

SUBTITLE G.
SAFE SCHOOLS
CHAPTER 37. DISCIPLINE; LAW AND ORDER

SUBCHAPTER A. ALTERNATIVE SETTINGS FOR BEHAVIOR MANAGEMENT

Sec. 37.001. Student Code of Conduct.

- (a) The board of trustees of an independent school district shall, with the advice of its district-level committee established under Section 11.251, adopt a student code of conduct for the district. The student code of conduct must be posted and prominently displayed at each school campus. In addition to establishing standards for student conduct, the student code of conduct must:
 - (1) specify the circumstances, in accordance with this subchapter, under which a student may be removed from a classroom, campus, or alternative education program;
 - (2) specify conditions that authorize or require a principal or other appropriate administrator to transfer a student to an alternative education program; and
 - (3) outline conditions under which a student may be suspended as provided by Section 37.005 or expelled as provided by Section 37.007.
- (b) A teacher with knowledge that a student has violated the student code of conduct shall file with the school principal or the other appropriate administrator a written report, not to exceed one page, documenting the violation. The principal or the other appropriate administrator shall, not later than 24 hours after receipt of a report from a teacher, send a copy of the report to the student's parents or guardians.
- (c) Once the student code of conduct is promulgated, any change or amendment must be approved by the board of trustees.

Added by Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 260, Sec. 1, eff. May 30, 1995.

Amended by Acts 1997, 75th Leg., ch. 1015, Sec. 2, eff. June 19, 1997.

Sec. 37.002. Removal by Teacher.

- (a) A teacher may send a student to the principal's office to maintain effective discipline in the classroom. The principal shall respond by employing appropriate discipline management techniques consistent with the student code of conduct adopted under Section 37.001.
- (b) A teacher may remove from class a student:
 - (1) who has been documented by the teacher to repeatedly interfere with the teacher's ability to communicate effectively with the students in the class or with the ability of the student's classmates to learn; or
 - (2) whose behavior the teacher determines is so unruly, disruptive, or abusive that it seriously interferes with the teacher's ability to communicate effectively with the students in the class or with the ability of the student's classmates to learn.

- (c) If a teacher removes a student from class under Subsection (b), the principal may place the student into another appropriate classroom, into in-school suspension, or into an alternative education program as provided by Section 37.008. The principal may not return the student to that teacher's class without the teacher's consent unless the committee established under Section 37.003 determines that such placement is the best or only alternative available. The terms of the removal may prohibit the student from attending or participating in school-sponsored or school-related activity.
- (d) A teacher shall remove from class and send to the principal for placement in an alternative education program or for expulsion, as appropriate, a student who engages in conduct described under Section 37.006 or 37.007. The student may not be returned to that teacher's class without the teacher's consent unless the committee established under Section 37.003 determines that such placement is the best or only alternative available.

Added by Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 260, Sec. 1, eff. May 30, 1995.

Sec. 37.003. Placement Review Committee.

- (a) Each school shall establish a three-member committee to determine placement of a student when a teacher refuses the return of a student to the teacher's class and make recommendations to the district regarding readmission of expelled students. Members shall be appointed as follows:
 - (1) the campus faculty shall choose two teachers to serve as members and one teacher to serve as an alternate member; and
 - (2) the principal shall choose one member from the professional staff of a campus.
- (b) The teacher refusing to readmit the student may not serve on the committee.

Added by Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 260, Sec. 1, eff. May 30, 1995.

Sec. 37.004. Placement of Students With Disabilities.

The placement of a student with a disability who receives special education services may be made only by a duly constituted admission, review, and dismissal committee. A student with a disability who receives special education services may not be placed in alternative education programs solely for educational purposes if the student does not also meet the criteria for alternative placement in Section 37.006(a) or 37.007(a).

Added by Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 260, Sec. 1, eff. May 30, 1995.

Sec. 37.005. Suspension.

- (a) The principal or other appropriate administrator may suspend a student who engages in conduct for which the student may be placed in an alternative education program under this subchapter.
- (b) A suspension under this section may not exceed three school days.

Added by Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 260, Sec. 1, eff. May 30, 1995.

Sec. 37.006. Removal for Certain Conduct.

- (a) Except as provided by Section 37.007(a)(3) or (b), a student shall be removed from class and placed in an alternative education program as provided by Section 37.008 if the student commits the following 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 of school property:
 - (1) engages in conduct punishable as a felony;
 - (2) engages in conduct that contains the elements of the offense of assault under Section 22.01(a)(1), Penal Code, or terroristic threat under Section 22.07, Penal Code;
 - (3) sells, gives, or delivers to another person or possesses or uses or is under the influence of:
 - (A) marihuana or a controlled substance, as defined by Chapter 481, Health and Safety Code, or by 21 U.S.C. Section 801 et seq.; or
 - (B) a dangerous drug, as defined by Chapter 483, Health and Safety Code;
 - (4) sells, gives, or delivers to another person an alcoholic beverage, as defined by Section 1.04, Alcoholic Beverage Code, commits a serious act or offense while under the influence of alcohol, or possesses, uses, or is under the influence of an alcoholic beverage;
 - (5) engages in conduct that contains the elements of an offense relating to abusable glue or aerosol paint under Sections 485.031 through 485.035, Health and Safety Code, or relating to volatile chemicals under Chapter 484, Health and Safety Code; or
 - (6) engages in conduct that contains the elements of the offense of public lewdness under Section 21.07, Penal Code, or indecent exposure under Section 21.08, Penal Code.
- (b) Except as provided by Section 37.007(d), a student shall be removed from class and placed in an alternative education program under Section 37.008 if the student engages in conduct that contains the elements of the offense of retaliation under Section 36.06, Penal Code, against any school employee.
- (c) In addition to Subsection (a), a student shall be removed from class and placed in an alternative education program under Section 37.008 based on conduct occurring off campus and while the student is not in attendance at a school-sponsored or school-related activity if:
 - (1) the student receives deferred prosecution under Section 53.03, Family Code, for conduct defined as a felony offense in Title 5, Penal Code;
 - (2) a court or jury finds that the student has engaged in delinquent conduct under Section 54.03, Family Code, for conduct defined as a felony offense in Title 5, Penal Code; or
 - (3) the superintendent or the superintendent's designee has a reasonable belief that the student has engaged in a conduct defined as a felony offense in Title 5, Penal Code.
- (d) In addition to Subsection (a), a student may be removed from class and placed in an alternative education program under Section 37.008 based on conduct occurring off

campus and while the student is not in attendance at a school-sponsored or school-related activity if:

- (1) the superintendent or the superintendent's designee has a reasonable belief that the student has engaged in conduct defined as a felony offense other than those defined in Title 5, Penal Code; and
 - (2) the continued presence of the student in the regular classroom threatens the safety of other students or teachers or will be detrimental to the educational process.
- (e) In determining whether there is a reasonable belief that a student has engaged in conduct defined as a felony offense by the Penal Code, the superintendent or the superintendent's designee may consider all available information, including the information furnished under Article 15.27, Code of Criminal Procedure.
- (f) Subject to Section 37.007(e), a student who is younger than 10 years of age shall be removed from class and placed in an alternative education program under Section 37.008 if the student engages in conduct described by Section 37.007.
- (g) The terms of a placement under this section must prohibit the student from attending or participating in a school-sponsored or school-related activity.
- (h) On receipt of notice under Article 15.27(g), Code of Criminal Procedure, the superintendent or the superintendent's designee shall review the student's placement in the alternative education program. The student may not be returned to the regular classroom pending the review. The superintendent or the superintendent's designee shall schedule a review of the student's placement with the student's parent or guardian not later than the third class day after the superintendent or superintendent's designee receives notice from the office or official designated by the court. After reviewing the notice and receiving information from the student's parent or guardian, the superintendent or the superintendent's designee may continue the student's placement in the alternative education program if there is reason to believe that the presence of the student in the regular classroom threatens the safety of other students or teachers.
- (i) The student or the student's parent or guardian may appeal the superintendent's decision under Subsection (h) to the board of trustees. The student may not be returned to the regular classroom pending the appeal. The board shall, at the next scheduled meeting, review the notice provided under Article 15.27(g), Code of Criminal Procedure, and receive information from the student, the student's parent or guardian, and the superintendent or superintendent's designee and confirm or reverse the decision under Subsection (h). The board shall make a record of the proceedings. If the board confirms the decision of the superintendent or superintendent's designee, the board shall inform the student and the student's parent or guardian of the right to appeal to the commissioner under Subsection (j).
- (j) Notwithstanding Section 7.057(e), the decision of the board of trustees under Subsection (i) may be appealed to the commissioner as provided by Sections 7.057(b), (c), (d), and (f). The student may not be returned to the regular classroom pending the appeal.
- (k) Subsections (h), (i), and (j) do not apply to placements made in accordance with Subsection (a).

Added by Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 260, Sec. 1, eff. May 30, 1995.

Amended by Acts 1997, 75th Leg., ch. 1015, Sec. 3, eff. June 19, 1997.

Sec. 37.0061. Funding for Alternative Education Services in Juvenile Residential Facilities.

A school district that provides education services to pre-adjudicated and post-adjudicated students who are confined by court order in a juvenile residential facility operated by a juvenile board is entitled to count such students in the district's average daily attendance for purposes of receipt of state funds under the Foundation School Program. If the district has a wealth per student greater than the guaranteed wealth level but less than the equalized wealth level, the district in which the student is enrolled on the date a court orders the student to be confined to a juvenile residential facility shall transfer to the district providing education services an amount equal to the difference between the average Foundation School Program costs per student of the district providing education services and the sum of the state aid and the money from the available school fund received by the district that is attributable to the student for the portion of the school year for which the district provides education services to the student.

Added by Acts 1997, 75th Leg., ch. 1015, Sec. 4, eff. June 19, 1997.

Sec. 37.007. Expulsion for Serious Offenses.

- (a) A student shall be expelled from a school if the student, on school property or while attending a school-sponsored or school-related activity on or off of school property:
 - (1) uses, exhibits, or possesses:
 - (A) a firearm as defined by Section 46.01(3), Penal Code;
 - (B) an illegal knife as defined by Section 46.01(6), Penal Code, or by local policy;
 - (C) a club as defined by Section 46.01(1), Penal Code; or
 - (D) a weapon listed as a prohibited weapon under Section 46.05, Penal Code;
 - (2) engages in conduct that contains the elements of the offense of:
 - (A) aggravated assault under Section 22.02, Penal Code, sexual assault under Section 22.011, Penal Code, or aggravated sexual assault under Section 22.021, Penal Code;
 - (B) arson under Section 28.02, Penal Code;
 - (C) murder under Section 19.02, Penal Code, capital murder under Section 19.03, Penal Code, or criminal attempt, under Section 15.01, Penal Code, to commit murder or capital murder;
 - (D) indecency with a child under Section 21.11, Penal Code; or
 - (E) aggravated kidnapping under Section 20.04, Penal Code; or
 - (3) engages in conduct specified by Section 37.006(a)(3) or (4), if the conduct is punishable as a felony.

- (b) A student may be expelled if the student, while on school property or while attending a school-sponsored or school-related activity on or off of school property:
 - (1) sells, gives, or delivers to another person or possesses, uses, or is under the influence of any amount of:
 - (A) marihuana or a controlled substance, as defined by Chapter 481, Health and Safety Code, or by 21 U.S.C. Section 801 et seq.;
 - (B) a dangerous drug, as defined by Chapter 483, Health and Safety Code; or
 - (C) an alcoholic beverage, as defined by Section 1.04, Alcoholic Beverage Code; or
 - (2) engages in conduct that contains the elements of an offense relating to abusable glue or aerosol paint under Sections 485.031 through 485.035, Health and Safety Code, or relating to volatile chemicals under Chapter 484, Health and Safety Code.
- (c) A student may be expelled if the student, while placed in an alternative education program for disciplinary reasons, continues to engage in serious or persistent misbehavior that violates the district's student code of conduct.
- (d) A student shall be expelled if the student engages in conduct that contains the elements of any offense listed in Subsection (a) against any employee in retaliation for or as a result of the employee's employment with a school district.
- (e) In accordance with federal law, a local educational agency, including a school district, home-rule school district, or open-enrollment charter school, shall expel a student who brings a firearm, as defined by 18 U.S.C. Section 921, to school. The student must be expelled from the student's regular campus for a period of at least one year, except that:
 - (1) the superintendent or other chief administrative officer of the school district or of the other local educational agency, as defined by 20 U.S.C. Section 2891, may modify the length of the expulsion in the case of an individual student;
 - (2) the district or other local educational agency shall provide educational services to an expelled student in an alternative education program as provided by Section 37.008 if the student is younger than 10 years of age on the date of expulsion; and
 - (3) the district or other local educational agency may provide educational services to an expelled student who is older than 10 years of age in an alternative education program as provided in Section 37.008.
- (f) A student who engages in conduct that contains the elements of the offense of criminal mischief under Section 28.03, Penal Code, may be expelled at the district's discretion if the conduct is punishable as a felony under that section. The student shall be referred to the authorized officer of the juvenile court regardless of whether the student is expelled.
- (g) A school district shall inform each teacher of the conduct of a student who has engaged in any violation listed in this section. A teacher shall keep the information received in this subsection confidential. The State Board for Educator Certification may revoke or suspend the certification of a teacher who intentionally violates this subsection.

- (h) Subject to Subsection (e), notwithstanding any other provision of this section, a student who is younger than 10 years of age may not be expelled for engaging in conduct described by this section.

Added by Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 260, Sec. 1, eff. May 30, 1995.

Amended by Acts 1997, 75th Leg., ch. 1015, Sec. 5, eff. June 19, 1997.

Sec. 37.008. Alternative Education Programs.

- (a) Each school district shall provide an alternative education program that:
 - (1) is provided in a setting other than a student's regular classroom;
 - (2) is located on or off of a regular school campus;
 - (3) provides for the students who are assigned to the alternative education program to be separated from students who are not assigned to the program;
 - (4) focuses on English language arts, mathematics, science, history, and self-discipline;
 - (5) provides for students' educational and behavioral needs; and
 - (6) provides supervision and counseling.
- (b) An alternative education program may provide for a student's transfer to:
 - (1) a different campus;
 - (2) a school-community guidance center; or
 - (3) a community-based alternative school.
- (c) An off-campus alternative education program is not subject to a requirement imposed by this title, other than a limitation on liability, a reporting requirement, or a requirement imposed by this chapter or by Chapter 39.
- (d) A school district may provide an alternative education program jointly with one or more other districts.
- (e) Each school district shall cooperate with government agencies and community organizations that provide services in the district to students placed in an alternative education program.
- (f) A student removed to an alternative education program is counted in computing the average daily attendance of students in the district for the student's time in actual attendance in the program.
- (g) A school district shall allocate to an alternative education program the same expenditure per student attending the alternative education program, including federal, state, and local funds, that would be allocated to the student's school if the student were attending the student's regularly assigned education program, including a special education program.
- (h) A school district may not place a student, other than a student suspended as provided under Section 37.005 or expelled as provided under Section 37.007, in an unsupervised setting as a result of conduct for which a student may be placed in an alternative education program.

- (i) On request of a school district, a regional education service center may provide to the district information on developing an alternative education program that takes into consideration the district's size, wealth, and existing facilities in determining the program best suited to the district.
- (j) If a student placed in an alternative education program enrolls in another school district before the expiration of the period of placement, the board of trustees of the district requiring the placement shall provide to the district in which the student enrolls, at the same time other records of the student are provided, a copy of the placement order. The district in which the student enrolls may continue the alternative education program placement under the terms of the order or may allow the student to attend regular classes without completing the period of placement.
- (k) A program of educational and support services may be provided to a student and the student's parents when the offense involves drugs or alcohol as specified under Section 37.006 or 37.007.
- (l) A school district is not required to provide in the district's alternative education program a course necessary to fulfill a student's high school graduation requirements other than a course specified by Subsection (a).
- (m) The commissioner shall adopt rules necessary to administer the provisions of Chapter 39 for alternative education programs. Academically, the mission of alternative education programs shall be to enable students to perform at grade level. Annually, the commissioner shall define for alternative education programs acceptable performance and performance indicating a need for peer review, based principally on standards defined by the commissioner that measure academic progress of students toward grade level while attending an alternative education program.

Added by Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 260, Sec. 1, eff. May 30, 1995.

Amended by Acts 1997, 75th Leg., ch. 1015, Sec. 6, eff. June 19, 1997.

Sec. 37.009. Conference; Hearing; Review.

- (a) Not later than the third class day after the day on which a student is removed from class by the teacher under Section 37.002(b) or (d) or by the school principal or other appropriate administrator under Section 37.006, the principal or other appropriate administrator shall schedule a conference among the principal or other appropriate administrator, a parent or guardian of the student, the teacher removing the student from class, if any, and the student. At the conference, the student is entitled to written or oral notice of the reasons for the removal, an explanation of the basis for the removal, and an opportunity to respond to the reasons for the removal. The student may not be returned to the regular classroom pending the conference. Following the conference, and whether or not each requested person is in attendance after valid attempts to require the person's attendance, the principal shall order the placement of the student as provided by Section 37.002 or 37.006, as applicable, for a period consistent with the student code of conduct.
- (b) If a student's placement in an alternative education program is to extend beyond the end of the next grading period, a student's parent or guardian is entitled to notice of and an opportunity to participate in a proceeding before the board of trustees of the school district

or the board's designee, as provided by policy of the board of trustees of the district. Any decision of the board or the board's designee under this subsection is final and may not be appealed.

- (c) Before it may place a student in an alternative education program for a period that extends beyond the end of the school year, the board or the board's designee must determine that:
 - (1) the student's presence in the regular classroom program or at the student's regular campus presents a danger of physical harm to the student or to another individual; or
 - (2) the student has engaged in serious or persistent misbehavior that violates the district's student code of conduct.
- (d) The board or the board's designee shall set a term for a student's placement in an alternative education program under Section 37.002 or 37.006.
- (e) A student placed in an alternative education program under Section 37.002 or 37.006 shall be provided a review of the student's status, including a review of the student's academic status, by the board's designee at intervals not to exceed 120 days. In the case of a high school student, the board's designee, with the student's parent or guardian, shall review the student's progress towards meeting high school graduation requirements and shall establish a specific graduation plan for the student. The district is not required under this subsection to provide in the district's alternative education program a course not specified under Section 37.008(a). At the review, the student or the student's parent or guardian must be given the opportunity to present arguments for the student's return to the regular classroom or campus. The student may not be returned to the classroom of the teacher who removed the student without that teacher's consent. The teacher may not be coerced to consent.
- (f) Before a student may be expelled under Section 37.007, the board or the board's designee must provide the student a hearing at which the student is afforded appropriate due process as required by the federal constitution and which the student's parent or guardian is invited, in writing, to attend. At the hearing, the student is entitled to be represented by the student's parent or guardian or another adult who can provide guidance to the student and who is not an employee of the school district. If the school district makes a good-faith effort to inform the student and the student's parent or guardian of the time and place of the hearing, the district may hold the hearing regardless of whether the student, the student's parent or guardian, or another adult representing the student attends. If the decision to expel a student is made by the board's designee, the decision may be appealed to the board. The decision of the board may be appealed by trial de novo to a district court of the county in which the school district's central administrative office is located.
- (g) The board or the board's designee shall deliver to the student and the student's parent or guardian a copy of the order placing the student in an alternative education program under Section 37.002 or 37.006 or expelling the student under Section 37.007.
- (h) After a school district notifies the parents or guardians of a student that the student has been expelled, the parent or guardian shall provide adequate supervision of the student during the period of expulsion.

Added by Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 260, Sec. 1, eff. May 30, 1995.

Amended by Acts 1997, 75th Leg., ch. 1015, Sec. 7, eff. June 19, 1997.

Sec. 37.010. Court Involvement.

- (a) Not later than the second business day after the date a hearing is held under Section 37.009, the board of trustees of a school district or the board's designee shall deliver a copy of the order placing a student in an alternative education program under Section 37.006 or expelling a student under Section 37.007 and any information required under Section 52.04, Family Code, to the authorized officer of the juvenile court in the county in which the student resides. In a county that operates a program under Section 37.011, an expelled student shall to the extent provided by law or by the memorandum of understanding immediately attend the educational program from the date of expulsion; provided, however, that in a county with a population greater than 125,000 every expelled student who is not detained or receiving treatment under an order of the juvenile court must be enrolled in an educational program.
- (b) If a student is expelled under Section 37.007(c) _____, the board or its designee shall refer the student to the authorized officer of the juvenile court for appropriate proceedings under Title 3, Family Code.
- (c) Unless the juvenile board for the county in which the district's central administrative office is located has entered into a memorandum of understanding with the district's board of trustees concerning the juvenile probation department's role in supervising and providing other support services for students in alternative education programs, a court may not order a student expelled under Section 37.007 to attend a regular classroom, a regular campus, or a school district alternative education program as a condition of probation.
- (d) Unless the juvenile board for the county in which the district's central administrative office is located has entered into a memorandum of understanding as described by Subsection (c), if a court orders a student to attend an alternative education program as a condition of probation once during a school year and the student is referred to juvenile court again during that school year, the juvenile court may not order the student to attend an alternative education program in a district without the district's consent until the student has successfully completed any sentencing requirements the court imposes.
- (e) Any placement in an alternative education program by a court under this section must prohibit the student from attending or participating in school-sponsored or school-related activities.
- (f) If a student is expelled under Section 37.007, on the recommendation of the committee established under Section 37.003 or on its own initiative, a district may readmit the student while the student is completing any court disposition requirements the court imposes. After the student has successfully completed any court disposition requirements the court imposes, including conditions of a deferred prosecution ordered by the court, or such conditions required by the prosecutor or probation department, if the student meets the requirements for admission into the public schools established by this title, a district may not refuse to admit the student, but the district may place the student in the alternative education program. Notwithstanding Section 37.002(d), the student may not be returned to the classroom of the teacher under whose supervision the offense occurred without that teacher's consent. The teacher may not be coerced to consent.

- (g) If an expelled student enrolls in another school district, the board of trustees of the district that expelled the student shall provide to the district in which the student enrolls, at the same time other records of the student are provided, a copy of the expulsion order and the referral to the authorized officer of the juvenile court. The district in which the student enrolls may continue the expulsion under the terms of the order, may place the student in an alternative education program for the period specified by the expulsion order, or may allow the student to attend regular classes without completing the period of expulsion.
- (h) A person is not liable in civil damages for a referral to juvenile court as required by this section.

Added by Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 260, Sec. 1, eff. May 30, 1995.

Amended by Acts 1997, 75th Leg., ch. 1015, Sec. 8, eff. June 19, 1997.

Sec. 37.011. Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Program.

- (a) The juvenile board of a county with a population greater than 125,000 shall develop a juvenile justice alternative education program, subject to the approval of the Texas Juvenile Probation Commission. The juvenile board of a county with a population of 125,000 or less may develop a juvenile justice alternative education program. A juvenile justice alternative education program in a county with a population of 125,000 or less:
 - (1) is not required to be approved by the Texas Juvenile Probation Commission; and
 - (2) is not subject to Subsection (c), (d), (f), or (g).
- (b) If a student is expelled from school under Section 37.007(a), (d), or (e), the juvenile court shall:
 - (1) if the student is placed on probation under Section 54.04, Family Code, order the student to attend the juvenile justice alternative education program in the county in which the student resides from the date of disposition as a condition of probation, unless the child is placed in a post-adjudication treatment facility;
 - (2) if the student is placed on deferred prosecution under Section 53.03, Family Code, by the court, prosecutor, or probation department, require the student to immediately attend the juvenile justice alternative education program in the county in which the student resides for a period not to exceed six months as a condition of the deferred prosecution; and
 - (3) in determining the conditions of the deferred prosecution or court-ordered probation, consider the length of the school district's expulsion order for the student.
- (c) A juvenile justice alternative education program shall adopt a student code of conduct in accordance with Section 37.001.
- (d) A juvenile justice alternative education program must focus on English language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, and self-discipline. Each school district shall consider course credit earned by a student while in a juvenile justice alternative education program as credit earned in a district school. Each program shall administer assessment instruments under Subchapter B, Chapter 39, and shall offer a high school equivalency program. The juvenile board or the board's designee, with the parent or guardian of each student, shall

regularly review the student's academic progress. In the case of a high school student, the board or the board's designee, with the student's parent or guardian, shall review the student's progress towards meeting high school graduation requirements and shall establish a specific graduation plan for the student. The program is not required to provide a course necessary to fulfill a student's high school graduation requirements other than a course specified by this subsection.

- (e) A juvenile justice alternative education program may be provided in a facility owned by a school district. A school district may provide personnel and services for a juvenile justice alternative education program under a contract with the juvenile board.
- (f) A juvenile justice alternative education program must operate at least:
 - (1) seven hours per day; and
 - (2) 180 days per year.
- (g) A juvenile justice alternative education program shall be subject to a written operating policy developed by the local juvenile justice board and submitted to the Texas Juvenile Probation Commission for review and comment. A juvenile justice alternative education program is not subject to a requirement imposed by this title, other than a reporting requirement or a requirement imposed by this chapter or by Chapter 39.
- (h) Academically, the mission of juvenile justice alternative education programs shall be to enable students to perform at grade level. For purposes of accountability under Chapter 39, a student enrolled in a juvenile justice alternative education program is reported as if the student were enrolled at the student's assigned campus in the student's regularly assigned education program, including a special education program. Annually the Texas Juvenile Probation Commission, with the agreement of the commissioner, shall develop and implement a system of accountability consistent with Chapter 39, where appropriate, to assure that students make progress toward grade level while attending a juvenile justice alternative education program. The Texas Juvenile Probation Commission shall adopt rules for the distribution of funds appropriated under this section to juvenile boards in counties required to establish juvenile justice alternative education programs. A student served by a juvenile justice alternative education program on the basis of an expulsion under Section 37.007(a), (d), or (e) is not eligible for Foundation School Program funding under Chapter 42 or 31.
- (i) A student transferred to a juvenile justice alternative education program must participate in the program for the full period ordered by the juvenile court unless the student's school district agrees to accept the student before the date ordered by the juvenile court. The juvenile court may not order a period of transfer under this section that exceeds the term of any probation ordered by the juvenile court.
- (j) In relation to the development and operation of a juvenile justice alternative education program, a juvenile board and a county and a commissioners court are immune from liability to the same extent as a school district, and the juvenile board's or county's professional employees and volunteers are immune from liability to the same extent as a school district's professional employees and volunteers.
- (k) Each school district in a county with a population greater than 125,000 and the county juvenile board shall annually enter into a joint memorandum of understanding that:

- (1) outlines the responsibilities of the juvenile board concerning the establishment and operation of a juvenile justice alternative education program under this section;
 - (2) defines the amount and conditions on payments from the school district to the juvenile board for students of the school district served in the juvenile justice alternative education program whose placement was not made on the basis of an expulsion under Section 37.007(a), (d), or (e);
 - (3) identifies those categories of conduct that the school district has defined in its student code of conduct as constituting serious or persistent misbehavior for which a student may be placed in the juvenile justice alternative education program;
 - (4) identifies and requires a timely placement and specifies a term of placement for expelled students for whom the school district has received a notice under Section 52.041(d), Family Code;
 - (5) establishes services for the transitioning of expelled students to the school district prior to the completion of the student's placement in the juvenile justice alternative education program;
 - (6) establishes a plan that provides transportation services for students placed in the juvenile justice alternative education program;
 - (7) establishes the circumstances and conditions under which a juvenile may be allowed to remain in the juvenile justice alternative education program setting once the juvenile is no longer under juvenile court jurisdiction; and
 - (8) establishes a plan to address special education services required by law.
- (l) The school district shall be responsible for providing an immediate educational program to students who engage in behavior resulting in expulsion under Section 37.007(b), (c), and (f) but who are not eligible for admission into the juvenile justice alternative education program in accordance with the memorandum of understanding required under this section. The school district may provide the program or the school district may contract with a county juvenile board, a private provider, or one or more other school districts to provide the program. The memorandum of understanding shall address the circumstances under which such students who continue to engage in serious or persistent misbehavior shall be admitted into the juvenile justice alternative education program.
 - (m) Each school district in a county with a population greater than 125,000 and the county juvenile board shall adopt a joint memorandum of understanding as required by this section not later than September 1 of each school year.
 - (n) If a student who is ordered to attend a juvenile justice alternative education program moves from one county to another, the juvenile court may request the juvenile justice alternative education program in the county to which the student moves to provide educational services to the student in accordance with the local memorandum of understanding between the school district and juvenile board in the receiving county.
 - (o) In relation to the development and operation of a juvenile justice alternative education program, a juvenile board and a county and a commissioners court are immune from liability to the same extent as a school district, and the juvenile board's or county's

employees and volunteers are immune from liability to the same extent as a school district's employees and volunteers.

- (p) If a district elects to contract with the juvenile board for placement in the juvenile justice alternative education program of students expelled under Section 37.007(b), (c), and (f) and the juvenile board and district are unable to reach an agreement in the memorandum of understanding, either party may request that the issues of dispute be referred to a binding arbitration process that uses a qualified alternative dispute resolution arbitrator in which each party will pay its pro rata share of the arbitration costs. Each party must submit its final proposal to the arbitrator. If the parties cannot agree on an arbitrator, the juvenile board shall select an arbitrator, the school districts shall select an arbitrator, and those two arbitrators shall select an arbitrator who will decide the issues in dispute. An arbitration decision issued under this subsection is enforceable in a court in the county in which the juvenile justice alternative education program is located. Any decision by an arbitrator concerning the amount of the funding for a student who is expelled and attending a juvenile justice alternative education program must provide an amount sufficient based on operation of the juvenile justice alternative education program in accordance with this chapter. In determining the amount to be paid by a school district for an expelled student enrolled in a juvenile justice alternative education program, the arbitrator shall consider the relevant factors, including evidence of:
- (1) the actual average total per student expenditure in the district's alternative education setting;
 - (2) the expected per student cost in the juvenile justice alternative education program as described and agreed on in the memorandum of understanding and in compliance with this chapter; and
 - (3) the costs necessary to achieve the accountability goals under this chapter.
- (q) In accordance with rules adopted by the board of trustees for the Teacher Retirement System of Texas, a certified educator employed by a juvenile board in a juvenile justice alternative education program shall be eligible for membership and participation in the system to the same extent that an employee of a public school district is eligible. The juvenile board shall make any contribution that otherwise would be the responsibility of the school district if the person were employed by the school district, and the state shall make any contribution to the same extent as if the person were employed by a school district.

Added by Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 260, Sec. 1, eff. May 30, 1995.

Amended by Acts 1997, 75th Leg., ch. 1015, Sec. 9, eff. June 19, 1997; Acts 1997, 75th Leg., ch. 1282, Sec. 1, eff. June 20, 1997.

Sec. 37.012. Funding of Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Programs.

- (a) Subject to Section 37.011(n), the school district in which a student is enrolled on the date the student is expelled on a basis other than Section 37.007(a), (d), or (e) shall, if the student is served by the juvenile justice alternative education program, provide funding to the juvenile board for the portion of the school year for which the juvenile justice alternative education program provides educational services in an amount determined by the memorandum of understanding under Section 37.011(k)(2).

- (b) Funds received under this section must be expended on juvenile justice alternative education programs.
- (c) The Office of State-Federal Relations shall assist a local juvenile probation department in identifying additional state or federal funds to assist local juvenile probation departments conducting educational or job training programs within juvenile justice alternative education programs.

Added by Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 260, Sec. 1, eff. May 30, 1995.

Amended by Acts 1997, 75th Leg., ch. 1015, Sec. 10, eff. June 19, 1997.

Sec. 37.013. Coordination Between School Districts and Juvenile Boards.

The board of trustees of the school district or the board's designee shall at the call of the president of the board of trustees regularly meet with the juvenile board for the county in which the district's central administrative office is located or the juvenile board's designee concerning supervision and rehabilitative services appropriate for expelled students and students assigned to alternative education programs. Matters for discussion shall include service by probation officers at the alternative education program site, recruitment of volunteers to serve as mentors and provide tutoring services, and coordination with other social service agencies.

Added by Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 260, Sec. 1, eff. May 30, 1995.

Sec. 37.014. Court-Related Children--Liaison Officers.

Each school district shall appoint at least one educator to act as liaison officer for court-related children who are enrolled in the district. The liaison officer shall provide counselling and services for each court-related child and the child's parents to establish or reestablish normal attendance and progress of the child in the school.

Added by Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 260, Sec. 1, eff. May 30, 1995.

Sec. 37.015. Reports to Local Law Enforcement; Liability.

- (a) The principal of a public or private primary or secondary school, or a person designated by the principal under Subsection (d), shall notify any school district police department and the police department of the municipality in which the school is located or, if the school is not in a municipality, the sheriff of the county in which the school is located if the principal has reasonable grounds to believe that any of the following activities occur in school, on school property, or at a school-sponsored or school-related activity on or off school property, whether or not the activity is investigated by school security officers:
 - (1) conduct that may constitute an offense listed under Section 508.149, Government Code;
 - (2) deadly conduct under Section 22.05, Penal Code;
 - (3) a terroristic threat under Section 22.07, Penal Code;
 - (4) the use, sale, or possession of a controlled substance, drug paraphernalia, or marihuana under Chapter 481, Health and Safety Code;

- (5) the possession of any of the weapons or devices listed under Sections 46.01(1)-(14) or Section 46.01(16), Penal Code; or
- (6) conduct that may constitute a criminal offense under Section 71.02, Penal Code.
- (b) A person who makes a notification under this section shall include the name and address of each student the person believes may have participated in the activity.
- (c) A notification is not required under Subsection (a) if the person reasonably believes that the activity does not constitute a criminal offense.
- (d) The principal of a public or private primary or secondary school may designate a school employee who is under the supervision of the principal to make the reports required by this section.
- (e) The person who makes the notification required under Subsection (a) shall also notify each instructional or support employee of the school who has regular contact with a student whose conduct is the subject of the notice.
- (f) A person is not liable in civil damages for reporting in good faith as required by this section.

Added by Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 260, Sec. 1, eff. May 30, 1995.

Amended by Acts 1997, 75th Leg., ch. 165, Sec. 12.05, eff. Sept. 1, 1997.

Sec. 37.016. Report of Drug Offenses; Liability.

A teacher, school administrator, or school employee is not liable in civil damages for reporting to a school administrator or governmental authority, in the exercise of professional judgment within the scope of the teacher's, administrator's, or employee's duties, a student whom the teacher suspects of using, passing, or selling, on school property:

- (1) marihuana or a controlled substance, as defined by Chapter 481, Health and Safety Code;
- (2) a dangerous drug, as defined by Chapter 483, Health and Safety Code;
- (3) an abusable glue or aerosol paint, as defined by Chapter 485, Health and Safety Code, or a volatile chemical, as listed in Chapter 484, Health and Safety Code, if the substance is used or sold for the purpose of inhaling its fumes or vapors; or
- (4) an alcoholic beverage, as defined by Section 1.04, Alcoholic Beverage Code.

Added by Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 260, Sec. 1, eff. May 30, 1995.

Sec. 37.017. Destruction of Certain Records.

Information received by a school district under Article 15.27, Code of Criminal Procedure, may not be attached to the permanent academic file of the student who is the subject of the report. The school district shall destroy the information at the end of the school year in which the report was filed.

Added by Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 260, Sec. 1, eff. May 30, 1995.

Sec. 37.018. Information for Educators.

Each school district shall provide each teacher and administrator with a copy of this subchapter and with a copy of the local policy relating to this subchapter.

Added by Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 260, Sec. 1, eff. May 30, 1995.

Sec. 37.019. Emergency Placement or Expulsion.

- (a) This subchapter does not prevent the principal or the principal's designee from ordering the immediate placement of a student in the alternative program if the principal or the principal's designee reasonably believes the student's behavior is so unruly, disruptive, or abusive that it seriously interferes with a teacher's ability to communicate effectively with the students in a class, with the ability of the student's classmates to learn, or with the operation of school or a school-sponsored activity.
- (b) This subchapter does not prevent the principal or the principal's designee from ordering the immediate expulsion of a student if the principal or the principal's designee reasonably believes that action is necessary to protect persons or property from imminent harm.
- (c) At the time of an emergency placement or expulsion, the student shall be given oral notice of the reason for the action. Within a reasonable time after the emergency placement or expulsion, the student shall be accorded the appropriate due process as required under Section 37.009. If the student subject to the emergency placement or expulsion is a student with disabilities who receives special education services, the term of the student's emergency placement or expulsion is subject to the requirements of 20 U.S.C. Section 1415(e)(3) and 34 CFR 300.513.
- (d) A principal or principal's designee is not liable in civil damages for an emergency placement under this section.

Added by Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 260, Sec. 1, eff. May 30, 1995.

Sec. 37.020. Reports Relating to Expulsions and Alternative Education Program Placements.

In the manner required by the commissioner, each school district shall annually report to the commissioner:

- (1) for each placement in an alternative education program established under Section 37.008:
 - (A) information identifying the student, including the student's race, sex, and date of birth, that will enable the agency to compare placement data with information collected through other reports;
 - (B) information indicating whether the placement was based on:
 - (i) conduct violating the student code of conduct adopted under Section 37.001;

- (ii) conduct for which a student may be removed from class under Section 37.002(b);
 - (iii) conduct for which placement in an alternative education program is required by Section 37.006; or
 - (iv) conduct occurring while a student was enrolled in another district and for which placement in an alternative education program is permitted by Section 37.008(j); and
- (C) the number of days the student was assigned to the program and the number of days the student attended the program; and
- (2) for each expulsion under Section 37.007:
- (A) information identifying the student, including the student's race, sex, and date of birth, that will enable the agency to compare placement data with information collected through other reports;
 - (B) information indicating whether the expulsion was based on:
 - (i) conduct for which expulsion is required under Section 37.007, including information specifically indicating whether a student was expelled on the basis of Section 37.007(e);
 - (ii) conduct, other than conduct described by Subparagraph (iii), for which expulsion is permitted under Section 37.007; or
 - (iii) serious or persistent misbehavior occurring while the student was placed in an alternative education program;
 - (C) the number of days the student was expelled; and
 - (D) information indicating whether:
 - (i) the student was placed in a juvenile justice alternative education program under Section 37.011;
 - (ii) the student was placed in an alternative education program; or
 - (iii) the student was not placed in a juvenile justice or other alternative education program.

Added by Acts 1997, 75th Leg., ch. 1015, Sec. 11, eff. June 19, 1997. SUBCHAPTER B.
SCHOOL-COMMUNITY GUIDANCE CENTERS

Sec. 37.051. Establishment.

Each school district may establish a school-community guidance center designed to locate and assist children with problems that interfere with education, including juvenile offenders and children with severe behavioral problems or character disorders. Each center shall coordinate the efforts of school district personnel, local police departments, school attendance officers, and probation officers in working with students, dropouts, and parents in identifying and correcting factors that adversely affect the education of the children.

Added by Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 260, Sec. 1, eff. May 30, 1995.

Sec. 37.052. Cooperative Programs.

The board of trustees of a school district may develop cooperative programs with state youth agencies for children found to have engaged in delinquent conduct.

Added by Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 260, Sec. 1, eff. May 30, 1995.

Sec. 37.053. Cooperation of Governmental Agencies.

- (a) Each governmental agency that is concerned with children and that has jurisdiction in the school district shall cooperate with the school-community guidance centers on the request of the superintendent of the district and shall designate a liaison to work with the centers in identifying and correcting problems affecting school-age children in the district.
- (b) The governmental agency may establish or finance a school-community guidance center jointly with the school district according to terms approved by the governing body of each entity participating in the joint establishment or financing of the center.

Added by Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 260, Sec. 1, eff. May 30, 1995.

Sec. 37.054. Parental Notice, Consent, and Access to Information.

- (a) Before a student is admitted to a school-community guidance center, the administrator of the center must notify the student's parent or guardian that the student has been assigned to attend the center.
- (b) The notification must include:
 - (1) the reason that the student has been assigned to the center;
 - (2) a statement that on request the parent or guardian is entitled to be fully informed in writing of any treatment method or testing program involving the student; and
 - (3) a statement that the parent or guardian may request to be advised and to give written, signed consent for any psychological testing or treatment involving the student.
- (c) If, after notification, a parent refuses to consent to testing or treatment of the student, the center may not provide any further psychological treatment or testing.
- (d) A parent or guardian of a student attending a center is entitled to inspect:
 - (1) any instructional or guidance material to be used by the student, including teachers' manuals, tapes, and films; and
 - (2) the results of any treatment, testing, or guidance method involving the student.
- (e) The administrator of the center may set a schedule for inspection of materials that allows reasonable access but does not interfere with the conduct of classes or business activities of the school.

Added by Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 260, Sec. 1, eff. May 30, 1995.

Sec. 37.055. Parental Involvement.

- (a) On admitting a student to a school-community guidance center, a representative of the school district, the student, and the student's parent shall develop an agreement that specifies the responsibilities of the parent and the student. The agreement must include:
 - (1) a statement of the student's behavioral and learning objectives;
 - (2) a requirement that the parent attend specified meetings and conferences for teacher review of the student's progress; and
 - (3) the parent's acknowledgement that the parent understands and accepts the responsibilities imposed by the agreement regarding attendance at meetings and conferences and assistance in meeting other objectives, defined by the district, to aid student remediation.
- (b) The superintendent of the school district may obtain a court order from a district court in the school district requiring a parent to comply with an agreement made under this section. A parent who violates a court order issued under this subsection may be punished for contempt of court.
- (c) In this section, "parent" includes a legal guardian.

Added by Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 260, Sec. 1, eff. May 30, 1995.

Sec. 37.056. Court Supervision.

- (a) In this section, "court" means a juvenile court or alternate juvenile court designated under Chapter 51, Family Code. The court may delegate responsibility under this section to a referee appointed under Section 51.04, Family Code.
- (b) If a representative of the school district, the student, and the parent or guardian for any reason fail to reach an agreement under Section 37.055, the court may, on the request of any party and after a hearing, enter an order establishing the responsibilities and duties of each of the parties as the court considers appropriate.
- (c) The court may compel attendance at any hearing held under this section through any legal process, including subpoena and habeas corpus.
- (d) If the parties reach an agreement under Section 37.055, and if the written agreement so provides, the court may enter an order that incorporates the terms of the agreement.
- (e) Any party who violates an order issued under this section may be punished for contempt of court.
- (f) A school district may enter into an agreement to share the costs incurred by a county under this section.

Added by Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 260, Sec. 1, eff. May 30, 1995. SUBCHAPTER C. LAW AND ORDER

Sec. 37.081. School District Peace Officers and Security Personnel.

- (a) The board of trustees of any school district may employ security personnel and may commission peace officers to carry out this subchapter. If a board of trustees authorizes a person employed as security personnel to carry a weapon, the person must be a

commissioned peace officer. The jurisdiction of a peace officer or security personnel under this section shall be determined by the board of trustees and may include all territory in the boundaries of the school district and all property outside the boundaries of the district that is owned, leased, or rented by or otherwise under the control of the school district and the board of trustees that employ the peace officer or security personnel.

- (b) In a peace officer's jurisdiction, a peace officer commissioned under this section:
 - (1) has the powers, privileges, and immunities of peace officers;
 - (2) may enforce all laws, including municipal ordinances, county ordinances, and state laws; and
 - (3) may, in accordance with Chapter 52, Family Code, take a juvenile into custody.
- (c) A school district peace officer may provide assistance to another law enforcement agency. A school district may contract with a political subdivision for the jurisdiction of a school district peace officer to include all territory in the jurisdiction of the political subdivision.
- (d) A school district peace officer shall perform administrative and law enforcement duties for the school district as determined by the board of trustees of the school district. Those duties must include protecting:
 - (1) the safety and welfare of any person in the jurisdiction of the peace officer; and
 - (2) the property of the school district.
- (e) The board of trustees of the district shall determine the scope of the on-duty and off-duty law enforcement activities of school district peace officers. A school district must authorize in writing any off-duty law enforcement activities performed by a school district peace officer.
- (f) The chief of police of the school district police department shall be accountable to the superintendent and shall report to the superintendent or the superintendent's designee. School district police officers shall be supervised by the chief of police of the school district or the chief of police's designee and shall be licensed by the Commission on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Education.
- (g) A school district police department and the law enforcement agencies with which it has overlapping jurisdiction shall enter into a memorandum of understanding that outlines reasonable communication and coordination efforts between the department and the agencies.
- (h) A peace officer assigned to duty and commissioned under this section shall take and file the oath required of peace officers and shall execute and file a bond in the sum of \$1,000, payable to the board of trustees, with two or more sureties, conditioned that the peace officer will fairly, impartially, and faithfully perform all the duties that may be required of the peace officer by law. The bond may be sued on in the name of any person injured until the whole amount of the bond is recovered. Any peace officer commissioned under this section must meet all minimum standards for peace officers established by the Commission on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Education.

Added by Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 260, Sec. 1, eff. May 30, 1995.

Sec. 37.082. Possession of Paging Devices.

- (a) The board of trustees of a school district may adopt a policy prohibiting a student from possessing a paging device while on school property or while attending a school-sponsored or school-related activity on or off school property. The policy may establish disciplinary measures to be imposed for violation of the prohibition and may provide for confiscation of the paging device.
- (b) The policy may provide for the district to:
 - (1) dispose of a confiscated paging device in any reasonable manner after having provided the student's parent and the company whose name and address or telephone number appear on the device 30 days' prior notice of its intent to dispose of that device. The notice shall include the serial number of the device and may be made by telephone, telegraph, or in writing; and
 - (2) charge the owner of the device or the student's parent an administrative fee not to exceed \$15 before it releases the device.
- (c) In this section, "paging device" means a telecommunications device that emits an audible signal, vibrates, displays a message, or otherwise summons or delivers a communication to the possessor.

Added by Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 260, Sec. 1, eff. May 30, 1995.

Sec. 37.083. Discipline Management Programs; Sexual Harassment Policies.

- (a) Each school district shall adopt and implement a discipline management program to be included in the district improvement plan under Section 11.252.
- (b) Each school district may develop and implement a sexual harassment policy to be included in the district improvement plan under Section 11.252.

Added by Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 260, Sec. 1, eff. May 30, 1995. SUBCHAPTER D.
PROTECTION OF BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

Sec. 37.101. Applicability of Criminal Laws.

The criminal laws of the state apply in the areas under the control and jurisdiction of the board of trustees of any school district in this state.

Added by Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 260, Sec. 1, eff. May 30, 1995.

Sec. 37.102. Rules; Penalty.

- (a) The board of trustees of a school district may adopt rules for the safety and welfare of students, employees, and property and other rules it considers necessary to carry out this subchapter and the governance of the district, including rules providing for the operation and parking of vehicles on school property. The board may adopt and charge a reasonable fee for parking and for providing traffic control.

- (b) A law or ordinance regulating traffic on a public highway or street applies to the operation of a vehicle on school property, except as modified by this subchapter.
- (c) A person who violates this subchapter or any rule adopted under this subchapter commits an offense. An offense under this section is a Class C misdemeanor.

Added by Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 260, Sec. 1, eff. May 30, 1995.

Sec. 37.103. Enforcement of Rules.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this subchapter, the board of trustees of a school district may authorize any officer commissioned by the board to enforce rules adopted by the board. This subchapter is not intended to restrict the authority of each district to adopt and enforce appropriate rules for the orderly conduct of the district in carrying out its purposes and objectives or the right of separate jurisdiction relating to the conduct of its students and personnel.

Added by Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 260, Sec. 1, eff. May 30, 1995.

Sec. 37.104. Courts Having Jurisdiction.

The judge of a municipal court of a municipality in which, or any justice of the peace of a county in which, property under the control and jurisdiction of a school district is located may hear and determine criminal cases involving violations of this subchapter or rules adopted under this subchapter.

Added by Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 260, Sec. 1, eff. May 30, 1995.

Sec. 37.105. Unauthorized Persons: Refusal of Entry, Ejection, Identification.

The board of trustees of a school district or its authorized representative may refuse to allow a person without legitimate business to enter on property under the board's control and may eject any undesirable person from the property on the person's refusal to leave peaceably on request. Identification may be required of any person on the property.

Added by Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 260, Sec. 1, eff. May 30, 1995.

Sec. 37.106. Vehicle Identification Insignia.

The board of trustees of a school district may provide for the issuance and use of suitable vehicle identification insignia. The board may bar or suspend a person from driving or parking a vehicle on any school property as a result of the person's violation of any rule adopted by the board or of this subchapter. Reinstatement of the privileges may be permitted and a reasonable fee assessed.

Added by Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 260, Sec. 1, eff. May 30, 1995.

Sec. 37.107. Trespass on School Grounds.

An unauthorized person who trespasses on the grounds of any school district of this state commits an offense. An offense under this section is a Class C misdemeanor.

Added by Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 260, Sec. 1, eff. May 30, 1995. SUBCHAPTER E. PENAL PROVISIONS

Sec. 37.121. Fraternities, Sororities, Secret Societies, and Gangs.

- (a) A person commits an offense if the person:
 - (1) is a member of, pledges to become a member of, joins, or solicits another person to join or pledge to become a member of a public school fraternity, sorority, secret society, or gang; or
 - (2) is not enrolled in a public school and solicits another person to attend a meeting of a public school fraternity, sorority, secret society, or gang or a meeting at which membership in one of those groups is encouraged.
- (b) A school district board of trustees or an educator shall recommend placing in an alternative education program any student under the person's control who violates Subsection (a).
- (c) An offense under this section is a Class C misdemeanor.
- (d) In this section, "public school fraternity, sorority, secret society, or gang" means an organization composed wholly or in part of students of public primary or secondary schools that seeks to perpetuate itself by taking in additional members from the students enrolled in school on the basis of the decision of its membership rather than on the free choice of a student in the school who is qualified by the rules of the school to fill the special aims of the organization. The term does not include an agency for public welfare, including Boy Scouts, Hi-Y, Girl Reserves, DeMolay, Rainbow Girls, Pan-American Clubs, scholarship societies, or other similar educational organizations sponsored by state or national education authorities.

Added by Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 260, Sec. 1, eff. May 30, 1995.

Sec. 37.122. Possession of Intoxicants on Public School Grounds.

- (a) A person commits an offense if the person possesses an intoxicating beverage for consumption, sale, or distribution while:
 - (1) on the grounds or in a building of a public school; or
 - (2) entering or inside any enclosure, field, or stadium where an athletic event sponsored or participated in by a public school of this state is being held.
- (b) An officer of this state who sees a person violating this section shall immediately seize the intoxicating beverage and, within a reasonable time, deliver it to the county or district attorney to be held as evidence until the trial of the accused possessor.
- (c) An offense under this section is a Class C misdemeanor.

Added by Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 260, Sec. 1, eff. May 30, 1995.

Sec. 37.123. Disruptive Activities.

- (a) A person commits an offense if the person, alone or in concert with others, intentionally engages in disruptive activity on the campus or property of any private or public school.
- (b) For purposes of this section, disruptive activity is:
 - (1) obstructing or restraining the passage of persons in an exit, entrance, or hallway of a building without the authorization of the administration of the school;
 - (2) seizing control of a building or portion of a building to interfere with an administrative, educational, research, or other authorized activity;
 - (3) preventing or attempting to prevent by force or violence or the threat of force or violence a lawful assembly authorized by the school administration so that a person attempting to participate in the assembly is unable to participate due to the use of force or violence or due to a reasonable fear that force or violence is likely to occur;
 - (4) disrupting by force or violence or the threat of force or violence a lawful assembly in progress; or
 - (5) obstructing or restraining the passage of a person at an exit or entrance to the campus or property or preventing or attempting to prevent by force or violence or by threats of force or violence the ingress or egress of a person to or from the property or campus without the authorization of the administration of the school.
- (c) An offense under this section is a Class B misdemeanor.
- (d) Any person who is convicted the third time of violating this section is ineligible to attend any institution of higher education receiving funds from this state before the second anniversary of the third conviction.
- (e) This section may not be construed to infringe on any right of free speech or expression guaranteed by the constitution of the United States or of this state.

Added by Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 260, Sec. 1, eff. May 30, 1995.

Sec. 37.124. Disruption of Classes.

- (a) A person commits an offense if the person, on school property or on public property within 500 feet of school property, alone or in concert with others, intentionally disrupts the conduct of classes or other school activities.
- (b) An offense under this section is a Class C misdemeanor.
- (c) In this section:
 - (1) "Disrupting the conduct of classes or other school activities" includes:
 - (A) emitting noise of an intensity that prevents or hinders classroom instruction;
 - (B) enticing or attempting to entice a student away from a class or other school activity that the student is required to attend;
 - (C) preventing or attempting to prevent a student from attending a class or other school activity that the student is required to attend; and

- (D) entering a classroom without the consent of either the principal or the teacher and, through either acts of misconduct or the use of loud or profane language, disrupting class activities.
- (2) "Public property" includes a street, highway, alley, public park, or sidewalk.
- (3) "School property" includes a public school campus or school grounds on which a public school is located and any grounds or buildings used by a school for an assembly or other school-sponsored activity.

Added by Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 260, Sec. 1, eff. May 30, 1995.

Sec. 37.125. Exhibition of Firearms.

- (a) A person commits an offense if the person, by exhibiting, using, or threatening to exhibit or use a firearm, interferes with the normal use of a building or portion of a campus or of a school bus being used to transport children to or from school-sponsored activities of a private or public school.
- (b) An offense under this section is a third degree felony.

Added by Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 260, Sec. 1, eff. May 30, 1995.

Sec. 37.126. Disruption of Transportation.

- (a) Except as provided by Section 37.125, a person commits an offense if the person intentionally disrupts, prevents, or interferes with the lawful transportation of children to or from school or an activity sponsored by a school on a vehicle owned or operated by a county or independent school district.
- (b) An offense under this section is a Class C misdemeanor.

Added by Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 260, Sec. 1, eff. May 30, 1995. SUBCHAPTER F.
HAZING

Sec. 37.151. Definitions.

In this subchapter:

- (1) "Educational institution" includes a public or private high school.
- (2) "Pledge" means any person who has been accepted by, is considering an offer of membership from, or is in the process of qualifying for membership in an organization.
- (3) "Pledging" means any action or activity related to becoming a member of an organization.
- (4) "Student" means any person who:
 - (A) is registered in or in attendance at an educational institution;
 - (B) has been accepted for admission at the educational institution where the hazing incident occurs; or

- (C) intends to attend an educational institution during any of its regular sessions after a period of scheduled vacation.
- (5) "Organization" means a fraternity, sorority, association, corporation, order, society, corps, club, or service, social, or similar group, whose members are primarily students.
- (6) "Hazing" means any intentional, knowing, or reckless act, occurring on or off the campus of an educational institution, by one person alone or acting with others, directed against a student, that endangers the mental or physical health or safety of a student for the purpose of pledging, being initiated into, affiliating with, holding office in, or maintaining membership in an organization. The term includes:
 - (A) any type of physical brutality, such as whipping, beating, striking, branding, electronic shocking, placing of a harmful substance on the body, or similar activity;
 - (B) any type of physical activity, such as sleep deprivation, exposure to the elements, confinement in a small space, calisthenics, or other activity that subjects the student to an unreasonable risk of harm or that adversely affects the mental or physical health or safety of the student;
 - (C) any activity involving consumption of a food, liquid, alcoholic beverage, liquor, drug, or other substance that subjects the student to an unreasonable risk of harm or that adversely affects the mental or physical health or safety of the student;
 - (D) any activity that intimidates or threatens the student with ostracism, that subjects the student to extreme mental stress, shame, or humiliation, that adversely affects the mental health or dignity of the student or discourages the student from entering or remaining registered in an educational institution, or that may reasonably be expected to cause a student to leave the organization or the institution rather than submit to acts described in this subdivision; and
 - (E) any activity that induces, causes, or requires the student to perform a duty or task that involves a violation of the Penal Code.

Added by Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 260, Sec. 1, eff. May 30, 1995.

Sec. 37.152. Personal Hazing Offense.

- (a) A person commits an offense if the person:
 - (1) engages in hazing;
 - (2) solicits, encourages, directs, aids, or attempts to aid another in engaging in hazing;
 - (3) recklessly permits hazing to occur; or
 - (4) has firsthand knowledge of the planning of a specific hazing incident involving a student in an educational institution, or has firsthand knowledge that a specific hazing incident has occurred, and knowingly fails to report that knowledge in writing to the dean of students or other appropriate official of the institution.

- (b) The offense of failing to report is a Class B misdemeanor.
- (c) Any other offense under this section that does not cause serious bodily injury to another is a Class B misdemeanor.
- (d) Any other offense under this section that causes serious bodily injury to another is a Class A misdemeanor.
- (e) Any other offense under this section that causes the death of another is a state jail felony.
- (f) Except if an offense causes the death of a student, in sentencing a person convicted of an offense under this section, the court may require the person to perform community service, subject to the same conditions imposed on a person placed on community supervision under Section 11, Article 42.12, Code of Criminal Procedure, for an appropriate period of time in lieu of confinement in county jail or in lieu of a part of the time the person is sentenced to confinement in county jail.

Added by Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 260, Sec. 1, eff. May 30, 1995.

Sec. 37.153. Organization Hazing Offense.

- (a) An organization commits an offense if the organization condones or encourages hazing or if an officer or any combination of members, pledges, or alumni of the organization commits or assists in the commission of hazing.
- (b) An offense under this section is a misdemeanor punishable by:
 - (1) a fine of not less than \$5,000 nor more than \$10,000; or
 - (2) if the court finds that the offense caused personal injury, property damage, or other loss, a fine of not less than \$5,000 nor more than double the amount lost or expenses incurred because of the injury, damage, or loss.

Added by Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 260, Sec. 1, eff. May 30, 1995.

Sec. 37.154. Consent Not a Defense.

It is not a defense to prosecution of an offense under this subchapter that the person against whom the hazing was directed consented to or acquiesced in the hazing activity.

Added by Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 260, Sec. 1, eff. May 30, 1995.

Sec. 37.155. Immunity From Prosecution Available.

In the prosecution of an offense under this subchapter, the court may grant immunity from prosecution for the offense to each person who is subpoenaed to testify for the prosecution and who does testify for the prosecution. Any person reporting a specific hazing incident involving a student in an educational institution to the dean of students or other appropriate official of the institution is immune from civil or criminal liability that might otherwise be incurred or imposed as a result of the report. Immunity extends to participation in any judicial proceeding resulting from the report. A person reporting in bad faith or with malice is not protected by this section.

Added by Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 260, Sec. 1, eff. May 30, 1995.

Sec. 37.156. Offenses in Addition to Other Penal Provisions.

This subchapter does not affect or repeal any penal law of this state. This subchapter does not limit or affect the right of an educational institution to enforce its own penalties against hazing.

Added by Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 260, Sec. 1, eff. May 30, 1995.

Sec. 37.157. Reporting by Medical Authorities.

A doctor or other medical practitioner who treats a student who may have been subjected to hazing activities:

- (1) may report the suspected hazing activities to police or other law enforcement officials; and
- (2) is immune from civil or other liability that might otherwise be imposed or incurred as a result of the report, unless the report is made in bad faith or with malice.

Added by Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 260, Sec. 1, eff. May 30, 1995