

ALVIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE'S REPORT REGARDING ITS IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION REQUIREMENTS REQUIRED IN TEX. EDUCATION CODE § 51.9315

The 86th Texas Legislature passed Senate Bill 18, effective September 1, 2019, to protect the expressive activities at public institutions of higher education. Senate Bill 18 amended Chapter 51 of the Texas Education Code by adding Section 51.9315. Pursuant to the Bill, not later than December 1, 2020, each institution of higher education “shall prepare, post on the institution’s Internet website, and submit to the governor and the members of the legislature a report regarding the institution’s implementation of the requirements under this section.” The following is Alvin Community College’s report evidencing its implementation of, and compliance with, these requirements.

Policies

It is the policy of Alvin Community College to protect the expressive rights of persons guaranteed by the constitutions of the United States and the State of Texas by: (1) recognizing freedom of speech and assembly as central to Alvin Community College’s mission; and (2) ensuring that all persons may assemble peaceably on Alvin Community College’s campus for expressive activities, including to listen to the speech of others. In response to Senate Bill 18, Alvin Community College’s Board of Regents adopted amendments to the following College policies related to the expressive activities of employees, students, and community members:

DGC (LEGAL) – Employee Expression and Use of College Facilities (date issued: December 16, 2019)

[https://pol.tasb.org/Policy/Download/214?filename=DGC\(LEGAL\).pdf](https://pol.tasb.org/Policy/Download/214?filename=DGC(LEGAL).pdf)

DGC (LOCAL) – Employee Expression and Use of College Facilities (date adopted: February 27, 2020)

[https://pol.tasb.org/Policy/Download/214?filename=DGC\(LOCAL\).pdf](https://pol.tasb.org/Policy/Download/214?filename=DGC(LOCAL).pdf)

FLA (LEGAL) – Student Expression and Use of College Facilities (date issued: December 16, 2019)

[https://pol.tasb.org/Policy/Download/214?filename=FLA\(LEGAL\).pdf](https://pol.tasb.org/Policy/Download/214?filename=FLA(LEGAL).pdf)

FLA (LOCAL) – Student Expression and Use of College Facilities (date adopted: February 27, 2020)

[https://pol.tasb.org/Policy/Download/214?filename=FLA\(LOCAL\).pdf](https://pol.tasb.org/Policy/Download/214?filename=FLA(LOCAL).pdf)

FLA (LOCAL) – Amended to add definition of “Expressive Activity” (date adopted November 19, 2020)

GD (LEGAL) – Community Expression and Use of College Facilities (date issued: December 16, 2019)

[https://pol.tasb.org/Policy/Download/214?filename=GD\(LEGAL\).pdf](https://pol.tasb.org/Policy/Download/214?filename=GD(LEGAL).pdf)

GD (LOCAL) – Community Expression and Use of College Facilities (date adopted February 27, 2020)

[https://pol.tasb.org/Policy/Download/214?filename=GD\(LOCAL\).pdf](https://pol.tasb.org/Policy/Download/214?filename=GD(LOCAL).pdf)

These policies ensure that the common outdoor areas of Alvin Community College’s campus are deemed traditional public forums and permit faculty, staff, students, and community members expressive activities in those areas of the institution’s campus, as long as the person’s conduct is not unlawful, follows Alvin Community College policies, and does not materially and substantially disrupt the functioning of the institution.

Publishing and Notice of Alvin Community College's Protection of Expressive Activities

Alvin Community College publishes its policies through an online Board Policy Manual, which can be found at: <https://pol.tasb.org/Policy/Section/214?filter=6>. The Board policies related to employee, student, and community expression (policies DGC, FLA, and GD) can be found in this online policy manual, including by searching related terms such as "free speech" and "freedom of expression." Alvin Community College provides links to its policy manual via the menu on the webpages related to the College's Board of Regents and Human Resources:

Students have access to information about their right to free expression in the Student Handbook which is linked on the main webpage in the box titled "Student Handbook." The Student Handbook can be located at this link: https://www.alvincollege.edu/currentstudents/pdf/StudentHandbook_Rights_and_Responsibilities_2020_2021_8_21_2020.pdf#search=Student%20Handbook

Students can access these student policies and the Handbook by visiting the "Student's Rights and Responsibilities" website link at: <https://www.alvincollege.edu/student-information/students-rights-responsibilities.html>

- ACC Student Handbook, Rights and Responsibilities
- Student Rights and Responsibilities in ACC Legal and Local Policies FL,
- FLA (freedom of speech), FLB, FLC, FLD, FLDB and FLE.
- Student Conduct in ACC Legal and Local Policies FLBA, FLBC, FLBD and FLBE.
- Discipline and Penalties in ACC Legal and Local Policies FM and FMA.

Training

In November 2020, Alvin Community College provided training to employees and students regarding Senate Bill 18 and the College's policies related to freedom of expression. This training was delivered by Human Resources and through the Vice President for Student Services office. The SafeColleges software training vendor was used to deliver the training. The training consisted of a review and acknowledgement of understanding regarding FLA (LEGAL) and (LOCAL) policies. Additionally, all students enrolled in the fall term received an email from the Vice President of Student Services explaining the policies and letting students know where they could find out more information. Alvin Community College has included training on these policies in the upcoming "Dolphin Camp" spring orientation for new students.

Additional information about the details provided in this report or regarding Alvin Community College's policies regarding expressive activities can be obtained by contacting either:

Ms. Karen Edwards, Vice President of Human Resources at kedwards@alvincollege.edu or 281-756-3640

Dr. Jade E. Borne, Vice President of Student Services at jborne@alvincollege.edu or 281-756-3640