by federal law (18 U.S.C. 921(a)) as:

1. Any weapon (including a starter gun) that will, is designed to, or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive;
2. The frame or receiver of any such weapon;
3. Any firearm muffler or firearm silencer, defined as any device for silencing, muffling, or diminishing the report of a portable [firearm](#); or
4. Any destructive device, such as any explosive, incendiary or poison gas bomb, or grenade.

Such term does not include an antique firearm.

Graffiti includes markings with paint, an indelible pen or marker, or an etching or engraving device on tangible property without the effective consent of the owner. The markings may include inscriptions, slogans, drawings, or paintings.

Handgun is defined by Penal Code 46.01 as any firearm that is designed, made, or adapted to be fired with one hand.

Harassment includes:

1. Conduct that meets the definition established in district policies DIA(LOCAL) and FFH(LOCAL);
2. Conduct that threatens to cause harm or bodily injury to another person, including a district student, employee, board member, or volunteer; is sexually intimidating; causes physical damage to the property of another student; subjects another student to physical confinement or restraint; or maliciously and substantially harms another student's physical or emotional health or safety, as defined in Education Code 37.001(b)(2); or
3. Conduct that is punishable as a crime under Penal Code 42.07, including the following types of conduct if carried out with the intent to harass, annoy, alarm, abuse, torment, or embarrass another:
 - a. Initiating communication and, in the course of the communication, making a comment, request, suggestion, or proposal that is obscene, as defined by law;
 - b. Threatening, in a manner reasonably likely to alarm the person receiving the threat, to inflict bodily injury on the person or to commit a felony against the person, a member of the person's family or household, or the person's property;
 - c. Conveying, in a manner reasonably likely to alarm the person receiving the report, a false report, which is known by the conveyor to be false, that another person has suffered death or serious bodily injury;
 - d. Causing the telephone of another to ring repeatedly or making repeated telephone communications anonymously or in a manner reasonably likely to harass, annoy, alarm, abuse, torment, embarrass, or offend another;
 - e. Making a telephone call and intentionally failing to hang up or disengage the connection;
 - f. Knowingly permitting a telephone under the person's control to be used by another to commit an offense under this section;
 - g. Sending repeated electronic communications in a manner reasonably likely to harass, annoy, alarm, abuse, torment, embarrass, or offend another;

- h. Publishing on an internet website, including a social media platform, repeated electronic communications in a manner reasonably likely to cause emotional distress, abuse, or torment to another person, unless the communications are made in connection with a matter of public concern, as defined by law; or
- i. Making obscene, intimidating, or threatening telephone calls or other electronic communications from a temporary or disposable telephone number provided by an internet application or other technological means.

Hazing is defined by Education Code 37.151 as an intentional, knowing, or reckless act, on or off campus, by one person alone or acting with others, directed against a student for the purpose of pledging, initiation into, affiliation with, holding office in, or maintaining membership in a student organization if the act meets the elements in Education Code 37.151, including:

1. Any type of physical brutality;
2. An activity that subjects the student to an unreasonable risk of harm or that adversely affects the student's mental or physical health, such as sleep deprivation, exposure to the elements, confinement to small spaces, calisthenics, or consumption of food, liquids, drugs, or other substances;
3. An activity that induces, causes, or requires the student to perform a duty or task that violates the Penal Code; or
4. Coercing a student to consume a drug or alcoholic beverage in an amount that would lead a reasonable person to believe the student is intoxicated. **Hit list** is defined in Education Code 37.001(b)(3) as a list of people targeted to be harmed, using a firearm, a knife, or any other object to be used with intent to cause bodily harm.

Improvised explosive device is defined by Penal Code 46.01 as a completed and operational bomb designed to cause serious bodily injury, death, or substantial property damage that is fabricated in an improvised manner using nonmilitary components.

Indecent exposure is defined by Penal Code 21.08 as an offense that occurs when a person exposes the person's anus or any part of the person's genitals with intent to arouse or gratify the sexual desire of any person and is reckless about whether another is present who will be offended or alarmed by the act.

Intimate visual material is defined by Civil Practices and Remedies Code 98B.001 and Penal Code 21.16 as visual material that depicts a person with the person's intimate parts exposed or engaged in sexual conduct. "Visual material" means any film, photograph, video tape, negative, or slide of any photographic reproduction or any other physical medium that allows an image to be displayed on a computer or other video screen and any image transmitted to a computer or other video screen.

Location-restricted knife is defined by Penal Code 46.01 as a knife with a blade over five and one-half inches.

Knuckles means any instrument consisting of finger rings or guards made of a hard substance and designed or adapted for inflicting serious bodily injury or death by striking a person with a fist enclosed in the knuckles.

Look-alike weapon means an item that resembles a weapon but is not intended to be used to cause serious bodily injury.

Machine gun as defined by Penal Code 46.01 is any firearm that is capable of shooting more than two shots automatically, without manual reloading, by a single function of the trigger.

Mandatory means that something is obligatory or required because of an authority.

Paraphernalia are devices that can be used for inhaling, ingesting, injecting, or otherwise introducing a controlled substance into a human body.

Possession means to have an item on one's person or in one's personal property, including, but not limited to:

1. Clothing, purse, or backpack;
2. A private vehicle used for transportation to or from school or school-related activities, including, but not limited to, an automobile, truck, motorcycle, or bicycle;
3. Telecommunications or electronic devices; or
4. Any school property used by the student, including, but not limited to, a locker or desk.

Prohibited weapon under Penal Code 46.05(a) means:

1. The following items, unless registered with the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives or otherwise not subject to that registration requirement or unless the item is classified as a curio or relic by the U.S. Department of Justice: An explosive weapon;
 - a. A machine gun;
 - b. A short-barrel firearm;
2. Armor-piercing ammunition;
3. A chemical dispensing device;
4. A zip gun;
5. A tire deflation device; or
6. An improvised explosive device.

Public Lewdness is defined by Penal Code 21.07 as an offense that occurs when a person knowingly engages in an act of sexual intercourse, deviate sexual intercourse, or sexual contact in a public place or, if not in a public place, when the person is reckless about whether another is present who will be offended or alarmed by the act.

Public school fraternity, sorority, secret society, or gang means an organization composed wholly or in part of students that seeks to perpetuate itself by taking additional members from the students enrolled in school based on a decision of its membership rather than on the free choice of a qualified student. Educational organizations listed in Education Code 37.121(d) are excepted from this definition.

Reasonable belief is that which an ordinary person of average intelligence and sound mind would believe. Chapter 37 requires certain disciplinary decisions when the superintendent or designee has a reasonable belief that a student engaged in conduct punishable as a felony offense. In forming such a reasonable belief, the superintendent or designee may use all available information and must consider the information furnished in the notice of a student's arrest under Code of Criminal Procedure Article 15.27.

Self-defense is the use of force against another to the degree a person reasonably believes is immediately necessary to protect himself or herself.

Serious misbehavior means:

1. Deliberate violent behavior that poses a direct threat to the health or safety of others;
2. Extortion, meaning the gaining of money or other property by force or threat;
3. Conduct that constitutes coercion, as defined by Section 1.07, Penal Code; or
4. Conduct that constitutes the offense of:
 - a. Public lewdness under Penal Code 21.07;
 - b. Indecent exposure under Penal Code 21.08;
 - c. Criminal mischief under Penal Code 28.03;
 - d. Hazing under Education Code 37.152; or
 - e. Harassment under Penal Code 42.07(a)(1) of a student or district employee.

Serious or persistent misbehavior includes, but is not limited to:

- Behavior that is grounds for permissible expulsion or mandatory DAEP placement.
- Behavior identified by the district as grounds for discretionary DAEP placement.
- Actions or demonstrations that substantially disrupt or materially interfere with school activities.
- Refusal to attempt or complete schoolwork as assigned.
- Insubordination.
- Profanity, vulgar language, or obscene gestures.
- Leaving school grounds without permission.
- Falsification of records, passes, or other school-related documents.
- Refusal to accept discipline assigned by the teacher or principal.

Short-barrel firearm is defined by Penal Code 46.01 as a rifle with a barrel length of less than 16 inches or a shotgun with a barrel length of less than 18 inches, or any weapon made from a rifle or shotgun that, as altered, has an overall length of less than 26 inches.

Terroristic threat is defined by Penal Code 22.07 as a threat of violence to any person or property with intent to:

1. Cause a reaction of any type by an official or volunteer agency organized to deal with emergencies;
2. Place any person in fear of imminent serious bodily injury;
3. Prevent or interrupt the occupation or use of a building; room, place of assembly, or place to which the public has access; place of employment or occupation; aircraft, automobile, or other form of conveyance; or other public place;
4. Cause impairment or interruption of public communications; public transportation; public water, gas, or power supply; or other public service;
5. Place the public or a substantial group of the public in fear of serious bodily injury; or
6. Influence the conduct or activities of a branch or agency of the federal government, the state, or a political subdivision of the state (including the district).

Tire deflation device is defined in part by Penal Code 46.01 as a device, including a caltrop or spike strip, that, when driven over, impedes or stops the movement of a wheeled vehicle by puncturing one or more of the vehicle's tires.

Title 5 felonies are those crimes listed in Title 5 of the Penal Code that typically involve injury to a person and may include:

- Murder, manslaughter, or homicide under Sections 19.02–.05;
- Kidnapping under Section 20.03;
- Trafficking of persons under Section 20A.02;
- Smuggling or continuous smuggling of persons under Sections 20.05–.06;
- Assault under Section 22.01;
- Aggravated assault under Section 22.02;
- Sexual assault under Section 22.011;
- Aggravated sexual assault under Section 22.021;
- Unlawful restraint under Section 20.02;
- Continuous sexual abuse of a young child or disabled individual under Section 21.02;
- Bestiality under Section 21.09;
- Improper relationship between educator and student under Section 21.12;
- Voyeurism under Section 21.17;
- Indecency with a child under Section 21.11;
- Invasive visual recording under Section 21.15;
- Disclosure or promotion of intimate visual material under Section 21.16;
- Sexual coercion under Section 21.18;
- Injury to a child, an elderly person, or a disabled person of any age under Section 22.04;
- Abandoning or endangering a child under Section 22.041;
- Deadly conduct under Section 22.05;
- Terroristic threat under Section 22.07;
- Aiding a person to commit suicide under Section 22.08; and
- Tampering with a consumer product under Section 22.09.

Under the influence means lacking the normal use of mental or physical faculties. Impairment of a person's physical or mental faculties may be evidenced by a pattern of abnormal or erratic behavior, the presence of physical symptoms of drug or alcohol use, or by admission. A student "under the in-fluence" need not be legally intoxicated to trigger disciplinary action.

Use means voluntarily introducing into one's body, by any means, a prohibited substance.

Zip gun is defined by Penal Code 46.01 as a device or combination of devices that was not originally a firearm and is adapted to expel a projectile through a smooth-bore or rifled-bore barrel by using the energy generated by an explosion or burning substance.



Westwood ISD Agenda Item Information

Meeting Date: August 5, 2024

Subject: Accountability Lawsuit II

Administrator Responsible: Wade Stanford

Summary: There is currently a great deal of concern within the school community regarding the potential 2024 Accountability Ratings due to troubling inconsistencies in the STAAR test results. O’Hanlon, Demerath & Castillo have heard these complaints and have been diligently conducting legal research to explore possible remedies. They have identified several potential legal challenges to the 2024 Accountability Ratings, largely based on issues with the STAAR test, which we believe have a strong chance of success.

As part of this legal challenge, they will need to perform their own validity analysis of the test instruments and their resulting scores. Although it is challenging to predict future litigation costs, they believe the cost to mount a challenge to the 2024 tests will result in higher expenditures on expert fees and expenses than the original litigation. This new litigation could result in total costs three to four times that of the original litigation if no new districts join the effort. Our cost for the original lawsuit was \$4,363.23.

Participating in this legal challenge presents a critical opportunity for our district to ensure fairness and accuracy in the 2024 Accountability Ratings. The inconsistencies in the STAAR test results have far-reaching implications for our schools, impacting not only accountability ratings but also the perception of educational quality and effectiveness. By joining this effort, Westwood ISD can play a vital role in advocating for a more equitable evaluation system, one that truly reflects the hard work and progress of our students and educators.

Administration’s Recommendation:

Possible Motion:

Attachments:

Board Approval Required XYES NO



Westwood ISD Agenda Item Information

Meeting Date: August 5, 2024

Subject: Discussion of SHARS Contracted Services

Administrator Responsible: Wade Stanford

Summary: Information concerning the School Health and Related Services (SHARS) through Onward SHARS Medicaid

Onward:

- identifies a range of Medicaid-reimbursable services.
- provides a web-based platform where Medicaid services and sessions can be documented from any device.
- covers all service providers across WISD and delivers an error-free claims process to maximize the district's reimbursement dollars.
- will provide live training sessions on the use of the software and the processes for performing tasks
- will verify Medicaid eligibility for all students identified by WISD

Administration's Recommendation:

Information Item

Possible Motion: NA

Attachments: [Westwood ISD - Onward SHARS Medicaid Services Agreement](#)

TEXAS SCHOOL MEDICAID DIRECT SERVICE AGREEMENT

This Texas School Medicaid Direct Service Agreement (collectively with its exhibits, hereinafter “Agreement”) is entered into by and between Westwood Independent School District (hereinafter “Customer”) and Texas Special Education Software Solutions, LLC, DBA Onward Learning (hereinafter “Onward”). Herein, “Parties” or “Party” shall refer to both Customer and Onward or each of the foregoing.

Onward offers various services to assist schools in administering Medicaid programs, such as training, claims processing, statistical reporting, audit assistant services, and other consulting services related to the Federal School Medicaid Fee-For-Direct Service (FFS) program offered through the Texas School Health and Related Services (SHARS) program and the Medicaid Administrative Claiming (MAC) program. Prior to the execution of this Agreement, Onward had provided services to Customer pursuant the Texas Medicaid Direct Service Agreement, effective date May 1, 2023, by and between Onward and the Anderson County Coop and its members, Cayuga ISD, Elkhart ISD, Frankston ISD, Neches ISD, Slocum ISD, and Customer, Westwood ISD (hereinafter “Anderson Coop Agreement”). Customer is departing from the Anderson Coop and wishes to independently engage Onward to provide services.

Now, THEREFORE, for good and valuable consideration, the Parties hereby agree as follows:

I. TERM

- A. Effective Date. The effective date of this Agreement is June 1, 2024. (“Effective Date”). Customer shall remain responsible for all fees due for services provided to it pursuant to the prior Anderson Coop Agreement through the Effective Date. However, fees for all services provided on or after the Effective date shall be governed by the terms of this Agreement. Additionally, all fees for Cost Report for the 2023 fiscal year and thereafter shall be governed by this Agreement.
- B. Initial Term & Automatic Renewal. The initial term of this Agreement is three (3) years, effective as of the Effective Date. Unless terminated beforehand pursuant to Section I.C below, upon expiration of the initial term this Agreement will automatically renew without any further action being required of the Parties and extend for up to two (2) additional one-year terms.
- C. Termination. This Agreement may be terminated by either Party at any time with sixty (60) days written notice to the other. This Agreement will expire at the end of the second renewal term (i.e., five (5) years from the Effective Date of the Agreement) if not terminated prior to said expiration pursuant to this Paragraph.
- D. Survival. Notwithstanding any termination or expiration of this Agreement, Subsections A, N, O, P, and Q of Section III, Sections V and VI, and Exhibit A shall survive and remain in full force and effect. Customer shall remain obligated to pay all fees in accordance with Exhibit A and III.P, even if said fees are based on revenue or settlement payments received by Customer after the termination or expiration of this Agreement. With respect to Section IV, the limited license granted to Customer to use and access Onward’s software and applications will terminate upon the expiration or termination of this Agreement as provided in Section IV, but all other terms of Section IV shall remain in full force and effect.

II. ONWARD SERVICES.

Onward will provide the following services to and/or on behalf of the Customer:

- A. Software and Setup. Onward will provide and set up its proprietary SHARS software and applications, which will enable Customer's providers, staff, and contractors to document and report services electronically.
- B. Onward Paper Log Process. Onward will also make paper logs available to the Customer for those providers, staff, and contractors who wish to document their services using a paper form, subject to the Paper Log Fee addressed in Exhibit A. Upon receipt of completed Onward-provided paper logs from Customer, Onward will review and enter the data from complete Onward-provided paper forms directly into its proprietary SHARS software system for the purpose of generating and submitting Medicaid claims. Onward has no obligation to enter or process data submitted to Onward in any format other than the Onward-provided paper forms.
- C. Provider Help Desk. Onward will maintain a Help Desk, with email and toll-free telephone access, to respond to technical support and user questions from the Customer during regular business operating hours. The Help Desk staff will provide technical assistance to Customer and its providers, whether they are documenting their services using the automated systems or the paper logs.
- D. Onward SHARS Training. Onward will coordinate with Customer and provide an annual live SHARS training session on the use of the software and the processes for performing under this Agreement to all providers on Customer's participant list and Customer's SHARS administrators as identified in writing by Customer on its Onward District Details and Contact Information sheet (hereinafter, collectively "SHARS Users"). This training may take place either onsite at the Customer's location or via remote, internet-based access, as agreed upon by the Parties. Onward will also coordinate with Customer to provide training for SHARS Users hired after the annual training session. All of Customer's SHARS Users will be provided with at least one training session annually. Onward may provide additional training sessions to Customer's SHARS Users beyond the first session if requested by Customer and necessary (as determined in Onward's sole discretion) on terms to be agreed upon by the Parties. The Parties will negotiate in good faith regarding the necessity of additional training sessions for Customer's SHARS Users and Onward's consent to such additional training sessions will not be unreasonably withheld.
- E. Student Eligibility Research. Onward will verify Medicaid eligibility for all students identified by Customer, whether through a data export of Customer's Individual Education Plan (IEP) system or otherwise.
- F. Interim Claims Processing. Upon completion of the tasks required to facilitate Onward's processing of claims, Onward shall provide interim claims processing services as provided herein. Onward will submit claim information and retrieve claim remittance information on behalf of the Customer based on all data and documentation provided by the Customer in accordance with the terms set forth herein. Customer will provide the requested data and information to Onward in the format requested by Onward. Onward will then format the data collected from providers and delivered by Customer in the proper format to Onward for submission of the Medicaid claims. Onward will provide assistance to Customer in researching

denials, updating claims, and resubmitting claims on behalf of the Customer. In the case of any audit by a government agency, Onward will assist Customer in compiling the records associated with the claims that are the subject of the audit which are stored in Onward's SHARS software. Customer will be responsible for all audit-related data and documentation stored or maintained outside of Onward's SHARS software.

- G. Internal Reports. Onward will provide occasional internal reports to the Customer, advising of the amounts of claims paid to date in the year, the amounts of claims in process at the time of the report, and Customer's providers who are and who are not maintaining service logs.
- H. Cost Reports. SHARS participants are required to submit annual Cost Reports to the Health and Human Services Commission ("HHSC"). Upon receipt of the necessary information from Customer, Onward shall prepare the Cost Reports and provide related consultation services through preparation of the settlement statement. Onward shall prepare (i) the IEP ratio; (ii) the special transportation IEP student count; and (iii) the specialized transportation one-way trip ratio. In the case of any Informal Review or for any Cost Report support services requested after the settlement statement has been provided, Onward will provide consultation services for \$250 per hour, if requested. Onward will not provide legal advice or represent the Customer in any such proceeding with any government agency or any other dispute proceeding. Onward is not a law firm and does not provide legal services or legal advice. Onward will have no contractual obligation to provide Cost Report services for pre-Agreement fiscal years unless Customer timely provides notice of a request for such services in accordance with Sections III.H and VI.M.
- I. MAC Services.
- (1) Upon receipt of Customer's quarterly payroll reports for providers performing MAC activities, Onward shall format the payroll data and enter it into the state's financial reporting system. The Customer is responsible for ensuring that only providers performing MAC activities are included on the quarterly payroll report provided to Onward and that the information is current, accurate, and complete.
 - (2) After preparing and entering the data, Onward shall prepare a draft quarterly MAC report and deliver it to Customer for its review. Customer shall review the draft MAC report for accuracy and completeness.
 - (3) Upon Customer's verification and approval of the draft MAC report, if Customer requests, Onward shall prepare the MAC Quarterly Summary Invoice (QSI) and deliver it to Customer to be certified by an authorized Customer representative. Customer shall be responsible for submitting the QSI to HHSC.

III. CUSTOMER OBLIGATIONS

- A. General Support & Cooperation. Customer acknowledges and agrees that Onward cannot effectively provide services to Customer without Customer's cooperation and assistance. Customer hereby agrees to cooperate and assist Onward and to comply with all reasonable requests for information or assistance. Customer will require all providers and staff (both employees and contract workers) to comply with Onward's reasonable requests for information and assistance.

- B. Appointment of Onward District Manager. Customer shall designate up to two employees to serve as Onward's point of contact for Customer (the "District Manager(s)"). The District Manager(s) will have responsibility for the day-to-day management of Customer's SHARS and/or MAC programs and will be responsible for communicating with Onward and managing Customer's performance under this Agreement. At its election, Customer may appoint a single person to manage both the SHARS and MAC programs or Customer may appoint one person as District Manager of the MAC program and another person to be District Manager of the SHARS program.
- C. Access to Platforms & Systems and Delivery of Data/Files:
- (1) Within five (5) days of the Effective Date, Customer shall provide Onward with Texas Medicaid & Healthcare Partnership (TMHP) administrator access and access to all requested government and partner websites, including but not limited to Fairbanks or the State of Texas Automated Information Reporting System (STAIRS).
 - (2) Within five (5) business days of the Effective Date, Customer shall provide Onward with access to all of Customer's systems for purposes of integration with Onward's SHARS software, including but not limited to Customer's Student Information System (SIS), Individual Education Plan (IEP), and nursing and transportation systems.
 - (3) Within five (5) business days of the Effective Date, Customer shall provide to Onward all data files exported from its systems in the format specified and requested by Onward. If necessary, Customer will request the data in the requested format from Customer's vendors. If Customer's vendors fail to provide the data in the requested format, Customer will provide Onward with direct access to its vendor accounts and authorize Onward to access said accounts. Customer represents and warrants that the terms of this Agreement and Customer's performance hereunder will not conflict with or constitute a default under any other agreements to which Customer is a party. Onward will provide assistance to Customer in procuring and formatting the data if requested, but securing and delivering the data in the proper format will be Customer's ultimate responsibility.
- D. Government Communications. Customer shall promptly forward to Onward all communications regarding Customer's SHARS program from HHSC, TMHP, Texas Education Agency (TEA), or any other governmental agency.
- E. Changes in Customer Personnel. Customer shall promptly advise Onward of any personnel changes in (a) district contacts (e.g., the Customer's superintendent, director of finance and/or business manager, special education director, or similar executives), or (b) district providers.
- F. Account Management Meetings. Customer shall require a knowledgeable representative with authority to speak on behalf of and bind Customer, to attend regular account management meetings scheduled by Onward.
- G. SHARS Enrollment/Medicaid Licensure. To facilitate the enrollment and maintenance of Customer's participation in the SHARS and MAC programs, Customer shall designate a district employee with authority to act on behalf of and bind the Customer as the "owner" in connection with the Medicaid enrollment and who will be required to execute enrollment

documents on behalf of the Customer. Customer shall provide all necessary information and documentation for completion and maintenance of Customer's enrollment. Customer shall request a National Provider Identifier (NPI). Customer is responsible for its enrollment and ensuring its compliance with all laws and regulations, licensing requirements, NPI, or individual enrollment in Texas Medicaid. However, Onward will assist and provide consulting services in connection with Customer's Texas Medicaid enrollment.

H. Cost Report Responsibilities.

- (1) Customer shall provide all financial reports and other information and documents requested by Onward for any Cost Report no later than 30 days prior to the due date for any report. Customer shall also timely complete any applicable state-mandated training, e.g., Random Moment Time Study (RMTS) and Cost Report trainings.
- (2) Within 10 days from the Effective Date, Customer shall provide written notice in accordance with Section VI.M if it wishes for Onward to provide Cost Report services for any pre-Agreement fiscal years. Customer shall provide all ratio reports for any pre-Agreement fiscal years no later than December 1.
- (3) Customer will promptly notify Onward of and forward to Onward all desk review communications.
- (4) Notwithstanding any termination or expiration of this Agreement, Customer shall be obliged to pay Onward as provided in Exhibit A for Cost Reports submitted after the termination or expiration of this Agreement if the Cost Report relies on any claims data (i) for claims that were processed (partially or otherwise) or submitted by Onward during the term of the Agreement; or (ii) maintained at any time in the SHARS software or applications provided by Onward.

I. MAC Contact. Customer shall designate a district employee to act as the MAC district contact with authority to act on behalf of and bind the Customer in communications and interactions with HHSC and associated agencies and persons.

J. RMTS and Cost Report Contacts. Customer shall designate the required number of district contacts to act as the Customer's RMTS and Cost Report contacts. The district contacts will have authority to act on behalf of and bind the Customer with respect to the RMTS and Cost Reports, respectively.

K. MAC Reports.

- (1) Customer shall provide to Onward a quarterly payroll report that exclusively lists all providers performing MAC services and any other documents requested by Onward for any MAC report no later than 30 days prior to the due date for any such report. The payroll report shall be limited to MAC providers and shall not contain information for any providers who do not perform MAC services.
- (2) Customer shall review the draft MAC report and verify to Onward that the information is accurate and complete or specify any edits that need to be made.

- (3) Upon approval of the draft MAC report, Customer shall generate the QSI or request that Onward generate the QSI. Customer shall have the QSI executed before a notary by an authorized representative.
- (4) Customer shall submit the executed and notarized QSI to HHSC and deliver a copy of the completed QSI to Onward.

L. Procedures for the Documentation of Provider Services.

- (1) Customer hereby agrees to require and ensure that all of its providers, staff, and contractors submit documentation of services via (a) Onward's applications; (b) Onward's electronic system integration import; or (c) the paper log forms provided by Onward to Customer.
- (2) Electronic submissions through Onward's applications or electronic import system are preferred for the sake of efficiency, timeliness, completeness, and accuracy. Should Customer's providers, staff or contractors utilize paper logs, Customer will be assessed an annual Paper Log Fee as set forth in Exhibit A. Within 5 days of the Effective Date of the Agreement, Customer shall provide written notice to Onward in accordance with Section VI.M if Customer intends to utilize paper logs. However, formal written notice shall not be a condition precedent to Onward's right to collect the annual fee for any given year in which paper logs are utilized by Customer.
- (3) If Customer uses paper logs, Customer's providers, staff, and contractors may only use the paper log forms provided by Onward to Customer. Onward has no obligation to enter or process data submitted to Onward in any format other than the Onward-provided paper forms.
- (4) Customer will implement quality assurance/quality control programs and procedures to ensure that providers document their services in compliance with all applicable laws and regulations and any applicable IEP.
- (5) All services will be documented by Customer's providers within seven (7) days of the date of service. Customer shall deliver the documentation to Onward in a timely manner within the timeframe allotted for claims submissions, whether this documentation is completed electronically or on paper. All paper logs must be submitted to Onward within 30 days of the service.

M. Training.

- (1) Onward Training. Customer will require all of Customer's SHARS Users to attend the annual training session offered by Onward and will make all reasonable efforts to secure such persons' attendance. Customer will require any subsequently added SHARS Users to be trained by a staff member or employee who attended the Onward training session. Onward may provide additional training sessions to Customer's SHARS Users, if requested by Customer as provided in Section II.D above.
- (2) State-Mandated Training. Customer will require all district contacts to complete all stated-mandated training, including but not limited to RMTS training, MAC training, and Cost Report training.

- (3) RMTS. Customer shall assist and train Customer's time study participants on RMTS on a quarterly basis.
- (4) Training Materials. Customer will distribute to all providers and any staff involved in the SHARS program any training materials and training labs provided by Onward to the District Manager.
- N. Customer's Management Responsibilities. Customer is responsible for collecting and maintaining all (a) parental consent forms required for students receiving services pursuant to the SHARS program; (b) the district's participants list; and (c) all referrals and prescriptions. The parental consent forms shall comply with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and authorize Onward's receipt and use of student data so that Onward may perform services under this Agreement. Customer will store and maintain all necessary documentation and paperwork required for SHARS and MAC, including but not limited to original copies of all paper service logs; documentation of prescriptions and referrals; attendance records; parental consent forms; and Medicaid-compliant ARD/IEP records that prescribe all services of Customer's providers.
- O. Accuracy of Information. Customer is responsible for ensuring that Customer's financial, claims, and other data which it provides to Onward are accurate, complete, and current. Customer acknowledges that Onward is relying on Customer to provide current, accurate, and complete information. Customer represents and warrants that it has instituted and for the duration of this Agreement will maintain quality assurance/quality control programs and procedures to ensure that all data and information provided to Onward are current, accurate, and complete. Onward is not responsible for ensuring the accuracy or completeness of the data and information provided by Customer, nor ensuring that such data and information are current. ONWARD SHALL HAVE NO LIABILITY FOR ANY LOSSES OR INJURY SUFFERED ARISING FROM CUSTOMER'S TRANSMISSION OF INACCURATE, INCOMPLETE, OR OUTDATED DATA OR INFORMATION TO ONWARD.
- P. Fee. Customer agrees to pay Onward the fees set forth in Exhibit A. Customer will pay the initial minimum administrative interim payment fee within thirty (30) days of Customer's execution of this Agreement and will make annual payment thereafter throughout the term of the Agreement. Customer will pay all other fees in full within thirty (30) days of receipt of an invoice. With respect to any late payments, interest shall begin to accrue on the date payment becomes overdue and at the rate set forth in Section 2251.025(b) of the Texas Government Code on the Effective Date of this Agreement. Customer acknowledges and agrees that invoiced fees will be calculated and payable in full by Customer without regard to any offsets, penalties, or other deductions arising from or relating to Customer's participation in the relevant reimbursement programs in prior years. Fees will apply to any claims or reports for which Onward has provided any services or which rely on claims data processed (partially or otherwise) by Onward or stored at any time on the SHARS software provided by Onward. It is acknowledged and understood that settlements/payments on which Onward is entitled to payment may be due to or received by Customer after the term of this Agreement. Customer's payment obligations will survive termination or expiration of this Agreement.
- Q. Confidentiality.
- (1) Customer acknowledges and agrees that Onward's proprietary SHARS software and applications; Onward's pricing information; Onward's provider forms and logs; and Onward's guides, training materials, presentations, and videos (hereinafter

collectively “Confidential Information”) constitute sensitive and confidential information and trade secrets of Onward, which are not generally known or available to the public and which provide Onward with a competitive advantage in the marketplace.

- (2) Customer hereby agrees to hold all of Onward’s Confidential Information in strict confidence; agrees not to disclose the information to any third parties unless Onward provides written authorization prior to any disclosure; and agrees to not disclose Onward’s Confidential Information to anyone other than Customer’s employees with a bona fide need to know and who themselves are bound by a contractual confidentiality obligation.
- (3) If Customer receives a public information request or subpoena or other legal process which may require disclosure of Onward’s Confidential Information, before disclosing any Confidential Information, Customer shall provide notice to Onward and an opportunity for Onward to assess and respond to the request. Customer shall notify Onward immediately, but no later than three (3) days after Customer receives any request for information to which Onward’s Confidential Information may be responsive, to permit Onward an opportunity to assess the request and assert objections or seek protection. Customer shall request a Texas Attorney General ruling for any request to which Onward’s Confidential Information may be responsive as allowed by Texas law. Customer will use its best efforts to maintain the confidentiality of Onward’s Confidential Information and will cooperate with Onward’s efforts to lawfully protect such Confidential Information from disclosure.
- (4) Customer’s confidentiality obligations survive any termination or expiration of this Agreement.

- R. Notice Regarding Purchasing Cooperatives. Within ten (10) days from the Effective Date, Customer shall deliver the Purchasing Cooperative Notice addendum attached hereto as Exhibit B and provide written notice to Onward stating whether it is purchasing Onward’s services through a purchasing cooperative and if so, identifying the purchasing cooperative and providing proof of membership.

IV. LIMITED SOFTWARE LICENSE

Customer acknowledges and agrees that Onward’s proprietary SHARS software and applications constitute intellectual property for which Onward is only granting a non-exclusive, nontransferable, and limited license to Customer. Customer may use the software and applications exclusively in connection with the provision of services by Onward pursuant to this Agreement. Customer shall not sell, copy, reverse engineer, or redevelop the software or applications, or any components thereof. Customer may only use the software and applications, or any portions thereof, for purposes of obtaining services from Onward pursuant to this Agreement. This license will expire upon termination or expiration of this Agreement and Customer will have no rights to access or use the SHARS software or applications thereafter.

V. **DISCLAIMER OF WARRANTIES & LIMITATIONS OF LIABILITY**

A. **DISCLAIMER OF WARRANTIES.** Onward's services, software, and applications are provided "as is" and "as available," without warranties or conditions of any kind, express or implied, including but not limited to any implied warranties of merchantability or fitness for a particular purpose.

B. **LIMITATIONS ON LIABILITY.**

(1) **LIMITATIONS ON PROPERTY & PERSONAL INJURY LIABILITY.**

Onward, its officers, equity holders, employees, and agents, shall have no liability for any property damages or any personal injury (including, without limitation, death) to Customer's staff or employees or any third party resulting from any cause other than Onward's gross negligence or willful and intentional misconduct. To the extent Onward is liable for any damage to, or loss of, the Customer's equipment for any reason, such liability will be limited solely to the fair market value of the Customer's equipment and shall be subject to the cap set forth below.

(2) **LIMITATIONS ON ALL OTHER LIABILITY.**

Onward, its officers, equity holders, employees, or agents, shall have no obligation or liability to the Customer or any third party for any claim arising from or in any way related to this Agreement or Onward's services or program, whether based on contract, tort (including any theory of negligence or gross negligence), strict liability, or any other legal or equitable theory, for any alleged lost profits, lost funds, lost revenues, loss of business, loss of goodwill, replacement goods, loss of technology, loss of data, interruption or loss of use of service, or any other incidental, special, indirect or consequential damages, or punitive, exemplary damages, even if Onward is advised of the possibility of such damages, unless caused by Onward's intentional and willful misconduct. Onward shall have no liability for any losses or injury suffered arising from Customer's transmission of inaccurate, incomplete, or outdated data or information to Onward. Onward shall have no liability for any claims for attorney's fees or costs.

(3) **ONWARD'S MAXIMUM LIABILITY.**

To the extent that any claim is not barred by the agreed limitations on liability contained herein, Customer's sole and exclusive remedy and Onward's sole and maximum aggregate liability for any claims arising from or in any way related to this Agreement, Onward's services, or Onward, including but not limited to any claims for attorney's fees or costs, shall be limited to the total amount actually paid by Customer to Onward within the twelve (12) month period preceding Customer's presentment of any claim.

C. **REASONABLENESS.** Customer acknowledges and agrees that in connection with Onward's provision of services to Customer, Onward must necessarily rely on the accuracy and completeness of the information provided by Customer and on Customer's quality assurance and control programs. Customer further acknowledges and agrees that Onward will receive only a small percentage of Customer's anticipated revenue from the Medicaid programs at issue. Accordingly, Customer acknowledges and agrees that the limitations on liability contained herein are both reasonable and commercially necessary.

VI. MISCELLANEOUS

- A. Force Majeure. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this Agreement, Onward will not be responsible or liable for any failure or delay in the performance of its obligations under this Agreement arising out of or caused by, directly or indirectly, forces beyond its control, including, without limitation, (i) acts of God, floods, fires, hurricanes, pandemics, epidemics, viruses, and other natural occurrences; (ii) strikes, work stoppages, and accidents; (iii) acts of war or terrorism, and civil or military disturbances; (iv) acts of government, and material changes in law and regulation; and (v) loss of utilities, communications, internet, or computer services. In any such event, Onward will use commercially reasonable efforts to resume performance as soon as practicable.
- B. Cooperation. Each Party will do and perform, or cause to be done and performed, all further acts, and will execute and deliver all other agreements, instruments, and documents, as the other Party may reasonably request in order to carry out the intent and accomplish the purposes of this Agreement.
- C. Surviving Payment Obligations of the Anderson Coop Agreement & Merger Clause.
- (1) Except as expressly provided herein, this Agreement amends and supersedes the Anderson Coop Agreement with respect to the rights and obligations existing between Westwood ISD and Onward.¹ All fees for the Westwood ISD Cost Report for the 2023 fiscal year (and all Cost Reports thereafter) shall be governed by this Agreement. Customer shall otherwise remain responsible for all fees due for services provided by Onward prior to the Effective Date as provided for in the Anderson Coop Agreement. Fees for all services provided to Westwood ISD on or after the Effective Date shall be governed by the terms of this Agreement.
 - (2) Except for the expressly noted continuing payment obligations of Westwood ISD under the Anderson Coop Agreement addressed in C(1) above, the Parties intend this Agreement (including the exhibits) to constitute the complete, exclusive, and fully integrated statement of their current agreement. Except for the expressly incorporated payment obligations under the Anderson Coop Agreement addressed in C(1) above, as of the Effective Date, all other agreements, written or oral, entered into prior to or contemporaneously with the execution of this agreement, are merged into and superseded by and/or excluded from this Agreement.
- D. Disclaimer of Reliance. The Agreement is the product of an arms-length negotiation. Each Party has been adequately and fairly represented by competent counsel in connection with the execution and delivery of this Agreement and in any and all matters relating thereto. Each Party hereby represents and warrants that it has freely and willingly executed this Agreement and that their respective consent to the terms of this Agreement was not procured, obtained, or induced by improper conduct or undue influence. The Parties hereby each expressly disclaim reliance upon any facts, promises, undertakings, or representations made regarding the subject matter of this Agreement and not contained herein, including but not limited to any estimates or projections of potential revenue. After investigation and/or consultation with such Party's attorneys and counsel of its choosing, each Party agrees that the terms of this Agreement,

¹ The Anderson Coop Agreement remains in full force and effects as to the rights by and between the Parties and the other parties to that agreement.

including but not limited to the limitations on liability, are fair, reasonable, and supported by good, valid, and adequate consideration.

- E. Binding Nature. This Agreement will be binding upon and inure to the benefit of the Parties and their respective permitted successors and assigns.
- F. No Oral Modifications/No Implied Waiver. No provision of this Agreement (including the exhibits) may be waived other than by an instrument in writing signed by the Party making the waiver and expressly stating that it is waiving rights under this Agreement. No provision of this Agreement (including the exhibits) may be amended other than by an instrument in writing signed by both Parties which expressly states that it is amending this Agreement. Jeff Dominguez is the only person authorized to execute a waiver or amendment on behalf of Onward. With respect to the subject matter of this Agreement, Onward's contractual obligations may not be expanded beyond the scope of what is provided for in this Agreement (including the exhibits), nor its contractual rights under this Agreement (including the exhibits) limited or waived in the absence of a writing which post-dates this Agreement that is signed by Jeff Dominguez. Any purported waiver or amendment which fails to satisfy any of the requirements set forth in this Paragraph will be considered null and void and of no effect.
- G. Choice of Law & Venue. This Agreement will be governed by the laws of Texas, without giving effect to principles of conflicts of laws. Exclusive venue for legal action shall be in the state and federal courts located in Austin, Texas.
- H. Multiple Counterparts. This Agreement may be executed in two or more counterparts, all of which will be considered one agreement. This Agreement may be executed and delivered by the Parties by electronic methods, including email, electronic signature (e.g., DocuSign, HelloSign, and similar methods), and PDF transmission.
- I. Construction. The Parties hereto have worked closely together in drafting, negotiating, and reviewing this Agreement, and therefore agree that any rule of construction to the effect that any ambiguities are to be resolved against the drafting Party shall not be employed in the interpretation of this Agreement. Whenever the context of this Agreement so requires, the singular shall include the plural, the plural shall include the singular, the whole shall include any part thereof, and any gender shall include all other genders.
- J. Reformation & Severability. If any one or more of the provisions of this Agreement, or the application of any such provision to any person, entity, or set of circumstances, shall be determined to be invalid, unlawful, or unenforceable to any extent at any time, the remainder of this Agreement and the application of such provision shall continue to be enforceable to the fullest extent permitted by law. Any invalid, unlawful, or unenforceable provision hereof shall be reformed to the extent necessary to render it valid, lawful, and enforceable in a manner consistent with the intentions of the Parties regarding such provision.
- K. Immunity. Customer expressly waives immunity from liability and suit with respect to any claims arising from or in any way related to this Agreement, Onward, or Onward's services, including claims for attorney's fees or costs associated with any breach of contract claims.
- L. Authority. Customer represents and warrants that it is authorized to enter into this Agreement and to contract to purchase the services from Onward. Customer represents and warrants that the terms of this Agreement and Customer's performance hereunder will not conflict with or

constitute a default under any other agreements to which Customer is a party. Each Party represents and warrants that it is executing this Agreement in all of the representative capacities described in this Agreement and each signatory has the requisite authority and consent to execute the Agreement in all such capacities.

M. Specific Notices. Any notice required by Section I.C (termination); Section III.H (request for Cost Report Services for pre-Agreement fiscal years); Section III.L(2) (notice of intent to use paper logs); and Section III.Q (notices regarding requests for Confidential Information), of this Agreement must be made in writing and delivered to the receiving Party by both (1) email and (2) mail or personal delivery as follows:

(1) To Customer Westwood Independent School District
c/o Wade Stanford, Superintendent
4524 W. Oak
Palestine, TX 75801
Email: wstanford@westwoodisd.net

or

(2) To Onward
c/o Jeff Dominguez
3112 Windsor Rd, A143
Austin, TX 78703
Email: jeff@onwardlearning.com

With copy to:

Dunham LLP
Isabelle Antongiorgi
919 Congress Avenue
Suite 910
Austin, Texas 78701
Email: isabelle@dunhamllp.com

Any required notice will be deemed to be delivered (whether actually received or not) when emailed and deposited with the United States Postal Service, postage prepaid, certified mail, return receipt requested, and addressed to the intended recipient at the address shown in this Agreement. Such notices may also be given by personal delivery or courier delivery or other commercially reasonable means and will be effective when actually received. Any email or address for notice may be changed by written notice delivered as provided herein.

N. Disclaimer of Legal Advice. In the course of providing services under this Agreement, Onward may interpret laws or regulations or their application. Onward is not a law firm and does not provide legal advice. Customer expressly acknowledges that Onward will not provide it with legal advice. Customer will not construe any communication or conduct of Onward as legal advice and will not rely on Onward in its construction or application of any law or regulation, but will make its own independent assessment. Customer agrees that it will seek the advice of its own legal counsel regarding any legal issues concerning interpretation of any laws or regulations or their application to its practices, including any issues that may arise with respect to services to be provided under this Agreement.

AGREED:

CUSTOMER WESTWOOD INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

By: Wade Stanford
Title: Superintendent

Date: _____

TEXAS SPECIAL EDUCATION SOFTWARE SOLUTIONS, LLC (ONWARD):

By: Jeffrey Dominguez, Managing Member

Date: _____

10. ACTION ITEMS

- A. The board to consider and possibly approve the consent agenda
 - 1. Minutes of Regular Board Meeting July 8, 2024, and minutes of Special Board Meeting July 25, 2024

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Regular Meeting

Monday, July 8, 2024 5:30 PM
Westwood Administration Office

Carolyn Booker: Present
Angela Choate: Absent
Jeff Cooper: Present
Mindy Cretsinger: Absent
Sam Estes: Present
Jess Huddleston: Absent
Bryan Jones: Present

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ESTABLISH QUORUM

Discussion: The meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm.

2. ROLL CALL

3. INVOCATION

Discussion: Invocation was given by Dr. Carolyn Booker

4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/TEXAS PLEDGE

5. ACTION ITEM

5.A. Board to consider and approve the agenda

Action(s):

The board approved the agenda as presented. This motion, made by Bryan Jones and seconded by Jeff Cooper, Passed.

Voting Detail:

Carolyn Booker: Yea

Angela Choate: Absent

Jeff Cooper: Yea

Mindy Cretsinger: Absent

Sam Estes: Yea

Jess Huddleston: Absent

Bryan Jones: Yea

Voting Summary: Yea: 4, Nay: 0, Absent: 3

6. CLOSED SESSION

Discussion: The board went into closed session at 5:33 pm.

The board came out of closed session at 6:23 pm.

6.A. Superintendent's evaluation and contract extension and compensation consideration

6.B. Board to consider and possibly approve Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations

6.C. Board to consider District of Innovation Contracts

6.D. Acknowledge professional contracts for the 2024-2025 school year

7. Board to vote on items discussed in closed session

7.A. The board to consider and possibly approve the Superintendent's contract extension and compensation plan.

Action(s) :

Board approved a one year extension to the Superintendent, Wade Stanford's contract and compensation. This motion, made by Carolyn Booker and seconded by Bryan Jones, Passed.

Voting Detail:

Carolyn Booker: Yea
Angela Choate: Absent
Jeff Cooper: Yea
Mindy Cretsinger: Absent
Sam Estes: Yea
Jess Huddleston: Absent

Bryan Jones: Yea

Voting Summary: Yea: 4, Nay: 0, Absent: 3

7.B. Board to consider and possibly approve Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations

Action(s) :

The board approved a probationary one year contract for Chris Alford as Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations. This motion, made by Jeff Cooper and seconded by Sam Estes, Passed.

Voting Detail:

Carolyn Booker: Yea
Angela Choate: Absent
Jeff Cooper: Yea
Mindy Cretsinger: Absent
Sam Estes: Yea
Jess Huddleston: Absent

Bryan Jones: Yea

Voting Summary: Yea: 4, Nay: 0, Absent: 3

7.C. Board to consider and possibly approve the District of Innovation Contracts for the 2024-2025 school year

Action(s) :

The board approved three district of innovation contracts (CTE) for the 2024-2025. Britni Calzada

- Advanced Marketing Shelby Vaughn- Business Marketing Tina Bryant- Audio/Vision. This motion, made by Bryan Jones and seconded by Jeff Cooper, Passed.

Voting Detail:

Carolyn Booker: Yea
Angela Choate: Absent
Jeff Cooper: Yea
Mindy Cretsinger: Absent
Sam Estes: Yea
Jess Huddleston: Absent

Bryan Jones: Yea

Voting Summary: Yea: 4, Nay: 0, Absent: 3

7.D. Acknowledge Teacher contracts

Discussion: Board acknowledged teacher contracts as presented

8. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Discussion: none

9. **Public Hearing - State Compensatory Education Program Annual Evaluation**

Presenter: Dr. Tracie Robinson

Discussion: Dr. Tracie Robinson presented the State Compensatory Education Program Annual Evaluation for the 2023-2024 school year

10. **Public Comments concerning Compensatory Education Program**

Presenter: Dr. Tracie Robinson

Discussion: none

11. **INFORMATION ITEMS**

11.A. 2024-2025 Student Code of Conduct First Read

Discussion: The 1st reading of the 2024-2025 student code of conduct was delayed until the August board meeting.

11.B. Student Handbook for the 2024-2025 school year

Discussion: Dr. Tracie Robinson presented the Student Handbook for the 2024-2025. No major changes to the handbook were noted.

11.C. Curriculum Update

Discussion: Dr. Tracie Robinson presented the curriculum moment and went over the summer learning, Westwood ISD had over 100 students to participate daily.

11.D. Professional Development Waiver for the 2024-2025 School Year

Discussion: Dr. Tracie Robinson said the Texas Education Code allows for school districts to train staff on various educational strategies designed to improve student performance in lieu of a maximum of 2,100 minutes of student instruction for districts and charter schools that provide operational and instructional

minutes. The district has identified those days on the 2024-2025 school calendar.

11.E. T-TESS Appraisers and Calendar for 2024-2025

Discussion: Dr. Tracie Robison went over the appraisal calendar for the 2024-2025 school year and the T-TESS appraisers for the district.

11.F. Employee Handbook 2024-2025

Discussion: Dr. Tracie Robinson discussed the 2024-2025 Employee Handbook which provides staff with current operating procedures within Westwood ISD based on the TASB model handbook.

11.G. K-8 I-Ready Program

Discussion: Dr. Tracie Robinson presented to the board the I-Ready online program that helps students of all ages become thoughtful analytical readers and fluent in mathematics. Grounded in best practice, it engages students as they build new skills and learn the platform and adjusts the lesson path to meet every learner at their individual level, enabling teachers to provide a personalized learning experience for each student. Westwood ISD currently uses I-ready in grades 3-6 at Westwood Elementary and would like to extend the services for students at Westwood Primary and Westwood Junior High.

Presenter: Tracie Robinson

11.H. Update 123- 1st Read

Discussion: Mr. Stanford went over 1st read of update 123, second read would be at the August regular board meeting.

Presenter: Wade Stanford

12. Discussion of possible Oncor Easement

Discussion: Mr. Stanford went over the easement Oncor was requestin, more discussion at a later date.

13. ACTION ITEMS

13.A. Board to consider and possibly approve a compensation plan for 2024-2025

Presenter: Wade Stanford

Action(s):

Samantha Nivens made a motion to approve the 2024-2025 compensation plan with all pay grades receiving a 3% raise. Jones voted in favor and Cooper voted against this motion. This motion, made by Sam Estes and seconded by Carolyn Booker, Passed.

Voting Detail:

Carolyn Booker: Yea
Angela Choate: Absent
Jeff Cooper: Nay
Mindy Cretsinger: Absent
Sam Estes: Yea
Jess Huddleston: Absent

Bryan Jones: Yea

Voting Summary: Yea: 3, Nay: 1, Absent: 3

13.B. Board to consider and possibly approve the K-8 I-Ready Program

Action(s):

Board approved the I-Ready (Curriculum Associates) as presented for grade K-8. This motion, made by Bryan Jones and seconded by Sam Estes, Passed.

Voting Detail:

Carolyn Booker: Yea

Angela Choate: Absent

Jeff Cooper: Yea

Mindy Cretsinger: Absent

Sam Estes: Yea

Jess Huddleston: Absent

Bryan Jones: Yea

Voting Summary: Yea: 4, Nay: 0, Absent: 3

13.C. Professional Development Waiver for the 2024-2025 School Year

Action(s):

Board approved Professional Waiver Days for the 2024-2025 school year. This motion, made by Sam Estes and seconded by Bryan Jones, Passed.

Voting Detail:

Carolyn Booker: Yea

Angela Choate: Absent

Jeff Cooper: Yea

Mindy Cretsinger: Absent

Sam Estes: Yea

Jess Huddleston: Absent

Bryan Jones: Yea

Voting Summary: Yea: 4, Nay: 0, Absent: 3

13.D. Appraisal calendar for 2024-2025 and appraisers

Action(s):

The Board approve appraisal calendar for the 2024-2025 and appraisers. This motion, made by Jeff Cooper and seconded by Bryan Jones, Passed.

Voting Detail:

Carolyn Booker: Yea

Angela Choate: Absent

Jeff Cooper: Yea

Mindy Cretsinger: Absent

Cretsinger:

Sam Estes: Yea

Jess Huddleston: Absent

Bryan Jones: Yea

Voting Summary: Yea: 4, Nay: 0, Absent: 3

14. Board to consider and possibly approve the consent agenda

Action(s):

The Board approved the consent agenda including minutes from June 10, 2024 and July 1, 2024. Campus Improvement Plans for 2024-2025, Fundraisers - Class of 2027 - stadium cushions, and athletic photos. Region 7 contracts for the 2024-2025 school year. This motion, made by Jeff Cooper and seconded by Bryan Jones, Passed.

Voting Detail:

Carolyn Booker: Yea

Angela Choate: Absent

Jeff Cooper: Yea

Mindy
Cretsinger: Absent

Sam Estes: Yea

Jess Huddleston: Absent

Bryan Jones: Yea

Voting Summary: Yea: 4, Nay: 0, Absent: 3

14.A. Minutes of Regular Board Meeting, June 10, 2024, and Special Board Meeting July 1, 2024

14.B. Campus Improvement Plans 2024-2025

14.C. Campus Fundraisers

14.D. Region VII contracted services

15. Future Agenda items request and events

16. Adjournment

Discussion: Adjournment 7:07 pm

Board Secretary

2. Fundraisers
3. Update 123

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(LOCAL) Policy Comparisons

These documents are generated by an automated process that compares the updated policy to the current policy as found in TASB records.

In this packet, you will find:

- Policies being recommended for revision (annotated)
- New policies (not annotated)
- Policies recommended for deletion (annotated in PDF; not shown in Word)

Annotations are shown as follows:

- Deletions are in a red strike-through font: ~~deleted text~~.
- Additions are in a blue, bold font: **new text**.
- Blocks of text that were moved without changes are shown in green, with double underline and double strike-through formatting to distinguish the text's new placement from its original location: ~~moved text~~ becomes moved text.
- Revision bars appear in the right margin to show sections with changes.

Note: While the annotation software competently identifies simple changes, large or complicated changes—as in an extensive rewrite—may be more difficult to follow. In addition, TASB's recent changes to the policy templates to facilitate accessibility sometimes make formatting changes appear tracked, even though the text remains the same.

For further assistance in understanding policy changes, please refer to the explanatory notes in your Localized Policy Manual update packet or contact your policy consultant.

Contact:	School Districts and Education Service Centers	Community Colleges
	policy.service@tasb.org	colleges@tasb.org
	800.580.7529	800.580.1488

**Public Information
Coordinator**

After Election or
Appointment

The Superintendent shall fulfill the responsibilities of the public information coordinator and shall receive, on behalf of Board members, the training specified by Government Code 552.012. [See GBAA]

After a Violation

A Board member who receives written notice from the attorney general that the member must complete Public Information Act (PIA) training described by GBAA(LEGAL) following the District's failure to comply with a PIA requirement shall complete the training within the timelines described in law. The completion of the training in response to such a notice cannot be delegated.

**Reporting
Continuing
Education Credit**

The Board President shall announce the status of each Board member's continuing education credit. The announcement shall be made annually at the last regular Board meeting before the District's uniform election date, whether or not an election is held. The announcement shall be reflected in the meeting minutes and, when necessary, posted on the District's website in accordance with law.

In addition to disclosures required by law, a Board member shall disclose to the Board any personal financial interest, business interest, or obligation or relationship that in any way creates a potential conflict of interest with a vote on a pending matter.

A Board member shall not use coercive means or promise special treatment in order to influence Board or District decisions, nor use the member's position to seek personal advantage. [See also BBF(LOCAL)]

**Annual Financial
Management Report**

Each Board member shall provide to the District in a timely manner information necessary for the District's annual financial management report. [See CFA]

**Emergency
Operations Plan**

The Superintendent shall ensure updating of the District's emergency operations plan and ongoing staff training.

As required by law, the emergency operations plan shall include the District's procedures addressing:

1. Reasonable security measures when District property is used as a polling place;
2. Response to an active shooter emergency;
3. Response to a nearby train derailment, as applicable; and
4. Access to campus buildings and materials necessary for a substitute teacher to carry out the duties of a District employee during an emergency or an emergency drill.

Firearms

Purpose

~~The Board has adopted these provisions regarding firearms to address concerns about effective and timely response to emergency situations on District property, including invasion of a school by an armed outsider; a hostage situation; actions of a student or employee who is armed and poses a direct threat of physical harm to himself, herself, or others; and similar circumstances.~~

Authorization

~~Pursuant to its authority under state law, the Board may authorize specific District employees to possess certain firearms in schools, at Board meetings, and at school-sponsored or school-related events on District property, to the extent allowed by law.~~

**Each specifically
authorized employee
shall be approved by
action of the Board.**

~~The Superintendent shall issue written authorization to each approved employee.~~

**Notice Regarding
Violent Activity**

~~Participation in this safety program shall be strictly voluntary and shall not be a requirement of any employee position.~~

Revocation

~~The Superintendent, as well as the Board, shall have the authority to revoke at any time a specific employee's authorization to possess a firearm under this policy.~~

~~However, authorization for a specific employee to possess a firearm under this policy shall be automatically revoked if the employee is placed on administrative leave or separates from employment with the District, regardless of the reason.~~

Handgun Licensees

~~Only a District employee who maintains a current license to carry a handgun in accordance with state law shall be eligible for authorization to possess a firearm on District property under this policy and in accordance with the District's emergency operations plan.~~

~~A District employee who is a handgun license holder but who has not been specifically authorized by Board action under this policy~~

	shall not be permitted to possess a firearm on school property except in accordance with the limited provisions of DH(LOCAL).
Training	The District shall provide to each District employee who is authorized to possess a firearm on District property specialized training in crisis intervention, management of hostage situations, and other topics the Board may determine necessary or appropriate.
Permitted Weapons and Ammunition	Only District approved firearms and ammunition shall be authorized for possession and use under this policy and the District's emergency operations develop procedures.
Implementation	The Superintendent shall ensure to notify parents regarding violent activity that procedures to implement this security program are detailed in the District's emergency operations plan. has occurred or is being investigated at a campus or other District facility or at a District-sponsored activity.

District Police Department	To ensure sufficient security and protection of students, staff, and property, the Board authorizes the formation of a District police department and shall employ and commission police officers.
Supervisory Authority	The chief of police shall be accountable to and shall report to the Superintendent. In accordance with law, the Superintendent shall not delegate this supervisory responsibility.
Jurisdiction	The jurisdiction of District police officers shall include all territory within District boundaries, as well as all real and personal property outside the boundaries of the District that is owned, leased, or rented by the District, or is otherwise under the District's control.
Police Authority and Duties	<p>Each District police officer shall have all the powers, privileges, and immunities of police officers on or off duty within the jurisdiction of the District. Subject to limitations in law, each District police officer shall:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Protect the safety and welfare of any person in the jurisdiction of the District and protect the property of the District.2. Enforce all laws, including municipal ordinances, county ordinances, and state laws, and investigate violations of law as needed. In doing so, District police officers may serve search warrants in connection with District-related investigations in compliance with the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure.3. Arrest suspects consistent with state and federal statutory and constitutional standards governing arrests, including arrests without warrant, for offenses that occur in the officer's presence or under the other rules set out in the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure.4. Coordinate and cooperate with commissioned officers of all other law enforcement agencies in the enforcement of this policy as necessary.5. Enforce District policies, rules, and regulations on District property, in school zones, at bus stops, or at District functions.6. Investigate violations of District policy, rules, and regulations as requested by the Superintendent and participate in hearings concerning alleged violations.7. Carry weapons as directed by the chief of police and approved by the Superintendent.8. Carry out all other duties as directed by the chief of police or Superintendent.

	<p>A District police officer shall not be assigned routine classroom discipline or administrative tasks.</p>
<p>Limitations on Nonschool Employment</p>	<p>No officer commissioned under this policy shall provide law enforcement or security services for an outside employer without prior written approval from the chief of police and Superintendent. Each District police officer shall enforce all laws, including municipal ordinances, county ordinances, and state laws within another law enforcement agency's jurisdiction while working off-duty or temporarily assigned to another agency.</p>
<p>Relationship with Outside Agencies</p>	<p>The District's police department and the law enforcement agencies with which it has overlapping jurisdiction shall enter into memoranda of understanding and other appropriate interlocal agreements that outline reasonable communication and coordination efforts among the department and the agencies. The chief of police and the Superintendent shall review the memoranda of understanding and other agreements at least once every year. All such agreements shall be approved by the Board.</p>
<p><i>Interlocal Agreement for Mutual Aid</i></p>	<p>While operating pursuant to an interlocal agreement for mutual aid or other support for another law enforcement agency, each District police officer shall perform the duties and have the authorities set out in the agreement, including enforcing all laws within the other agency's jurisdiction.</p>
<p>Video Monitoring</p>	<p>If available, video equipment shall be used on a District police car for safety purposes whenever the flashing lights on the car are in use.</p>
<p><i>Access to Recordings</i></p>	<p>Recordings shall be considered law enforcement records, shall remain in the custody of the chief of police, and shall be maintained as required by the department regulations manual and law. A parent or student who wishes to view a video recording in response to disciplinary action taken against the student may request such access under the procedures set out by law. [See FL(LEGAL)]</p>
<p>Body-Worn Cameras</p>	<p>A District police officer shall use a body-worn camera only when performing official law enforcement duties for the District and in accordance with the provisions of the District police department's body-worn camera program. Each District police officer shall receive training on the program, including proper use and operation of cameras. Any District employee who has access to data from body-worn cameras shall receive training on storage, retention, and release of recordings.</p>
<p>Training</p>	<p>Each District police officer shall receive at least the minimum amount of education and training required by law.</p>

Department Regulations Manual	To carry out the provisions in this policy, the police department shall compile and maintain a manual that describes and sets forth operational procedures, rules, and regulations pertaining to the administration of police services. The chief of police and the Superintendent shall review the manual annually and make any appropriate revisions.
<i>Racial Profiling</i>	The chief of police shall develop and implement regulations to ensure compliance with laws regarding racial profiling. A District police officer shall not initiate any law enforcement action based on an individual's race, ethnicity, or national origin.
<i>Use of Force</i>	The use of force, including deadly force, shall be authorized only when reasonable and necessary, as outlined in the department regulations manual.
<i>High-Speed Pursuit</i>	A District police officer shall not engage in high-speed chases in a motor vehicle when the immediate danger to the public or the officer created by the pursuit exceeds the immediate or potential danger presented by the offenders remaining at large. Guidelines for high-speed pursuits shall be addressed in the department regulations manual.
Complaints	<p>Complaints against a District police officer shall be in writing on a form provided by the District and shall be signed by the person making the complaint. In accordance with law, the District shall provide to the police officer a copy of the complaint.</p> <p>Appeals regarding this complaint process shall be filed in accordance with DGBA, FNG, or GF, as appropriate.</p> <p>[See CKE(LEGAL) and CKEA(LEGAL)]</p>
Employees and Board Members Authorized to Possess Firearms for Emergency Response	The Board has adopted these provisions regarding firearms to address concerns about effective and timely response to emergency situations on District property, including invasion of a school by an armed outsider; a hostage situation; actions of a student or employee who is armed and poses a direct threat of physical harm to himself, herself, or others; and similar circumstances.
Purpose	
Authorization	<p>Pursuant to its authority under state law, the Board may authorize specific District employees and Board members to possess certain firearms in schools, at Board meetings, and at school-sponsored or school-related events on District property, to the extent allowed by law. Each authorized employee and Board member shall have immunities as provided by law.</p> <p>Each specifically authorized employee and Board member shall be approved by action of the Board. The Superintendent shall issue</p>

written authorization to each approved employee and Board member. The written authorization shall specify the District premises and other property where the employee or Board member is authorized to carry a firearm, as well as the means of carrying and storing the firearm.

Participation in this safety and security program shall be strictly voluntary.

Revocation

The Superintendent, as well as the Board, shall have the authority to revoke at any time a specific employee's authorization to possess a firearm under this policy. The Board may revoke a Board member's authorization at any time.

In addition, authorization for a specific employee or Board member to possess a firearm under this policy shall be automatically revoked if the employee is placed on administrative leave or separates from employment with the District, regardless of the reason, or if the Board member resigns or otherwise no longer holds office as a Board member, regardless of the reason.

Duties

An authorized employee or Board member shall not perform routine law enforcement duties unless the duty is performed in response to an emergency that poses a threat of death or serious bodily injury to a student, employee, or other individual on a District campus.

In an emergency an authorized employee or Board member shall:

1. Act as necessary to protect the safety and welfare of any person in the jurisdiction of the District; and
2. Carry out all other lawful duties as directed by the Superintendent.

Handgun Licensees

Only a District employee or Board member who maintains a current license to carry a handgun in accordance with state law shall be eligible for authorization to possess a firearm on District property under this policy and in accordance with the District's emergency operations plan.

A District employee who is a handgun license holder but who has not been specifically authorized by Board action under this policy shall not be permitted to possess a firearm on school property except in accordance with the limited provisions of DH(LOCAL).

Training

The District shall provide to each District employee or Board member who is authorized to possess a firearm on District property spe-

SAFETY PROGRAM/RISK MANAGEMENT
SECURITY PERSONNEL

CKE
(LOCAL)

cialized training in crisis intervention, management of hostage situations, and other topics the Board may determine necessary or appropriate.

Permitted Weapons
and Ammunition

Only District-approved firearms and ammunition shall be authorized for possession and use under this policy and the District's emergency operations procedures.

Implementation

The Superintendent shall ensure that procedures to implement this safety and security program are detailed in the District's emergency operations plan.

With this policy, the Board adopts the model health and safety guidelines for the effective integration of digital devices in schools that have been developed by the Texas Education Agency and the Health and Human Services Commission.

The Superintendent shall develop regulations that implement these guidelines.

Complaints

In this policy, the terms “complaint” and “grievance” shall have the same meaning.

Other Complaint Processes

Employee complaints shall be filed in accordance with this policy, except as required by the policies listed below. Some of these policies require appeals to be submitted in accordance with DGBA after the relevant complaint process:

1. Complaints alleging discrimination, including violations of Title IX (gender), Title VII (sex, race, color, religion, national origin), ADEA (age), or Section 504 (disability), shall be submitted in accordance with [the DIA series](#).
2. Complaints alleging certain forms of harassment, including harassment by a supervisor and violation of Title VII, shall be submitted in accordance with [the DIA series](#).
3. Complaints concerning retaliation relating to discrimination and harassment shall be submitted in accordance with [the DIA series](#).
4. Complaints concerning instructional resources shall be submitted in accordance with the EF series.
5. Complaints concerning a commissioned peace officer who is an employee of the District shall be submitted in accordance with [the CKE series](#).
6. Complaints concerning the proposed nonrenewal of a term contract issued under Chapter 21 of the Education Code shall be submitted in accordance with DFBB.
7. Complaints concerning the proposed termination or suspension without pay of an employee on a probationary, term, or continuing contract issued under Chapter 21 of the Education Code during the contract term shall be submitted in accordance with DFAA, DFBA, or DFCA.

Notice to Employees

The District shall inform employees of this policy through appropriate District publications.

Guiding Principles

Informal Process

The Board encourages employees to discuss their concerns with their supervisor, principal, or other appropriate administrator who has the authority to address the concerns. Concerns should be expressed as soon as possible to allow early resolution at the lowest possible administrative level.

Informal resolution shall be encouraged but shall not extend any deadlines in this policy, except by mutual written consent.

PERSONNEL-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS
EMPLOYEE COMPLAINTS/GRIEVANCES

DGBA
(LOCAL)

Direct Communication with Board Members	Employees shall not be prohibited from communicating with a member of the Board regarding District operations except when communication between an employee and a Board member would be inappropriate because of a pending hearing or appeal related to the employee.
Formal Process	<p>An employee may initiate the formal process described below by timely filing a written complaint form.</p> <p>Even after initiating the formal complaint process, employees are encouraged to seek informal resolution of their concerns. An employee whose concerns are resolved may withdraw a formal complaint at any time.</p> <p>The process described in this policy shall not be construed to create new or additional rights beyond those granted by law or Board policy, nor to require a full evidentiary hearing or “mini-trial” at any level.</p>
Freedom from Retaliation	Neither the Board nor any District employee shall unlawfully retaliate against an employee for bringing a concern or complaint.
Whistleblower Complaints	<p>Whistleblower complaints shall be filed within the time specified by law and may be made to the Superintendent or designee beginning at Level Two. Timelines for the employee and the District set out in this policy may be shortened to allow the Board to make a final decision within 60 calendar days of the initiation of the complaint.</p> <p>[See DG]</p>
Complaints Against Supervisors	Complaints alleging a violation of law by a supervisor may be made to the Superintendent or designee. Complaint forms alleging a violation of law by the Superintendent may be submitted directly to the Board or designee.
General Provisions Filing	Complaint forms and appeal notices may be filed by hand-delivery, by electronic communication, including email and fax, or by U.S. Mail. Hand-delivered filings shall be timely filed if received by the appropriate administrator or designee by the close of business on the deadline. Filings submitted by electronic communication shall be timely filed if they are received by the close of business on the deadline, as indicated by the date/time shown on the electronic communication. Mail filings shall be timely filed if they are post-marked by U.S. Mail on or before the deadline and received by the appropriate administrator or designated representative no more than three days after the deadline.
Scheduling Conferences	The District shall make reasonable attempts to schedule conferences at a mutually agreeable time. If the employee fails to appear at a scheduled conference, the District may hold the conference and issue a decision in the employee’s absence.

PERSONNEL-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS
EMPLOYEE COMPLAINTS/GRIEVANCES

DGBA
(LOCAL)

Response	<p>At Levels One and Two, “response” shall mean a written communication to the employee from the appropriate administrator. Responses may be hand-delivered, sent by electronic communication to the employee’s email address of record, or sent by U.S. Mail to the employee’s mailing address of record. Mailed responses shall be timely if they are postmarked by U.S. Mail on or before the deadline.</p>
Days	<p>“Days” shall mean District business days, unless otherwise noted. In calculating timelines under this policy, the day a document is filed is “day zero.” The following business day is “day one.”</p>
Representative	<p>“Representative” shall mean any person who or an organization that does not claim the right to strike and is designated by the employee to represent him or her in the complaint process.</p> <p>The employee may designate a representative through written notice to the District at any level of this process. The representative may participate in person or by telephone conference call. If the employee designates a representative with fewer than three days’ notice to the District before a scheduled conference or hearing, the District may reschedule the conference or hearing to a later date, if desired, in order to include the District’s counsel. The District may be represented by counsel at any level of the process.</p>
Consolidating Complaints	<p>Complaints arising out of an event or a series of related events shall be addressed in one complaint. Employees shall not file separate or serial complaints arising from any event or series of events that have been or could have been addressed in a previous complaint.</p> <p>When two or more complaints are sufficiently similar in nature and remedy sought to permit their resolution through one proceeding, the District may consolidate the complaints.</p>
Untimely Filings	<p>All time limits shall be strictly followed unless modified by mutual written consent.</p> <p>If a complaint form or appeal notice is not timely filed, the complaint may be dismissed, on written notice to the employee, at any point during the complaint process. The employee may appeal the dismissal by seeking review in writing within ten days from the date of the written dismissal notice, starting at the level at which the complaint was dismissed. Such appeal shall be limited to the issue of timeliness.</p>
Costs Incurred	<p>Each party shall pay its own costs incurred in the course of the complaint.</p>

Complaint and
Appeal Forms

Complaints and appeals under this policy shall be submitted in writing on a form provided by the District.

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

A complaint or appeal form that is incomplete in any material aspect may be dismissed but may be refiled with all the required information if the refile is within the designated time for filing.

Audio Recording

As provided by law, an employee shall be permitted to make an audio recording of a conference or hearing under this policy at which the substance of the employee's complaint is discussed. The employee shall notify all attendees present that an audio recording is taking place.

Level One

Complaint forms must be filed:

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

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

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

If the complaint is not filed with the appropriate administrator, the receiving administrator must note the date and time the complaint form was received and immediately forward the complaint form to the appropriate administrator.

The appropriate administrator shall investigate as necessary and schedule a conference with the employee within ten days after receipt of the written complaint. The administrator may set reasonable time limits for the conference.

Absent extenuating circumstances, the administrator shall provide the employee a written response within ten days following the conference. In reaching a decision, the administrator may consider information provided at the Level One conference and any other relevant documents or information the administrator believes will help resolve the complaint.

Level Two

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

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

After receiving notice of the appeal, the Level One administrator shall prepare and forward a record of the Level One complaint to the Level Two administrator. The employee may request a copy of the Level One record.

The Level One record shall include:

1. The original complaint form and any attachments.
2. All other documents submitted by the employee at Level One.
3. The written response issued at Level One and any attachments.
4. All other documents relied upon by the Level One administrator in reaching the Level One decision.

The Superintendent or designee shall schedule a conference within ten days after the appeal notice is filed. The conference shall be limited to the issues and documents considered at Level One. At the conference, the employee may provide information concerning any documents or information relied upon by the administration for the Level One decision. The Superintendent or designee may set reasonable time limits for the conference.

The Superintendent or designee shall provide the employee a written response within ten days following the conference. In reaching a decision, the Superintendent or designee may consider the Level One record, information provided at the Level Two conference, and any other relevant documents or information the Superintendent or designee believes will help resolve the complaint.

Recordings of the Level One and Level Two conferences, if any, shall be maintained with the Level One and Level Two records.

Level Three

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

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

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

The Superintendent or designee shall provide the Board the record of the Level Two appeal. The employee may request a copy of the Level Two record.

The Level Two record shall include:

1. The Level One record.
2. The notice of appeal from Level One to Level Two.
3. The written response issued at Level Two and any attachments.
4. All other documents relied upon by the administration in reaching the Level Two decision.

The appeal shall be limited to the issues and documents considered at Level Two, except that if at the Level Three hearing the administration intends to rely on evidence not included in the Level Two record, the administration shall provide the employee notice of the nature of the evidence at least three days before the hearing.

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

The presiding officer may set reasonable time limits and guidelines for the presentation, including an opportunity for the employee and administration to each make a presentation and provide rebuttal and an opportunity for questioning by the Board. The Board shall hear the complaint and may request that the administration provide an explanation for the decisions at the preceding levels.

In addition to any other record of the Board meeting required by law, the Board shall prepare a separate record of the Level Three presentation. The Level Three presentation, including the presentation by the employee or the employee's representative, any presentation from the administration, and questions from the Board

with responses, shall be recorded by audio recording, video/audio recording, or court reporter.

The Board shall then consider the complaint. It may give notice of its decision orally or in writing at any time up to and including the next regularly scheduled Board meeting. If the Board does not make a decision regarding the complaint by the end of the next regularly scheduled meeting, the lack of a response by the Board upholds the administrative decision at Level Two.

General Education

Consistent with ~~TEA's~~the Texas Education Agency (TEA) *Student Attendance Accounting Handbook (SAAH)*, a student may be eligible for general education homebound services if the student is to be confined for a minimum of four weeks to a hospital or homebound setting for medical or psychological reasons specifically documented by a physician licensed to practice in the United States. The weeks of confinement need not be consecutive. The parent's request for services shall be submitted to the principal in accordance with TEA's *SAAH* and administrative procedures.

The principal or designee shall convene a placement committee composed of at least a campus administrator, a teacher of the student, and the parent or guardian of the student to consider the necessity of providing general education homebound instruction to the student. If the committee determines that such instruction is appropriate, the committee shall determine the type and amount of instruction to be provided and, if applicable, the length of the transition period to the school-based setting based on current ~~medical~~ information regarding the medical or psychological condition.

Special Education

Consistent with state rule and the *SAAH*, a student receiving special education services may be eligible for special education homebound services if the student is to be confined for a minimum of four weeks to a hospital or homebound setting for medical or psychological reasons specifically documented by a physician licensed to practice in the United States. ~~If a student is chronically ill, the student's admission, review, and dismissal (ARD) committee shall determine whether the~~The weeks of confinement need ~~to not~~ be consecutive.

~~If the ARD~~If a student's admission, review, and dismissal committee determines that homebound instruction is appropriate, the committee shall determine the type and amount of instruction to be provided in accordance with law, and, if applicable, the length of the transition period to the school-based setting based on current ~~medical~~ information regarding the medical or psychological condition.

Documentation of Services

The District shall maintain full documentation about students receiving homebound services, in accordance with administrative procedures, the *SAAH*, and a student's individualized education program ~~(IEP)~~, as applicable.

Note: — For information related to the selection process and accounting of instructional materials, as this term is defined by state law and rule, see CMD and EFA.

~~The District shall provide a wide range of instructional resources for students and faculty that present varying levels of difficulty, diversity of appeal, and a variety of points of view. Although professional staff members may select instructional resources for their use in accordance with District policy and administrative regulations, the ultimate authority for determining and approving the curriculum and instructional program of the District lies with the Board.~~

Objectives

~~In this policy, “instructional resources” may include textbooks, library acquisitions, supplementary resources for classroom use, and any other instructional resources, including electronic resources, used for formal or informal teaching and learning purposes. The primary objectives of instructional resources are to implement, enrich, and support the District’s educational program.~~

~~The Board shall rely on District professional staff to select and acquire instructional resources that:~~

- ~~1. — Enrich and support the curriculum, taking into consideration students’ varied interests, abilities, learning styles, and maturity levels.~~
- ~~2. — Stimulate growth in factual knowledge, enjoyment of reading, literary appreciation, aesthetic values, and societal standards.~~
- ~~3. — Present various sides of controversial issues so that students have an opportunity to develop, under guidance, skills in critical analysis and in making informed judgments in their daily lives.~~
- ~~4. — Represent many ethnic, religious, and cultural groups and their contributions to the national heritage and world community.~~
- ~~5. — Provide a wide range of background information that will enable students to make intelligent judgments in their daily lives.~~

Selection Criteria

~~In the selection of instructional resources, professional staff shall ensure that the resources:~~

- ~~1. — Support and are consistent with the general educational goals of the state and District and the aims and objectives of individual schools and specific courses consistent with the District and campus improvement plans.~~

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- ~~2.— Meet high standards for artistic quality and/or literary style, authenticity, educational significance, factual content, physical format, presentation, readability, and technical quality.~~
- ~~3.— Are appropriate for the subject area and for the age, ability level, learning styles, and social and emotional development of the students for whom they are selected.~~
- ~~4.— Are designed to help students gain an awareness of our pluralistic society.~~
- ~~5.— Are designed to provide information that will motivate students and staff to examine their own attitudes and behavior; to understand their duties, responsibilities, rights, and privileges as citizens participating in our society; and to make informed choices in their daily lives.~~
- ~~6.— For library selections, are integral to the instructional program, are appropriate for the reading levels and understanding of students, reflect the interests and needs of the students and faculty, are included because of their literary or artistic value and merit, and present information with the greatest degree of accuracy and clarity.~~

~~Administrators, teachers, library media specialists, other District personnel, parents, and community members, as appropriate, may recommend instructional resources for selection. Gifts of instructional resources shall be evaluated according to these criteria and accepted or rejected in accordance with CDG(LOCAL).~~

~~Selection of resources is an ongoing process that includes the removal of resources no longer appropriate and the periodic replacement or repair of resources that still have educational value.~~

Controversial Issues

~~District professional staff shall endeavor to maintain a balanced collection representing various views when selecting instructional resources on controversial issues. Resources shall be chosen to clarify historical and contemporary forces by presenting and analyzing intergroup tension and conflict objectively, placing emphasis on recognizing and understanding social and economic problems. [See also EMB regarding instruction about controversial issues and EHAA regarding human sexuality instruction.]~~

Challenged Resources

~~A parent of a District student, any employee, or any District resident may formally challenge an instructional resource used in the District's educational program on the basis of appropriateness.~~

~~Informal
Reconsideration~~

~~The school receiving a complaint about the appropriateness of an instructional resource shall try to resolve the matter informally using the following procedure:~~

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- ~~1.—The principal or designee shall explain the school's selection process, the criteria for selection, and the qualifications of the professional staff who selected the questioned resource.~~
- ~~2.—The principal or designee shall explain the intended educational purpose of the resource and any additional information regarding its use.~~
- ~~3.—If appropriate, the principal or designee may offer a concerned parent an alternative instructional resource to be used by that parent's child in place of the challenged resource.~~
- ~~4.—If the complainant wishes to make a formal challenge, the principal or designee shall provide the complainant a copy of this policy and a form to request a formal reconsideration of the resource.~~

**Formal
Reconsideration**

~~A complainant shall make any formal objection to an instructional resource on the form provided by the District and shall submit the completed and signed form to the principal. Upon receipt of the form, the principal shall appoint a reconsideration committee.~~

~~The reconsideration committee shall include at least one member of the instructional staff who has experience using the challenged resource with students or is familiar with the challenged resource's content. Other members of the committee may include District-level staff, library staff, secondary-level students, parents, and any other appropriate individuals.~~

~~All members of the committee shall review the challenged resource in its entirety. As soon as reasonably possible, the committee shall meet and determine whether the challenged resource conforms to the principles of selection set out in this policy. The committee shall prepare a written report of its findings and provide copies to the principal, the Superintendent or designee, and the complainant.~~

Appeal

~~The complainant may appeal the decision of the reconsideration committee in accordance with appropriate complaint policies, starting with the appropriate administrator. [See DGBA, FNG, and GF]~~

Guiding Principles

~~The following principles shall guide the Board and staff in responding to challenges of instructional resources:~~

- ~~1.—A complainant may raise an objection to an instructional resource used in a school's educational program, despite the fact that the professional staff selecting the resources were qualified to make the selection, followed the proper procedure, and adhered to the objectives and criteria for instructional resources set out in this policy.~~

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- ~~2.— A parent's ability to exercise control over reading, listening, or viewing matter extends only to his or her own child.~~
- ~~3.— Access to a challenged resource shall not be restricted during the reconsideration process, except the District may deny access to a child if requested by the child's parent.~~

~~The major criterion for the final decision on challenged resources is the appropriateness of the resource for its intended educational use. No challenged instructional resource shall be removed solely because of the ideas expressed therein.~~

Note: For information related to the accounting of instructional materials, as this term is defined by state law and rule, see CMD.

For information related to the selection process of library materials, see EFB.

The District shall provide instructional materials designed to teach the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills and further the District's educational mission. Although the Superintendent shall ensure that professional staff select instructional materials in accordance with District policy and administrative regulations, the ultimate authority for determining and approving the curriculum and instructional program of the District lies with the Board.

Objectives

In this policy, "instructional materials" may include textbooks, supplementary resources for classroom use, and any other instructional resources, including electronic resources, used for formal or informal teaching and learning purposes. The primary objectives of instructional materials are to implement, enrich, and support the District's educational program.

Selection

Instructional materials that are textbooks and related supplemental materials, which may include items from the list of resources adopted by the State Board of Education, shall be chosen in accordance with administrative regulations and the objectives above.

The Board shall rely on District professional staff to select and acquire instructional materials that:

1. Enrich and support the curriculum consistent with the general educational goals of the state and District, the aims and objectives of individual schools and specific courses, and the District and campus improvement plans.
2. Are appropriate for the subject area and for the age, ability level, learning styles, interests, and social and emotional development of the students for whom they are selected.
3. Meet high standards for artistic quality, literary style, authenticity, educational significance, factual content, physical format, presentation, readability, and technical quality.
4. Present various sides of controversial issues so that students have an opportunity to develop, under guidance, skills in critical analysis and in making informed judgments in their daily lives. [See also EMB regarding instruction about controversial issues.]
5. Promote literacy.

District professional staff may select additional instructional materials in accordance with administrative regulations and the criteria above.

Administrators, teachers, other District personnel, parents, and community members, as appropriate, may recommend instructional materials for selection. Gifts of instructional materials shall be evaluated according to these criteria and accepted or rejected in accordance with CDC(LOCAL).

Selection of instructional materials is an ongoing process that includes the removal of materials no longer appropriate and the periodic replacement or repair of materials that still have educational value.

**Reconsideration of
Instructional
Materials**

A District employee or a parent or guardian of a District student may request reconsideration of instructional material used in the District's educational program on the basis that the instructional material fails to meet the standards set forth in this policy.

Guiding Principles

The following principles shall guide the Board and staff in responding to a request for reconsideration of instructional materials:

1. A complainant may raise an objection to an instructional material used in a school's educational 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 for instructional materials set out in this policy.
2. A parent's ability to exercise control over instruction 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 the District may deny access to a child if requested by the child's parent.

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

Informal
Reconsideration

When the District or a campus receives an objection to the appropriateness of an instructional material, the appropriate administrator shall try to resolve the matter informally. The administrator shall explain the selection process and discuss the intended educational purpose for the instructional material. If appropriate, the adminis-

trator may offer a concerned parent an alternative instructional material to be used by that parent's child in place of the challenged material.

If the complainant wishes to make a formal challenge, the administrator shall provide the complainant a copy of this policy and a form to request a formal reconsideration of the instructional material.

Formal Request for
Reconsideration

A complainant shall make any formal request to reconsider an instructional material on the form provided by the District and shall submit the completed and signed form to the principal. Upon receipt of the form, the principal shall appoint a reconsideration committee.

The reconsideration committee shall 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 include District-level staff, secondary-level students, parents, and any other appropriate individuals.

All members of the committee shall review the challenged instructional 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 educational program. The committee shall prepare a written report of its findings. The Superintendent, other appropriate administrators, and the complainant shall receive copies of the report.

*Frequency of
Review*

After an instructional material has been reviewed through formal reconsideration, it shall not be reviewed again until it is evaluated in the periodic local selection process.

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]

Note: For information related to the selection of instructional materials, see EFA.

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that the District provides 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. This policy also provides standards for collection development and the selection and evaluation of library materials.

**Collection
Development Policy**

In this policy, “library materials” may include printed and electronic library acquisitions, including online catalogs, and other ancillary or supplementary materials maintained in a campus library.

The library collection development standards shall apply to all library materials available for use or display, including material contained in school libraries, classroom libraries, and online catalogs.

In developing library collections, the District shall consider the age groups, grade levels, and access to library material by all students on a campus.

Responsibility

The District shall ensure librarians, professional library staff, and other designated professional staff trained on the proper collection development standards select and acquire library materials in accordance with state law and rules, this collection development policy, and administrative procedures.

The Superintendent shall develop administrative procedures to ensure that library collections comply with applicable law and the District’s collection development purpose and goals.

Collection
Development Goals

In addition to the requirements in state law and rules, the District’s library collections shall:

1. Present multiple viewpoints related to controversial issues [see EMB regarding instruction about controversial issues].
2. Provide a wide range of background information that will enable students to make intelligent decisions in their daily lives.
3. Include accurate and authentic factual content from authoritative sources.
4. Have a high degree of potential user appeal and interest.
5. 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.

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6. Represent diverse viewpoints and cultures appropriate to each campus to ensure the collection embodies the unique background of its student population.

Selection and
Evaluation of
Materials

Library materials shall be selected and acquired in accordance with guidelines adopted by the Texas State Library and Archives Commission and the District standards and priorities expressed in this policy.

When selecting, acquiring, and evaluating library materials, librarians and other professional staff shall ensure that the materials:

1. Enrich and support the TEKS and the state and local curriculum, taking into consideration students' varied interests, maturity levels, abilities, and learning styles.
2. Foster growth in factual knowledge, literary appreciation, aesthetic values, and societal standards.
3. Encourage the enjoyment of reading, foster high-level thinking skills, support personal learning, and encourage discussion based on rational analysis.
4. Represent ethnic, religious, and cultural groups of the state and their contributions to the state, the nation, and the world.

The Superintendent shall ensure that administrative procedures regarding the selection of library materials consider at least two of the following factors:

1. Recommendations from students, parents or guardians, teachers, and District community members.
2. Consultation with District teachers and library staff.
3. Consultation with library staff from other districts.
4. Extensive review of the library material.
5. Context of the library material, including overall fit within the existing collection and support of District curriculum.
6. Reviews of the library material from sources such as professional journals in library science, recognized professional education or content journals with book reviews, national and state award recognition lists, library science field experts, and highly acclaimed author and literacy expert recommendations.
7. Coverage of topics, authors, series, or genres that fill gaps in the school library collection.

Access Plan

The District shall allow efficient parental access to the District's library and any available online catalogs.

Online catalogs shall be publicly available. The District shall publish information about library material titles, including how and where material can be accessed.

Each campus shall communicate the following to parents and guardians:

- Access to policies relating to school libraries and library materials;
- Consistent access to library materials and resources; and
- Opportunities for students, parents and guardians, educators, and community members to provide feedback on library materials and services.

Parental
Involvement

Parents and guardians are the primary decision makers regarding their student's access to library material. 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 remains with the student and parent or guardian. Parents and guardians are encouraged to communicate with the campus librarian and their child's teacher about special considerations regarding library materials self-selected by their student.

In accordance with state law and administrative procedures, parents or guardians may select alternative library materials for their student. [For information on parental rights regarding instructional materials and other instructional resources, see EFA(LEGAL).]

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

*Access
Procedures*

School Library

A parent or guardian who wishes to access a school's library shall first submit a request to the principal. The principal or a staff member designated by the principal shall work with the parent or guardian to determine a time to access the library that will not interfere with the delivery of instruction or disrupt student use of library services.

Online Catalog

A parent or guardian who wishes to access an online catalog shall submit a written request to the principal. The principal or a staff member designated by the principal shall respond to the request in accordance with administrative procedures.

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LIBRARY MATERIALS

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Protection from
Inappropriate
Material

Library materials shall not include “harmful material” as defined by Penal Code 43.24(a)(2); “obscene” material as defined by Penal Code 43.21(a)(1); any library material that is pervasively vulgar or educationally unsuitable as referenced in *Board of Education v. Pico*; or any other material legally prohibited from inclusion in a public school library. [See EFB(LEGAL)]

Obscene material is not protected by the First Amendment to the United States Constitution.

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

Reconsideration of
Library Material

A District employee or a parent or guardian of a District student may request the reconsideration of a library material maintained in the District's library program.

*Guiding
Principles*

The following principles shall guide the review of a request to reconsider a library material:

1. An individual 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 or guardian'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 the District may deny access to a student if requested by the student's parent or guardian.

In addition to compliance with state law and this policy, a 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 in the library material or the personal background of the library material's author or the personal background of the characters in the material.

*Informal
Reconsideration*

When the District or a campus receives an objection to the appropriateness of a library material, the appropriate librarian or adminis-

trator shall try to resolve the matter informally. The librarian or administrator shall explain the selection process and discuss the intended purpose for the library material.

The librarian or administrator shall offer a concerned parent or guardian an alternative library material to be used by the child in place of the material and, if requested, shall restrict the child's access to the material objected to by the parent or guardian.

If the individual wishes to make a formal challenge, the administrator shall make available to the individual a copy of this policy and a form to request a formal reconsideration of the library material.

*Formal Request
for
Reconsideration*

The District shall make a form to request reconsideration of library material available in the District's administrative office.

If an employee or a parent or guardian of a District student wishes to request reconsideration of a library material, they shall follow the procedures to complete and submit the request for reconsideration form.

After a request for reconsideration form is submitted, the form shall be provided to the Superintendent. Copies of the form shall be provided to the school librarian, the Board, and any other staff designated in administrative procedures.

*Reconsideration
Committee*

For purposes of this policy, "days" shall mean District business days, unless otherwise noted.

The principal shall appoint a reconsideration committee and notify committee members within 10 days of receiving the request for reconsideration form.

The reconsideration committee shall include the librarian and at least one member of the instructional staff who is familiar with the material's content. Other members of the committee may include District-level staff, secondary-level students, parents or guardians, and any other appropriate individuals.

Within 10 days of appointment of the committee the District shall provide members of the committee the relevant materials to review. If additional time is required to obtain and distribute the materials for review, all members of the committee shall be informed that a reasonable extension of time is needed.

All members of the committee shall review the challenged library material in its entirety and determine whether the material conforms to this policy and whether the material will continue to be available in the library. The committee shall prepare a written report of its findings.

Absent extenuating circumstances, the written report shall be provided to the administration within 60 days of the District providing the material to the committee members. In calculating timelines under this policy, the day the committee is provided the materials is "day zero." The following business day is "day one."

Extensions of time due to extenuating circumstances shall take into consideration the time necessary to convene the committee members, the amount of material being reviewed, and any other pending reconsideration requests being handled by the committee.

An extension of any deadline shall be promptly communicated to the individual who submitted the request for reconsideration.

The Superintendent, the school librarian, the individual submitting the request for reconsideration, and any other appropriate administrators shall receive a copy of the committee's report.

Appeal

An individual who submitted a request for reconsideration may appeal the decision of the reconsideration committee in accordance with appropriate complaint policies, starting at the level immediately preceding Board consideration of a complaint. [See DGBA and FNG]

Frequency of Review

After a library material has been reviewed through the reconsideration process, it shall not be reviewed again within two calendar years of the reconsideration committee's final decision.

Maintenance of Library Materials

In accordance with state guidelines and District administrative procedures, collections shall be evaluated and updated regularly based on the collections' age, relevance, diversity, and variety. 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]

Gifts and Donations

The District shall accept gifts and donations of library materials 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]

Policy Review

This policy shall be reviewed at least every three years and revised as necessary.

Complaints

In this policy, the terms “complaint” and “grievance” shall have the same meaning.

Other Complaint Processes

Student or parent complaints shall be filed in accordance with this policy, except as required by the policies listed below. Some of these policies require appeals to be submitted in accordance with FNG after the relevant complaint process:

1. Complaints alleging discrimination or harassment based on race, color, religion, sex, gender, national origin, age, or disability shall be submitted in accordance with [the FFH series](#).
2. Complaints concerning dating violence shall be submitted in accordance with [the FFH series](#).
3. Complaints concerning retaliation related to discrimination and harassment shall be submitted in accordance with [the FFH series](#).
4. Complaints concerning bullying or retaliation related to bullying shall be submitted in accordance with FFI.
5. Complaints concerning failure to award credit or a final grade on the basis of attendance shall be submitted in accordance with FEC.
6. Complaints concerning expulsion shall be submitted in accordance with FOD and the Student Code of Conduct.
7. Complaints concerning any final decisions of the gifted and talented selection committee regarding selection for or exit from the gifted program shall be submitted in accordance with EHBB.
8. Complaints within the scope of Section 504, including complaints concerning identification, evaluation, or educational placement of a student with a disability, shall be submitted in accordance with FB and the procedural safeguards handbook.
9. Complaints within the scope of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, including complaints concerning identification, evaluation, educational placement, or discipline of a student with a disability, shall be submitted in accordance with EHBAE, FOF, and the procedural safeguards handbook provided to parents of all students referred to special education.
10. Complaints concerning instructional resources shall be submitted in accordance with the EF series.

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STUDENT AND PARENT COMPLAINTS/GRIEVANCES

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11. Complaints concerning a commissioned peace officer who is an employee of the District shall be submitted in accordance with [the CKE series](#).
12. Complaints concerning intradistrict transfers or campus assignment shall be submitted in accordance with FDB.
13. Complaints concerning admission, placement, or services provided for a homeless student shall be submitted in accordance with FDC.
14. Complaints concerning disputes regarding a student's eligibility for free or reduced-priced meal programs shall be submitted in accordance with COB.

Complaints regarding refusal of entry to or ejection from District property based on Education Code 37.105 shall be filed in accordance with this policy. However, the timelines shall be adjusted as necessary to permit the complainant to address the Board in person within 90 calendar days of filing the initial complaint, unless the complaint is resolved before the Board considers it. [See GKA(LEGAL)]

Notice to Students and Parents

The District shall inform students and parents of this policy through appropriate District publications.

Guiding Principles

Informal Process

The Board encourages students and parents to discuss their concerns with the appropriate teacher, principal, or other campus administrator who has the authority to address the concerns. Concerns should be expressed as soon as possible to allow early resolution at the lowest possible administrative level.

Informal resolution shall be encouraged but shall not extend any deadlines in this policy, except by mutual written consent.

Formal Process

A student or parent may initiate the formal process described below by timely filing a written complaint form.

Even after initiating the formal complaint process, students and parents are encouraged to seek informal resolution of their concerns. A student or parent whose concerns are resolved may withdraw a formal complaint at any time.

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

Freedom from Retaliation

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

STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES
STUDENT AND PARENT COMPLAINTS/GRIEVANCES

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General Provisions

Filing

Complaint forms and appeal notices may be filed by hand-delivery, by electronic communication, including email and fax, or by U.S. Mail. Hand-delivered filings shall be timely filed if received by the appropriate administrator or designee by the close of business on the deadline. Filings submitted by electronic communication shall be timely filed if they are received by the close of business on the deadline, as indicated by the date/time shown on the electronic communication. Mail filings shall be timely filed if they are post-marked by U.S. Mail on or before the deadline and received by the appropriate administrator or designated representative no more than three days after the deadline.

Scheduling
Conferences

The District shall make reasonable attempts to schedule conferences at a mutually agreeable time. If a student or parent fails to appear at a scheduled conference, the District may hold the conference and issue a decision in the student's or parent's absence.

Response

At Levels One and Two, "response" shall mean a written communication to the student or parent from the appropriate administrator. Responses may be hand-delivered, sent by electronic communication to the student's or parent's email address of record, or sent by U.S. Mail to the student's or parent's mailing address of record. Mailed responses shall be timely if they are postmarked by U.S. Mail on or before the deadline.

Days

"Days" shall mean District business days, unless otherwise noted. In calculating timelines under this policy, the day a document is filed is "day zero." The following business day is "day one."

Representative

"Representative" shall mean any person who or organization that is designated by the student or parent to represent the student or parent in the complaint process. A student may be represented by an adult at any level of the complaint.

The student or parent may designate a representative through written notice to the District at any level of this process. If the student or parent designates a representative with fewer than three days' notice to the District before a scheduled conference or hearing, the District may reschedule the conference or hearing to a later date, if desired, in order to include the District's counsel. The District may be represented by counsel at any level of the process.

Consolidating
Complaints

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

STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES
STUDENT AND PARENT COMPLAINTS/GRIEVANCES

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

If a complaint form or appeal notice is not timely filed, the complaint may be dismissed, on written notice to the student or parent, at any point during the complaint process. The student or parent may appeal the dismissal by seeking review in writing within ten days from the date of the written dismissal notice, starting at the level at which the complaint was dismissed. Such appeal shall be limited to the issue of timeliness.

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

Complaint and Appeal Forms Complaints and appeals under this policy shall be submitted in writing on a form provided by the District.

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

A complaint or appeal form that is incomplete in any material aspect may be dismissed but may be refiled with all the required information if the refileing is within the designated time for filing.

Level One

Complaint forms must be filed:

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

In most circumstances, students and parents shall file Level One complaints with the campus principal.

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

If the complaint is not filed with the appropriate administrator, the receiving administrator must note the date and time the complaint form was received and immediately forward the complaint form to the appropriate administrator.

The appropriate administrator shall investigate as necessary and schedule a conference with the student or parent within ten days after receipt of the written complaint. The administrator may set reasonable time limits for the conference.

Absent extenuating circumstances, the administrator shall provide the student or parent a written response within ten days following the conference. In reaching a decision, the administrator may consider information provided at the Level One conference and any other relevant documents or information the administrator believes will help resolve the complaint.

Level Two

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

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

After receiving notice of the appeal, the Level One administrator shall prepare and forward a record of the Level One complaint to the Level Two administrator. The student or parent may request a copy of the Level One record.

The Level One record shall include:

1. The original complaint form and any attachments.
2. All other documents submitted by the student or parent at Level One.
3. The written response issued at Level One and any attachments.
4. All other documents relied upon by the Level One administrator in reaching the Level One decision.

The Superintendent or designee shall schedule a conference within ten days after the appeal notice is filed. The conference shall be limited to the issues and documents considered at Level One. At the conference, the student or parent may provide information concerning any documents or information relied upon by the administration for the Level One decision. The Superintendent or designee may set reasonable time limits for the conference.

The Superintendent or designee shall provide the student or parent a written response within ten days following the conference. In reaching a decision, the Superintendent or designee may consider

the Level One record, information provided at the Level Two conference, and any other relevant documents or information the Superintendent or designee believes will help resolve the complaint.

Recordings of the Level One and Level Two conferences, if any, shall be maintained with the Level One and Level Two records.

Level Three

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

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

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

The Superintendent or designee shall provide the Board the record of the Level Two appeal. The student or parent may request a copy of the Level Two record.

The Level Two record shall include:

1. The Level One record.
2. The notice of appeal from Level One to Level Two.
3. The written response issued at Level Two and any attachments.
4. All other documents relied upon by the administration in reaching the Level Two decision.

The appeal shall be limited to the issues and documents considered at Level Two, except that if at the Level Three hearing the administration intends to rely on evidence not included in the Level Two record, the administration shall provide the student or parent notice of the nature of the evidence at least three days before the hearing.

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

The presiding officer may set reasonable time limits and guidelines for the presentation, including an opportunity for the student or parent and administration to each make a presentation and provide rebuttal and an opportunity for questioning by the Board. The Board

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FNG
(LOCAL)

shall hear the complaint and may request that the administration provide an explanation for the decisions at the preceding levels.

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

The Board shall then consider the complaint. It may give notice of its decision orally or in writing at any time up to and including the next regularly scheduled Board meeting. If the Board does not make a decision regarding the complaint by the end of the next regularly scheduled meeting, the lack of a response by the Board upholds the administrative decision at Level Two.

Complaints

In this policy, the terms “complaint” and “grievance” shall have the same meaning.

Other Complaint Processes

Complaints by members of the public shall be filed in accordance with this policy, except as required by the policies listed below. Some of these policies require appeals to be submitted in accordance with GF after the relevant complaint process:

1. Complaints concerning instructional resources shall be filed in accordance with the EF series.
2. Complaints concerning a commissioned peace officer who is an employee of the District shall be filed in accordance with [the CKE series](#).

Complaints regarding refusal of entry to or ejection from District property based on Education Code 37.105 shall be filed in accordance with this policy. However, the timelines shall be adjusted as necessary to permit the complainant to address the Board in person within 90 calendar days of filing the initial complaint, unless the complaint is resolved before the Board considers it. [See GKA(LEGAL)]

Guiding Principles

Informal Process

The Board encourages the public to discuss concerns with an appropriate administrator who has the authority to address the concerns. Concerns should be expressed as soon as possible to allow early resolution at the lowest possible administrative level.

Informal resolution shall be encouraged but shall not extend any deadlines in this policy, except by mutual written consent.

Formal Process

An individual may initiate the formal process described below by timely filing a written complaint form.

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

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

Freedom from Retaliation

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

General Provisions

Filing

Complaint forms and appeal notices may be filed by hand-delivery, by electronic communication, including email and fax, or by U.S. Mail. Hand-delivered filings shall be timely filed if received by the appropriate administrator or designee by the close of business on

the deadline. Filings submitted by electronic communication shall be timely filed if they are received by the close of business on the deadline, as indicated by the date/time shown on the electronic communication. Mail filings shall be timely filed if they are post-marked by U.S. Mail on or before the deadline and received by the appropriate administrator or designated representative no more than three days after the deadline.

Scheduling
Conferences

The District shall make reasonable attempts to schedule conferences at a mutually agreeable time. If the individual fails to appear at a scheduled conference, the District may hold the conference and issue a decision in the individual's absence.

Response

At Levels One and Two, "response" shall mean a written communication to the individual from the appropriate administrator. Responses may be hand-delivered, sent by electronic communication to the individual's email address of record, or sent by U.S. Mail to the individual's mailing address of record. Mailed responses shall be timely if they are postmarked by U.S. Mail on or before the deadline.

Days

"Days" shall mean District business days, unless otherwise noted. In calculating timelines under this policy, the day a document is filed is "day zero." The following business day is "day one."

Representative

"Representative" shall mean any person who or organization that is designated by an individual to represent the individual in the complaint process.

The individual may designate a representative through written notice to the District at any level of this process. If the individual designates a representative with fewer than three days' notice to the District before a scheduled conference or hearing, the District may reschedule the conference or hearing to a later date, if desired, in order to include the District's counsel. The District may be represented by counsel at any level of the process.

Consolidating
Complaints

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

Untimely Filings

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

If a complaint form or appeal notice is not timely filed, the complaint may be dismissed, on written notice to the individual, at any point during the complaint process. The individual may appeal the dismissal by seeking review in writing within ten days from the date

of the written dismissal notice, starting at the level at which the complaint was dismissed. Such appeal shall be limited to the issue of timeliness.

Costs Incurred

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

Complaint and Appeal Forms

Complaints and appeals under this policy shall be submitted in writing on a form provided by the District.

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

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

Level One

Complaint forms must be filed:

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

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

If the complaint is not filed with the appropriate administrator, the receiving administrator must note the date and time the complaint form was received and immediately forward the complaint form to the appropriate administrator.

The appropriate administrator shall investigate as necessary and schedule a conference with the individual within ten days after receipt of the written complaint. The administrator may set reasonable time limits for the conference.

Absent extenuating circumstances, the administrator shall provide the individual a written response within ten days following the conference. In reaching a decision, the administrator may consider information provided at the Level One conference and any other relevant documents or information the administrator believes will help resolve the complaint.

Level Two

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

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

After receiving notice of the appeal, the Level One administrator shall prepare and forward a record of the Level One complaint to the Level Two administrator. The individual may request a copy of the Level One record.

The Level One record shall include:

1. The original complaint form and any attachments.
2. All other documents submitted by the individual at Level One.
3. The written response issued at Level One and any attachments.
4. All other documents relied upon by the Level One administrator in reaching the Level One decision.

The Superintendent or designee shall schedule a conference within ten days after the appeal notice is filed. The conference shall be limited to the issues and documents considered at Level One. At the conference, the individual may provide information concerning any documents or information relied upon by the administration for the Level One decision. The Superintendent or designee may set reasonable time limits for the conference.

The Superintendent or designee shall provide the individual a written response within ten days following the conference. In reaching a decision, the Superintendent or designee may consider the Level One record, information provided at the Level Two conference, and any other relevant documents or information the Superintendent or designee believes will help resolve the complaint.

Recordings of the Level One and Level Two conferences, if any, shall be maintained with the Level One and Level Two records.

Level Three

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

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

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

The Superintendent or designee shall provide the Board the record of the Level Two appeal. The individual may request a copy of the Level Two record.

The Level Two record shall include:

1. The Level One record.
2. The notice of appeal from Level One to Level Two.
3. The written response issued at Level Two and any attachments.
4. All other documents relied upon by the administration in reaching the Level Two decision.

The appeal shall be limited to the issues and documents considered at Level Two, except that if at the Level Three hearing the administration intends to rely on evidence not included in the Level Two record, the administration shall provide the individual notice of the nature of the evidence at least three days before the hearing.

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

The presiding officer may set reasonable time limits and guidelines for the presentation, including an opportunity for the individual and administration to each make a presentation and provide rebuttal and an opportunity for questioning by the Board. The Board shall hear the complaint and may request that the administration provide an explanation for the decisions at the preceding levels.

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

The Board shall then consider the complaint. It may give notice of its decision orally or in writing at any time up to and including the next regularly scheduled Board meeting. If the Board does not make a decision regarding the complaint by the end of the next regularly scheduled meeting, the lack of a response by the Board upholds the administrative decision at Level Two.

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ATTN(NOTE)

GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THIS UPDATE

Please note:

Unless otherwise noted, references to legislative bills throughout these explanatory notes refer to Senate Bills (SB) or House Bills (HB) from the 88th Legislature, regular and special sessions. All referenced bills have already gone into effect unless otherwise noted.

The Local Policy Overview for Update 123, available with your Update 123 materials under [Local Manual Updates](#) on Policy Online® (TASB login required), provides a general, high-level overview of the changes to the local policies included in the update. **Legal policies provide the legal framework for key areas of district operations and are not adopted by the board.**

AIB(LEGAL)

ACCOUNTABILITY: PERFORMANCE REPORTING

The Results Driven Accountability (RDA) section of the policy has been deleted. TEA included RDA information in the Accountability Manual starting in 2023 and repealed the RDA information in the Administrative Code. This change aims to streamline information used in academic accountability and RDA systems.

AIC(LEGAL)

ACCOUNTABILITY: INTERVENTIONS AND SANCTIONS

A citation to the Administrative Code has been included under Student Enrollment and Assignment, Enrollment Provision in Contract, regarding campuses that are closed and repurposed.

As 19 TAC 97.2005 has been repealed, the reference to Results Driven Accountability has been deleted from the section on Special Program Performance Determination.

AIE(LEGAL)

ACCOUNTABILITY: INVESTIGATIONS

The word "accreditation" has been removed as a descriptor for investigations in two places within the policy after an amendment to the Administrative Code, effective January 17, 2024.

BBA(LEGAL)

BOARD MEMBERS: ELIGIBILITY/QUALIFICATIONS

At Intent to Return, language from the Election Code has been included to minimize confusion regarding the specific requirements for establishing an intent to return to the individual's residence after a temporary absence.

BBB(LEGAL)

ELECTIONS: POST-ELECTION PROCEDURES

HB 5180 added new requirements for public inspection of election records. A reference has been added at Election Records regarding where to find information on public inspection of those records for districts who serve as custodians of their own election records.

BBD(LOCAL)

BOARD MEMBERS: TRAINING AND ORIENTATION

HB 3033 authorizes the attorney general to require trustees to complete training on the Public Information Act if the attorney general finds that there has been a violation of the Act. Language is recommended to make clear that this training after a violation cannot be delegated to the district's Public Information Act coordinator.

BBFA(LOCAL)

ETHICS: CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURES

Language is recommended to clarify that a trustee's ethical duty to disclose a financial or other personal interest in board transactions goes beyond the statutory conflicts of interest set out in state and federal law. The added language serves to demonstrate a commitment to avoid undue influence, increase transparency, and avoid the appearance of impropriety in public dealings.

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CCG(LLEGAL)

LOCAL REVENUE SOURCES: AD VALOREM TAXES

HB 3273, effective January 1, 2024, revised the Tax Code and requires a taxing unit, including a school district, to provide specific notice to property owners on its website. These provisions have been included in the Appraisal District Property Tax Database section of the policy.

CCGA(LLEGAL)

AD VALOREM TAXES: EXEMPTIONS AND PAYMENTS

This policy has been updated to indicate that a board that adopted an exemption for the 2022 tax year may not reduce the amount or repeal that exemption based on SB 2 from the second special session of the 88th Legislature. [See Homestead, Local Options.]

HB 4559, from the 88th regular session, increased the population range for certain districts to provide that the split payment option does not apply to the district's taxes collected by another taxing unit that has adopted that option. [See Split Payments, In Certain Counties.]

CCGB(LLEGAL)

AD VALOREM TAXES: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

HB 4559 increased the population threshold for determining a large municipality for provisions related to the appointment of reinvestment zone board members. [See Tax Increment Financing Act, Large Municipality.]

Substantial changes have also been made based on HB 5 to incorporate the Texas Jobs, Energy, Technology, and Innovation Act.

CKB(LLEGAL)

SAFETY PROGRAM/RISK MANAGEMENT: ACCIDENT PREVENTION AND REPORTS

TEA's amendments to the Administrative Code rules for mandatory school drills necessitated reorganization of definitions and added clarity to several sections of the policy. Changes in this policy also reflect TEA's amendments to the Administrative Code rules related to active threat exercises.

CKC(LOCAL)

SAFETY PROGRAM/RISK MANAGEMENT: EMERGENCY PLANS

A new section on Notice Regarding Violent Activity is recommended to comply with legal requirements. Administrative procedures must be created to align with TEA's model standards.

Provisions regarding individuals authorized to possess firearms for emergency response have been relocated to the appropriate code in the CKE series, as indicated below.

CKE(LOCAL)

SAFETY PROGRAM/RISK MANAGEMENT: SECURITY PERSONNEL

To address in one policy all security arrangements a district may have implemented, we have added CKE(LOCAL) and moved the relevant provisions from CKC(LOCAL) to this code.

Significant revisions are recommended to the CKE policy series to promote compliance and clarification with HB 3 and other legal requirements.

Based on your district's security survey responses, we have added provisions to address the district's police department. The text regarding individuals authorized to possess firearms has been edited to clarify that the authorization to possess firearms is limited to emergency responses, and the provisions also now address board members since your survey stated that board members are authorized to possess firearms. A statement about immunities is included. A written authorization will specify the property at which the individual is authorized to carry a firearm, as well as the means of carrying and storage. A section on the duties of an authorized firearm carrier has been added to this policy.

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The Legal Issues in Update 123 memo, available with your Update 123 materials under [Local Manual Updates](#) on Policy Online (TASB login required), describes common legal concerns and best practices specific to this policy's topic.

CKED(LLEGAL) SECURITY PERSONNEL: OTHER SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS

The provisions of this policy address commissioned security officers with Level III training under the Department of Public Safety hired through a security services contractor or as a district employee in accordance with the Education Code and the Occupations Code.

CMD(LLEGAL) EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES MANAGEMENT: INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS CARE AND ACCOUNTING

Cross-references throughout this policy have been updated to EFA since policy EF has been separated into EFA (instructional materials) and EFB (library materials).

CPC(LLEGAL) OFFICE MANAGEMENT: RECORDS MANAGEMENT

Edits to this policy at Destruction of Records remove a reference to 13 TAC 7.123(c), which was deleted from Texas State Library and Archives Commission rules, effective March 6, 2024.

CQA(LLEGAL) TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES: DISTRICT, CAMPUS, AND CLASSROOM WEBSITES

HB 3273, effective January 1, 2024, requires school districts to post a notice informing property owners of the property tax database maintained by the appraisal district. Language has been added at item 28 under the section on Other Required Internet Postings.

CQC(LLEGAL) TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES: EQUIPMENT

A section on Guidelines for Use of Digital Devices has been added to address the TEA and Health and Human Services Commission model health and safety guidelines for the use of digital devices, which are required by the Education Code and were issued in October 2023.

CQC(LOCAL) TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES: EQUIPMENT

This new local policy is recommended to meet the legal requirement for the board to adopt a policy for the effective integration of digital devices in the district. The policy language adopts the model health and safety guidelines developed by TEA and the Health and Human Services Commission and clarifies that the superintendent must develop regulations for implementation.

DEC(LOCAL) COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS: LEAVES AND ABSENCES

Based on our records, the district has commissioned police officers who would be eligible for specific types of leave. In reviewing the district's DEC(LOCAL), the district's policy is missing those required leave provisions. Please contact your policy consultant for the recommended policy text.

DGBA(LOCAL) PERSONNEL-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS: EMPLOYEE COMPLAINTS/GRIEVANCES

Extensive revisions within the CKE policy series necessitated an update to the cross-reference in the list of other complaint processes.

Also, to accommodate planned restructuring of policy DIA, we have revised the references to that code in this policy to reflect the DIA series. No other changes have been made to this policy.

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The Legal Issues in Update 123 memo, available with your Update 123 materials under [Local Manual Updates](#) on Policy Online (TASB login required), describes common legal concerns and best practices specific to this policy's topic.

DHE(LEGAL) EMPLOYEE STANDARDS OF CONDUCT: SEARCHES AND ALCOHOL/DRUG TESTING

New Department of Transportation rules amend the department's regulated industry drug testing program. The language in the Reports to DPS section has been amended for clarity.

DNA(LEGAL) PERFORMANCE APPRAISAL: EVALUATION OF TEACHERS

Amendments to the Administrative Code allow districts to begin using the Alternate Domain I rubric as part of the Texas Teacher Evaluation and Support System (T-TESS) beginning with the 2024-25 school year. Language has been updated to reflect this change.

DP(LEGAL) PERSONNEL POSITIONS

The section on School Psychological Services has been amended to provide additional clarity and to set out the correct title for licensed specialists in school psychology (LSSPs) as indicated in the Administrative Code.

EEH(LOCAL) INSTRUCTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS: HOMEBOUND INSTRUCTION

TEA's revisions to the *Student Attendance Accounting Handbook (SAAH)* prompted recommended updates to this policy. Students may now receive homebound services for psychological, as well as medical, conditions. The *SAAH* also indicates that the weeks of confinement due to a medical or psychological condition do not need to be consecutive to qualify. The policy language has been updated to reflect this change.

EF(LEGAL) INSTRUCTIONAL RESOURCES

In order to clarify the differences in requirements for instructional materials and library materials, as well as to accommodate the new library collection development standards, policy EF has been divided into EFA (instructional material) and EFB (library material). The content in EF(LEGAL) has moved to either EFA or EFB, as appropriate.

EF(LOCAL) INSTRUCTIONAL RESOURCES

As explained at EF(LEGAL), above, this local policy addressing instructional resources is being deleted. New local policies to address instructional materials and library materials separately are included at EFA and EFB.

EFA(LEGAL) INSTRUCTIONAL RESOURCES: INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

Content regarding instructional material review and federally required parental inspection has been moved from EF(LEGAL) to EFA(LEGAL).

EFA(LOCAL) INSTRUCTIONAL RESOURCES: INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

The enclosed policy regarding instructional materials is recommended to coordinate with the policy addressing library materials at EFB(LOCAL). The provisions previously housed at EF(LOCAL) have been moved to this code with the following revisions:

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- At Selection, a clarification has been made to reflect that instructional materials must be chosen in accordance with stated objectives and administrative regulations and may include items from the State Board of Education list.
- At Reconsideration of Instructional Materials, the list of individuals who can submit a request for reconsideration has been revised. This change is recommended to align with the list provided in the new EFB(LOCAL), which permits an employee or parent or guardian to submit these requests. If the district would like to expand this list, please contact your policy consultant.

Please review the information at Formal Reconsideration, which specifies who will receive forms requesting the reconsideration of instructional material and who will appoint a reconsideration committee. If the policy needs to identify a different position for these responsibilities, please contact your policy consultant for assistance with revisions.

The Legal Issues in Update 123 memo, available with your Update 123 materials under [Local Manual Updates](#) on Policy Online (TASB login required), describes common legal concerns and best practices specific to this policy's topic.

EFB(LEGAL)

INSTRUCTIONAL RESOURCES: LIBRARY MATERIALS

EFB(LEGAL) has been revised to incorporate new library collection development standards adopted by the Texas State Library and Archives Commission (TSLAC), effective January 23, 2024. The policy includes a note regarding the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals enjoinder and the resulting unenforceability of certain statutes related to library material. The TSLAC Library Collection Development Standards are not currently enjoined by the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals.

EFB(LOCAL)

INSTRUCTIONAL RESOURCES: LIBRARY MATERIALS

This recommended policy aligns with changes to the Administrative Code and the new collection development standards for school libraries as a result of HB 900. Please review the following information in your policy:

- The location of the form for formal reconsideration;
- The position title for the person responsible for appointing the reconsideration committee; and
- The number of days allocated for appointing the committee, providing the material for review to the committee, and completing the committee's final report.

If any information needs to be updated or if further revisions to the policy are needed, please contact your policy consultant for assistance.

EHBAA(LEGAL)

SPECIAL EDUCATION: IDENTIFICATION, EVALUATION, AND ELIGIBILITY

A cross-reference to policy EHB has been included for additional requirements relating to the evaluation and identification process when dyslexia is a suspected disability. [See Determination of Initial Eligibility.]

EHBAB(LEGAL)

SPECIAL EDUCATION: ARD COMMITTEE AND INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION PROGRAM

The section on Supplemental Special Education Services (SSES) has been revised to reflect amended Administrative Code rules, effective April 18, 2023. The district is required to notify parents of SSES eligibility and related information during an ARD committee meeting.

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A provision regarding an IEP supplement for each child who was enrolled in a district's special education program during the 2019-20 school year or the 2020-21 school year has been removed. That requirement expired on September 1, 2023.

EHBE(LLEGAL) SPECIAL PROGRAMS: BILINGUAL EDUCATION/ESL

Extensive revisions have been made throughout this policy to reflect amended rules relating to emergent bilingual students.

EHBJ(LLEGAL) SPECIAL PROGRAMS: INNOVATIVE AND MAGNET PROGRAMS

Changes to this policy stem from amended Administrative Code provisions relating to innovative courses. The amended rules became effective February 18, 2024.

EKB(LLEGAL) TESTING PROGRAMS: STATE ASSESSMENT

Revisions have been made to remove language that does not require district action to aid in readability and clarity. Citations have also been updated based on rule changes.

FA(LLEGAL) PARENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The cross-reference at Parental Rights relating to teaching materials has been updated to reflect the division of policy EF into EFA and EFB.

FFAC(LLEGAL) WELLNESS AND HEALTH SERVICES: MEDICAL TREATMENT

A section on Telehealth in Medicaid Covered Services has been added to provide guidance from Administrative Code rules specific to telehealth services authorized as Texas Medicaid covered services.

The section on opioid antagonists has been updated to reflect new rules effective November 1, 2023.

Changes have also been made to the section on epinephrine auto-injectors to reflect amended Administrative Code rules.

Citations throughout have been updated based on rule amendments.

FNG(LOCAL) STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES: STUDENT AND PARENT COMPLAINTS/GRIEVANCES

Extensive revisions within the CKE policy series necessitated an update to the cross-reference in the list of other complaint processes.

Also, to accommodate planned restructuring of policy FFH, we have revised the references to that code in this policy to reflect the FFH series. No other changes have been made to this policy.

The Legal Issues in Update 123 memo, available with your Update 123 materials under [Local Manual Updates](#) on Policy Online (TASB login required), describes common legal concerns and best practices specific to this policy's topic.

GBA(LLEGAL) PUBLIC INFORMATION PROGRAM: ACCESS TO PUBLIC INFORMATION

A cross-reference regarding economic development negotiations under Government Code Chapter 403 has been added.

GF(LLEGAL) PUBLIC COMPLAINTS

The division of policy EF into EFA and EFB necessitated an update to the cross-reference in this policy.

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GF(LOCAL)

PUBLIC COMPLAINTS

Extensive revisions within the CKE policy series necessitated an update to the cross-reference in the list of other complaint processes. No other changes have been made to this policy.

The Legal Issues in Update 123 memo, available with your Update 123 materials under [Local Manual Updates](#) on Policy Online (TASB login required), describes common legal concerns and best practices specific to this policy's topic.

GKA(LEGAL)

COMMUNITY RELATIONS: CONDUCT ON SCHOOL PREMISES

Amendments to the Code of Federal Regulations necessitated changes to the section regarding operation of a small unmanned aircraft system.

GRA(LEGAL)

RELATIONS WITH GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES: STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL AUTHORITIES

The Definitions section has been revised to reflect amended Administrative Code rules that include school resource officers and contracted police officers in the definition of "school personnel and volunteers."

Language has been added at Notice to School Personnel to provide direction if the superintendent is the individual alleged to have committed child abuse or neglect.

The Students Taken into Custody section has been updated to incorporate appropriate legal citations and improve clarity.



Westwood ISD Agenda Action Information

Meeting Date: August 5, 2024

Subject: 2024-2025 Student Code of Conduct

Administrator Responsible: Dr. Tracie Robinson

Summary: The Student Code of Conduct is the district’s response to the requirements of Chapter 37 of the Texas Education Code. The Code provides methods and options for managing students in the classroom and on school grounds, disciplining students, and preventing and intervening in student discipline problems.

The law requires the district to define misconduct that may—or must—result in a range of specific disciplinary consequences including removal from a regular classroom or campus, out-of-school suspension, and further.

Please note: The discipline of students with disabilities who are eligible for services under federal law (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973) is subject to the provisions of those laws.

Administration’s Recommendation: The administration recommends approving the 2024-2025 Student Code of Conduct.

Possible Motion: I move to approve the Westwood ISD 2024-2025 Student Code of Conduct.

Board Approval Required X YES NO



Westwood ISD Agenda Item Information

Meeting Date: August 5, 2024

Subject: Accountability Lawsuit II

Administrator Responsible: Wade Stanford

Summary: There is currently a great deal of concern within the school community regarding the potential 2024 Accountability Ratings due to troubling inconsistencies in the STAAR test results. O’Hanlon, Demerath & Castillo have heard these complaints and have been diligently conducting legal research to explore possible remedies. They have identified several potential legal challenges to the 2024 Accountability Ratings, largely based on issues with the STAAR test, which we believe have a strong chance of success.

As part of this legal challenge, they will need to perform their own validity analysis of the test instruments and their resulting scores. Although it is challenging to predict future litigation costs, they believe the cost to mount a challenge to the 2024 tests will result in higher expenditures on expert fees and expenses than the original litigation. This new litigation could result in total costs three to four times that of the original litigation if no new districts join the effort. Our cost for the original lawsuit was \$4,363.23.

Participating in this legal challenge presents a critical opportunity for our district to ensure fairness and accuracy in the 2024 Accountability Ratings. The inconsistencies in the STAAR test results have far-reaching implications for our schools, impacting not only accountability ratings but also the perception of educational quality and effectiveness. By joining this effort, Westwood ISD can play a vital role in advocating for a more equitable evaluation system, one that truly reflects the hard work and progress of our students and educators.

Administration’s Recommendation: The administration recommends that Westwood ISD join the upcoming accountability lawsuit.

Possible Motion: I move that we grant the superintendent authority to execute the necessary paperwork to join the accountability lawsuit challenging the 2024 STAAR results and accountability ratings.

Attachments:

Board Approval Required

XYES

NO

- C. Board to consider and possibly approve Lonestar First Public Accounting Administrator name change
- D. Board to consider and possibly approve SHARS contracted services agreement 140



Westwood ISD Agenda Action Item

Meeting Date: August 5, 2024

Subject: Discussion of SHARS Contracted Services

Administrator Responsible: Wade Stanford

Summary: Information concerning the School Health and Related Services (SHARS) through Onward SHARS Medicaid

Onward:

- identifies a range of Medicaid-reimbursable services.
- provides a web-based platform where Medicaid services and sessions can be documented from any device.
- covers all service providers across WISD and delivers an error-free claims process to maximize the district's reimbursement dollars.
- will provide live training sessions on the use of the software and the processes for performing tasks
- will verify Medicaid eligibility for all students identified by WISD

Administration's Recommendation:

Westwood ISD Administration recommends that the school board approve the agreement with Onward SHARS Medicaid.

Possible Motion: I move that the school board approve the contract with Onward SHARS Medicaid as presented.

Attachments: Westwood ISD - [Onward SHARS Medicaid Services Agreement](#)

Board Approval Required

YES

NO

11. **Future Agenda Items Request and Special Events**
12. **ADJOURNMENT**

Texas Government Code Section:

- 551.071 Private consultation with the Board's Attorney.
- 551.072 Discussing purchase, exchange, lease, or value of real property.
- 551.073 Discussing negotiated contracts for prospective gifts or donations.
- 551.074 Discussing personnel or to hear complaints against personnel.
- 551.075 To confer with employees of the school district to receive information or to ask questions.
- 551.076 Considering the deployment, specific occasions for, or implementation of, security personnel or devices.
- 551.082 Considering discipline of a public school child, or complaint or charge against personnel.
- 551.083 Considering the standards, guidelines, terms, or conditions the Board will follow, or will instruct its representatives to follow, in consultation with representatives of employee groups.
- 551.084 Excluding witnesses from a hearing.

Texas Education Code:

- 39.030(a) To discuss or adopt individual assessment instruments or assessment instrument items.

Should any final action, final decision, or final vote be required in the opinion of the School Board with regard to any matter considered in such closed or executive meeting or session, then the final action, final decision, or final vote shall be either:

- (a) In the open meeting covered by the notice upon the reconvening of the public meeting; or
- (b) At a subsequent public meeting of the School Board upon notice thereof: as the School Board shall determine.