

STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

Purpose

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

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

The law requires the district to define misconduct that may-or must result in a range of specific disciplinary consequences including removal from a regular classroom or campus, suspension, or expulsion from school.

This Student Code of Conduct has been adopted by the Honors Academy 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.

In accordance with state law, the Code will be posted at each school campus or will be available for review at the office of the campus principal. Parents will be notified of any conduct violation that may result in a student being suspended, or expelled.

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 will prevail.

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

School District Authority and Jurisdiction

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

The district has disciplinary authority over a student:

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

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

The district has the right to search a student's locker when there is reasonable cause to believe it contains articles or materials prohibited by the district.

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

Standards for Student Conduct

Each student is expected to:

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

General Conduct Violations

The categories of conduct below are prohibited at school and all school-related activities, but the list does not include the most serious offenses. In the subsequent section on Suspension and Expulsion, severe offenses that require or permit specific consequences are listed. Any offense, however, may be serious enough to result in Removal from the Regular Educational Setting as detailed in that section. These violations are also divided into three categories representing the significance of the violation; Category 1, Category 2 and Category 3. The category of each offense will be listed alongside each violation in parentheses.

Category 1 Offenses

Category 1 offenses are offenses that are not listed in either Category 2 or Category 3. A Category 1 violation is considered a minor offense.

Minor transgressions shall first be remedied by using one or more discipline management techniques except suspension or expulsion. Teachers and the campus discipline person(s) shall have discretion to determine which techniques are reasonable and appropriate to the offense. Persistent, defined as two or more, violations of the code in general or repeated occurrences of the same violation shall result in Category 2 disciplinary procedures.

Category 2 Offenses

Category 2 offenses are more severe than Category 1 infractions but less significant than Category 3 offenses.

Students found guilty of Category 2 offenses will, as a minimum, be disciplined by one or more of the discipline management techniques and as a maximum be subject to suspension for up to three (3) school days in an unsupervised educational setting or assigned to an in-school suspension center for up to ten (10) school days.

Category 3 Offenses

Category 3 offenses are the most severe infractions in the Student Code of Conduct. Persistent violations of Category 2 offenses can be included as Category 3 offenses.

For a Category 3 offense, a student may be removed from class and expelled, without resort to an alternative education program. Any violation of the penal code may be subject to notification of the appropriate law enforcement officials and civil action. Students may be removed from school for up to three days under the emergency removal provision of this plan. Students violating the drug or alcohol provisions will be referred to appropriate programs and will be subject to follow-up by the campus director. Students found guilty of violating a Category 3 offense will be subject to one or more of the following disciplinary actions:

1. Suspension from school for up to six days.
2. Assignment in an Alternative Education Program (AEP).
3. Expulsion for the remainder of the semester. If the offense occurred during the last grading period the expulsion may be extended to the end of the next semester.

The district prohibits the following:

Disregard for Authority

- Failing to comply with directives given by school personnel (insubordination). (Category 2)
- Leaving school grounds or school-sponsored events without permission. (Category 1)
- Disobeying rules for conduct on school vans. (Category 1)
- Refusing to accept discipline management techniques assigned by a teacher or principal. (Category 2)

Mistreatment of Others

- Using profanity or vulgar language or making obscene gestures. (Category 1)
- Fighting or scuffling: (For assault see Expulsion) (Category 3)
- Threatening another student or district employee on or off school property. (Category 3)
- Engaging in bullying, harassment, and making hit lists. (See glossary for all three terms) (Category 2)
- Engaging in conduct that constitutes sexual harassment or sexual abuse, whether by word, gesture, or any other conduct, including requests for sexual favors directed toward another student or a district employee. (Category 3)
- Engaging in inappropriate or indecent exposure of private body parts. (Category 3)
- Hazing. (See glossary) (Category 3)
- Causing an individual to act through the use of or threat of force (coercion). (Category 2)

- Committing extortion or blackmail (obtaining money or an object of value from an unwilling person). (Category 2)
- Engaging in inappropriate verbal, physical, or sexual conduct directed toward another student or a district employee. (Category 3)

Property Offenses

- Damaging or vandalizing property owned by others. (For felony criminal mischief see Expulsion) (Category 2)
- Defacing or damaging school property-including textbooks, lockers, furniture, and other equipment-with graffiti or by other means. (Category 3)
- Stealing from students, staff, or the school. (Category 3)
- Committing or assisting in a robbery or theft even if it does not constitute a felony according to the Texas Penal Code. (For felony robbery and theft see Expulsion) (Category 3)

Possession of Prohibited Items

- Possessing or using:
 - fireworks of any kind smoke or stink bombs, or any other pyrotechnic device; (Category 2)
 - a razor, box cutter, chain, or any other object used in a way that threatens or inflicts bodily injury to another person; (Category 2)
 - a “look-alike” weapon; (Category 1)
 - an air gun or BB gun; (Category 3)
 - ammunition; (Category 3)
 - a stun gun; (Category 3)
 - a pocketknife; (Category 3)
 - mace or pepper spray; (Category 3)

- pornographic material; (Category 1)
- tobacco products; (Category 2)
- matches or a lighter; (Category 3)
- a laser pointer for other than an approved use; (Category 1) or
- any articles not generally considered to be weapons, including school supplies, when the principal or designee determines that a danger exists. (For weapons and firearms see Expulsion) (Category 2).

Possession of Telecommunications Devices

Students are not permitted to possess such items as telecommunications devices, cell phones, with text messaging and/or cameras, or pagers, radios, CD players, tape recorders, camcorders, DVD players, cameras, or electronic devices or games at school, unless prior permission has been obtained from the campus director. Without such permission, teachers will collect the item and turn it in to the campus director's office.

All devices must remain turned off during the instructional day.

Any disciplinary action will be in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct. An administrative fee not to exceed \$20.00 will be charged to retrieve the electronic device.

Illegal and Prescription Drugs

- Possessing or selling seed or pieces of marijuana in less than a usable amount. (For illegal drugs, alcohol, and inhalants see Expulsion) (Category 3)
- Possessing, using, giving, or selling paraphernalia related to any prohibited substance. (See glossary for "paraphernalia") (Category 3)
- Possessing or selling look-alike drugs or items attempted to be passes off as drugs or contraband. (Category 3)
- Abusing the student's own prescription drug, giving a prescription drug or over the counter 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. (Category 3)
- Having or taking prescription drugs or over- the-counter drugs at school other than as provided by district policy. (Category 3)

Misuse of Computers and the Internet

- Violating computer use policies, rules, or agreements signed by the student and/or agreements signed by the student's parent. (Category 2)
- Using the Internet or other electronic communications to threaten students or employees or cause disruption to the educational program. (Category 3)
- Sending or posting electronic messages that are abusive, obscene, sexually oriented, threatening, harassing, damaging to another's reputation, or illegal. (Category 3)
- Using e-mail or Web sites at school to encourage illegal behavior or threaten school safety. (Category 3)

Safety Transgressions

- Possessing published or electronic material that is designed to promote or encourage illegal behavior or that could threaten school safety. (Category 1)
- Engaging in verbal (oral or written) exchanges that threaten the safety of another student, a school employee, or school property. (Category 3)
- Making false accusation or perpetrating hoaxes regarding school safety. (Category 2)
- Engaging in any conduct that school officials might reasonably believe will substantially disrupt the school program or incite violence. (Category 3)
- Throwing objects that can cause bodily injury or property damage. (Category 1)
- Discharging a fire extinguisher without valid cause. (Category 2)

Miscellaneous Offenses

- Violating dress and grooming standards as communicated in the student handbook. (Category 1)
- Cheating or copying the work of another. (Category 1)
- Gambling. (Category 2)
- Falsifying records, passes, or other school-related documents. (Category 3)
- Engaging in actions or demonstrations that substantially disrupt or materially interfere with school activities. (Category 1)

- Repeatedly violating other communicated campus or classroom standards of conduct.
(Category 2)

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

Discipline Management Techniques

Discipline will be designed to improve conduct and to encourage students to adhere to their responsibilities as members of the school community. Disciplinary action will draw on the professional judgment of teachers and administrators and on a range of discipline management techniques. Discipline will be correlated to 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.

Because of these factors, discipline for a particular offense (unless otherwise specified by law) may bring into consideration varying techniques and responses.

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, state and/or federal law will prevail.

In deciding whether to order suspension or expulsion, the district will 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 or in combination-for behavior prohibited by the Student Code of Conduct or by campus or classroom rules:

- Verbal (oral or written) correction.
- Cooling-off-time or "time-out".
- Seating changes within the classroom.
- Temporary confiscation of items that disrupt the educational process.
- Rewards or demerits
- Behavioral contracts.
- Counseling by teachers, counselors, or administrative personnel.
- Parent-teacher conferences.
- Grade reductions as permitted by policy.

- Detention.
- Sending the student to the office or other assigned area, or to in-school suspension.
- Assignment of school duties such as cleaning or picking up litter.
- Withdrawal of privileges, such as participation in extracurricular activities, eligibility for seeking and holding honorary offices, or membership in school-sponsored clubs and organizations.
- Penalties identified in individual student organizations, extracurricular standards of behavior.
- Withdrawal or restriction of bus privileges.
- School-assessed and school-administered probation.
- Out –of-school suspension, as specified in the Suspension section of this Code.
- Expulsion, as specified in the Expulsion section of this Code.
- Referral to an outside agency or legal authority for criminal prosecution in addition to disciplinary measures imposed by the district.
- Supervised corporal punishment according to legal policy of the Honors Academy School Board Policy Manual.
- Other strategies and consequences as determined by school officials.

Notification

The principal or appropriate administrator will notify a student’s parent by phone or in writing of any violation that may result in a suspension or expulsion. Notification will be made within three school days after the administrator becomes aware of the violation.

Appeals

Usually student or parent complaints or concerns can be addressed simply-by a phone call or a conference with the teacher. For those complaints and concerns that cannot be handled so easily, the District has adopted a standard appeals policy in the District’s School Board policy manual. A copy of this policy may be obtained from the Superintendent of Education’s office.

In general, the student or parent should first discuss the complaint with the teacher and then the campus director. If needed, a written complaint and a request for a conference should be sent to the Superintendent of Education. If still unresolved, the District provides for the complaint to be presented to the President/CEO. Finally, if necessary, it can be presented to the School Board.

Consequences will not be deferred pending the outcome of a grievance.

Removal from the Regular Educational Setting

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

Routine Referral

A routine referral occurs when a teacher sends a student to the principal's office as a discipline management technique. The principal may then employ additional techniques.

Formal Removal

A teacher or administrator **may** remove a student from class for a behavior that violates this Code to maintain effective discipline in the classroom. A teacher **may** also initiate a formal removal from class if:

1. The student's behavior has been documented by the teacher as repeatedly interfering with the teacher's ability to teach his or her class; or
2. The behavior is so unruly, disruptive, or abusive that the teacher cannot teach, and the students in the classroom cannot learn.

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 expelled. When removing for those reasons, the procedures in the subsequent sections on expulsion will be followed. Otherwise, within three school days of the formal removal, the appropriate administrator will schedule a conference with the student's parent; the student; the teacher, in the case of removal by a teacher; and any other administrator.

At the conference, the appropriate administrator will inform the student of the misconduct for which he or she is charged and the consequences. The administrator will give the student an opportunity to give his or her version of the incident.

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

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

Returning Student to Classroom

When a student has been formally removed from class by a teacher for conduct against the teacher containing the elements of assault, aggravated assault, sexual assault, aggravated sexual assault, murder, capital murder, or criminal attempt to commit murder or capital murder, the student may not be returned to the teacher's class without the teacher's consent.

When a student has been formally removed by a teacher for any other conduct, the student may be returned to the teacher's class without the teacher's consent, if the placement review committee determines that the teacher's class is the best or only alternative available. The placement review committee will consist of the Campus Director, Superintendent of Education, and the Special Education Director if applicable.

Suspension

Misconduct

Students may be suspended for any behavior listed in the Code as a general conduct violation or expellable offense.

In deciding whether to order suspension, the district will take into consideration:

1. Self-defense (see glossary)
2. Intent or lack of intent at the time the student engaged in the conduct, and
3. The student's disciplinary history.

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 will have an informal conference with the appropriate administrator who shall advise the student of the conduct of which he or she is accused. The student will be given the opportunity to explain his or her version of the incident before the administrator's decision is made.

The number of days of a student's suspension will be determined by the appropriate administrator, but will not exceed three school days.

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

Expulsion

Discretionary Expulsion: Misconduct That May Result in Expulsion

In deciding whether to order expulsion, the district will take into consideration:

1. Self-defense (see glossary)
2. Intent or lack of intent at the time the student engaged in the conduct, and
3. The student's disciplinary history.

A student **may** be expelled for:

Any Location

- Engaging in the following no matter where it takes place:
 - Conduct that contains the elements of assault under Penal Code 22.01(a) (1) in retaliation against a school employee or volunteer.
 - Criminal mischief, if punishable as a felony.
- Engaging in conduct that contains the elements of one of the following offenses against another student, without regard to where the conduct occurs:
 - Aggravated assault.
 - Sexual assault.
 - Aggravated sexual assault
 - Murder.
 - Capital murder.
 - Criminal attempt to commit murder or capital murder.
 - Aggravated robbery.
- 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 School Event

- Committing any of the following offenses on or within 300 feet of school property, as measured from any point on the school’s real property boundary line, or while attending a school-sponsored or school-related activity on or off school property:
 - Selling, giving, or delivering to another person, or possessing, using, or being under the influence of marijuana, a controlled substance, or a dangerous drug, if the conduct is not punishable as a felony.
 - 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.
 - Engaging in conduct that contains the elements of an offense relating to abusable volatile chemicals.
 - Engaging in conduct that contains the elements of assault under Section 22.01(a) (1) against an employee or a volunteer.
 - Engaging in deadly conduct. (See glossary)

Within 300 Feet of School

- Engaging in the following conduct while within 300 feet of school property, as measured from any point on the school’s real property boundary line.
 - Aggravated assault, sexual assault, or aggravated sexual assault.
 - Arson
 - Murder, capital murder, or criminal attempt to commit murder or capital murder
 - Indecency with a child, aggravated kidnapping, manslaughter, criminally negligent homicide, or aggravated robbery
 - Felony drug-or alcohol-related offense
 - Use, exhibition, or possession of a firearm (as defined by state law), an illegal knife, a club, or prohibited weapon, or possession of a firearm (as defined by federal law).

Property of another District

- 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.

Mandatory Expulsion: Misconduct That Requires Expulsion

A student **must** be expelled 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:

Federal Law

- Bringing to school a firearm, as defined by federal law. “Firearm” under federal law includes:
 - 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 weapon.
 - Any destructive device, such as any explosive, incendiary or poison gas bomb, or grenade.

Texas Penal Code

- Using, exhibiting, or possessing the following, as defined by the Texas Penal Code:
 - A firearm (any device designed, made, or adapted to expel a projectile through a barrel by using the energy generated by an explosion or burning substance or any device readily convertible to that use).
 - Any knife including a pocketknife.
 - A club (see glossary) such 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, including a blackjack, nightstick, mace, and tomahawk.
 - A prohibited weapon, such as an explosive weapon, a machine gun, a short-barrel firearm, a firearm silencer, a switchblade knife, knuckles, armor-piercing ammunition, a chemical dispensing device, or a zip gun. (See glossary)

- Behaving in a manner that contains elements of the following offenses under the Texas Penal Code:
 - Aggravated assault, sexual assault, or aggravated sexual assault.
 - Arson. (See glossary)
 - Murder, capital murder, or criminal attempt to commit murder or capital murder.
 - Indecency with a child.
 - Aggravated kidnapping.
 - Aggravated robbery.
 - Manslaughter.
 - Criminally negligent homicide.
 - 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.
 - Retaliation against a school employee combined with one of the above-listed offenses on or off school property or at a school-related activity.

Emergency

In an emergency, the principal or the principal's designee may order the immediate expulsion of a student for any reason for which expulsion **may** be made on a non-emergency basis.

Process

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

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

- Another appropriate classroom

- In-school suspension
- Out-of-school suspension

Hearing

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

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

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 hearing will be conducted by the Superintendent of Education and/or the campus director.

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.

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 a crime that involves starting a fire or causing an explosion with intent to destroy or damage:

1. Any vegetation, fence, or structure on open-space land; or
2. Any building habitation, or vehicle:
 - a. Knowing that it is within the limits of an incorporated city or town;
 - b. Knowing that it is insured against damage or destruction;
 - c. Knowing that it is subject to a mortgage or other security interest;
 - d. Knowing that it is located on property belonging to another;
 - e. Knowing that it is located within its property belonging to another; or
 - f. 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.

Assault is defined in part by Texas Penal Code 22.01(a) (1) as intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly causing bodily injury to another.

Bullying is written or oral expression or physical conduct that the board's designee determines:

1. To 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; or
2. To be sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive to create an intimidating; threatening, or abusive educational environment for a student.

Chemical dispensing device is 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 an instruments specially designed, made, or adapted for the purpose of inflicting serious bodily injury or death. A blackjack, mace, and tomahawk are in the same category.

Deadly conduct 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 violation of traffic laws.

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

Explosive weapon is 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 occurs when a person knowingly initiates, communicates, or circulates a report of a present, past, or future bombing, fire, offense, or other emergency that he or she knows is false or baseless and that would ordinarily:

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

Graffiti are markings with aerosol paint or an indelible pen or marker on tangible property without the effective consent of the owner. The markings may include inscriptions, slogans, drawings, or paintings.

Harassment is:

1. Conduct that meets the definition established in district policies ; or
2. Conduct that threatens to cause harm or bodily injury to another student, 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.

Hazing is an intentional or reckless act, on or off campus, by one person alone or acting with others, that endangers the mental or physical health or safety of a student for the purpose of pledging, initiation into, affiliation with, holding office in, or maintaining membership in an organization.

Hit List is 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.

Knuckles is 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.

Machine gun 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.

Persistent misbehavior is two or more violations of the Code in general or repeated occurrences of the same violation.

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

Reasonable belief is a determination made by the superintendent or designee using all available information, including the information furnished under Article 15.27 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

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

Serious offenses include but are not limited to:

- Murder.
- Vandalism.
- Robbery or theft.
- Extortion, coercion, or blackmail.
- Actions or demonstrations that substantially disrupt or materially interfere with school activities.
- Hazing.
- Insubordination.
- Profanity, vulgar language, or obscene gestures.
- Fighting, committing physical abuse, or threatening physical abuse.
- Possession or distribution of pornographic materials.
- Leaving school grounds without permission.
- Sexual harassment of a student or district employee.

- Possession of or conspiracy to possess any explosive or explosive device.
- Falsification of records, passes, or other school-related documents.
- Refusal to accept discipline assigned by the teacher or principal.

Short-barrel firearm is 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.

Switchblade is any knife with a blade that folds, closes, or retracts into the handle or sheath and that opens automatically by pressing a button or by the force of gravity or centrifugal force.

Terroristic threat is a threat of violence to any person or property with intent to:

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

Title 5 offenses are those that involve injury to a person and include murder; kidnapping; assault; sexual assault; unlawful restraint; coercing, soliciting, or inducing gang membership if it causes bodily injury to a child; indecency with a child; injury to a child, an elderly person, or a disabled person; abandoning or endangering a child; deadly conduct; terroristic threat; aiding a person to commit suicide; and tampering with a consumer product.

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 or the presence of physical symptoms of drug or alcohol use. A student "under the influence" needs not to be legally intoxicated to trigger disciplinary action.

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

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

