

# Wimberley Independent School District



# Wimberley ISD

*Excellence, Innovation, Service*

**2024-2025**

**Wimberley Student Code of Conduct**

# 2024-2025

## Wimberley Student Code of Conduct

### Table of Contents

<a href="#"><u>The Purpose of the Student Code of Conduct</u></a> .....	1
<a href="#"><u>Expectations for Student Behavior</u></a> .....	2
<a href="#"><u>The Disciplinary Authority of the School District</u></a> .....	2
<a href="#"><u>Discipline Management Techniques</u></a> .....	3
<b>LEVEL I</b>	
<a href="#"><u>Student Code of Conduct Violations that will result in an In-school consequence or an At-home suspension</u></a> .....	5
<a href="#"><u>Scholastic Dishonesty</u></a> .....	8
<b>LEVEL II</b>	
<a href="#"><u>Code of Conduct Violations that will result in an At-home suspension and/or placement in an Alternative Education Program</u></a> .....	9
<b>LEVEL III</b>	
<a href="#"><u>Code of Conduct Violations that will result in placement in an Alternative Education Program as mandated by the Texas Education Code</u></a> .....	13
<b>LEVEL IV</b>	
<a href="#"><u>Code of Conduct Violations for which a Student may be expelled from school, as mandated by the Texas Education Code</u></a> .....	14
<b>LEVEL V</b>	
<a href="#"><u>Code of Conduct Violations for which a Student will be expelled as mandated by the Texas Education Code</u></a> .....	16
<a href="#"><u>Procedures For Implementation of Discipline</u></a> .....	17
<a href="#"><u>Routine Referral</u></a> .....	18
<a href="#"><u>In-school Consequences or At-home Suspension</u></a> .....	18
<a href="#"><u>Formal Removal</u></a> .....	18
<a href="#"><u>Placement in D.A.E.P.</u></a> .....	19
<a href="#"><u>Expulsion</u></a> .....	23
<a href="#"><u>APPEAL of Discipline Consequences assigned by Campus Administration</u></a> .....	26
<a href="#"><u>Removal From the Bus</u></a> .....	27
<a href="#"><u>Glossary – Student Code of Conduct</u></a> .....	27

# Wimberley Independent School District

## STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

### Grades K - 12

#### Accessibility

**If you have difficulty accessing the information in this document because of disability, please contact Jason Valentine, Assistant Superintendent, [jason.valentine@wimberleyisd.net](mailto:jason.valentine@wimberleyisd.net) or 512-847-2414**

## The Purpose of the Student Code of Conduct

The Wimberley Independent School District Student Code of Conduct communicates the expectations of the WISD Board of Trustees, administrators, and staff regarding student behavior; identifies a range of disciplinary management techniques that may be used to address misconduct of WISD students; and delineates the misconduct outlined in Chapter 37 of the Texas Education Code that carries specific disciplinary consequences and procedures for implementation of such discipline under laws of the United States and the State of Texas.

As required by law, the District has developed and adopted a Student Code of Conduct that prohibits certain behaviors and establishes standards of acceptable behavior – both on and off campus – and consequences for violation of the standards. Students need to be familiar with the standards set out in the Student Code of Conduct, as well as campus and classroom rules.

All students of the WISD are entitled to basic rights of citizenship recognized and protected by law for persons of their age and maturity. In addition, students are expected to demonstrate respect for the rights, privileges, and property of others. The District supports the position that the benefits of education are dependent upon positive student attitudes toward learning and student adherence to high principles of behavioral conduct.

Students who violate the rights of others and/or who violate classroom, campus, or District rules and/or state and federal law will be subject to appropriate disciplinary measures. These actions are designed to correct misconduct and to promote adherence by all students to their responsibilities as citizens in the school community.

In accordance with state law, the Student Code of Conduct will be posted at each school campus or will be available for review at the office of the campus principal. Parents shall be notified of any Student Code of Conduct violation that may result in a student being suspended, removed to a DAEP, expelled, or taken into custody by a law enforcement officer under Chapter 37 of the Education Code.

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

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

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

## **Expectations for Student Behavior**

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Schools are places of learning. For individual students and schools as a whole to succeed, courtesy, respect, and diligence are essential and are required. In general, each student is expected to:

1. Demonstrate courtesy and respect for others.
2. Behave in a responsible manner.
3. Be honest and exercise self-discipline.
4. Attend all classes, regularly and on time.
5. Be prepared for each class with appropriate materials and assignments.
6. Meet district and campus standards of grooming and dress.
7. Obey all classroom, campus, and District rules.
8. Respect the rights and privileges of students, teachers, and other district staff and volunteers.
9. Demonstrate respect for the rights, privileges, and property of others, including District property and facilities.
10. Cooperate with and/or assist the school staff in maintaining safety, order, and discipline.
11. Adhere to the requirements of the Student Code of Conduct.

## **The Disciplinary Authority of the School District**

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Classroom, campus and/or District rules may be used to enforce the expectations for student behavior as identified above. Rules may be posted in classrooms, listed in the student handbook, found in District policy, or listed in the Student Code of Conduct the District has the authority to administer discipline whenever the interest of the school is involved on or off school grounds in conjunction with, or independent of, classes and school-sponsored activities. The District's disciplinary authority encompasses, but is not limited to, the following:

The district has disciplinary authority over a student:

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

The school district and administrators have the right to discipline students for improper phone use i.e. recording and/or posting videos of improper conduct that distracts from the learning environment.

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

The District has the right to search a student's locker whenever there is reasonable cause to believe that it contains articles or materials prohibited by the District (FNF Local).

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

The District has the right to revoke the transfer of a transfer student for violating the District's code of conduct (FDA Local).

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

## **Campus Behavior Coordinator**

As required by law, a person at each campus must be designated to serve as the campus behavior coordinator (CBC). The designated person may be the principal or any other campus administrator selected by the principal. The CBC is primarily responsible for maintaining student discipline. The district shall post on its website and in the Student Handbook, for each campus, the email address and telephone number of the person serving as CBC. Contact information may be found at [WISD Website](#) and at [Student Handbook](#)

## **Threat Assessment and Safe and Supportive School Team**

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

## **Security Personnel**

The board utilizes School Resource Officers to ensure sufficient security and protection of students, staff, and property. In accordance with law, the board has coordinated with the CBC and other district employees to ensure appropriate law enforcement duties are assigned to these persons. Provisions addressing the various types of security personnel can be found in the CKE policy series. The law enforcement duties of school resource officers are to work in conjunction with the Hays County Sheriff's Department and Wimberley ISD.

## **Parent Defined**

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

## **Participating in Graduation Activities**

The district has the right to limit a student's participation in graduation activities for violating the district's Code of Conduct. Students eligible to give open and closing remarks at graduation shall be notified by the campus principal. Notwithstanding any other eligibility requirements, in order to be considered eligible, a student shall not have engaged in any misconduct that resulted in an out-of-school suspension, removal to a DAEP, or expulsion during the semester immediately preceding graduation.

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

## Unauthorized Persons

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

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

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

## Discipline Management Techniques

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

The following examples of discipline management techniques represent a range of consequences that may be used alone, or in combination, for violations of the Student Code of Conduct:

- Verbal correction, oral or written
- Cooling-off time or brief, "time out" period in accordance with law.
- Seating changes in the classroom
- Counseling by teachers, counselors, or administrative personnel Behavioral contracts
- Demerit(s) and/or detention(s)
- Parent telephone calls, letters and/or conferences
- Behavior Coaching
- Anger management classes
- Mediation
- Family group conferencing
- Grade reductions for cheating, plagiarism, and as otherwise permitted by policy.
- Temporary confiscation of items that disrupt the educational process Grade reductions as permitted by local policy
- Sending the student to the office or other assigned areas
- Assigning school duties other than class tasks
- Excluding student from school for remainder of the day
- Withdrawal of privileges, such as attendance at or participation in school sponsored or school related activities, eligibility for seeking and holding honorary offices. This is mandatory when a student is assigned to a Disciplinary Alternative Education Program (DAEP).
- Restricting or withdrawing bus privileges
- Assigning students to in-school suspension
- Assigning students to at-home suspension (limited to 3 days per incident)
- Restitution to the District or an individual
- Referral to outside agency(ies) and/or legal authority(ies) for criminal prosecution in addition to disciplinary measures imposed by the District
- Other strategies and consequences as specified by school officials
- Emergency removal to an DAEP or emergency expulsion
- Friday Evening Detentions – "Friday Night Live"

- Detention – Before school, during lunch, or after school
- The Principal or Behavior Coordinator may restrict a student from attending or participating in Extracurricular activities based on behaviors at school or school events.

## **Prohibited Aversive Techniques**

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

- Using techniques designed or likely to cause physical pain, other than corporal punishment as permitted by district policy. [See policy FO(LOCAL).]
- Using techniques designed or likely to cause physical pain by electric shock or any procedure involving pressure points or joint locks.
- Directed release of noxious, toxic, or unpleasant spray, mist, or substance near a student’s face.
- Denying adequate sleep, air, food, water, shelter, bedding, physical comfort, supervision, or access to a restroom facility.
- Ridiculing or demeaning a student in a manner that adversely affects or endangers the learning or mental health of the student or constitutes verbal abuse.
- Employing a device, material, or object that immobilizes all four of a student’s extremities, including prone or supine floor restraint.
- Impairing the student’s breathing, including applying pressure to the student’s torso or neck or placing something in, on, or over the student’s mouth or nose or covering the student’s face.
- Restricting the student’s circulation.
- Securing the student to a stationary object while the student is standing or sitting.
- Inhibiting, reducing, or hindering the student’s ability to communicate.
- Using chemical restraints.
- Using time-out in a manner that prevents the student from being able to be involved in and progress appropriately in the required curriculum or any applicable individualized education program (IEP) goals, including isolating the student using physical barriers.
- Depriving the student of one or more of the student’s senses, unless the technique does not cause the student discomfort or complies with the student’s IEP or behavior intervention plan (BIP).

Disciplinary action will draw upon the professional judgment of teachers and administrators and on a range of discipline management techniques including restorative practices. Disciplinary action will be correlated to the seriousness of the offense, the student's age, grade level, individual educational plan (IEP) for a student receiving special education services, frequency of the misbehavior, the student's attitude, the effect of the misconduct on the school environment, and statutory requirements. Because of these factors, discipline for a particular offense (unless otherwise specified by law) may bring into consideration varying techniques and responses.

In accordance with the Education Code, a student who is enrolled in a special education program may not be disciplined for conduct meeting the definition of bullying, harassment, or making hit list until an ARD Committee has been held to review the conduct.

In deciding whether to order suspensions, DAEP placement, or expulsion the District will take into consideration a disability that substantially impairs the student’s capacity to appreciate the wrongfulness of the student’s conduct.

The district will also take into consideration for DAEP placement when a student’s status in the conservatorship of the Department of Family and Protective Services (foster care), or a student’s status is homeless.

Parents who have questions and/or concerns regarding disciplinary techniques or applications should address their concerns to the teacher or campus administrator, as appropriate, and in accordance with policy FNG (Local).

*Note: A D.A.E.P. is an educational setting in which the student is separated from regular education students and is provided instruction in the core subjects (English, mathematics, science, and social studies) and self-discipline, as well as the opportunity for counseling.*

## **LEVEL I:**

### **Student Code of Conduct Violations That Will Result in an In-School Consequence or an At-Home Suspension**

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

The following Student Code of Conduct violations will result in an in-school consequence or an at-home suspension:

- Engaging in scholastic dishonesty which includes, but is not limited to, cheating on a test,
- Plagiarism, or unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing written work
- Engaging in activities that can cause injury
- Leaving school grounds or school-sponsored events without permission
- Using profanity, vulgar language, or obscene gestures
- Fighting which does not cause bodily injury
- Stealing
- Disobeying school rules about conduct on school buses
- Failing to comply with lawful directives given by school personnel
- Committing extortion, coercion, or blackmail (obtaining money or another object of value from an unwilling person), or forcing an individual to act through the use of force or
- Threat of force (if less than a felony act)
- Committing or assisting in a robbery or theft that does not constitute a felony according to the Penal Code
- Engaging in ethnic or racial slurs
- Engaging in verbal abuse or derogatory remarks addressed to others
- Engaging in any misbehavior that gives school officials reasonable cause to believe that such conduct will substantially disrupt the school program or incite violence
- Engaging in inappropriate physical or sexual contact
- Possessing, smoking, or using tobacco products.
- Nontobacco nicotine product, including nicotine pouches
- Possessing or using matches or a lighter
- Possessing or using a pocket knife or any other small knife
- Possessing or using a location-restricted knife
- A hand instrument designed to cut or stab another by being thrown
- A firearm



- Truancy
- Possessing a paging device, radio, CD player, iPod, or any other electronic device which disrupts the educational environment (Firefighting or emergency medical service volunteers are exempt from this standard.)
- Unless the use of such devices at special events or activities has been approved by the coach/sponsor or teacher
- Gambling of any kind
- Violating safety rules
- Violating dress and/or grooming standards
- Skateboards and rollerblades. Due to safety and liability implications, skateboards and roller blades will not be permitted on school grounds and will be confiscated for the semester.
- Damaging or vandalizing school property less than \$1500.00
- Possessing or using a laser pointer for other than an approved use
- Possessing material that is pornographic
- Violating extracurricular standards of behavior
- Possessing ammunition
- Possessing mace or pepper spray
- Discharging a fire extinguisher
- Possessing razors, box cutters, chains, or any other object used in any way that threatens or inflicts bodily injury to another person
- Possessing air guns or BB guns
- Possessing fireworks of any kind, smoke or stink bombs, or any other pyrotechnic device
- Discharging a fire extinguisher
- Possessing or selling a 'look-alike' weapon that is intended to be used as a weapon or could reasonably be perceived as a weapon
- Possessing a stun gun
- Possessing or using any articles not generally considered to be weapons, including school supplies, when the principal or designee determines that a danger exists
- Using a cellular telephone or other telecommunications device at school during structured class time
- Forcing an individual to act through the use of force or threat of force
- Committing or assisting in a robbery or theft even if it does not constitute a felony according to the Penal Code. (Felony robbery or theft offenses are addressed later in the Student Code of Conduct.)
- Inappropriate or indecent exposure of a student's private body parts
- Possessing or selling look-alike drugs or items attempted to be passed off as drugs or contraband
- Possessing or selling seeds or pieces of marijuana in less than a usable amount.
- Possessing, using, selling, under the influence of, or distributing any amount of CBD, or other marijuana product in any form on school grounds, school event, or within 300 feet of district property.

- Possessing, using, giving, or selling paraphernalia related to any prohibited substance (See glossary)
- Abusing the student’s own prescription drug, giving a prescription drug to another student, or possessing or being under the influence of another person’s prescription drug on school property or at a school-related event
- Violating the District’s policy on taking prescription drugs and over-the-counter drugs at school
- Violating computer use policies, rules, or agreements signed by the student, and/or agreements signed by the student's parent
- Using the Internet or other electronic communications to threaten students or employees, or cause disruption to the educational program or infringes on the rights of another student at school
- Sending, posting, delivering or possessing electronic messages that are abusive, obscene, sexually oriented, threatening, harassing, damaging to another's reputation, or illegal, including cyberbullying and “sexting” either on or off school property, if the conduct causes a substantial disruption to the educational environment or infringes on the rights of another student at school
- Engaging in verbal or written exchanges that threaten the safety of another student, a school employee, or school property
- Possessing published or electronic material that is designed to promote or encourage illegal behavior or that could threaten school safety; using e-mail or Web sites at school to encourage illegal behavior; or threatening school safety
- Urinating outside on the playground or other areas outside of designated facilities.
- Placing illegal, dangerous, or poisonous items in another student’s food or drink or deceiving a student by giving them a substance, represented to be a safe substance, which may cause the student to become ill.
- Selling or buying items at school that are not part of a school related fundraiser, for example trading cards, cd’s, video games, etc.
- Encouraging, promoting, or attempting to assist another student in violating the Code of Conduct can result in a Level 1 or Level 2 consequence depending on the type of violation that is being promoted.

General misconduct identified in the list of prohibited behaviors will result in application of one or more discipline management techniques consistent with law and the Student Code of Conduct.

The principal, CBC or appropriate administrator will notify a student’s parent by phone or in person of any violation of the Student Code of Conduct that may result in a suspension, removal to a Disciplinary Alternative Education Program (DAEP), placement in a JJAEP or expulsion. Notification will be made within three school days after the administrator becomes aware of the violation. The CBC shall also notify a student’s parent if the student is taken into custody by a law enforcement officer under the disciplinary provisions of the education code.

The discipline of students with disabilities is subject to applicable state and federal law in addition to the Student Code of Conduct. To the extent any conflict exists, state and/or federal law. For more information regarding discipline of students with disabilities, see policy FOF(LEGAL).

General misconduct violations will not necessarily result in the formal removal of the student from class or another placement but may result in a routine referral, formal removal, or the use of one or more discipline management techniques.

In deciding whether to order suspension, the District will take into consideration: self-defense, intent or lack at the time the student engaged in the conduct, and the student's disciplinary history.

Each day of at-home suspension is considered an unexcused absence. A student who is suspended at home may not attend or participate in school sponsored or school-related events and shall receive a grade no higher than 70 for all graded work. Students will be responsible for securing all make-up work; one day of make-up time will be allowed for each two days of at home suspension time. A student who is suspended at home may not visit any District campus unless arrangements have been made with the campus principal. If a student appears on any WISD campus without the principal's permission, the student may be charged with criminal trespass.

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

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

**NOTE: Consequences will not be deferred pending the outcome of a grievance**

**Note: All students participating in a fight, recording a fight, posting a recorded school fight, or inciting a fight by words or deed, or by any other action contributing to a fight (regardless of who starts it) may be suspended. Other students in the area should try to prevent the fight to seek assistance, or to move away from the fight. Students involved may receive a citation for fighting and the incident may be reported to the Justice of the Peace.**

First Offense – Up to 5 Days Suspension and may result in a citation

Second Offense – may result in an DAEP Placement

## Scholastic Dishonesty

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

The penalty for any form of scholastic dishonesty (cheating, plagiarism, etc.) may be a zero for the work involved. In addition, there will also be discipline consequences assigned.

## Dress Code

### Start of School Year/New Student

If a student shows up to start the school year and is out of dress code and can but will not get into dress code they will be sent to ISS. If after three days of ISS the student still is not in dress code they may be placed in DAEP.

If a student enters WISD and is unable to get in dress code, they will have a grace period of five days to get into dress code after that they will be sent to ISS until they are in dress code. If after three days of ISS the student still is not in dress code they may be placed in DAEP.

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

## LEVEL II:

### Code of Conduct Violations That Will Result in an At-Home Suspension and/or Placement in an Alternative Education Program

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

- Engaging in conduct punishable as a felony, other than those listed as offenses involving injury to a person in Title 5 of the Penal Code, that occurs off school property and not at a school-sponsored or school-related event, if the student's presence in the regular classroom threatens the safety of other students or teachers or will be detrimental to the educational process.
- In accordance with Education Code 37.0081, after an opportunity for a hearing before the Board or its designee, a student may be placed in a DAEP if:
  - The student receives deferred prosecution for conduct defined as a felony offense in Title 5 of the Penal Code;
  - or
  - The student has been found by a court to have engaged in delinquent conduct for conduct defined as a felony offense in Title 5 of the Penal Code.
- The Board or the Board's designee must determine that the student's presence in the regular classroom:
  - Threatens the safety of other students or teachers;
  - Will be detrimental to the educational process;
  - or
  - Is not in the best interest of the District's students.
- A student's placement in the DAEP as a result of receiving deferred prosecution or delinquent conduct, as described above, may occur regardless of:
  - The date on which the student's conduct occurred;
  - The location at which the conduct occurred;
  - Whether the conduct occurred while the student was enrolled in the District; or
  - Whether the student has successfully completed any court disposition requirements imposed in connection with the conduct.
- Involvement in gang activity, including participating as a member or pledge, or soliciting another person to become a pledge or member of a gang.
- Involvement in a public-school fraternity, sorority, or secret society, including participating as a member or pledge, or soliciting another person to become a pledge or member of a public-school fraternity, sorority, or secret society.
- Criminal mischief not punishable as a felony.
- A federal firearms violation, for a student six years of age or younger.

In addition, the District has determined that the following behaviors may result in a student's placement in a DAEP:

- Cheating or copying the work of another

- Throwing objects that can cause bodily injury or property damage
- Failing to comply with directives given by school personnel
- Leaving school grounds or school-sponsored events without permission
- Disobeying rules for conduct on school buses
- Directing profanity, vulgar language, or obscene gestures toward other students or a District employee
- Fighting
- Hazing
- Stealing from students, staff, or the school
- Damaging or vandalizing property owned by others
- Defacing or damaging school property—including textbooks, lockers, furniture, and other equipment—with graffiti or by other means
- Possessing fireworks of any kind, smoke or stink bombs, or any other pyrotechnic device
- Discharging a fire extinguisher
- Possessing a razor, box cutter, chain, or any other object used in a way that threatens or inflicts bodily injury to another person
- Possessing or selling a "look-alike" weapon that is intended to be used as a weapon or could reasonably be perceived as a weapon.
- Possessing an improvised explosive device
- Possessing an air gun or BB gun
- Possessing ammunition
- Possessing a stun gun
- Possessing mace or pepper spray
- Possessing or using any articles not generally considered to be a weapon, including school supplies, when the principal or designee determines that a danger exists
- Gambling
- Making false accusations or hoaxes regarding school safety
- Falsifying records, passes, or other school-related documents
- Committing extortion, coercion, or blackmail (obtaining money or another object of value from an unwilling person)
- Engaging in disruptive actions or demonstrations that substantially disrupt or materially interfere with school activities
- Being insubordinate
- Refusing to accept discipline management techniques assigned by a teacher or principal
- Forcing an individual to act through the use of force or threat of force

- Committing or assisting in a robbery or theft even if it does not constitute a felony according to the Penal Code (Felony robbery or theft offenses are addressed elsewhere in the Student Code of Conduct.)
- Bullying, including intimidation by name-calling, using ethnic or racial slurs, or making derogatory statements that could disrupt the school program or incite violence
- Engaging in bullying that encourages a student to commit or attempt to commit suicide
- Inciting violence against a student through group bullying
- Engaging in threatening behavior toward another student or District employee, on or off school property
- Engaging in harassment motivated by race, color, religion, national origin, disability, or age and directed toward another student or a District employee
- Engaging in any misbehavior that gives school officials reasonable cause to believe that such conduct will substantially disrupt the school program or incite violence
- Engaging in inappropriate verbal, physical, or sexual contact directed toward another student or a District employee
- Engaging in conduct that constitutes sexual harassment or sexual abuse whether the conduct is by word, gesture, or any other sexual conduct, including requests for sexual favors directed toward another student or a District employee
- Inappropriate or indecent exposure of a student's private body parts
- Releasing or threatening to release visual material of a minor or a student who is 18 years of age or older without the student's consent
- Possessing or using matches or a lighter
- Possessing, smoking, or using tobacco products
- Nontobacco nicotine product, including nicotine pouches
- Possessing or selling look-alike drugs or items attempted to be passed off as drugs or contraband
- Possessing or selling seeds or pieces of marijuana in less than a usable amount
- Possessing, using, selling, under the influence of, or distributing any amount of CBD, or any other marijuana product in any form on school grounds, school event, or within 300 feet of district property.
- Possessing, using, giving, or selling paraphernalia related to any prohibited substance. Abusing the student's own prescription drug, giving a prescription drug to another student, or possessing or being under the influence of another person's prescription drug on school property or at a school-related event
- Violating the District's policy on taking prescription drugs and over-the-counter drugs at school
- Using a telecommunication device, including cellular telephone or other electronic device in violation of district and campus rules.
- Possessing or using a laser pointer for other than an approved use
- Violating computer use policies, rules, or agreements signed by the student, and/or agreements signed by the student's parent

- Using the Internet or other electronic communications to threaten students, employees, or cause disruption to the educational program
- Sending or posting electronic messages that are abusive, obscene, sexually oriented, threatening, harassing, damaging to another's reputation, or illegal
- Engaging in verbal or written exchanges that threaten the safety of another student, a school employee, or school property
- Possessing published or electronic material that is designed to promote or encourage illegal behavior or that could threaten school safety, using e-mail or Web sites at school to encourage illegal behavior, or threatening school safety
- Possessing material that is pornographic
- Violating dress and grooming standards as communicated in the student handbook
- Repeatedly violating other communicated campus or classroom standards of behavior
- Criminal mischief, not punishable as a felony
- Encouraging, promoting, or attempting to assist another student in violating the Code of Conduct can result in a Level 1 or Level 2 consequence depending on the type of violation that is being promoted
- In an emergency, the principal or the principal's designee may order the immediate placement of a student in a DAEP for any reason for which placement in a DAEP may be made on a non-emergency basis.
- In decision whether to order placement in a DAEP, the District will take into consideration:
  - Self-defense
  - Intent or lack of intent at the time the student engaged in the conduct, and the student's disciplinary history.

### **Out-of-School Suspension Students may be suspended for any behavior**

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

A student in grade 2 or below shall not be placed in out-of-school suspension unless, while on school property or while attending a school-sponsored or school-related activity on or off school property, the student engages in:

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

The district shall use a positive behavior program as a disciplinary alternative for students in grade 2 or below who commit general conduct violations instead of suspension or placement in a DAEP. The program shall meet the requirements of law.

## LEVEL III:

### Code of Conduct Violations That Will Result in a Placement in an Alternative Education Program as mandated by the Texas Education Code

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

**A student must be placed** in a Disciplinary Alternative Education Program (DAEP) if the student engages in conduct relating to a false alarm or report (including a bomb threat) or a terrorist threat involving a public school. (See glossary)

**A student must be placed** in a DAEP for any of the following offenses, if the student commits these offenses on school property or within 300 feet of school property as measured from any point on the school's real property boundary line, or while attending a school-sponsored or school-related activity on or off school property:

- Engages in conduct punishable as a felony.
- Commits an assault under Penal Code 22.01(a)(1). (See glossary)
  - Assault (no bodily injury) with threat of imminent bodily injury.
  - Assault by offensive or provocative physical contact
- Sells, gives, or delivers to another person, or possesses, uses, or is under the influence of a controlled substance, or dangerous drug in an amount not constituting a felony offense, or any other mind-altering substance, including but not limited to synthetic drugs like bath salts and Spice, K2. (School-related felony drug offenses are addressed in the expulsion section of this Student Code of Conduct.) (See glossary)
- Sells, gives, or delivers to another person or possesses or uses an e-cigarette.
- Sells, gives, or delivers to another person an alcoholic beverage; commits a serious act or offense while under the influence of alcohol; or possesses, uses, or is under the influence of alcohol.
- Behaves in a manner that contains the elements of an offense relating to abusing volatile chemicals.
- Behaves in a manner that contains the elements of the offense of public lewdness.
- Behaves in a manner that contains the elements of the offense of indecent exposure.
- Engages in expellable conduct, if the student is between six and nine years of age.
- Engages in conduct that contains the elements of the offense of retaliation against any school employee on or off school property. (Committing retaliation in combination with another expellable offense is addressed in the expulsion section of this Student Code of Conduct.)
- Engages in conduct punishable as a felony listed under Title 5 (see glossary) of the Penal Code when the conduct occurs off school property and not at a school-sponsored or school-related event and:
  - The student receives deferred prosecution. (See glossary)
  - A court or jury finds that the student has engaged in delinquent conduct. (See glossary)
  - The Superintendent or designee has a reasonable belief that the student engaged in the conduct. (See glossary)
- *A principal or other appropriate administrator **may, but is not required to, place a student in a DAEP for off-campus conduct for which DAEP placement is required by state law if the principal or other appropriate administrator does not have knowledge of the conduct before the first anniversary of the date the conduct occurred.***



## LEVEL IV:

### Code of Conduct Violations for Which a Student May be Expelled from School, As mandated by the Texas Education Code

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

A student **may be expelled** for engaging in conduct relating to a false alarm or report (including a bomb threat) or a terrorist threat involving a public school.

A student **may be expelled** for any offense that is a state-mandated expellable offense if the offense is committed on the property of another District in Texas or while the student is attending a school sponsored or school-related activity at a school in another District in Texas.

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

- Selling, giving, or delivering to another person, or possessing, using, or being under the influence of any amount of marijuana, a controlled substance, or a dangerous drug, if the conduct is not punishable as a felony
- Selling, giving, or delivering to another person, or possessing, using, or being under the influence of any amount of alcohol; or committing a serious act or offense while under the influence of alcohol, if the conduct is not punishable as a felony
- Engaging in conduct that contains the elements of an offense relating to abusing volatile chemicals
- Engaging in conduct that contains the elements of assault under Section 22.01(a)(1) against an employee or a volunteer
- Engaging in deadly conduct. (See glossary)

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

- Committing aggravated assault, sexual assault, or aggravated sexual assault
- Committing arson
- Committing murder, capital murder, or criminal attempt to commit murder or capital murder
- Committing indecency with a child, aggravated kidnapping, manslaughter, criminally negligent homicide, or aggravated robbery
- Committing a felony drug- or alcohol-related offense
- Using, exhibiting, or possessing a firearm (as defined by state law, an illegal knife, a club, or prohibited weapon, or possessing a firearm (as defined by federal law)
- A student **may be expelled** if the student engages in the following conduct no matter where the conduct takes place:
  - Engaging in conduct that contains the elements of assault under Penal Code 22.01(a)(1) in retaliation against a school employee or volunteer
  - Engaging in criminal mischief, if punishable as a felony
  - Breach of computer security. (See Glossary.)

A student **may be expelled** if the student engages in conduct that contains the elements of one of the following offenses against another student, without regard to where the conduct occurs:

- Aggravated assault
- Sexual assault
- Aggravated sexual assault
- Murder
- Capital murder
- Criminal attempt to commit murder or capital murder
- Aggravated robbery

**A student may be expelled** for engaging in serious or persistent misbehavior that violates the District's Student Code of Conduct, while placed in a DAEP. The District defines "persistent" as two or more violations of the Student Code of Conduct in general or repeated occurrences of the same violation. Serious offenses include, but are not limited to, the following:

- - Murder
  - Vandalism
  - Robbery or theft
  - Extortion, coercion, or blackmail
  - Disruptive actions or demonstrations that substantially disrupt or materially interfere with school activities
  - Hazing
  - Insubordination
  - Profanity, vulgar language, or obscene gestures directed toward teachers or other school employees
  - Fighting, committing physical abuse, or threatening physical abuse
  - Possession or distribution of pornographic materials ▪ Leaving school grounds without permission
  - Sexual harassment of a student or District employee
  - Possession of or conspiracy to possess any explosive or explosive device
  - Falsification of records, passes, or other school-related documents
  - Refusal to accept discipline management techniques assigned by the teacher or principal

In an emergency, the principal or the principal's designee may order the immediate expulsion of a student for any reason for which expulsion may be made on a non-emergency basis. In deciding whether to order the expulsion the District will consider self-defense, intent or lack thereof, and the student's disciplinary history.

## LEVEL V:

### Code of Conduct Violations for Which a Student Will be Expelled from School as Mandated by the Texas Education Code

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

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

- o Bringing to school a firearm, as defined by federal law.  
“Firearm” under federal law includes:
  - Any weapon (including a starter gun) that will, is designed to, or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive.
  - The frame or receiver of any such weapon.
  - Any firearm muffler or firearm weapon.
  - Any destructive device, such as any explosive, incendiary or poison gas bomb, or grenade.Using, exhibiting, or possessing the following, as defined by the Penal Code 46.02.
  
- o A firearm (any device designed, made, or adapted to expel a projectile through a barrel by using the energy generated by an explosion or burning substance or any device readily convertible to that use). o an illegal knife, such as a knife with a blade over 5½ inches; hand instrument, designed to cut or stab another by being thrown; dagger, including but not limited to a dirk, stiletto, and poniard; bowie knife; sword; or spear.
  
- o A club such as an instrument specially designed, made, or adapted for the purpose of inflicting serious bodily injury or death by striking a person with the instrument, including a blackjack, nightstick, mace, and tomahawk. (See glossary)
  
- o A prohibited weapon, such as an explosive weapon; a machine gun; a short-barrel firearm; a firearm silencer; a switchblade knife; knuckles; armor-piercing ammunition; a chemical dispensing device; or a zip gun. (See glossary)
  
- o Behavior containing elements of the following offenses under the Penal Code:
  - Aggravated assault, sexual assault, or aggravated sexual assault.
  - Arson. (See glossary)
  - Murder, capital murder, or criminal attempt to commit murder or capital murder.
  - Indecency with a child.
  - Aggravated kidnapping.
  - Aggravated robbery.
  - Manslaughter.
  - Criminally negligent homicide.
  - Continuous sexual abuse of a young child or disabled individual.
  - Behavior punishable as a felony that involves the selling, giving, or delivering to another person, possessing, using, or being under the influence of marijuana, a controlled substance, a dangerous drug, or alcohol; or committing a serious act or offense while under the influence of alcohol.

Retaliation against a school employee combined with one of the above-listed offenses on or off school property or at a school-related activity.

## Procedures for Implementation of Discipline For All Student Code of Conduct Violations

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

A student who violates classroom, campus, or District rules, which are not specifically listed in the Student Code of Conduct, may be disciplined by one or more discipline management techniques. For violations not specifically referenced in the Student Code of Conduct, the teacher/administrator is not required to make a Student Code of Conduct violation report, and the principal is not required to notify the parent/guardian.

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

The procedures described in this document will be followed when assigning or recommending:

1. Routine referral
2. In-school or at-home suspension
3. Formal removal from class by a teacher
4. Placement in a Disciplinary Alternative Education Program (DAEP)
5. Expulsion

**Note:** *Prior to the placement of a special education student in an AEP or expulsion of a special education student, the appropriate Admissions, Review, and Dismissal (ARD) committee will determine whether or not the misconduct is a manifestation of the student's disability.*

### ROUTINE REFERRAL

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Teachers may refer a student to the principal's office for violations of campus or classroom rules that may be printed, perhaps in the student handbook, or posted in a classroom. For a routine referral, the principal may employ one of the discipline management techniques found in this manual. If a teacher repeatedly refers a student to the office for misconduct, the principal should alert the student's parents to the recurring misconduct and the possibility of placement in a DAEP if documented misconduct continues.

### In-school Consequences or At-home Suspension

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

If the Student Code of Conduct violation requires an in-school or at-home suspension consequence, the administrator will explain the allegations to the student and allow the student an opportunity to respond to the allegations. The administrator will render a ruling based on the information and notify the parent/guardian within 72 hours if a consequence is administered. A student who is suspended at home may not attend or participate in school sponsored or school-related activities.

***Students may be suspended for any behavior listed in the Student Code of Conduct as a general misconduct violation, Disciplinary Alternative Education Program placement, or expellable offense.***

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

A student who is to be suspended will have an informal conference with the principal or appropriate administrator advising the student of the alleged misconduct. The student will have the opportunity to respond to the allegation before the administrator decides.

The number of days of a student's suspension will be determined by the principal or other appropriate administrator, but will not exceed three school days.

The principal or other appropriate administrator will determine any restrictions on participation in school sponsored or school-related extracurricular and co-curricular activities.

Students with disabilities are subject to applicable state and federal law in addition to the Student Code of Conduct. To the extent any conflict exists, state and/or federal law will prevail.

## FORMAL REMOVAL

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Formal removal from class will be initiated by a teacher if:

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

A teacher or administrator must remove a student from class if the student engages in behavior that under the Education Code requires or permits the student to be placed in a DAEP or expelled. A teacher or administrator may remove a student from class for a behavior that the District has determined is a violation of the Student Code of Conduct.

Within three school days, the principal will schedule a conference with the student's parent, the student and the teacher in the case of a teacher, principal, or administrator removal

At the conference, the principal or appropriate administrator will inform the student of the misconduct for which he or she is charged and will give the student an opportunity to give his or her version of the incident. The principal or administrator will notify the student of the consequences of the Student Code of Conduct violation.

When a teacher removes a student from the regular classroom and a conference is pending, the principal may place a student in:

- Another appropriate classroom.
- In-school suspension.
- Out-of-school suspension.
- A Disciplinary Alternative Education Program.

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

### **Returning a Student to the Classroom**

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

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

## **PLACEMENT IN D.A.E.P. (District Alternative Education Program)**

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Removals to a DAEP will be made by the principal CBC or assistant principal.

The duration of a student's placement in a DAEP will be determined by the campus administration.

For purposes of DAEP, elementary classification shall be kindergarten–grade 5 and secondary classification shall be grades 6–12.

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

<b>Conduct</b>	<b>Maximum length of time</b>
▪ Engages in conduct punishable as a felony	2 semesters
▪ Commits an assault under Penal Code 22.01(a)(1)	2 semesters
▪ Sells, gives, delivers, or possesses; or is under the influence of prohibited drugs or alcohol	2 semesters
▪ Engages in conduct punishable as offense relating to abuse-able volatile chemicals	2 semesters
▪ Behaves in a manner that contains the offense of public lewdness or indecent exposure	2 semesters
▪ Engages in conduct that contains the elements of the offense of retaliation against any school employee on or off school	2 semesters
▪ Threatens the safety of teachers or other students	2 semesters
▪ Persistent misbehavior	2 semesters
▪ Involvement in gang activity	2 semesters
▪ Criminal mischief	2 semesters
▪ A federal firearms offense for student six years of age or younger	2 semesters
▪ Hazing	2 semesters
▪ Any and all offense listed under Level(s) I, II, III, IV, or V in this code of conduct that are not individually listed	2 semesters

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

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

period of the placement for the student removed, the student shall be returned to a DAEP for the remainder of the period.

DAEP placement will be correlated to the seriousness of the offense, the student's age and grade level, the frequency of misbehavior, the student's attitude, and statutory requirements.

Students with disabilities are subject to applicable state and federal law in addition to the Student Code of Conduct. To the extent any conflict exists, state and/or federal law will prevail.

The District will decide on a case-by-case basis whether to place in a DAEP or expel a student who:

1. Sells, gives, delivers, possesses, uses, or is under the influence of prohibited drugs, electronic cigarettes or alcohol or
2. Engages in conduct punishable as an offense relating to abusing volatile chemicals if the conduct is not punishable as a felony.

When a student is removed from class by a teacher (formal removal) or an administrator for a mandatory or discretionary DAEP offense, the principal or other appropriate administrator will schedule a conference within three school days with the student's parent, the student, and the teacher, in the case of a teacher removal.

Until a conference can be held as a result of a formal teacher removal or administrator removal, the principal may place the student in:

- Another appropriate classroom
- In-school suspension
- Out-of-school suspension
- A Disciplinary Alternative Education Program

At the conference, the principal or appropriate administrator will inform the student, orally or in writing, of the reasons for the removal, an explanation of the basis for the removal, and an opportunity to respond to the reasons for the removal.

Following valid attempts to require their attendance, the District may hold the conference and make a placement decision regardless of whether the student or the student's parent attends the conference.

### **Consideration of Mitigating Factors**

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

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

After the conference, if the student is placed in the DAEP and the length of placement is inconsistent with the guidelines included in the Student Code of Conduct, the DAEP placement order will give notice of the inconsistency.

Placement in a DAEP may not exceed one year unless a review by the District determines that:

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

A DAEP placement in accordance with Education Code 37.0081 may be for any length of time determined necessary by the Board or its designee in light of the factors considered before placement. A student placed under this section is entitled to periodic status reviews by the Board or designee at intervals not to exceed 120 days.

The Board's designee will send the student and the parents a copy of the DAEP order. Not later than the second business day after the conference, the Board's designee will deliver to the juvenile court a copy of the order placing the student in a DAEP and all information required by Section 52.04 of the Family Code. After the conference, if the student is placed in a DAEP, the appropriate administrator will write a DAEP placement order. A copy of the DAEP placement order and information for the parent or person standing in parental relation to the student regarding the process for requesting a full individual and initial evaluation for the student for purposes of special education services shall be sent to the student and the student's parent. Parental questions or complaints regarding disciplinary measures should be addressed to the campus administration, in accordance with policy FNG (LOCAL). A copy of this policy may be obtained from the principal's office or the central administration office. Consequences will not be deferred pending the outcome of an appeal. The decision to place a student in a DAEP cannot be appealed beyond the Board. State law prohibits students placed in a DAEP for mandatory removal reasons from attending or participating in school-sponsored or school-related extracurricular activities.

The District does not permit a student who is placed in a DAEP for any reason determined by the District to participate in any school-sponsored or school-related extracurricular and co-curricular activity, including seeking or holding honorary positions and/or membership in school-sponsored clubs and organizations.

A student placed in a DAEP will not be provided transportation unless he or she is a student with a disability who has transportation designated as a related service in the student's IEP.

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

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

For placement in a DAEP to extend beyond 60 days or the end of the next grading period, whichever is sooner, a student's parent will be given notice and the opportunity to participate in a proceeding before the Board or the Board's designee. Any decision is final and may not be appealed beyond the Board. For placement in a DAEP to extend beyond the end of the school year, campus administration must determine that:

1. The student's presence in the regular classroom or campus presents a danger of physical harm to the student or others; or
2. The student has engaged in serious or persistent misbehavior that violates the District's Student Code of Conduct.

Students who commit offenses requiring placement in a DAEP at the end of one school year may be required to continue that placement at the start of the next school year to complete the assigned term of placement. When a student violates the District's Student Code of Conduct in a way that requires or permits the student to be placed in a DAEP and the student withdraws from the District before a DAEP placement order is completed, the District may complete the proceedings and issue a DAEP placement



order. If the student then re-enrolls in the District during the same or a subsequent school year, the District may enforce the order at that time, less any period of the placement that has been served by the student during enrollment in another District. If the principal, or other appropriate administrator, or the Board fails to issue a DAEP placement order after the student withdraws, the next District in which the student enrolls may complete the proceedings and issue a DAEP placement order.

A student assigned to a DAEP placement in another District or open-enrollment charter school at the time he or she enrolls in the District will be placed directly into the District's DAEP.

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

The office of the prosecuting attorney will notify the District if a student was placed in a DAEP and:

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

If a student was placed in a DAEP for conduct other than a false alarm or report or terrorist threat involving a public school or conduct on or within 300 feet of school property for which DAEP placement is required by law, on receiving the notice from the prosecutor, the Superintendent or designee will review the student's placement in the DAEP and schedule a review of the student's placement with the student's parent not later than the third day after the Superintendent or designee receives notice from the prosecutor. The student may not be returned to the regular classroom pending the review.

After reviewing the notice and receiving information from the student's parent, the Superintendent or designee may continue the student's placement in the DAEP if there is reason to believe that the presence of the student in the regular classroom threatens the safety of other students or teachers. The student or the student's parent may appeal the Superintendent's decision to the Board. The student may not be returned to the regular classroom pending the appeal.

The Board will, at the next scheduled meeting, review the notice from the prosecutor and receive information from the student, the student's parent, and the Superintendent or designee, and confirm or reverse the decision of the Superintendent or designee. The Board will make a record of the proceedings. If the Board confirms the decision of the Superintendent or designee, the Board will inform the student and the student's parent of the right to appeal to the Commissioner of Education. The student may not be returned to the regular classroom pending the appeal.

When an emergency placement occurs, the student will be given oral notice of the reason for the action. Not later than the tenth day after the date of the placement, the student will be given the appropriate conference required for placement in a DAEP. If emergency placement involves a student with disabilities who receives special education services, the term of the student's emergency removal is subject to the requirements of federal law.

## ***EXPULSION***

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Students with disabilities are subject to applicable state and federal law in addition to the Student Code of Conduct. To the extent any conflict exists, state and/or federal law will prevail.

When a student under the age of ten engages in behavior that is expellable behavior, the student will not be expelled, but will be placed in a Disciplinary Alternative Education Program (DAEP). Students under age six will not be removed from class or placed in a DAEP unless the student commits a federal firearm offense.

State and federal law require a student to be expelled from the regular classroom for a period of at least one calendar year for bringing a firearm, as defined by federal law, to school. However, the Superintendent or other appropriate administrator may modify the length of the expulsion on a case-by-case basis, and/or the District may provide educational services to the expelled student in a DAEP. The District must provide educational services in the DAEP if the student is less than ten years of age.

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

Until a hearing can be held, the principal may place the student in:

- Another appropriate classroom.
- In-school suspension.
- Out-of-school suspension.
- A Disciplinary Alternative Education Program.

The duration of a student's expulsion will be determined on a case-by-case basis. The maximum period of expulsion is as follows:

<u>Conduct</u>	<u>Maximum length of time</u>
1. Level IV Offense *	2 Semesters
2. Level V Offense *	2 Semesters

\* *As found and described in the WISD Code of Conduct*

The length of an expulsion will be based on the seriousness of the offense, the student's age and grade level, the frequency of misbehavior, the student's attitude, and statutory requirements. A student facing expulsion will be given appropriate due process. The student is entitled to:

1. Representation by the student's parent or another adult who can provide guidance to the student and who is not an employee of the District.
2. An opportunity to testify and to present evidence and witnesses in the student's defense.
3. An opportunity to question the District's witnesses.

The Board delegates to the Superintendent or designee the authority to expel students.

A student expelled by the *(principal, hearing officer, Superintendent, or other appropriate administrator)* after the due process hearing may request that the Board review the expulsion decision. The student or parent must submit a written request to the Superintendent within seven days after receipt of the written decision. The Superintendent must provide the student or parent written notice of the date, time, and place of the meeting at which the Board will review the decision. Consequences will not be deferred pending the outcome of the hearing.

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

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

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

After the due process hearing, if the student is expelled, the Board or its designee will deliver to the student and the student's parent a copy of the order expelling the student.

If the length of the expulsion is inconsistent with the guidelines included in the Student Code of Conduct, the expulsion order will give notice of the inconsistency. An expulsion may not exceed one year unless, after review, the District determines that:

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

When a student has violated the District's Student Code of Conduct in a way that requires or permits expulsion from the District and the student withdraws from the District before the expulsion hearing takes place, the District may conduct the hearing after sending written notice to the parent and student. If the student then re-enrolls in the District during the same or subsequent school year, the District may enforce the expulsion order at that time, less any expulsion period that has been served by the student during enrollment in another District. If the principal, another appropriate administrator, or the Board fails to issue an expulsion order after the student withdraws, the next District in which the student enrolls may complete the proceedings. If during the expulsion, the student engages in additional conduct for which placement in a DAEP or expulsion is required or permitted, additional proceedings may be conducted, and the principal, another appropriate administrator, or the Board may issue an additional disciplinary order as a result of those proceedings.

Not later than the second business day after the hearing, the Superintendent will deliver to the juvenile court a copy of the order expelling the student and the information required by Section 52.04 of the Family Code.

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

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

No District academic credit will be earned for work missed during the period of expulsion (unless the student is enrolled in a Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Program or another District-approved program).

The District will continue the expulsion of any student expelled from another District during the period of the expulsion order.

The District will continue the expulsion of any student expelled from another open-enrollment charter school during the period of the expulsion order.

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

1. The out-of-state District provides the District with a copy of the expulsion order, and

2. The offense resulting in the expulsion is also an expellable offense in the District in which the student is enrolling.

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

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

When an emergency expulsion occurs, the student will be given verbal notice of the reason for the action. Within ten days after the date of the emergency expulsion, the student will be given appropriate due process required for a student facing expulsion. If emergency expulsion involves a student with disabilities who receives special education services, the term of the student's emergency expulsion is subject to the requirements of federal law.

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

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

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

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

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

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

## **Out –of- School Suspension**

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

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

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

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

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

### **Appeal of Discipline Consequences assigned by Campus Administration**

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

**Detentions or ISS assignments of 3 days or less-** If parents disagree with these administrative consequences they may informally appeal to the campus principals. The campus principal's decision is final.

**AEP Placement Appeals-** If a parent of a student who is placed in AEP wishes to appeal the decision of the campus level hearing. The first appeal is to the campus principal. If the parent is not satisfied with the principal's decision then they may file a level 2 complaint with the Superintendent or designee. If the parent is still not satisfied with the level 2 outcome they may file a level 3 complaint to the board of trustees. The board of trustee's decision is final.

### **Notes on Appeals:**

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

## ***REMOVAL FROM THE BUS***

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

Anyone in the state of Texas that rides a school bus that is equipped with seatbelts, **MUST** ride with the seatbelt on and fastened. Students may be given a discipline referral from an adult on the bus if they do not abide by this rule. A repeated offense can result in the student being removed from the bus in accordance with law.

## GLOSSARY-Student Code of Conduct

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

**Armor-piercing ammunition** is handgun ammunition designed primarily for the purpose of penetrating metal or body armor and to be used primarily in pistols and revolvers.

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

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

**Assault** is defined in part by Penal Code 22.01(a)(1). A person commits an assault if the person intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly causes bodily injury to another.

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

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

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

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

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

**Chemical dispensing device** is defined by Penal Code 46.01 as a device designed, made, or adapted for the purpose of dispensing a substance capable of causing an adverse psychological or physiological effect

on a human being. A small chemical dispenser sold commercially for personal protection is not in this category.

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

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

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

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

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

**Dating violence** occurs when a person in a current or past dating relationship uses physical, sexual, verbal, or emotional abuse to harm, threaten, intimidate, or control another person in the relationship. Dating violence also occurs when a person commits these acts against a person in a marriage or dating relationship with the individual who is or was once in a marriage or dating relationship with the person committing the offense, as defined by Section 71.0021 of the Family Code.

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

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

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

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

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

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

description and a component, part, or accessory for the device, regardless of whether the component, part, or accessory is sold separately from the device.

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

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

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

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

1. Any weapon (including a starter gun) that will, is designed to, or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive;
2. The frame or receiver of any such weapon;
3. Any firearm muffler or firearm silencer, defined as any device for silencing, muffling, or diminishing the report of a portable [firearm](#); or
4. Any destructive device, such as any explosive, incendiary or poison gas bomb, or grenade.  
Such a term does not include an antique firearm.

**Graffiti** includes marks with aerosol paint or an indelible marker on tangible property of the owner without the effective consent of the owner. The markings may include inscriptions, slogans, drawings, or paintings.

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

**Harassment** includes

1. Conduct that meets the definition established in district policies DIA(LOCAL) and FFH(LO-CAL); or
2. Conduct that threatens to cause harm or bodily injury to another person, including a district student, employee, board member, or volunteer; is sexually intimidating; causes physical damage to the property of another student; subjects another student to physical confinement or restraint; or maliciously and substantially harms another student's physical or emotional health or safety, as defined in Section 37.001(b)(2) of the Education Code; or
3. Conduct that is punishable as a crime under Penal Code 42.07, including the following types of conduct if carried out with the intent to harass, annoy, alarm, abuse, torment, or embarrass another:
  - a. Initiating communication and, in the course of the communication, making a comment, request, suggestion, or proposal that is obscene, as defined by law;
    - a. Initiating communication and, in the course of the communication, making a comment, request, suggestion, or proposal that is obscene, as defined by law;
    - b. Threatening, in a manner reasonably likely to alarm the person receiving the threat, to inflict bodily injury on the person or to commit a felony against the person, a member of the person's family or household, or the person's property;
    - c. Conveying, in a manner reasonably likely to alarm the person receiving the report, a false report, which is known by the conveyor to be false, that another person has suffered death or serious bodily injury



- d. Causing the telephone of another to ring repeatedly or making repeated telephone communications anonymously or in a manner reasonably likely to harass, annoy, alarm, abuse, torment, embarrass, or offend another;
- e. Making a telephone call and intentionally failing to hang up or disengage the connection;
- f. Knowingly permitting a telephone under the person's control to be used by another to commit an offense under this section;
- g. Sending repeated electronic communications in a manner reasonably likely to harass, annoy, alarm, abuse, torment, embarrass, or offend another;
- h. Publishing on an internet website, including a social media platform, repeated electronic communications in a manner reasonably likely to cause emotional distress, abuse, or torment to another person, unless the communications are made in connection with a matter of public concern, as defined by law; or
- i. Making obscene, intimidating, or threatening telephone calls or other electronic communications from a temporary or disposable telephone number provided by an internet application or other technological means.

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

1. Any type of physical brutality;
2. An activity that subjects the student to an unreasonable risk of harm or that adversely affects the student's mental or physical health, such as sleep deprivation, exposure to the elements, confinement to small spaces, calisthenics, or consumption of food, liquids, drugs, or other substances;
3. An activity that induces, causes, or requires the student to perform a duty or task that violates the Penal Code; and
4. Coercing a student to consume a drug or alcoholic beverage in an amount that would lead a reasonable person to believe the student is intoxicated.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Paraphernalia** is any device that can be used to inhale, ingest, inject, or otherwise introduce a controlled substance into a human body.

**Parent** includes a parent, legal guardian, or other person having lawful control of the child.

**Persistent Misbehavior** is two or more violations of the Code in general or repeated occurrences of the same violation.

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

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

**Prohibited weapon** under Penal Code 46.05(a) means:

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

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

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

**Reasonable belief** is that which an ordinary person of average intelligence and sound mind would believe. Chapter 37 requires certain disciplinary decisions when the superintendent or designee has a reasonable belief that a student engaged in conduct punishable as a felony offense. In forming such a reasonable belief, the superintendent or designee may use all available information and must consider the information furnished in the notice of a student's arrest under Code of Criminal Procedure Article 1527. i.e. If a student is charged with a crime that will constitute reasonable belief on behalf of the Superintendent or designee.

**Self-defense** is a reasonable force that one would use to protect themselves from immediate harm. The amount of force can only be that which is adequate to remove oneself from the potential harm in order for it to be considered self-defense. In addition, self-defense is not an excuse for aggressive actions that would lead to a fight or assault. Self Defense cannot be provoked by a verbal or electronic exchange.

**Serious misbehavior means:**

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

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

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

**Switchblade** is any knife with a blade that folds, closes, or retracts into the handle or sheath and that opens automatically by pressing a button or by the force of gravity or centrifugal force.

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

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

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

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

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

- Murder, manslaughter, or homicide under Sections 19.02–.05;
- Kidnapping under Section 20.03;
- Trafficking of persons under Section 20A.02;
- Smuggling or continuous smuggling of persons under Sections 20.05–.06;
- Assault under Section 22.01;

- Aggravated assault under Section 22.02;
- Sexual assault under Section 22.011;
- Aggravated sexual assault under Section 22.021;
- Unlawful restraint under Section 20.02;
- Continuous sexual abuse of a young child or disabled individual under Section 21.02;
- Bestiality under Section 21.09;
- Improper relationship between educator and student under Section 21.12;
- Voyeurism under Section 21.17;
- Indecency with a child under Section 21.11;
- Invasive visual recording under Section 21.15;
- Disclosure or promotion of intimate visual material under Section 21.16;
- Sexual coercion under Section 21.18;
- Injury to a child, an elderly person, or a disabled person of any age under Section 22.04;
- Abandoning or endangering a child under Section 22.041;
- Deadly conduct under Section 22.05;
- Terroristic threat under Section 22.07;
- Aiding a person to commit suicide under Section 22.08; and
- Tampering with a consumer product under Section 22.09.

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

**Use** means that a student has voluntarily introduced into his or her body by any means a prohibited substance recently enough that it is detectable by the student's physical appearance, actions, breath, or speech.

**Zip gun** is a device or combination of devices, not originally a firearm, but adapted to expel a projectile through a smoothbore or rifled-bore barrel by using the energy generated by an explosion or burning substance.