



# Title VIII, Part F, Subpart 2 – Other Provisions

## UNSAFE SCHOOL CHOICE OPTION GUIDANCE HANDBOOK *EVERY STUDENT SUCCEEDS ACT*

[ESSASupport@tea.texas.gov](mailto:ESSASupport@tea.texas.gov)

USCO Handbook will be reviewed at least annually and necessary changes or updates to the documentation should be recorded on the table below.

Version	Release Date	Summary of Changes	Affected Page Number(s)
3.0	08/23	Updated Language on Code 36	multiple
4.0	07/24	Added Action Reason code 61	4
4.0	07/24	Added source link to 44425 Disciplinary Action Extension	6
4.0	07/24	Removed Disciplinary Actions Reason codes 37, 49, 59	7
4.0	07/24	Added source link to Chart for Determining Mandatory and Discretionary DAEP Placements and Expulsions	7
4.0	07/24	Added Note Regarding Appeals	9
4.0	07/24	Change in Compliance Monitoring	12



# Unsafe School Choice Option (USCO) Statewide Policy Requirement

This document serves as the Statewide Policy and guidance for the sole purpose of meeting Section 8532 of ESSA.

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), Title VIII, Part F, Subpart 2, Section 8532, requires any state that receives ESSA grant funds to establish and implement a statewide policy requiring that a student who—

- x attends a persistently dangerous public elementary or secondary school as identified by the Texas Education Agency (TEA); or
- x becomes a victim of a violent crime (including a crime involving a firearm) on the grounds of a public elementary or secondary school.



# Methodology for Identifying USCO Campuses

Based on input from stakeholders from across the state, the following definition has been approved for the sole purpose of meeting Section 8532 of ESSA.

All regular instructional campuses that have at least one of the mandatory expulsion incidents in any of the most recent three years for which data are available will be included in the pool of campuses analyzed. Each incident is counted once, regardless of the number of students involved.

A campus will be identified as a persistently dangerous school (PDS) and required to implement the USCO if it meets the following criteria:

- x The campus is coded as a Regular Instructional Campus in [AskTED](#); and
- x Campus has reported to PEIMS in the 1.9 (o)-.6 (a)-a.402 0 Td[(a)-d6 (o)-w 1.174 01 (l ()TjEMC)-4.3 (t.32706(l .9 (

# Disciplinary Actions – Mandatory Expulsions Included in Methodology

TEA uses the disciplinary actions referenced below to identify mandatory expulsion incidents. The following tables provides the PEIMS/TSDS Disciplinary Action Code (C164) each Action Code in table below.

Source: [44425 DisciplineActionExtension](#)

# Disciplinary Action Reasons - Mandatory Expulsion Incidents Included in Methodology

TEA uses the mandatory expulsion incidents referenced below as the basis for identification of persistently dangerous schools and to create the identify



# Location of Incident Included in Methodology

The following table provides the PEIMS/TSDS Behavior-Location Codes (C190) applicable to incident location.



# Corrective Action Requirements

The corrective action process for campuses identified under USCO is progressive. The tables below outline the LEA-required activities and submissions. LEAs are required to complete the required activities listed below

<p><i>f</i> Engage in the safety planning and implementation processes associated with the development of a Multi-Hazard Emergency Operations Plan [TEC 37.108(a)]</p> <p><i>f</i> Conduct a School Safety and Security Audit as per the requirements set out in TEC 37.108(b)</p> <p><i>f</i> EC 37.10e-0.004 Tc 0935.8 (7.)5.9 (10)1nc-0.00 (e)4.9 -0.004 T-0.004 Tc 0.004 T (f)-3.3 (e)-6 (t)4.9 (y)-7.5 (p)-0.7 (l).004</p>	
---	--

<p><i>f</i> Parental notification (regarding the status of the school and the offer to transfer students) within fourteen calendar days from the time that the list is made available to the public</p>	
---	--

*f* All activities listed for Watch List for One Year's Incidents

*f* Receive technical assistance from the

( th)5.3 (e)0 -1.4 228.72 19.8 Tc 0.001 Tw 0 -1.217 TD[( ( th)5.3 ((in)2.2o)-3tw TDb)2.3 (li27i82.8 (s)1.5 tec)1.sce sta



Copyright © Notice. The materials are copyrighted © and trademarked ™ as the property of the Texas Education Agency (TEA) and may not be reproduced without the express written permission of TEA, except under the following conditions:

1. Texas public school districts, charter schools, and Education Service Centers may reproduce and use copies of the Materials and Related Materials for the districts' and schools' educational use without obtaining permission from TEA.
2. Residents of the state of Texas may reproduce and use copies of the Materials and Related Materials for individual personal use only without obtaining written permission of TEA.
3. Any portion reproduced must be reproduced in its entirety and remain unedited, unaltered and unchanged in any way.
4. No monetary charge can be made for the reproduced materials or any document containing them; however, a reasonable charge to cover

3113.1 (y)-4.5 1