STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

The Board shall adopt a Student Code of Conduct for the District, with the advice of its District-level committee. The Student Code of Conduct must:

1. Specify the circumstances, consistent with Education Code Chapter 37, Subchapter A, under which a student may be removed from a classroom, campus, disciplinary alternative education program (DAEP), school bus, or vehicle owned or operated by the District.

2. Specify the conditions that authorize or require a principal or other appropriate administrator to transfer a student to DAEP.

3. Outline conditions under which a student may be suspended, as provided by Education Code 37.005 [see FOB], or expelled, as provided by Education Code 37.007 [see FOD].

4. Specify that consideration will be given, as a factor in each decision concerning suspension, removal to a DAEP, expulsion, or placement in a juvenile justice alternative education program, regardless of whether the decision concerns a mandatory or discretionary action, to:

   a. Self-defense;

   b. Intent or lack of intent at the time the student engaged in the conduct;

   c. A student's disciplinary history; or

   d. A disability that substantially impairs the student's capacity to appreciate the wrongfulness of the student's conduct.

5. Provide guidelines for setting the length of removal to a DAEP or of expulsion. Except as provided by Education Code 37.007(e) (Gun-Free Schools Act [see FOD]), the District is not required to specify a minimum term of removal or expulsion.

6. Address the notification of the parent or guardian of a student's violation of the Student Code of Conduct that results in suspension, removal to a DAEP, or expulsion.

7. Prohibit bullying, harassment, and making hit lists and ensure that District employees enforce those prohibitions.

   "Bullying" has the meaning provided by Education Code 37.0832. [See FFI]

   "Harassment" means threatening to cause harm or bodily injury to another student, engaging in sexually intimidating

conduct, causing physical damage to the property of another student, subjecting another student to physical confinement or restraint, or maliciously taking any action that substantially harms another student's physical or emotional health or safety.

"Hit list" means a list of people targeted to be harmed using a firearm, as defined by Penal Code 46.01(3) [see FNCG]; a knife, as defined by Penal Code 46.01(7) (any bladed hand instrument that is capable of inflicting serious bodily injury or death by cutting or stabbing a person with the instrument); or any other object to be used with intent to cause bodily harm.

8. Provide, as appropriate for students at each grade level, methods, including options, for:

   a. Managing students in the classroom, on school grounds, and on a vehicle owned or operated by the District;

   b. Disciplining students; and

   c. Preventing and intervening in student discipline problems, including bullying, harassment, and making hit lists.

   The methods adopted must provide that a student who is enrolled in a special education program under Education Code Chapter 29, Subchapter A, may not be disciplined for bullying, harassment, or making of hit lists until an admission, review, and dismissal (ARD) committee meeting has been held to review the conduct. [See FOF]

CHANGES IN SCOC

Once the Student Code of Conduct is promulgated, any change or amendment shall be approved by the Board.

POSTING

The Student Code of Conduct shall be posted and prominently displayed at each school campus or made available for review at the office of the campus principal.

Education Code 37.001

NOTICE TO PARENTS

Each school year, the District shall provide parents with notice of and information regarding the Student Code of Conduct. *Education Code 37.001(d)*

NONCUSTODIAL PARENT

A noncustodial parent may request in writing that, for the remainder of the school year in which the request is received, the District provide that parent with a copy of any written notification that is generally provided to a student's parent or guardian, relating to student misconduct under Education Code 37.006 or 37.007. The District may not unreasonably deny the request. Notwithstanding

this requirement, the District shall comply with any applicable court order of which the District has knowledge. *Education Code 37.0091(a)*

COPIES TO STAFF

The District shall provide each teacher and administrator with a copy of Education Code Chapter 37, Subchapter A regarding student discipline and with a copy of the related local policy. *Education Code 37.018*

NO UNSUPERVISED SETTING

Except for students who are suspended or expelled, no student may be placed in an unsupervised setting as a result of conduct for which a student may be placed in a DAEP. *Education Code 37.008(h)*

CONTINUATION OF DISCIPLINARY ACTION

If the District takes disciplinary action against a student and the student subsequently enrolls in another district or school before the expiration of the period of disciplinary action, the district or school taking the disciplinary action shall provide to the district or school in which the student enrolls, at the same time other records of the student are provided, a copy of the order of disciplinary action.

"Disciplinary action" means a suspension, expulsion, placement in an alternative education program, or other limitation in enrollment eligibility of a student.

"District or school" includes an independent school district, a home-rule school district, a campus or campus program charter holder, or an open-enrollment charter school.

Education Code 37.022

OPPORTUNITY TO COMPLETE COURSES

If a student is placed in in-school suspension or other alternative setting other than a DAEP, 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 removal. The District may provide the opportunity by any method available, including a correspondence course, distance learning, or summer school. *Education Code 37.021* [For DAEP notice requirements, see FOCA]

SECLUSION

A District employee or volunteer or an independent contractor of the District may not place a student in seclusion. *Education Code 37.0021(c)*

"Seclusion" means a behavior management technique in which a student is confined in a locked box, locked closet, or locked room that:

1. Is designed solely to seclude a person; and
2. Contains less than 50 square feet of space.

Education Code 37.0021(b)(2)

This section and any rules or procedures adopted under this section apply to a peace officer only if the peace officer:

1. Is employed or commissioned by the District; or
2. Provides, as a school resource officer, a regular police presence on the District campus under a memorandum of understanding between the District and a local law enforcement agency.

Education Code 37.0021(h)

EXCEPTIONS

This prohibition on seclusion does not apply to:

1. A peace officer performing law enforcement duties; or
2. An educational services provider with whom a student is placed by a judicial authority, unless the services are provided in an educational program of the District.

LAW ENFORCEMENT DUTIES

"Law enforcement duties" means activities of a peace officer relating to the investigation and enforcement of state criminal laws and other duties authorized by the Code of Criminal Procedure.

Education Code 37.0021(b)(4), (g)

RESTRAINT REPORTS

The District shall report electronically to TEA, in accordance with standards provided by Commissioner rule, information relating to the use of restraint by a peace officer performing law enforcement duties [see LAW ENFORCEMENT DUTIES, above] on school property or during a school-sponsored or school-related activity. The report must be consistent with the requirements adopted by Commissioner rule for reporting the use of restraint involving students with disabilities [see FOF]. *Education Code 37.0021(i)*

"Restraint" means the use of physical force or a mechanical device to significantly restrict the free movement of all or a portion of a student's body. *Education Code 37.0021(b)(1)*

CORPORAL PUNISHMENT

If the Board adopts a policy under Education Code 37.001(a)(8) under which corporal punishment is permitted as a method of student discipline, a District educator may use corporal punishment to discipline a student unless the student's parent or guardian or other person having lawful control over the student has previously provided a written, signed statement prohibiting the use of corporal punishment as a method of student discipline. *Education Code 37.0011(b)*

PARENT STATEMENT

To prohibit the use of corporal punishment as a method of student discipline, each school year a student's parent or guardian or other person having lawful control over the student must provide a

separate written, signed statement to the Board in the manner established by the Board. The student's parent or guardian or other person having lawful control over the student may revoke the statement provided to the Board at any time during the school year by submitting a written, signed revocation to the Board in the manner established by the Board. *Education Code 37.0011(c)–(d)*

DEFINITION

"Corporal punishment" means the deliberate infliction of physical pain by hitting, paddling, spanking, slapping, or any other physical force used as a means of discipline. The term does not include physical pain caused by reasonable physical activities associated with athletic training, competition, or physical education or the use of restraint as authorized under Education Code 37.0021 [see FOF]. *Education Code 37.0011(a)*

USE OF FORCE TO MAINTAIN DISCIPLINE

The use of force, but not deadly force, against a student is justified if the teacher or administrator is entrusted with the care, supervision, or administration of the student when, and to the degree the teacher or administrator reasonably believes the force is necessary, to further the purpose of education or to maintain discipline in a group. *Penal Code 9.62*

VIDEOTAPES AND RECORDINGS

A District employee may, without consent of a child's parent, make a videotape or recording of the child if the videotape or recording is to be used only for purposes of safety, including the maintenance of order and discipline in common areas of the school or on school buses. *Education Code 26.009(b)(1)* [See FNG]

REPORTS

The District shall annually report to the Commissioner:

DISCIPLINARY ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION PROGRAMS

1. For each placement in a DAEP:

   a. Information identifying the student, including the student's race, sex, and date of birth, that will enable TEA to compare placement data with information collected through other reports;

   b. Information indicating whether the placement was based on:

      (1) Conduct violating the Student Code of Conduct;

      (2) Conduct for which a student may be removed from class by a teacher [see FOA and the Student Code of Conduct];

      (3) Conduct for which placement in a DAEP is required [see FOC and the Student Code of Conduct]; or

(4) Conduct occurring while a student was enrolled in another district and for which placement in a DAEP is permitted by Education Code 37.008(j);

c. The number of full or partial days the student was assigned to the program and the number of full or partial days the student attended the program; and

d. The number of placements that were inconsistent with the guidelines on length of placement in the Student Code of Conduct.

EXPULSIONS

2. For each expulsion:

a. Information identifying the student, including the student's race, sex, and date of birth, that will enable TEA to compare placement data with information collected through other reports;

b. Information indicating whether the expulsion was based on:

(1) Conduct for which expulsion is required, including information specifically indicating whether a student was expelled for bringing a firearm to school; or

(2) Conduct for which expulsion is permitted;

c. The number of full or partial days the student was expelled;

d. Information indicating whether:

(1) The student was placed in a juvenile justice alternative education program;

(2) The student was placed in a DAEP; or

(3) The student was not placed in a juvenile justice or other DAEP; and

e. The number of expulsions that were inconsistent with the guidelines on length of expulsion in the Student Code of Conduct.

Education Code 37.020