

## **Transfer Student Policy**

### **Proposed Exemption:**

TEC § 25.036.

A school district may choose to accept students who are not otherwise entitled to admission in the district on a transfer basis. The District wishes to continue accepting transfer students under this law. This provision, however, has been interpreted to require a student transfer to be for a period of one school year, and to restrict a district's ability to revoke a transfer approval mid-year.

### **Resulting Innovation:**

The District maintains a student transfer policy under Board Policy FDA (Local), which requires that all nonresident students who wish to transfer must file a transfer application each school year. In making decisions regarding applications for transfer, the policy currently permits for the consideration of the availability of space, instructional staff, the student's disciplinary history and attendance records. In addition to considering all of these factors in approving or denying a transfer request, the District also seeks the flexibility to revoke a student's transfer status during the school year based on the student's failure to meet expectations in these areas while in the District.

TEC § 25.036 has been interpreted by TEA to establish the acceptance of a transfer as a one-year commitment by the District. The District is seeking to be exempt from any one-year commitment that might be interpreted or implied by the provisions of TEC § 25.036 when accepting transfer applicants. Students who do not meet the District's expectations interfere with the District's ability to educate resident students as well as transfer students who come to College Station ISD to receive quality instruction and access elevated opportunities for student engagement and participation. When students are disruptive, excessively absent, or do not make adequate efforts towards academic success, our teachers and administrators must take time correcting the behavior, catching those students up, and are challenged to adequately prepare the students who are present and ready to learn. The District seeks exemption from the interpretation of TEC § 25.036 which prohibits a district from revoking a transfer during the school year. This mid-year revocation option will be reserved only for those students who consistently fail to meet District expectations in the areas of consideration identified in policy; students that are placed in DAEP, are expelled or who engage in criminal conduct; and students who are truant or do not meet the state's 90% attendance standard.

## **Grievance Policy**

### **Proposed Exemption:**

Texas Education Codes §§ 26.011, 26A.001, 26A.002, and 26A.003.

These provisions require the board of trustees of each school district to adopt a grievance procedure that complies with Chapter 26A under which the board shall address each grievance that the board receives concerning a violation of a right guaranteed by this Chapter 26, of a board of trustees policy, or of a provision of this title.

### **Resulting Innovation:**

Partnership between community, parents, and schools is at the heart of the College Station ISD DOI Plan and informs everything we do as a school district. An important part of that work is ensuring we have an inclusive grievance process that addresses the needs of our community, parents, students, and staff. College Station ISD has and will continue to adhere to an established grievance policy with procedures and timelines outlined in its Board's local policies DGBA, FNG, and GF. In considering the changes to our grievance processes required by SB 12 as codified in Texas Education Code §§ 26.011, 26A.001, 26A.002, and 26A.003, we see these provisions as potential barriers to our overall goals because of the potential negative impact posed by the array of changes required. For example:

- Diminished discretion in determining who will hear a particular grievance and at what level of the process it should begin undermines our goal of early resolution and direct, collaborative engagement at the campus or department level. (TEC Section 26A.001(e)).
- Requirements related to adding documents or claims at later stages of the grievance process and new, longer timelines may serve to extend the overall length of the grievance process and prove frustrating and inefficient for all involved. (TEC Section 26A.001(e)(5))
- Allowing the grievant to determine whether a Board-level grievance will be conducted in open or closed session “unless otherwise required by law” may be harmful to staff and community morale and may create unnecessary legal issues related to Board-level grievance appeals. (TEC Section 26A.00a(e)(10)).
- Ambiguity created between the requirement to issue a decision on the merits of a grievance despite procedural errors or the type of relief requested versus newly established timelines which suggest dismissal may be appropriate on procedural grounds. (TEC Section 26A.001(e)(9), 26A.002).

College Station ISD is confident that its existing grievance policy structure and practices ensure thorough documentation of each step in the grievance process and provide adequate time for complaints to be filed and for complaints to be heard. All records related to grievances, including submitted forms, communications, investigations, findings, resolutions, and any corrective actions are systematically maintained at the District level to ensure transparency, accountability, and compliance with legal and policy standards. The District is committed to monitoring the legality and appropriateness of every decision and action taken. The District is further committed to hearing, reviewing, and attempting to resolve all complaints, as well as to taking corrective action, where appropriate. Implementation of CSISD's long-standing grievance policies will ensure that all such complaints are carefully reviewed and that District responses are in alignment with state and federal regulations, as well as all other local board policies.

### **Implementation Considerations:**

The District will not adopt a new policy contemplated under Texas Education Code 26A but will continue to process complaints pursuant to its currently adopted grievance policies. The District remains committed to ensuring that no CSISD personnel, trustees, or anyone acting on

behalf of the District engages in retaliation toward an individual who has filed a grievance.