

Each District employee shall perform his or her duties in accordance with state and federal law, District policy, and ethical standards. [See DH(EXHIBIT)]

Each District employee shall recognize and respect the rights of students, parents, other employees, and members of the community and shall work cooperatively with others to serve the best interests of the District.

An employee wishing to express concern, complaints, or criticism shall do so through appropriate channels. [See DGBA]

Violations of Standards of Conduct

Each employee shall comply with the standards of conduct set out in this policy and with any other policies, regulations, and guidelines that impose duties, requirements, or standards attendant to his or her status as a District employee. Violation of any policies, regulations, or guidelines may result in disciplinary action, including termination of employment. [See DCD and DF series]

Weapons Prohibited

The District prohibits the use, possession, or display of any firearm, illegal knife, club, or prohibited weapon, as defined at FNCG, on District property at all times. Regardless of whether an employee holds a handgun license, this prohibition nevertheless applies to firearms stored in an employee's vehicle parked on District property.

Exceptions

No violation of this policy occurs when the use, possession, or display of an otherwise prohibited weapon takes place as part of a District-approved activity supervised by proper authorities. [See FOD]

Electronic Media

Electronic media includes all forms of social media, such as text messaging, instant messaging, electronic mail (e-mail), in-app messaging or communications, web logs (blogs), electronic forums (chat rooms), video-sharing websites, picture-sharing websites, editorial comments posted on the Internet, and social network sites. Electronic media also includes all forms of telecommunication, such as landlines, cell phones, and web-based applications.

Unauthorized Video or Audio Recording

The District prohibits any employee from video or audio recording another employee without the other employee's knowledge and consent.

Use with Students

In accordance with administrative regulations, a certified or licensed employee, or any other employee designated in writing by the Superintendent or a campus principal, may use electronic media to communicate with currently enrolled students about matters within the scope of the employee's professional responsibilities. All other employees are prohibited from using electronic media to

communicate directly with students who are currently enrolled in the District. The regulations shall address:

1. Exceptions for family and social relationships;
2. The circumstances under which an employee may use text messaging to communicate with students; and
3. Other matters deemed appropriate by the Superintendent or designee.

Each employee shall comply with the District's requirements for records retention and destruction to the extent those requirements apply to electronic media. [See CPC]

Personal Use

An employee shall be held to the same professional standards in his or her public use of electronic media as for any other public conduct. If an employee's use of electronic media violates state or federal law or District policy, or interferes with the employee's ability to effectively perform his or her job duties, the employee is subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination of employment.

Safety Requirements

Each employee shall adhere to District safety rules and regulations and shall report unsafe conditions or practices to the appropriate supervisor.

Harassment or Abuse

An employee shall not engage in prohibited harassment, including sexual harassment, of:

1. Other employees. [See DIA]
2. Students. [See FFH; see FFG regarding child abuse and neglect.]

While acting in the course of employment, an employee shall not engage in prohibited harassment, including sexual harassment, of other persons, including Board members, vendors, contractors, volunteers, or parents.

An employee shall report child abuse or neglect as required by law. [See FFG]

Relationships with Students

An employee shall not form romantic or other inappropriate social relationships with students. Any sexual relationship between a student and a District employee is always prohibited, even if consensual. [See FFH]

Tobacco and E-Cigarettes

An employee shall not smoke or use tobacco products or e-cigarettes on District property, in District vehicles, or at school-related activities. [See also GKA]

Alcohol and Drugs

Philosophy

The Board recognizes that one of the most serious threats to the health and well-being of our society is the illegal use of controlled substances.

Drugs influence behavior in ways that significantly disturb the teaching and learning process and must not be tolerated within the educational environment. Therefore, the Board authorizes the Superintendent to provide leadership supportive of a school climate for both students and employees that is free from the illegal use of controlled substances.

Prohibitions

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

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

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

Exceptions

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

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

Notice

Each employee shall be given a copy of the District’s notice regarding drug-free schools. [See DI(EXHIBIT)]

A copy of this policy, a purpose of which is to eliminate drug abuse from the workplace, shall be provided to each employee at the beginning of each year or upon employment.

EMPLOYEE STANDARDS OF CONDUCT

DH
(LOCAL)

Upon Seeking
Assistance

Any employee who voluntarily seeks help or assistance from school personnel or medical assistance in dealing with a personal alcohol or drug problem, prior to being reported by any school official or law enforcement officer, may not be considered in violation of this policy and may be entitled to anonymity for referral to proper medical and/or psychological counseling by the Superintendent or designee, depending upon the circumstances. Anonymity may be withdrawn at any time the Superintendent or designee determines that the teaching or learning environment is in jeopardy. The Superintendent or designee shall be the sole determiner of this jeopardy.

**Arrests, Indictments,
Convictions, and
Other Adjudications**

An employee shall notify his or her principal or immediate supervisor within three calendar days of any arrest, indictment, charge, or conviction; of entering a no contest or guilty plea; of being granted probation, deferred adjudication, or any other adjudication for any felony; of any offense involving moral turpitude; and of any other offenses as indicated below:

1. Crimes involving school property or funds;
2. Crimes involving attempt by fraudulent or unauthorized means to obtain or alter any certificate or permit that would entitle any person to hold or obtain a position as an educator;
3. Crimes that occur wholly or in part on school property or at a school-sponsored activity; or
4. Crimes involving moral turpitude, which include:
 - Dishonesty; fraud; deceit; theft; misrepresentation;
 - Deliberate violence;
 - Base, vile, or depraved acts that are intended to arouse or gratify the sexual desire of the actor;
 - Felony possession or conspiracy to possess, or any misdemeanor or felony transfer, sale, distribution, or conspiracy to transfer, sell, or distribute any controlled substance defined in Chapter 481 of the Health and Safety Code;
 - Felony driving while intoxicated (DWI); or
 - Acts constituting abuse or neglect under the Texas Family Code.

Dress and Grooming

An employee's dress and grooming shall be clean, neat, in a manner appropriate for his or her assignment, and in accordance with

any additional standards established by his or her supervisor and approved by the Superintendent.