

Schertz-Cibolo-Universal City ISD

Student Code of Conduct

2021-2022

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

*Student Code of Conduct and Student Handbook
Electronic Distribution*

Dear Student and Parent:

As required by state law, the board of trustees has officially adopted the Student Code of Conduct in order to promote a safe and orderly learning environment for every student.

We urge you to read this publication thoroughly and to discuss it with your family. If you have any questions about the required conduct and consequences for misconduct, we encourage you to ask for an explanation from the student's teacher or appropriate campus administrator.

The student and parent should each sign this page in the space provided below, and then return the page to the student's school.

Thank you,

Dr. Clark Ealy, Superintendent of Schools

We acknowledge that we have been offered the option to receive a paper copy of the SCUCISD Student Code of Conduct and Student Handbook for the 2021-22 school year or to electronically access them on the district's website at <https://www.scuc.txed.net/Page/31995> We understand that students will be held accountable for their behavior and will be subject to the disciplinary consequences outlined in the Code.

Acknowledgment of Electronic Distribution of Student Code of Conduct

My child and I have been offered the option to receive a paper copy of or to electronically access at <https://www.scuc.txed.net/> the Schertz-Cibolo-Universal City ISD Student Code of Conduct and the Student Handbook for the 2021–22 school year.

I accept responsibility for accessing the Student Code of Conduct and the Student Handbook by visiting the web address listed above.

I understand that if I wish to receive a paper copy of the Student Code of Conduct and the Student Handbook, I must request a copy from the school’s main office.

I understand that the Student Code of Conduct contains information that my child and I may need during the school year. I also understand that all students will be held accountable for their behavior and will be subject to the disciplinary consequences outlined in the Student Code of Conduct. If I have any questions regarding this Code of Conduct or Handbook, I will direct those questions to the campus principal.

Student’s name (print): _____

Student’s signature: _____

Parent’s name (print): _____

Parent’s signature: _____

Date: _____

School: _____

Grade level: _____

Please sign this page, remove it, and return it to the student’s school. Thank you.

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Student Code of Conduct

Accessibility

If you have difficulty accessing the information in this document because of disability, please contact the Office of the Director of Special Education, 210-619-6444.

Purpose

The Student Code of Conduct (“Code”) 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), placement in a juvenile justice alternative education program (JJAEP), or expulsion from school.

This Student Code of Conduct has been adopted by the SCUC 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 available at the office of the campus behavior coordinator and posted on the [district’s website](#). Parents shall be notified of any conduct violation that may result in a student being suspended, placed in a DAEP or JJAEP, expelled, or taken into custody by a law enforcement officer under Chapter 37 of the Education Code.

Because the 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:

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

Campus Behavior Coordinator

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

<https://www.scuc.txed.net/Page/33183>

Threat Assessment and Safe and Supportive School Team

The campus behavior coordinator 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, 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

The principal or campus behavior coordinator and other school administrators as appropriate shall report crimes as required by law and shall contact 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 school resource officers (SROs). In accordance with law, the board has coordinated with the campus behavior coordinator and other district employees to ensure appropriate law enforcement duties are assigned to security staff. The law enforcement duties of school resource officers 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 and policies including, but not limited to, [FMH\(LOCAL\)](#) and [EIC\(LOCAL\)](#).

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 of Conduct 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 of Conduct resulting in an out-of-school suspension, removal to a DAEP, or expulsion during the semester immediately preceding graduation.

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

Unauthorized Persons

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

- The person poses a substantial risk of harm to any person; or
- 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 [FNG\(LOCAL\)](#) or [GF\(LOCAL\)](#), as appropriate.

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

Enforcement of Student Code of Conduct

In general, discipline will be designed to correct misconduct and to encourage all students to adhere to their responsibilities as citizens of the school community and, when necessary, to protect students, school employees or property, and to maintain essential order and discipline. Disciplinary action will draw on the professional judgment of teachers and administrators and on a range of discipline management techniques. Disciplinary action will be correlated to the seriousness of the offense, the student’s age and grade level, the frequency of misconduct, the student’s attitude, the effect of the misconduct on the school environment, whether the student acted in self-defense, intent or lack of intent at the time the student engaged in the conduct, a student’s disciplinary history, or a disability that substantially impairs the student’s capacity to appreciate the wrongfulness of the student’s conduct. Because of these factors, discipline for a particular offense (unless otherwise specified by law) may bring into consideration varying techniques and responses.

A student who violates campus or classroom rules that are not Student Code of Conduct violations may be disciplined by one or more of the discipline management techniques listed as consequences for general misconduct violations. For these violations, a teacher is not required to make a Student Code of Conduct violation report, but the principal or principal’s designee shall notify the parents as soon as feasible using the Disciplinary Referral Form.

Standards for Student Conduct

Each student is expected to:

- A. Consciously participate in class and be supportive of an effective learning and teaching environment.
- B. Demonstrate courtesy and respect for others.
- C. Behave in a responsible manner, always exercising self-discipline.
- D. Attend all classes, regularly and on time.
- E. Prepare for each class; take appropriate materials and assignments to class.
- F. Being well groomed and dressing appropriately as defined by the District and/or campus dress code.
- G. Obey all campus and classroom rules.
- H. Respect the rights and privileges of students, teachers, and other district staff and volunteers.
- I. Respect the property of others, including district property and facilities.
- J. Cooperating with and assisting the school staff in maintaining safety, order, and discipline.

- K. Adhering to the requirements of the Student Code of Conduct and exhibiting the district's Core Values and Traits of a Graduate.

General Conduct Violations

The categories of conduct below are prohibited at school, in vehicles owned or operated by the district, and during all school-related activities, but the list does not include the most severe offenses. In the subsequent sections on Out-of-School Suspension, DAEP Placement, Placement and/or Expulsion for Certain Offenses, and Expulsion, severe 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.

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.

Disregard for Authority

Students shall not:

- A. Fail to comply with directives given by school personnel (insubordination).
- B. Leave school grounds or school-sponsored events without permission of the appropriate school official.
- C. Disobey rules for conduct in district vehicles.
- D. Loiter in the parking lot or on school grounds.
- E. Refuse to accept discipline management techniques assigned by a teacher or principal.
- F. Be truant.

Mistreatment of Others

Students shall not:

- A. Use profanity or vulgar language or make obscene gestures.
- B. Engage in physically aggressive behavior including but not limited to pushing, scuffling or fighting. (For assault, see DAEP Placement and Expulsion.)
- C. Threaten a district student, employee, or volunteer, including off school property, if the conduct causes a substantial disruption to the educational environment.
- D. Engage in bullying, harassment, or making hit lists. SCUCISD Board Policy [FFI\(LOCAL\)](#); (See glossary for all three terms.)
- E. 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.
- F. 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. SCUCISD Board Policy [FFH\(LOCAL\)](#)
- G. Engage in conduct that constitutes dating violence. (See glossary.)
- H. Engage in inappropriate or indecent exposure of private body parts.
- I. Participate in hazing. (See glossary.)
- J. Engage in name-calling, use racial slurs or make derogatory statements that school officials have reason to believe will substantially disrupt the school program or incite violence.
- K. Cause an individual to act through the use of or threat of force (coercion).

- L. Commit extortion or blackmail (obtaining money or an object of value from an unwilling person).
- M. Make written or verbal offensive remarks.
- N. Engage in inappropriate verbal, physical, or sexual conduct directed toward another person, including a district student, employee, or volunteer.
- O. 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:

- A. Damage or vandalize property owned by others. (For felony criminal mischief, see DAEP Placement or Expulsion.)
- B. Deface or damage school property—including textbooks, technology and electronic resources, lockers, furniture, and other equipment—with graffiti or by other means.
- C. Steal from students, staff, or the school.
- D. 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 Expulsion.)
- E. Enter, without authorization, district facilities that are not open for operations.

Possession of Prohibited Items

Students shall not possess or use:

- A. Fireworks of any kind, smoke or stink bombs, or any other pyrotechnic device;
- B. A razor, box cutter, chain, or any other object used in a way that threatens or inflicts bodily injury to another person;
- C. A “look-alike” weapon;
- D. An air gun or BB gun;
- E. Ammunition;
- F. A hand instrument designed to cut or stab another by being thrown;
- G. A firearm silencer or suppressor;
- H. Knuckles;
- I. *A location restricted knife;
- J. A club;
- K. *A firearm
- L. A stun gun, or taser;
- M. A pocketknife or any other small knife;
- N. Mace or pepper spray;
- O. Pornographic material;
- P. Tobacco products; cigarettes; e-cigarettes; and any component, part, or accessory for an e-cigarette device, vaping device and other smokeless products;
- Q. Matches or a lighter;
- R. A laser pointer for other than an approved use;
- S. 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 Expulsion.); or
- T. Synthetic, herbal, or natural substances that may cause impairment.

*For weapons and firearms, see DAEP Placement and Expulsion. 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 or the Responsible Use Policy for Technology.

Illegal, Prescription, and Over-the-Counter Drugs

Students shall not:

- A. Possess, use, give, or sell alcohol or an illegal drug. (Also see DAEP Placement and Expulsion for mandatory and permissive consequences under state law.)
- B. Possess or sell seeds or pieces of marijuana in less than a usable amount.
- C. Possess, sell, give, consume or ingest marijuana or any prohibited substance in any form, including mixed with food or drink.
- D. Possess, use, give, or sell paraphernalia related to any prohibited substance. (See glossary for “paraphernalia.”)
- E. Possess, use, abuse, or sell look-alike drugs or attempt to pass items off as drugs or contraband.
- F. 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.”)
- G. Abuse over-the-counter drugs. (See glossary for “abuse.”)
- H. 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.”)
- I. Have or take prescription drugs or over-the-counter drugs at school other than as provided by district policy.
- J. Possess, give, sell or use any item or substance that is used to simulate the effects or use of any illegal substance.
- K. Possess, give, sell or use items or substances not suitable for human consumption that are used to simulate the effects of illegal drug use.
- L. Be under the influence of any intoxicating or mind-altering substance.

Misuse of Technology Resources and the Internet

Students shall not:

- A. Violate the Responsible Use Policy for Technology, the district’s policies, and rules regarding technology use, or any agreements signed by the student or the student’s parent regarding the use of specific technology resources.
- B. 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.
- C. 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.

- D. Use the internet or other electronic communications to threaten district students, employees, board members, or volunteers, including off school property if the conduct causes a substantial disruption to the educational environment.
- E. Send, post, 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.
- F. 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:

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

Miscellaneous Offenses

Students shall not:

- A. Violate dress and grooming standards as communicated in the Student Handbook.
- B. Engage in academic dishonesty, which includes cheating or copying the work of another student, plagiarism, and unauthorized communication between students. (See SCUCISD Grading Guidelines)
- C. Gamble.
- D. Falsify records, passes, or other school-related documents.
- E. Engage in actions or demonstrations that substantially disrupt or materially interfere with school activities.
- F. Engage in public displays of affection.
- G. Violate other communicated campus or classroom standards of conduct.
- H. Enter facilities designated for the opposite sex, or in facilities designed as "Faculty Only" or "Custodial Only" or other restricted areas.

Campus or classroom rules may be imposed, by the district, in addition to those found in the Code. These rules may be posted in classrooms or distributed to students and may or may not constitute violations subject to disciplinary action under the Code of Conduct.

Discipline Management Techniques

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

Students with Disabilities

The discipline of students with disabilities is subject to applicable state and federal law in addition to the 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, 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:

- A. Verbal correction, oral or written.
- B. Cooling-off time or a brief "time-out" period, in accordance with law.
- C. Phone calls to parents.
- D. Seating changes within the classroom or vehicles owned or operated by the district.
- E. Temporary confiscation of items that disrupt the educational process.
- F. Rewards or demerits.
- G. Behavioral contracts.
- H. Office or other assigned area referral.
- I. Counseling by teachers, school counselors, or administrative personnel.
- J. Parent-teacher conferences.
- K. Behavior coaching.
- L. Anger management classes.
- M. Mediation (victim-offender).
- N. Classroom circles.
- O. Family group conferencing.
- P. Parent-administrator conferences.

- Q. Grade reductions for academic dishonesty, copying, allowing others to copy work, and/or plagiarism.
- R. Schedule change/removal from course or class.
- S. Detention (either during the school day or outside the student school day). Transportation is the responsibility of the parent/guardian.
- T. Sending the student to the office or other assigned area, or to in-school suspension.
- U. Assignment of school duties, other than class tasks, such as cleaning or picking up litter, with parent permission.
- V. Withdrawal of privileges, such as participation in extracurricular activities, eligibility for seeking and holding honorary offices, or membership in school-sponsored clubs and organizations.
- W. Techniques or penalties identified in individual student organizations' extracurricular standards of behavior.
- X. Restriction or revocation of district transportation privileges.
- Y. School-assessed and school-administered probation.
- Z. In-school-suspension or out-of-school suspension, as specified in the Out-of-School Suspension section of this Code. Placement in a DAEP, as specified in the DAEP section of this Code.
- AA. Placement and/or expulsion in an alternative educational setting, as specified in the Placement and/or Expulsion for Certain Offenses section of this Code.
- BB. Expulsion, as specified in the Expulsion section of this Code.
- CC. Referral to an outside agency or legal authority for criminal prosecution in addition to disciplinary measures imposed by the district.
- DD. 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:

- A. Using techniques designed or likely to cause physical pain, other than corporal punishment as permitted by district policy. [See policy [FO\(LOCAL\)](#).]
- B. Using techniques designed or likely to cause physical pain by electric shock or any procedure involving pressure points or joint locks.
- C. Directed release of noxious, toxic, or unpleasant spray, mist, or substance near a student's face.
- D. Denying adequate sleep, air, food, water, shelter, bedding, physical comfort, supervision, or access to a restroom facility.
- E. 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.
- F. Employing a device, material, or object that immobilizes all four of a student's extremities, including prone or supine floor restraint.
- G. 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.
- H. Restricting the student's circulation.

- I. Securing the student to a stationary object while the student is standing or sitting.
- J. Inhibiting, reducing, or hindering the student's ability to communicate.
- K. Using chemical restraints.
- L. 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 by the use of physical barriers.
- M. 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 behavior coordinator, or other appropriate administrator shall notify a student's parent in a timely manner by phone or in person of any violation that may result in in-school or out-of-school suspension, placement in a DAEP, placement in a JJAEP, or expulsion. The campus behavior coordinator or other 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 campus behavior coordinator or other appropriate administrator shall send written notification by U.S. Mail or to a verified email account. If the campus behavior coordinator is not able to provide notice to the parent, the principal or designee shall provide the notice.

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

Appeals

Questions from parents regarding disciplinary measures should be addressed to the teacher, campus administration, or campus behavior coordinator, as appropriate. Appeals or complaints regarding the use of specific discipline management techniques should be addressed in accordance with policy [FNG\(LOCAL\)](#). A copy of the policy may be obtained from the principal's office, the campus behavior coordinator's office, or the central administration office or through *Policy on Line* at the following address: www.scuc.txed.net.

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

Removal from the School Bus

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

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 campus administration may restrict or revoke a student's transportation privileges, in accordance with law.

Removal from the Regular Educational Setting

Violation of classroom rules or general misconduct violations as outlined in the Student Code of Conduct will not necessarily result in the formal removal of the student from class or another placement, but may result in a routine referral to the principal or the principal's designee, or the use of any other discipline management technique.

If the student is referred to the principal or the principal's designee for disciplinary action, the principal or the principal's designee will make the decision on the appropriate disciplinary action. The principal or the principal's designee shall be sent a copy of the disciplinary referral by the teacher together with the disciplinary action taken, as soon as feasible after the student is sent to the principal or principal designee's office. A copy of the completed disciplinary referral form will be returned to the teacher, and parent notified for all consequences which change a student's placement, copy sent home with the student, and a copy placed in the student's disciplinary file.

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 campus behavior coordinator's office as a discipline management technique. The campus behavior coordinator or other appropriate 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:

- A. 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
- B. The behavior is so unruly, disruptive, or abusive that the teacher cannot teach, and the students in the classroom cannot learn.

Procedure for Removal

- A. Within three school days of the formal removal, the campus behavior coordinator or appropriate administrator shall schedule a conference with the student's parent, the student, the teacher who removed the student from class, and any other appropriate administrator.
- B. At the conference, the campus behavior coordinator or appropriate administrator shall inform the student of the alleged misconduct and the proposed consequences. The student shall have an opportunity to respond to the allegations.
- C. After the conference, the campus behavior coordinator or other appropriate administrator will notify the student and parents of the consequences of the Student Code of Conduct violation.
- D. When a student is removed from the regular classroom and a conference with parents or a hearing is pending, the principal or principal's designee may place a student in:
 - 1. Another appropriate classroom
 - 2. In-School Suspension.
 - 3. Out of school suspension
 - 4. DAEP.

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

Returning a Student to the Classroom

- A. 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, the student may not be returned to the teacher's class without the teacher's consent.
- B. 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.

In-School Suspension (ISS)

Disciplinary action resulting in ISS placement will be correlated to the seriousness of the offense, the student's age and grade level, the frequency of misconduct, the student's attitude or disability that substantially impairs the student's capacity to appreciate the wrongfulness of the student's conduct, and the effect of the misconduct on the school environment. In deciding whether to place a student in ISS, the District will take into consideration whether the student acted in self-defense, intent or lack of intent at the time the student engaged in the conduct, and the student's disciplinary history.

A student **may** be assigned to ISS if the student commits any of the following offenses on school property, or while attending a school-sponsored or school-related activity on or off school property. Depending upon the severity of the incident the student may receive more serious consequences such as Out of School Suspension, DAEP, or Expulsion.

- A. Academic dishonesty or copying the work of another or allowing others to copy work. The Grading Guidelines will apply for violations of academic dishonesty on major grades and may result in further consequences.
- B. Taking, displaying, or disseminating inappropriate or unauthorized pictures, photos, or drawings.
- C. Dress Code violations.
- D. Using profanity, vulgar language, or inappropriate obscene gestures, pictures, photos, or drawings.
- E. Physically aggressive behavior such as, but not limited to, pushing, scuffling, or fighting that is not defined as assault under Texas Penal Code 22.01(a)(1). Fighting may also result in charges being filed (The offense of assault under Texas Penal Code 22.01(a)(1) is addressed later in the Student Code of Conduct.).
- F. Stealing from students, staff, or the school.
- G. Damaging or vandalizing property owned by others. (Also, may be required to make restitution.) Depending upon the seriousness of the damage, the student may be expelled.
- H. Possession of fireworks, matches, stun guns, tasers or shocking devices (pens, lighters, etc.).
- I. Trespassing on school property, e.g. being on campus or in a school building at night, without a school official or when suspended, expelled or removed to another campus
- J. Hazing as defined by Board Policy [FNCC\(LEGAL\)](#) and the Education Code, Section 37.151.
- K. Name-calling, ethnic or racial slurs, or derogatory statements that school officials have reason to believe will substantially disrupt the school program or incite violence.
- L. Insubordination.
- M. Aggressive, disruptive action or group demonstration that school officials believe does or may substantially disrupt or materially interfere with the school program, school activities, or incites violence (This may also result in a citation.) Falsification of records, passes, or other school-related documents including, but not limited to, computer hacking, theft of, or misuse of software.
- N. Smoking, vaping, use of, or possession of tobacco products, including cigarettes, e-cigarettes and any component part or accessory for an e-cigarette or vaping device and other smokeless products.
- O. Possession of chemical stink/smoke bombs, pepper spray, or any pyrotechnic device.
- P. Repeated general misconduct violations. (The District defines “repeated” to be 2 or more infractions of the general misconduct violations. These may be different violations or repeated violations of the same offense.)
- Q. Gambling on school property.
- R. Truancy.
- S. Written or verbal offensive or threatening remarks.
- T. Bullying, harassment, or making hit lists, including off campus and online activity if it results in a substantial disruption of the educational environment.
- U. Violating technology Acceptable Use Policy.
- V. Attempting to access or circumvent passwords or other security-related information of the District, students, or employees or uploading or creating computer viruses, including off school property if the conduct causes a substantial disruption to the

educational environment.

- W. Attempting to alter, destroy, or disable district computer 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.
- X. Using the Internet or other electronic communications to threaten district students, employees, or volunteers, including off school property if the conduct causes a substantial disruption to the educational environment.
- Y. Sending or posting electronic messages or videos that promote violence that are abusive, obscene, sexually oriented, threatening, harassing, damaging to another's reputation, or illegal, including off school property if the conduct causes a substantial disruption to the educational environment or any school related activity.
- Z. Using e-mail or web sites at school to encourage illegal behavior or threaten school safety.
- AA. Recording, sending or posting electronic messages or videos of verbal confrontations or physical altercations.
- BB. Recording, sending, exchanging, possessing, or posting electronic messages, images, audios, or videos of any individual without the individual's express consent or which invades the privacy of others.

Process for Assigning ISS

- A. Inform student of accusations and provide an opportunity for student to present his/her side.
- B. Investigate as necessary, see process page 15.
- C. Decide upon the innocence or guilt of the student.
- D. If guilty, decide on the number of days to be assigned to ISS and inform student verbally and in writing.
- E. Written notice sent home to parent with student.
- F. Telephone call to parent.
- G. Student's teachers are notified so that the lessons may be provided to ISS.
- H. Student brings all materials to ISS.

Length of Assignment to ISS

The minimum length of assignment to ISS shall be one day and the maximum ten days per offense, unless the student commits a violation of the ISS rules or the Student Code of Conduct while assigned to ISS. This could result in the assignment of additional days to a maximum of ten days, suspension from school, or assignment to a disciplinary alternative education program, depending upon the seriousness of the offense.

Sanctions

A student who has been assigned to ISS may not participate in nor attend school-sponsored or school-related activities or extracurricular activities during the period of assignment.

Continuation of Coursework

If a student is removed from the regular classroom and placed in in-school suspension or another setting other than a Disciplinary Alternative Education Program, the District shall offer the student the opportunity to complete, before the beginning of the next school year, each course in

which the student was enrolled at the time of the removal. Such an opportunity may be provided by any method available, including a correspondence course, distance learning, or summer school.

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 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 behavior coordinator or 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 campus behavior coordinator 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 behavior coordinator shall take into consideration:

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

- C. The student's disciplinary history, or
- D. A disability that substantially impairs the student's capacity to appreciate the wrongfulness of the student's conduct,
- E. A student's status in the conservatorship of the Department of Family and Protective Services (foster care), or
- F. A student's status as homeless.

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

Length of Suspension

State law allows a student to be suspended for up to three (3) school days per offense, with no limit on the number of times a student may be suspended in a semester or school year. The principal or principal's designee shall set the length of the suspension from school. When a student is suspended, the student is expected to be under the supervision of the parent, guardian or other responsible adult.

Sanctions

A student who has been suspended may not participate in or attend school-sponsored or school-related extracurricular and co-curricular activities during the period of suspension. Suspension from school is considered an excused absence. Students are to request makeup work when they return to school and will receive full credit for work missed if the work is made up in accordance with campus and classroom rules.

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.

Disciplinary Alternative Education Program (DAEP) Placement

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

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

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

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

- A. Self-defense (see glossary),
- B. Intent or lack of intent at the time the student engaged in the conduct,
- C. The student's disciplinary history, or
- D. A disability that substantially impairs the student's capacity to appreciate the wrongfulness of the student's conduct.
- E. A student's status in the conservatorship of the Department of Family and Protective Services (foster care), or
- F. A student's status as homeless.
- G. Students who are expelled must serve their entire placement which may include a combination of DAEP and/or JJAEP.

Discretionary Placement: Misconduct That May Result in DAEP Placement

A student **may** be placed in DAEP for behaviors prohibited in the General Conduct Violations section of this Code.

Misconduct Identified in State Law

In accordance with state law, a student may be placed in a DAEP if the student commits any of the following offenses on school property or while attending a school-sponsored or school-related activity on or off school property.

- A. Engaging in bullying that encourages a student to commit or attempt to commit suicide.
- B. Inciting violence against a student through group bullying.
- C. 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.
- D. 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.)
- E. Engaging in conduct that constitutes criminal mischief that is not punishable as a felony.
- F. Involvement in criminal street gang activity. (See glossary.)
- G. Criminal mischief, not punishable as a felony.
- H. Assault (no bodily injury) with threat of imminent bodily injury.
- I. Assault by offensive or provocative physical contact.
- J. Throwing objects that can cause bodily injury or property damage.
- K. Committing extortion, coercion, or blackmail (obtaining money or another object of value from an unwilling person), or forcing an individual to act through the use of force or threat of force.
- L. Committing or assisting in a robbery or theft that does not constitute a felony according to the Texas Penal Code. (Felony robbery or theft offenses are addressed later in the Student Code of Conduct).
- M. Engaging in sexual contact.
- N. 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, and the dissemination of sexually oriented materials.

- O. Possessing or selling look-alike drugs or weapons, stun guns, or items attempted to be passed off as drugs, weapons or contraband.
- P. Abusing the student's own prescription drug, giving a prescription drug to another student, or possessing or being under the influence of another person's prescription drug on school property or at a school related event.
- Q. Having or taking prescription drugs or over-the-counter drugs at school other than as provided by district policy.
- R. Possessing drug paraphernalia.
- S. Possessing, giving, selling, or using any item or substance that is used to simulate the effects or use of any illegal substance.
- T. Possessing, giving, selling, or using items or substances not suitable for human consumption that are used to simulate the effects of illegal drug use.
- U. Being under the influence of any intoxicating or mind-altering substance.
- V. Repeated misbehavior of a student, after being placed in ISS, OSS and continues to violate the Student Code of Conduct.
- W. Possessing, distributing, or downloading pornographic materials.
- X. "Sexting" or sending via computer or telecommunication device nude or sexually graphic or suggestive images of oneself or another student if the conduct is not punishable as a felony.
- Y. Kidnapping which is not aggravated kidnapping (for aggravated kidnapping, see Expulsions).
- Z. Being involved in gang activity, including participating as a member or pledge, or soliciting another person to become a pledge or member of a gang: A gang is defined as "any group of two (2) or more persons whose purposes include the commission of illegal acts." No student on or about school property or at any school activity shall wear, possess, use, distribute, display or sell any clothing, jewelry, emblem, badge, symbol, sign or other things which are evidence of membership or affiliation in any gang; shall commit any act or omission in furtherance of the interests of any gang or gang activity, including but not limited to, soliciting others for membership in any gangs; requesting any person to pay protection or otherwise intimidating or threatening any person; inciting other students to set with physical violence upon any other person.
- AA. Being involved in a public-school fraternity, sorority, or secret society, including participating as a member or pledge, or soliciting another person to become a pledge or member of a public-school fraternity, sorority, or secret society.
- BB. Possessing of any razor or knife that does not meet the definition of location-restricted knife.
- CC. Lighting or possession of fireworks or other objects.
- DD. Repeated violations of possession, smoking, vaping, or use of tobacco, including electronic cigarettes, vaping devices and other smokeless products ("Repeated" meaning multiple violations).
- EE. Repeated violations of physically aggressive behavior such as, but not limited to, pushing, scuffling, or fighting which is not defined as assault under Texas Penal Code 22.01(a)(1) ("Repeated" meaning multiple violations).
- FF. Using chemical stink/smoke bombs, pepper spray, or other pyrotechnic devices.

- GG. Possessing ammunition.
- HH. Constituting threat to the safety of the student body, staff or campus in general.
- II. Bullying, harassment, or making hit lists, including off campus and online activity if it results in a substantial disruption of the educational environment.
- JJ. Breach of computer security as defined by Texas Penal Code §33.02.
- KK. Disruption of a public performance or athletic event which includes but not limited to running onto the field, stage, or court during the event.
- LL. Unauthorized entry into a district facility which has been closed for the day, weekend, holiday, or summer.

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 involving injury to a person 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 behavior coordinator or other appropriate administrator **may**, but is not required to, place a student in a DAEP for off-campus conduct for which DAEP placement is required by state law if the administrator does not have knowledge of the conduct before the first anniversary of the date the conduct occurred.

Mandatory Placement: Misconduct That Requires DAEP Placement

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

- A. Engages in conduct relating to a false alarm or report (including a bomb threat) or a terroristic threat involving a public school. (See glossary.)
- B. Commits the following offenses on school property or within 300 feet of school property as measured from any point on the school’s real property boundary line, or while attending a school-sponsored or school-related activity on or off school property:
 1. Engages in conduct punishable as a felony.
 2. Commits an assault (see glossary) under Texas Penal Code 22.01(a)(1).
 3. Sells, gives, or delivers to another person, or possesses, uses, or is under the influence of marijuana, 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. (School-related felony drug offenses are addressed in the Expulsion section.) (See glossary for “under the influence.”)
 4. 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, if the conduct is not punishable as a felony offense. (School-related felony alcohol offenses are addressed in the Expulsion section.)
 5. Behaves in a manner that contains the elements of an offense relating to the use of volatile chemicals.
 6. Behaves in a manner that contains the elements of the offense of public lewdness or indecent exposure.

- C. 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).
- D. Engages in expellable conduct and is between six and nine years of age.
- E. Commits a federal firearms violation and is younger than six years of age.
- F. 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 the Expulsion section of this Code.)
- G. 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:

- A. If a 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
- B. If 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, the offending student shall be transferred to another campus in the district.

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. In addition, conditions of probation or other court-imposed restrictions may require alternative placement.

Process

The Board delegates to the principal, or the principal's designee, the authority to remove a student to a DAEP. The duration of a student's placement in a DAEP will be determined by the principal, as outlined in this code.

Conference

When a student is removed from class for a DAEP offense, the campus behavior coordinator or appropriate 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 campus behavior coordinator or appropriate 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.

Until a conference can be held, the campus behavior coordinator or other appropriate administrator may place a student in:

- A. Another appropriate classroom;
- B. In-School Suspension; and/or
- C. Out-of-School Suspension for a maximum of three (3) days.

Consideration of Mitigating Factors

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

- A. Self-defense (see glossary),
- B. Intent or lack of intent at the time the student engaged in the conduct,
- C. The student's disciplinary history,
- D. A disability that substantially impairs the student's capacity to appreciate the wrongfulness of the student's conduct,
- E. A student's status in the conservatorship of the Department of Family and Protective Services (foster care), or
- F. A student's status as homeless.

Placement Order

After the conference, if the student is placed in the DAEP, the campus behavior coordinator shall write a placement order. A copy of the DAEP placement order shall be sent to the student and the student's parent.

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

If the period of placement is inconsistent with the guidelines in this Code regarding length of placement, the order must give notice of the inconsistency.

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 behavior coordinator shall determine the duration of a student's placement in a DAEP.

The duration of a student's placement shall be determined on a case-by-case basis. DAEP placement shall be 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.

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.

Students-Age Six through Grade Six

The length of the assignment to a DAEP for a student age six through grade six will be determined by the principal based upon the seriousness of the offense, the disciplinary record of the student, the student's age, the student's attitude whether the student acted in self-defense, and the impact of the offense on the school environment. Below are the guidelines for length of assignment:

- Minimum 10 days

Students in Grades Seven through Twelve

Assignments to a DAEP will vary depending upon the seriousness of the offense, the disciplinary record of the student, and/or the age of the student, the attitude of the student, whether the student acted in self-defense, and the impact of the offense on the school environment. The principal, in making the assignment, shall specify the length of the assignment. Below are the guidelines for length of an assignment:

- Minimum 45 days

The limitations on the length of DAEP placement do not apply to a placement decision made based on certain serious offenses in accordance with Texas Education Code Section 37.0081.

The duration of a student's placement shall be determined on a case-by-case basis. DAEP placement shall be correlated to 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.

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 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.

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 school year to complete the assigned term.

For placement in a DAEP to extend beyond the end of the school year, the campus behavior coordinator or the Board's Designee must determine that:

- A. The student's presence in the regular classroom or campus presents a danger of physical harm to the students or others; or,
- B. The student has engaged in serious or persistent misbehavior that violates the Student Code of Conduct.

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. Extend placement is in the best interest of the student.

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.

Appeals

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

Student or parent appeals regarding a student's placement in a DAEP should be addressed in accordance with policy [FNG\(LOCAL\)](#). A copy of this policy may be obtained from the principal's office, the campus behavior coordinator's office, the central administration office, or through *Policy On Line* at www.scuc.txed.net.

Appeals shall begin at Level One with the campus principal.

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

Restrictions During Placement

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

The district shall provide transportation to students in a 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.

Placement Review

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

Additional Misconduct

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

Notice of Criminal Proceedings

The office of the prosecuting attorney shall notify the district whether a student was placed in a DAEP for certain offenses including any felony, unlawful restraint, indecent exposure, assault, deadly conduct, terroristic threats, organized crime, certain drug offenses, or possession of a weapon, and:

- A. 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 (see glossary) will be initiated; or
- B. 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 campus behavior coordinator or other appropriate administrator may complete the proceedings and issue a placement order. If the student then re-enrolls in the district during the same or a subsequent school year, the district may enforce the order at that time, less any period of the placement that has been served by the student during enrollment in another district. If the campus behavior coordinator or the board fails to issue a placement order after the student withdraws, the next district in which the student enrolls may complete the proceedings and issue a placement order.

Newly Enrolled Students

If a student enrolling in SCUCISD has been placed in a DAEP by another Texas school district, a Texas open-enrollment charter school, or an out-of-state school district, SCUCISD may continue the placement if the prior school provides SCUCISD with a copy of the placement order.

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 an out-of-state district ordered placement for a period that exceeds one year, SCUCISD, by state law, shall reduce the period of placement so that the aggregate period of removal does not exceed one year. After a review, however, the District determines that the student is a threat to the safety of other students or to District employees or extended placement is in the best interest of the student.

Continuation of Course Work

The District is required to provide, in its DAEP, courses necessary to fulfill a student's high school graduation requirements. The District shall offer a student removed to a disciplinary alternative education program an opportunity to complete coursework necessary to fulfill the student's graduation requirements through any method available, including a correspondence course, distance learning, or summer school, free of charge.

Students enrolled in elective courses and Honors/AP/IB courses will have those courses serviced through work assigned from their home campus teacher while enrolled in DAEP. The home campus teacher will be responsible for packaging assignments, projects, exams, etc., for a student assigned to DAEP and send it to DAEP. Staff at DAEP will monitor the work, projects, exam, etc., and return the work product to the home campus for their evaluation and assignment of grade.

Students enrolled in Dual Credit courses shall be withdrawn from the Dual Credit course and enrolled in an equivalent high school course upon assignment to DAEP. If the Dual Credit course is taught online by a college professor and facilitated by high school personnel, the student may be allowed to remain in the Dual Credit course.

Emergency Placement Procedure

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

Transition Services

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

Placement and/or Expulsion for Certain Offenses

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

Registered Sex Offenders

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

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

If the student is not under any form of court supervision, the placement may be in DAEP 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:

- A. Threatens the safety of other students or teachers,
- B. Will be detrimental to the educational process, or
- C. Is not in the best interests of the district's students.

Review Committee

At the end of the first semester of a student's placement in an alternative educational setting and before the beginning of each school year for which the student remains in an alternative placement, the district shall convene a committee, in accordance with state law, to review the student's placement. The committee shall recommend whether the student should return to the

regular classroom or remain in the placement. Absent a special finding, the board or its designee must follow the committee's recommendation.

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

Newly Enrolled 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 and placed in either DAEP or JJAEP if the board or campus behavior coordinator makes certain findings and the following circumstances exist in relation to aggravated robbery or a felony offense under Title 5 (see glossary) of the Texas Penal Code.

The student must:

- A. Have received deferred prosecution for conduct defined as aggravated robbery or a Title 5 felony offense;
- B. 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;
- C. Have been charged with engaging in conduct defined as aggravated robbery or a Title 5 felony offense;
- D. 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
- E. 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:

- A. The date on which the student's conduct occurred,
- B. The location at which the conduct occurred,
- C. Whether the conduct occurred while the student was enrolled in the district, or
- D. 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:

- A. Threatens the safety of other students or teachers,
- B. Will be detrimental to the educational process, or
- C. 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:

- A. The student graduates from high school,
- B. The charges are dismissed or reduced to a misdemeanor offense, or
- C. The student completes the term of the placement or is assigned to another program.

Placement Review

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

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 behavior coordinator or other appropriate administrator shall take into consideration:

- A. Self-defense (see glossary),
- B. Intent or lack of intent at the time the student engaged in the conduct,
- C. The student's disciplinary history, or
- D. A disability that substantially impairs the student's capacity to appreciate the wrongfulness of the student's conduct.
- E. A student's status in the conservatorship of the Department of Family and Protective Services (foster care), or
- F. A student's status as homeless.

Discretionary Expulsion: Misconduct That May Result in Expulsion

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

Any Location

A student **may** be expelled for:

- A. Engaging in bullying that encourages a student to commit or attempt to commit suicide.
- B. Inciting violence against a student through group bullying.
- C. Releasing or threatening to release intimate visual material of a minor or a student who is 18 years of age or older without the student's consent.
- D. Conduct that contains the elements of assault under Penal Code 22.01(a)(1) in retaliation against a school employee or volunteer.
- E. Criminal mischief, if punishable as a felony.
- F. Engaging in conduct that contains the elements of one of the following offenses against another student, without regard to where the conduct occurs:
 - 1. Aggravated assault.
 - 2. Sexual assault.
 - 3. Aggravated sexual assault.
 - 4. Murder.
 - 5. Capital murder.
 - 6. Criminal attempt to commit murder or capital murder.
 - 7. Aggravated robbery.
- G. Breach of computer security.
- H. 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:

- A. Selling, giving, or delivering to another person, or possessing, using, or being under the influence of marijuana, a controlled substance, or a dangerous drug, if the conduct is not punishable as a felony. 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.")
- B. 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, if the conduct is not punishable as a felony.
- C. Engaging in conduct that contains the elements of an offense relating to the use of volatile chemicals.
- D. Engaging in conduct that contains the elements of assault under Penal Code 22.01(a)(1) against an employee or a volunteer.
- E. 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:

- A. Aggravated assault, sexual assault, or aggravated sexual assault.
- B. Arson. (See glossary.)
- C. Murder, capital murder, or criminal attempt to commit murder or capital murder.
- D. Indecency with a child, aggravated kidnapping, manslaughter, criminally negligent homicide, or aggravated robbery.
- E. Continuous sexual abuse of a young child or disabled individual.
- F. Felony drug- or alcohol-related offense.
- G. 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.)
- H. Possessing, manufacturing, transporting, repairing, or selling a prohibited weapon, as defined by state law. (See glossary.)
- I. 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:

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

Mandatory Expulsion: Misconduct That Requires Expulsion

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

Under Federal Law

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

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

Under the Penal Code

- A. Unlawfully carrying on or about the student's person the following, in the manner prohibited by Penal Code 46.02:
 - 1. 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\(LEGAL\).](#)]
 - 2. A location-restricted knife, as defined by state law. (See glossary.)
- B. Possessing, manufacturing, transporting, repairing, or selling a prohibited weapon, as defined in state law. (See glossary.)
- C. Behaving in a manner that contains elements of the following offenses under the Penal Code:
 - 1. Aggravated assault, sexual assault, or aggravated sexual assault.
 - 2. Arson. (See glossary.)
 - 3. Murder, capital murder, or criminal attempt to commit murder or capital murder.
 - 4. Indecency with a child.
 - 5. Aggravated kidnapping.
 - 6. Aggravated robbery.
 - 7. Manslaughter.
 - 8. Criminally negligent homicide.
 - 9. Continuous sexual abuse of a young child or disabled individual.
 - 10. Behavior punishable as a felony that involves selling, giving, or delivering to another person, or possessing, using, or being under the influence of marijuana, a controlled substance, a dangerous drug, or alcohol; or committing a serious act or offense while under the influence of alcohol.
- D. 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 behavior coordinator or other appropriate administrator shall schedule a hearing within a reasonable time.

The student's parent shall be invited in writing to attend the hearing.

Until a hearing can be held, the campus behavior coordinator or other appropriate 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:

- A. 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,
- B. An opportunity to testify and to present evidence and witnesses in the student's defense, and
- C. 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 Expulsion Hearing Officer for the district the authority to conduct hearings and expel students.

Board Review of Expulsion

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

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

The board shall 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 behavior coordinator shall take into consideration:

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

- C. The student's disciplinary history, or
- D. A disability that substantially impairs the student's capacity to appreciate the wrongfulness of the student's conduct.
- E. A student's status in the conservatorship of the Department of Family and Protective Services (foster care), or
- F. A student's status as homeless.

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

Not later than the second business day after the hearing, the appropriate 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 to 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:

- A. The student is a threat to the safety of other students or to district employees, or
- B. 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. The period of expulsion may not exceed one year unless, after a review, the District determines that the student is a threat to safety of other students or to District employees or extended placement is in the best interest of the student.

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 may conduct the hearing after sending written notice to the parent and student.

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

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

Additional Misconduct

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

Restrictions During Expulsion

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

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

Newly Enrolled Students

The district shall 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:

- A. The out-of-state district provides the district with a copy of the expulsion order, and
- B. 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:

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

Emergency Expulsion Procedures

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

DAEP Placement of Expelled Students

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

Transition Services

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

Placement in a Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Program (JJAEP)

The Board of Trustees will enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the county juvenile board outlining the juvenile board's responsibilities concerning the establishment and operation of the JJAEP and conditions on payments from the District to the juvenile board. An agreement between the school District and the county must provide for an expelled student to immediately attend the JJAEP from the date of expulsion. Students who are not eligible for admission in the JJAEP must be provided an educational program by the District.

Glossary

The glossary provides legal definitions and locally established definitions and is intended to assist in understanding terms related to the Student Code of Conduct.

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:

- Causes serious bodily injury to another;
- Uses or exhibits a deadly weapon; or
- 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 handgun ammunition used in pistols and revolvers and designed primarily for the purpose of penetrating metal or body armor.

Arson is defined in part by Penal Code 28.02 as:

- A crime that involves 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.
- 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
- 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 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:

- 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;
- Is sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive enough that the action or threat creates an intimidating, threatening, or abusive educational environment for a student;
- Materially and substantially disrupts the educational process or the orderly operation of a classroom or school; or
- Infringes on the rights of the victim at school.
- Bullying includes cyberbullying. (See below) This state law on bullying prevention applies to:
 - 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;
 - 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
 - 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 causing an adverse psychological or physiological effect on a human being. A small chemical dispenser sold commercially for personal protection is not in this category.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- Cause action by an official or volunteer agency organized to deal with emergencies;
- Place a person in fear of imminent serious bodily injury; or
- 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:

- Any weapon (including a starter gun) that will, is designed to, or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive;
- The frame or receiver of any such weapon;
- Any firearm muffler or firearm silencer defined as any device for silencing, muffling, or diminishing the report of a portable firearm; or
- 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:

- Conduct that meets the definition established in district policies [DIA\(LOCAL\)](#) and [FFH\(LOCAL\)](#);
- Conduct that threatens to cause harm or bodily injury to another person, including a district student, employee, board member, or volunteer; is sexually intimidating; causes physical damage to the property of another student; subjects another student to physical confinement or restraint; or maliciously and substantially harms another student's physical or emotional health or safety, as defined in Education Code 37.001(b)(2) ; or
- 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. Sending repeated electronic communications in a manner reasonably likely to harass, annoy, alarm, abuse, torment, embarrass, or offend another; and
- e. 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.

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

- Any type of physical brutality;
- 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;
- An activity that induces, causes, or requires the student to perform a duty or task that violates the Penal Code; and

Coercing a student to consume a drug or alcoholic beverage in an amount that would lead a reasonable person to believe the student is intoxicated.

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

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

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

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

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.

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

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 other school property used by the student, including, but not limited to, a locker or desk.

Prohibited weapon under Penal Code 46.05(a) means:

The following items, unless registered with the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives or otherwise not subject to that registration requirement or unless the item is classified as a curio or relic by the U.S. Department of Justice:

- An explosive weapon;
 1. A machine gun;
 2. A short-barrel firearm;
 3. Armor-piercing ammunition;
 4. A chemical dispensing device;
- A zip gun;
- A tire deflation device; or
- An improvised explosive device.

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

Public school fraternity, sorority, secret society, or gang means an organization composed wholly or in part of students that seeks to perpetuate itself by taking additional members from the students enrolled in school based on a decision of its membership rather than on the free choice

of a qualified student. Educational organizations listed in Education Code 37.121(d) are excepted from this definition.

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

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

Serious misbehavior means:

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

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

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

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

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

- Cause a reaction of any type by an official or volunteer agency organized to deal with emergencies;
- Place any person in fear of imminent serious bodily injury;

- 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;
- Cause impairment or interruption of public communications; public transportation; public water, gas, or power supply; or other public service;
- Place the public or a substantial group of the public in fear of serious bodily injury; or
- 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 a device or combination of devices that was not originally a firearm and is adapted to expel a projectile through a smooth-bore or rifled-bore barrel by using the energy generated by an explosion or burning substance.