
Note: This local policy has been revised in accordance with the District's [innovation plan](#).¹

Campus Behavior Coordinator

In accordance with the District's innovation plan, the District is exempt from the state law requiring that a single person at each campus be designated to serve as the campus behavior coordinator (CBC).

Student Code of Conduct

The District's rules of discipline are maintained in the Board-adopted Student Code of Conduct and are established to support an environment conducive to teaching and learning.

Rules of conduct and discipline shall not have the effect of discriminating on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, gender, national origin, disability, age, gender stereotyping, perceived sexuality, perceived or actual sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression.

The appropriate assistant superintendent of administration shall be responsible for preparing, revising, and distributing the Student Code of Conduct.

At the beginning of the school year and throughout the school year as necessary, the Student Code of Conduct shall be:

1. Posted and prominently displayed at each campus or made available for review in the principal's office, as required by law; and
2. Made available on the District's website and/or as hard copies to students, parents, teachers, administrators, and others upon request.

Revisions

Revisions to the Student Code of Conduct approved by the Board during the year shall be made available, as soon as feasible after Board adoption, to students and parents, teachers, administrators, and others.

Extracurricular Standards of Behavior

With the approval of the principal and the appropriate area superintendent, sponsors and coaches of extracurricular activities may develop and enforce standards of behavior that are higher than the District-developed Student Code of Conduct and may condition membership or participation in the activity on adherence to those standards. Extracurricular standards of behavior may take into consideration conduct that occurs at any time, on or off school property. Extracurricular behavioral standards shall not have the effect of discriminating on the basis of gender, race, color, religion, sex,

gender, national origin, disability, age, gender stereotyping, perceived sexuality, perceived or actual sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression.

An opportunity for parental input in the development of extracurricular standards of behavior shall be available at each campus.

A student shall be informed of any extracurricular behavior standards at the beginning of each school year or when the student first begins participation in the activity. A student and his or her parent shall sign and return to the sponsor or coach a statement that they have read the extracurricular behavior standards and consent to them as a condition of participation in the activity.

Violations

Standards of behavior for an extracurricular activity are independent of the Student Code of Conduct. Violations of these standards of behavior that are also violations of the Student Code of Conduct may result in independent disciplinary actions.

A student may be removed from participation in extracurricular activities or may be excluded from school honors for violation of extracurricular standards of behavior for an activity or for violation of the Student Code of Conduct.

“Parent” Defined

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

General Guidelines

A District employee shall adhere to the following general guidelines when imposing discipline:

1. A student shall be disciplined when necessary to improve the student’s behavior, to maintain order, or to protect other students, school employees, or property.
2. A student shall be treated fairly and equitably. Discipline shall be based on an assessment of the circumstances of each case [see FO(LEGAL)]. Factors to consider shall include:
 - a. The seriousness of the offense;
 - b. The student’s age;
 - c. The frequency of misconduct;
 - d. The student’s attitude;
 - e. The potential effect of the misconduct on the school environment;
 - f. Whether the behavior was in self-defense;

- g. The intent or lack of intent at the time the student engaged in the conduct;
 - h. The student's disciplinary history;
 - i. Any disability that substantially impairs the student's capacity to appreciate the wrongfulness of the student's conduct;
 - j. Requirements of Chapter 37 of the Education Code; and
 - k. The Student Code of Conduct adopted by the Board.
3. No student shall be sent home without a proper discipline referral. No student prior to grade 3 shall be suspended, placed into a disciplinary alternative setting, or expelled, except as required by law. Disciplinary actions that remove students from their school setting shall be used as a last resort for other elementary students in grades 3–5.
4. Teachers and other school personnel shall not withhold opportunities for recess as a disciplinary measure.
5. Before a student under 18 is assigned 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.
6. Students who fall under McKinney-Vento or who are in foster care may not be suspended out-of-school unless the students engage in conduct related to weapons, violence, or drugs while on school property or while attending school activities.

[For provisions regarding students with disabilities, see FOF(LEGAL) and sections in the Student Code of Conduct dealing with discipline of students with disabilities (IDEA) and discipline under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.]

**Corporal
Punishment**

The Board prohibits the use of corporal punishment in the District. Students shall not be spanked, paddled, or subjected to other physical force as a means of discipline for violations of the Student Code of Conduct.

Physical Restraint

This text was previously at the end of the physical restraint section and is moved to the beginning to clearly address restraint with students who received special education services.

A DISTRICT EMPLOYEE MAY RESTRAIN A STUDENT WITH A DISABILITY WHO RECEIVES SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES ONLY IN ACCORDANCE WITH LAW. [SEE FOF(LEGAL)]

Within the scope of an employee's duties, a District employee may physically restrain a student if the employee reasonably believes restraint is necessary in order to:

1. Protect a person, including the person using physical restraint, from physical injury.
2. Obtain possession of a weapon (such as a firearm, knife, explosive, or other weapon defined at FNCG) or other dangerous object.

Moved from #5 to #3 to clarify circumstances when restraint may be used.

3. PROTECT PROPERTY FROM SERIOUS DAMAGE.

4. Remove a student refusing a lawful command of a school employee from a specific location, including a classroom or other school property, in order to restore order or to impose disciplinary measures.
5. ~~Control an irrational student.~~
6. ~~Protect property from serious damage.~~

~~A District employee may restrain a student with a disability who receives special education services only in accordance with law. [See FOF(LEGAL)]~~

Video and Audio Monitoring

Video and audio recording equipment shall be used for safety purposes to monitor student behavior on District property.

The District shall post signs notifying students and parents about the District's use of video and audio recording equipment. Students shall not be notified when the equipment is turned on.

Use of Recordings

The principal shall review recordings as needed, and evidence of student misconduct shall be documented. A student found to be in violation of the District's Student Code of Conduct shall be subject to appropriate discipline.

Access to Recordings

Recordings shall remain in the custody of the campus principal and shall be maintained as required by law. A parent or student who wishes to view a recording in response to disciplinary action taken against the student may request such access under the procedures set out by law. [See FL(LEGAL)]

¹ Innovation Plan: <https://www.episd.org/Page/542>