

READ ABOUT HOW CISD CHANGED THE STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT TO MAKE OUR STUDENTS *LESS* SAFE

The Student Code of Conduct governs both student conduct and disciplinary consequences. Many people who oppose a DEI plan in Southlake claimed that CISD only needed a strong Student Code of Conduct. But instead of strengthening the Student Code of Conduct, CISD has dramatically weakened it.

Weakened Non-Discrimination Statement

In December 2022, the CISD School Board adopted a new Student Code of Conduct that removed religion, gender, and sexual orientation from its statement of non-discrimination. This move was widely condemned, including by the Anti-Defamation League, the Dallas Holocaust and Human Right Museum, the American Jewish Congress and the Jewish Federation of Fort Worth and Tarrant County.

The exclusion of gender, sexual orientation, and religion was wrong, harmful, and left students vulnerable and unprotected from harassment. We know that LGBTQ youth are at greater risk of suicidal thoughts, suicide attempts, and peer victimization than straight-identified youth. But the logical conclusion following the removal of these protected classes is that these classes are no longer protected or valued.

Reduced Protection Against Bullying

The new Student Code of Conduct also removed language about bullying based on race, color, religion, sex, gender, sexual orientation, disability or age. Instead, there is only a general prohibition of bullying. There is no language stating that epithets (such as the "n" word) are prohibited conduct, instead there is only a prohibition against vulgar language.

Only Punitive Punishments

The new Student Code of Conduct does not contain restorative measures as a disciplinary consequence. By refusing to include restorative practices as a discipline management technique, administrators are forced to rely on punitive measures. Yet academic findings show that the use of restorative techniques create feelings of greater safety on campus and lower rates of suspension and expulsion.¹

No Transparency

Every member of the committee that worked on the new Student Code of Conduct was required to sign a [confidentiality agreement](#) preventing them from discussing the committee's work.

None of the meetings regarding the new Student Code of Conduct were open to the public.

¹ G. Velez, M. Hahn, H. Rechia, C. Wain, Rethinking Responses to Youth Rebellion: Recent Growth and Development of Restorative Practices in Schools, available [here](#). This reduced safety is also reflected in the failure to prohibit the possession of a pocket knife or other small knife.

CISD's policy is that "Each standing committee or special purpose advisory committee will have its agendas, meeting minutes/summaries, and relevant documents and resources posted on the District's website." But meeting minutes and agenda were woefully inadequate containing only vague statements that the the committee would "[c]ontinue to review and revise the Carroll ISD Student Code of Conduct in consideration of the model TASB Student Code of Conduct."

When the Student Code of Conduct was presented to the School Board there was only a short two-week period for review and comment during the busy holiday season. Parents and students spoke out against the proposed changes, but the School Board ignored their concerns.

Now the School Board is considering implementing similar harmful changes in the Student Handbook. The Policy Review Committee is meeting *now* to discuss changes such as:

- Parental rights
- Bullying, discrimination and harassment
- How and whether complaints and concerns will be heard.