

**LONE STAR COLLEGE SYSTEM DISTRICT  
BOARD POLICY MANUAL  
Fifth Edition**

**VI.D.7. Criminal Background Checks**

Before registering in the College's health professions, emergency services, or child development programs, a student must pass a criminal background check performed by an external consumer agency the College selects. The student shall sign a release and directly pay the agency the background-check cost. Background check results, confidentially kept, are sent directly to the program director and the student.

**VI.D.8. Legal Notice Regarding Steroids**

The following notice regarding legal restrictions on steroids shall be posted in the College's gyms: "Anabolic steroids and growth hormones are for medical use only. State law prohibits the possession, dispensing, delivery or administering of an anabolic steroid or growth hormone in any manner not allowed by state law. State law provides that bodybuilding, muscle enhancement, or increasing muscle bulk or strength through anabolic steroid use by a person in good health is not a valid medical purpose. Only a medical doctor may prescribe an anabolic steroid or human growth hormone for a person. A violation of state law concerning anabolic steroids or human growth hormones is a criminal offense punishable by confinement in jail or imprisonment in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice."

**VI.D.9. Graduation Rates**

The College publishes or mails to all current students its full-time student completion and graduation rates. It also provides the same to any requesting prospective student. The College updates the information at least every two years.

**VI.D.10. Student First Amendment Rights and Other Rights**

**VI.D.10.01 Policy**

The College's students enjoy First Amendment protections on all premises subject to limited exceptions. Student expression remains protected by the First Amendment and may not be abridged unless, in the Chancellor's or a designee's view, the speech is disruptive, College-sponsored, promotes illegal drug use, or the regulation remains viewpoint- and content-neutral.

With the exceptions stated above, the College shall take no action respecting a religion's establishment, nor will the College prohibit religion's free exercise. The College will not abridge speech, the press, peaceful assembly, or grievance petitions. Students distributing literature, displaying signs, petitioning for change, and sharing information concerning issues of public concern are protected by the First Amendment. Students also maintain their rights against unreasonable searches and seizures as provided herein.

**VI.D.10.02 Definitions**

- (a) **College-sponsored** means the College's publications, theatrical productions, and other expressive activities that students, parents, and members of the public might reasonably perceive to bear the College's approval and license. These activities may fairly be

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characterized as part of the College curriculum, whether or not they occur in a traditional classroom setting, so long as they are supervised by employee-advisors and imparting particular knowledge or skills to student participants and audiences.

- (b) **Disruptive** means substantially disrupting or materially interfering with the College's central mission of educating students. This definition does not include action that merely presents the possibility of discomfort or unpleasantness that always accompanies an unpopular viewpoint.
- (c) **Premises** means any real property over which the College has possession, control, or legal ownership.
- (d) **Student** means any person registered to attend College courses or classes. This definition includes individuals enrolled in non-credit classes, including but not limited to, continuing education, GED, or ESL classes.
- (e) **Viewpoint- and Content-Neutral** means speech policies or procedures that regulate speech without consideration for the speech's content, such as regulations regarding speech's time, manner, and place.

**VI.D.10.03 First Amendment Grievances**

A student that believes his or her rights have been violated under this section may file a grievance under Section IV.D.12.

*LSCS Policy Manual Section adopted by the Board of Trustees on September 6, 2018*

**VI.D.10.04 Student Interviews and Emails**

The College respects a student's privacy rights. But the College can interview students on a matter to protect the College's overall welfare.

- (a) **Email Confidentiality.** The College cannot guarantee the privacy or confidentiality of electronic documents, and any messages that are confidential should probably not be communicated over email. The College reserves email-access rights during routine computer maintenance and housekeeping, carrying out internal investigations, preparing public records responses, or disclosing messages, data, or files to law enforcement authorities.
- (b) **Email Records.** Messages sent as email should meet the same standards for distribution or display as tangible documents or instruments. As with all records the College maintains, as required by law, files saved on the College's information system or servers, including email, may be released after a public information act request.

**VI.D.10.05 Warrantless Search**

The College's officials have limited authority to search a student's person or property without a warrant as follows: (a) any prohibited item within "plain view" can be seized; (b) personal property may be searched, if probable cause exists, and only if exigent circumstances justify

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not obtaining a search warrant; (c) areas such as lockers and desks, which the College owns and operates may be searched by the College officials when they have reasonable suspicion to believe that stolen items or items prohibited by law or by this policy are contained in the area to be searched; and (d) stolen items and items which are forbidden by this policy or law may be impounded and used as evidence in internal College disciplinary proceedings against the student.

**VI.D.11. Students with Disability Rights**

**VI.D.11.01. Policy**

The College recognizes and supports the principles set forth in federal and state laws designed to eliminate discrimination against qualified individuals with disabilities. The College believes in equal access to educational opportunities for all individuals. The College is committed to making reasonable accommodations, including furnishing auxiliary aids and services, for qualified individuals with disabilities as required by law. For purposes of this policy section, accommodation requests also mean requests for auxiliary aids and services.

The College shall communicate and make available the procedures for the prompt and equitable implementation of reasonable accommodations for qualified individuals.

**VI.D.11.02. Student Responsibility to Request Accommodation**

Students with disabilities have the right to an equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from College services, programs, facilities or activities. Students are responsible for identifying themselves as individuals requesting accommodation based on a qualifying disability each semester. Students shall direct accommodation requests to one of the College's Disability Services Offices. While the College accepts accommodation requests throughout each semester, students are strongly urged to submit accommodation requests at least four weeks before each semester starts. The College has a two-step process to reasonably accommodate students with qualifying disabilities. Students must actively participate in this process. The two steps are (a) certifying the student's qualifying disability and (b) determining the student's reasonable accommodation.

Students certified as having a qualifying disability are eligible for accommodation and will engage in a collaborative process with the Disability Services Office to determine their reasonable accommodation. An accommodation will not be considered reasonable if it fundamentally alters the nature of a service, program, facility, or activity of the College. The College is not required to lower or substantially modify program standards or codes of conduct. Students using their accommodation shall notify the applicable instructors of the accommodation once determined. Students receiving accommodation shall be evaluated based on their ability, not disability.

**VI.D.11.03. Requests for Reconsideration or Revision of Accommodations and Discrimination Complaints**