

Explanatory Notes

Community College Localized Policy Manual Update 50

McLennan Community College

ATTN(NOTE)

GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THIS UPDATE

Revisions to legal frameworks incorporate clarification of existing materials and new materials arising from the 89th Regular Legislative Session and second special session, as well as amendments to state rules.

Unless otherwise noted, references to legislative bills throughout these explanatory notes refer to Senate Bills (SB) or House Bills (HB) from the 89th Regular Legislative Session. All referenced bills have already gone into effect unless otherwise noted.

BA(LOCAL)

COLLEGE DISTRICT GOVERNANCE

Language from this policy has been moved to policy BAA to accommodate the reorganization of policies related to college district governance.

BAA(LOCAL)

COLLEGE DISTRICT GOVERNANCE: BOARD LEGAL STATUS

Language from policy BA has been moved to this policy to accommodate the reorganization of policies related to college district governance.

If your college had content at this policy code, that content has been moved to policy BAAA.

BBE(LOCAL)

BOARD MEMBERS: AUTHORITY

Recommended revisions to this policy address HB 4310, which establishes a procedure for board members to access records maintained by the college while preserving the Confidentiality of those records.

Additional changes have been made for clarity.

BD(LOCAL)

BOARD MEETINGS

Recommended revisions to this policy incorporate HB 1522, which updates the meeting notice requirements under the Open Meetings Act to require that notice of a meeting be posted three business days before the scheduled date of a meeting, at Notice to Members.

BGC(LOCAL)

ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANIZATION: COUNCILS AND FACULTY SENATES

Recommended revisions address SB 37, which establishes the requirements for a Faculty Senate, including requirements related to Membership, Officers, Compensation, Governing Documents, Faculty Senate Meetings, Communications, as well as the requirement that policies and procedures remain in Harmony with Law.

At Removal, recommended language incorporates the requirement from the bill that a member may be removed on recommendation of the provost. The title for the employee who serves in the role as provost reflects the information submitted by the college.

Additional revisions have been made to align the policy with applicable law. To discuss recommended revisions, please contact your college's policy consultant.

CDB(LOCAL)

ACCOUNTING: INVENTORIES

Recommended revisions address the [Budget Requirements and Annual Financial Reporting Requirements for Texas Public Community Colleges, Fiscal Year 2025](#), which was recently released by the Coordinating Board. The document updates the definition of *capital assets* to recommend, rather than require as in prior years, a minimum capitalization threshold of \$5,000. The revisions permit a community college

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to choose the threshold at which assets are capitalized. If your college would like to update the threshold for classifying capital assets, please contact the college's policy consultant.

CL(LOCAL) FACILITIES PLANNING

This new policy addresses SB 8 from the second special session, which requires a community college to designate certain private spaces by sex consistent with the bill's provisions.

CM(LOCAL) FACILITIES CONSTRUCTION

Recommended revisions address SB 1173, which increases the contract value threshold at which a community college is required to utilize a statutory competitive procurement method for Construction Contracts from \$50,000 or above to \$100,000 or above.

CRB(LOCAL) TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES: ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

This new recommended local policy includes information related to AI Use by Employees and Students, including the parameters for use; compliance with privacy and data security law, policies, and regulations; and prohibitions on use of AI tools to harm, bully, or harass others.

CS(LOCAL) INFORMATION SECURITY

Recommended revisions to this policy incorporate HB 150, which requires a college to notify affected persons of cybersecurity incidents, formerly referred to as security incidents.

DC(LOCAL) EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES

Recommended revisions address SB 37, which requires the board to approve hiring decisions for certain positions and allows the board to overturn hiring decisions for certain positions. The titles for the employees who serve in the specified positions reflect the information submitted by the college.

Language related to dismissal of noncontractual employees has been moved to policy DM to consolidate language related to at-will termination.

DGBA(LOCAL) PERSONNEL-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS: EMPLOYEE GRIEVANCES

Language has been reorganized to clarify the structure of grievance processes.

Recommended revisions require the college to provide Notice to Employees on the college's website.

At Formal Process, language has been added to clarify that certain complaints must begin at the board level.

Provisions have been added to provide clarity about what the Record includes, to allow a college to Remand a complaint for an incomplete record, and to allow an employee to make an Audio Recording of a hearing under this policy.

A cross reference has been updated to incorporate the reorganization of policies related to security personnel.

Additional changes have been made for clarity.

DGC(LOCAL) EMPLOYEE RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES: EMPLOYEE EXPRESSION AND USE OF COLLEGE FACILITIES

Recommended revisions throughout this policy incorporate SB 2972, which addresses the regulation of expressive activities on college campuses. A definition of Expressive Activities has been added. At Prohibited Speech and Conduct, existing content from Limitations on Content, Approval, and Common Out-

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door Areas has been consolidated and updated to reflect language from the bill prohibiting certain expressive activities on campus.

Also, from SB 2972, language has been added at Time, Place, and Manner Restrictions prohibiting the distribution of materials in a manner that is materially and substantially disruptive to college operations. Language has been added to clarify when Identification must be provided. Employees and employee organizations distributing materials or using college facilities must provide identification to a college representative.

Recommended revisions provide that the Distribution of Literature by faculty and other instructional personnel as part of instruction or other classroom activities is not governed by that section.

Additional changes have been made for clarity.

DH(LOCAL) EMPLOYEE STANDARDS OF CONDUCT

Recommended revisions address HB 46, which prohibits a college from restricting the storage of low-THC cannabis authorized by state law.

Additional changes have been made for clarity.

DHB(LOCAL) EMPLOYEE STANDARDS OF CONDUCT: CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT REPORTING

Recommended revisions incorporate SB 571, which requires the Reporting of instances of child abuse or neglect to a law enforcement agency within 24 hours and amends the definition of *law enforcement agency*.

DJA(LOCAL) ASSIGNMENT, WORK LOAD, AND SCHEDULES: TELEWORK

This new recommended local policy addresses SB 2615. It permits employees to telework only under certain specified circumstances.

DM(LOCAL) TERMINATION OF EMPLOYMENT

Language related to dismissal of noncontractual employees has been moved to this policy to consolidate language related to termination of At-Will Employees.

EFAA(LOCAL) INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAMS AND COURSES: ACADEMIC COURSES

This new recommended local policy clarifies the process for the development and adoption of a Core Curriculum by the college.

It also addresses the SB 37 requirement that the board conduct a comprehensive review of the college's general education curriculum, providing that the review must occur every five years, with more frequent reviews at the board's discretion.

It also establishes a process for the submission of an annual update on general education curriculum changes to the board and reflects the board's choice to reserve the right to overturn decisions regarding changes to the curriculum.

EFB(LOCAL) CURRICULUM DESIGN: DEGREES AND CERTIFICATES

Recommended revisions incorporate SB 37, requiring the college's chief executive officer to develop procedures addressing a Low-Enrollment Certificate Program Review.

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EGA(LOCAL) ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT: GRADING AND CREDIT

A cross reference has been added to policy code FB to incorporate provisions related to the Academic Fresh Start program.

FB(LOCAL) ADMISSIONS

Recommended revisions address SB 37, clarifying that the board must develop admission procedures in collaboration with the college's chief executive officer.

The recommended revisions address SB 365, permitting the college to disregard course credits and grades earned by an applicant for admission 5-10 years prior to the start of the semester if chosen by the applicant, at Academic Fresh Start. Existing law requires a college to disregard credits earned 10 years prior to the start of the semester for an applicant under the Academic Fresh Start program. The number of years prior to admission at which credits will be disregarded reflects information submitted by the college.

A cross reference has been added to policy code EGA to incorporate provisions related to transfer of credit.

FC(LOCAL) REGISTRATION AND ATTENDANCE

Recommended revisions to this policy address administrative procedures related to registration.

FLA(LOCAL) STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES: STUDENT EXPRESSION AND USE OF COLLEGE FACILITIES

Recommended revisions throughout this policy incorporate SB 2972, which addresses the regulation of expressive activities on college campuses. A definition of Expressive Activities has been added. At Prohibited Speech and Conduct, existing content from Limitations on Content, Approval, and Common Outdoor Areas has been consolidated and updated to reflect language from the bill prohibiting certain expressive activities on campus.

Also, from SB 2972, language has been added at Time, Place, and Manner Restrictions prohibiting the distribution of materials in a manner that is materially and substantially disruptive to college operations. Language has been added to clarify when Identification must be provided. Students and student organizations distributing materials or using college facilities must provide identification to a college representative.

Additional changes have been made for clarity.

FLB(LOCAL) STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES: STUDENT CONDUCT

At Behavior Targeting Others, a cross reference has been added to policy code FM to incorporate the definition of *antisemitism* required to be used in discipline for Student Code of Conduct violations, as provided by SB 326.

FLBE(LOCAL) STUDENT CONDUCT: ALCOHOL AND DRUG USE

Recommended revisions address HB 46, which prohibits a college from restricting the storage of low-THC cannabis authorized by state law.

Additional changes have been made for clarity.

FLD(LOCAL) STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES: STUDENT COMPLAINTS

Language has been reorganized to clarify the structure of grievance processes.

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Recommended revisions require the college to provide Notice to Students on the college's website to ensure appropriate due process.

At Formal Process, language has been added to clarify that certain complaints must begin at the board level.

Provisions have been added to provide clarity about what the Record includes, to allow a college to Remand a complaint for an incomplete record, and to allow a student to make an Audio Recording of a hearing under this policy.

A cross reference has been updated to incorporate the reorganization of policies related to security personnel.

Additional changes have been made for clarity.

GB(LOCAL) PUBLIC COMPLAINTS AND HEARINGS

Language has been reorganized to clarify the structure of grievance processes.

At Formal Process, language has been added to clarify that certain complaints must begin at the board level.

Provisions have been added to provide clarity about what the Record includes, to allow a college to Remand a complaint for an incomplete record, and to allow an individual to make an Audio Recording of a hearing under this policy.

A cross reference has been updated to incorporate the reorganization of policies related to security personnel.

Additional changes have been made for clarity.

GD(LOCAL) COMMUNITY EXPRESSION AND USE OF COLLEGE FACILITIES

Recommended revisions throughout this policy incorporate SB 2972, which addresses the regulation of expressive activities on college campuses. A definition of Expressive Activities has been added. At Prohibited Speech and Conduct, existing content from Approval, Designated Public Forums, and Limitations on Content has been consolidated and updated to reflect language from the bill prohibiting certain expressive activities on campus.

Also, from SB 2972, language has been added at Time, Place, and Manner Restrictions prohibiting the distribution of materials in a manner that is materially and substantially disruptive to college operations. Language has been added to clarify when Identification must be provided. Community members and organizations distributing materials or using college facilities must provide identification to a college representative.

Language related to Designated Public Forums has been added to require the board to designate common outdoor areas where community members may engage in permissible expressive activities and publish those areas on the college's website and in other publications.

Additional changes have been made for clarity.