



Employee Handbook 2023-2024

The San Angelo Independent School District does not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, gender, pregnancy, national origin, age, disability, military status, genetic information, or any other basis prohibited by law.

Updated August 15, 2023

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Letter from Superintendent



Carl H. Dethloff, Ph.D.
Superintendent

Dear San Angelo ISD Staff,

On behalf of the Board of Trustees and District Leadership, welcome to the 2023-2024 school year. Our mission of engaging all students in a relevant and inspiring education that produces future-ready graduates is vital for our students to achieve success each day and throughout their lives. Accomplishing this takes a team approach and through your commitment, passion, and professionalism we will succeed in our mission together.

The purpose of this handbook is to provide guidance and information that will help you understand our District's expectations. We want to make certain all employees are well informed and knowledgeable of the opportunities for outstanding performance and exemplary conduct. Together, we will demonstrate professional behavior, engage, and work in a cooperative spirit, and develop a positive and productive work environment for all.

Please review this document carefully. It is every employee's responsibility to be knowledgeable of and abide by Board policies and District procedures. This handbook provides the professional conditions that must be present for us to accomplish our very critical work together – the learning and safety of our students. Thank you for being the people that make the difference.

Warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "C. Dethloff". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Carl H. Dethloff, Ph.D.
Superintendent

Introduction

The purpose of this handbook is to provide information that will help with questions and pave the way for a successful year. This handbook does not replace nor serve as a substitute for the San Angelo Independent School District's (the District's/District) board-adopted policy manual, which contains all official policies that govern the operation of and employment within the District. Not all District policies and procedures are included in this handbook. Those that are, have been summarized. Policies and procedures can change at any time. When the District provides updated policy information, the employee is responsible for reading and abiding by the changes.

This handbook is not a contract, nor is it intended to alter the at-will status of noncontract employees in any way; rather, it is a guide to, and a brief explanation of District policies and procedures related to employment. Nothing in this handbook supersedes or contradicts any District policy or changes any aspect of the employment relationship between the employee and the District or any terms and conditions of that relationship. All District employees serve on an at-will basis unless they have received and electronically signed a written contract authorized by the board of trustees or a written employment agreement authorized by the board of trustees or the superintendent.

For more information, employees may refer to the policy codes that are associated with handbook topics, confer with their supervisor, or call the appropriate District office. *The [Appendix](#) of this handbook includes a list of employment policies for review by employees.* Paper copies of employment policies and this handbook are located at each school office and administrative department and are available for review. Employees may also access the policies online at www.saisd.org by clicking on *District* at the top of the page and *Board Policies* under the *Board of Education* heading. Suggestions for additions and improvements to this handbook are welcome and may be submitted to the Human Resources Department.

NOTE: All employees are required to read the Employee Handbook and electronically sign the Employee Handbook Receipt located in Employee Records and reprinted in this document. See instructions for accessing and signing the Employee Handbook Receipt below:

1. Click the following link to access [Employee Records](#)
2. If requested, enter your username (ID#@saisd.org) and password (network password).
3. The assigned task will appear under **My Tasks** (upper left corner).
4. Click the **View** button next to the **Employee Handbook Receipt**.
5. Click the checkbox acknowledging you have read and understand the **Employee Handbook**, and click **Save Final**.
6. If you are returned to the **My Tasks** list, click the **Sign/App/Rev** button next to the **Employee Handbook Receipt** to open the document again.
7. Scroll to the bottom of the page, type your name in the signature box, read the electronic signature statement and click the check box to confirm.
8. Click **Submit**.

San Angelo Independent School District
1621 University Avenue • San Angelo, TX 76904 • (325) 947-3700 • www.saisd.org

Employee Handbook Receipt 2023-2024

The Employee Handbook and the Employee Handbook Receipt are located on the District’s website. All employees are required to read the handbook and digitally sign the receipt in the Employee Access Center. The receipt states:

I hereby acknowledge receipt of information that the San Angelo ISD Employee Handbook is available to me on the District’s website at www.saisd.org under the *Employment* tab. I agree to read the handbook and abide by the standards, policies, and procedures defined or referenced in this document. I also understand that I accept responsibilities for accessing the policies, including employment policies, online at www.saisd.org > *District* > *Board of Education* > [Board Policies](#).

I understand that by acknowledging receipt of the Employee Handbook, I also acknowledge receipt of the San Angelo ISD Technology Responsible Use Guidelines. I agree to read the guidelines and abide by them.

I understand that each campus library and administrative department has Internet access. I understand that I may choose to print the handbook, including standards and policies, from the website or call the Human Resources Department at (325) 947-3700 to request a paper copy. I understand printed copies are subject to reasonable copy costs.

The information in this handbook is subject to change. I understand that changes in policies may supersede, modify, or render obsolete the information summarized in this document. As the District provides updated policy information, I accept responsibility for reading and abiding by the changes.

I understand that no modifications to contractual relationships or alterations of at-will employment relationships are intended by this handbook.

I understand that I have an obligation to inform the Human Resources Department, my supervisor, and the State Board of Educator Certification (if applicable) of any changes in personal information, such as name, phone number, address, etc. I also accept responsibility for contacting my supervisor or the Human Resources Department if I have questions or need further explanation.

By typing my name in the space below, I agree that my typed name shall serve as my digital signature.

I have read and understand this notice and acknowledge receipt and understanding of the San Angelo ISD Employee Handbook.

Name

Employee ID Number

Signature

Date

District Information

District Demographics

As the largest school district in Tom Green County, SAISD serves a culturally diverse population of approximately 13,472 students on 24 campuses: 17 elementary schools, three middle schools, two high schools, and two alternative education schools.

Our student population is approximately: 62.8% economically disadvantaged with an ethnic breakdown of: 60.8% Hispanic, 31.5% White, 3.5% African American, 1.1% Asian, 0.3% American Indian, 0.1% Pacific Islander, and 2.8% two or more races (Source: 2021-2022 TAPR). The District has 1,838 regular employees: 898 teachers; 940 administrative/ professional, clerical/ paraprofessional, information technology, and manual trades staff; and approximately 282 substitute teachers (Source: 2022-2023 Fall PEIMS Report). The Maintenance and Operations tax rate is \$0.8546 per \$100 valuation and the Debt Service rate is \$0.11741, for a total tax rate of \$0.97201.

Mission Statement, Goals, Core Beliefs and Commitments

Policy AE



The San Angelo Independent School District's strategic goals are:

1. Student Engagement

SAISD will develop district and campus support structures that positively impact student engagement and outcomes for all students.

2. Culture and Communication

SAISD will cultivate trusting partnerships to support the hopes and dreams of our students and staff.

3. Innovative Learning Spaces

SAISD will provide efficient, safe, and innovative learning spaces that promote student achievement.

The San Angelo Independent School District's core beliefs and commitments are:

We believe student achievement is our highest priority and core principle, for all decisions that impact the District.

We will engage high-yield and research-based instructional strategies, provide viable aligned curriculum, eliminate achievement gaps, and offer rigorous advanced curriculum, in order that all students reach their highest potential and learn regardless of ethnicity, socio-economic background, gender, native language, special needs, or area of residence.

We believe equitable allocation of resources ensures each student will have the opportunity to become a capable, productive, and contributing citizen.

We will be responsible stewards of local, state, and federal resources. To ensure a positive climate of academic achievement and student success, we will create and implement programs and processes that address the needs of students and staff.

We believe stakeholder partnerships are vital links to student achievement and essential connections that foster student success.

We will actively engage, communicate with, be responsive to, and seek input and participation from all stakeholders including parents, grandparents, guardians, caregivers, businesses, elected and appointed officials, military, civic and faith-based organizations, institutions of higher education, medical and social service agencies, District leadership, staff, and students.

We believe in the value of each employee, in his/her personal and professional growth and empowerment to ensure academic achievement and student success.

We will invest in highly qualified human capital, engage them in professional learning communities and provide focused training to ensure they will be active contributors to academic achievement and student success. We will treat each employee with fairness, empower each employee to focus on high performance, and hold each employee accountable for results that contribute to student achievement and success.

We believe all students learn best in a safe, supportive, and secure environment.

We will provide facilities management for the safety of students and staff. We will ensure that learning and work environments are stable, and our discipline policies are conducive to student achievement and success.

Board of Trustees

Policies BA, BB series, BD series and BE series

Texas law grants the board of trustees the power to govern and oversee the management of the District's schools. The board is the policy-making body within the District and has overall responsibility for the curriculum, school taxes, annual budget, employment of the superintendent and other professional staff, and facilities. The board has complete and final control over school matters within limits established by state and federal law and regulations.

The board of trustees is elected by the citizens of the District to represent the community's commitment to a strong educational program for the District's children. Board members serve four-year terms and are elected in six single member districts and one member is elected at-large. Trustees serve without compensation, must be qualified voters, and must reside in the District.

Board of Trustees	District	Term Expires
Bill Dendle, Treasurer	Single Member District #1	May 2025
Lupita Arroyo, Trustee	Single Member District #2	May 2025
Taylor Kingman, President	Single Member District #3	May 2025
Ami Mizell-Flint, Trustee	Single Member District #4	May 2025
Kyle Mills, Trustee	Single Member District #5	May 2027
Gerard Gallegos, Secretary	Single Member District #6	May 2027
Pam Duncan, Trustee	Member At-Large	May 2027

The Board of Trustees hold pre-agenda work sessions the second Monday of the month at 5:45 pm. Regular meetings are held the third Monday of the month at 5:45 pm. The Board meets in the Board Room, 2nd Floor, Administration Building, 1621 University Avenue. If large attendance is anticipated, the Board may meet at an alternate location. Special meetings may be called when necessary. A written notice of regular and special meetings is posted at the front door of the Administration Building and on the District’s website at least 72 hours before the scheduled meeting time. The written notice will show the date, time, place, and subjects of each meeting. In emergencies, a meeting may be held with a one-hour notice.

All meetings are open to the public. In certain circumstances, Texas law permits the Board to go into a closed session from which the public and others are excluded. Closed session may occur for such things as discussing prospective gifts or donations, real-property acquisition, certain personnel matters including employee complaints, security matters, student discipline, or to consult with attorneys regarding pending litigation.

Administration

Dr. Carl Dethloff	Superintendent
Dr. Farrah Gomez	Deputy Superintendent and Chief Academic Officer
Dr. Merl Brandon	Assistant Supt of Business & Support Services/Chief Financial Officer
Shelly Huddleston	Chief of School Leadership
Rodney Chant	Executive Director of Athletics
Molly Turk	Executive Director of Communications
Dr. Jason Skelton	Executive Director of Human Resources
Michael Kalnbach	Executive Director of Student & Data Services
Dr. Raelye Self	Executive Director of Teaching & Learning
Tiffany Huebner	Director of Advanced Academics & Fine Arts
Rebecca Cline	Director of Assessment & Counselors
Cheri Braden	Director of Campus Academic Support
Roxanne Fentress	Director of Career & Technical Education
Michelle Helms	Director of Child Nutrition
Sun Cha	Director of Community Relations
Brooke Kalnbach	Director of Curriculum & Instruction – Elementary
Matt Escue	Director of Curriculum & Instruction – Secondary
Angie Pidgeon	Director of Differentiated Instruction & Special Populations
Kimberly Spurgers	Director of District Behavior Support
Christy Diego	Director of Emergent Bilingual
Tony Kennedy	Director of Facilities & Maintenance
Raquel Taunton	Director of Federal Programs
Hope Flores	Director of Financial Services
LaTonia Sutton	Director of Human Resources
Jason Henry	Director of Purchasing
Brandy Tyner	Director of Special Programs
Charlyn Doyle	Director of Technology
Jason Ketchum	Director of Transportation

School Calendar

The board of trustees approves the District’s official calendar for the following school year. The calendar is available on the District’s website at <https://www.saisd.org/district/district-calendar>.

Helpful Contacts

When employees have questions or concerns that cannot be addressed by supervisors or at the campus or department level, information may be obtained from the appropriate department by calling (325) 947-3700 or by accessing the District’s website at www.saisd.org and these links:

Assessment – <https://www.saisd.org/departments/assessment/assessment>

Athletics – <https://www.saisd.org/departments/athletics/home>

Business & Support Services – <https://www.saisd.org/departments/business-support-services>

Career & Technical Education – <https://www.saisd.org/departments/cate>

Child Nutrition Services – <https://www.saisd.org/departments/child-nutrition-services/home>

Communications – <https://www.saisd.org/departments/communications/home>

Curriculum & Instruction – <https://www.saisd.org/departments/curriculum-and-instruction/home>

Data Services – <https://www.saisd.org/departments/data-services>

District Policy – <https://pol.tasb.org/Home/Index/1139>

Federal & State Programs – <https://www.saisd.org/departments/federalstate-programs/home>

Financial Services – <https://www.saisd.org/departments/financial-services/financial-transparency>

Guidance & Counseling – <https://www.saisd.org/departments/guidance-and-counseling/home>

Health Services – <https://www.saisd.org/departments/health-services/health-services>

Human Resources – <https://www.saisd.org/departments/human-resources/home>

Maintenance & Facilities – <https://www.saisd.org/departments/maintenance>

Payroll & Benefits – <https://www.saisd.org/departments/payroll-and-benefits/home>

Professional Learning – <https://www.saisd.org/departments/curriculum-and-instruction/professional-learning>

Purchasing – <https://www.saisd.org/departments/purchasing/home>

Safe Environments – <https://www.saisd.org/departments/safe-environments/safety-and-security>

Special Programs – <https://www.saisd.org/departments/special-programs/home>

Student Services – <https://www.saisd.org/departments/student-services/home>

Technology & Information Services – <https://www.saisd.org/departments/technology/home>

Transportation Services – <https://www.saisd.org/departments/transportation/home>

Employment

Equal Employment Opportunity

Policies DAA, DIA

The San Angelo Independent School District does not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, color, religion, gender, sex (including pregnancy or gender identity), national origin, age, disability, military status, genetic information or on any other basis prohibited by law. Additionally, the District does not discriminate against an employee or applicant who acts to oppose such discrimination or participates in the investigation of a complaint related to a discriminatory employment practice. Employment decisions will be made on the basis of each applicant's job qualifications, experience, and abilities

In accordance with Title IX, the District does not discriminate on the basis of sex and is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of sex in its educational programs or activities. The prohibition against discrimination extends to employment. Employees with questions or concerns about discrimination based on sex, including sexual harassment, should contact Dr. Jason Skelton, Title IX Coordinator, at 1621 University Ave., San Angelo, TX 76904; (325) 947-3700 x765; Jason.Skelton@saisd.org. Employees with questions or concerns about discrimination on the basis of a disability, including ADA and 504 concerns should contact Brandy Tyner, Director of Special Programs, at (325) 657-4055 x300; Brandy.Tyner@saisd.org. Questions or concerns relating to discrimination for any other reason should be directed to the Office of Dr. Carl Dethloff, Superintendent at (325) 947-3700 x764 or the Human Resources Department (325) 947-3700 x783. Inquiries about the application of Title IX may be referred to the District's coordinator, to the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights of the Department of Education, or both.

Job Vacancy Announcement

Policy DC

To the extent possible, announcements of job vacancies are posted on a regular basis on the District's website. Employees interested in being considered for a vacant position should apply through the District's electronic application system, accessible on the District's website. Teachers wishing to change campuses should indicate their desire by notifying their principal and completing a transfer request form, within the transfer window, provided by Human Resources.

Employment after Retirement

Policy DC

Individuals receiving retirement benefits from the Teacher Retirement System of Texas (TRS) may be employed under certain circumstances on a full-time or part-time basis without affecting their annuity benefits, according to TRS rules and state law. Detailed information about employment after retirement is available in the TRS publication *Employment after Retirement* located on the TRS website at www.trs.texas.gov along with other retirement information. Employees may also contact TRS at 800-223-8778.

Contract and Noncontract Employment

Policies DC series

In accordance with Texas Education Code Chapter 21, the District issues both probationary and term contracts to some professional employees.

Probationary contract employment – Principals, assistant principals, teachers, counselors, nurses, librarians, and other full time professional employees in positions requiring a certificate from the State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC) receive probationary contracts for their first full year of employment. Former employees who are hired after a two-year lapse in District employment or employees who move to a position requiring a new class of certification also may be employed by probationary contract. The probationary period for those who have been employed as a teacher in public schools for at least five of the eight years preceding employment with the District is two school years. For those with less experience, the probationary period will be three school years, with an optional fourth school year if the board determines it is doubtful whether a term or continuing contract should be given.

Term contract employment – Principals, assistant principals, teachers, counselors, nurses, librarians, and other full time professional employees in positions requiring a certificate from the SBEC are employed under one-year term contracts after they have successfully completed the probationary period. The terms and conditions of employment are detailed in the contract and employment policies. All employees receive access to their contract in Employee Access Center, may print the contract and may review the employment policies online at www.saisd.org or request paper copies of policies.

Non-Chapter 21 contract employment – JROTC instructors are employed on non-Chapter 21 contracts that are not governed by Texas Education Code Chapter 21.

At-will employment – Employees in professional and administrative positions that do not require SBEC certification (such as noninstructional administrators) are not employed by contract. Employment is not for any specified term and may be terminated at any time for any reason by either the employee or the District. Employees are issued letters of reasonable assurance.

All classified employees (clerical, paraprofessional, manual trades, and technology), regardless of certification, are employed at-will and not by contract. There is no specified term of employment and the employee or the District may terminate employment at any time for any reason or no reason. Employees are issued letters of reasonable assurance.

Certification and Licenses

Policies DBA, DF

Professional employees whose positions require SBEC certification or professional license are responsible for taking actions to ensure their credentials do not lapse. Employees must submit documentation that they have passed the required certification exam and/or obtained or renewed their credentials to the Human Resources Department in a timely manner. Employees licensed by the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulations (TDLR) must notify the Human Resources Department when there is action against, or revocation of, their license.

A certified employee's contract may be voided without Chapter 21 due process and employment terminated if the individual does not hold a valid certificate or fails to fulfill the requirements necessary to renew or extend a temporary certificate, emergency certificate, probationary certificate, or permit. A contract may also be voided if SBEC suspends or revokes certification because of an individual's failure to comply with criminal history background checks. Contact the Human Resources Department if you have questions regarding certification or licensure requirements.

Recertification of Employment Authorization

Policy DC

At the time of hire, all employees must complete the Employment Eligibility Verification Form (Form I-9) and present documents to verify identity and employment authorization.

Employees whose immigration status, employment authorization, or employment authorization documents have expired must present new documents that show current employment authorization. Employees should file the necessary application or petition sufficiently in advance to ensure that they maintain continuous employment authorization or valid employment authorization documents. Contact the Human Resource Department if you have questions regarding reverification of employment authorization. Failure to verify employment authorization may result in termination.

Searches, Alcohol and Drug Testing

Policy CQ, DHE

There is a reduced expectation of privacy in the workplace. The District may search the workplace, including accessing an employee's desk, computer, file cabinets, and work area to obtain information needed for usual business purposes whether the employee is available or unavailable. In addition, the District may conduct searches when there is reasonable cause to believe a search will uncover evidence of work-related misconduct. Such an investigatory search may include drug and alcohol testing if the suspected violation relates to drug or alcohol use. The District may search the employee, the employee's personal items, and work areas including District-owned technology resources, lockers, and private vehicles parked on District premises or work sites or used in District business. Searches that reveal a violation of the District's standards of conduct may result in disciplinary action.

The District may remove an employee from duty and require testing if there is reasonable suspicion that the employee is under the influence of alcohol or drugs used in violation of District policy. The determination of reasonable suspicion may be based on specific observations of the appearance, behavior, speech, or body odors of the employee whose motor ability, emotional equilibrium, or mental acuity seems to be impaired while on duty or other relevant information. Any employee who is asked to submit to a drug or alcohol screening shall be given the opportunity to provide relevant information about prescription or nonprescription medications that may affect the screening.

A District employee who refuses to comply with a directive to submit to testing based upon reasonable suspicion shall be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination. A District employee confirmed to have violated the District's policy pertaining to alcohol or drugs may be subject to disciplinary action.

Employees required to have a commercial driver’s license – Any employee whose duties require a Commercial Driver’s License (CDL) is subject to alcohol and drug testing. This includes all drivers who operate a motor vehicle designed to transport 16 or more people, counting the driver; drivers of large vehicles; or drivers of vehicles used in the transportation of hazardous materials. Teachers, coaches, or other employees who primarily perform duties other than driving are subject to testing requirements if their duties include driving a commercial motor vehicle.

Drug testing will be conducted before an individual assumes driving responsibilities. Alcohol and drug tests will be conducted when reasonable suspicion exists, at random, when an employee returns to duty after engaging in prohibited conduct, and as a follow-up measure. Testing may be conducted following accidents. Return-to-duty and follow-up testing will be conducted if an employee who has violated the prohibited alcohol conduct standards or tested positive for alcohol or drugs is allowed to return to duty.

Any employee required to have a Commercial Driver’s License or is otherwise subject to alcohol and drug testing will receive a copy of the District’s policy, testing requirements, and detailed information on alcohol and drug abuse and the availability of assistance programs. Employees with questions about alcohol and drug testing policies and related educational material should contact Human Resources.

Health Safety Training

Policies DBA, DMA

Certain employees who are involved in physical activities for students must maintain and submit to the District proof of current certification or training in first aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), the use of an automated defibrillator (AED), concussion, and extracurricular athletic activity safety. Certification or documentation of training must be issued by the American Red Cross, the American Heart Association, or another organization that provides equivalent training and certification. Employees subject to this requirement must submit their certification or documentation to the Health Services office.

Reassignments and Transfers

Policy DK

All personnel are subject to assignment and reassignment by the superintendent or designee when the superintendent determines that the assignment or reassignment is in the best interest of the District. Reassignment is a transfer to another position, department, or facility that does not necessitate a change in the employment contract. Campus reassignments must be approved by the principal at the receiving campus except when reassignments are due to enrollment shifts or program changes. Extracurricular or supplemental duty assignments may be reassigned at any time.

An employee with the required qualifications for a position may request a transfer to another campus or department. A teacher requesting a transfer to another campus for the following school year must submit a transfer request on the form provided by the District. Requests for transfer during the school year will be considered only when the change will not adversely affect students, after a replacement has been found, and with the approval of the receiving supervisor. All transfer requests will be coordinated by the Human Resources Department.

Workload and Work Schedules

Policies DEAB, DK, DL

Professional employees – Professional employees and academic administrators are exempt from overtime pay and are employed on a 10-, 10.5-, 10.75, 11-, or 12-month basis, according to the work schedules set by the District. A school calendar is adopted each year designating the work schedule for employees and all school holidays. Notice of work schedules including start and end dates and scheduled holidays is distributed each school year.

Classroom teachers will have planning periods for instructional preparation and conferences. The schedule of planning periods is set at the campus level but must provide at least 450 minutes within each two-week period in blocks not less than 45 minutes within the instructional day. Teachers and librarians are entitled to a duty-free lunch period of at least 30 minutes. The District may require teachers to supervise students during lunch one day a week when other personnel are unavailable.

Classified employees – Clerical, paraprofessional, manual trades and most other support staff are classified employees, and most are employed at-will and receive notification of the required duty days, holidays, and hours of work for their position annually. These employees must be compensated for overtime and are not authorized to work more than their assigned schedule without prior approval from their supervisor. (See *Overtime Compensation*.)

Breaks for Expression of Breast Milk

Policies DEAB, DG

The District supports the practice of expressing breast milk and makes reasonable accommodations for the needs of employees who express breast milk. A place, other than a multiple user bathroom, that is shielded from view and free from intrusion from other employees and the public where the employee can express breast milk will be provided. A reasonable amount of break time will be provided when the employee has a need to express milk. Breaks for non-exempt employees are unpaid and not counted as hours worked. Employees should meet with their supervisor to discuss their needs and arrange break times.

The Providing Urgent Maternal Protections of Nursing Mothers Act (PUMP Act) requires an employee to notify the district if they believe the district is out of compliance in providing breaks for a nursing mother. The employee must give the District 10 days to come into compliance before making any claim of liability against the district. An employee with concerns should contact Dr. Jason Skelton, Executive Director of Human Resources at (325) 947-3700 x765.

Pregnant Workers Fairness Act

The Pregnant Workers Fairness Act (PWFA) provides consideration of accommodations to employees who have known limitations related to pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical conditions. An employee seeking a PWFA accommodation should contact Dr. Jason Skelton, Executive Director of Human Resources at (325) 947-3700 x765, to begin the interactive process.

Notification to Parents Regarding Qualifications

Policies DBA, DK

In schools receiving Title I funds, the District is required by Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) to notify parents at the beginning of each school year that they may request information regarding the professional qualifications of their child's teacher. ESSA also requires that parents be notified if their child has been assigned or taught for four or more consecutive weeks by a teacher who does not meet applicable state certification or licensure requirements.

Texas law requires that parents be notified if their child is assigned for more than 30 consecutive days to a teacher who does not hold an appropriate teaching certificate. This notice is not required if parental notice under ESSA is sent. Inappropriately certified or uncertified teachers include individuals on emergency permits (including individuals waiting to take a certification exam) and individuals who do not hold any certificate or permit. Information relating to teacher certification will be made available to the public upon request. Employees who have questions about their certification status should call the Human Resources Department.

Outside Employment and Private Tutoring

Policy DBD

Employees are required to disclose in writing to their immediate supervisor any outside employment that may create a potential conflict of interest with their assigned duties and responsibilities or the best interest of the District. Supervisors will consider outside employment on a case-by-case basis and determine whether it should be prohibited because of a conflict of interest. Employees are required to also disclose in writing to their immediate supervisor any private tutoring of District students for pay.

Performance Evaluation

Policies DN series

Evaluation of an employee's job performance is a continuous process that focuses on improvement. The performance evaluation is based on an employee's assigned job duties and other job-related criteria. All employees will participate in an evaluation process with their assigned supervisor at least annually. Written evaluations will be completed on forms approved by the District. Reports, correspondence, and memoranda may also be used to document performance. All employees will receive a copy of their written evaluation, participate in an evaluation conference with their supervisor, and have an opportunity to respond to the evaluation.

Upon receiving a report, a nursing review committee may review a nurse's qualifications, nursing services, and quality of patient care, as well as the merits of a complaint concerning a nurse, and a determination or recommendation regarding a complaint. A nurse may request, orally or in writing, a determination by the committee regarding conduct requested of the nurse believed to violate the nurse's duty to a patient.

Teachers are evaluated through the Texas Teacher Evaluation and Support System (T-TESS). If a teacher disagrees with the observation summary or the summative annual report, the teacher may request a second appraisal by obtaining an official request form from the Human Resources Department and complying with the following process.

For Request of Second Observation Summary:

1. If the teacher is not in agreement with the Observation Summary from the appraiser and wishes to request a second appraisal, the teacher submits the completed Teacher Request for second Appraisal form to the Human Resources Department within 10 instructional days of receiving the Observation Summary.
2. Within 15 instructional days from the date the HR Department receives the teacher's request, the HR Department assigns the second appraiser from the approved T-TESS list of appraisers. The second appraiser conducts the 45-minute classroom observation.
 - The second appraiser may contact the teacher to obtain pertinent classroom and student information.
 - The second appraiser notifies the teacher of the one-week window in which the observation is to be conducted. Note: this observation is not scheduled by day or time.
3. After completing the observation, the second appraiser completes the Observation Report.
4. Within 10 instructional days following the observation (15 instructional days if extenuating circumstances are determined by the Human Resources representative), the second appraiser holds a post conference with the teacher, reviews the written Observation Report, and each sign the document.
5. The second appraiser provides a copy of the Observation Report to the teacher and the teacher's appraiser; and to the HR Department for scanning into the teacher's records.

For Request of Second End of Year Conference and Summary Report:

1. Within 15 instructional days from the date the HR Department receives the teacher's request, the second appraiser is assigned, completes the evaluation, and holds an end of year conference with the teacher to review the Summary Report.
 - To evaluate Domains 1-3, the second appraiser may conduct observations or walk-throughs as necessary and/or rely upon previous observations and/or walk-throughs.
 - To evaluate Domain 4, the second appraiser relies upon the cumulative data from the first appraisal, other observations, walk-throughs, the Goal Setting and Professional Learning Plan documentation, and any other relevant documents (e.g. parent communications, professional improvement plan(s), performance memo(s), etc.)
2. The second appraiser provides a copy of the Summary Report to the teacher and the teacher's appraiser; and to the HR Department for scanning into the teacher's records.

Employee Involvement

Policies BQA, BQB

At both the campus and District levels, SAISD offers opportunities for input in matters that affect employees and influence the instructional effectiveness of the District. As part of the District's planning and decision-making process, employees are elected to serve on District-level or campus-level advisory committees. Plans and detailed information about the shared decision-making process are available in each campus office or from the office of the Deputy Superintendent/Chief Academic Officer at (325) 947-3700 x507.

Professional Learning

Policy DMA

Professional learning is organized to meet the needs of employees and the District. Professional learning for instructional personnel is predominantly campus-based and related to achieving campus performance objectives. Professional learning for noninstructional personnel is designed to meet specific licensing requirements (e.g., bus drivers) and skill development.

Individuals holding renewable SBEC certificates are responsible for obtaining the required training hours, maintaining appropriate documentation, and renewing certifications with SBEC.

Compensation and Benefits

Salaries, Wages, and Stipends

Policies DEA, DEAA, DEAB

Employees are paid in accordance with administrative guidelines and an established pay structure. The District's compensation plan is reviewed by the board and administration each year and adjusted as needed. All District positions are classified as exempt or nonexempt according to federal law. Professional employees and academic administrators are generally classified as exempt and are paid monthly salaries. They are not entitled to overtime compensation. Other employees are generally classified as nonexempt and are paid an hourly wage or salary and receive compensatory time or overtime pay for each hour worked beyond 40 in a work week. (See *Overtime Compensation*.)

All employees receive notice of their pay and work schedules each school year. Classroom teachers, full-time librarians, full-time nurses, and full-time counselors will be paid no less than the minimum state salary schedule. Contract employees who perform extracurricular or supplemental duties may be paid a stipend in addition to their salary according to the District's extra-duty pay schedule.

The District pays all salaried employees over the course of 12 months regardless of the number of months employed during the school year. Salaried employees will be paid in equal monthly payments, beginning with the first pay period of the school year. Employees that separate after the last day of instruction will continue to receive paychecks through the end of August.

All teachers, administrative/professional, clerical/paraprofessional, and information technology employees are paid monthly according to the pay frequency schedule below. The District unilaterally annualizes compensation for employees in the following job families:

10-10.5 months	paid September through August
10.75-11 months	paid August through July
12 months	paid July through June

Manual trades employees are paid semi-monthly, September through August.

Employees may contact the Human Resources Department at (325) 947-3700 x776 for more information about the District's pay schedules or their own pay. The District's compensation plan is also on the website at www.saisd.org.

Electronic Payroll Deposit

All employees are paid by electronic payroll deposit. Paychecks are electronically deposited into an account at a bank of the employee's choice. If the employee submits incorrect direct deposit information, the first paycheck is issued in paper form and available in the business office on the scheduled pay date and the employee must correct the direct deposit information.

Pay is available on the scheduled pay date and is not released earlier for any reason. Payroll statements and other information including pay, withholding, deductions, District paid contributions for benefits, and leave balances are maintained in the *Employee Access Center*.

Failure to provide or maintain a bank account for direct deposit of pay may be cause for disciplinary action. Employees with banking issues may contact the Payroll & Benefits Office for assistance. For technical assistance, contact the Technology Department Help Desk at (325) 657-4000. For paycheck information, contact the Payroll & Benefits Office at (325) 947-3700 x788. Pay date schedules are available on the District's website at: <https://www.saisd.org/departments/payroll-and-benefits/home>.

Payroll Deductions

Policy CFEA

The District is required to make the following automatic payroll deductions:

- Teacher Retirement System of Texas (TRS)
- Federal income tax
- Medicare tax (applicable only to employees hired in this District after March 31, 1986)
- Court-ordered withholding, including child support and spousal maintenance
- Garnishments, including delinquent federal education loan payments
- FICA alternative plan contributions for temporary and part-time employees not eligible for TRS.

Salary deductions are automatically made for unauthorized or unpaid leave. Payroll deductions that employees may elect include deductions for the employee's share of premiums for health insurance; supplemental insurance plans; annuities; savings deposits and loan payments through Concho Educators Federal Credit Union; and higher education savings plans or prepaid tuition programs. Employees also may request payroll deduction for payment of membership dues to professional organizations, contributions to the United Way of the Concho Valley, and contributions to the San Angelo Schools Foundation.

Overtime Compensation

Policies DEAB, DEC

The District compensates overtime for employees in nonexempt positions in accordance with federal wage and hour laws. Only nonexempt employees (in classified positions including but not limited to clerical/paraprofessionals, manual trades, and various technology positions) are entitled to overtime compensation. Nonexempt employees are not authorized to work beyond their normal work schedule without advance approval from their supervisor. A nonexempt employee who works overtime without prior approval will be subject to disciplinary action up to and including termination.

Overtime is legally defined as all hours worked in excess of 40 hours in a work week and is not measured by the day or by the employee's regular work schedule. Nonexempt employees that are paid on a salary basis are paid for a 40-hour work week and do not earn additional pay unless they work more than 40 hours. For the purpose of calculating overtime, the work week for District employees is 12:01 a.m. Monday until midnight Sunday.

Employees may be compensated for overtime (i.e., hours beyond 40 in a work week) at a time-and-one-half rate with compensatory time off (comp time) or direct pay. The following applies to all nonexempt employees:

- Employees are allowed to accumulate a maximum of 60 hours comp time. Comp time must be used in the duty year that it is earned. When transferring to a different campus or department within the District, an employee must be paid or use any comp time balance prior to the transfer.
- Use of comp time may be at the employee's request with supervisor approval as workload permits or at the supervisor's direction.
- An employee is required to use comp time before using available paid leave (e.g., sick, personal, vacation) or when in the best interest of the District.
- Weekly time records are maintained in the automated timekeeping program on all nonexempt employees for the purpose of wage and salary administration.
- Timekeeping procedures are on the District website at www.saisd.org >Employment > Payroll Information or at this link: [Timekeeping Procedures](#).

Travel Expense Reimbursement

Policy DEE

All travel for the District must have advance approval by the employee's immediate supervisor and the program manager for the funds being charged. Prior approval for all travel must be obtained before any travel expenses are incurred. For travel that has been approved, travel in an employee's personal vehicle will be reimbursed for mileage according to the current rate set by the Texas Comptroller. One of two methods must be used to document mileage (1) report beginning and ending odometer readings or (2) provide a map illustrating point to point calculation using a website such as www.mapquest.com. Mileage should be based on the shortest route between points.

Lodging and meals will be reimbursed for actual expenses paid up to the following limits:

- The itemized hotel bill obtained at checkout is required for reimbursement of hotel costs. Hotel costs will be reimbursed up to the federal per diem rate for specific destinations listed at www.gsa.gov or \$98 per night for non-listed locations. Exceptions may be made for state and regional conferences, academies, and major seminars where the host hotel rate exceeds the allowable rate. A conference brochure (with stated host hotel rates) should be attached to the Completed Trip Report when requesting a reimbursement exceeding the allowable rate. Travel funded by grants is strictly limited without exception for conference hotel rates. The district is exempt from the Texas State Sales Tax and State Occupancy Tax and will not reimburse the cost.
- Actual cost of meals purchased will be reimbursed up to the federal per diem rates for specific destinations published at www.gsa.gov (or the standard CONUS rate of \$54 per day for non-listed locations). Meals are paid only in connection with travel that involves an overnight stay; however, when a day trip requiring out of town travel extends beyond the normal workday and ends after 7:00 pm, actual cost of the evening meal may be reimbursed

(limited to ½ the prescribed daily limit). Reimbursement for meals on the first and last day of travel will be limited to 75% of the daily limit amounts.

Health and Life Insurance

Policy CRD

Group health insurance coverage is provided through TRS-ActiveCare, the statewide public school employee health insurance program. Employee contributions are an eligible cafeteria plan benefit and may be deducted on a pre-tax basis. The District's contribution to employee insurance premiums is determined annually by the board of trustees. Employees eligible for health insurance coverage include:

- Employees who are active, contributing TRS members
- Employees who are not contributing TRS members and who are employed for 10 or more regularly scheduled hours per week

TRS retirees who are enrolled in TRS-Care (the retiree health insurance program) are not eligible to participate in TRS-ActiveCare.

The health insurance plan year is September 1 through August 31. Current employees can make changes in their insurance coverage during the TRS open enrollment period each year or when they experience a qualifying event (e.g., marriage, divorce, birth). New employees must enroll within the first 30 days of employment.

Detailed descriptions of plan options, benefits, prices, eligibility requirements, network providers, prescription drug services, and other information are available from the following:

- [TRS website](#) or 1-866-355-5999
- [SAISD website](#) (under *Employment > Payroll Information > Employee Health Plan*) or the District's Payroll & Benefits Office at (325) 947-3700 x789.

The District is committed to protecting the privacy and security of all private health information created or received in relation to employees and their families under the District's group health plan. A notice of privacy practices is available on the District's website or from the Payroll & Benefits Office.

Supplemental Insurance Benefits and Qualified Investment Products

Policies CRD, CRG

At their own expense, employees may enroll in supplemental insurance programs such as: disability, cancer, heart/stroke, dental, vision, and life. Premiums are payroll deducted.

Without exception, all employees are allowed to participate in the District's qualified investment program. Employees may enter into salary reduction agreements for qualified investment products as approved by the Internal Revenue Service, such as 403(b)/403(b)(7), Roth 403(b) and 457 plans. Additional information is included in the [Appendix](#). Employees may also call the Payroll & Benefits Office at (325) 947-3700 x789 or access the [website](#) for more information.

Cafeteria Plan Benefits (Section 125)

Employees may be eligible to participate in the Cafeteria Plan (Section 125) and, under IRS regulations, must either accept or reject this benefit. This plan enables eligible employees to pay

certain insurance premiums on a pretax basis (i.e., health, cancer, heart and stroke, dental, vision). A third-party administrator handles employee claims made on these accounts.

New employees must contact the District's third party administrator to accept or reject this benefit during their first month of employment. All employees must accept or reject this benefit on an annual basis and during the specified time period.

Flexible Spending Accounts

Employees may be eligible to participate in flexible spending accounts, including medical reimbursement and dependent care reimbursement accounts. These accounts enable eligible employees to save tax dollars on eligible medical expenses and/or dependent care. The amount selected by the employee is deducted from the employee's paycheck before taxes are deducted. Under IRS regulations this election is locked in for the plan year and cannot be changed during that time. A third-party administrator manages the accounts for reimbursement to the employee.

New employees must accept or reject this benefit within 31 days from the date of hire. All employees must accept or reject this benefit on an annual basis and during the specified time period.

Workers' Compensation Insurance

Policy CRE

The District, in accordance with state law, provides workers' compensation benefits to employees who suffer a work-related injury or illness. The District has workers' compensation coverage from Texas Workers' Compensation Solutions. Benefits help pay for medical treatment and make up for part of the income lost while recovering. Specific benefits are prescribed by law depending on the circumstances of each case.

All work-related accidents or injuries shall be reported immediately to the employee's supervisor and then to the Payroll & Benefits Office at (325) 947-3700 x788. Employees who are unable to work because of a work-related injury will be notified of their rights and responsibilities under the Texas Labor Code. For information on use of paid leave for such absences contact the Payroll & Benefits Office at (325) 947-3700 x788.

Unemployment Compensation Insurance

Policy CRF

Employees who have been laid off or terminated through no fault of their own may be eligible for unemployment compensation benefits. Employees are not eligible to collect unemployment benefits during regularly scheduled breaks in the school year or the summer months if they have employment contracts or reasonable assurance of returning to service. Employees with questions about unemployment benefits should contact the Human Resources Department at (325) 947-3700 x776 or Texas Workforce Solutions at 1-800-939-6631.

Teacher Retirement

All personnel employed on a regular basis for at least four and one-half months are members of the Teacher Retirement System of Texas (TRS). Substitutes not receiving TRS service retirement benefits who work at least 90 days in a school year are eligible to purchase a year of creditable

service in TRS. TRS provides members with an annual statement of their account showing all deposits and the total account balance for the year ending August 31, as well as an estimate of their retirement benefits.

Employees planning to retire should notify the District's Human Resources Department. Additional inquiries may be addressed to: Teacher Retirement System of Texas, 1000 Red River Street, Austin, TX 78701, or call 800-223-8778. Information is also available at <https://www.trs.texas.gov/Pages/Homepage.aspx>.

Other Benefit Programs

Nonresident District Employees – Children of nonresident District employees attend tuition free.

Athletic Events Admission – District employees may enter, free of charge, any regular season athletic contest involving SAISD teams by wearing their employee identification badge. This picture ID badge admits only District employees and does not include anyone that accompanies them. This opportunity is limited to regular season competition and does not apply to post-season competition, Angelo State University events, or competitions involving teams from other schools or communities that may play in San Angelo.

A summary of employee benefits is included in the [Appendix](#) of this handbook.

Leaves and Absences

Policy DEC, DECA, DECB

The District offers employees paid and unpaid leaves of absence in times of personal need. This handbook describes the basic types of leave available and restrictions on leave of absence. Employees who are absent or expect to be absent for an extended period of more than three days must call the Coordinator of Financial Services at (325) 947-3700 x789 for information about leave benefits, continuation of insurance, and requirements for communicating with the District.

Excessive absences are a reason for nonrenewal or termination of a contract or termination of an at-will employee. *Excessive* means absences that are not in compliance with policies and procedures for taking available local, state, or federal leave.

For purposes of leave, an employee who is regularly scheduled to work 30 hours or more per week are considered full time. For exempt employees, leave is recorded in ½ day increments. For non-exempt employees, leave is recorded in ¼ hour increments. Employees in positions that are provided a substitute are charged leave as used, even if a substitute is not employed. Employees may elect the order in which they use leave. The reason for the absence must meet the criteria of the leave elected. Employees must complete a leave report when absent. The election is made on the leave report and may not be changed after the report is submitted. If employees do not elect the type of leave, they wish to use, or if they do not have a sufficient balance in the leave they elect, the District will apply leave in the following order as applicable:

1. State sick leave accumulated prior to the 1995-1996 school year
2. Local sick leave
3. State personal leave
4. Local personal leave for professional employees only (deduction of \$60 per day)

Employees must follow District and department or campus procedures to report or request any leave of absence and complete the appropriate leave request form. Any unapproved absences or absences beyond accumulated or available paid leave shall result in deduction from the employee's pay.

If an hourly employee does not report or request leave of absence(s) according to district procedures, the incident is considered a "no call/no show". An employee who is absent for three consecutive days without notice is considered to have abandoned their job and may face disciplinary consequences up to and including termination.

Leave Proration – If an employee separates from employment with the District before his/her last day of the school year or begins employment after the first duty day of the school year, state personal leave and local leave shall be prorated based on the actual time employed.

When an employee separates from employment before the last duty day of the school year, the employee's final paycheck will be reduced by: (1) the amount of state personal leave the employee used beyond his/her pro rata entitlement for the school year; and (2) the amount of local leave the employee used but had not earned as of the date of separation. If an employee uses more local leave than he/she earned and remains employed with the District through his/her last duty day, the District shall deduct the cost of the excess leave days from the employee's pay.

Illnesses and Reporting to Work – Employees with medical diagnosis from a physician for conditions including but not limited to COVID, COVID variants, Monkeypox, Flu, Bronchitis, Strep Throat, Stomach Flu, etc. should follow their physician's orders, and earned or accrued leave must be used accordingly. There is no special reporting requirement for a diagnosis of COVID.

Employees must be fever-free, diarrhea-free, and vomit-free for 24 hours before returning to District facilities. The definition of fever-free is below 100.0° Fahrenheit.

When employees are well, they are expected to report to work. When employees are ill and have a medical diagnosis with a physician's orders, they should remain at home.

Medical Certification – An employee must submit medical certification of the need for leave as follows:

1. When the employee is absent more than five consecutive workdays because of personal illness or illness in the immediate family.
2. When the supervisor or superintendent deems it necessary or when there is a questionable pattern of absences.
3. When the employee requests leave under the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA), for the employee's serious health condition, a serious health condition of the employee's spouse, parent, or child, or for military caregiver leave.

The medical certification must be from a qualified health care provider confirming the specific dates of the illness, the reason for the illness, and, in the case of a personal illness, the employee's fitness to return to work.

The Generic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008 (GINA) prohibits covered employers from requesting or requiring genetic information of an individual or family member of the individual, except as specifically allowed by this law. To comply with this law, we ask that

employees and health care providers refrain from providing any genetic information in any medical certification. ‘Genetic information,’ as defined by GINA, includes an individual’s family medical history, the results of an individual’s or family member’s genetic tests, the fact that an individual or an individual’s family member sought or received genetic services, and genetic information of a fetus carried by an individual or an individual’s family member or an embryo lawfully held by an individual or family member receiving assistive reproductive services.

Continuation of Health Insurance – Employees on an approved leave of absence other than family and medical leave may continue their insurance benefits at their own expense. Health insurance benefits for employees on paid leave and leave designated under the FMLA will be paid by the District as they were prior to the leave. Otherwise, the District does not pay any portion of insurance premiums for employees who are on unpaid leave.

Under TRS-ActiveCare rules, an employee is no longer eligible for insurance through the District after six months of unpaid leave other than family and medical leave. If an employee’s unpaid leave extends for more than six months, the District will provide the employee with notice of COBRA (Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985) rights. COBRA is a continuation of plan coverage when coverage would otherwise end because of a life event known as a qualifying event. Qualified COBRA beneficiaries who elect continuation coverage must pay the entire cost of the coverage. For details regarding qualifying events or costs, employees should contact the Payroll & Benefits Office at (325) 947-3700 x789.

State Personal Leave

State law entitles all employees to five days of paid personal leave per year. State personal leave is available for use at the beginning of the year. A day of personal leave is equivalent to the number of hours per day in an employee’s usual assignment, whether full-time or part-time. State personal leave accumulates without limit, is transferable to other Texas school Districts, and generally transfers to education service centers. State personal leave may be used for two general purposes: nondiscretionary and discretionary. State personal leave is used only in ½ day increments for exempt employees and in ¼ hour increments for non-exempt employees, except when coordinated with family and medical leave taken on an intermittent or reduced-schedule basis or when coordinated with workers’ compensation benefits.

Nondiscretionary – Leave taken for personal or family illness, family emergency, death in the employee’s immediate family, or active military service is considered nondiscretionary leave. Reasons for this type of leave allow very little, if any, advance planning. Nondiscretionary leave may be used in the same manner as state sick leave.

Discretionary – Leave taken at an employee’s discretion that can be scheduled in advance is considered discretionary leave. An employee wishing to take discretionary personal leave must submit a request through Frontline Absence Management or a written request on the District’s approved form to his or her supervisor or principal at least three days in advance of the anticipated absence. In deciding whether to approve or deny state personal leave, the reason for which the employee requests the leave is not sought or considered. However, the duration of the requested absence in conjunction with the effect of the employee’s absence on the educational program and District operations, as well as the availability of substitutes, will be considered by the principal or supervisor prior to approval of the leave. Discretionary leave is not allowed for instructionally related personnel the day before a school holiday or after a school holiday, state

mandated testing days, and professional learning days (see the current school year dates in [Appendix](#)).

Local Sick Leave

Full time employees (employees who are regularly scheduled to work 30 hours or more per week) earn five equivalent workdays of local sick leave per school year at a rate of ½ workday for each 18 workdays of employment, up to the five days annually. Local sick leave is available for use at the beginning of the employment year, accumulates without maximum, does not transfer to another District, and is used for the following reasons only:

- Employee illness
- Illness in the employee’s immediate family
- Family emergency (i.e., natural disasters or life-threatening situations)
- Death in the employee’s immediate family
- First year care following birth or adoption of a child
- Active military service

The term “leave day” for purposes of earning, using, or recording leave means the number of hours per day equivalent to the employee’s usual assignment, whether full-time or part-time.

The term “immediate family” is defined as:

- Spouse
- Son or daughter, including a biological, adopted, or foster child, a son-in-law or daughter-in-law, a stepchild, a legal ward, or a child for whom the employee stands *in loco parentis*
- Parent, stepparent, parent-in-law or other individual who stands *in loco parentis* to the employee
- Sibling, stepsibling, sibling-in-law
- Grandparent and grandchild
- Person residing in the employee’s household at the time of illness or death

For purposes of family and medical leave, the definition of family is limited to spouse, parent, son, or daughter, and next of kin. The definition of these is found in Policy DECA (LEGAL).

The term “family emergency” is limited to disasters and life-threatening situations involving the employee or a member of the employee’s immediate family.

Local sick leave is used only in ½ day increments for exempt employees and in ¼ hour increments for non-exempt employees, except when coordinated with family and medical leave taken on an intermittent or reduced-schedule basis or when coordinated with workers’ compensation benefits.

An employee shall not earn any local leave when he or she is in unpaid status. An employee using full or proportionate paid leave shall be considered to be in paid status. Paid leave may not be approved for more leave days than have been accumulated in prior years plus leave that is currently available. Any unapproved absence(s) beyond accumulated and available paid leave shall result in deductions from the employee’s pay.

State Sick Leave

State sick leave accumulated before 1995 is available for use and may be transferred to other school districts in Texas. State sick leave is used only in ½ day increments for exempt employees and in ¼ hour increments for non-exempt employees, except when coordinated with family and medical leave taken on an intermittent or reduced-schedule basis or when coordinated with workers' compensation benefits. State sick leave is used for the following reasons only:

- Employee illness
- Illness in the employee's immediate family (see Local Sick Leave for definition)
- Family emergency (i.e., natural disasters or life-threatening situations)
- Death in the employee's immediate family
- Active military service

Local Personal Leave for Professional Employees

Professional full-time employees earn a minimum of two local personal leave days per year. Local personal leave is earned at the rate of ½ day for 40 workdays per semester and does not accumulate and does not transfer to another district. A total of \$60 is deducted from the employee's paycheck for days absent. The use of local personal leave requires the approval of the employee's principal or immediate supervisor three days in advance of the anticipated absence.

Attendance Incentive

Each full-time employee is allowed to accumulate state and local leave as an attendance incentive. Payment shall be made to the eligible employee upon separation from service with the District, subject to the following:

1. The employee is eligible to retire with full benefits under the Teacher Retirement system of Texas (TRS) without any reductions for early retirement, or the employee has at least 25 continuous years of service with the District.
2. A maximum of six days out of the number of earned yearly state and local leave days may be credited annually for computation of compensation for the attendance incentive.
3. An employee is allowed to accumulate a maximum of 80 days of credit for the attendance incentive. An employee with an attendance incentive balance of more than 80 days as of May 31, 2011, shall retain the balance, be credited days, use days, and be compensated for days in accordance with the provisions of the policy.
4. Each day of leave used during the employee's duty year, other than days for religious absences, will be deducted from the maximum six days that may be credited annually for the attendance incentive compensation.
5. Compensation is determined by using ½ of the employee's total number of credited attendance incentive days and the employee's daily rate of pay at the time of separation.
6. A full-time employee who retires under TRS due to a certified disability is eligible to receive the attendance incentive as described above regardless of the number of years of continuous service in the District.
7. The attendance incentive is paid to a deceased employee's estate or beneficiary, provided the employee would have been eligible to receive it had the person separated from service with the District under usual circumstances.

Professional Growth Leave

Professional employees may be granted leave of absence without pay for professional growth to attend school for one full semester or longer. Requests must be presented in writing to the superintendent and approved at the discretion of the board. Requests must be made with adequate notice prior to the effective date so that a replacement can be secured, but in no case less than 30 days prior to the effective date. Priority will be granted for requests that would become effective at the beginning of annual contractual periods.

Employees granted a leave of absence for professional growth may be reinstated upon their return. The position will be determined as vacancies occur and should be as nearly as possible commensurate with the training and experience of the employee. The same position cannot be reserved, but the employee will receive priority for positions previously held as openings occur.

Employees on professional growth leave are not covered by the District's policies on leaves and absences. However, all benefits and leave days accumulated by the employee prior to the leave of absence for professional growth will be carried over if the employee resumes employment by the District immediately after completing the professional growth leave.

Temporary Disability Leave

Certified employees – Any full-time employee whose position requires certification from the State Board for Educator Certification is eligible for temporary disability leave. The purpose of temporary disability leave is to provide job protection to full-time educators who cannot work for an extended period because of a mental or physical disability of a temporary nature. Temporary disability leave must be taken as a continuous block of time. It may not be taken intermittently or on a reduced schedule. Pregnancy and conditions related to pregnancy are treated the same as any other temporary disability.

The District requires the employee to use temporary disability leave and paid leave, including any compensatory time and paid vacation time, concurrently with FMLA leave.

Employees must submit a request in writing to the superintendent for approval of temporary disability leave. An employee's written notification of need for extended absence due to the employee's own medical condition shall be accepted as a request for temporary disability leave. The request must be accompanied by a physician's statement confirming the employee's inability to work and indicating the date the leave is requested to begin and estimating a probable date of return. If disability leave is approved, the length of leave is no longer than 180 calendar days. If an employee is placed on temporary disability leave involuntarily, he/she has the right to request a hearing before the board. The employee may protest the action and present additional evidence of fitness to work.

When an employee is ready to return to work, he/she must notify the Payroll & Benefits Office at least 30 days in advance. The notice must be accompanied by a physician's statement confirming that the employee is able to resume regular duties. Certified employees returning from leave will be reinstated to the school to which they were previously assigned if an appropriate position is available. If an appropriate position is not available, the employee may be assigned to another campus, subject to the approval of the campus principal. If a position is not available before the end of the school year, the employee will be reinstated to a position at the original campus at the beginning of the following school year.

Family and Medical Leave (FML) – General Provisions

The following text is from the federal notice, *Your Employee Rights Under the Family and Medical Leave Act*. Specific information that the District has adopted to implement the FMLA follows this general notice.

What is FMLA leave?

The Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) is a federal law that provides eligible employees with **job-protected leave** for qualifying family and medical reasons.

The U.S. Department of Labor’s Wage and Hour Division (WHD) enforces the FMLA for most employees. Eligible employees can take **up to 12 workweeks** of FMLA leave in a 12-month period for:

- The birth, adoption, or foster placement of a child with you,
- Your serious mental or physical health condition that makes you unable to work,
- To care for your spouse, child, or parent with a serious mental or physical health condition, and
- Certain qualifying reasons related to the foreign deployment of your spouse, child or parent who is a military servicemember.

An eligible employee who is the spouse, child, parent or next of kin of a covered servicemember with a serious injury or illness **may take up to 26 workweeks** of FMLA leave in a single 12-month period to care for the servicemember.

You have the right to use FMLA leave in **one block of time**. When it is medically necessary or otherwise permitted, you may take FMLA leave **intermittently in separate blocks of time, or on a reduced schedule** by working less hours each day or week. Read Fact Sheet #28M(c) for more information.

FMLA leave is **not paid leave**, but you may choose, or be required by your employer, to use any employer-provided paid leave if your employer’s paid leave policy covers the reason for which you need FMLA leave.

Am I eligible to take FMLA leave?

You are an **eligible employee** if *all* of the following apply:

- You work for a covered employer,
- You have worked for your employer at least 12 months,
- You have at least 1,250 hours of service for your employer during the 12 months before your leave, and
- Your employer has at least 50 employees within 75 miles of your work location

Airline flight crew employees have different “hours of service” requirements.

You work for a **covered employer** if **one** of the following applies:

- You work for a private employer that had at least 50 employees during at least 20 workweeks in the current or previous calendar year,
- You work for an elementary or public or private secondary school, or
- You work for a public agency, such as a local, state or federal government agency. Most federal employees are covered by Title II of the FMLA, administered by the Office of Personnel Management

How do I request FMLA leave?

Generally, **to request FMLA leave you *must***:

- Follow your employer's normal policies for requesting leave,
- Give notice at least 30 days before your need for FMLA leave, or
- If advance notice is not possible, give notice as soon as possible.

You **do *not* have to share a medical diagnosis** but must provide enough information to your employer so they can determine whether the leave qualifies for FMLA protection. You ***must also inform your employer if FMLA leave was previously taken*** or approved for the same reason when requesting additional leave.

Your **employer *may* request certification** from a health care provider to verify medical leave and may request certification of a qualifying exigency.

The FMLA does not affect any federal or state law prohibiting discrimination or supersede any state or local law or collective bargaining agreement that provides greater family or medical leave rights.

State employees may be subject to certain limitations in pursuit of direct lawsuits regarding leave for their own serious health conditions. Most federal and certain congressional employees are also covered by the law but are subject to the jurisdiction of the U.S. Office of Personnel Management or Congress

What does my employer need to do?

If you are eligible for FMLA leave, your employer ***must***:

- Allow you to take job-protected time off work for a qualifying reason,
- Continue your group health plan coverage while you are on leave on the same basis as if you had not taken leave, and
- Allow you to return to the same job, or a virtually identical job with the same pay, benefits, and other working conditions, including shift and location, at the end of your leave.

Your **employer *cannot* interfere with your FMLA rights** or threaten or punish you for exercising your rights under the law. For example, your employer cannot retaliate against you for requesting FMLA leave or cooperating with a WHD investigation.

After becoming aware that your need for leave is for a reason that may qualify under the FMLA, your **employer *must confirm whether you are eligible*** or not eligible for FMLA leave. If your employer determines that you are eligible, **your employer *must notify you in writing***:

- About your FMLA rights and responsibilities, and
- How much of your requested leave, if any, will be FMLA-protected leave.

Where can I find more information?

Call **1-866-487-9243** or visit **dol.gov/fmla** to learn more.

If you believe your rights under the FMLA have been violated, you may file a complaint with WHD or file a private lawsuit against your employer in court. **Scan the QR code to learn about our WHD complaint process.**



Local Procedures for Implementing Family and Medical Leave Provisions

Eligibility – Eligible employees can take up to 12 work weeks of unpaid leave in the 12-month period measured forward from the date an individual employee’s first FML begins.

Use of Paid Leave – Family and medical leave runs concurrently with accrued sick and personal leave, temporary disability leave, compensatory time, paid vacation time, assault leave, and absence due to a work-related illness or injury. The District will designate the leave as FML, if applicable, and notify the employee that accumulated leave will run concurrently.

Combined Leave for Spouses – When both spouses are employed by the District, the District limits the FML leave to a combined total of 12 weeks to care for a parent with a serious health condition; or for the birth, adoption, or foster placement of a child. Military caregiver leave for spouses is limited to a combined total of 26 weeks.

Intermittent Leave – When medically necessary or in the case of a qualifying exigency, an employee may take leave intermittently or on a reduced schedule. Intermittent leave may be taken under the following circumstances:

- An employee is needed to care for a seriously ill spouse, child, or parent.
- An employee requires medical treatment for a serious illness.
- An employee is seriously ill and unable to work.
- An employee becomes a parent or has a foster child placed in his or her home.

The District shall not permit use of intermittent or reduced schedule FMLA leave for the care of a newborn child or for the adoption or placement of a child with the employee.

Certification of Leave – When an employee requests leave, the employee shall provide certification of the need for leave, in accordance with FMLA regulations.

Fitness for Duty – An employee that takes FML leave due to the employee’s own serious health condition shall provide, before resuming work, a fitness-for-duty certification from the health

care provider. When leave is taken for the employee's own serious health condition, the certification must address the employee's ability to perform essential job functions. The District shall provide a list of essential job functions (e.g., job description) to the employee with the FML leave designation notice to share with the health care provider. Fitness for duty is not required when an employee returns to work following leave to care for a family member with a serious health condition; to care for a child following birth, adoption, or foster care placement; or for qualifying exigency leave.

Reinstatement – An employee returning to work at the end of FML leave will be returned to the same position held when the leave began or to an equivalent position with equivalent employment benefits, pay, and other terms and conditions of employment.

In certain cases, instructional employees desiring to return to work at or near the conclusion of a semester may be required to continue on family and medical leave until the end of the semester. The additional time off is not counted against the employee's FML leave entitlement, and the District will maintain the employee's group health insurance and reinstate the employee at the end of the leave according to procedures outlined in policy. See Policy DECA (LEGAL).

Failure to Return – If, at the expiration of FML, the employee is able to return to work but chooses not to do so, the District may require the employee to reimburse the District's share of insurance premiums paid during any portion of FML when the employee was on unpaid leave. If the employee fails to return to work for a reason beyond the employee's control, such as a continuing personal or family serious health condition or a spouse being unexpectedly transferred more than 75 miles from the District, the District may not require the employee to reimburse the District's share of premiums paid.

District Contact – Employees that require FML or have questions should contact the Coordinator of Financial Services at (325) 947-3700 x789 for details on eligibility, requirements, and limitations.

Catastrophic Sick Leave Bank

The purpose of the catastrophic sick leave bank is to provide additional sick leave days to members of the bank, in the event of an unexpected, extended critical illness, surgery, or a temporary disability due to an injury. Detailed information regarding regulations, eligibility requirements, enrollment, and use of days is provided to employees in a separate booklet.

Eligible new employees who wish to become members of the bank must complete enrollment forms within the first 30 days of employment. An open enrollment period is offered each year, July through September, for eligible employees who did not enroll previously. Employees may contact the Coordinator of Financial Services in the Payroll & Benefits Office at (325) 947-3700 x789 for more information.

Neutral Absence Control

Except as provided by law, employees who have excessive absences equal to five workdays or more during one school year shall be subject to separation from employment due to unavailability for work. An absence that is not covered by any available leave and is not otherwise excused is considered an excessive absence. A workday, for purposes of this policy, is

a day on which the employee is required to perform services for the District as determined by the employee's work schedule set by the District.

A contract employee's failure to immediately return to work upon medical certification of the employee's ability to perform essential job functions, with or without accommodations, is considered good cause for termination or grounds for nonrenewal of the employment contract. This neutral absence control policy shall be subject to any obligation the District may have to provide a reasonable accommodation under the Americans with Disabilities Act. See Policy DAA (LEGAL) or similar law.

Assault Leave

Assault leave provides extended job income and benefits protection to an employee who is injured as the result of a physical assault suffered during the performance of his or her job. An incident involving an assault is a work-related injury and should be immediately reported to the Payroll & Benefits Office at (325) 947-3700 x788.

An injury is treated as an assault if the person causing the injury could be prosecuted for assault or could not be prosecuted only because that person's age or mental capacity renders the person non-responsible for purposes of criminal liability.

An employee who is physically assaulted at work may take all the leave time medically necessary (up to two years) to recover from the physical injuries he or she sustained. At the request of an employee, the District will immediately assign the employee to assault leave. Days of leave granted under the assault leave provision will not be deducted from accrued personal leave and must be coordinated with workers' compensation benefits. Upon investigation the District may change the assault leave status and charge leave used against the employee's accrued paid leave. The employee's pay will be deducted if accrued paid leave is not available.

Jury Duty

Policies DEC, DG

The District provides paid leave to employees who are summoned to jury duty, including service on a grand jury. The District will not discharge, threaten to discharge, intimidate, or coerce any regular employee because of juror or grand juror service or for the employee's attendance or scheduled attendance in connection with the service in any court in the United States. Employees who report to the court for jury duty may keep any compensation the court provides. An employee is to report a summons for jury duty to his or her supervisor as soon as it is received and provide a copy of the summons to the Payroll & Benefits Office to document the need for leave.

An employee may be required to report back to work as soon as they are released from jury duty. The supervisor may consider travel time required and the nature of the individual's position when determining the need to report to work. A copy of the release from jury duty or documentation of time spent at the court must be presented with the employee leave form.

Compliance with a Subpoena

Employees will be granted paid leave to comply with a valid subpoena to appear in a civil, criminal, legislative, or administrative proceeding. Absences for court appearances without a

valid subpoena or jury duty summons will be deducted from the employee's leave balance or at the option of the employee may be taken as leave without pay. If no leave is available, pay will be docked. Employees may be required to submit documentation for court appearances.

Truancy Court Appearances

An employee who is a parent, guardian of a child, or a court-appointed guardian ad litem of a child who is required to miss work to attend a truancy court hearing may use personal leave or compensatory time for the absence. Employees who do not have paid leave available will be docked for any absence required because of the court appearance.

Religious Observance

The District will reasonably accommodate an employee's request for absence to participate in religious observances and practices, so long as it does not cause undue hardship on the conduct of District business. Such absence shall be without pay unless applicable paid leave is available.

Workers' Compensation Benefits

An employee absent from duty because of a job-related illness or injury may be eligible for workers' compensation weekly income benefits if the absence exceeds seven calendar days. An employee receiving workers' compensation wage benefits for a job-related illness or injury may choose to use available, partial-day increments of sick leave or any other paid leave benefits to make up the difference between wage benefits and pre-injury or pre-illness wages. While an employee is receiving workers' compensation wage benefits, the District will charge available leave proportionately, so the employee receives an amount equal to the employee's regular salary.

Military Leave

Paid Leave for Military Service – Any employee who is a member of the Texas National Guard, Texas State Guard, reserve component of the United State Armed Forces, or a member of a state or federally authorized Urban Search and Rescue Team is entitled to 15 days of paid leave per fiscal year when engaged in authorized training or duty ordered by proper authority. An additional seven days of leave per fiscal year are available if called to state active duty in response to a disaster. In addition, an employee is entitled to use available state and local personal or sick leave during a time of active military service.

Reemployment After Military Leave – Employees who leave the District to enter into the United States uniformed services or who are ordered to active duty as a member of the military force of any state (e.g., National or State Guard) may return to employment if they are honorably discharged. Employees who wish to return to the District will be reemployed provided they can be qualified to perform the required duties. Employees returning to work following military leave should contact the Human Resources Department. In most cases, the length of federal military service cannot exceed five years.

Continuation of Health Insurance – Employees who perform service in the uniformed services may elect to continue their health plan coverage at their own cost for a period not to exceed 24 months. Contact the Payroll & Benefits Office at (325) 947-3700 x788 for details.

Employee Relations and Communications

Employee Recognition and Appreciation

Continuous efforts are made throughout the year to recognize employees who make an extra effort to contribute to the success of the District. Employees are recognized at board meetings, in communications from the superintendent, on the District TV station, on District and campus websites and social media channels, and through special events and activities. Recognition and appreciation activities also include teacher of the year, employee of the year, school business official certifications, student academic and athletic awards, and community recognitions.

District Communications

The San Angelo ISD Communications Team serves as a connection between the school District and the community, facilitating effective communications between school staff, administrators, the board of trustees, students, parents, and community members, with a mission of cultivating relationships with stakeholders through engaging communication which celebrates the ways SAISD produces future-ready graduates. Throughout the school year and summer break, District administration staff, the communications team and campuses share important information through press releases, the District website at www.saisd.org, campus websites, and to media, the District's mass notification system ClassTag (email and text message), digital e-flyers through PeachJar, social media posts on the District Facebook and Twitter accounts, Optimum Channel 4 SAISD TV, the SAISD YouTube Channel, and other communications tools and materials.

These publications offer employees and the community information pertaining to school and District matters including activities, initiatives, achievements, and opportunities. To contact the Communications Department, email communications@saisd.org and to submit information on a newsworthy District matter, complete the Publicity Request Form at <https://www.saisd.org/publicity-request>.

Complaints and Grievances

Policy DGBA

To hear and resolve employee concerns or complaints in a timely manner and at the lowest administrative level possible, the board has adopted an orderly process that all employees must follow when bringing formal complaints and grievances. Employees are encouraged to discuss concerns or complaints with their supervisors or an appropriate administrator at any time. The District does not prohibit employees from communicating with a member of the Board regarding District operations, unless there is a pending hearing or appeal, at which time such communication would be inappropriate.

The formal grievance process provides all employees with an opportunity to be heard up to the highest level of management if they are dissatisfied with an administrative response. Once all administrative grievance procedures are exhausted, employees can bring concerns or complaints to the board of trustees. For ease of reference, the District's policy concerning the process of bringing concerns or complaints and grievances is reprinted as follows or may be accessed from the District's website at www.saisd.org under *District > Board of Education > Board Policies*.

DGBA (LOCAL)

PERSONNEL-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS: EMPLOYEE COMPLAINTS/GRIEVANCES

Guiding Principles

Informal Process – The Board encourages employees to discuss their concerns and complaints through informal conferences with their supervisor, principal, or other appropriate administrator. Concerns should be expressed as soon as possible to allow early resolution at the lowest possible administrative level.

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 – If an informal conference regarding a complaint fails to reach the outcome requested by the employee, he or she may initiate the formal process described below by timely filing a written complaint form. 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. 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.

Notice to Employees – The District shall inform employees of this policy.

Freedom from Retaliation – Neither the Board nor any District employee shall unlawfully retaliate against an employee for bringing a concern or complaint.

Whistleblower Complaints – 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. [See DG]

Complaints Against Supervisors – Complaints alleging a violation of law by a supervisor may be made to the Superintendent or designee. Complaints alleging a violation of law by the Superintendent may be made directly to the Board or designee.

Complaints – In this policy, the terms “complaint” and “grievance” shall have the same meaning. This policy shall apply to all employee complaints, except as provided below.

Exceptions – This policy shall not apply to:

1. Complaints alleging discrimination, including violations of Title IX (gender), Title VII (sex, race, color, religion, national origin), ADEA (age), or Section 504 (disability). [See DIA]
2. Complaints alleging certain forms of harassment, including harassment by a supervisor and violations of Title VII. [See DIA]
3. Complaints concerning retaliation relating to discrimination and harassment. [See DIA]
4. Complaints concerning instructional materials. [See EFA]

5. Complaints concerning a commissioned peace officer who is an employee of the District. [See CKE]
6. Complaints arising from the proposed nonrenewal of a term contract issued under Chapter 21 of the Education Code. [See DFBB]
7. Complaints arising from 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. [See DFAA, DFBA, or DFCA, respectively]

General Provisions

Filing – Complaint forms and appeal notices may be filed by hand-delivery, fax, or 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. Fax filings shall be timely filed if they are received on or before the deadline, as indicated by the date/time shown on the fax copy. Mail filings shall be timely filed if they are postmarked 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.

Response – At Levels One and Two, “response” shall mean a written communication to the employee from the appropriate administrator. Responses may be hand-delivered 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.

Days – “Days” shall mean District business days, unless otherwise noted. In calculating time lines 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 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.

The employee may designate a representative through written notice to the District at any level of this process. 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.

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

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 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 appeals shall be limited to the issue of timelines.

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

Complaint Form – Complaints 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 form that is incomplete in any material aspect may be dismissed, but may be re-filed with all the required information if the re-filing is within the designated time for filing a complaint.

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 hold a conference with the employee within ten days after receipt of the written complaint. The administrator may set reasonable time limits for the conference.

The administrator shall provide the employee a written response within ten days following the conference. The written response shall set forth the basis of the decision. 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 hold a conference within ten days after the appeal notice is filed. The conference shall be limited to the issues presented by the employee at Level One and identified in the Level Two appeal notice. 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. The written response shall set forth the basis of the decision. 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 complaint. The employee may request a copy of the Level Two record.

The Level Two record shall include:

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

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.

Employee Conduct and Welfare

Standards of Conduct

Policy DH

All employees are expected to work together in a cooperative spirit to serve the best interests of the District and to be courteous to students, one another, and the public. Employees are expected to observe the following standards of conduct:

- Recognize and respect the rights and property of students, parents, coworkers, other employees, and members of the community.
- Maintain confidentiality in all matters relating to students and coworkers.
- Report to work according to the assigned schedule.
- Notify their immediate supervisor in advance or as early as possible in the event they must be absent or late. Unauthorized absences, chronic absenteeism, tardiness, and failure to follow procedures for reporting an absence may be cause for disciplinary action up to and including termination.
- Know and comply with department and District procedures and policies.
- Express concerns, complaints, or criticism through appropriate channels.
- Observe all safety rules and regulations and report injuries or unsafe conditions to a supervisor immediately.
- Use District time, funds, and property for authorized District business and activities only.

All District employees should perform their duties in accordance with state and federal law, District policies and procedures, and ethical standards. Violations of policies, procedures, regulations, or guidelines, including intentionally making a false claim, offering false statements, or refusing to cooperate with a District investigation may result in disciplinary action, up to and including termination. Alleged incidents of certain misconduct by educators, including having a criminal record, must be reported to SBEC not later than the seventh day after the superintendent knew of the incident. See *Reports to the Texas Education Agency* for additional information.

The *Educators' Code of Ethics*, adopted by the State Board of Educator Certification, which all District employees must adhere to, is reprinted as follows:

Texas Educators' Code of Ethics

Purpose and Scope

The Texas educator shall comply with standard practices and ethical conduct toward students, professional colleagues, school officials, parents, and members of the community and shall safeguard academic freedom. The Texas educator, in maintaining the dignity of the profession, shall respect and obey the law, demonstrate personal integrity, and exemplify honesty and good moral character. The Texas educator, in exemplifying ethical relations with colleagues, shall extend just and equitable treatment to all members of the profession. The Texas educator, in accepting a position of public trust, shall measure success by the progress of each student toward realization of his or her potential as an effective citizen. The Texas educator, in fulfilling responsibilities in the community, shall cooperate with parents and others to improve the public schools of the community. This chapter shall apply to educators and candidates for certification. (19 TAC 247.1(b))

Enforceable Standards

1. Professional Ethical Conduct, Practices, and Performance

Standard 1.1 The educator shall not intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly engage in deceptive practices regarding official policies of the school district, educational institution, educator preparation program, the Texas Education Agency, or the State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC) and its certification process.

Standard 1.2 The educator shall not intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly misappropriate, divert, or use monies, personnel, property, or equipment committed to his or her charge for personal gain or advantage.

Standard 1.3 The educator shall not submit fraudulent requests for reimbursement, expenses, or pay.

Standard 1.4 The educator shall not use institutional or professional privileges for personal or partisan advantage.

Standard 1.5 The educator shall neither accept nor offer gratuities, gifts, or favors that impair professional judgment or to obtain special advantage. This standard shall not restrict the acceptance of gifts or tokens offered and accepted openly from students, parents of students, or other persons or organizations in recognition or appreciation of service.

Standard 1.6 The educator shall not falsify records, or direct or coerce others to do so.

Standard 1.7 The educator shall comply with state regulations, written local school board policies, and other state and federal laws.

Standard 1.8 The educator shall apply for, accept, offer, or assign a position or a responsibility on the basis of professional qualifications.

Standard 1.9 The educator shall not make threats of violence against school district employees, school board members, students, or parents of students.

Standard 1.10 The educator shall be of good moral character and be worthy to instruct or supervise the youth of this state.

Standard 1.11 The educator shall not intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly misrepresent his or her employment history, criminal history, and/or disciplinary record when applying for subsequent employment.

Standard 1.12 The educator shall refrain from the illegal use or distribution of controlled substances and/or abuse of prescription drugs and toxic inhalants.

Standard 1.13 The educator shall not be under the influence of alcohol or consume alcoholic beverages on school property or during school activities when students are present.

2. Ethical Conduct toward Professional Colleagues

Standard 2.1 The educator shall not reveal confidential health or personnel information concerning colleagues unless disclosure serves lawful professional purposes or is required by law.

Standard 2.2 The educator shall not harm others by knowingly making false statements about a colleague or the school system.

Standard 2.3 The educator shall adhere to written local school board policies and state and federal laws regarding the hiring, evaluation, and dismissal of personnel.

Standard 2.4 The educator shall not interfere with a colleague's exercise of political, professional, or citizenship rights and responsibilities.

Standard 2.5 The educator shall not discriminate against or coerce a colleague on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, age, gender, disability, family status, or sexual orientation.

Standard 2.6 The educator shall not use coercive means or promise of special treatment in order to influence professional decisions or colleagues.

Standard 2.7 The educator shall not retaliate against any individual who has filed a complaint with the SBEC or who provides information for a disciplinary investigation or proceeding under this chapter.

Standard 2.8. The educator shall not intentionally or knowingly subject a colleague to sexual harassment.

3. Ethical Conduct toward Students

Standard 3.1 The educator shall not reveal confidential information concerning students unless disclosure serves lawful professional purposes or is required by law.

Standard 3.2 The educator shall not intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly treat a student or minor in a manner that adversely affects or endangers the learning, physical health, mental health, or safety of the student or minor.

Standard 3.3 The educator shall not intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly misrepresent facts regarding a student.

Standard 3.4 The educator shall not exclude a student from participation in a program, deny benefits to a student, or grant an advantage to a student on the basis of race, color, gender, disability, national origin, religion, family status, or sexual orientation.

Standard 3.5 The educator shall not intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly engage in physical mistreatment, neglect, or abuse of a student or minor.

Standard 3.6 The educator shall not solicit or engage in sexual conduct or a romantic relationship with a student or minor.

Standard 3.7 The educator shall not furnish alcohol or illegal/unauthorized drugs to any person under 21 years of age unless the educator is a parent or guardian of that child or knowingly allow any person under 21 years of age unless the educator is a parent or guardian of that child to consume alcohol or illegal/unauthorized drugs in the presence of the educator.

Standard 3.8 The educator shall maintain appropriate professional educator-student relationships and boundaries based on a reasonable prudent educator standard.

Standard 3.9 The educator shall refrain from inappropriate communication with a student or minor, including, but not limited to, electronic communication such as cell

phone, text messaging, email, instant messaging, blogging, or other social network communication. Factors that may be considered in assessing whether the communication is inappropriate include, but are not limited to:

- i. The nature, purpose, timing, and amount of the communication;
- ii. The subject matter of the communication
- iii. Whether the communication was made openly, or the educator attempted to conceal the communication;
- iv. Whether the communication could be reasonably interpreted as soliciting sexual contact or a romantic relationship;
- v. Whether the communication was sexually explicit; and
- vi. Whether the communication involved discussion(s) of the physical or sexual attractiveness or the sexual history, activities, preferences, or fantasies of either the educator or the student.

Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation

Policies DH, DIA

Employees shall not engage in prohibited harassment, including sexual harassment, of other employees or students. While acting in the course of their employment, employees shall not engage in prohibited harassment of other persons, including board members, vendors, contractors, volunteers, or parents. A substantiated charge of harassment will result in disciplinary action up to and including termination.

Individuals who believe they have been discriminated or retaliated against or harassed are encouraged to promptly report such incidents to the campus principal, supervisor, or appropriate District official. If the campus principal, supervisor, or District official is the subject of a complaint, the complaint should be made directly to the superintendent. A complaint against the superintendent may be made directly to the board.

The District's policy that includes definitions and procedures for reporting and investigating discrimination, harassment, and retaliation is reprinted below or may be accessed from the District's website at www.saisd.org, *District > Board of Education > Board Policies*.

DIA (LOCAL)

EMPLOYEE WELFARE: FREEDOM FROM DISCRIMINATION, HARASSMENT, AND RETALIATION

Note: *This policy addresses discrimination, harassment, and retaliation against District employees. For Title IX and other provisions regarding discrimination, harassment, and retaliation against students, see FFH. For reporting requirements related to child abuse and neglect, see FFG.*

Definitions – Solely for purposes of this policy, the term “employee” includes former employees, applicants for employment, and unpaid interns.

Statement of Nondiscrimination – The District prohibits discrimination, including harassment, against any employee on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, or any other basis prohibited by law. Retaliation against anyone involved in the complaint process is a violation of District policy and is prohibited.

Discrimination – Discrimination against an employee is defined as conduct directed at an employee on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, or any other basis prohibited by law, that adversely affects the employee’s employment.

In accordance with law, discrimination on the basis of sex includes discrimination on the basis of biological sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, gender stereotypes, or any other prohibited basis related to sex.

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

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

Prohibited Harassment – Prohibited harassment of an employee is defined as physical, verbal, or nonverbal conduct based on an employee’s race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, or any other basis prohibited by law, when the conduct is so severe, persistent, or pervasive that the conduct:

1. Has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with the employee’s work performance;
2. Creates an intimidating, threatening, hostile, or offensive work environment; or
3. Otherwise adversely affects the employee’s performance, environment, or employment opportunities.

Examples – Examples of prohibited harassment may include offensive or derogatory language directed at another person’s religious beliefs or practices, accent, skin color, gender identity, or need for workplace accommodation; threatening or intimidating conduct; offensive jokes, name calling, slurs, or rumors; cyber harassment; physical aggression or assault; display of graffiti or printed material promoting racial, ethnic, or other negative stereotypes; or other kinds of aggressive conduct such as theft or damage to property.

Sex-Based Harassment – As required by law, the District shall follow the procedures below at Response to Sexual Harassment - Title IX upon a report of sex-based harassment, including sexual harassment, when such allegations, if proved, would meet the definition of sexual harassment under Title IX. [See FFH(LEGAL)]

Sexual Harassment – Sexual harassment is a form of sex discrimination defined as unwelcome sexual advances; requests for sexual favors; sexually motivated physical, verbal, or nonverbal conduct; or other conduct or communication of a sexual nature when:

1. Submission to the conduct is either explicitly or implicitly a condition of an employee’s employment, or when submission to or rejection of the conduct is the basis for an employment action affecting the employee; or
2. The conduct is so severe, persistent, or pervasive that it has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with the employee’s work performance or creates an intimidating, threatening, hostile, or offensive work environment.

Examples – Examples of sexual harassment may include sexual advances; touching intimate body parts; coercing or forcing a sexual act on another; jokes or conversations of a sexual nature; and other sexually motivated conduct, contact, or communication, including electronic communication.

Reporting Procedures – Any employee who believes that he or she has experienced prohibited conduct or believes that another employee has experienced prohibited conduct should immediately report the alleged acts. The employee may report the alleged acts to his or her supervisor or campus principal.

Alternatively, the employee may report the alleged acts to one of the District officials below.

Definition of District Officials – For the purposes of this policy, District officials are the Title IX coordinator, the ADA/Section 504 coordinator, and the Superintendent.

Title IX Coordinator – Reports of discrimination based on sex, including sexual harassment, may be directed to the designated Title IX coordinator. [See DIA(EXHIBIT)]

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1621 University Avenue, San Angelo, TX 76904
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ADA / Section 504 Coordinator – Reports of discrimination based on disability may be directed to the designated ADA/Section 504 coordinator. [See DIA(EXHIBIT)]

Brandy Tyner, Director of Special Programs
309 West Avenue M, San Angelo, TX 76904
(325) 657-4055 x300

Superintendent – The Superintendent shall serve as coordinator for purposes of District compliance with all other nondiscrimination laws.

Alternative Reporting Procedures – An employee shall not be required to report prohibited conduct to the person alleged to have committed the conduct. Reports concerning prohibited conduct, including reports against the Title IX coordinator or ADA/Section 504 coordinator, may be directed to the Superintendent.

A report against the Superintendent may be made directly to the Board. If a report is made directly to the Board, the Board shall appoint an appropriate person to conduct an investigation.

Timely Reporting – To ensure the District's prompt investigation, reports of prohibited conduct shall be made as soon as possible after the alleged act or knowledge of the alleged act.

Notice of Report – Any District supervisor who receives a report of prohibited conduct shall immediately notify the appropriate District official listed above and take any other steps required by this policy.

Any District employee who receives a report of prohibited conduct based on sex, including sexual harassment, shall immediately notify the Title IX coordinator.

Investigation of Reports Other Than Title IX – The following procedures apply to all allegations of prohibited conduct other than allegations of harassment prohibited by Title IX. [See FFH(LEGAL)] For allegations of sex-based harassment that, if proved, would meet the definition of sexual harassment under Title IX, see the procedures below at *Response to Sexual Harassment – Title IX*.

The District may request, but shall not require, a written report. If a report is made orally, the District official shall reduce the report to written form.

Initial Assessment – Upon receipt or notice of a report, the District official shall determine whether the allegations, if proved, would constitute prohibited conduct as defined by this policy. If so, the District shall immediately authorize or undertake an investigation, regardless of whether a criminal or regulatory investigation regarding the same or similar allegations is pending.

Interim Action – If appropriate, the District shall promptly take interim action calculated to prevent prohibited conduct during the course of an investigation.

District Investigation – The investigation may be conducted by the District official or a designee, such as the campus principal, or by a third party designated by the District, such as an attorney. When appropriate, the principal or supervisor shall be involved in or informed of the investigation.

The investigation may consist of personal interviews with the person making the report, the person against whom the report is filed, and others with knowledge of the circumstances surrounding the allegations. The investigation may also include analysis of other information or documents related to the allegations.

Concluding the Investigation – Absent extenuating circumstances, the investigation should be completed within ten District business days from the date of the report; however, the investigator shall take additional time, if necessary, to complete a thorough investigation.

The investigator shall prepare a written report of the investigation. The report shall be filed with the District official overseeing the investigation.

District Action – If the results of an investigation indicate that prohibited conduct occurred, the District shall promptly respond by taking appropriate disciplinary or corrective action reasonably calculated to address the conduct.

The District may take action based on the results of an investigation, even if the conduct did not rise to the level of prohibited or unlawful conduct.

Confidentiality – To the greatest extent possible, the District shall respect the privacy of the complainant, persons against whom a report is filed, and witnesses. Limited disclosures may be necessary in order to conduct a thorough investigation and comply with applicable law.

Appeal – A complainant who is dissatisfied with the outcome of the investigation may appeal through DGBA(LOCAL), beginning at the appropriate level.

The complainant may have a right to file a complaint with appropriate state or federal agencies.

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

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

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

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

If a formal complaint is not filed, the District reserves the right to investigate and respond to prohibited conduct in accordance with Board policies and administrative procedures.

Title IX Formal Complaint Process – To distinguish the process described below from the District’s general grievance policies [see DGBA, FNG, and GF], this policy refers to the grievance process

required by Title IX regulations for responding to formal complaints of sexual harassment as the District's "Title IX formal complaint process."

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

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

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

Retaliation – The District prohibits retaliation against an employee who makes a claim alleging to have experienced discrimination or harassment, or another employee who, in good faith, makes a report of harassment or discrimination, files a complaint of harassment or discrimination, serves as a witness, or otherwise participates or refuses to participate in an investigation.

Examples – Examples of retaliation may include termination, refusal to hire, demotion, and denial of promotion. Retaliation may also include threats, intimidation, coercion, unjustified negative evaluations, unjustified negative references, or increased surveillance.

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

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

Access to Policy and Procedures – Information regarding this policy and any accompanying procedures shall be distributed annually to District employees. Copies of the policy and procedures shall be posted on the District’s website, to the extent practicable, and readily available at each campus and the District’s administrative offices.

Harassment of Students

Policies DH, DHB, FFG, FFH, FFI

Sexual and other harassment of students by employees are forms of discrimination and are prohibited by law. Romantic or inappropriate social relationships between students and District employees are prohibited, even if consensual.

Employees who suspect a student may have experienced prohibited harassment are obligated to report their concerns to the campus principal or other appropriate District official. Any District employee who suspects or receives direct or indirect notice that a student or group of students has or may have experienced prohibited conduct based on sex, including sexual harassment, of a student shall immediately notify the District’s Title IX coordinator, the ADA/Section 504 coordinator, or superintendent and take any other steps required by District policy.

All allegations of prohibited harassment or abuse of a student by an employee or adult will be reported to the student’s parents and promptly investigated. An employee who knows of or has reasonable cause to believe that child abuse or neglect occurred must also report his or her knowledge or suspicion to the appropriate authorities, as required by law. See *Reporting Suspected Child Abuse*, page 55 and *Bullying*, page 77 for additional information.

The District’s policy that includes definitions and procedures for reporting and investigating harassment of students is reprinted below or may be accessed from the District’s website at www.saisd.org, *District > Board of Education > Board Policies*.

DHB (LEGAL)

EMPLOYEE STANDARDS OF CONDUCT - REPORTS TO STATE BOARD OF EDUCATOR CERTIFICATION

Solicitation of a Romantic Relationship

“Solicitation of a romantic relationship” means deliberate or repeated acts that can be reasonably interpreted as the solicitation by an educator of a relationship with a student that is romantic in nature. A romantic relationship is often characterized by a strong emotional or sexual attachment and/or patterns of exclusivity, but does not include appropriate educator-student relationships that arise out of legitimate contexts such as familial connections or longtime acquaintance. The following acts, considered in context, may constitute prima facie evidence of the solicitation by an educator of a romantic relationship with a student:

1. Behavior, gestures, expressions, or communications with a student that are unrelated to the educator’s job duties and evidence a romantic intent or interest in the student, including statements of love, affection, or attraction. Factors that may be considered in determining the romantic intent of such communications or behavior include:
 - a. The nature of the communications;
 - b. The timing of the communications;
 - c. The extent of the communications;
 - d. Whether the communications were made openly or secretly;
 - e. The extent that the educator attempts to conceal the communications;

- f. If the educator claims to be counseling a student, SBEC may consider whether the educator’s job duties included counseling, whether the educator reported the subject of the counseling to the student’s guardians or to the appropriate school personnel, or, in the case of alleged abuse or neglect, whether the educator reported the abuse or neglect to the appropriate authorities; and
 - g. Any other evidence tending to show the context of the communications between educator and student.
2. Making inappropriate comments about a student’s body, creating or transmitting sexually suggestive photographs or images, or encouraging the student to transmit sexually suggestive photographs or images.
 3. Making sexually demeaning comments to a student.
 4. Making comments about a student’s potential sexual performance.
 5. Requesting details of a student’s sexual history.
 6. Requesting a date, sexual contact, or any activity intended for the sexual gratification of the educator.
 7. Engaging in conversations regarding the sexual problems, preferences, or fantasies of either party.
 8. Inappropriate hugging, kissing, or excessive touching.
 9. Providing the student with drugs or alcohol.
 10. Suggestions that a romantic relationship is desired after the student graduates, including post-graduation plans for dating or marriage.
 11. Any other acts tending to show that the educator solicited a romantic relationship with the student.
- 19 TAC 249.3(50)

FFH (LOCAL)

STUDENT WELFARE: FREEDOM FROM DISCRIMINATION, HARASSMENT, AND RETALIATION

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

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

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

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

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

Prohibited Harassment – Prohibited harassment of a student is defined as physical, verbal, or nonverbal conduct based on the student’s race, color, religion, sex, gender, national origin, age, disability, or any other basis prohibited by law, when the conduct is so severe, persistent, or pervasive that the conduct:

1. Affects a student’s ability to participate in or benefit from an educational program or activity, or creates an intimidating, threatening, hostile, or offensive educational environment;
2. Has the purpose or effect of substantially or unreasonably interfering with the student’s academic performance; or

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

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

Examples – Examples of prohibited harassment may include offensive or derogatory language directed at another person’s religious beliefs or practices, accent, skin color, or need for accommodation; threatening, intimidating, or humiliating conduct; offensive jokes, name calling, slurs, or rumors; cyber harassment; physical aggression or assault; display of graffiti or printed material promoting racial, ethnic, or other negative stereotypes; or other kinds of aggressive conduct such as theft or damage to property.

Sexual-Based Harassment – As required by law, the District shall follow the procedures below at Response to Sexual Harassment—Title IX upon a report of sex-based harassment, including sexual harassment, gender-based harassment, and dating violence, when such allegations, if proved, would meet the definition of sexual harassment under Title IX. [See FFH(LEGAL)]

Sexual Harassment

By an Employee – Sexual harassment of a student by a District employee includes both welcome and unwelcome sexual advances; requests for sexual favors; sexually motivated physical, verbal, or nonverbal conduct; or other conduct or communication of a sexual nature when:

1. A District employee causes the student to believe that the student must submit to the conduct in order to participate in a school program or activity, or that the employee will make an educational decision based on whether or not the student submits to the conduct; or
2. The conduct is so severe, persistent, or pervasive that it:
 - a. Affects the student’s ability to participate in or benefit from an educational program or activity, or otherwise adversely affects the student’s educational opportunities; or
 - b. Creates an intimidating, threatening, hostile, or abusive educational environment.

Romantic or other inappropriate social relationships between students and District employees are prohibited. Any sexual relationship between a student and a District employee is always prohibited, even if consensual. [See DH]

By Others – Sexual harassment of a student, including harassment committed by another student, includes unwelcome sexual advances; requests for sexual favors; or sexually motivated physical, verbal, or nonverbal conduct when the conduct is so severe, persistent, or pervasive that it:

1. Affects a student’s ability to participate in or benefit from an educational program or activity, or creates an intimidating, threatening, hostile, or offensive educational environment;
2. Has the purpose or effect of substantially or unreasonably interfering with the student’s academic performance; or
3. Otherwise adversely affects the student’s educational opportunities.

Examples – Examples of sexual harassment of a student may include sexual advances; touching intimate body parts or coercing physical contact that is sexual in nature; jokes or conversations of a sexual nature; and other sexually motivated conduct, contact, or communications, including electronic communication.

Necessary or permissible physical contact such as assisting a child by taking the child’s hand, comforting a child with a hug, or other physical contact not reasonably construed as sexual in nature is not sexual harassment.

Gender-Based Harassment – Gender-based harassment includes physical, verbal, or nonverbal conduct based on the student’s gender, the student’s expression of characteristics perceived as stereotypical for the student’s gender, or the student’s failure to conform to stereotypical notions of masculinity or femininity. For purposes of this policy, gender-based harassment is considered prohibited harassment if the conduct is so severe, persistent, or pervasive that the conduct:

1. Affects a student’s ability to participate in or benefit from an educational program or activity, or creates an intimidating, threatening, hostile, or offensive educational environment;
2. Has the purpose or effect of substantially or unreasonably interfering with the student’s academic performance; or
3. Otherwise adversely affects the student’s educational opportunities.

Examples – Examples of gender-based harassment directed against a student, regardless of the student’s or the harasser’s actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity, may include offensive jokes, name-calling, slurs, or rumors; cyber harassment; physical aggression or assault; threatening or intimidating conduct; or other kinds of aggressive conduct such as theft or damage to property.

Dating Violence – Dating violence occurs when a person in a current or past dating relationship uses physical, sexual, verbal, or emotional abuse to harm, threaten, intimidate, or control the other person in the relationship. Dating violence also occurs when a person commits these acts against a person in a marriage or dating relationship with the individual who is or was once in a marriage or dating relationship with the person committing the offense.

For purposes of this policy, dating violence is considered prohibited harassment if the conduct is so severe, persistent, or pervasive that the conduct:

1. Affects a student’s ability to participate in or benefit from an educational program or activity, or creates an intimidating, threatening, hostile, or offensive educational environment;
2. Has the purpose or effect of substantially or unreasonably interfering with the student’s academic performance; or
3. Otherwise adversely affects the student’s educational opportunities.

Examples – Examples of dating violence against a student may include physical or sexual assaults; name-calling; put-downs; or threats directed at the student, the student’s family members, or members of the student’s household. Additional examples may include destroying property belonging to the student, threatening to commit suicide or homicide if the student ends the relationship, attempting to isolate the student from friends and family, stalking, threatening a student’s spouse or current dating partner, or encouraging others to engage in these behaviors.

Reporting Procedures

Student Report – Any student who believes that he or she has experienced prohibited conduct or believes that another student has experienced prohibited conduct should immediately report the alleged acts to a teacher, school counselor, principal, other District employee, or the appropriate District official listed in this policy.

Employee Report – Any District employee who suspects or receives direct or indirect notice that a student or group of students has or may have experienced prohibited conduct shall immediately notify the appropriate District official listed in this policy and take any other steps required by this policy.

Definition of District Officials – For the purposes of this policy, District officials are the Title IX coordinator, the ADA/Section 504 coordinator, and the Superintendent.

Title IX Coordinator – Reports of discrimination based on sex, including sexual harassment, gender-based harassment, or dating violence, may be directed to the designated Title IX coordinator for students. [See FFH(EXHIBIT)]

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ADA/Section 504 Coordinator – Reports of discrimination based on disability may be directed to the designated ADA/Section 504 coordinator for students. [See FFH(EXHIBIT)]

Brandy Tyner, Director of Special Programs
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(325) 657-4055 x300

Superintendent – The Superintendent shall serve as coordinator for purposes of District compliance with all other nondiscrimination laws.

Alternative Reporting Procedures – An individual shall not be required to report prohibited conduct to the person alleged to have committed the conduct. Reports concerning prohibited conduct, including reports against the Title IX coordinator or ADA/Section 504 coordinator, may be directed to the Superintendent.

A report against the Superintendent may be made directly to the Board. If a report is made directly to the Board, the Board shall appoint an appropriate person to conduct an investigation.

Timely Reporting – To ensure the District’s prompt investigation, reports of prohibited conduct shall be made as soon as possible after the alleged act or knowledge of the alleged act.

Notice to Parents – The District official or designee shall promptly notify the parents of any student alleged to have experienced prohibited conduct by a District employee or another adult.

[For parental notification requirements regarding an allegation of educator misconduct with a student, see FFF.]

Investigation of Reports Other Than Title IX – The following procedures apply to all allegations of prohibited conduct other than allegations of harassment prohibited by Title IX. [See FFH(LEGAL)] For allegations of sex-based harassment that, if proved, would meet the definition of sexual harassment under Title IX, including sexual harassment, gender-based harassment, and dating violence, see the procedures below at Response to Sexual Harassment—Title IX.

The District may request, but shall not require, a written report. If a report is made orally, the District official shall reduce the report to written form.

Initial Assessment – Upon receipt or notice of a report, the District official shall determine whether the allegations, if proved, would constitute prohibited conduct as defined by this policy. If so, the District shall immediately undertake an investigation, except as provided below at Criminal Investigation.

If the District official determines that the allegations, if proved, would not constitute prohibited conduct as defined by this policy, the District official shall refer the complaint for consideration under FFI.

Interim Action – If appropriate and regardless of whether a criminal or regulatory investigation regarding the alleged conduct is pending, the District shall promptly take interim action calculated to address prohibited conduct or bullying prior to the completion of the District’s investigation.

District Investigation – The investigation may be conducted by the District official or a designee, such as the principal, or by a third party designated by the District, such as an attorney. When appropriate, the principal shall be involved in or informed of the investigation.

The investigation may consist of personal interviews with the person making the report, the person against whom the report is filed, and others with knowledge of the circumstances surrounding the allegations. The investigation may also include analysis of other information or documents related to the allegations.

Criminal Investigation – If a law enforcement or regulatory agency notifies the District that a criminal or regulatory investigation has been initiated, the District shall confer with the agency to determine if the District investigation would impede the criminal or regulatory investigation. The District shall proceed with its investigation only to the extent that it does not impede the ongoing criminal or regulatory investigation. After the law enforcement or regulatory agency has finished gathering its evidence, the District shall promptly resume its investigation.

Concluding the Investigation – Absent extenuating circumstances, such as a request by a law enforcement or regulatory agency for the District to delay its investigation, the investigation should be completed within ten District business days from the date of the report; however, the investigator shall take additional time if necessary to complete a thorough investigation.

The investigator shall prepare a written report of the investigation. The report shall include a determination of whether prohibited conduct or bullying occurred. The report shall be filed with the District official overseeing the investigation.

Notification of Outcome – Notification of the outcome of the investigation shall be provided to both parties in compliance with FERPA.

District Action

Prohibited Conduct – If the results of an investigation indicate that prohibited conduct occurred, the District shall promptly respond by taking appropriate disciplinary action in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct and may take corrective action reasonably calculated to address the conduct.

Corrective Action – Examples of corrective action may include a training program for those involved in the report, a comprehensive education program for the school community, counseling to the victim and the student who engaged in prohibited conduct, follow-up inquiries to determine if any new incidents or any instances of retaliation have occurred, involving parents and students in efforts to identify problems and improve the school climate, increasing staff monitoring of areas where prohibited conduct has occurred, and reaffirming the District’s policy against discrimination and harassment.

Bullying – If the results of an investigation indicate that bullying occurred, as defined by FFI, the District official shall refer to FFI for appropriate notice to parents and District action. The District official shall refer to FDB for transfer provisions.

Improper Conduct – If the investigation reveals improper conduct that did not rise to the level of prohibited conduct or bullying, the District may take disciplinary action in accordance with the

Student Code of Conduct or other corrective action reasonably calculated to address the conduct.

Confidentiality – To the greatest extent possible, the District shall respect the privacy of the complainant, persons against whom a report is filed, and witnesses. Limited disclosures may be necessary in order to conduct a thorough investigation and comply with applicable law.

Appeal – A student or parent who is dissatisfied with the outcome of the investigation may appeal through FNG(LOCAL), beginning at the appropriate level. A student or parent shall be informed of his or her right to file a complaint with the United States Department of Education Office for Civil Rights.

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

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

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

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

If a formal complaint is not filed, the District reserves the right to investigate and respond to prohibited conduct in accordance with Board policies and the Student Code of Conduct.

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

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

1. Equitable treatment of complainants and respondents;
2. An objective evaluation of all relevant evidence;
3. A requirement that the Title IX coordinator, investigator, decision-maker, or any person designated to facilitate an informal resolution process not have a conflict of interest or bias;
4. A presumption that the respondent is not responsible for the alleged sexual harassment until a determination is made at the conclusion of the Title IX formal complaint process;
5. Time frames that provide for a reasonably prompt conclusion of the Title IX formal complaint process, including time frames for appeals and any informal resolution process, and that allow for temporary delays or the limited extension of time frames with good cause and written notice as required by law;
6. A description of the possible disciplinary sanctions and remedies that may be implemented following a determination of responsibility for the alleged sexual harassment;
7. A statement of the standard of evidence to be used to determine responsibility for all Title IX formal complaints of sexual harassment;

8. Procedures and permissible bases for the complainant and respondent to appeal a determination of responsibility or a dismissal of a Title IX formal complaint or any allegations therein;
9. A description of the supportive measures available to the complainant and respondent;
10. A prohibition on using or seeking information protected under a legally recognized privilege unless the individual holding the privilege has waived the privilege;
11. Additional formal complaint procedures in 34 C.F.R. 106.45(b), including written notice of a formal complaint, consolidation of formal complaints, recordkeeping, and investigation procedures; and
12. Other local procedures as determined by the Superintendent.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

FFH (Regulation)

STUDENT WELFARE: FREEDOM FROM DISCRIMINATION, HARASSMENT, AND RETALIATION

This regulation addresses sexual harassment involving District students under Title IX. For procedures to address allegations of prohibited conduct other than allegations of sexual harassment prohibited by Title IX, see FFH(LOCAL). For other types of sex discrimination involving students, such as equitable opportunities for athletics or pregnancy-related claims, see FFH(LOCAL) and FNE(LOCAL). For provisions regarding discrimination, harassment, and retaliation involving District employees, see DIA. For reporting requirements related to child abuse and neglect, see FFG. Note that FFH shall be used in conjunction with FFI (bullying) for certain prohibited conduct.

Reporting Suspected Child Abuse

Policies DG, FFG, GRA

All employees with reasonable cause to believe that a child's physical or mental health or welfare has been adversely affected by abuse or neglect, as defined by Texas Family Code §261.001, are required by state law to make a report to a law enforcement agency, Child Protective Services (CPS), or appropriate state agency (e.g., state agency operating, licensing, certifying, or registering the facility) within 48 hours of the event that led to the suspicion. Alleged abuse or neglect involving a person responsible for the care, custody, or welfare of the child (including a teacher) must be reported to CPS.

Employees are also required to make a report if they have reasonable cause to believe that an adult was a victim of abuse or neglect as a child, and they determine in good faith that the disclosure of the information is necessary to protect the health and safety of another child, elderly person, or person with a disability.

Reports to Child Protective Services are to be made online or by phone. The online reporting is at <https://www.txabusehotline.org/Login/Default.aspx> and the Texas Abuse Hotline is 800-252-5400. State law specifies that an employee may not delegate to or rely on another person or administrator to make the report.

Under state law, any person reporting or assisting in the investigation of reported child abuse or neglect is immune from liability unless the report is made in bad faith or with malicious intent. The District is prohibited from retaliating against an employee who, in good faith, reports child abuse or neglect or who participates in an investigation regarding an allegation of child abuse or neglect.

An employee's failure to make the required report may result in prosecution as a Class A misdemeanor. The offense of failure to report by a professional may be a state jail felony if it is shown the individual intended to conceal the abuse or neglect.

In addition, a certified employee's failure to report may result in disciplinary procedures by the State Board for Educator Certification for a violation of the Texas Educators' Code of Ethics.

Employees who suspect that a student has been or may be abused or neglected should also report their concerns to the principal. This includes students with disabilities who are no longer minors. Employees are not required to report their concern to the principal before making a report to the appropriate agencies.

Reporting the concern to the principal does not relieve the employee of the requirement to report it to the appropriate state agency. Employees must cooperate with child abuse and neglect investigators. Interference with a child abuse investigation by denying an interviewer's request to interview a student at school or requiring the presence of a parent or school administrator against the desires of the duly authorized investigator is prohibited.

Sexual Abuse and Maltreatment of Children

The District has established a plan for addressing sexual abuse and other maltreatment of children. It is important for employees to be aware of warning signs that could indicate a child may have been or is being sexually abused or otherwise maltreated. Sexual abuse in the Texas Family Code is defined as any sexual conduct harmful to a child's mental, emotional, or physical

welfare as well as a failure to make a reasonable effort to prevent sexual conduct with a child. Maltreatment is defined as abuse or neglect. Anyone who has reasonable cause to believe that a child has been or may be abused or neglected has a legal responsibility under state law for reporting the suspected abuse or neglect following the procedures described above in *Reporting Suspected Child Abuse*.

Reporting Crime

Policy DG

The Texas Whistleblower Act protects District employees who make good faith reports of violations of law by the District to an appropriate law enforcement authority. The District is prohibited from suspending, terminating the employment of, or taking other adverse personnel action against, an employee who makes a report under the Act. State law also provides employees with the right to report a crime witnessed at the school to any peace officer with authority to investigate the crime.

Scope and Sequence

Policy DG

If a teacher determines that students need more or less time in a specific area to demonstrate proficiency in the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) for that subject and grade level, the District will not penalize the teacher for not following the District's scope and sequence.

The District may take appropriate action if a teacher does not follow the District's scope and sequence based on documented evidence of a deficiency in classroom instruction. This documentation can be obtained through observation or substantiated and documented third-party information.

Technology Resources

Policy CQ

The District's technology resources, including its networks, computer systems, email accounts, devices connected to its networks, and all District-owned devices used on or off school property are primarily for administrative and instructional purposes. Limited personal use is permitted if the use:

- imposes no tangible cost to the District,
- does not unduly burden the District's technology resources,
- has no adverse effect on job performance or on a student's academic performance.

Electronic mail transmissions and other use of technology resources are not confidential and are monitored to ensure appropriate use.

Employees are required to abide by the provisions of the District's policy on acceptable use of technology and resources and follow administrative procedures. Failure to do so can result in suspension of access or termination of privileges and may lead to disciplinary and/or legal action, including termination of employment. Employees are informed of the Acceptable Use Policy upon hire and notified annually thereafter. Employees are expected to sign the employee handbook receipt as the agreement associated with the Acceptable Use Policy before they are allowed access to the District's network and electronic communications system. *The full text of*

the Technology Responsible Use Guidelines is in the [Appendix](#) of this handbook and on the District website.

Personal Use of Electronic Communications

Policy CQ, DH

Electronic communications include all forms of social media, such as text messaging, instant messaging, electronic mail (email), web logs (blogs), wikis, electronic forums (chat rooms), video-sharing websites (e.g., YouTube), editorial comments posted on the Internet, and social network sites (e.g., Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, Snapchat, Twitter, LinkedIn). Electronic communications also include all forms of telecommunications such as landlines, cell phones, and web-based applications.

As role models for the District's students, employees are responsible for their public conduct even when they are not acting as District employees. All employees are held to the same professional standards in their public use of electronic communication as they are for any other public conduct. If an employee's use of electronic communication violates state or federal law or District policy or interferes with the employee's ability to effectively perform his or her job duties, the employee is subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination of employment. If an employee wishes to use a social network site or similar media for personal purposes, the employee is responsible for the content on the employee's page, including content added by the employee, the employee's friends, or members of the public who can access the employee's page, and for web links on the employee's page. The employee is also responsible for maintaining privacy settings appropriate to the content.

The employee continues to be subject to applicable state and federal laws, local policies, administrative regulations, and the Texas Educators' Code of Ethics, even when communicating regarding personal and private matters, regardless of whether the employee is using private or public equipment, on or off campus. These restrictions include:

- Confidentiality of student records (Policy FL)
- Confidentiality of health or personal information concerning colleagues, unless disclosure serves lawful professional purposes or is required by law (Policy DH EXHIBIT)
- Confidentiality of District records, including educator evaluations and private email addresses (Policy GBA)
- Copyright law (Policy CY)
- Prohibition against harming others by knowingly making false statements about a colleague or the school system (Policy DH EXHIBIT).

See *Electronic Communications between Employees, Students, and Parents* below for regulations on employee communication with students through electronic media.

Electronic Communications between Employees, Students, and Parents

Policy DH

A certified employee, licensed employee, or any other employee designated in writing by the superintendent or a campus principal, may use electronic communications with students who are currently enrolled in the District. The employee must comply with the provisions outlined below. Electronic communications between all other employees and students who are enrolled in the District are prohibited.

Employees are not required to provide students with their personal phone number or email address.

An employee is not subject to the provisions regarding electronic communications with a student to the extent the employee has a social or family relationship with a student. For example, an employee may have a relationship with a niece or nephew, a student who is the child of an adult friend, a student who is a friend of the employee's child, or a member or participant in the same civic, social, recreational, or religious organization. An employee who claims an exception based on a social relationship shall provide written consent from the student's parent. The written consent shall include an acknowledgement by the parent that:

- The employee has provided the parent with a copy of this protocol;
- The employee and the student have a social relationship outside of school;
- The parent understands that the employee's communications with the student are excepted from District regulation; and
- The parent is solely responsible for monitoring electronic communications between the employee and the student.

The following definitions apply for the use of electronic media with students:

- *Electronic communications* means any communication facilitated by the use of any electronic device, including a telephone, cellular telephone, computer, computer network, personal data assistant, or pager. The term includes email, text messages, instant messages, and any communication made through an Internet website, including a social media website or a social networking website.
- *Communicate* means to convey information and includes a one-way communication as well as a dialogue between two or more people. A public communication by an employee that is not targeted at students (e.g., a posting on the employee's personal social network page or a blog) is not a communication; however, the employee may be subject to District regulations on personal electronic communications. See *Personal Use of Electronic Communications* above. Unsolicited contact from a student through electronic means is not a *communication*.
- *Certified or licensed employee* means a person employed in a position requiring SBEC certification or a professional license, and whose job duties may require the employee to communicate electronically with students. The term includes classroom teachers, counselors, principals, librarians, paraprofessionals, nurses, educational diagnosticians, licensed therapists, and athletic trainers.

An employee who communicates electronically with students shall observe the following:

- The employee shall limit communication to matters within the scope of the employee's professional responsibilities (e.g., for classroom teachers – matters relating to class work, homework, or tests; for an employee with an extracurricular duty – matters relating to the extracurricular activity).
- The employee is prohibited from knowingly communicating with students through a personal social network page; the employee must create a separate social network page ("professional page") for the purpose of communicating with students. The employee must enable the administration and parents to access the employee's professional page.
- The employee's communications with any student after regular school hours will be closely scrutinized. An employee may, however, make public posts to a social network site, blog, or similar application at any time.
- The employee does not have a right to privacy with respect to communications with students and parents.

- The employee continues to be subject to applicable state and federal laws, local policies, administrative regulations, and the Texas Educators’ Code of Ethics including:
 - Compliance with the Public Information Act and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), including retention and confidentiality of student records (Policies CPC and FL)
 - Copyright law (Policy CY)
 - Prohibitions against soliciting or engaging in sexual conduct or a romantic relationship with a student (Policy DH)
- Upon request from administration, an employee will provide the phone number(s), social network site(s), or other information regarding the method(s) of electronic media the employee uses to communicate with one or more currently enrolled students.
- Upon written request from a parent or student, the employee shall discontinue communicating with the student through email, text messaging, instant messaging, or any other form of one-to-one communication.
- An employee may request an exception from one or more of the limitations above by submitting a written request to his or her immediate supervisor.
- All staff are required to use school email accounts for all electronic communications with parents. Communication about school issues through personal email accounts or text messages are not allowed as they cannot be preserved in accordance with the District’s record retention policy.
- An employee shall notify his or supervisor in writing within one business day if a student engages in an improper electronic communication with the employee. The employee should describe the form and content of the electronic communication.

Telephone Use

San Angelo ISD is committed to high standards in the workplace requiring the focus of all employees on contributing positively to the education of students. To maintain these high standards, the use of personal electronic communications devices (cellular phones and pagers) may not interfere with an employee’s performance of job responsibilities. Personal cellular phones may be used for school business calls, including parent contacts only during planning periods and other off-duty times during the workday. Instructional personnel may not make or receive personal calls during class periods.

The District’s telephone system is primarily for District business. Limited personal use of the system is permitted if the use:

- imposes no tangible cost to the District,
- does not unduly burden the District,
- has no adverse effect on job performance or on a student’s academic performance.

Public Information on Private Devices

Policy DH, GB

Employees should not maintain District information on privately owned devices. Any District information must be forwarded or transferred to the District to be preserved. The District will take reasonable efforts to obtain public information in compliance with the Public Information Act. Reasonable efforts may include verbal or written directive and remote access to District-owned devices and services.

Copyrighted Materials

Policy CY

Employees must comply with the provisions of federal copyright law relating to the unauthorized use, reproduction, distribution, performance, or display of copyrighted materials (i.e., printed material, videos, computer data and programs, etc.). Electronic media, including motion pictures and other audiovisual works, are to be used in the classroom for instructional purposes only. Duplication or backup of computer programs and data must be made within the provisions of the purchase agreement.

Criminal History Background Checks

Policy DBAA

Employees may be subject to a review of their criminal history record information at any time during employment. National criminal history checks based on an individual's fingerprints, photo, and other identification will be conducted on certain employees and entered into the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) Clearinghouse. This database provides the District and the State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC) with access to an employee's current national criminal history and updates to the employee's subsequent criminal history.

Employee Arrests and Convictions

Policy DH, DHB, DHC

An employee must notify his or her principal or immediate supervisor within three calendar days of any arrest, indictment, conviction, no contest or guilty plea, or other adjudication of any felony, and any other offenses listed below:

- Crimes involving school property or funds
- Crimes involving attempt by fraudulent or unauthorized means to obtain or alter any certificate or permit that would entitle any person to hold or obtain a position as an educator
- Crimes that occur wholly or in part on school property or at a school-sponsored activity
- Crimes involving moral turpitude

Moral turpitude includes:

- Dishonesty
- Fraud
- Deceit
- Theft
- Misrepresentation
- Deliberate violence
- Base, vile, or depraved acts that are intended to arouse or gratify the sexual desire of the actor
- Crimes involving any felony possession or conspiracy to possess, or any misdemeanor or felony transfer, sale, distribution, or conspiracy to transfer, sell, or distribute any controlled substance defined in Chapter 481 of the Health and Safety Code
- Felonies involving driving while intoxicated (DWI)
- Acts constituting abuse or neglect under the Texas Family Code

The District is authorized to and will periodically obtain updated criminal history information regarding current employees. If an educator is arrested or criminally charged, the superintendent is also required to report the educator's criminal history to the Division of Investigations at TEA.

Certified Employees. The superintendent and directors are required to report the misconduct or criminal history of a certified employee or individual applying for certification or permit to TEA Division of Educator Investigations. Information about misconduct or allegations of misconduct of a certified employee obtained by a means other than the criminal history clearinghouse that results in termination, resignation, or criminal history (e.g., arrest, indictment, prosecution, conviction, or other disposition by the criminal justice system, including probation and deferred adjudication) will be reported to TEA.

Misconduct or allegations of misconduct include:

- Abused or otherwise committed an unlawful act with a student or minor
- Possessed, transferred, sold, or distributed a controlled substance
- Illegally transferred, appropriated, or expended school property or funds
- Attempted by fraudulent means to obtain or alter any certificate or permit to gain employment or additional compensation
- Committed a criminal offense on school property or at a school-sponsored event, or
- Solicited or engaged in sexual conduct or a romantic relationship with a student or minor

Uncertified Employees. Misconduct or criminal history of an uncertified employee also must be reported to TEA. Information about misconduct or the allegations of misconduct obtained by a means other than the criminal history clearinghouse that results in termination, resignation, or criminal history (e.g., arrest, indictment, prosecution, conviction, or other disposition by the criminal justice system, including probation and deferred adjudication) will be reported to TEA.

Misconduct or allegations of misconduct include:

- Abuse or unlawful act with a student or minor, or
- Involvement in a romantic relationship with or solicited or engaged in sexual contact with a student or minor

Alcohol-Free and Drug-Free Environment

Policy DH, DHE

San Angelo ISD is committed to maintaining an alcohol-free and drug-free environment and will not tolerate the use of alcohol and illegal drugs in the workplace or at school-related or school-sanctioned activities on or off school property. Employees who use or are under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs as defined by the Texas Controlled Substances Act during working hours may be terminated (see *Searches and Alcohol and Drug Testing*). All District employees are also required to be law abiding citizens and may be dismissed or otherwise disciplined for illegal activities outside the workplace. The District's policy regarding employee drug use is below or may be accessed from the District's website: www.saisd.org > District > Board of Education > Board Policies.

DH (LOCAL)

ALCOHOL AND DRUGS

As a condition of employment, an employee shall abide by the terms of the following drug-free workplace provisions. An employee shall notify the Superintendent in writing if the employee is convicted for a violation of a criminal drug statute occurring in the workplace in accordance with Arrests, Indictments, Convictions, and Other Adjudications, below.

An employee shall not manufacture, distribute, dispense, possess, use, or be under the influence of any of the following substances during working hours while on District property or at school-related activities during or outside of usual working hours:

1. Any controlled substance or dangerous drug as defined by law, including but not limited to marijuana, any narcotic drug, hallucinogen, stimulant, depressant, amphetamine, or barbiturate.
2. Alcohol or any alcoholic beverage.
3. Any abusable glue, aerosol paint, or any other chemical substance for inhalation.
4. Any other intoxicant or mood-changing, mind-altering, or behavior-altering drug.

An employee need not be legally intoxicated to be considered “under the influence” of a controlled substance.

Exceptions – It shall not be considered a violation of this policy if the employee:

1. Manufactures, possesses, or dispenses a substance listed above as part of the employee’s job responsibilities;
2. Uses or possesses a controlled substance or drug authorized by a licensed physician prescribed for the employee’s personal use; or
3. Possesses a controlled substance or drug that a licensed physician has prescribed for the employee’s child or other individual for whom the employee is a legal guardian.

Sanctions – An employee who violates these drug-free workplace provisions shall be subject to disciplinary sanctions. Sanctions may include:

1. Referral to drug and alcohol counseling or rehabilitation programs;
2. Referral to employee assistance programs;
3. Termination from employment with the District; and
4. Referral to appropriate law enforcement officials for prosecution.

Notice – Employees shall receive a copy of this policy.

Possession of Firearms and Weapons

Policies DH, FNCG, GKA

Employees, visitors, and students, including those with a license to carry a handgun, are prohibited from bringing firearms, illegal knives, clubs, or other prohibited weapons onto school premises (i.e., building or portion of a building) or any grounds or building where a school-sponsored activity takes place. A person, including an employee, who holds a license to carry a handgun may transport or store a handgun or other firearm or ammunition in a locked vehicle in a parking lot, garage, or other district provided parking area, provided the handgun or firearm or ammunition is properly stored and not in plain view. To ensure the safety of all persons, employees who observe or suspect a violation of the District’s weapons policy should report it to their supervisor or call 911 immediately.

Safety and Security

Policy CK series

The District has developed and promotes a comprehensive program to ensure the safety and security of employees, students, and visitors. The safety and security program includes written guidelines and procedures for responding to emergencies and activities to help reduce the frequency of accidents and injuries. See *Emergencies* in the *General Procedures* section for additional information.

Employees must follow established protocols and response to emergencies for each campus and department. Refer to written security procedures specific to your location and work area.

To prevent or minimize injuries to employees, coworkers, and students and to protect and conserve District equipment, employees must comply with the following requirements:

- Observe all safety rules.
- Always keep work areas clean and orderly.
- Immediately report all accidents to their supervisor.
- Operate only equipment or machines for which they have training and authorization.

While driving on District business, employees are required to abide by all state and local traffic laws. Employees driving on District business are prohibited from texting and using other electronic devices that require both visual and manual attention while the vehicle is in motion. Employees will exercise care and sound judgment on whether to use hands-free technology while the vehicle is in motion.

Employees with questions or concerns relating to safety may contact Michael Kalnbach, Executive Director of Student and Data Services at (325) 947-3700 x768.

Tobacco Products and E-Cigarette Use

Policies DH, FNCD, GKA

State law prohibits smoking, using tobacco products, e-cigarettes, and any other electronic vaporizing device on all District-owned property and at school-related or school-sanctioned activities, on or off District property. This includes all buildings, playground areas, parking facilities, and facilities used for athletics and other activities. Drivers of District-owned vehicles are prohibited from smoking, using tobacco products, e-cigarettes, or any other electronic vaporizing device while inside the vehicle. Notices stating that smoking is prohibited by law and punishable by a fine are displayed in prominent places in all buildings.

Appropriate Dress

Policy DH

The dress and grooming of employees shall be clean, neat, in a manner appropriate for their assignments, and in accordance with any additional standards established by supervisors. The dress code of all staff, including substitutes, temporary, part-time, or seasonal employees, must not be a distraction or create an unwelcoming learning environment for students.

Fraud and Financial Impropriety

Policy CAA

All employees should act with integrity and diligence in duties involving the District's financial resources. The District prohibits fraud and financial impropriety, as defined below. Fraud and financial impropriety include, but is not limited to, the following:

- Forgery or unauthorized alteration of any document or account belonging to the District.
- Forgery or unauthorized alteration of a check, bank draft, or any other financial document.
- Misappropriation of funds, securities, supplies, or other District assets, including employee time.
- Impropriety in the handling of money or reporting of District financial transactions.
- Profiteering as a result of insider knowledge of District information or activities.
- Unauthorized disclosure of confidential or proprietary information to outside parties.

- Unauthorized disclosure of investment activities engaged in or contemplated by the District.
- Accepting or seeking anything of material value from contractors, vendors, or other persons providing services or materials to the District, except as otherwise permitted by law or District policy.
- Inappropriately destroying, removing, or using records, furniture, fixtures, or equipment.
- Failure to provide financial records required by federal, state or local entities.
- Failure to disclose conflicts of interest as required by law or District policy.
- Failure to comply with requirements imposed by law, the awarding agency, or a pass-through entity for federal and state awards.
- Any other dishonest act regarding the finances of the District.

The District has implemented administrative systems to diminish the risk of fraud (e.g., Student Activity Fund Manual). In accordance with audit requirements the District has in place a reporting system to promote prompt reporting of suspected fraud to appropriate levels of internal management.

If you suspect fraud or financial impropriety within the District, you should report your suspicions using the reporting form on the District’s website. You may access the form at [Fraud Reporting](#) or on the District website www.saisd.org, under the *Community* section. In completing the report, your contact information is optional, but if submitted shall be treated as confidential to the extent permitted by law.

Conflict of Interest

Policy CB, DBD

Employees are required to disclose in writing to the District any situation that creates a potential conflict of interest with proper discharge of assigned duties and responsibilities or creates a potential conflict of interest with the best interests of the District. This includes:

- A personal financial interest
- A business interest
- Any other obligation or relationship
- Non-school employment

Employees in a position to make recommendations on the District’s contracting for goods and services or sales or purchase of real estate are held to the same requirements for disclosing a substantial interest in a business or in real estate as trustees are. Disclosure is accomplished by filing an affidavit and not participating in any discussions or recommendations related to the contract or real estate. See Policy BBFA for definitions of “substantial interest.” For additional information, contact the Human Resources Department.

Gifts and Favors

Policy DBD

Employees may not accept gifts or favors that could influence, or be construed to influence, the employee’s discharge of assigned duties. The acceptance of a gift, favor, or service by an administrator or teacher that might reasonably tend to influence the selection of textbooks, electronic textbooks, instructional materials, or technological equipment may result in prosecution of a Class B misdemeanor offense. This does not include professional learning, teacher training, or instructional materials, such as maps or worksheets, that convey information to students or contribute to the learning process.

Associations and Political Activities

Policy DGA

The District will not directly or indirectly discourage employees from participating in political affairs or require any employee to join any group, club, committee, organization, or association. Employees may join or refuse to join any professional association or organization.

An individual's employment will not be affected by membership or a decision not to be a member of any employee organization that exists for the purpose of dealing with employers concerning grievances, labor disputes, wages, rates of pay, hours of employment, or conditions of work. Use of District resources, including work time, for political activities is prohibited.

The District encourages personal participation in the political process, including voting. Employees who need to be absent from work to vote during the early voting period or on election day must communicate with their immediate supervisor prior to the absence.

Charitable Contributions

Policy DG

The board of trustees or any employee may not directly or indirectly require or coerce an employee to contribute to a charitable organization or in response to a fundraiser. Employees cannot be required to attend a meeting called for the purpose of soliciting charitable contributions. In addition, the board or any employee may not directly or indirectly require or coerce an employee to refrain from contributing to a charitable organization or in response to a fundraiser or attending a meeting called for the purpose of soliciting charitable contributions.

Identification

Every employee is required to visibly wear an identification badge while at work. ID badges are available during regular business hours at the reception desk at the Administration Building. If an employee loses or damages the badge and needs a new one, the first replacement badge is provided at no cost. Employees are required to pay \$15 for subsequent badges.

Employee Identification Numbers

All employees will be assigned a system-generated unique identification number upon employment. This number is used as the primary source of identification on most employee documents. It is the responsibility of the employee to safeguard this number and use it in lieu of the Social Security number where applicable.

The employee's Social Security number may continue to be used by the District where necessary, and on documents where required (i.e. IRS W-2 form, health plan enrollment form).

Employees are given a network login, email address, and access to various programs and resources.

- Your network login is your employee ID number (ex: 123456).
- Your email address is your firstname.lastname@saisd.org.

If you need technical assistance, you may contact the Help Desk at (325) 657-4000 or helpdesk@saisd.org.

Visitors in the Workplace

Policy GKC

All visitors must enter any District facility through the main entrance and report to the building's main office. Campus visitors must be processed through the electronic check-in system. Authorized visitors will receive directions or be escorted to their destination. Employees who observe an unauthorized individual on the District premises should immediately direct the individual to the main office or contact the administrator in charge.

Asbestos Management Plan

Policy CKA

The District is committed to providing a safe environment for employees, students, and visitors, and has an Asbestos Management Plan for each facility within the District as required by the Texas Department of Health. A copy of the plan is in the administrative office at each site and in the Maintenance Department, and available for review during regular business hours.

Pest Control Treatment

Policies CLB, DI

The District is committed to utilizing established Integrated Pest Management Procedures as required by the Texas Structural Pest Control Board and the Environmental Protection Agency regulations. These procedures include non-chemical management strategies but, if necessary, a method of least-toxic chemical control will be utilized. Appropriate postings and notifications are provided to communicate the pending applications. Notices are generally located in the main office of the campus/site. In addition, individual employees may request in writing to be notified of pesticide applications. Only persons who are licensed pest applicators and have completed training in pesticide application and pest control are permitted to apply and store chemicals on District property. In addition, the District has adopted the strategies and procedures of the Texas Structural Pest Control Board and has developed a detailed plan outlining thresholds, monitoring, and corrective action as deemed necessary. Copies of the plan are maintained in the Maintenance Department.

General Procedures

Emergency School Closing

The District may close schools or facilities because of severe weather, epidemics, or other emergency conditions. When such conditions exist, the superintendent will make the official decision concerning the closing of the District's facilities. When it becomes necessary to open late, to release early, or to cancel school, District officials and campus leaders will coordinate with the Communications Department to post a notice on the District's website at www.saisd.org, send information through the ClassTag mass notification system via email and text message, post notifications on District Facebook and Twitter, post a message on Optimum Channel 4, and notify the following local media:

Television/Print Publications/Online Media**Radio**

SAISD Suddenlink Channel 4	KWFR 101.9 FM
KLST Suddenlink Channel 5	KCLL 100.1 FM
KSAN Suddenlink Channel 3	KDCD 92.9 FM
KIDY/Fox West Texas Suddenlink Channel 10	KELI 98.7 FM
KTXS/ABC 38 Suddenlink Channel 12	KGKL 97.5 FM or 960 AM
KLST Dish Channel 8	KIXY 94.7 FM
KSAN Dish Channel 3	KKCN 103.1 FM
KLST Sterling Channel 4	KKSA 1260 AM
KSAN Sterling Channel 3	KMDX 106.1 FM
San Angelo Standard-Times	KNRX 96.5 FM
Conexión San Angelo	KSJT 107.5 FM
San Angelo.News	
San Angelo LIVE!	

To follow SAISD on Facebook or Twitter, visit the *Community* section of the District’s website.

Emergencies

Policies CKC, CKD

All employees should be familiar with the safety procedures for responding to emergencies, including a medical emergency. Employees should locate evacuation diagrams posted in their work areas and be familiar with the standard response protocols. Emergency drills are conducted to familiarize employees and students with safety and evacuation procedures. Each campus is equipped with an automatic external defibrillator. Fire extinguishers are located throughout all District buildings. Employees should know the location of these devices and procedures for their use.

Name and Address Changes

It is important that employment records are current. Employees must update their address, telephone numbers and emergency contact information in the *Employee Access Center*. If an employee has a change in name or beneficiary, the employee is to notify the Payroll & Benefits Office at (325) 947-3700 x788. Employees with certifications issued by SBEC are also required to maintain current name and address information with SBEC.

Updating Credentials and Renewing Certifications

Policy DBA

All employees who have earned certificates, endorsements, or degrees of higher rank since the previous school year must file the documents with the District by submitting them to the Human Resources Department. Individuals holding renewable SBEC certificates are responsible for obtaining the required training hours, maintaining appropriate documentation, and renewing the certification with SBEC.

Personnel Records

Policy DBA, GBA

Most District records, including personnel records, are public information and must be released upon request. In most cases, an employee's personal email is confidential and may not be released without the employee's permission.

Employees may choose to have the following personal information withheld:

- address
- phone number, including personal cell phone number
- emergency contact information
- information that reveals whether they have family members

The employee should review and update this information for accuracy through the *Employee Access Center*, at least annually and more often if needed. The employee should electronically elect to allow the information to be released or withheld. New or terminated employees have 14 days after hire or termination to make this election in the *Employee Access Center* or submit a written request to the Human Resources Department. Otherwise, personal information will be released to the public until the employee changes the election in the *Employee Access Center*.

Facility Use

Policies DGA, GKD

Employees who wish to use District facilities after school hours must follow established procedures. The Athletic Department is responsible for scheduling the use of facilities after school hours. Contact the Athletic Department at (325) 947-3700 x711 to request to use school facilities and to obtain information on the fees charged.

Purchasing Procedures

Policy CH

All requests for purchases must be submitted to the Purchasing Department through the District's electronic requisition process with the appropriate electronic approvals. No purchases, charges, or commitments to buy goods or services for the District can be made without a purchase order (PO) number. The District will not reimburse employees or assume responsibility for purchases made without authorization. Employees are not permitted to purchase supplies or equipment for personal use through the District's business office. District credit cards shall only be used by employees who have completed the credit card training. All checkout procedures must be followed, and receipts collected. Contact the Purchasing Department at (325) 947-3700 x758 for information.

Termination of Employment

Resignations

Policy DFE, DHB

Contract employees – Contract employees may resign their position without penalty at the end of any school year if written notice is received at least 45 days before the first day of instruction of the following school year. A written notice of resignation must be submitted to the Human Resources Department. Contract employees may resign at any other time only with the approval of the superintendent or the board of trustees. Resignation without consent may result in disciplinary action by the State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC).

The principal is required to notify the superintendent of an educator’s resignation within seven business days following an alleged incident of misconduct for any of the acts listed in *Reports to Texas Education Agency*. The superintendent will notify SBEC when an employee resigns and there is evidence to indicate that the employee has engaged in such misconduct.

Noncontract employees – Noncontract employees may resign their positions at any time. A written notice of resignation should be submitted to the Human Resources Department at least two weeks prior to the effective date. Employees are encouraged to include the reasons for leaving in the letter of resignation but are not required to do so.

The principal is required to notify the superintendent of a noncertified employee’s resignation or termination within seven business days following an alleged incident of misconduct or abuse of a student or minor, alleged involvement in a romantic relationship with a student or minor, or alleged solicitation or engagement in sexual conduct with a student or minor. The superintendent will notify TEA within seven business days of receiving a report from a principal or having knowledge about an employee’s resignation or termination following an alleged incident of misconduct described above.

Dismissal or Nonrenewal of Contract Employees

Policies DF Series, DHB

Employees on probationary or term contracts can be dismissed during the school year according to the procedures outlined in District policies. Employees on probationary contract can be terminated at the end of the contract term and those on term contracts can be non-renewed at the end of the contract term. Contract employees dismissed during the school year, suspended without pay, or subject to a reduction in force will receive notice of the recommended action, an explanation of the charges against them, and an opportunity for a hearing. The timelines and procedures to be followed when a suspension, termination, or nonrenewal occurs will be provided when a written notice is given to an employee.

The principal is required to notify the superintendent of an educator’s termination within seven business days following an alleged incident of misconduct for any of the acts listed in Reports to Texas Education Agency on the following page. The superintendent will notify SBEC when an employee is terminated and there is evidence to indicate that the employee has engaged in such misconduct.

Advance notification requirements do not apply when a contract employee is dismissed for failing to obtain or maintain appropriate certification or when the employee’s certification is

revoked for misconduct. Information on the timelines and procedures are in the DF series policies located in each campus and department office, in the Human Resources Department, and at www.saisd.org.

Dismissal of Noncontract Employees

Policies DCD, DP

Noncontract employees are employed at-will and may be dismissed without notice, a description of the reasons for dismissal, or a hearing, but will not be dismissed for reasons of race, color, religion, gender, national origin, age, disability, military status, genetic information, any other basis protected by law, or in retaliation for the exercise of certain protected legal rights. Noncontract employees have the right to grieve the termination (see Policy DGBA). The dismissed employee must follow the District process when pursuing the grievance.

The principal is required to notify the superintendent of a noncertified employee's resignation or termination within seven business days following an alleged incident of misconduct or abuse of a student or minor, alleged involvement in a romantic relationship with a student or minor, or alleged solicitation or engagement in sexual conduct with a student or minor. The superintendent will notify TEA within seven business days of receiving a report from a principal or having knowledge about an employee's resignation or termination following an alleged incident of misconduct described above.

Discharge of Convicted Employees

Policy DF

The District will discharge any employee who has been convicted of or placed on deferred adjudication community supervision for an offense requiring the registration as a sex offender or convicted of a felony under Title 5 Penal Code if the victim was a minor. If the offense is more than 30 years before the date the person's employment began or the person satisfied all terms of the court order entered on conviction, the requirement to discharge does not apply.

Exit Interviews and Procedures

Policy DC

Exit interviews are scheduled for all employees leaving the District. Information about the employee's final paycheck, continuation of benefits, TRS contribution, and release of information is provided at this time. Separating employees are asked to provide the District with a forwarding address and phone number and complete a questionnaire that provides the District with feedback on their employment experience.

All District keys, books, equipment, uniforms, and property, including intellectual property must be returned upon separation from employment.

Reports to the Texas Education Agency

Policies DF, DHB, DHC

Certified Employees – The resignation or termination of a certified employee must be reported to the Division of Investigations at TEA if there is evidence that the employee was involved in any of the following:

- Any form of sexual or physical abuse of a minor or any other unlawful conduct with a student or a minor.
- Soliciting or engaging in sexual contact or a romantic relationship with a student or minor.
- The possession, transfer, sale, or distribution of a controlled substance.
- The illegal transfer, appropriation, or expenditure of District or school property or funds.
- An attempt by fraudulent or unauthorized means to obtain or alter any certificate or permit for the purpose of promotion or additional compensation.
- Committing a criminal offense or any part of a criminal offense on District property or at a school-sponsored event.

The reporting requirements above are in addition to the superintendent’s ongoing duty to notify TEA when a certified employee or an applicant for certification has a reported criminal history or engaged in conduct violating the assessment security procedures established under TEC §39.0301. “Reported criminal history” means any formal criminal justice system charges and dispositions including arrests, detentions, indictments, criminal information, convictions, deferred adjudications, and probations in any state or federal jurisdiction that is obtained by a means other than the Fingerprint-based Applicant Clearinghouse of Texas (FACT).

Noncertified Employees – The voluntary or involuntary separation of a noncertified employee from the District must be reported to the Division of Investigations at TEA by the superintendent if there is evidence the employee abused or otherwise committed an unlawful act with a student or minor, was involved in a romantic relationship with a student or minor or solicited or engaged in sexual contact with a student or minor.

Reports Concerning Court-Ordered Withholding

The District is required to report the termination of employees that are under court order or writ of withholding for child support or spousal maintenance. Notice of the following must be sent to the support recipient and the court or, in the case of child support, the Texas Attorney General Child Support Division:

- termination of employment not later than the seventh day after the date of termination
- employee’s last known address
- name and address of the employee’s new employer, if known.

Student Issues

Equal Educational Opportunities

Policies FB, FFH

SAISD does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, or disability in providing education services, activities, and programs, including vocational programs, in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972; and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.

Questions or concerns should be directed to the following:

Dr. Jason Skelton, Title IX Coordinator – (325) 947-3700 x765 or jason.skelton@saisd.org – regarding alleged discrimination against students on the basis of sex, including sexual harassment

Brandy Tyner, ADA/504 Coordinator – (325) 657-4055 x300 or brandy.tyner@saisd.org – regarding discrimination on the basis of a disability and disability related to Section 504

Office of the Superintendent – (325) 947-3700 x764 or carl.dethloff@saisd.org – all other questions or concerns relating to discrimination based on any other reasons

Student Records

Policy FL

Student records are confidential and are protected from unauthorized inspection or use. Employees should take precautions to maintain the confidentiality of all student records. The following people are the only people who have general access to a student's records:

- Parents – Married, separated, or divorced unless parental rights have been legally terminated and the school has been given a copy of the court order terminating parental rights
- The student – The rights of parents transfer to a student who turns 18 or is enrolled in an institution of post-secondary education. A District is not prohibited from granting the student access to the student's records before this time.
- School officials with legitimate educational interests

The student handbook provides parents and students with detailed information on student records. Parents or students wanting to review student records should be directed to the principal.

Parent and Student Complaints

Policy FNG

In an effort to hear and resolve parent and student complaints in a timely manner and at the lowest administrative level possible, the board has adopted orderly processes for handling complaints. Principals or staff in the superintendent's office can provide information on filing a complaint.

Parents are encouraged to discuss problems or complaints with the teachers or the appropriate administrator at any time. Parents and students with complaints that cannot be resolved to their satisfaction should be directed to the principal. The formal complaint process provides parents and students with an opportunity to be heard up to the highest level of management if they are dissatisfied with a principal's response. Once all administrative complaint procedures are exhausted, parents and students can bring complaints to the board of trustees, in accordance with the terms of the policy.

Administering Medication to Students

Policy FFAC

Only designated employees may administer prescription medication, nonprescription medication, and herbal or dietary supplements to students. Exceptions apply to the self-administration of asthma medication, medication for anaphylaxis (e.g., EpiPen®), and medication for diabetes

management, if the medication is self-administered in accordance with District policy and procedures. A student who must take medication during the school day must bring a written request from his or her parent and the medicine, in its original, properly labeled container. Contact the principal or school nurse for information on procedures that must be followed when administering medication to students.

Dietary Supplements

Policies DH, FFAC

Employees are prohibited by state law from knowingly selling, marketing, or distributing a dietary supplement that contains performance-enhancing compounds to a student with whom the employee has contact as part of his or her school District duties. In addition, employees may not knowingly endorse or suggest the ingestion, intranasal application, or inhalation of a performance-enhancing dietary supplement to any student.

Psychotropic Drugs

Policy FFAC

A psychotropic drug is a substance used in the diagnosis, treatment, or prevention of a disease or as a component of a medication. It is intended to have an altering effect on perception, emotion, or behavior and is commonly described as a mood-altering or behavior-altering substance.

District employees are prohibited by state law from doing the following:

- Recommending that a student use a psychotropic drug,
- Suggesting a particular diagnosis,
- Excluding from class or school-related activity a student whose parent refuses to consent to a psychiatric evaluation or to authorize the administration of a psychotropic drug to a student.

Student Conduct and Discipline

Policies in the FN series and FO series

The board-approved Student Code of Conduct contains all the rules and requirements for conduct and discipline. Teachers receive a copy of the Student Code of Conduct and must be familiar with the rules of conduct. Each employee has the responsibility to be mindful of student conduct at all times and to intervene if students are harming each other or school property. In other situations, if an employee observes student misconduct, the employee must promptly inform the principal or assistant principal. In most circumstances, only professional employees will impose or administer disciplinary consequences. Employees can use reasonable restraint of students to prevent injury to the student or other students or employees, or to prevent property damage. However, students with disabilities can be restrained only in emergency situations.

Classroom teachers have the authority and responsibility to develop and communicate rules for classroom behavior. The District expects employees to handle minor disturbances in the classroom through these rules. However, if a student engages in classroom conduct that violates the Student Code of Conduct, the employee must complete a discipline referral form and send the student to the office.

Any employee who observes students acting in any way that could be construed as harassment or bullying under the Student Code of Conduct must promptly report the conduct to the principal or

assistant principal and should intervene to correct or stop the conduct when possible. If you reasonably believe the conduct is sexual abuse of a child, then you must also make the required report to Child Protective Services or local law enforcement.

Classroom teachers must not leave students unattended at any time. This rule is particularly important at the elementary grades, but also applies at the secondary grades. If you must leave your classroom during instruction because of an emergency, inform the office so that arrangements can be made to have an adult present in the classroom while you are gone.

The District's Student-Parent Handbook and Student Code of Conduct are on the District's website at <https://www.saisd.org/departments/student-services/home>.

Texas Education Code Chapter 37, Subchapter A addresses student discipline laws and can be accessed on the TEA website at <https://tea.texas.gov>. Employees should review the student discipline laws by accessing this site. The law may be printed or provided in paper form by the Student Services Department. Questions related to student discipline should be directed to the campus administrator or the Student Services Department at (325) 947-3700 x170.

Student Attendance

Policy FEB

Teachers and staff should be familiar with the District's policies and procedures for attendance accounting. These procedures require minor students to have parental consent before they are allowed to leave campus. When absent from school, the student, upon returning to school, must bring a note signed by the parent that describes the reason for the absence. These requirements are addressed in campus training and in the student handbook. Contact the principal for information.

Bullying

Policy FFI

Bullying is defined by TEC §37.0832. All employees are required to report student complaints of bullying, including cyberbullying, to the campus principal. The District's policy includes definitions and procedures for reporting and investigating bullying of students and is reprinted below or may be accessed from the District's website: www.saisd.org, *District > Board of Education > Board Policies*.

FFI (LOCAL)

STUDENT WELFARE: FREEDOM FROM BULLYING

Note: This policy addresses bullying of District students. For purposes of this policy, the term bullying includes cyberbullying. For provisions regarding discrimination and harassment involving District students, see FFH. Note that FFI shall be used in conjunction with FFH for certain prohibited conduct. For reporting requirements related to child abuse and neglect, see FFG.

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

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

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

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

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

False Claim – A student who intentionally makes a false claim, offers false statements, or refuses to cooperate with a District investigation regarding bullying shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action.

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

Reporting Procedures:

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

Employee Report – Any District employee who suspects or receives notice that a student or group of students has or may have experienced bullying shall immediately notify the principal or designee.

Report Format – A report may be made orally or in writing. The principal or designee shall reduce any oral reports to written form.

Periodic Monitoring – The Superintendent shall periodically monitor the reported counts of bullying incidents, and that declines in the count may represent not only improvements in the campus culture because bullying declines but also declines in the campus culture because of a decline in openness to report incidents.

Notice of Report – When an allegation of bullying is reported, the principal or designee shall notify a parent of the alleged victim on or before the third business day after the incident is reported. The principal or designee shall also notify a parent of the student alleged to have engaged in the conduct within a reasonable amount of time after the incident is reported.

Prohibited Conduct – The principal or designee shall determine whether the allegations in the report, if proven, would constitute prohibited conduct as defined by policy FFH, including dating violence and harassment or discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, gender, national origin, or disability. If so, the District shall proceed under policy FFH. If the allegations could constitute both prohibited conduct and bullying, the investigation under FFH shall include a determination on each type of conduct.

Investigation of Report – The principal or designee shall conduct an appropriate investigation based on the allegations in the report. The principal or designee shall promptly take interim action calculated to prevent bullying during the course of an investigation, if appropriate.

Concluding the Investigation – Absent extenuating circumstances, the investigation should be

completed within ten District business days from the date of the initial report alleging bullying; however, the principal or designee shall take additional time, if necessary, to complete a thorough investigation. The principal or designee shall prepare a final, written report of the investigation. The report shall include a determination of whether bullying occurred, and if so, whether the victim used reasonable self-defense. A copy of the report shall be sent to the Superintendent or designee.

Notice to Parents – If an incident of bullying is confirmed, the principal or designee shall promptly notify the parents of the victim and of the student who engaged in bullying.

District Action

Bullying – If the results of an investigation indicate that bullying occurred, the District shall promptly respond by taking appropriate disciplinary action in accordance with the District’s Student Code of Conduct and may take corrective action reasonably calculated to address the conduct. The District may notify law enforcement in certain circumstances.

Discipline – A student who is a victim of bullying and who used reasonable self-defense in response to the bullying shall not be subject to disciplinary action. The discipline of a student with a disability is subject to applicable state and federal law in addition to the Student Code of Conduct.

Corrective Action – Examples of corrective action may include a training program for the individuals involved in the complaint, a comprehensive education program for the school community, follow-up inquiries to determine whether any new incidents or any instances of retaliation have occurred, involving parents and students in efforts to identify problems and improve the school climate, increasing staff monitoring of areas where bullying has occurred, and reaffirming the District’s policy against bullying.

Transfers – The principal or designee shall refer to FDB for transfer provisions.

Counseling – The principal or designee shall notify the victim, the student who engaged in bullying, and any students who witnessed the bullying of available counseling options.

Improper Conduct – If the investigation reveals improper conduct that did not rise to the level of prohibited conduct or bullying, the District may take action in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct or any other appropriate corrective action.

Confidentiality – To the greatest extent possible, the District shall respect the privacy of the complainant, persons against whom a report is filed, and witnesses. Limited disclosures may be necessary in order to conduct a thorough investigation.

Appeal – A student who is dissatisfied with the outcome of the investigation may appeal through FNG(LOCAL), beginning at the appropriate level.

Records Retention – Retention of records shall be in accordance with CPC(LOCAL).

Access to Policy and Procedures – This policy and any accompanying procedures shall be distributed annually in the employee and student handbooks. Copies of the policy and procedures shall be posted on the District’s website, to the extent practicable, and shall be readily available at each campus and the District’s administrative offices.

Hazing

Policy FNCC

Students must have prior approval from the principal or designee for any type of “initiation rites” of a school club or organization. While most initiation rites are permissible, engaging in or permitting “hazing” is a criminal offense. Any teacher, administrator, or employee who observes a student engaged in any form of hazing, who has reason to know or suspect that a student intends to engage in hazing, or has engaged in hazing, must report that fact or suspicion to the designated campus administrator.

Appendix

Notice of Policies & Laws

Employment Policies - San Angelo Independent School District is governed by legal and local policies, as set forth by the State of Texas, Texas Education Agency, and the local Board of Trustees. The [SAISD Policies](#) may be accessed at www.saisd.org > *District* > *Board Policies*.

Throughout the year, as laws are passed and the rules for governing school Districts change, SAISD undergoes changes to comply with current law. Policies may also change as the District sees the need. You are encouraged to use the online policy as the most current version of the District's policies. This notice includes a list of employment policies that you should review. Each campus office, campus library and administrative office has Internet access available for your use. The employment policies are also summarized in the employee handbook. You may request a paper copy of the employment policies from the Human Resources Department or if you need assistance or have questions related to employment, please call the HR Department at (325) 947-3700 x783.

Drug-Free Workplace, Discrimination, Harassment, Retaliation, and Student Bullying Policies - In compliance with legal and local policies, this document is the District's communication to you about the following topics and the legal and local policies you are expected to review: Drug-Free Workplace – DH; Standards of Conduct for Employees – DH; Standards of Conduct for Students – FO; Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation Related to Employees – DIA; Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation Related to Students – FB and FFH; and Student Bullying (including cyberbullying) – FFI.

Student Discipline Laws and Student Code of Conduct - Texas Education Code 37.018 requires Districts to provide each teacher and administrator with a copy of the student discipline laws located in TEC Chapter 37, Sections 37.001 through 37.022, and the related local policies: FN and FO series. The policies may be accessed from the policy manual as outlined above. TEC Chapter 37 may be accessed on the [Texas Association of School Boards](#) website. Employees should review the student discipline laws by accessing this web page. You may print it or call the Student Services Department at (325) 947-3700 x171 and a paper copy will be provided to you. Any questions you have related to student discipline should be directed to the campus administrator or the Student Services Department. Another resource is the District's Student Code of Conduct, located in the [Student Services](#) section of the website. This is also available in each campus office and in the Student Services Department.

Reporting Suspected Child Abuse or Neglect - The Commissioner of Education's rule (19 TAC 61.1051) requires that employees be provided information and an annual review on how and to whom to report their reasonable cause to believe abuse, sexual abuse, neglect, trafficking and/or other maltreatment of a child or children has or is occurring. Policies and associated Exhibits related to procedures for reporting suspected child abuse or neglect are in: BQ, DH, FFG, and GRA. All SAISD employees are required to complete annual training for increasing awareness, preventing, and recognizing sexual abuse, trafficking, and all other maltreatment of children. To report suspected child abuse or neglect call the Texas Department of Family & Protective Services at 1-800-252-5400 or electronically report at: <http://www.txabusehotline.org>.

Crisis Intervention - SAISD is committed to a safe and supportive school program for students experiencing trauma. Policy FFB addresses crisis intervention and outlines the District's threat assessment and procedures. Additionally, employees are required to complete training in working with students of trauma.

Enforcement of Meal Policies - The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) requires the District to provide the meal charge policy, CO (LOCAL), to all staff responsible for policy enforcement. This includes child nutrition staff responsible for collecting payment for meals at the point of service; staff involved in notifying families of low or negative balances; and staff involved in enforcing any other aspects of the meal charge policy including school service workers, school nurses, homeless student liaisons, principals, other administrator, and other staff who assist children in need or who may be contacted by families with unpaid meal charges.

District Policies (Legal, Local, Exhibits)

[SAISD Policies](#) are on the District's website. Employees should be familiar with the policies listed.

Policy Code	Topic
	<i>District Goals & Planning</i>
AE	Educational philosophy
BQ series	District-level and campus-level planning
	<i>Instruction & Students</i>
EF series	Instructional resources and materials
EHBAF	Video/audio monitoring in special education settings
EIA	Grading standards and reporting
EIE	Retention and promotion
FB series	Protection of students from unlawful discrimination
FE series	Student attendance
FFA series	Providing medical treatment and medication to students, excluding students with communicable diseases, care plans for students at risk for anaphylaxis
FFG	Mandated reporting of child abuse and neglect
FFH	Freedom from discrimination, harassment, and retaliation
FFI	Freedom from bullying
FL	Safeguarding privacy of students
FNA	Student expression
FNAA	Distribution of nonschool literature
FNAB	Use of school facilities for nonschool purposes
FNG	Handling student/parent complaints
FO series	Student discipline
GRA	Interaction of police and child protective services with students on campus
	<i>Personnel</i>
CAA	Financial ethics
CB	Conflicts of interest
CDC	Gifts and solicitations
CK series	Safety programs and risk management
CO	Meal charges
CQ	District computers, electronic communications, and technology resources
CRD	Health and life insurance
CY	Intellectual property and copyright
DA series	Equal employment opportunity, genetic nondiscrimination, criteria for personnel decisions
DBAA	Criminal history and credit reports
DBD	Conflict of interest
DC series	Employment practices: probationary, term, other contracts; at-will employment
DEA series	Salaries, wages, incentives, stipends
DEC series	Leaves and absences, family and medical leave and military leave
DF series	Termination of employment, return to probationary contract, hearings, resignation
DG	Employee rights and privileges
DGBA	Employee complaints and grievances
DH series	Employee standards of conduct, reports to State Board of Educator Certification, searches, and alcohol/drug testing
DI	Employee welfare
DIA	Freedom from discrimination, harassment and retaliation
DK	Assignment and schedules
DN series	Performance appraisal
GBA series	Public information
GBBA	News media relations and communications during a crisis
GKA	Community relations and conduct on school premises
GKD series	Non-school use of school facilities and distribution of non-school literature

If a series is indicated, review all policy code identifiers that begin with the two or three letters shown

Personal Leave Restrictions for Instructionally-Related Staff

Board Policy DEC (LOCAL) differentiates the use of State Personal Leave.

Non-Discretionary Use – The reasons for the use of this leave would be employee’s illness, employee’s immediate family member’s illness, family emergency, death in the employee’s immediate family, military leave, birth, or placement of a child and taken within the first year after the child’s birth, adoption, or foster placement.

Discretionary Use – The reasons for the use of this leave is at the individual employee’s discretion, subject to limitations as set out below:

The employee shall submit a written request for discretionary use of state personal leave to the immediate supervisor or designee at least three days in advance of the anticipated absence. In deciding whether to approve or deny state personal leave, the supervisor or designee shall not seek or consider the reasons for which an employee requests to use leave. The supervisor or designee shall, however, consider the effect of the employee’s absence on the educational program or District operations, as well as the availability of substitutes.

Discretionary use of state personal or local personal leave shall not be permitted for instructionally related personnel on the day before a school holiday, the day after a school holiday, days scheduled for state-mandated assessments, or professional learning days.

The 2023-2024 restricted dates for discretionary personal leave are:

August 9-11, 2023	Professional Learning
August 14-16, 2023	Professional Learning
September 1, 2023	Day before Labor Day – District Holiday
September 5, 2023	Day after Labor Day – District Holiday
September 18, 2023	Instructional Planning Day
October 6, 2023	Professional Learning
October 10, 2023	Day after Columbus Day – District Holiday
November 6, 2023	Instructional Planning Day
November 20-21, 2023	Professional Learning/Trade Day
November 27, 2023	Day after Thanksgiving Break – District Holiday
December 20, 2023	Day before Winter Break – District Holiday
January 4, 2024	Instructional Planning Day
January 5, 2024	Professional Learning
January 15, 2024	Professional Learning/Trade Day
February 16, 2024	Instructional Planning Day
February 20, 2024	Day after President’s Day – District Holiday
March 8, 2024	Day before Spring Break – District Holiday
March 18, 2024	Day after Spring Break – District Holiday
March 28, 2024	Day before Good Friday – District Holiday
April 1, 2024	Day after Good Friday – District Holiday
April 19, 2024	Instructional Planning Day
April 23, 2024	Day after Staff/Student Holiday
May 24, 2024	Day before Memorial Day
May 28, 2024	Day after Memorial Day – District Holiday

Technology Responsible Use Guidelines

The San Angelo Independent School District (the “District”) is pleased to make available to employees (faculty, staff, consultants, contractors, temporary-hires, and others), students, and approved parent and guest users access to the interconnected computer information systems within the District (the “Network”) and to the world-wide network that provides various means of accessing significant and varied materials and opportunities (commonly known as the “Internet”).

San Angelo ISD (SAISD) provides users access to the District’s electronic communications system for educational purposes. The District’s computer systems and networks (system) are any configuration of hardware and software. The electronic communications system includes but is not limited to the following:

- Telephones, cellular telephones, and voicemail technologies;
- Email accounts;
- Servers and network equipment;
- Computer hardware (including mobile devices, tablets, i-devices) and peripherals;
- Software including operating system software and application software;
- Digitized information including stored text, data files, email, digital images, video and audio files;
- Internally or externally accessed databases, applications, or tools (Online/Internet- or District-server based);
- District-provided filtered Internet access;
- District-provided filtered guest Wi-Fi; and
- New technologies as they become available.

These technologies, when properly used, promote educational excellence in the District by facilitating resource sharing, innovation, and communication. Illegal, unethical or inappropriate use of these technologies can have dramatic consequences, harming the District, its students and its employees. These Responsible Use Guidelines are intended to minimize the likelihood of such harm by educating District system users and setting standards which will serve to protect the District. The District firmly believes that digital resources, information and interaction available on the computer/network/Internet far outweigh any disadvantages.

In order for the District to be able to continue to make its Network and the Internet access available, all users must take responsibility for appropriate and lawful use of this access. Users must understand that one person’s misuse of the District technology hardware or software, Network and/or the Internet access may jeopardize the ability of all to enjoy this access. While the District’s management and network administrators will make reasonable efforts to administer use of the Network and Internet access, they must have user cooperation in exercising and promoting responsible use of this access.

Availability of Access

Acceptable Use. Computer/Network/Internet access will be used to enhance learning consistent with the District’s educational goals. The District requires legal, ethical and appropriate computer/network/Internet use.

Privilege. Access to the District’s computer/network/Internet is a privilege, not a right, and administrators and faculty may review files and messages to maintain system integrity therefore, ensure that users are acting responsibly.

Access to Computer/Network/Internet. Access to the District’s electronic communications system, including the Internet, shall be made available to staff and students for instructional purposes. Each District computer and guest Wi-Fi (available for staff and students who bring their own personal telecommunication devices) has filtering software that blocks access to visual depictions that are obscene, pornographic, inappropriate for students, or harmful to minors, as defined by the federal Children’s Internet Protection Act (CIPA). Filtered Internet access is provided to students as defined by CIPA. However, while the District uses filtering technology and protection measures to restrict access to inappropriate material; it is not possible to absolutely prevent such access. It is each student’s responsibility to follow the rules for appropriate and responsible use.

Student Access. Computer/Network/Internet access is provided to all students unless parents or guardians request in writing to the campus principal that access be denied. Student Internet access will be under the direction and guidance of a District staff member. Students may also be allowed to use the local network and guest Wi-Fi with campus permission.

Students 13 or younger. For students under the age of 13, the Children’s Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA) requires additional parental permission for educational software tools. Parents wishing to deny access to these educational tools must do so in writing to the campus principal indicating their child should be denied access to these tools. Examples of these tools are Discovery Education, wikis, blogs, and Edmodo.

Use of Personal Telecommunication Devices (BYOD = Bring Your Own Device). The District believes technology is a powerful tool that enhances learning and enables students to access a vast amount of academic resources. The District’s goal is to increase staff and student access to digital tools and facilitate immediate access to technology-based information, much the way that students utilize pen and paper. To this end, the District will open a filtered, wireless network through which staff and students will be able to connect privately owned (personal) telecommunication devices. Staff and students using personal telecommunication devices must follow the guidelines stated in this document while on school property, attending any school-sponsored activity, or using the San Angelo ISD network.

Students are allowed to bring personal telecommunication devices that can access the Internet for educational purposes as determined by the classroom teacher.

- Students will be allowed to use the devices between classes and in the cafeteria setting in a digitally responsible manner.
- Students will not be allowed to use the device in any way to cause a disruption to the school day. This includes, but is not limited, to recording video/audio or taking photos during or between classes and in the cafeteria unless otherwise allowed by a teacher/staff member. Recording the voice or image of another in any way that disrupts the educational environment, invades the privacy of others, or is made without the consent of the individuals being recorded is prohibited.

Staff are allowed to bring personal telecommunication devices that can access the Internet for educational and/or job-related purposes.

The District is not responsible for maintaining, repairing, or otherwise troubleshooting a user’s personal cellular, mobile or other electronic devices. The District is not responsible for damage, corruption, modification, and/or deletion of any personal data stored on any employee-owned

handheld computing/communication device. Furthermore, the District makes no guarantees of service quality or access regarding personal devices.

The District strongly encourages users who choose to use personal communication devices for business or educational purposes to protect those devices with “password protection”, blocking any unauthorized users access to its contents. An employee who accesses his or her District email or resources from a cell phone or mobile device should make a report to the District Technology Department immediately if the device is lost or stolen. The possibly delicate and/or confidential information which could be present on the device is of immediate concern to the District.

Security. A student or staff member who gains access to any inappropriate or harmful material is expected to discontinue the access and to report the incident to the supervising staff member. Any user identified as a security risk or as having violated the Responsible Use Guidelines may be denied access to the District’s system. Other consequences may also be assigned.

A user who knowingly brings prohibited materials into the school’s electronic environment will be subject to suspension of access and/or revocation of privileges on the District’s system. Students will be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with the board approved Student Code of Conduct. Staff will be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with board policy and the employee handbook.

Content/Third-Party Supplied Information. Staff, students and parents of students with access to the District’s system should be aware that use of the system may provide access to other electronic communication systems in the global electronic network that may contain inaccurate and/or objectionable material.

Subject to Monitoring. All District computer/network/Internet usage shall not be considered confidential and is subject to monitoring by designated staff at any time to ensure appropriate use. Users should not use the computer system to send, receive or store any information, including email messages, that they consider personal or confidential and wish to keep private. All electronic files, including email messages, transmitted through or stored in the computer system will be treated no differently than any other electronic file. The District reserves the right to access, review, copy, modify, delete or disclose such files for any purpose. Users should treat the computer system like a shared or common file system with the expectation that electronic files, sent, received or stored anywhere in the computer system, will be available for review by any authorized representative of the District for any purpose. Personal telecommunication devices are subject to examination in accordance with disciplinary guidelines if there is reason to believe that the Responsible Use Guidelines have been violated.

Student Computer/Network/Internet Responsibilities

District users are bound by all portions of the Responsible Use Guidelines. A student who knowingly violates any portion of the Responsible Use Guidelines will be subject to suspension of access and/or revocation of privileges on the District’s system and will be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with the Board-approved Student Code of Conduct. Staff who violate guidelines will be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with board policy and the employee handbook.

Use of Social Networking/Digital Tools. Students may participate in District-approved social media learning environments related to curricular projects or school activities and use digital tools, such as, but not limited to, mobile devices, blogs, discussion forums, RSS feeds, podcasts,

wikis, and on-line meeting sessions. The use of blogs, wikis, podcasts, and other digital tools are considered an extension of the classroom. Verbal or written language that is considered inappropriate in the classroom is also inappropriate in all uses of blogs, wikis, podcasts, and other District-approved digital tools.

Use of System Resources. Users are asked to purge email or outdated files on a regular basis. Users must not waste or abuse school resources through unauthorized system use (e.g. playing games online, downloading music, watching video broadcasts, participating in chat rooms, etc. that are not educational related).

Password Confidentiality. Users are required to maintain password confidentiality by not sharing their password with others. Users may not use another person's system account.

Reporting Security Problem. If knowledge of inappropriate material or a security problem on the computer/network/Internet is identified, the user should immediately notify the supervising staff member. The security problem should not be shared with others.

The following guidelines must be adhered to by staff and students using a personally-owned telecommunication device at school:

- Users must log in and use the SAISD guest filtered wireless network during the school day on personal telecommunication devices. Internet access is filtered by the District on personal telecommunication devices in the same manner as District-owned equipment. Students may not use personal data plans while at school. Use of network equipment, air-cards or routers (tethering or hotspots) is NOT permitted at school (unless by special permission from the Technology Dept.)
- These devices are the sole responsibility of the owner. The campus or District assumes no responsibility for personal telecommunication devices if they are lost, loaned, damaged or stolen and only limited time or resources will be spent trying to locate stolen or lost items.
- Each employee or student is responsible for his/her own device: set-up, maintenance, and charging. Teachers will not store student devices at any time, nor will any District employee diagnose, repair, or work on a user's personal device.
- These devices have educational and monetary value. Students are prohibited from trading or selling these items to other students on District property, including school buses.
- SAISD cannot be held responsible for any possible device charges to your account that might be incurred during approved school-related use.
- Personally owned telecommunication devices must be in silent mode while riding school buses and on school campuses, unless otherwise allowed by a teacher/staff member.
- Telecommunication devices will not be used as a factor in grading or assessing student work. Students who do not have access to personal telecommunication devices will be provided with comparable District-owned equipment or given similar assignments that do not require access to electronic devices.
- Telecommunication devices are only to be used for educational purposes at the direction of a classroom teacher or as stated for specific age groups.
- Campus administrators and staff members have the right to prohibit use of devices at certain times or during designated activities (i.e. campus presentations, theatrical performances, or guest speakers) that occur during the school day.
- An appropriately-trained administrator may examine a student's personal telecommunication device and search its contents, in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct.

Rules of Appropriate Use

- If you are assigned an individual account for hardware and Internet access, you are responsible for not sharing the password for that account with others.
 - You are responsible for any activity that occurs under the use of your account login.
 - If you leave your device or user account unattended and logged in with the device unlocked, and inappropriate activity occurs, you may be held responsible for that activity.
 - You may not give your login information to another user. (Exception: you may provide it to technical support personnel for tech support purposes but then you are responsible for changing your password after they assist you and resolve your issue.)
 - You may not log into a computer or program and allow another user to utilize your account.
- You will be held responsible at all times for the proper use of District technology resources, and the District may suspend or revoke your access if you violate the rules.
- The account is to be used primarily for educational purposes, but some limited personal use is permitted. Limited personal use is permitted so long as it imposes no tangible cost on the District; does not unduly burden the District's technology resources; and has no adverse effect on an employee's job performance or on a student's academic performance.
- As applicable, you must comply with the District's record management program, the Texas Open Meetings Act, the Public Information Act, the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), including retention and confidentiality of student and District records, and campaign laws.
- As applicable, you must maintain the confidentiality of health or personnel information concerning students, District employees and colleagues, unless disclosure serves lawful professional purposes or is required by law.
- Remember that people who receive email from you with a school address might think your message represents the school's point of view.

Inappropriate Use

Inappropriate use includes, but is not limited to, those uses that violate the law, that are specifically named as violations in this document, that violate the rules of network etiquette, or that hamper the integrity or security of this computer/network/Internet system or any components that are connected to it. The following actions are considered inappropriate uses, are prohibited, and will result in revocation of the student's access to the computer/network/Internet.

Violations of Law. Using technology resources for any illegal purpose or in violation of policy.

Transmission of any material in violation of any federal or state law is prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to:

- threatening, harassing, defamatory or obscene material
- copyrighted material
- plagiarized material
- material protected by trade secret
- blog posts, Web posts, or discussion forums/replies posted to the Internet which violate federal or state law.

Tampering with or theft of components from District systems may be regarded as criminal activity under applicable state and federal laws. Any attempt to break the law through the use of a District computer/network/Internet account may result in prosecution against the offender by the proper authorities. If such an event should occur, the District will fully comply with the authorities to provide any information necessary for legal action.

Modification of District-Owned Devices. Modifying or changing computer settings and/or internal or external configurations without appropriate permission is prohibited.

Transmitting Confidential Information. Users may not redistribute or forward confidential information without proper authorization. Confidential information should never be transmitted, redistributed or forwarded to outside individuals who are not expressly authorized to receive the information. Revealing personal information by students about oneself such as, but not limited to, home addresses, phone numbers, email addresses, birthdates or of others is prohibited.

- Students should not respond to requests for personally identifying information or contact from unknown individuals.
- Making appointments to meet in person with people met online. If a request for such a meeting is received, it should be reported to a teacher or administrator immediately.

Commercial Use. Use of the system for any type of income-generating activity is prohibited. Advertising the sale of products, whether commercial or personal is prohibited.

Marketing by Non-SAISD Organizations. Use of the system for promoting activities or events for individuals or organizations not directly affiliated with or sanctioned by the District is prohibited.

Vandalism/Mischief. Any malicious attempt to harm or destroy District equipment, materials or data, or the malicious attempt to harm or destroy data of another user of the District's system, or any of the agencies or other networks to which the District has access is prohibited. Deliberate attempts to degrade or disrupt system performance are violations of District policy and administrative regulations and may constitute criminal activity under applicable state and federal laws. Such prohibited activity includes, but is not limited to, the uploading or creating of computer viruses.

Vandalism, as defined above, is prohibited and will result in the cancellation of system use privileges. Users committing vandalism will be required to provide restitution for costs associated with system restoration and may be subject to other appropriate consequences.

Intellectual Property. Users must always respect copyrights and trademarks of third-parties and their ownership claims in images, text, video and audio material, software, information and inventions. The copy, use, or transfer of others' materials without appropriate authorization is not allowed.

Copyright Violations. Downloading or using copyrighted information without following approved District procedures is prohibited.

Plagiarism. Fraudulently altering or copying documents or files authored by another individual is prohibited.

Impersonation. Pretending to be someone else when posting, transmitting, or receiving messages. Attempts to log on to the computer/network/Internet impersonating a system

administrator or District employee, student, or individual other than oneself, will result in revocation of the student's access to computer/network/Internet.

Illegally Accessing or Hacking Violations. Intentional or unauthorized access or attempted access of any portion of the District's computer systems, networks, or private databases to view, obtain, manipulate, or transmit information, programs, or codes is prohibited.

File/Data Violations. Deleting, examining, copying, or modifying files and/or data belonging to other users, without their permission, is prohibited.

System Interference/Alteration. Deliberate attempts to exceed, evade or change resource quotas are prohibited. The deliberate causing of network congestion through mass consumption of system resources is prohibited.

- Damaging electronic communication systems or electronic equipment including: a) knowingly or intentionally introducing a virus to a device or network, or not taking proper security steps to prevent a device or network from becoming vulnerable; b) disfiguring or altering equipment, or displaying lack of reasonable care in its use.
- Disabling or attempting to disable any Internet filtering device. Requests to disable a filtering device should be made to the District's Technology Help Desk.
- Accessing sites not authorized under the District's filtering policies. Encrypting communications to avoid security review.
- Attempting to read, delete, copy, modify, or interfere with another user's posting, transmittal, or receipt of electronic media.
- Sending unauthorized broadcasts to official or private distribution lists, regardless of content or recipients.
- Gaining unauthorized access to restricted information or resources.
- The introduction of viruses, spyware, adware, malware, any malicious code or tampering with any computer system, is expressly prohibited.
- Wasting school resources through improper use of the District's technology resources, including creating and distributing chain letters, sending spam, or setting up equipment so that it can act as an "open relay" for third-party spammers, or providing products or services for pay, i.e., outside employment.
- Users may not attach personal network equipment to the SAISD network unless approved by the SAISD Technology Dept. (ex: hubs, routers, switches, wireless access points, etc.)

Harassment, Use of Inappropriate Language and Posting of Pictures without Permission

- Using resources to engage in conduct that harasses or bullies others.
- Posting, transmitting, or accessing materials that are abusive, obscene, sexually oriented, threatening, harassing, damaging to another's reputation, or illegal.
- Using inappropriate language such as swear words, vulgarity, ethnic or racial slurs, and any other inflammatory language.
- Posting or transmitting pictures of students without obtaining prior permission from all individuals depicted or from parents of depicted students who are under the age of 18.

Email and Communication Tools

Email and other digital tools such as, but not limited to, blogs and wikis, are tools used to communicate within the District. The use of these communication tools should be limited to instructional, school-related activities, or administrative needs.

Students may be issued email accounts. Users should check email frequently, delete unwanted messages promptly, and stay within the email server space allocations.

SAISD reserves the right to monitor all activity in SAISD electronic resources, included District provided email accounts. Commercial use of SAISD electronic resources is strictly prohibited.

SAISD shall not be liable for a user's inappropriate use of SAISD electronic resources or violation of copyright restrictions or other laws or for any costs incurred by users through the use of SAISD electronic resources.

Reminder: Email is subject to public information act requests (PIA) and is admissible in court in some cases. Keep in mind when you compose an email message that it could possibly be read by anyone or could appear in the local newspaper if requested via a PIA request.

Be careful when sending sensitive data via email. It may need to be password protected and possibly encrypted. Review the requirements of HIPAA and FERPA laws which prohibit disclosure of certain student information. Electronic/Voice mail usage must conform to the District's policies against harassment and discrimination. Messages containing defamatory, obscene, offensive, or harassing information, or messages that disclose personal information without authorization, are prohibited. If you receive such unsolicited messages, you are to delete them promptly and not forward them.

Users should keep the following points in mind:

Perceived Representation. Using school-related email addresses, blogs, wikis, and other communication tools might cause some recipients or other readers of the email to assume that the user's comments represent the District or school, whether or not that was the student's intention.

Privacy. Email, blogs, wikis, and other communication within these tools should not be considered a private, personal form of communication. Private information, such as home addresses, phone numbers, last names, pictures, or email addresses, should not be divulged. To avoid disclosing email addresses that are protected, email communications to multiple recipients, who are outside of the District, should be sent using the blind carbon copy (bcc) feature.

Inappropriate Language. Using obscene, profane, lewd, vulgar, rude, inflammatory, threatening, or disrespectful language in emails blogs, wikis, or other communication tools is prohibited. Sending messages that could cause danger or disruption, personal attacks, including prejudicial or discriminatory attacks are prohibited.

Political Lobbying. Consistent with State ethics laws, District resources and equipment, including, but not limited to, emails, blogs, wikis, or other communication tools must not be used to conduct any political activities, including political advertising or lobbying. This includes using District email, blogs, wikis, or other communication tools to create, distribute, forward, or reply

to messages, from either internal or external sources, which expressly or implicitly support or oppose a candidate for nomination or election to either a public office or an office of a political party or support or oppose an officeholder, a political party, or a measure (a ballot proposition). These guidelines prohibit direct communications as well as the transmission or forwarding of emails, hyperlinks, or other external references within emails, blogs, or wikis regarding any political advertising.

Forgery. Forgery or attempted forgery of email messages is prohibited. Attempts to read, delete, copy or modify the email of other system users, deliberate interference with the ability of other system users to send/receive email, or the use of another person's user ID and/or password is prohibited.

Junk Mail/Chain Letters. Generally, users should refrain from forwarding emails which do not relate to the educational purposes of the District. Chain letters or other emails intended for forwarding or distributing to others is prohibited. Creating, distributing, or forwarding any annoying or unnecessary message to a large number of people (spamming) is also prohibited.

Student Email Accounts and Electronic Communication Tools

Electronic communication is an important skill for 21st Century students. By providing this tool, the District is equipping students with the skills necessary for success in the business world. Students in grades 6 - 12 may be given access to a District student email account. Parents wishing to deny access to District email must do so in writing to the campus principal. As appropriate, project email accounts may be granted for educational activities for students in grades K-5 at the request of the classroom teacher. Student email accounts may be provided directly by the District, through the content management system of an approved online course, or through a District-approved provider.

Digital Citizenship

SAISD users will use information and technology in safe, legal, and responsible ways. Users will embrace the following conditions or facets of being a digital citizen.

- **Respect Yourself:** I will select online names that are appropriate, and I will adhere to District Guidelines when posting information and images online. I will not share inappropriate information or graphics with others.
- **Protect Yourself:** I will not publish my personal details, contact details, or a schedule of my activities.
- **Respect Others:** I will not use technologies to bully or tease other people.
- **Protect Others:** I will protect others by reporting abuse and not forwarding inappropriate materials or communications.
- **Respect Intellectual Property:** I will suitably cite any and all use of websites, books, media, etc.
- **Protect Intellectual Property:** I will request to use the software and media others produce.

Consequences of Agreement Violation

Any attempt to violate the provisions of this agreement may result in revocation of the student's access to the computer/network/Internet, regardless of the outcome of the attempt. In addition, school disciplinary and/or appropriate legal action may be taken.

Denial, Revocation, or Suspension of Access Privileges. With just cause, the Director of Technology and/or building principal, may deny, revoke, or suspend computer/network/Internet access as required, pending an investigation.

Warning

Sites accessible via the computer/network/Internet may contain material that is illegal, defamatory, inaccurate or controversial. Each District computer with Internet access has filtering software that blocks access to visual depictions that are obscene, pornographic, inappropriate for students, or harmful to minors, as defined by the federal Children’s Internet Protection Act. The District makes every effort to limit access to objectionable material; however, controlling all such materials on the computer/network/Internet is impossible, even with filtering in place. With global access to computers and people, a risk exists that students may access material that may not be of educational value in the school setting.

Disclaimer

The District’s system is provided on an “as is, as available” basis. The District does not make any warranties, whether expressed or implied, including, without limitation, those of merchantability and fitness for a particular purpose with respect to any services provided by the system and any information or software contained therein. The District does not guarantee that the functions or services performed by, or that the information or software contained on the system will meet the system user’s requirements, or that the system will be uninterrupted or error free, or that defects will be corrected.

Opinions, advice, services, and all other information expressed by system users, information providers, service providers, or other third-party individuals in the system are those of the providers and not the District.

The District will cooperate fully with local, state, or federal officials in any investigation concerning or relating to misuse of the District’s electronic communications system.

User Acknowledgement Required

Each user authorized to access the District computers, networks, telecommunications, Internet services, or other resources is required to sign a Responsible Use Guidelines Acknowledgement form (CQ Exhibit) or the Employee or Student Code of Conduct and Student/Parent Handbook Acknowledgement Form stating that they have read policy CQ Local, CQ Legal and CQ Exhibit (the Responsible Use Guidelines).

As a condition of continued employment, employees, consultants, and contractors must annually sign Responsible Use Guidelines Acknowledgement Form or SAISD Employee Handbook. The acknowledgement form will be retained in the employee’s personnel file or in the Technology Department’s files. Acknowledgement forms from students will be maintained in campus records, as will Acknowledgement forms from parents and volunteers.



SAN ANGELO ISD LEARNER PROFILE



Collaborator

- Shares responsibility for collaborative work
- Seeks and evaluates a range of points of view
- Applies learning to transform the world
- Views problems globally
- Invests in continuous community improvement
- Leaves a legacy
- Influences others for positive outcomes

Critical Thinker

- Views problems with a global perspective
- Takes initiative
- Exhibits perseverance and resilience in challenges
- Explores answers beyond the literal
- Applies reflection in self-assessment
- Seeks opportunities to solve problems



Communicator

- Builds positive and productive relationships
- Offers and accepts feedback to grow self and others
- Expresses ideas confidently and creatively in a variety of modes
- Connects globally
- Communicates ideas respectfully and honors the contributions of others



Creator

- Asks deep and thoughtful questions
- Challenges existing ways of thinking
- Explores through curiosity and innovation
- Learns from experiences
- Exhibits flexibility and adaptability

Respect, Responsibility, Citizenship, Trustworthiness, Caring, Fairness



SAN ANGELO ISD

EDUCATOR PROFILE

As a community of educators who are **FULLY COMMITTED** to engaging **ALL STUDENTS** in a relevant and **INSPIRING** education that produces **FUTURE-READY** graduates, we believe we should be people who:



Demonstrate **RESILIENCY**
Prioritize based on the **LEARNING NEEDS** of **STUDENTS**
Commit to the **MISSION** of San Angelo ISD
DESIRE to learn more

Uphold a **COLLABORATIVE CULTURE** among students, educators and the community
Build **RELATIONSHIPS**
Honor **STUDENT VOICE** & agency
Hold **HIGH EXPECTATIONS** for self and others

SUPPORT A DYNAMIC LEARNING ENVIRONMENT THAT IS SAFE, RESPONSIVE AND ADAPTABLE

Exhibit **COMPASSION**
INSPIRE those around them
Understand and **CELEBRATE** differences

Design **AUTHENTIC** engaging work that fosters **PROFOUND LEARNING**
Provide opportunities for students to do work for **REAL AUDIENCES** and **REAL** purposes
CHALLENGE existing ways of thinking



Summary of Employee Benefits

Benefit	Eligible Employee	Amount	Paid By
FICA ALTERNATIVE PLAN	Substitutes and Temporary Employees (employees who do not pay into TRS)	.075 of gross wages	Employee
Medicare	All employees hired after March 1986, including Substitutes and Temporary Employees	.0145 of gross wages .0145 of gross wages	District Employee
Workers' Compensation	All employees, including Substitutes and Temporary Employees Professional Employees Clerical Drivers All Other Employees	.003658 of gross wages .001847 of gross wages .032000 of gross wages .029750 of gross wages	District District District District
Unemployment Compensation	All employees, including Substitutes and Temporary Employees	.0006 of gross wages	District
Health Insurance	All employees (substitutes and temporary) are offered insurance. Regularly scheduled employees working 10 hours or more per week receive the district benefit payment.	\$420 per month Rates vary according to plan selected	District Employee
Life Insurance	All employees working at least 10 hours per week - \$15,000 life insurance	\$18.72 per year	District
Teacher Retirement	All employees (except those who work less than ½ time), including bus drivers who drive at least one route approved by TEA	.0825 of gross wages .0825 of gross wages	State Employee
Teacher Retirement Insurance	All employees (except those who work less than ½ time), including bus drivers who drive at least one route approved by TEA	.0065 of gross wages .0055 of gross wages .005 of gross wages	Employee District State
State Personal Leave	All employees	½ work day for each 18 days of employment @ daily rate of pay (days accumulate with a maximum 5 days per year)	District
Local Sick Leave	Employees working 30 hours or more per week	½ work day for each 18 days of employment @ daily rate of pay (days accumulate with a maximum 5 days per year)	District
State Sick Leave	All employees who earned state sick leave prior to September 1, 1995, and have carried a balance of days forward	The number of days carried forward @ daily rate of pay	District
Local Personal Leave	Full time professional employees	2 days per year @ \$60 per day (days do not accumulate)	District

Benefit	Eligible Employee	Amount	Paid By
Attendance Incentive	Exiting full time regular employees who are eligible for full retirement benefits with TRS (without any reduction of benefits for early retirement) or who have completed 25 years of continuous service in the District	Full pay at the current daily rate for ½ of the state and local accumulated leave days up to a maximum of 80 days (accumulation is 6 of the allowable yearly state and local leave days earned)	District
Family and Medical Leave (FMLA)	Employees working 12 consecutive months and at least 1,250 hours in that 12 month period	12 work weeks per year of job protection (unpaid leave) without loss of any employment benefit accrued prior to the beginning of leave	District
Temporary Disability Leave	Full-time employees whose positions require educator certification by the State Board of Educator Certification or by the district	At least 180 calendar days, unpaid leave for personal illness or disability (Employee responsible for paying for benefits)	District
Catastrophic Sick Leave Bank	All employees working 30 hours or more per week and are enrolled as members of the Bank. Membership requires contribution of 3 local sick leave days.	Daily rate of pay not to exceed 30 days per school year	District
Cancer Insurance	Employees working 20 hours or more per week	Rates vary with plan options	Employee
Disability Insurance	Employees working 20 hours or more per week	Rates vary with plan options	Employee
Dental Insurance	Employees working 20 hours or more per week	Rates vary with plan options	Employee
Vision Insurance	Employees working 20 hours or more per week	Rates vary with plan options	Employee
Permanent Life Insurance	Employees working 20 hours or more per week	Rates vary with plan options	Employee
Term Life Insurance	Employees working 20 hours or more per week	Rates vary with plan options	Employee
Group Term Life Insurance	Employees working 20 hours or more per week	Rates vary with plan options	Employee
Accident Only Insurance	Employees working 20 hours or more per week	Rates vary with plan options	Employee
Critical Illness Plan	Employees working 20 hours or more per week	Rates vary with plan options	Employee
Flexible Spending Account	Employees working 20 hours or more per week	Determined by employee	Employee
Health Savings Account	Employees working 20 hours or more per week	Determined by employee	Employee
457 Deferred Compensation	All employees, including Substitutes	Determined by employee	Employee
403(b) Tax Deferred Annuity	All employees, including Substitutes	Determined by employee	Employee

NOTE: When referencing “All Employees,” Substitutes and Temporary Employees are excluded unless otherwise stated,

Universal Availability Notice

First Financial Group of America

Act Now to Maximize Your 403(b) Contributions

In compliance with the requirements of IRC §403(b)(12)(A)(ii) this Notice will advise you of the voluntary 403(b) Program established and maintained for the benefit of all employees.

Now is the time to act if you wish to maximize your pre-tax contributions to the 403(b) Plans or make changes for this calendar (taxable) year. Go to www.ffga.com to view your employers' retirement plan options and availability.

Eligibility - All employees who are employed by the Employer, including full and part-time employees.

Contributions - When you enroll in the program, the amounts you designate as salary deferrals are withheld from your wages and forwarded to an investment provider of your choice. Several types of contributions may be available in your plan:

Pre-Tax Salary Deferrals: These are amounts contributed into a 403(b) Plan that are deferred from your paycheck before federal income taxes are applied.

Roth Salary Deferrals: (If your plan allows) These amounts are also deferred from your paycheck, but are subject to federal income taxes. When you withdraw monies from a Roth plan the funds may be excluded from taxation. Special rules apply to Roth contributions and you should contact your tax advisor before electing this option.

For 2020, you may defer from your wages, a maximum of \$19,500 to all 403(b) plans unless you will reach 50 years of age during the year. In that case, you would be eligible to contribute an additional \$6,500. Deferrals may not exceed 100% of your wages.

Rollovers: (If your plan allows) You may also rollover funds from another employer's plan if you receive an eligible rollover distribution.

Plan Investment Options - Your contributions to the 403(b) Plan must be made to an investment provider approved by your Employer. Before enrolling in the plan, you must first establish an account with one of the Providers listed. Once you have executed an investment contract and established an account, you can begin making contributions.

Assistance - You may enroll in the plan or receive assistance with these provisions by contacting the plan's Third Party Administrator, First Financial Administrator, Inc. or a representative for one of the plan's Investment Companies listed on www.ffga.com.

Additional information about the provisions and options in your plan are available by contacting First Financial Administrators at (800) 523-8422 or from the plan's web site, www.ffga.com.

Universal Availability Notice

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403(b) Retirement Plan

The tax structure of a 403(b) is similar to 401k. As you make contributions through your salary, on a pre-tax basis, they attract interest. It is when you start receiving monthly payments from the plan on maturity that you are required to pay taxes, just like any other ordinary income. This is why 403(b) is also known as Tax Sheltered Annuity (TSA). This plan is popular among non-profit organizations, and employers opt for it, as it is exempt from Employer Retirement Income Security Act which allows the employer to offer this plan to all employees.

Questions? Contact First Financial at
(800) 523-8422 or visit us at www.ffga.com.



403(b) Newsletter:

It's Time to Save for your Future!

Planning Ahead

403(b) retirement plans are a great investment and great way to get a head start on saving for your retirement. A 403(b) is a supplemental retirement plan option that allows investment earnings to grow tax-deferred until withdrawal.

Also, 403(b) allow you to take advantage of a savings tax credit, take a loan or financial hardship (if allowed under your employer plan). In order to transfer/rollover you must have a qualifying event (IRS guidelines) to withdraw or move funds. Qualifying events are: Severance from employment, age 59 1/2 or older, disability, death, or financial hardship.

A 403(b) will allow transfers in and out of your plan allowing you to move previous 403(b) funds into the new employer's 403(b) plan. If the funds come from a 401(k) or IRA then those funds can move into your employer's plan as well. Not happy with your current investment provider? You can do an exchange with an approved investment provider in the plan. *(Please visit www.ffga.com and click on, "View employer retirement plans" to review available options for your employer.)*

Current Contributions limits allow you to max out at \$18,000.00 if you are 49 and under; \$24,000.00 if you are age 50 and older per calendar year. With enrollment open all year round the time to save is now.

Time to Enroll

Please visit www.ffga.com for a list of available investment providers in your employer's plan. Once you have picked an approved provider, then you or your financial advisor must complete enrollment forms directly with the investment company. If you do not have a financial advisor please utilize our 403(b) agent search located on www.ffga.com.

Once your account is established please complete the First Financial Administrators, Inc. Salary Reduction Agreement and fax completed forms to 1-866-265-4594. This form allows your employer to withhold 403(b) contributions from your paycheck, which will be forwarded to the investment company of your choice.



Visit www.ffga.com for forms and employer plan information!

Toll Free: 1-800-523-8422 | Fax: 1-866-265-4594 | Email: retirement@ffga.com | Mail: P.O. Box 670329 Houston, TX 77267-0329

Introducing...



FFInvest 457(b) Retirement Plan

We are excited to announce the FFINvest Retirement Plan that is now available. The FFINvest 457(b) Retirement Plan is a comprehensive plan funded by Net Asset Value Mutual Funds. It is a competitive & simple, yet flexible plan with a 401(k) type of approach.

Plan Highlights:

- **Multiple Investment Options**

The plan provides 21 different investment options to take advantage of changing investment market conditions, including American Funds, Vanguard, Harbor, and Delaware. There are also Bond Funds and Target Date Retirement Funds to choose from.

- **Roth (After-Tax) Deduction Option Available**

- **Rollovers/Transfers**

Rollovers/Transfers are accepted into the plan from other retirement plans, including IRA's

- **Retirement Savings Contributions Credit (Saver's Credit)**

An individual may be able to take a tax credit of up to \$1,000 (\$2,000 if filing jointly) for making eligible contributions to an employer-sponsored retirement plan.

- **NO IRS Penalty**

NO 10% IRS penalty for withdrawals prior to age 59 ½

- **NO Front-End Sales Charge**

There are NO sales charges taken from contributions. This means that 100% of all contributions are invested and start working for you.

- **NO Deferred Sales Charge**

- **Client Friendly Technology & Communication**

- » Quarterly Statement
- » Toll-free telephone number
- » Interactive website: www.my457account.com
- » Personalized Projections
- » Loan Option
- » [Blog](#) / [Calculators](#)
- » [Quarterly Newsletter](#)

Contribution Limits for 2018:

\$18,500 – under age 50

\$24,500 – age 50 and over

Enroll Online Now!

- » Go to www.my457account.com
- » Select "Retirement Plan Login"
(upper left hand corner, above InvesTrust logo)
- » Select "New User"
- » Enter Plan Password (case sensitive): Angelo

If you have questions, please contact an InvesTrust Retirement Plan Specialist at 1-866-848-0258, Monday -Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. CST.

For Questions or Information on how to enroll in the new FFINvest 457(b) Retirement Plan, please contact Laura Pack at Laura.Pack@ffga.com



IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT YOU READ AND UNDERSTAND THE FOLLOWING: All investments involve some degree of risk. The funds are offered by prospectus, which contains more complete information regarding the investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses associated with an investment in the fund. Please be sure and review the prospectus before deciding to invest.

When May I Join?

Eligible employees may join the Plan on the first day of the month coinciding with the date on which the eligibility requirement is met.

How Do I Contribute To The Plan?

- » Through payroll deduction, you may make elective deferrals up to the maximum allowed by law. The dollar limit is \$18,500 for calendar year 2018.
- » You may also designate your salary deferrals to a Plan account that accepts Roth after-tax contributions. In 2018, you may contribute as much as \$18,500, in total, to all accounts (Roth after-tax contributions and pre-tax deferrals). Roth contributions will be included as taxable income to the employee. Earnings on the Roth contribution will accumulate tax free, and retirement withdrawals may be exempt from federal income tax.
- » If you have an existing qualified retirement plan (pre-tax), 403(b) tax deferred arrangement or governmental 457 plan with a prior employer or hold a taxable IRA account, you may transfer or roll over that account into the Plan anytime.

May I Make Catchup Contributions To The Plan?

If you are age 50 or older (or will be age 50 on or before December 31st) and make the maximum allowable deferral to your Plan, you are entitled to contribute an additional amount as a "catchup contribution." The catchup contribution is intended to help eligible employees make up for smaller (or no contributions) made earlier in their career. The maximum catchup contribution is \$6,000 for calendar year 2018. See your Benefits Administrator for more details.

May I Stop Or Change My Contributions?

- » You may stop your contributions anytime upon written notice. Once you discontinue contributions, you may start again monthly.
- » You may increase or decrease the amount of your contributions monthly.

How Do I Become "Vested" In My Plan Account?

Vesting refers to your "ownership" of a benefit from the Plan. You are always 100% vested in your Plan contributions and your rollover contributions, plus any earnings they generate.

How Are Plan Contributions Invested?

You give investment directions for your Plan account, selecting from investment choices provided under the Plan, as determined by FFINvest 457(b) Plan.

Investment Options		
Money Market and Fixed Income	Symbol	Expense
<i>AUL Fixed Annuity</i>		
<i>Vanguard GNMA Fund (Admiral (Adm))</i>	<i>VFJX</i>	<i>0.11</i>
<i>Vanguard Total Bond Market Index (Adm)</i>	<i>VBTLX</i>	<i>0.05</i>
Large Cap Equity		
<i>American Funds American Mutual Fund (R6)</i>	<i>RMFGX</i>	<i>0.30</i>
<i>Delaware Value (R6)</i>	<i>DDZRX</i>	<i>0.62</i>
<i>American Funds Growth Fund of America (R6)</i>	<i>RGAGX</i>	<i>0.33</i>
<i>Harbor Capital Appreciation Fund (Retirement)</i>	<i>HNACX</i>	<i>0.57</i>
<i>Vanguard 500 Index Fund (Adm)</i>	<i>VFIAX</i>	<i>0.04</i>
Mid Cap Equity		
<i>Vanguard Mid-Cap Index Fund (Adm)</i>	<i>VIMAX</i>	<i>0.06</i>
Small Cap Equity		
<i>Vanguard Small Cap Value Index Fund (Adm)</i>	<i>VSIAX</i>	<i>0.07</i>
<i>Vanguard Small Cap Growth Index (Adm)</i>	<i>VSGAX</i>	<i>0.07</i>
International Equity		
<i>Harbor International Fund (Retirement Class)</i>	<i>HNINX</i>	<i>0.71</i>
<i>Artisan International Fund (Institutional)</i>	<i>APHIX</i>	<i>0.95</i>
<i>American Funds EuroPacific Growth Fund (R6)</i>	<i>RERGX</i>	<i>0.50</i>
Asset Allocation Funds / Balanced		
<i>Vanguard Target Retirement Income Fund (Inv)</i>	<i>VTINX</i>	<i>0.13</i>
<i>Vanguard Target Retirement 2015 Fund (Inv)</i>	<i>VTXVX</i>	<i>0.14</i>
<i>Vanguard Target Retirement 2025 Fund (Inv)</i>	<i>VTTVX</i>	<i>0.14</i>
<i>Vanguard Target Retirement 2035 Fund (Inv)</i>	<i>VTTHX</i>	<i>0.15</i>
<i>Vanguard Target Retirement 2045 Fund (Inv)</i>	<i>VTIVX</i>	<i>0.16</i>
<i>Vanguard Target Retirement 2055 Fund (Inv)</i>	<i>VFFVX</i>	<i>0.16</i>
<i>American Funds American Balanced (R6)</i>	<i>RLBGX</i>	<i>0.29</i>

If you do not choose any investment options your account will be invested in the fund listed below most applicable to your current age.

Investment Option Name	From Age	To Age
<i>Vanguard Target Retirement Income Fund (Inv)</i>	68	99
<i>Vanguard Target Retirement 2015 Fund (Inv)</i>	58	67
<i>Vanguard Target Retirement 2025 Fund (Inv)</i>	48	57
<i>Vanguard Target Retirement 2035 Fund (Inv)</i>	38	47
<i>Vanguard Target Retirement 2045 Fund (Inv)</i>	28	37
<i>Vanguard Target Retirement 2055 Fund (Inv)</i>	18	27

If your date of birth is not on file, the investment selection will be made by your Plan Administrator.

- » You may change your investment choices anytime.

This FAQ is designed to inform Participants about the Plan. Every attempt is made to convey the Plan accurately; however, if anything varies from the Plan Documents, the Plan Documents will prevail. Plan Administration Fees, Investment Options, etc. are subject to change without notice. This FAQ is not intended to convey legal or tax advice, nor can it be used to avoid the payment of income taxes or penalties assessed by any US tax authority.

When May Money Be Withdrawn From My 457(b) Account?

Money may be withdrawn from your Plan account in these events:

- Death
- Termination of Employment
- The Participant's attaining age 70 1/2.

To receive favorable tax treatment, distributions of Roth contributions must be made after the participant reaches age 59½, or on account of the participant's death or disability, and must be made at least 5 years after the date the first Roth contribution was made. Be sure to talk with your tax advisor before withdrawing any money from your Plan account.

May I Withdraw Money In Case of Unforeseeable Emergency?

If you have an immediate financial need created by an unforeseeable emergency and you lack other reasonably available resources to meet that need, you may be eligible to receive an unforeseeable emergency withdrawal from your account. If approved, employee contributions to all Employer sponsored 403(b), 457(b) and 401(a) plans must stop for 6 months. If you feel you are facing a financial hardship, you should see your Plan Administrator for more details.

May I Borrow Money From My Account?

The Plan is intended to help you put aside money for your retirement; however, the FFIInvest 457(b) Plan includes a Plan feature that lets you borrow money from the Plan.

» The amount the Plan may loan to you is limited by rules under the tax law. In general, all loans will be limited to the lesser of: one-half of your vested account balance or \$50,000.

» The minimum loan amount is \$1,000.

» All loans must generally be repaid within five years.

A longer term may be available if the loan is to be used to purchase your principal residence.

» You may have 1 loan outstanding at a time.

» You pay interest back to your account. The interest rate on your loan will be the Prime Rate plus 2.00%.

» A \$50 processing fee for all new loans is charged to your account.

Other requirements and limits must be met, and certain fees may apply. Please see your Plan Administrator for more details about this participant loan feature.

What are the Plan Administration Fees?

Fee Description	Amount
Annual Per Participant Fee*	\$18
Annual Market Value Fee	.85%
QDRO Processing	\$100/each
Loan Processing	\$50/each

*Inclusive of participants with balances

How Do I Obtain Information About my Account?

» You will receive a quarterly email notification that your personalized account eStatement is available online. The eStatement shows your account balance as well as any contributions and earnings credited to your account during the reporting period.

» You will also have access to an Internet Site (www.my457account.com) which is designed to give you current information about your Plan account. You may get up-to-date information about your account balance, contributions, investment choices, and other Plan data. You will receive additional information on how to use the Internet Site.

» More information may also be found online at <http://ffinvest.my457account.com>

As a Plan participant, you may request certain information from InvesTrust Retirement Specialists,

5100 N. Classen Blvd. Suite 620
Oklahoma City, OK 73118

Phone: 1-866-848-0258, M-F 8:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.

This information includes: annual operating expenses of the Plan investments; copies of prospectuses, financial statements, reports, or other materials relating to Plan investments provided to the Plan; a list of assets contained in each Plan investment portfolio; the value of those assets and fund units or shares; and the past and current performance of each Plan investment.

How Do I Enroll?

Simply complete the enrollment forms provided and return them to the person designated, your Benefits Administrator or fax to First Financial: 281-847-8423

May I Enroll Online?

Yes! Go to www.my457account.com

Select "Retirement Plan Login" (upper left hand corner, above InvesTrust logo)

Select "New User"

Enter Plan Password (case sensitive): Angelo

If you have questions during on-line enrollment, please contact InvesTrust Customer Service: 866-848-0258.

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San Angelo ISD - Campuses and Other Sites Contact Information

Central High School (Main)

Jill Ross
655 Caddo Street -76901
(325) 659-3400

Central High School (Oakes)

Jill Ross
218 North Oakes Street -76903
(325) 659-3576

Lake View High School

Zachary Ramirez
900 East 43rd Street -76903
(325) 659-3500

Glenn Middle School

Clayton Hubbard
2201 University Avenue -76904
(325) 947-3841

Lone Star Middle School

Dr. Amy Lemaster
2500 Sherwood Way -76901
(325) 947-3871

Lincoln Middle School

Joe Gándar
255 Lake View Heroes Drive -76903
(325) 659-3550

Alta Loma Elementary

Lauri Herndon
1700 North Garfield Street -76901
(325) 947-3914

Austin Elementary

April Johnson
700 North Van Buren Street -76901
(325) 659-3636

Belaire Elementary

Laura Eubank
700 Stephen Street -76905
(325) 659-3639

Bonham Elementary

Ginger Luther
4630 Southland Blvd. -76904
(325) 947-3917

Bowie Elementary

Ashley Gould
3700 Forest Trail -76904
(325) 947-3921

Bradford Elementary

Bertha Carrasco
2302 Bradford Street -76903
(325) 659-3645

Crockett Elementary

Mindy Goodnight
2104 Johnson Street-76904
(325) 947-3925

Fannin Elementary

Dana Felts
1702 Wilson Street -76901
(325) 947-3930

Fort Concho Elementary

Lori Barton
310 East Washington Street -76903
(325) 659-3654

Glenmore Elementary

Teri Gould
323 Penrose Street-76903
(325) 659-3657

Goliad Elementary

Rebecca Flores
120 E. 39th Street-76903
(325) 659-3660

Holiman Elementary

Stacy Fischer
1900 Ricks Drive -76905
(325) 659-3663

Lamar Elementary

Shannon Klepac
3444 School House Road -76904
(325) 947-3900

McGill Elementary

Colton Curtis
201 Millspaugh Street -76901
(325) 947-3934

Reagan Elementary

Patricia Hartman
1600 Volney Street -76903
(325) 659-3666

San Jacinto Elementary

Michele Beers
800 Spaulding Street -76903
(325) 659-3675

Santa Rita Elementary

Kay Scott
615 South Madison Street -76901
(325) 659-3672

Carver Learning Center

Claudia Becerra
301 West 9th Street -76903
(325) 659-3648

PAYS

Claudia Becerra
2223 Brown Street -76903
(325) 947-3912

Administration Building

1621 University Avenue -76904
(325) 947-3700

Child Nutrition

Michelle Helms
305 Baker Street -76903
(325) 659-3615

Maintenance & Facilities

Tony Kennedy
100 Paint Rock Road -76903
(325) 659-3621

Special Programs

Brandy Tyner
309 West Avenue M -76903
(325) 659-4055

Technology

Charlyn Doyle
515 Caddo Street -76901
(325) 657-4001

Transportation Services

Jason Ketchum
1725 Saint Ann Street -76905
(325) 659-3608