

# Santa Fe Independent School District

## Student Code of Conduct

2024-2025



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## **Student Code of Conduct**

### **Accessibility**

If you have difficulty accessing the information in this document because of disability, please contact a campus administrator.

### **Purpose**

The Student Code of Conduct is the district's response to the requirements of Chapter 37 of the Texas Education Code.

The Code provides methods and options for managing students in the classroom and on school grounds, disciplining students, and preventing and intervening in student discipline problems.

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

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

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

Because the Student Code of Conduct is adopted by the district's board of trustees, it has the force of policy; therefore, in case of conflict between the Code and the Student Handbook, the Code shall prevail.

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

## School District Authority and Jurisdiction

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

The district has disciplinary authority over a student:

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

\*The district may assign consequences for certain behaviors that occur off school property and not at a school-related activity. The behaviors listed below may result in school discipline, as allowable by Chapter 37 of the Texas Education Code.

- a. Conduct punishable as a felony, including Title 5 felony offenses
- b. Retaliation against a school employee
- c. Terroristic threat
- d. False alarm/ false report
- e. Cyberbullying; Engaging in bullying that encourages a student to commit or attempt to commit suicide; Inciting violence against a student through group bullying
- f. Releasing or threatening to release intimate visual material of a minor or of a student who is 18 years of age or older without the student's consent.
- g. Sex offender registry
- h. Breach of computer security

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

The campus principal 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.

### **Searches**

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

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

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

### **Reporting Crimes**

Appropriate school administrators shall report crimes as required by law and shall call local law enforcement when an administrator suspects that a crime has been committed on campus.

### **Security Personnel**

To ensure sufficient security and protection of students, staff, and property, the board employs police officers and security personnel. In accordance with law, the board has coordinated with district employees to ensure appropriate law enforcement duties are assigned to security staff. The law enforcement duties of district peace officers and security personnel are listed in policy CKE(LOCAL).

### **"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.

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

Students eligible to give the opening and closing remarks at graduation shall be notified by the campus principal. Notwithstanding any other eligibility requirements, in order to be considered as an eligible student to give the opening or closing remarks, a student shall not have engaged

in any misconduct in violation of the district's Code resulting 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 in violation of the district's Code resulting 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 or district police officer shall have the authority to refuse entry 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 the person 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 days, unless the complaint is resolved before a board hearing.

See **DAEP—Restrictions During Placement** on page 26, for information regarding a student assigned to DAEP at the time of graduation



## **Standards for Student Conduct**

Each student is expected to:

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

## General Conduct Violations

The categories of conduct below are prohibited at school, in vehicles owned or operated by the district, and at all school-related activities, but the list does not include the most severe offenses. In the subsequent sections on **Out-of-School Suspension** on page 17, **DAEP Placement** on page 19, **Placement and/or Expulsion for Certain Offenses** on page 30, and **Expulsion** on page 33, certain offenses that require or permit specific consequences are listed. Any offense, however, may be severe enough to result in **Removal from the Regular Educational Setting** as detailed in that section on page 15.

### Disregard for Authority

Students shall not:

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

### Mistreatment of Others

Students shall not:

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

- Record the voice or image of another without the prior consent of the individual being recorded or in any way that disrupts the educational environment or invades the privacy of others.

### **Property Offenses**

Students shall not:

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

### **Possession of Prohibited Items**

Students shall not possess or use:

- Fireworks of any kind, smoke or stink bombs, or any other pyrotechnic device;
- A razor, box cutter, chain, or any other object used in a way that threatens or inflicts bodily injury to another person;
- A “look-alike” weapon that is intended to be used as a weapon or could reasonably be perceived as a weapon;
- An air gun or BB gun;
- Ammunition;
- A hand instrument designed to cut or stab another by being thrown;
- Knuckles;
- \*A location-restricted knife;
- \*A club;
- \*A firearm (including suppressor or silencer);
- A stun gun;
- A pocketknife or any other small knife;
- Mace or pepper spray;
- Pornographic material;
- Tobacco products; cigarettes; e-cigarettes; and any component, part, or accessory for an e-cigarette device;
- Matches or a lighter;
- A laser pointer for other than an approved use; or

- Any articles not generally considered to be weapons, including school supplies, when the principal or designee determines that a danger exists.

\*For weapons and firearms, see **DAEP—Placement and/or Expulsion for Certain Offenses** on page 30. In many circumstances, possession of these items is punishable by mandatory expulsion under federal or state law.

### **Possession of Telecommunications or Other Electronic Devices**

Students shall not:

- Use a telecommunications device, including a cellular telephone, or other electronic device in violation of district and campus rules. See the SFISD Cell Phone Policy.

### **Illegal, Prescription, and Over-the-Counter Drugs**

Students shall not:

- Possess, use, give, or sell alcohol or an illegal drug. (Also see **DAEP Placement** on page 19 and **Expulsion** on page 33 for mandatory and permissive consequences under state law.)
- Possess or sell seeds or pieces of marijuana in less than a usable amount. This includes marijuana (THC) vape oil.
- Possess, use, give, or sell paraphernalia related to any prohibited substance. (This includes marijuana vape paraphernalia (pens and cartridges.) (See **glossary** for “paraphernalia.”)
- Possess, use, abuse, or sell look-alike drugs or attempt to pass items off as drugs or contraband.
- Abuse the student’s own prescription drug, give a prescription drug to another student, or possess or be under the influence of another person’s prescription drug on school property or at a school-related event. (See **glossary** for “abuse.”)
- Abuse over-the-counter drugs. (See **glossary** for “abuse.”)
- Be under the influence of prescription or over-the-counter drugs that cause impairment of the physical or mental faculties. (See **glossary** for “under the influence.”)
- Have or take prescription drugs or over-the-counter drugs at school other than as provided by district policy.

### **Misuse of Technology Resources and the Internet**

Students shall not:

- Violate policies, rules, or agreements signed by the student or the student’s parent regarding the use of technology resources.
- Attempt to access or circumvent passwords or other security-related information of the district, students, or employees or upload or create computer viruses, including off school property if the conduct causes a substantial disruption to the educational environment.

- Attempt to alter, destroy, or disable district technology resources including, but not limited to, computers and related equipment, district data, the data of others, or other networks connected to the district's system, including off school property if the conduct causes a substantial disruption to the educational environment.
- Use the internet or other electronic communications to threaten or harass district students, employees, board members, or volunteers, including off school property if the conduct causes a substantial disruption to the educational environment or infringes on the rights of another student at school.
- Send, post, deliver, or possess electronic messages that are abusive, obscene, sexually oriented, threatening, harassing, damaging to another's reputation, or illegal, including cyberbullying and "sexting," either on or off school property, if the conduct causes a substantial disruption to the educational environment or infringes on the rights of another student at school.
- Use the internet or other electronic communication to engage in or encourage illegal behavior or threaten school safety, including off school property if the conduct causes a substantial disruption to the educational environment or infringes on the rights of another student at school.

### **Safety Transgressions**

Students shall not:

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

### **Miscellaneous Offenses**

Students shall not:

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

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

## **Discipline Management Techniques**

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 the seriousness of the offense, the student's age and grade level, the frequency of misbehavior, the student's attitude, the effect of the misconduct on the school environment, and statutory requirements.

### **Students with Disabilities**

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

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

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

### **Techniques**

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

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

- Detention, including outside regular school hours.
- Sending the student to the office or other assigned area, or to in-school suspension.
- Assignment of school duties, such as cleaning or picking up litter.
- Withdrawal of privileges, such as participation in extracurricular activities, eligibility for seeking and holding honorary offices, or membership in school-sponsored clubs and organizations.
- Penalties identified in individual student organizations' extracurricular standards of behavior.
- Restriction or revocation of district transportation privileges.
- School-assessed and school-administered probation.
- Out-of-school suspension, as specified in **Out-of-School Suspension** on page 17.
- Placement in a DAEP, as specified in **DAEP** on page 19.
- Placement and/or expulsion in an alternative educational setting, as specified in **Placement and/or Expulsion for Certain Offenses** on page 30.
- Expulsion, as specified in **Expulsion** on page 33.
- Referral to an outside agency or legal authority for criminal prosecution in addition to disciplinary measures imposed by the district.
- Other strategies and consequences as determined by school officials.

### **Prohibited Aversive Techniques**

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

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



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

### **Notification**

The campus administrator shall promptly notify a student's parent by phone or in person of any violation that may result in in-school or out-of-school suspension, placement in a DAEP or expulsion. The appropriate administrator shall also notify a student's parent if the student is taken into custody by a law enforcement officer under the disciplinary provisions of the Education Code. A good faith effort shall be made on the day the action was taken to provide to the student for delivery to the student's parent written notification of the disciplinary action. If the parent has not been reached by telephone or in person by 5:00 p.m. of the first business day after the day the disciplinary action was taken, the administrator shall send written notification by U.S. Mail. If the administrator is not able to provide notice to the parent, the principal or designee shall provide the notice.

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

### **Investigations**

Allegations of prohibited conduct will be promptly investigated. Administrators may interview or speak to students in regard to an investigation without a parent or legal guardian present. When students are at school, the school stands "in loco parentis." This means that when students are at school, school administrators stand in the place of parents.

District officials may question a student regarding the student's own conduct or the conduct of other students. In the context of school discipline, students may not refuse to answer questions based on a right not to incriminate themselves.

## **Appeals**

Questions from parents regarding disciplinary measures should be addressed to the teacher or campus administrator, 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 or through Policy On Line at the following address: [www.sfisd.org](http://www.sfisd.org).

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

## **Removal from the School Bus**

A bus driver may refer a student to the transportation director. The transportation director will make a determination regarding bus discipline or will work in collaboration with campus administrators for disciplinary actions.

Since the district's primary responsibility in transporting students in district vehicles is to do so as safely as possible, the operator of the vehicle must focus on driving and not have his or her attention distracted by student misbehavior. Therefore, when appropriate disciplinary management techniques fail to improve student behavior or when specific misconduct warrants immediate removal, the transportation directors may restrict or revoke a student's transportation privileges, in accordance with law.

## **Removal from the Regular Educational Setting**

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

### **Routine Referral**

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

### **Formal Removal**

A teacher may also initiate a formal removal from class 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 with the student's classmates' ability to learn; or
2. The behavior is so unruly, disruptive, or abusive that the teacher cannot teach, and the students in the classroom cannot learn.

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

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

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

- Another appropriate classroom.
- In-school suspension.

- Out-of-school suspension.
- DAEP.

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

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

When a student 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 shall not be returned to the teacher's class without the teacher's consent.

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

## **Out-of-School Suspension**

### **Misconduct**

Students may be suspended for 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 below grade 3 or a student who is homeless or in foster care 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 who commit general conduct violations instead of suspension or placement in a DAEP. The program shall meet the requirements of law.

### **Process**

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

Before being suspended a student shall have an informal conference with the campus appropriate administrator, who shall advise the student of the alleged misconduct. The student shall have the opportunity to respond to the allegation before the administrator makes a decision.

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

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

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

6. A student's status as homeless.

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

**Coursework During Suspension**

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

A student removed from the regular classroom to 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.

**District Discipline Committee**

District Alternative Education Program (DAEP) placements and expulsion recommendations shall be made by the campus administrator. A District Discipline Committee (DDC) will review each placement to ensure all District policies and procedures were followed and that due process was provided. The DDC is composed of district and campus administrators and counselors.

## Disciplinary Alternative Education Program (DAEP) Placement

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

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

Summer programs provided by the district shall serve students assigned to a DAEP separately from those students who are not assigned to the program.

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

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

### Discretionary Placement: Misconduct That May Result in DAEP Placement

A student may be placed in a DAEP for behaviors prohibited in the General Conduct Violations section of this Code. Discretionary placements are typically a minimum of 20 days and a maximum of 30 days. Repeated offenses may result in more days assigned. 45-60 day placements may be made if the severity of the situation warrants the extended placement.

1. Appears to be "under the influence" of marijuana, prohibited or dangerous drugs, narcotics, alcohol, or an inhalant. **DISTRICT-MANDATED DAEP PLACEMENT**
2. Cheating or copying the work of another.
3. Throwing objects that can cause bodily injury or property damage.
4. Failing to comply with directives given by school personnel.
5. Leaving school grounds or school-sponsored events without permission.
6. Disobeying rules for conduct on school buses.
7. Directing profanity, vulgar language, or obscene gestures toward other students or a District employee.
8. Fighting.
9. Hazing or any form of harassment.
10. Stealing from students, staff, or the school.
11. Damaging or vandalizing property owned by others.

12. Defacing or damaging school property, including textbooks, lockers, furniture, and other equipment, with graffiti or by any other means.
13. Possessing fireworks of any kind, smoke or stink bombs, or any other pyrotechnic device.
14. Possessing a razor, box cutter, chain, or any other object used in a way that threatens or inflicts bodily injury to another person.
15. Possessing ammunition.
16. Possessing mace or pepper spray.
17. Possessing or using any article(s) not generally considered to be a weapon, including school supplies, when the principal or designee determines that a danger exists.
18. Gambling
19. Falsifying records, passes, or other school-related documents.
20. Committing extortion, coercion, or blackmail (obtaining money or another object of value from an unwilling person).
21. Engaging in disruptive actions or demonstrations that substantially disrupt or materially interfere with school activities.
22. Engaging in inappropriate verbal, physical, or sexual contact directed toward another student or District employee.
23. 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 District employee.
24. Inappropriate or indecent exposure of a student's private body parts, including "mooning."
25. Being insubordinate.
26. Refusing to accept discipline management techniques assigned by a teacher or principal.
27. Forcing an individual to act through the use of force or threat of force.
28. Committing or assisting in a robbery or theft even if it does not constitute a felony according to the Texas Penal Code. (Felony robbery or theft offenses are addressed elsewhere in the Student Code of Conduct.)
29. Bullying, including intimidation by name-calling, using ethnic or racial slurs, or making derogatory statements that could disrupt the school program or incite violence.
30. Engaging in threatening behavior toward another student or District employee, on or off school property.
31. Engaging in harassment motivated by race, color, religion, national origin, disability, or age and directed toward another student or a District employee.
32. Engaging in any misbehavior that gives school officials reasonable cause to believe that such conduct will substantially disrupt the school program or incite violence.



33. Engaging in inappropriate verbal, physical, or sexual contact directed toward another student or a District employee.
34. 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.
35. Inappropriate or indecent exposure of a student's private body parts.
36. Using matches or a lighter.
37. Smoking or using tobacco products, electronic cigarettes/vapor cigarettes or "look alike".
38. Possessing or selling seeds or pieces of marijuana in less than a usable amount.
39. Violating the District's policy on taking prescription drugs and over-the-counter drugs at school.
40. Misuse or damage of district electronic or technology resources or equipment.

### ***Misconduct Identified in State Law***

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

- Engaging in bullying that encourages a student to commit or attempt to commit suicide.
- Inciting violence against a student through group bullying.
- Releasing or threatening to release intimate visual material of a minor or of a student who is 18 years of age or older without the student's consent.
- Involvement in a public school fraternity, sorority, or secret society, including participating as a member or pledge, or soliciting another person to become a pledge or member of a public school fraternity, sorority, secret society, or gang. (See **glossary**.)
- Involvement in criminal street gang activity. (See **glossary**.)
- Criminal mischief, including felony and non-felony. (Damage to property equal to or in excess of \$2500 is a felony.)
- Assault (no bodily injury) with *threat* of imminent bodily injury.
- Assault by offensive or provocative physical contact.

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

The campus 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 administrator does not have knowledge of the conduct before the first anniversary of the date the conduct occurred.

### **Mandatory Placement: Misconduct That Requires DAEP Placement (Per Chapter 37 of the Texas Education Code)**

Mandatory placements are typically a minimum of 30 days and a maximum of 45 days. Repeated offenses may result in more days assigned. 60 days may be assigned or a student may be placed in the Coastal Alternative Program (CAP) if the severity of the situation warrants a longer placement. CAP placements are typically 75 days.

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

- Engages in conduct relating to a false alarm or report (including a bomb threat) or a terroristic threat involving a public school **on or off school property.** (See **glossary.**) **1<sup>st</sup> offense DISTRICT MANDATED DAEP PLACEMENT or DISCRETIONARY CAP Placement / 2<sup>nd</sup> offense CAP PLACEMENT**
  - The district may choose to utilize a discretionary CAP placement based on the impact the false alarm had on regular school operation and the severity of the report.
- Commits the following offenses *on school property or within 300 feet of school property measured from any point on the school's real property boundary line, or while attending a school-sponsored or school-related activity:*
  - Engages in conduct punishable as a felony **on or off school property in some cases.**
  - Commits an assault causing bodily injury (see **glossary**) under Penal Code 22.01(a)(1). **1<sup>st</sup> offense DISTRICT MANDATED DAEP PLACEMENT**
  - Sells, gives, or delivers to another person, or possesses, uses, or is under the influence of marijuana (or THC), a controlled substance, or a dangerous drug in an amount not constituting a felony offense. A student with a valid prescription for low-THC cannabis as authorized by Chapter 487 of the Health and Safety Code does not violate this provision. (See **glossary** for "under the influence.") **1<sup>st</sup> offense DISTRICT MANDATED DAEP PLACEMENT or DISCRETIONARY CAP Placement / 2<sup>nd</sup> offense CAP PLACEMENT**
  - 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. **1<sup>st</sup> offense DISTRICT MANDATED DAEP PLACEMENT or DISCRETIONARY CAP Placement / 2<sup>nd</sup> offense CAP PLACEMENT**
  - Behaves in a manner that contains the elements of an offense relating to abusable volatile chemicals. **1<sup>st</sup> offense DISTRICT MANDATED DAEP PLACEMENT or DISCRETIONARY CAP Placement / 2<sup>nd</sup> offense CAP PLACEMENT**
  - Sells, gives, or delivers to another person or possesses or used an e-cigarette.

- Behaves in a manner that contains the elements of the offense of public lewdness or indecent exposure. (See **glossary**.)
- Engages in conduct that contains the elements of an offense of harassment against an employee under Penal Code 42.07(a)(1), (2), (3), or (7).
- Engages in expellable conduct and is between six and nine years of age.
- Commits a federal firearms violation and is younger than six years of age.
- Engages in conduct that contains the elements of the offense of retaliation against any school employee or volunteer **on or off school property**. (Committing retaliation in combination with another expellable offense is addressed in **Expulsion** on page 33.)
- Engages in conduct punishable as aggravated robbery or a felony listed under Title 5 (see **glossary**) of the Penal Code when the conduct **occurs off school property** and not at a school-sponsored or school-related event and:
  1. The student receives deferred prosecution (see glossary),
  2. A court or jury finds that the student has engaged in delinquent conduct (see glossary), or
  3. The superintendent or designee has a reasonable belief (see glossary) that the student engaged in the conduct.

### **Sexual Assault and Campus Assignments**

A student shall be transferred to another campus if:

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

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

### **Process**

Removals to a DAEP shall be made by the campus administrator.

### **Conference**

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

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

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

***Consideration of Mitigating Factors***

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

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

***Placement Order***

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

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

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

***DAEP at Capacity***

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

***Coursework Notice***

The parent or guardian of a student placed in DAEP shall be given written notice of the student's opportunity to complete a foundation curriculum course in which the student was

enrolled at the time of removal and which is required for graduation, at no cost to the student. The notice shall include information regarding all methods available for completing the coursework.

### **Length of Placement**

The campus administrator shall determine the duration of a student's placement in a DAEP following district guidelines.

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

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

Unless otherwise specified in the placement order, days absent from a DAEP shall not count toward fulfilling the total number of days required in a student's DAEP placement order. Exceptions may be made by the administrator. For example, if a student received an education in a hospital setting or at a court ordered school.

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

#### ***Exceeds One Year***

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

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

#### ***Exceeds School Year***

Students who 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.

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

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

#### ***Exceeds 60 Days***

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

## **Appeals**

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

Student or parent appeals regarding a student's placement in a DAEP should be addressed in accordance with policy FNG(LOCAL). A copy of this policy may be obtained from the principal's office or through Policy On Line at the following address: [www.sfisd.org](http://www.sfisd.org).

Appeals shall begin at the campus level with the campus principal. The district shall not delay disciplinary consequences pending the outcome of an appeal. The decision to place a student in a DAEP cannot be appealed beyond the board.

## **Drug Testing**

A parent may choose to have their child tested for drugs if an administrator determines the child appears to be under the influence (see Discretionary Placement: Misconduct That May Result in DAEP Placement). The results of the drug test will not negate the determination or consequences but will be taken into consideration should you wish to appeal the decision. The campus may provide a list of acceptable drug tests for appeal. In order for the test to be considered it should include synthetic drugs. Not all tests include all drugs such as synthetic/street drugs. Drug tests should be administered within 24 hours. Please speak to the administrator for more information.

## **Restrictions During Placement- Extracurricular and Transportation**

The district does not permit a student who is placed in a DAEP to participate in any school-sponsored or school-related extracurricular or cocurricular activity, including seeking or holding honorary positions and/or membership in school-sponsored clubs and organizations. If a student unenrolls from a campus with an incomplete discipline assignment to DAEP/CAP/JJAEP, he or she may not attend and/or participate in any school-sponsored or school-related extracurricular activities.

When a student is assigned DAEP, they will be required to ride the bus or be transported by car to school and home. Students will not be allowed to walk or ride a bike when assigned DAEP. Students who ride the bus will be transported to and from the address listed in Skyward Family Access. If a student has not previously received bus transportation, a registration form must be filled out on the transportation webpage to ensure proper routing. DAEP hours are 7:30-2:40. A student may enter the building as early as 6:50 and must be picked up by 3:10. Students may not drive themselves to and from 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 shall be the last instructional day, and the student shall be allowed to participate in the graduation ceremony and related graduation activities unless otherwise specified in the DAEP placement order.

Students assigned to the Coastal Alternative Program (CAP) are required to take district transportation to and from the CAP facility. Students must be dropped off at the Alternative Learning Center (ALC) west entrance between 7:15 and 7:35 each morning in CAP appropriate

dress code. Students will be admitted into the building by an ALC staff member and go through the metal detector procedures, which include turning out pockets and taking off shoes.

Prohibited items will be confiscated by ALC staff and reported to the administrator for CAP for disciplinary action. Students will remain in the ALC classroom until the shuttle bus arrives to take them to the CAP facility.

In the afternoon, students will leave the CAP facility by shuttle bus at approximately 3:30 and be dropped off at the ALC west entrance with an ALC staff member. If the student's ride is present, they will leave directly from the shuttle to get into their vehicle. If the student's ride is not present, students will enter the building with a staff member, go through the metal director procedures, and wait inside with an ALC staff member until their ride arrives. Students will not receive their belongings until they leave for the day.

Student rides should line up along the ALC building and arrive no later than 3:45.

### **Placement Review**

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

### **Additional Misconduct**

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

### **Notice of Full Individual and Initial Evaluation**

HB 3928 requires the district to provide to a student's parent or guardian the process for requesting a full individual and initial evaluation of the student for purposes of special education services as part of the students personalized transition plan.

### **Notice of Criminal Proceedings**

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

1. Prosecution of a student's case was refused for lack of prosecutorial merit or insufficient evidence and no formal proceedings, deferred adjudication (see **glossary**), or deferred prosecution will be initiated; or

2. The court or jury found a student not guilty, or made a finding that the student did not engage in delinquent conduct or conduct indicating a need for supervision, and the case was dismissed with prejudice.

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

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

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

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

### **Withdrawal During Process**

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

### **Newly Enrolled Students**

The district shall continue the DAEP placement of a student who enrolls in the district and was assigned to a DAEP in another Texas open-enrollment charter school or district. The number of days assigned shall be in alignment with district standards.

A newly enrolled student with a DAEP placement from a district in another state shall be placed as any other newly enrolled student if the behavior committed is a reason for DAEP placement in the receiving district.

If the student was placed in a DAEP by a school district in another state for a period that exceeds one year, this district, by state law, shall reduce the period of the placement so that the total placement does not exceed one year. After a review, however, the placement may be extended beyond a year if the district determines that the student is a threat to the safety of other students or employees or the extended placement is in the best interest of the student.



### **Emergency Placement Procedure**

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

### **Transition Services**

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

## **Placement and/or Expulsion for Certain Offenses**

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

### **Registered Sex Offenders**

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

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

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

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

### **Review Committee**

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

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

### **Newly Enrolled Student**

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

### **Appeal**

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

## **Certain Felonies**

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

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

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

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

## ***Hearing and Required Findings***

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

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

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

## ***Length of Placement***

The student is subject to the placement until:

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

***Placement Review***

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

***Newly Enrolled Students***

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

## Expulsion

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

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

### **Discretionary Expulsion: Misconduct That May Result in Expulsion (per Chapter 37 of the Texas Education Code)**

Discretionary expulsions result in placement at either the Coastal Alternative Program (CAP) in Santa Fe or in DAEP. Some of the following types of misconduct may result in mandatory placement in a DAEP, whether or not a student is expelled. CAP expulsions are typically 75 days. (See **DAEP Placement** on page 19)

#### **\*\*\*Any Location**

A student **may** be expelled for:

- Engaging in bullying that encourages a student to commit or attempt to commit suicide.
- Inciting violence against a student through group bullying.
- Cyberbullying if the act interferes with a student's educational opportunities; or substantially disrupts the orderly operation of a classroom, school, or school-sponsored activity.
- Releasing or threatening to release intimate visual material of a minor or of a student who is 18 years of age or older without the student's consent.
- Conduct that contains the elements of assault under Penal Code 22.01(a)(1) in retaliation against a school employee or volunteer.
- Criminal mischief, if punishable as a felony.
- Engaging in conduct that contains the elements of one of the following offenses against another student:
  - Aggravated assault.
  - Sexual assault.
  - Aggravated sexual assault.
  - Murder.
  - Capital murder.
  - Criminal attempt to commit murder or capital murder.
  - Aggravated robbery.

- Breach of computer security. (See **glossary**)
- Engaging in conduct relating to a false alarm or report (including a bomb threat) or a terroristic threat involving a public school.

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

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

- Selling, giving, or delivering to another person, or possessing, using, or being under the influence of marijuana, a controlled substance, or a dangerous drug. This includes liquid/oil marijuana. \*A student with a valid prescription for low-THC cannabis as authorized by Chapter 487 of the Health and Safety Code does not violate this provision. (See **glossary** for "under the influence.")
  - a. First offense - DISTRICT-MANDATED DAEP PLACEMENT or DISCRETIONARY CAP Placement
  - b. Second offense- DISTRICT-MANDATED CAP PLACEMENT
- Selling, giving, or delivering to another person, or possessing, using, or being under the influence of alcohol; or committing a serious act or offense while under the influence of alcohol.
  - a. First offense - DISTRICT-MANDATED DAEP PLACEMENT or DISCRETIONARY CAP Placement
  - b. Second offense- DISTRICT-MANDATED CAP PLACEMENT
- Engaging in conduct that contains the elements of an offense relating to abusable volatile chemicals.
  - a. First offense - DISTRICT-MANDATED DAEP PLACEMENT or DISCRETIONARY CAP Placement
  - b. Second offense- DISTRICT-MANDATED CAP PLACEMENT
- 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**.)

**\*\*\*Within 300 Feet of School**

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

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

- Possessing, manufacturing, transporting, repairing, or selling a prohibited weapon, as defined by state law. (See **glossary**.)
- Possession of a firearm, as defined by federal law. (See **glossary**.)

### ***Property of Another District***

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

### ***While in DAEP***

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

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

### **Mandatory Expulsion: Misconduct That Requires Expulsion (per Chapter 37 of the Texas Education Code)**

A student **must** be expelled under federal or state law for any of the following offenses that occur on school property or while attending a school-sponsored or school-related activity on or off school property. Mandatory expulsions result in placement at Galveston County JJAEP.

#### ***Under Federal Law***

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

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

### **Under the Penal Code**

- Unlawfully carrying on or about the student’s person the following, in the manner prohibited by Penal Code 46.02:
  - A handgun, defined by state law as any firearm designed, made, or adapted to be used with one hand. (See **glossary**.)  
**Note:** A student may not be expelled solely on the basis of the student’s use, exhibition, or possession of a firearm that occurs at an approved target range facility that is not located on a school campus, while participating in or preparing for a school-sponsored, shooting sports competition or a shooting sports educational activity that is sponsored or supported by the Parks and Wildlife Department, or a shooting sports sanctioning organization working with the department. [See policy FNCG(LEGAL).]
  - A location-restricted knife, as defined by state law. (See **glossary**.)
- Possessing, manufacturing, transporting, repairing, or selling a prohibited weapon, as defined in state law. (See **glossary**.)
- Behaving in a manner that contains elements of the following offenses under the Penal Code:
  - Aggravated assault, sexual assault, or aggravated sexual assault.
  - Arson. (See **glossary**.)
  - Murder, capital murder, or criminal attempt to commit murder or capital murder.
  - Indecency with a child.
  - Aggravated kidnapping.
  - Aggravated robbery.
  - Manslaughter.
  - Criminally negligent homicide.
  - Continuous sexual abuse of a young child or disabled individual.
  - Behavior punishable as a felony that involves selling, giving, or delivering to another person, or possessing, using, or being under the influence of a controlled substance or a dangerous drug.
- Engaging in retaliation against a school employee or volunteer combined with one of the above-listed mandatory expulsion offenses.

### **Under Age Ten**

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



## Process

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

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

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

## Hearing

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

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

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

The board of trustees delegates to the campus principal authority to conduct hearings and make expulsion recommendations to the Superintendent's designee.

## Board Review of Expulsion

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

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

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

## Expulsion Order

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

1. Self-defense (see **glossary**),
2. Intent or lack of intent at the time the student engaged in the conduct,

3. The student's disciplinary history,
4. A disability that substantially impairs the student's capacity to appreciate the wrongfulness of the student's conduct,
5. A student's status in the conservatorship of the Department of Family and Protective Services (foster care), or
6. A student's status as homeless.

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

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

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

### **Length of Expulsion**

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **Withdrawal During Process**

When a student has violated the district's Code 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 must 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 will enforce the expulsion order at that time, less any expulsion period that has been served by the student during enrollment in another district.

### **Additional Misconduct**

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

### **Restrictions During Expulsion**

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

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

### **Newly Enrolled Students**

The district shall decide on a case-by-case basis the placement of a student who is subject to an expulsion order from another district or an open-enrollment charter school upon enrollment in the district.

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

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

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

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

### **Emergency Expulsion Procedures**

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

### **DAEP Placement of Expelled Students**

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

### **Transition Services**

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

## Levels of Misconduct and Disciplinary Actions

### LEVEL I ACTS OF MISCONDUCT

Level I acts of misconduct include those student behaviors which interfere with the orderly educational process in the school and at school related functions. These offenses include, but are not limited to, such behaviors as the following:

- Any disruptive conduct
- Running and/or making excessive noise in the halls or buildings
- Refusal to participate in class activities
- Tardies
- Bringing unauthorized visitors to school
- Chewing gum in classes where prohibited
- Eating or drinking outside of designated areas
- Littering
- Loitering on school property
- Horse-playing or "rough housing"
- Possession of active electronic communications devices in unauthorized locations
- Throwing objects (including food)
- Failure to cooperate with teachers and school officials
- Violating classroom or safety rules
- Dress Code Violations (see Dress Code Standards)
- Engaging in any other conduct that disrupts the school environment or educational process

### LEVEL I DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

Disciplinary actions consistent with Level I infractions include, but are not limited to:

- Administrator and/or Teacher and/or Parent/Student conference
- Counselor and/or Teacher and/or Parent/Student conference
- In-class disciplinary action
- Confiscation of prohibited items
- Use of individual carrels
- Temporary, short-term removal from peers (for regaining self-control)
- Behavioral contracts and intervention plans
- Cooling off or "time out" period
- Detention
- In-school suspension (ISS)
- Restitution/restoration
- Oral reports relating to infraction
- Special assignments, task assignments, or other duties
- Loss or restriction of privileges (classroom, co-curricular, extracurricular)

## LEVEL II ACTS OF MISCONDUCT

Level II acts of misconduct include those student behaviors that interfere with the orderly educational process in the school and at school related functions. These offenses include, but are not limited to, such behaviors as the following:

- **Any repeated or chronic misbehavior as defined in Level I**
- Leaving the classroom, designated area, or school grounds without permission
- Skipping class/truancy
- Cheating, plagiarism and/or academic dishonesty (when on a state test it becomes a Level III)
- Failure to attend a detention assignment
- Improper use of and/or improper parking of vehicles (including no sticker)
- Signing parent's or staff member's name(s) on school documents and/or any materials related to school business (fraud; forgery)
- Exhibiting any unacceptable physical contact which could result in injury (i.e. fighting, scuffling and/or inappropriate touching)
- Public display of affection ("tangible courtship")
- Failure to abide by rules and regulations regarding field trips
- Interfering or disrupting classroom proceedings
- Posting or distributing unauthorized communicative materials on school grounds
- Display of disrespect toward students or others (i.e. name calling, touching)
- Display of disrespect toward school personnel; insubordination
- Defacing school property or the property of others
- Use of profane, obscene, indecent, immoral or offensive language and/or gestures, without intent
- Being in restricted areas before, during and after school (i.e. playgrounds, gyms, parking lots, DAEP)
- Selling or soliciting for sale any merchandise on the school campus without the authorization of the building principal or designee
- Inciting conflict between others without intent and/or consequences
- Violating the Internet Acceptable Use Policy and Procedures

## LEVEL II DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

All Level II infractions are subject to Level I Disciplinary actions listed above and additionally may be subject to, but are not limited to:

- In-school suspension (ISS)
- Detention
- Out of school suspension (3 day maximum)
- Referral to a legal authority
- Loss of parking privileges or having car towed at owner's expense
- Loss of computer privileges, as applicable

### LEVEL III ACTS OF MISCONDUCT

Level III acts of misconduct include those student behaviors which seriously disrupt the orderly educational process in the classroom and/or the school or which violate local and/or state laws. Consequences may include suspension or placement into a Disciplinary Alternative Educational Program. These offenses include, but are not limited to:

- **Any persistent or severe disciplinary infractions as defined in Levels I & II**
- Any behavior listed by state law or district policy as "discretionary or
- **Cheating, plagiarism and/or academic dishonesty on a state test**
- Vandalism, defined as the willful or malicious destruction of school property or the property of others
- Possession of fireworks of any kind, smoke or stink bombs, or any pyrotechnic device
- Possession of ammunition, mace, or pepper spray
- Disrupting the educational environment in ISS
- Engaging in or persisting in serious acts of disobedience
- Engaging in disorderly behavior which may prove detrimental to the school, harmful to health and safety, and inhibits the rights of others (includes bullying behavior)
- Display of disrespect toward students or others (includes bullying behaviors)
- Bullying
- Intimidation by name calling, using ethnic or racial slurs, or making derogatory statements that could disrupt the school program or incite violence.
- Engaging in threatening behavior toward another student or District employee, on or off school property.
- Engaging in harassment directed toward another student or a District employee.
- Fighting, which is defined as a physical conflict between two or more individuals which results in disorder and/or injuries
- Assault (no bodily injury)
- Using matches or a lighter
- Gambling, which is defined as participating in or being a party to games of chance for money and/or other things of value
- Stealing or non-felony theft
- Altering school records or documents
- Repeated failures to comply with the reasonable requests of any school staff member; defiance
- Smoking or possession of tobacco products, electronic cigarettes, or vape cigarettes
- Inciting conflict between others with intent and/or consequences
- Use of profane, obscene, indecent, immoral or offensive language and/or gestures with intent, including "mooning"
- Engaging in activities related to gangs, fraternities, sororities, or secret societies (for ex., producing graffiti or "throwing" signs)
- Possessing and/or self-administering medications prescribed (including over the counter drugs) for him/herself or others (non-felony possessions) \*CBD oil products fall under the over the counter drug category unless it is determined that the product contains THC.
- Possessing, selling, or distributing "look-alike" drugs or items attempted to be passed off as drugs and contraband
- Possessing, using, giving, or selling paraphernalia related to any prohibited substance including abusable volatile chemicals
- Appearing to be under the influence (see Code of Conduct glossary) of marijuana (including THC), narcotics, dangerous or prohibited drugs, inhalants, alcohol, or an abusable volatile chemical **(DISTRICT MANDATED DAEP PLACEMENT)**
- Display of nude or obscene pictures or being in possession of adult literature, magazines, or electronic materials. This includes text messages.
- Release or threatening to release intimate visual material of a minor or of a student over the age of 18 without consent. **(DISTRICT MANDATED DAEP PLACEMENT)**

- Hazing (see glossary)
- Creation of “hit lists”
- Engaging in conduct that constitutes sexual harassment - defined as intimidating conduct of a sexual nature which may include such things as using offensive names for body parts, teasing with body parts, requesting or demanding sexual favors, name calling of a sexual nature, unwanted physical contact of a sexual nature
- Possessing or selling air guns or BB guns
- Possession, use, and/or concealment of a knife on the individual or in the belongings of the individual (not defined as "location-restricted knife"; from 3" – under 5 ½") (for "location-restricted knife," see Level IV)
- Possession, use, and/or concealment of a "look-alike" weapon. (A weapon is any instrument that may produce bodily harm or death; see glossary)
- Interference with the educational process and/or the operation of school or interference with any school personnel’s responsibilities and duties
- Interference or tampering with electronic data and online coursework, including grades, assignments, etc.
- Serious or persistent violations of the Internet Acceptable Use Policy or Procedures

### **LEVEL III DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS**

All Level III infractions are subject to Level I and/or II Disciplinary actions listed above and additionally may be subject to, but are not limited to:

- In-school suspension (ISS)
- Referral to legal authorities/law enforcement agencies or referral to an officer of the court
- Removal to Disciplinary Alternative Education Program (DAEP)
- Expulsion to Coastal Alternative Program (CAP) (only specific offenses, as allowable by law)
- Out of School Suspension



## LEVEL IV ACTS OF MISCONDUCT

Level IV acts of misconduct include those student behaviors which seriously disrupt or completely impair the orderly educational process in the classroom and/or the school or which violate local and/or state laws. Consequences may include suspension and/or DAEP or discretionary/mandatory expulsion. Allowable discretionary and mandatory removals to DAEP and expulsions are specified in Chapter 37 of the Texas Education Code. These offenses include **but are not limited to:**

- Any behavior listed by state law or district policy as "discretionary or mandatory removal" to a DAEP
- Any behavior listed by state law as "discretionary expulsion" to the Coastal Alternative Program (CAP)
- Any behavior listed by state law as "mandatory expulsion" to the Galveston County JJAEP
- Any felony violation charge as defined by the Texas Penal Code, including: aggravated assault, sexual assault, or aggravated sexual assault, arson, murder, capital murder, or criminal attempt to commit murder, indecency with a child, aggravated kidnapping, retaliation against a school employee on or off school premises, committing a serious act while under the influence of alcohol.
- Engaging in conduct relating to a false alarm or report (including a bomb threat) or a terroristic threat involving a public school. **1<sup>st</sup> offense DISTRICT MANDATED DAEP PLACEMENT or DISCRETIONARY CAP Placement / 2<sup>nd</sup> offense CAP PLACEMENT**
- Aggravated robbery on campus or felony theft
- Felony criminal mischief
- Felony controlled substance or alcohol violation
- Possessed, sold, used, or under the influence of marijuana, alcohol, controlled substance, or volatile chemical. **1<sup>st</sup> offense DISTRICT MANDATED DAEP PLACEMENT or DISCRETIONARY CAP Placement / 2<sup>nd</sup> offense CAP PLACEMENT**
- Sexual Assault or aggravated sexual assault under Penal Code 22.011
- School related gang violence
- Any conduct which contains the elements of the offense of public lewdness, including indecent exposure
- Assault (ACBI under penal code 22.01)
- Aggravated assault under penal code 22.02
- Assault on school district personnel or volunteers
- Aggravated assault on school district personnel or volunteers
- Retaliation against a school employee
- Unlawful carrying of a location-restricted knife under penal code 46.02
- Serious misbehavior while placed in a DAEP

## LEVEL IV DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

All Level IV infractions are subject to Level I, II and/or III Disciplinary actions listed above and additionally may be subject to, but are not limited to:

*Out of School Suspension*

*Discretionary DAEP Placement*

*Mandatory DAEP Placement*

*Discretionary Expulsion*

*Mandatory Expulsion*

## Glossary

**Abuse** is improper or excessive use.

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

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

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

**Arson** is defined in part by Penal Code 28.02 as:

1. A crime that involves 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. A crime that involves recklessly starting a fire or causing an explosion while manufacturing or attempting to manufacture a controlled substance and the fire or explosion damages any building, habitation, or vehicle; or
3. A crime that involves intentionally starting a fire or causing an explosion and in so doing:
  - a) Recklessly damages or destroys a building belonging to another, or
  - b) Recklessly causes another person to suffer bodily injury or death.

**Assault** is defined in part by Penal Code §22.01(a)(1) as intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly causing bodily injury to another; §22.01(a)(2) as intentionally or knowingly threatening another with imminent bodily injury; and §22.01(a)(3) as intentionally or knowingly causing physical contact with another that can reasonably be regarded as offensive or provocative.

**Breach of computer security** includes knowingly accessing a computer, computer network, or computer system without the effective consent of the owner as defined in Penal Code 33.02, if the conduct involves accessing a computer, computer network, or computer system owned by

or operated on behalf of a school district; and the student knowingly alters, damages, or deletes school district property or information; or commits a breach of any other computer, computer network, or computer system.

**Bullying** is defined in Section 37.0832 of the Education Code 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 of 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. A blackjack, nightstick, mace, and tomahawk are in the same category.

**Controlled substance** means a substance, including a drug, an adulterant, and a diluent, 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.

**Cyberbullying** 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 recklessly engages in conduct that places another in imminent danger of serious bodily injury, such as knowingly discharging a firearm in the direction of an individual, habitation, building, or vehicle.

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

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

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

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

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

**Explosive weapon** is defined by Penal Code 46.01 as any explosive or incendiary bomb, grenade, rocket, or mine and its delivery mechanism that is designed, made, or adapted for the

purpose of inflicting serious bodily injury, death, or substantial property damage, or for the principal purpose of causing such a loud report as to cause undue public alarm or terror.

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

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

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

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

Such term does not include an antique firearm.

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

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

**Harassment** includes:

1. Conduct that meets the definition established in district policies DIA(LOCAL) and FFH(LOCAL);
2. Conduct that threatens to cause harm or bodily injury to another person, including a district student, employee, board member, or volunteer; is sexually intimidating; causes physical damage to the property of another student; subjects another student to physical confinement or restraint; or maliciously and substantially harms another student's physical or emotional health or safety, as defined in 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;
  - 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.

**Hit list** is defined in Section 37.001(b)(3) of the Education Code as a list of people targeted to be harmed, using a firearm, a knife, or any other object to be used with intent to cause bodily harm.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Possession** means to have an item on one's person or in one's personal property, including, but not limited to, clothing, purse, or backpack; 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; telecommunications or electronic devices; or 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:
  - a) An explosive weapon;
  - b) A machine gun;
  - c) A short-barrel firearm;
2. Armor-piercing ammunition;

3. A chemical dispensing device;
4. A zip gun;
5. A tire deflation device;
6. An improvised explosive device; or

**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, 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 Section 37.121(d) of the Education Code 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, including the notice of a student's arrest under Article 15.27 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

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

**Serious misbehavior means:**

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

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

- Behavior that is grounds for permissible expulsion or mandatory DAEP placement.
- Behavior identified by the district as grounds for discretionary DAEP placement.
- Actions or demonstrations that substantially disrupt or materially interfere with school activities.
- Refusal to attempt or complete school work as assigned.



- Insubordination.
- Profanity, vulgar language, or obscene gestures.
- Leaving school grounds without permission.
- Falsification of records, passes, or other school-related documents.
- Refusal to accept discipline assigned by the teacher or principal.

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

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

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

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

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

- Murder, manslaughter, or homicide under Sections 19.02, – .05;
- Kidnapping under Section 20.03;
- Trafficking of persons under Section 20A.02;
- Smuggling or continuous smuggling of persons under Sections 20.05 – .06;
- Assault under Section 22.01;
- Aggravated assault under Section 22.02;
- Sexual assault under Section 22.011;
- Aggravated sexual assault under Section 22.021;
- Unlawful restraint under Section 20.02;
- Continuous sexual abuse of a young child or disabled individual under Section 21.02;

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

[See FOC(EXHIBIT).]

**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 influence” need not be legally intoxicated to trigger disciplinary action.

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

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

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