

All College District employees shall perform their duties in accordance with state and federal law, College District policy, and ethical standards.

All College District personnel shall recognize and respect the rights of students, other employees, and members of the community and shall work cooperatively with others to serve the best interests of the College District.

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

**Ethical Standards**

The College District holds all employees to the ethical standards ~~expressed~~set out in this policy.

As a Citizen

An employee shall treat all persons with dignity and respect.

An employee shall accept all rights and responsibilities of citizenship, always avoiding use of the privileges of the employee's public position for private or partisan advantage.

As an Educator

An employee shall strive to help each student realize the student's full potential as a learner and as a human being.

An employee shall by example and action encourage and defend the unfettered pursuit of truth by all persons employed by the College District in the educational enterprise and students supporting the free exchange of ideas, observing the highest standards of academic honesty and integrity, and seeking always an attitude of scholarly objectivity and tolerance of other viewpoints.

An employee shall work to enhance cooperation and collegiality among students, faculty, administrators, and other personnel.

An employee shall maintain competence through continued professional development, shall demonstrate that competence through consistently adequate performance, and shall seek to enhance that competence by accepting and appropriating constructive criticism and evaluation.

As a Colleague

An employee shall recognize and preserve the confidential nature of professional relationships, neither disclosing nor encouraging the disclosure of information or rumor, which might damage or embarrass or violate the privacy of any other person.

An employee shall support the right of all colleagues to academic freedom and due process and defend and assist a professional colleague accused of wrongdoing, incompetence, or other serious offense so long as the colleague's innocence may reasonably be maintained.

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As a Member of the College District

An employee shall not support a colleague whose persistently unethical conduct or professional incompetence has been demonstrated through due process.

An employee shall make the most judicious and effective use of the College District's time and resources.

An employee shall fulfill the employment agreement both in spirit and in fact, shall give reasonable notice upon resignation, and shall neither accept tasks for which the employee is not qualified nor assign tasks to unqualified persons.

An employee shall support the goals and ideals of the College District and shall act in public affairs in such a manner as to bring credit to the College District.

An employee shall not engage in unlawful discrimination or harassment of students or colleagues and shall adhere to the College District's policies on unlawful discrimination and harassment and other conduct.

An employee shall observe the stated policies and procedures of the College District, reserving the right to seek revision in a judicious and appropriate manner.

An employee shall participate in the governance of the College District by accepting a fair share of committee and institutional responsibilities.

REFERENCE: derived from the [Texas Community College Teachers Association Code of Professional Ethics \(PDF\)](#).<sup>1</sup>

**Violations**

Employees 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 their status as College District employees. Violation of any policies, regulations, or guidelines may result in disciplinary action, including termination of employment. [See DCC, DIAA, and DM series]

Misconduct by Certain Law Enforcement Personnel

The College President or designee and the College District police department shall develop regulations, in accordance with law, addressing the investigation of allegations of misconduct by peace officers and telecommunicators.

**Electronic Media**

Electronic media includes all forms of social media, such as text messaging, instant messaging, electronic mail (email), web logs (blogs), electronic forums (chat rooms), video-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.

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<b>Record Retention</b>	An employee shall comply with the College District's requirements for records retention and destruction to the extent those requirements apply to electronic media. [See CIA and GCB]
<b>Personal Use</b>	Employees shall be held to the same professional standards in their public use of electronic media as they are for any other public conduct. If an employee's use of electronic media violates state or federal law or College 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.
<b>Safety Requirements</b>	All employees shall adhere to College District safety rules and regulations and shall report unsafe conditions or practices to the appropriate supervisor.
<b>Tobacco and E-cigarettes</b>	<p>An employee shall not use tobacco products or e-cigarettes on College District property, in College District vehicles, or at College District-related activities, unless authorized by the [G head of district/college/ESC, initial upper case] or designee. [See FLBD]</p> <p>An employee shall not give or sell tobacco products or e-cigarettes to a person in violation of law.</p>
<b>Alcohol and Drugs</b>	<p>A copy of this policy, the 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.</p> <p>Employees shall be prohibited from using, possessing, controlling, manufacturing, transmitting, distributing, dispensing, selling, or being under the influence of any of the following substances while conducting College District business or while on College District property, in College District vehicles, or at College District-related activities, whether during or outside of usual working hours:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>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.</li><li>2. Alcohol or any alcoholic beverage.</li><li>3. Any abusable glue, aerosol paint, or any other chemical substance for inhalation.</li><li>4. Any performance-enhancing substance, including steroids.</li><li>5. Any designer drug.</li><li>6. Any other intoxicant, or mood-changing, mind-altering, or behavior-altering drugs.</li></ol>

DATE ISSUED: ~~11/3/2023~~4/10/2024  
UPDATE 4647  
DH(LOCAL)-AJGJC

Adopted:

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The transmittal, sale, or attempted sale of what is represented to be any of the above-listed substances shall also be prohibited under this policy.

An employee need not be legally intoxicated to be considered "under the influence" of alcohol or a controlled substance.

Exceptions

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

1. Manufactures, possesses, controls, sells, transmits, distributes, 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;
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;
4. Cultivates, possesses, transports, or sells hemp as authorized by law; or
5. Possesses, sells, or distributes Dextromethorphan.

Paraphernalia

The use, possession, control, manufacture, transmission, distribution, dispensation, or sale of paraphernalia related to any prohibited substance is prohibited.

Notice

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

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

An employee shall notify the employee's immediate supervisor within three calendar days of any arrest, indictment, conviction, no contest or guilty plea, or other adjudication of the employee for any felony or offense involving moral turpitude.

Moral Turpitude

Moral turpitude includes but is not limited to:

1. Dishonesty, fraud, deceit, theft, or misrepresentation;
2. Deliberate violence;
3. Base, vile, or depraved acts that are intended to arouse or gratify the sexual desire of the actor;
4. Felony possession, transfer, sale, distribution, or conspiracy to possess, transfer, sell, or distribute any controlled substance defined in Chapter 481 of the Health and Safety Code;
5. Acts constituting public intoxication, operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol, or disorderly conduct, if

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any two or more acts are committed within any 12-month period; or

6. Acts constituting abuse under the Texas Family Code.

<sup>1</sup> Texas Community College Teachers Association Code of Professional Ethics (PDF): <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1hOLs-YhIWH4ccH7VtAM-wks2GGy9KogIR/view>

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