

**DANBURY
ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL**

STUDENT HANDBOOK



2009 - 2010

Notice Regarding Directory Information and Parent's Response Regarding Release of Student Information

State law requires the district to give you the following information:

Certain information about district students is considered directory information and will be released to anyone who follows the procedures for requesting the information unless the parent or guardian objects to the release of the directory information about the student. If you do not want Danbury Elementary SD to disclose directory information from your child's education records without your prior written consent, you must notify the district in writing September 4, 2009.

This means that the district must give certain personal information (called "directory information") about your child to any person who requests it, unless you have told the district in writing not to do so. In addition, you have the right to tell the district that it may, or may not, use certain personal information about your child for specific school-sponsored purposes. The district is providing you this form so you can communicate your wishes about these issues. [See **Directory Information** on page10 for more information.

NOTICES TO PARENTS

Statement of Nondiscrimination

In its efforts to promote nondiscrimination, Danbury Elementary does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, gender, or disability in providing education services, activities, and programs, including vocational programs, in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972; and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.

The following district staff members have been designated to coordinate compliance with these legal requirements:

- Title IX Coordinator, for concerns regarding discrimination on the basis of gender: Greg Anderson, Director of Curriculum, 979-922-1218.
- Section 504 Coordinator, for concerns regarding discrimination on the basis of disability: Greg Anderson, Director of Curriculum, 979-922-1218.
- All other concerns regarding discrimination: See the superintendent Eric Grimmatt, 979-922-1218.

[See FB(LOCAL) and FFH(LOCAL)]

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PREFACE

To Students and Parents:

Welcome to school year 2009–2010! Education is a team effort, and we know that students, parents, teachers, and other staff members all working together can make this a wonderfully successful year for our students.

The Danbury Elementary Student Handbook is designed to provide a resource for some of the basic information that you and your child will need during the school year. In an effort to make it easier to use, the handbook is divided into two sections:

Section I—REQUIRED NOTICES AND INFORMATION FOR PARENTS—with notices that the district must provide to all parents, as well as other information to assist you in responding to school-related issues. We encourage you to take some time to closely review this section of the handbook; and

Section II—INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS AND PARENTS—organized alphabetically by topic for quick access when searching for information on a specific issue.

Please be aware that the term “the student’s parent” is used to refer to the parent, legal guardian, or any other person who has agreed to assume school-related responsibility for a student.

Both students and parents should become familiar with the Danbury Elementary *Student Code of Conduct*, which is a document adopted by the board and intended to promote school safety and an atmosphere for learning. That document may be found as an attachment to this handbook and available in the principal’s office.

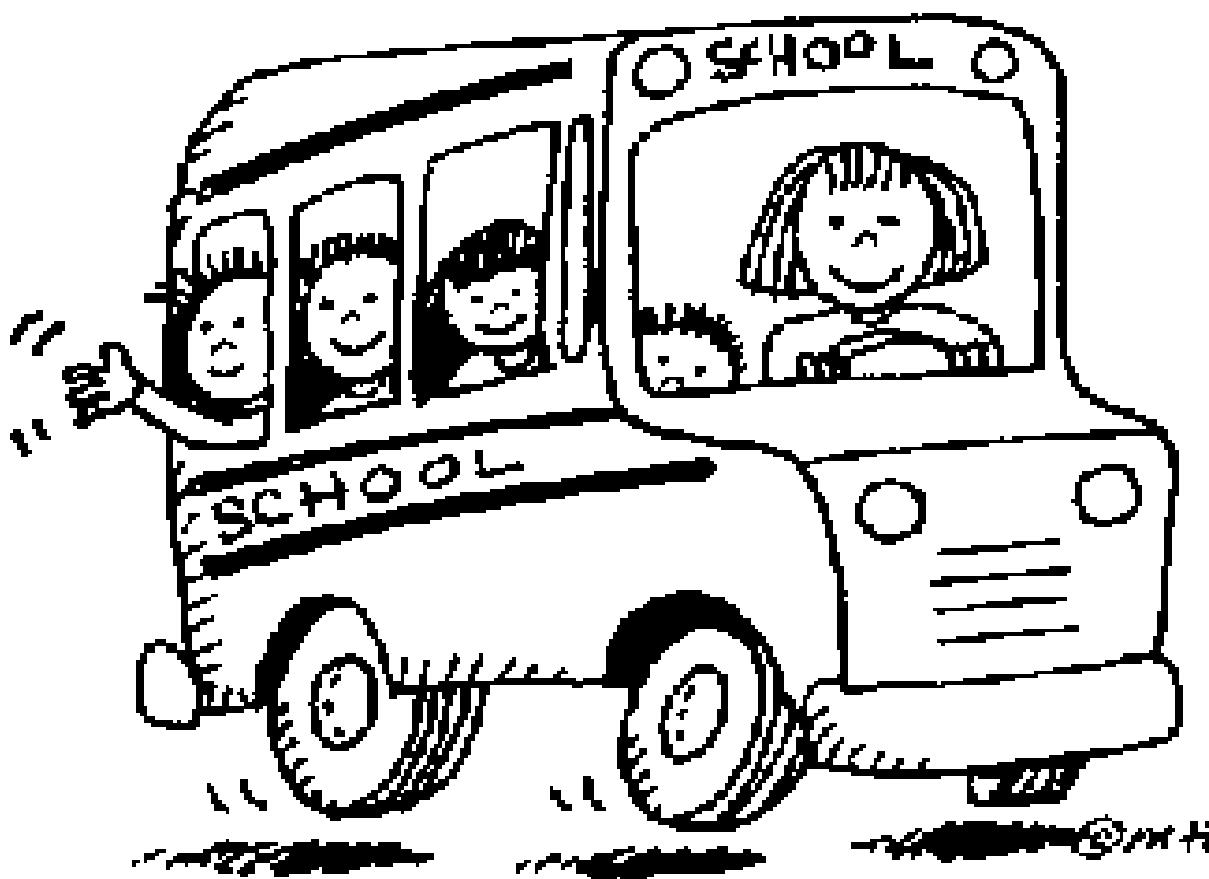
The Student Handbook is designed to be in harmony with board policy and the *Student Code of Conduct*. Please be aware that the handbook is updated yearly, while policy adoption and revision may occur throughout the year. Changes in policy or other rules that affect Student Handbook provisions will be made available to students and parents through newsletters or other communications.

In case of conflict between board policy or the *Student Code of Conduct* and any provisions of the Student Handbook, the current provisions of board policy or the *Student Code of Conduct* are to be followed.

After reading through the entire handbook with your child, keep it as a reference during this school year. If you or your child has questions about any of the material in this handbook, please contact the principal.

Please note that references to policy codes are included so that parents can refer to current board policy. A copy of the district’s policy manual is available for review in the school office or on-line at www.danburyisd.org.

Welcome to Danbury Elementary



SECTION I: REQUIRED NOTICES AND INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

This section of the Danbury Elementary Student Handbook includes several notices that the district is required to provide to you, as well as other information on topics of particular interest to you as a parent.

STATEMENT OF NONDISCRIMINATION

In its efforts to promote nondiscrimination, Danbury I.S.D. does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, gender, or disability in providing education services, activities, and programs, including vocational programs, in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972; and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.

The following district staff members have been designated to coordinate compliance with these legal requirements:

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- All other concerns regarding discrimination: See the superintendent Eric Grimmatt at 979-922-1218.

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

Working Together

Both experience and research tell us that a child's education succeeds best when there is good communication and a strong partnership between home and school. Your involvement in this partnership may include:

- Encouraging your child to put a high priority on education and working with your child on a daily basis to make the most of the educational opportunities the school provides.
- Ensuring that your child completes all homework assignments and special projects and comes to school each day prepared, rested, and ready to learn.
- Becoming familiar with all of your child's school activities and with the academic programs, including special programs, offered in the district.
- Monitoring your child's academic progress and contacting teachers as needed.
- Attending scheduled conferences and requesting additional conferences as needed. To schedule a telephone or in-person conference with a teacher, counselor, or principal, please call the school office at 979-922-8787 for an appointment. The teacher will usually return your call or meet with you during his or her conference period or before or after school. See **Report Cards/Progress Reports and Conferences** on page 28.

- Becoming a school volunteer. For further information, see policies at GKG and contact your child’s teacher or the front office.
- Participating in campus parent organizations. Parent organizations include: PTO
- Serving as a parent representative on the district-level or campus-level planning committees, assisting in the development of educational goals and plans to improve student achievement. For further information, see policies at BQA and BQB, and contact Carol Shefcik at 979-922-8787.
- Serving on the School Health Advisory Council, assisting the district in ensuring local community values are reflected in health education instruction. [See policies at BDF, EHAA, FFA, and information in this handbook at **School Health Advisory Council** on page 32.]
- Attending board meetings to learn more about district operations. [See policies at BE and BED for more information.]

PARENTAL RIGHTS

Obtaining Information and Protecting Student Rights

Your child will not be required to participate without parental consent in any survey, analysis, or evaluation—funded in whole or in part by the U.S. Department of Education—that concerns:

- Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or the student’s parent.
- Mental or psychological problems of the student or the student’s family.
- Illegal, antisocial, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior.
- Critical appraisals of individuals with whom the student has a close family relationship.
- Relationships privileged under law, such as relationships with lawyers, physicians, and ministers.
- Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or parents.
- Income, except when the information is required by law and will be used to determine the student’s eligibility to participate in a special program or to receive financial assistance under such a program.

You will be able to inspect the survey or other instrument and any instructional materials used in connection with such a survey, analysis, or evaluation. [For further information, see policy EF(LEGAL).]

Requesting Professional Qualifications of Teachers and Staff

You may request information regarding the professional qualifications of your child’s teachers, including whether a teacher has met state qualification and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction; whether the teacher has an emergency permit or other provisional status for which state requirements have been waived; and undergraduate and graduate degree majors, graduate certifications, and the field of study of the

certification or degree. You also have the right to request information about the qualifications of any paraprofessional who may provide services to your child.

Reviewing Instructional Materials

As a parent, you have a right to review teaching materials, textbooks, and other teaching aids and instructional materials used in the curriculum, and to examine tests that have been administered to your child.

Displaying a Student's Artwork and Projects

The district will seek parental consent before displaying students' artwork, special projects, photographs taken by students, and the like on the district's Web site, in printed material, by video, or by any other method of mass communication.

Accessing Student Records

You may review your child's student records. These records include:

- Attendance records,
- Test scores,
- Grades,
- Disciplinary records,
- Counseling records,
- Psychological records,
- Applications for admission,
- Health and immunization information,
- Other medical records,
- Teacher and counselor evaluations,
- Reports of behavioral patterns, and
- State assessment instruments that have been administered to your child.

[See **Student Records** on page 28.]

Granting Permission to Video or Audio Record a Student

As a parent, you may grant or deny any written request from the district to make a video or voice recording of your child. State law, however, permits the school to make a video or voice recording without parental permission for the following circumstances:

- When it is to be used for school safety;
- When it relates to classroom instruction or a cocurricular or extracurricular activity; or
- When it relates to media coverage of the school.

Removing a Student Temporarily from the Classroom

You may remove your child temporarily from the classroom if an instructional activity in which your child is scheduled to participate conflicts with your religious or moral beliefs. The removal cannot be for the purpose of avoiding a test and may not extend for an entire semester. Further, your child must satisfy grade-level and graduation requirements as determined by the school and by the Texas Education Agency.

Excusing a Student from Reciting the Pledges to the U.S. and Texas Flags

As a parent, you may request that your child be excused from participation in the daily recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States flag and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Texas flag. The request must be in writing. State law does not allow your child to be excused from participation in the required minute of silence or silent activity that follows. [See **Pledges of Allegiance and a Minute of Silence** on page 36 and policy EC(LEGAL).]

Excusing a Student from Reciting a Portion of the Declaration of Independence

You may request that your child be excused from recitation of a portion of the Declaration of Independence. State law requires students in social studies classes in grades 3–12 to recite a portion of the text of the Declaration of Independence during Celebrate Freedom Week unless (1) you provide a written statement requesting that your child be excused, (2) the district determines that your child has a conscientious objection to the recitation, or (3) you are a representative of a foreign government to whom the United States government extends diplomatic immunity. [See policy EHBK(LEGAL).]

Requesting Notices of Certain Student Misconduct

A noncustodial parent may request in writing that he or she be provided, for the remainder of the school year, a copy of any written notice usually provided to a parent related to his or her child's misconduct that may involve placement in a disciplinary alternative education program (DAEP) or expulsion. [See policy FO(LEGAL) and the *Student Code of Conduct*.]

Requesting Transfers for Your Child

As a parent, you have a right:

- To request the transfer of your child to another classroom or campus if your child has been determined by the board or its designee to have been a victim of bullying as the term is defined by Education Code 25.0341. Transportation is not provided for a transfer to another campus. See Eric Grimmett for information. [See policy FDB.]

[See **Bullying** on page 16, and policy FFI(LOCAL).]

Requesting Classroom Assignment for Multiple Birth Siblings

As a parent, if your children are multiple birth siblings (e.g., twins, triplets, etc.) assigned to the same grade and campus, you may request that they be placed either in the same classroom or in separate classrooms. Your written request must be submitted no later than the 14th day after the enrollment of your children. [See FDB(LEGAL).]

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Visitors to the School

Parents and others are welcome to visit district schools. For the safety of those within the school and to avoid disruption of instructional time, all visitors must first report to the principal's office and must comply with all applicable district policies and procedures.

Visits to individual classrooms during instructional time are permitted only with approval of the principal and teacher and only so long as their duration or frequency does not interfere with the delivery of instruction or disrupt the normal school environment.

All visitors are expected to demonstrate the highest standards of courtesy and conduct; disruptive behavior will not be permitted.

Parents of Students with Disabilities

Parents of students with learning difficulties or who may need special education services may request an evaluation for special education at any time. For more information, see **Special Programs** on page 41 and contact the district diagnostician at 979-922-1226.

Options and Requirements for Providing Assistance to Students Who Have Learning Difficulties or Who Need or May Need Special Education

If a child is experiencing learning difficulties, the parent may contact the person listed below to learn about the district's overall general education referral or screening system for support services. This system links students to a variety of support options, including referral for a special education evaluation. Students having difficulty in the regular classroom should be considered for tutorial, compensatory, and other academic or behavior support services that are available to all students including a process based on Response to Intervention. The implementation of Response to Intervention has the potential to have a positive impact on the ability of school districts to meet the needs of all struggling students.

At any time, a parent is entitled to request an evaluation for special education services. Within a reasonable amount of time, the district must decide if the evaluation is needed. If the evaluation is needed, the parent will be notified and asked to provide informed written consent for the evaluation. The district must complete the evaluation and the report within 60 calendar days of the date the district receives the written consent. The district must give a copy of the report to the parent.

If the district determines that the evaluation is not needed, the district will provide the parent with a written notice that explains why the child will not be evaluated. This written notice will include a statement that informs the parent of his or her rights if the parent disagrees with the district. Additionally, the notice must inform the parent how to obtain a copy of the *Notice of Procedural Safeguards—Rights of Parents of Students with Disabilities*.

The designated person to contact regarding options for a child experiencing learning difficulties or a referral for evaluation for special education is the assistant principal at 979-922-8787.

If a student is receiving special education services at a campus outside his or her attendance zone, the parent or guardian may request that any other student residing in the household be

transferred to the same campus, if the appropriate grade level for the transferring student is offered on that campus. [See policy FDB(LOCAL).]

Services for Title I Participants

The Parent Involvement Coordinator, who works with parents of students participating in Title I programs is the Title I teacher and may be contacted at 979-922-8787.

❖ STARS

Students Targeting Academic Readiness Skills - is a Title I TAKS tutorial program designed for students in Grade 6 who scored 75% or below on Grade 5 TAKS Reading or Math or students who scored poorly on the Benchmark tests or TAKS practices.

Student Records

Both federal and state laws safeguard student records from unauthorized inspection or use and provide parents and eligible students certain rights of privacy. Before disclosing any personally identifiable information from a student's records, the district must verify the identity of the person, including a parent or the student, requesting the information. For purposes of student records, an "eligible" student is one who is 18 or older OR who is attending an institution of postsecondary education.

The law specifies that certain general information about Danbury ISD students is considered "directory information" and will be released to anyone who follows procedures for requesting it. That information includes:

- ❖ A student's name, address, telephone number, and date and place of birth.
- ❖ The student's photograph, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, and weight and height of members of athletic teams.
- ❖ The student's dates of attendance, grade level, enrollment status, honors and awards received in school, and most recent school previously attended.
- ❖ The student's e-mail address.

Release of any or all directory information regarding a student may be prevented by the parent or an eligible student. This objection must be made in writing to the principal within ten school days of the child's first day of this school year.

Virtually all information pertaining to student performance, including grades, test results, and disciplinary records, is considered confidential educational records. Release is restricted to:

- The parents—whether married, separated, or divorced—unless the school is given a copy of a court order terminating parental rights or the right to access a student's education records.

Federal law requires that, as soon as a student becomes 18, is emancipated by a court, or enrolls in a post-secondary institution, control of the records goes to the student. The parents may continue to have access to the records, however, if the student is a dependent for tax purposes and under limited circumstances when there is a threat to the health and safety of the student or other individuals.

- District school officials who have what federal law refers to as a “legitimate educational interest” in a student’s records. School officials would include trustees and employees, such as the superintendent, administrators, and principals; teachers, counselors, diagnosticians, and support staff; a person or company with whom the district has contracted or allowed to provide a particular service or function (such as an attorney, consultant, auditor, medical consultant, therapist, or volunteer); a parent or student serving on a school committee; or a parent or student assisting a school official in the performance of his or her duties. “Legitimate educational interest” in a student’s records includes working with the student; considering disciplinary or academic actions, the student’s case, or an individualized education program for a student with disabilities; compiling statistical data; reviewing an educational record to fulfill the official’s professional responsibility; or investigating or evaluating programs.
- Various governmental agencies.
- Individuals granted access in response to a subpoena or court order.
- A school or institution of postsecondary education to which a student seeks or intends to enroll or in which he or she is already enrolled.

Release to any other person or agency—such as a prospective employer or for a scholarship application—will occur only with parental or student permission as appropriate.

The principal is custodian of all records for currently enrolled students at the assigned school. The principal is the custodian of all records for students who have withdrawn or graduated.

Records may be inspected by a parent or eligible student during regular school hours. The records custodian or designee will respond to reasonable requests for explanation and interpretation of the records.

A parent or eligible student who provides a written request and pays copying costs of ten cents per page may obtain copies. If circumstances prevent inspection during regular school hours and the student qualifies for free or reduced-price meals, the district will either provide a copy of the records requested or make other arrangements for the parent or student to review these records. The address of the superintendent’s office is 5611 Panther Drive.

The address(es) of the principals’/superintendent’s offices are:

The address of the Superintendent’s office is:

Postal - P.O. Box 378, Danbury, Texas 77534.

Physical – 5611 Panther Drive, Danbury, Texas 77534

The address of Danbury Elementary Principals’ office is:

Postal - P.O. Box 716, Danbury, Texas 77534.

Physical – 2222 Ave. F, Danbury, Texas 77534

A parent (or eligible student) may inspect the student’s records and request a correction if the records are considered inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student’s privacy

rights. A request to correct a student's record should be submitted to the principal or superintendent. The request must clearly identify the part of the record that should be corrected and include an explanation of how the information in the record is inaccurate. If the district denies the request to amend the records, the parent or eligible student has the right to request a hearing. If the records are not amended as a result of the hearing, the parent or eligible student has 30 school days to exercise the right to place a statement commenting on the information in the student's record. Although improperly recorded grades may be challenged, contesting a student's grade in a course is handled through the general complaint process found in policy FNG (LOCAL). A grade issued by a classroom teacher can be changed only if, as determined by the board of trustees, the grade is arbitrary, erroneous, or inconsistent with the district's grading policy. [See FINALITY OF GRADES at FNG(LEGAL), **Report Cards/Progress Reports and Conferences** on page 37, and **Student or Parent Complaints and Concerns** on page 16 for an overview of the process.]

The district's policy regarding student records found at FL(LEGAL) and (LOCAL) is available from the principal's or superintendent's office or on the district's Web site at Danburyisd.org.

The parent's or eligible student's right of access to and copies of student records do not extend to all records. Materials that are not considered educational records—such as a teacher's personal notes about a student that are shared only with a substitute teacher—do not have to be made available to the parents or student.

Copies of student records are available at a cost of ten cents per page, payable in advance. If the student qualifies for free or reduced-price lunches and the parents are unable to view the records during regular school hours, one copy of the record will be provided at no charge upon written request of the parent.

Please note:

Parents or eligible students have the right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education if they believe the district is not in compliance with federal law regarding student records. The complaint may be mailed to:

Family Policy Compliance Office
U. S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202-5901

Directory Information

The law permits the district to designate certain personal information about students as "directory information." This "directory information" will be released to anyone who follows procedures for requesting it.

However, release of a student's directory information may be prevented by the parent or an eligible student. This objection must be made in writing to the principal within ten school days of your child's first day of instruction for this school year. See the "Notice Regarding Directory Information and Parent's Response Regarding Release of Student Information" included in this handbook.

Textbooks

State approved textbooks are provided free of charge for each student. Books must be covered by the student, as directed by the teacher, and treated with care. Any textbook taken home must be covered. A student who is issued a damaged book should report the damage to the teacher. Any student failing to return a book issued by the school shall lose the right to have free textbooks assigned until the book is returned or paid for by the parent/guardian. However, a student will be provided textbooks for use at school during the school day.

Any student that does not return a textbook at the end of the year will not receive their final report card until the book is returned or paid for.

SECTION II: INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS AND PARENTS

Topics in this section of the handbook contain important information on academics, school activities, and school operations and requirements. Take a moment with your child to become familiar with the various issues addressed in this section. It is conveniently organized in alphabetical order to serve as a quick-reference when you or your child has a question about a specific school-related issue. Should you be unable to find the information on a particular topic, please contact Carol Shefcik, Danbury Elementary Principal at 979-922-8787.

ABSENCES/ATTENDANCE

Regular school attendance is essential for a student to make the most of his or her education—to benefit from teacher-led and school activities, to build each day’s learning on the previous day’s, and to grow as an individual. Absences from class may result in serious disruption of a student’s mastery of the instructional materials; therefore, the student and parent should make every effort to avoid unnecessary absences. Two state laws—one dealing with compulsory attendance, the other with attendance for course credit—are of special interest to students and parents. They are discussed below.

Students Leaving Campus

A parent/guardian is asked to come by the Elementary Office to sign the student out when taking a student off campus. Upon returning to campus, parents/students are required to sign the students back in and receive an “admit to class” from the front office.

Late Arrival to School

A student arriving at school after the first period begins must go to the Elementary Office and obtain a "tardy slip" before going to class. It is preferred to have the parent/guardian sign in the student in person with a written explanation to be placed in the student's attendance file.

Tardies

Students will be dismissed from the auditorium at 7:50 a.m. each morning. Students are to go immediately to their class. Students not in their assigned seat at 8:00 a.m. are marked tardy. Tardies will result in parent contact. Consequences for tardies will follow the Student Code of Conduct. When detention or ISS is assigned for tardies, the student/parent will receive a letter indicating the discipline assessed.

Your child's success in their educational career is our number one goal. Being at school everyday and on time is very important in order to achieve that goal. We need your assistance in making sure your child is in class everyday by 8:00 a.m. If your child will be out of school for the day please notify the office by 9:00 a.m. Students that have excessive tardies will be subject to disciplinary action as well as being in violation of the compulsory attendance law. Students will be allowed one tardy per six weeks without being penalized for perfect attendance. [See **Attendance for Credit** on page 28.]

Tardies are not categorized as excused or non excused.

Compulsory Attendance

State law requires that a student between the ages of six and 18 attend school, as well as any applicable accelerated instruction program, extended year program, or tutorial session, unless the student is otherwise excused from attendance or legally exempt.

A student who voluntarily attends or enrolls after his or her 18th birthday is required to attend each school day until the end of the school year and is subject to compulsory attendance laws, if the student is under 21 years old. In addition, if a student 18 or older has more than five unexcused absences in a semester the district may revoke the student's enrollment. The student's presence on school property thereafter would be unauthorized and may be considered trespassing. [See FEA]

Students enrolled in prekindergarten or kindergarten are required to attend school.

State law requires attendance in an accelerated reading instruction program when kindergarten, first grade, or second grade students are assigned to such a program. Parents will be notified in writing if their child is assigned to an accelerated reading instruction program as a result of a diagnostic reading instrument.

School employees must investigate and report violations of the state compulsory attendance law. A student absent without permission from school; from any class; from required special programs, such as additional special instruction (termed "accelerated instruction" by the state) assigned by a grade placement committee and basic skills for ninth graders; or from required tutorials will be considered in violation of the compulsory attendance law and subject to disciplinary action.

A court of law may also impose penalties against both the student and his or her parents if a school-aged student is deliberately not attending school. A complaint against the parent may be filed in court if the student:

- Is absent from school on ten or more days or parts of days within a six-month period in the same school year, or
- Is absent on three or more days or parts of days within a four-week period.

If the student is over age 18, the student's parents shall not be subject to penalties as a result of their child's violation of state compulsory attendance law. [See FEA(Legal)]

Attendance for Credit

To receive credit in a class, a student must attend at least 90 percent of the days the class is offered. A student who attends at least 75 percent but fewer than 90 percent of the days the class

is offered may receive credit for the class if he or she completes a plan, approved by the principal, that allows the student to fulfill the instructional requirements for the class. If a student is involved in a criminal or juvenile court proceeding, the approval of the judge presiding over the case will also be required before the student receives credit for the class.

If a student attends less than 75 percent of the days a class is offered or has not completed a plan approved by the principal, then the student will be referred to the attendance review committee to determine whether there are extenuating circumstances for the absences and how the student can regain credit, if appropriate. [See policies at FEC]

In determining whether there were extenuating circumstances for the absences, the attendance committee will use the following guidelines:

- All absences will be considered in determining whether a student has attended the required percentage of days. If makeup work is completed, absences for religious holy days and documented health-care appointments will be considered days of attendance for this purpose. [See policies at FEB.]
- A transfer or migrant student begins to accumulate absences only after he or she has enrolled in the district. For a student transferring into the district after school begins, including a migrant student, only those absences after enrollment will be considered.
- In reaching a decision about a student's absences, the committee will attempt to ensure that it is in the best interest of the student.
- The committee will consider the acceptability and authenticity of documented reasons for the student's absences.
- The committee will consider whether the absences were for reasons over which the student or the student's parent could exercise any control.
- The committee will consider the extent to which the student has completed all assignments, mastered the essential knowledge and skills, and maintained passing grades in the course or subject.
- The student or parent will be given an opportunity to present any information to the committee about the absences and to talk about ways to earn or regain credit.

The student or parent may appeal the committee's decision to the board of trustees by filing a written request with the superintendent in accordance with policy FNG(LOCAL).

The actual number of days a student must be in attendance in order to receive credit will depend on whether the class is for a full semester or for a full year.

Parent's Note After an Absence

A student who has been absent is required on their return to bring a statement from his/her parents/guardians to be placed into the student's attendance file. This statement should be written in ink on a whole sheet of notebook paper and should include:

1. Date
2. Student's name
3. Date(s) of absence

4. Reason for absence
5. Parent's/Guardian's signature and phone number.

An "admit" will be given to the student and should be presented to the teachers whose classes were missed. These teachers will initial the admit slip.

A student's absence from school is either an excused absence or an unexcused absence.

Doctor's Note After an Absence for Illness

Upon return to school, a student absent for more than three consecutive days because of a personal illness must bring a statement from a doctor or health clinic verifying the illness or condition that caused the student's extended absence from school. [See FEC(LOCAL).]

Excused Absences

An excused absence in which the reason for the absence is unavoidable, the student is given an opportunity to make up work missed without a penalty. Excused absences include such reasons as illness in family, funeral of a member of family or close friend, accident, etc. A student who is absent for part of a day, due to an appointment with a health care professional, may be considered in attendance. The student must have had commenced classes or returned to school on the same day of the appointment with a note from the office of their health care professional.

Unexcused Absence

An unexcused absence occurs when the reason for the absence is not due to the circumstances directly related to the student's, health or well-being and is regarded as truancy. For reasons other than truancy, a student should be given an opportunity to make up work missed without being penalized.

Students are allowed to make up work based upon the number of days absent.

Prior Approval for an Anticipated Absence

Parents/guardians shall submit a request for absence for prior approval of Campus Administrator in writing. The written request shall give the reason(s) for the absence. Requests will not be considered during six-weeks tests/projects, major examinations, and/or mandated testing periods. The requirements for approval are: The student must be passing **all** courses. This would include the current and the previous six weeks. The student is responsible for all missed assignments.

For purposes determining the number of days a student has to complete makeup work, the following formula shall be used:

$$\# \text{ of days absent} = \# \text{ of school days to complete makeup work}$$

Perfect Attendance

A certificate will be awarded to each student who has been enrolled for the entire school year and has been counted for the entire school day. Students who are tardy more than once per six weeks are not eligible for perfect attendance. Students who are out of school for a part of a day and return with a note from the office of their health care professional are eligible for perfect attendance.

Make-Up Work

A student will be permitted to make up tests and to turn in projects due in any class missed because of absence.

For any class missed, the teacher may assign the student makeup work based on the instructional objectives for the subject, or course, and the needs of the individual student in mastering the essential knowledge and skills or in meeting subject or course requirements.

A student will be responsible for obtaining and completing the makeup work in a satisfactory manner and within the time specified by the teacher. [For further information, see policy EIAB.]

A student who does not make up assigned work within the time allotted by the teacher will receive a grade of zero for the assignment.

Only students who have been absent three or more consecutive days may have necessary assignments prepared by their teachers. Parents/Guardians should notify the Elementary Office before 9:00 a.m. when requesting missed assignments to assure that these assignments are ready for a parent/guardian to pick up after 3:35 p.m. the same day.

AWARDS AND HONORS

Six Weeks Honor Roll

Students earning a 90 or above in all core subjects (MATH/READING/LANGUAGE ARTS/SCIENCE/SOCIAL STUDIES) will have their name placed on the six weeks "A" honor roll. Students earning a 90 or above and an 80 or above in any combination in the core areas will be placed on the six weeks "A-B" honor roll.

Semester Honor Roll

For "A" Semester Honor Roll, a student must make a 90 or above AVERAGE in each core subject. For "A-B" Semester Honor Roll, a student must make a 90 or above AVERAGE in at least one core subject along with an 80 or above in the other core subject areas.

Yearly Honor Roll

For "A" Yearly Honor Roll, a student's recorded final average grade for each core subject must be 90 or above.

For "A-B" Yearly Honor Roll, a student's recorded final average grade for each subject must be 90 or above in at least one subject along with an 80 or above in the other core subject areas.

CREDIT BY EXAM

With Prior Instruction

A student who has received prior instruction in a course or subject but failed the course or subject with a grade of no less than 60 may be permitted by the District to earn credit by passing an examination on the essential knowledge and skills defined for the course or subject. To receive credit, a student must score at least 70% on the examination. Testing dates are: December 16th, 17th, and 18th of 2009 and June 8th, 9th and 10th of 2010. Registration deadline for the 2009 administration is October 9th and April 5th for the 2010 administration.

Without Prior Instruction/Acceleration

A student will be permitted to take an examination to advance to a higher-grade level (at the elementary level) or to earn credit for an academic course (at the secondary level) for which the student has no prior instruction. To receive credit, a student must score at least 90% on the examination. (Credit Recovery for Grades 7-12)

BULLYING

Bullying occurs when a student or group of students directs written or verbal expressions or physical conduct against another student and the behavior results in harm to the student or the student's property, places a student in fear of harm to himself or his property, or is so severe, persistent, or pervasive that it creates an intimidating, threatening or abusive educational environment.

The board has established policies and procedures to prohibit bullying and to respond to reports of bullying. [See FFI(LOCAL).]

COMPLAINTS AND CONCERNS

Usually student or parent complaints or concerns can be addressed by a phone call or a conference with the teacher or principal. For those complaints and concerns that cannot be handled so easily, the district has adopted a standard complaint policy at FNG(LOCAL) in the district's policy manual. A copy of this policy may be obtained in the principal's or superintendent's office or on the district's Web site at danburyisd.org.

In general, the student or parent should submit a written complaint and request a conference with the campus principal. If the concern is not resolved, a request for a conference should be sent to the superintendent. If still unresolved, the district provides for the complaint to be presented to the board of trustees.

COMPUTER RESOURCES

To prepare students for an increasingly technological society, the district has made an investment in computer technology for instructional purposes. Use of these computer resources is restricted to students working under a teacher's supervision and for approved purposes only. Students and parents will be asked to sign a user agreement (separate from this handbook) regarding use of these resources; violations of this agreement may result in withdrawal of privileges and other disciplinary action.

Students and their parents should be aware that e-mail using district computers is not private and will be monitored by district staff. For additional information, see policies at CQ.

CONDUCT

Applicability of School Rules

As required by law, the board has adopted a *Student Code of Conduct* that prohibits certain behaviors and defines standards of acceptable behavior—both on and off campus—and consequences for violation of these standards. The district has disciplinary authority over a

student in accordance with the *Student Code of Conduct*. Students and parents should be familiar with the standards set out in the *Student Code of Conduct*, as well as campus and classroom rules.

Telecommunications Devices, Including Mobile Telephones

For safety purposes, the district permits students to possess telecommunications devices, including mobile telephones; however, these devices must remain turned off during the instructional day, including during all testing. The use of mobile telephones in locker rooms or restroom areas at any time while at school or at a school-related or school-sponsored event is strictly prohibited.

A student who uses a telecommunications device during the school day shall have the device confiscated. On the first offense, cell phone will be returned to the parent. Second offense, the parent may pick up the confiscated telecommunications device from the principal's office for a fee of \$15.

Confiscated telecommunications devices that are not retrieved by the student or student's parents will be disposed of after the notice required by law. [See policy FNCE.]

Any disciplinary action will be in accordance with the *Student Code of Conduct*. The district will not be responsible for damaged, lost, or stolen telecommunications devices.

Other Electronic Devices

Students are not permitted to possess such items as radios, CD players, MP3 players, video or audio recorders, DVD players, cameras, games, or other electronic devices at school, unless prior permission has been obtained from the principal. Without such permission, teachers will collect the items and turn them in to the principal's office. The principal will determine whether to return items to students at the end of the day or to contact parents to pick up the items.

Any disciplinary action will be in accordance with the *Student Code of Conduct*. The district will not be responsible for any damaged, lost, or stolen electronic device.

Assemblies

A student's conduct in assemblies must meet the same standard as in the classroom. A student who does not follow District rules of conduct during assemblies will be subject to disciplinary action.

Physical Restraint

Any district employee may, within the scope of the employee's duties, use and apply physical restraint to a student. The employee reasonably believes restraint is necessary in order to:

- Protect a person, including the person using physical restraint.
- Obtain possession of a weapon or what may be considered a dangerous object.
- Protect property from serious damage.

Behavioral Expectation

The entire staff of Danbury Elementary School has the responsibility to enforce the standards and policies set forth by the local school board. Full cooperation of students and parents/guardians is expected. Students are expected to conduct themselves at all times in an appropriate manner. Behavior that is detrimental to the educational environment on the campus is not acceptable. All students have the duty and responsibility of observing school standards and policies. Students are expected to meet the following standards:

- To attend school.
- To dress appropriately (See Dress and Grooming p. 43).
- To bring necessary supplies to school.
- To respect school property.
- To be courteous to all.
- To keep hands and feet to themselves.
- To cooperate with teachers, the counselor, and other school officials who enforce the school policies.
- To arrive for class on time and be responsible.

The principal has the responsibility of determining appropriate actions if the standards for acceptable behavior on campus are not met. Consequences for specific offenses are outlined in the District Code of Conduct.

Disruptions

As identified by law, disruptions include the following:

- Interference with the movement of people at an exit, entrance, or hallway of a district building without authorization from an administrator.
- Interference with an authorized activity by seizing control of all or part of a building.
- Use of force, violence, or threats in an attempt to prevent participation in an authorized assembly.
- Use of force, violence, or threats to cause disruption during an assembly.
- Interference with the movement of people at an exit or an entrance to district property.
- Use of force, violence, or threats in an attempt to prevent people from entering or leaving district property without authorization from an administrator.
- Disruption of classes or other school activities while on district property or on public property that is within 500 feet of district property. Class disruption includes making loud noises; trying to entice a student away from, or to prevent a student from attending, a required class or activity; and entering a classroom without authorization and disrupting the activity with loud or profane language or any misconduct.
- Interference with the transportation of students in vehicles owned or operated by the district.

Detention Hall Assignments

If a student is assigned detention hall, the following rules will apply:

- Student must report for D-hall when assigned. Students who miss their first detention assignment will receive an extra day.
- A written assignment may be given to the student to complete during detention.
- If a student is ill the day of assigned detention, an alternate day will be assigned.
- Saturday school begins at 8:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon.

ISS Assignments

Students assigned to “In-School Suspension” (ISS) must adhere to the rules of the center. Students will be given credit for the work completed in ISS.

School Representation

The Principal and Sponsor may declare a student ineligible at any time for improper attitude or for conduct deemed inappropriate for a representative of our school while representing DES.

School Sponsored Trips

Students eligible for school-sponsored trips must have permission from their parent/guardian. At all times, students are expected to conduct themselves as young ladies and gentlemen.

Danbury ISD will determine whether or not a child is eligible for participation on a trip. If a student has been in ISS more than once a semester they may be ineligible for school-sponsored trips.

Parents/Guardians may attend school-sponsored trips as long as they have completed the Criminal History Authorization Forms.

Social Events

School rules apply to all school social events. Guests attending these events are expected to observe the same rules as students, and a student inviting a guest will share responsibility for the conduct of his or her guest.

A student attending a social event will be asked to sign out when leaving before the end of the event; anyone leaving before the official end of the event will not be readmitted.

Substitute Teachers

From time to time it will be necessary for one or more of your regular teachers to be absent from class. The substitute teachers have the same responsibility and authority as your regular classroom teacher. All students are expected to extend every courtesy to substitute teachers.

COUNSELING

Personal Counseling

The school counselor is available to assist students with a wide range of personal concerns, including such areas as social, family, or emotional issues, or substance abuse. The counselor may also make available information about community resources to address these concerns. A student who wishes to meet with the counselor should inform their classroom teacher.

Psychological Exams, Tests, or Treatment

The school will not conduct a psychological examination, test, or treatment without first obtaining the parent's written consent. Parental consent is not necessary when a psychological examination, test, or treatment is required by state or federal law for special education purposes or by the Texas Education Agency for child abuse investigations and reports.

[For more information, refer to FFE(LEGAL) and FFG(EXHIBIT).]

DISCRIMINATION, HARASSMENT, AND RETALIATION

The district believes that all students learn best in an environment free from discrimination, harassment, and retaliation and that their welfare is best served when they are free from this prohibited conduct while attending school. Students are expected to treat other students and district employees with courtesy and respect; to avoid behaviors known to be offensive; and to stop those behaviors when asked or told to stop. District employees are expected to treat students with courtesy and respect.

The board has established policies and procedures to prohibit and promptly respond to inappropriate and offensive behaviors that are based on a person's race, color, religion, gender, national origin, disability, or any other basis prohibited by law. [See policy FFH]

Discrimination

Discrimination is defined as any conduct directed at a student on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, national origin, disability, or any other basis prohibited by law, that negatively affects the student.

Harassment

Harassment, in general terms, is conduct so severe, persistent, or pervasive that it affects the student's ability to participate in or benefit from an educational program or activity; creates an intimidating, threatening, hostile, or offensive educational environment; or substantially interferes with the student's academic performance. A copy of the district's policy is available in the principal's office and in the superintendent's office.

Examples of harassment may include, but are not limited to, offensive or derogatory language directed at a person's religious beliefs or practices, accent, skin color, or need for accommodation; threatening or intimidating conduct; offensive jokes, name-calling, slurs, or rumors; physical aggression or assault; graffiti or printed material promoting racial, ethnic, or other negative stereotypes; or other kinds of aggressive conduct such as theft or damage to property.

Sexual Harassment

Sexual harassment of a student by an employee, volunteer, or another student is prohibited.

Sexual harassment of a student by an employee or volunteer does not include necessary or permissible physical contact not reasonably construed as sexual in nature. However, romantic and other inappropriate social relationships, as well as all sexual relationships, between students and district employees are prohibited, even if consensual.

Examples of prohibited sexual harassment may include, but not be limited to, touching private body parts or coercing physical contact that is sexual in nature; sexual advances; jokes or conversations of a sexual nature; and other sexually motivated conduct, communications, or contact.

Retaliation

Retaliation against a person, who makes a good faith report of discrimination or harassment, is prohibited. Retaliation against a person who is participating in an investigation of alleged discrimination or harassment is also prohibited. A person who makes a false claim or offers false statements or refuses to cooperate with a district investigation, however, may be subject to appropriate discipline.

Retaliation against a student might occur when a student receives threats from another student or an employee or when an employee imposes an unjustified punishment or unwarranted grade reduction. Retaliation does not include petty slights and annoyances from other students or negative comments from a teacher that are justified by a student's poor academic performance in the classroom.

Reporting Procedures

Any student who believes that he or she has experienced discrimination, harassment, or retaliation should immediately report the problem to a teacher, counselor, principal or other district employee. The report may be made by the student's parent. See policy FFH(LOCAL) for the appropriate districts officials to whom to make a report.

Investigation of Report

To the extent possible, the district will respect the privacy of the student; however, limited disclosures may be necessary to conduct a thorough investigation and to comply with law. Allegations of prohibited conduct, which includes dating violence, discrimination, harassment, and retaliation, will be promptly investigated. The district will notify the parents of any student alleged to have experienced prohibited conduct involving an adult associated with the district.

In the event prohibited conduct involves another student, the district will notify the parents of the student alleged to have experienced the prohibited conduct when the allegations, if proven, would constitute a violation as defined by policy.

If the district's investigation indicates that prohibited conduct occurred, appropriate disciplinary or corrective action will be taken to address the conduct. The district may take disciplinary action even if the conduct that is the subject of the complaint was not unlawful.

A student or parent who is dissatisfied with the outcome of the investigation may appeal in accordance with policy FNG(LOCAL).

The following District staff members have been designated to coordinate compliance with these requirements:

Title IX Coordinator, for concerns regarding discrimination on the basis of sex: Greg Anderson.

Section 504 Coordinator, for concerns regarding discrimination on the basis of disability: Greg Anderson.

All other concerns: See the Superintendent

Services for the Homeless and for Title I Participants, Greg Anderson

Liaison for Homeless Children and Youths, who coordinates services for homeless students: Greg Anderson

Parent Involvement Coordinator, who works with parents of students participating in Title I programs: Greg Anderson

DISTRIBUTION OF PUBLISHED MATERIALS OR DOCUMENTS

School Materials

Publications prepared by and for the school may be posted or distributed, with the prior approval of the principal, sponsor, or teacher. Such items may include school posters, brochures, flyers, etc.

The yearbooks are available to students.

All school publications are under the supervision of a teacher, sponsor, and the principal.

Nonschool Materials...from students

Students must obtain prior approval from the principal before posting, circulating, or distributing written materials, handbills, photographs, pictures, petitions, films, tapes, posters, or other visual or auditory materials that were not developed under the oversight of the school. To be considered, any nonschool material must include the name of the sponsoring person or organization. The decision regarding approval will be made within two school days.

The principal has designated the front office as the location for approved nonschool materials to be placed for voluntary viewing by students. [See policies at FNAA.]

A student may appeal a principal's decision in accordance with policy FNG(LOCAL). Any student who posts nonschool material without prior approval will be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with the *Student Code of Conduct*. Materials displayed without the principal's approval will be removed.

Nonschool Materials...from others

Written or printed materials, handbills, photographs, pictures, films, tapes, or other visual or auditory materials not sponsored by the district or by a district-affiliated school-support organization will not be sold, circulated, distributed, or posted on any district premises by any district employee or by persons or groups not associated with the district, except as permitted by policy GKDA. To be considered for distribution, any nonschool material must meet the limitations on content established in the policy, include the name of the sponsoring person or

organization, and be submitted to the principal for prior review. The principal will approve or reject the materials within two school days of the time the materials are received. The requestor may appeal a rejection in accordance with the appropriate district complaint policy. [See policies at DGBA, FNG, or GF.]

Prior review will not be required for:

- Distribution of materials by an attendee to other attendees of a school-sponsored meeting intended for adults and held after school hours.
- Distribution of materials by an attendee to other attendees of a community group meeting held after school hours in accordance with policy GKD(LOCAL) or a noncurriculum-related student group meeting held in accordance with FNAB(LOCAL).
- Distribution for electioneering purposes during the time a school facility is being used as a polling place, in accordance with state law.

All nonschool materials distributed under these circumstances must be removed from district property immediately following the event at which the materials are distributed.

DRESS AND GROOMING

The District's dress code is established to teach grooming and hygiene, instill discipline, prevent disruption, avoid safety hazards, teach respect for authority and reflect community standards. The dress code is not intended to cover all possible dress and grooming issues. The fact that a particular mode of dress or jewelry is not covered in the standards is not an indication that it is acceptable. The principal or designee will determine individual issues. Generally, the school will provide temporary clothing (i.e., sweats) for the first or second offense. After that, the student will be suspended, or placed in ISS until the student is provided with the proper clothing. Students and parents may determine a student's personal dress and grooming standards, provided that they comply with the following guidelines: **ELEMENTARY:** (For unique special events the campus administration may establish event specific dress code requirements.)

General

Grooming and dress requirements may be modified to fit special events. The principal or designee prior to the event should approve modifications to the normal school day requirements.

1. No visible permanent or temporary writing or drawing on the skin is permitted. This includes, but is not limited to tattoos.
2. The District prohibits any clothing that the principal or designee reasonably believes will interfere with instruction or cause disruption of the normal school environment. The final decision is left up to the professional judgment of the principal of the school.

Hair

1. No letter, number, symbol or slashes (other than a 'part') may be worn in the hair.
2. Hair should be neat, clean and not interfere with vision. Boys may wear their hair not to exceed a length touching the top of the shoulders. Extreme hairstyles, such as mohawks

and mullets, which do not conform to community standards, shall be disallowed. The principal shall determine the standard.

3. Hair may not be dyed an unnatural (artificial) color (example: blue, green, purple).
4. The face must be clean-shaven.
5. Sideburns should be trimmed and should not extend below the bottom of the ear.

Clothing

1. **Elementary School:** Shoes are to be worn at all times. “Flip-flop” thong sandals and bedroom slippers are not allowed. Backless shoes are not allowed. The height of the platform on a shoe or the height of the heel on a shoe should not exceed 1 inch. Rubber boots and shoes containing built-in wheels are prohibited.

Middle & High School: Shoes must be worn at all times. Athletic shoes are preferred, boots and dress shoes are allowed. Shoes must have a manufactured leather strap on the back. Flip-flops, including dress flip-flops, house shoes, or slippers are not permitted.

2. Clothing should cover the body and fit in such a manner as to promote the modesty of the individual, and should be in reasonable conformity with age appropriate community standards.
3. Clothing which exposes the mid-section of the body while sitting, standing or when arms are raised above the head is not allowed. **Elementary School:** Top lengths must come past the waistband when arms are fully extended above the head.
4. Low cut dresses, shirts or blouses are not permissible.
5. **Elementary School:** Shirts with buttons down the front need to be worn buttoned and tailored shirts tucked in. Tank tops, spaghetti straps, basketball jerseys, sweater vests, fishnet and mesh shirts may not be worn as shirts without a legal garment underneath such as an acceptable tee shirt. No muscle shirts allowed.

Middle & High School: Shirts are to be buttoned. Tank tops/muscle shirts, sundresses, sweater vests, sleeveless shirts, fishnet and mesh shirts may not be worn as shirts without a legal garment underneath.

6. **Elementary:** Sundresses and sleeveless shirts must be formfitting around the arm with no undergarments or inappropriate areas showing. When arms are extended diagonally the bottom of the material should not extend 2 inches from the underarm. Capped sleeves may be worn.
7. Clothing with holes slits or cuts are not appropriate. Clothing made of “see-through” material is not appropriate. All closures on overalls and other clothing must be fastened in the manner designed by the manufacturer.
8. Proper undergarments are required and should not be exposed.
9. **Elementary School:** Shorts, dresses and skirts are appropriate provided they are longer than the middle fingertip when the student’s relaxed arm and hand are placed next to the body. Height of the student shall not be considered as a determining factor. This measurement of fingertip length will be used on front and back of item.
Middle & High School: Walking shorts, dresses and skirts are appropriate provided they are not more than 6 inches above the knee. This shall be determined by having the student kneel and measuring from floor to garment. The distance cannot exceed 6 inches.

10. Athletic shorts made of plastic, silk or wind shorts, short shorts, un-hemmed cut-offs, and bicycle shorts shall not be worn. Shorts or skirts with inverted “V” notches or slits will use the top of the “V” or slit for determination of length. (**Elementary School:** Words or pictures are not permitted on the back of shorts, pants or skirts.) Tights or leggings may be worn if covered by appropriate dress code clothing.
11. Excessively tight or oversized, baggy clothing are not acceptable. Pants, skirts, or jumpers shall be properly sized. Pants and shorts must fit at the waist and crotch, and be hemmed or cuffed.
12. Hats, caps, visors, hairnets, gloves, bandanas, and sweatbands shall not be worn at any time during the regular school day.
13. Non-prescription sunglasses shall not be worn inside of the school building or taken into the classroom. The prescription must be on file prior to authorization of wearing of sunglasses.
14. No advertisement for alcoholic beverages, tobacco or tobacco-related products, drug or drug-related products, suggestive or obscene writing or pictures on clothing are allowed as part of the school dress during the school day or school activity. Any item of clothing or accessories with inappropriate decoration or wording is prohibited. This includes but is not limited to, any item that depicts the occult, gang membership, death, suicide, violence, beer, sexual connotations, tobacco, drugs, or alcohol. This includes hats, shirts, jackets, pants, buttons, bandanas, or trademark items associated with the above.
15. Clothing associated with gang activity shall not be worn. This determination will be made by the principal or designee.
16. **Elementary School:** Students may not apply makeup or perfume during the school day.
17. **Elementary School:** Students may not bring any type of purse, fanny pack, sling bags or small backpacks to the classrooms or gym. Students in 5th and 6th grades may leave these items in their lockers.
18. Female students may wear a maximum of two earrings per ear in the ear lobe; only stud earrings may be worn during P.E. Earrings may not exceed 1 inch in length or width. Earrings should only enter and exit from one hole. No bar earrings. Large metal chains may not be worn, either around the neck or as a watch-chain.
19. Male students are not allowed to wear earrings, studs, and/or spacers.
20. **Middle & High School:** Jewelry, including earrings, may not be worn while participating in an athletic activity.
21. No visible body piercing other than allowed earrings are permitted. Facial piercings are prohibited.
22. Belts may not be worn with the end of the belt extending more than 4” below the belt-line.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES, CLUBS, AND ORGANIZATIONS

Participation in school-sponsored activities is an excellent way for a student to develop talents, receive individual recognition, and build strong friendships with other students; participation, however, is a privilege, not a right.

Eligibility for participation in many of these activities is governed by state law and the rules of the University Interscholastic League (UIL)—a statewide association overseeing interdistrict competition. The following requirements apply to all extracurricular activities:

- A student who receives at the end of a grading period a grade below 70 in any academic class—other than an advanced placement or international baccalaureate course; or an honors or dual credit course in English language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, economics, or a foreign language—may not participate in extracurricular activities for at least three school weeks.
- A student with disabilities who fails to meet the standards in the individualized education program (IEP) may not participate for at least three school weeks.
- An ineligible student may practice or rehearse.
- An absence for participation in an activity that has not been approved will receive an unexcused absence.

Please note: Sponsors of student clubs and performing groups such as the band, choir, and drill and athletic teams may establish standards of behavior—including consequences for misbehavior—that are stricter than those for students in general. If a violation is also a violation of school rules, the consequences specified by the *Student Code of Conduct* or by local policy will apply in addition to any consequences specified by the organization’s standards of behavior.

[For further information, see policies at FM and FO.]

FEES

Materials that are part of the basic educational program are provided with state and local funds at no charge to a student. A student, however, is expected to provide his or her own pencils, paper, erasers, and notebooks and may be required to pay certain other fees or deposits, including:

- Costs for materials for a class project that the student will keep.
- Membership dues in voluntary clubs or student organizations and admission fees to extracurricular activities.
- Voluntarily purchased pictures
- Voluntarily purchased student accident insurance.
- Musical instrument rental and uniform maintenance, when uniforms are provided by the district.
- Personal apparel used in extracurricular activities that becomes the property of the student.
- Fees for lost, damaged, or overdue library books.

Any required fee or deposit may be waived if the student and parent are unable to pay. Application for such a waiver may be made to the Superintendent. [For further information, see policies at FP.]

FUND-RAISING

Student groups or classes and/or parent groups may be permitted to conduct fund-raising drives for approved school purposes. An application for permission must be made to the principal at least 15 days before the event. [For further information, see policies at FJ and GE.]

GRADING GUIDELINES

Students who are in Kindergarten along with nonacademic subjects will receive grades marked as "E, S, I, D, U".

E = Excellent

I= Improving

U = Unsatisfactory

S = Satisfactory

D= Developing

For students in grades 1-6, the following grading system shall be used to indicate the student's progress:

A = 100 - 90

C= 79 - 75

F = Below 70

B = 89 - 80

D = 74 – 70

First Grade through Fifth Grade will weigh all grades at 100% with the following exceptions:

Spelling grades will count only 20% of the Language Arts overall grade;

Math grades for Second Grade through Fifth Grade will weigh Weekly Assessments at 70% and Basic Facts at 30%.

Sixth grade will weigh daily grades at 60% and test/projects at 40%.

Conduct Grades:

E = Excellent

N = Needs Improvement

S = Satisfactory

U = Unsatisfactory

Grades reflect student mastery of the subject taught and actual performance on the assignment that is being graded. Misconduct in class, lack of attention, and other behavior concerns are reflected in conduct grades. Points are not subtracted from the student's score on an assignment because of behavior.

Certain students—some with disabilities and some with limited English proficiency—may be eligible for exemptions, accommodations, or deferred testing. For more information, see the principal, counselor, or special education director.

Reteach/Retest Policy

When a student fails a new skill that is taught, the classroom teacher will reteach that skill.

Any student receiving less than a 70 on a test (not including six weeks tests, Basic Fact tests, or Spelling tests) will be offered the opportunity to retake the test following additional instruction. (Reteaching) The highest-grade possible that will be given on a retest is a 70. ***If a student is caught cheating on a test, a zero is given without an opportunity to retest.***

Report Cards/ Progress Reports and Conferences

Report cards with each student's grades or performance and absences in each class or subject are issued to parents at least once every 6 weeks.

Progress reports will be sent home with the student at the end of the third week of each six-weeks grading period. Each student is responsible to take the report home and discuss it with a parent. It must be returned to school with a parent's/guardian's signature. It is strongly recommended that any parent/guardian, who receives a report that indicates that the student is not doing well, should contact the office so that a conference with the teacher can be arranged.

[See **Working Together** on page 8 for how to schedule a conference.]

Teachers follow grading guidelines approved by the principal that have been designed to reflect each student's academic achievement for the grading period, semester, or course. State law provides that a test or course grade issued by a teacher cannot be changed unless the Board determines that the grade was arbitrary or contains an error, or that the teacher did not follow the District's grading policy. [See policy EIA.]

Questions about grade calculation should first be discussed with the teacher; if the question is not resolved, the student or parent may request a conference with the principal in accordance with FNG(LOCAL).

The report card or unsatisfactory progress report will state whether tutorials are required for a student who receives a grade lower than 70 in a class or subject.

Report cards and unsatisfactory progress reports must be signed by the parent and should be returned to the school within 2 days.

State Mandated Assessment Tests

Students at certain grade levels will take state assessment tests (such as TAKS: the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills) in the following subjects, as well as routine testing and other measures of achievement:

- Mathematics, annually in grades 3–11
- Reading, annually in grades 3–9, ELA in grades 10 and 11
- Writing, including spelling and grammar, in grades 4 and 7
- Science in grades 5, 8, 10 and 11
- Social Studies in grades 8, 10 and 11
- Any other subject and grade required by federal law

Test results will be reported to students and parents/guardians.

Also, in Grades 3-6, students with special needs may be administered the TAKS-Accommodated, TAKS-Modified, or TAKS-Alternate and students with limited English proficiency are administered the Reading Proficiency Tests in English (RPTE) and the Texas Observation Protocol (TOP) which make up the Texas English Language Proficiency Assessment System (TELPAS). For more information, see the principal or counselor.

The Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS) is an achievement test given to first and second grade students. Testing occurs in April of each year.

Student Success Initiative

The Student Success Initiative was created by the Texas Legislature to ensure that all students receive the instruction and support they need to be successful in reading and mathematics.

Under the Student Success Initiative grade advancement requirements, students are required to meet the passing standard on the Grade 3 Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) reading test to be promoted to fourth grade, and to meet the passing standard on the Grade 5 TAKS reading and mathematics tests to be promoted to sixth grade. The requirements also apply to students served by special education who take TAKS-Accommodated.

Beginning in 2007–2008, the grade advancement requirements will apply to students who take the Grade 8 reading and mathematics TAKS and TAKS-Accommodated tests.

Students have three opportunities to meet the passing standard on each of the tests and will receive additional instruction after each testing opportunity on which they do not meet the standard. A grade placement committee, consisting of the principal, teacher, and parent or guardian, meets when a student has not met the passing standard after two testing opportunities and decides the most effective way to support a student's academic success. A student who does not meet the passing standard after three testing opportunities is automatically retained; however, if the parents appeal the retention, the grade placement committee may choose to promote the student if all members agree that the student is likely to perform on grade level with additional instruction.

The parent/guardian of each student who has not successfully completed a subject or course for any semester shall be notified by the district as soon as possible of any summer program available in the District that may permit the student to successfully complete the failed subjects or courses.

HEALTH-RELATED MATTERS

The school district employs a nurse on a full-time basis. Students wishing to see the school nurse shall first receive permission from their teacher. When immediate first aid is needed, the students should call for the nearest faculty member to get assistance. Parents/guardians should update all medical information and supply other information that could be required in case of an emergency. A student should not leave the school grounds when he/she becomes ill or call his/her parents/guardians without the permission of the school nurse.

Emergency Medical Treatment and Information

If a student has a medical emergency at school or a school-related activity when the parent cannot be reached, the school will need to have written parental consent to obtain emergency

medical treatment, and information about allergies to medications, foods, insect bites, etc. Therefore, parents are asked each year to complete an emergency care consent form. Parents should keep emergency care information up-to-date (name of doctor, emergency phone numbers, allergies, etc.). Please contact the school nurse to update any information that the nurse or the teacher needs to know.

Medicine at School

District employees will not give a student prescription medication, nonprescription medication, herbal substances, anabolic steroids, or dietary supplements, with the following exceptions:

- ❖ Authorized employees, in accordance with policy FFAC, may administer:
 - Prescription medication provided by the parent, along with a written request, and in the original, properly labeled container.
 - Medication from a properly labeled unit dosage container filled by a registered nurse or another qualified District employee from the original, properly labeled container.
 - Nonprescription medication provided by the parent along with a written request, and in the original, properly labeled container.
 - Herbal or dietary supplements provided by the parent if required by the student's individualized education program (IEP) or Section 504 plan for a student with disabilities.
- ❖ In certain emergency situations, the District will maintain and administer to a student nonprescription medication, but only:
 - In accordance with the guidelines developed with the District's medical advisor and
 - When the parent has previously provided written consent to emergency treatment on the District's form.

A student with asthma who has written authorization from his or her parent and physician or other licensed health-care provider may be permitted to possess and use prescribed asthma medication at school or school-related events. The student and parents should see the school nurse or principal if the student has been prescribed asthma medication for use during the school day.

Students are prohibited from dispensing any type of drug to another student.

Psychotropic Drugs

A psychotropic drug is a substance used in the diagnosis, treatment, or prevention of a disease or as a component of a medication. It is intended to have an altering effect on perception, emotion, or behavior and is commonly described as a mood- or behavior-altering substance.

Teachers and other district employees may discuss a student's academic progress or behavior with the student's parents or another employee as appropriate; however, they are not permitted to recommend use of psychotropic drugs. A district employee who is a registered nurse, an

advanced nurse practitioner, a physician, or a certified or credentialed mental health professional can recommend that a student be evaluated by an appropriate medical practitioner, if appropriate. [For further information, see policies at FFAC.]

Contagious Disease/Conditions

To protect other students from contagious illnesses, students infected with certain diseases are not allowed to come to school while contagious. If a parent suspects that his or her child has a contagious disease, the parent should contact the school nurse or principal so that other students who might have been exposed to the disease can be alerted.

The school nurse or the principal's office can provide information from the Department of State Health Services regarding these diseases.

Bacterial Meningitis

State law specifically requires the District to provide the following information:

- **What is meningitis?**

Meningitis is an inflammation of the covering of the brain and spinal cord. It can be caused by viruses, parasites, fungi, and bacteria. Viral meningitis is most common and the least serious. Bacterial meningitis is the most common form of serious bacterial infection with the potential for serious, long-term complications. It is an uncommon disease, but requires urgent treatment with antibiotics to prevent permanent damage or death.

- **What are the symptoms?**

Someone with meningitis will become very ill. The illness may develop over one or two days, but it can also rapidly progress in a matter of hours. Not everyone with meningitis will have the same symptoms.

Children (over 1 year old) and adults with meningitis may have a severe headache, high temperature, vomiting, sensitivity to bright lights, neck stiffness or joint pains, and drowsiness or confusion. In both children and adults, there may be a rash of tiny, red-purple spots. These can occur anywhere on the body.

The diagnosis of bacterial meningitis is based on a combination of symptoms and laboratory results.

- **How serious is bacterial meningitis?**

If it is diagnosed early and treated promptly, the majority of people make a complete recovery. In some cases it can be fatal or a person may be left with a permanent disability.

- **How is bacterial meningitis spread?**

Fortunately, none of the bacteria that cause meningitis are as contagious as diseases like the common cold or the flu, and they are not spread by casual contact or by simply breathing the air where a person with meningitis has been. The germs live naturally in the back of our noses and throats, but they do not live for long outside the body. They are spread when people exchange saliva (such as by kissing; sharing drinking containers, utensils, or cigarettes).

The germ does not cause meningitis in most people. Instead, most people become carriers of the germ for days, weeks, or even months. The bacteria rarely overcome the body's immune system and cause meningitis or another serious illness.

- **How can bacterial meningitis be prevented?**

Do not share food, drinks, utensils, toothbrushes, or cigarettes. Limit the number of persons you kiss.

While there are vaccines for some other strains of bacterial meningitis, they are used only in special circumstances. These include when there is a disease outbreak in a community or for people traveling to a country where there is a high risk of getting the disease. Also, a vaccine is recommended by some groups for college students, particularly freshmen living in dorms or residence halls. The vaccine is safe and effective (85–90 percent). It can cause mild side effects, such as redness and pain at the injection site lasting up to two days. Immunity develops within seven to ten days after the vaccine is given and lasts for up to five years.

- **What should you do if you think you or a friend might have bacterial meningitis?**

You should seek prompt medical attention.

- **Where can you get more information?**

Your school nurse, family doctor, and the staff at your local or regional health department office are excellent sources for information on all communicable diseases. You may also call your local health department or Regional Texas Department of Health office to ask about meningococcal vaccine. Additional information may also be found at the Web sites for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, <http://www.cdc.gov>, and the Texas Department of Health, <http://www.tdh.state.tx.us>.

Physical Activity for Students in Elementary and Middle School

In accordance with policies at EHAB, EHAC, and FFA, the district will ensure that students in kindergarten through grade 5 engage in moderate or vigorous physical activity for at least 30 minutes per day or 135 minutes per week.

Students in sixth grade shall engage in 30 minutes of moderate or vigorous physical activity per day for at least four semesters OR at least 225 minutes of moderate or vigorous physical activity within a two-week period for at least four semesters.

For additional information on the district's requirements and programs regarding elementary, middle, and junior high school student physical activity requirements, please see the principal.

School Health Advisory Council

During the preceding school year, the district's School Health Advisory Council held 2 meetings. Additional information regarding the district's School Health Advisory Council is available from the Susie Larson DISD school nurse. [See also policies at BDF and EHAA.]

Physical Fitness Assessment

Annually, the district will conduct a physical fitness assessment of students in grades 3–12. At the end of the school year, a report will be sent home with the results of your child's physical fitness assessment conducted during the school year.

Vending Machines

The district has adopted policies and implemented procedures to comply with state and federal food service guidelines for restricting student access to vending machines. For more information regarding these policies and guidelines see policies at CO and FFA.

Other Health-Related Matters

Tobacco Prohibited

The district and its staff strictly enforce prohibitions against the use of tobacco products by students and others on school property and at school-sponsored and school-related activities. [See the *Student Code of Conduct* and policies at FNCD and GKA.]

Asbestos Management Plan

The district's Asbestos Management Plan, designed to be in compliance with state and federal regulations, is available in the front office. If you have any questions, please contact Disa Shulze, Director of Maintenance and Transportation.

Pest Management Plan

The district applies only pest control products that comply with state and federal guidelines. Except in an emergency, signs will be posted 48 hours before application. Parents who want to be notified prior to pesticide application inside their child's school assignment area may contact Disa Shulze, Director of Maintenance and Transportation.

HOMELESS STUDENTS

For more information on services for homeless students, contact the district's Liaison for Homeless Children and Youths, Greg Anderson, at 979-922-1218.

IMMUNIZATION

A student must be fully immunized against certain diseases or must present a certificate or statement that, for medical reasons or reasons of conscience, including a religious belief, the student will not be immunized. For exemptions based on reasons of conscience, only official forms issued by the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS), Immunization Branch, can be honored by the district. This form may be obtained by writing the DSHS Immunization Branch (MC 1946), P.O. Box 149347, Austin, Texas 78714-9347; or online at <https://webds.dshs.state.tx.us/immco/affidavit.shtm>. The form must be notarized and submitted to the principal or school nurse within 90 days of notarization. If the parent is seeking an exemption for more than one student in the family, a separate form must be provided for each student.

The immunizations required are: diphtheria, rubeola (measles), rubella (German measles), mumps, tetanus, pertussis, poliomyelitis (polio), hepatitis A, hepatitis B, and varicella (chicken pox). The school nurse can provide information on age-appropriate doses or on an acceptable physician-validated history of illness required by the Department of State Health Services. Proof of immunization may be established by personal records from a licensed physician or public health clinic with a signature or rubber-stamp validation.

If a student should not be immunized for medical reasons, the student or parent must present a certificate signed by a U.S. licensed physician stating that, in the doctor's opinion, the immunization required poses a significant risk to the health and well-being of the student or member of the student's family or household. This certificate must be renewed yearly unless the physician specifies a life-long condition. [For further information, see policy FFAB(LEGAL) and the Department of State Health Services Web site: <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/immunize/school/default.shtm>.]

LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

Questioning of Students

When law enforcement officers or other lawful authorities wish to question or interview a student at school:

- The principal will verify and record the identity of the officer or other authority and ask for an explanation of the need to question or interview the student at school.
- The principal ordinarily will make reasonable efforts to notify the parents unless the interviewer raises what the principal considers to be a valid objection.
- The principal ordinarily will be present unless the interviewer raises what the principal considers to be a valid objection.
- The principal will cooperate fully regarding the conditions of the interview, if the questioning or interview is part of a child abuse investigation.

Students Taken Into Custody

State law requires the District to permit a student to be taken into legal custody:

- To comply with an order of the juvenile court.
- To comply with the laws of arrest.
- By a law enforcement officer if there is probable cause to believe the student has engaged in delinquent conduct or conduct in need of supervision.
- By a probation officer if there is probable cause to believe the student has violated a condition of probation imposed by the juvenile court.
- By an authorized representative of Child Protective Services, Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, a law enforcement officer, or a juvenile probation officer, without a court order, under the conditions set out in the Family Code relating to the student's physical health or safety.
- To comply with a properly issued directive to take a student into custody.

Before a student is released to a law enforcement officer or other legally authorized person, the principal will verify the officer's identity and, to the best of his or her ability, will verify the official's authority to take custody of the student.

The principal will immediately notify the Superintendent and will ordinarily attempt to notify the parent unless the officer or other authorized person raises what the principal considers to be a

valid objection to notifying the parents. Because the principal does not have the authority to prevent or delay a custody action, notification will most likely be after the fact.

Notification of Law Violations

The District is also required by state law to notify:

- All instructional and support personnel who have responsibility for supervising a student who has been arrested or referred to the juvenile court for any felony offense or for certain misdemeanors.
- All instructional and support personnel who have regular contact with a student who has been convicted, received deferred prosecution, received deferred adjudication, or adjudicated of delinquent conduct for any felony offense or certain misdemeanors. [For further information, see policy GRA.]

MAKEUP WORK

Routine and In-depth Makeup Work Assignments

For any class missed, the teacher may assign the student makeup work based on the instructional objectives for the subject or course and the needs of the individual student in mastering the essential knowledge and skills or in meeting subject or course requirements.

A student will be responsible for obtaining and completing the makeup work in a satisfactory manner and within the time specified by the teacher. [For further information, see policy EIAB(LOCAL).]

A student who does not make up assigned work within the time allotted by the teacher will not receive full credit for the assignment.

A student will be permitted to make up tests and to turn in projects due in any class missed because of absence. Teachers may assign a late penalty to any long-term project in accordance with time lines approved by the principal and previously communicated to students.

DAEP Makeup Work

A student removed to a disciplinary alternative education program (DAEP) during the school year will have an opportunity to complete, before the beginning of the next school year, a foundation curriculum course in which the student was enrolled at the time of removal. The district may provide the opportunity to complete the course through an alternative method, including a correspondence course, distance learning, or summer school. The district will not charge the student for any method of completion provided by the district. [See policy FOCA(LEGAL).]

In-school Suspension Makeup Work

A student removed from the regular classroom to in-school suspension or another setting, other than a DAEP, will have an opportunity to complete before the beginning of the next school year each course the student was enrolled in at the time of removal from the regular classroom. The district may provide the opportunity by any method available, including a correspondence course, distance learning, or summer school. The district will not charge the student for any method of completion provided by the district. [See policy FO(LEGAL).]

PLEDGES OF ALLEGIANCE AND A MINUTE OF SILENCE

Each school day will begin with students' reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States flag and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Texas flag. Parents may submit a written request to the principal to excuse their child from reciting a pledge

One minute of silence will follow recitation of the pledges. Each student may choose to reflect, pray, meditate, or engage in any other silent activity during that minute so long as the silent activity does not interfere with or distract others. [See policy EC(LEGAL) for more information.]

PRAYER

Each student has a right to individually, voluntarily, and silently pray or meditate in school in a manner that does not disrupt instructional or other activities of the school. The school will not encourage, require, or coerce a student to engage in or to refrain from such prayer or meditation during any school activity.

PROMOTION AND RETENTION

A student will be promoted only on the basis of academic achievement or demonstrated proficiency in the subject matter of the course or grade level. To earn credit in a course, a student must receive a grade of at least 70 based on course-level or grade-level standards.

In grades 3rd and 5th, promotion is based on the Student Success Initiative, see page 29. [or refer to your EIE(LOCAL)].

In addition, at certain grade levels a student—with limited exceptions—will be required to pass the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS), if the student is enrolled in a public Texas school on any day between January 1 and April 15 and is a Texas resident during the week that the TAKS is administered the first time.

- In order to be promoted to grade 4, students must perform satisfactorily on the reading section of the grade 3 assessment in English or Spanish.
- In order to be promoted to grade 6, students enrolled in grade 5 must perform satisfactorily on the mathematics and reading sections of the grade 5 assessment in English or Spanish.

Parents of a student in grade 3, 5, or 8 who does not perform satisfactorily on his or her exams will be notified that their child will participate in special instructional programs designed to improve performance. Such students will have two additional opportunities to take the test. If a student fails a second time, a grade placement committee, consisting of the principal or designee, the teacher, and the student's parent, will determine the additional special instruction the student will receive. After a third failed attempt, the student will be retained; however, the parent can appeal this decision to the committee. In order for the student to be promoted, based on standards previously established by the district, the decision of the committee must be unanimous. Whether the student is retained or promoted, an educational plan for the student will be designed to enable the student to perform at grade level by the end of the next school year. [See policies at EIE.]

Certain students—some with disabilities and some with limited English proficiency—may be eligible for exemptions, accommodations, or deferred testing. For more information, see the principal, counselor, or special education director.

RELEASE OF STUDENTS FROM SCHOOL

Because class time is important, doctor's appointments should be scheduled, if possible, at times when the student will not miss instructional time.

A student who will need to leave school during the day must bring a note from his or her parent that morning and follow the campus sign-out procedures before leaving the campus. Otherwise, a student will not be released from school at times other than at the end of the school day.

If a student becomes ill during the school day, the student should receive permission from the teacher before reporting to the school nurse. The nurse will decide whether or not the student should be sent home and will notify the student's parent.

REPORT CARDS / PROGRESS REPORTS AND CONFERENCES

Report cards with each student's grades or performance and absences in each class or subject are issued to parents at least once every six weeks.

At the end of the first three weeks of a grading period parents will be given a written progress report of their child's performance. If the student receives a grade lower than 70 in any class or subject at the end of a grading period, the parent will be requested to schedule a conference with the teacher of that class or subject.

Teachers follow grading guidelines that have been approved by the principal and are designed to reflect each student's academic achievement for the grading period, semester, or course. State law provides that a test or course grade issued by a teacher cannot be changed unless the board determines that the grade was arbitrary or contains an error, or that the teacher did not follow the district's grading policy. [See policy EIA(LOCAL).]

Questions about grade calculation should first be discussed with the teacher; if the question is not resolved, the student or parent may request a conference with the principal in accordance with FNG(LOCAL).

The report card or unsatisfactory progress report will state whether tutorials are required for a student who receives a grade lower than 70 in a class or subject.

SAFETY

Student safety on campus and at school-related events is a high priority of the district. Although the district has implemented safety procedures, the cooperation of students is essential to ensuring school safety. A student should:

- Avoid conduct that is likely to put the student or other students at risk.
- Follow the behavioral standards in this handbook and the *Student Code of Conduct*, as well as any additional rules for behavior and safety set by the principal, teachers, or bus drivers.
- Remain alert to and promptly report to a teacher or the principal any safety hazards, such as intruders on campus or threats made by any person toward a student or staff member.

- Know emergency evacuation routes and signals.
- Follow immediately the instructions of teachers, bus drivers, and other district employees who are overseeing the welfare of students.

Accident Insurance

Soon after the school year begins, parents will have the opportunity to purchase low-cost accident insurance that would help meet medical expenses in the event of injury to their child.

Drills: Fire, Tornado, and Other Emergencies

From time to time, students, teachers, and other district employees will participate in drills of emergency procedures. When the alarm is sounded, students should follow the direction of teachers or others in charge quickly, quietly, and in an orderly manner.

Fire Drill Bells

- 3 bells leave the building
- 1 bell halt; stand at attention
- 2 bells return to the classroom

Tornado Drill Bells

- 1 continuous bell move quietly but quickly to the designated locations
- 2 bells return to the classroom

Emergency Medical Treatment and Information

If a student has a medical emergency at school or a school-related activity when the parent cannot be reached, the school would need to have written parental consent to obtain emergency medical treatment, and information about allergies to medications, foods, insect bites, etc. Therefore, parents are asked each year to complete an emergency care consent form. Parents should keep emergency care information up-to-date (name of doctor, emergency phone numbers, allergies, etc.). Please contact the school nurse to update any information that the nurse or the teacher needs to know.

Emergency School-Closing Information

The following radio station will announce any official emergency closing of school due to severe weather conditions:

KTRH 740 AM

Watch local TV channels KPRC Channel 2, KHOU Channel 11, or KTRK Channel 13 for information concerning school closing due to severe weather.

If the phone systems are operable, a district wide call out system would be implemented to alert all staff and students of the closing.

SCHOOL FACILITIES

Use of School Facilities

The school principal must approve any extracurricular use of school facilities. All nighttime sponsored activities will have three (3) chaperons. The group sponsoring the activity will be responsible for cleaning up after the activity.

Vandalism

The taxpayers of the community have made a sustained financial commitment for the construction and upkeep of school facilities. To ensure that school facilities can serve those for whom they are intended—both this year and in the coming years—littering, defacing, or damaging school property is not tolerated. Students will be required to pay for damages they cause and will be subject to criminal proceedings as well as disciplinary consequences in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct.

Conduct Before and After School

Teachers and administrators have full authority over student conduct at before- or after-school activities on district premises and at school-sponsored events off district premises, such as special study groups or tutorials. Students are subject to the same rules of conduct that apply during the instructional day and will be subject to consequences established by the *Student Code of Conduct* or any stricter standards of behavior established by the sponsor for extracurricular participants.

Cafeteria Services

The district participates in the National School Lunch Program and offers students nutritionally balanced lunches daily. Free and reduced-price lunches are available based on financial need. Information about a student's participation is confidential. See the front office to apply.

The district follows the federal and state guidelines regarding foods of minimal nutritional value being served or sold on school premises during the school day. [For more information, see policy CO(LEGAL).]

Library

The library is a learning laboratory with books, computers, magazines, and other materials available for classroom assignments, projects, and reading or listening pleasure. The library is open for independent student use during the school day.

Meetings of Noncurriculum-Related Groups

Student-organized, student-led noncurriculum-related groups are permitted to meet during the hours designated by the principal before and after school. These groups must comply with the requirements of policy FNAB(LOCAL).

SEARCHES

In the interest of promoting student safety and attempting to ensure that schools are safe and drug free, district officials may from time to time conduct searches. Such searches are conducted without a warrant and as permitted by law.

Students' Desks and Lockers

Students' desks and lockers are school property and remain under the control and jurisdiction of the school even when assigned to an individual student.

Students are fully responsible for the security and contents of their assigned desks and lockers. Students must be certain that their lockers are locked, and that the combinations are not available to others.

Searches of desks or lockers may be conducted at any time there is reasonable cause to believe that they contain articles or materials prohibited by policy, whether or not a student is present.

The parent will be notified if any prohibited items are found in the student's desk or locker.

Trained Dogs

The district will use trained dogs to alert school officials to the presence of prohibited or illegal items, including drugs and alcohol. At any time, trained dogs may be used around lockers and the areas around vehicles parked on school property. Searches of classrooms, common areas, or student belongings may also be conducted by trained dogs when students are not present. An item in a classroom, a locker, or a vehicle to which a trained dog alerts may be searched by school officials.

VEHICLES ON CAMPUS

Vehicles parked on school property are under the jurisdiction of the school. School officials may search any vehicle any time there is reasonable cause to do so, with or without the presence of the driver. A driver has full responsibility for the security and content of his or her vehicle and must make certain that it is locked and that the keys are not given to others.

LOST AND FOUND

A "Lost and Found" department is maintained in each teacher's classroom and in the elementary office. If you find any article of value, it should be turned in so that the rightful owner may claim it. All eyeglasses found will be turned in to the nurse's office. Your name or some identifying mark should be placed on all personal property. Periodically, all unclaimed clothing is given to a charitable organization.

TELEPHONE USE

The office telephone is for school business. With permission from a staff member, students may be permitted to use the office phone. Only on an emergency basis will students be delivered messages by the office.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

The district provides special programs for gifted and talented students, homeless students, bilingual students, migrant students, students with limited English proficiency, dyslexic students, and students with disabilities. The coordinator of each program can answer questions about eligibility requirements, as well as programs and services offered in the district or by other organizations. A student or parent with questions about these programs should contact Greg Anderson, Curriculum Director at 979-922-1218.

Accelerated Reader Program

Accelerated Reader is a computer program that facilitates reading practice by providing students and teachers feedback from quizzes based on the books students read. The program gives students the opportunity to practice reading books at their level, provides feedback on student comprehension of books, and helps students and teachers establish goals for their reading.

Students will be required to read books that fall within their reading level or ZPD (Zone of Proximal Development). A six-weeks goal will be set for each student at the discretion of the grade level teacher using information from Accelerated Reader, reading assessments, and the student's past performance. Students will be allowed to take AR tests at school with teacher permission or during AR time which is held at the end of the school day. Students will receive one daily grade per six-weeks grading period based on the number of points earned in comparison to their six-weeks goal.

As an incentive, students will be able to spend the points that they earn in the AR Store. Points can be used throughout the year but do not carry over from one year to the next. Students who meet their six-weeks goal will also be invited to attend a six-weeks AR Celebration. Students must meet their AR goal each six-weeks in order to attend the AR Celebration. Students who go beyond their yearly goal will receive incentives at the Awards Ceremony at the end of the school year. Students will start the school year with a new goal and zero AR points.

Tutorials

Tutorials are offered during the school day for students. Tutorials may also be-scheduled before school, during the school day, or after school with permission from the teacher and parent/guardian. Extended learning opportunities may be offered at the administrator's discretion on Saturday, if needed (Saturday school).

❖ ZAP

Zero's Aren't Permitted – is a tutorial class designed for students in Grades 1-6 who have made a zero on an assignment or have incomplete work in a subject area.

TAKS (TEXAS ASSESSMENT OF KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS)

In addition to routine tests and other measures of achievement, students at certain grade levels will take state-mandated assessments (such as TAKS: the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills) in the following subjects:

- Mathematics, annually in grades 3–11

- Reading, annually in grades 3–9
- Writing, including spelling and grammar, in grades 4 and 7
- English language arts in grades 10 and 11
- Social studies in grades 8, 10, and 11
- Science in grades 5, 8, 10, and 11
- Any other subject and grade required by federal law

[See policy EKB(LEGAL).]

TARDINESS

A student who is tardy to school 6 times will be assigned to detention hall. Repeated instances of tardiness will result in more severe disciplinary action, in accordance with the *Student Code of Conduct*.

TEXTBOOKS

State-approved textbooks are provided to students free of charge for each subject or class. Books must be covered by the student, as directed by the teacher, and treated with care. A student who is issued a damaged book should report the damage to the teacher. Any student failing to return a book issued by the school loses the right to free textbooks until the book is returned or paid for by the parent; however, the student will be provided textbooks for use at school during the school day.

VANDALISM

The taxpayers of the community have made a sustained financial commitment for the construction and upkeep of school facilities. To ensure that school facilities can serve those for whom they are intended—both this year and in the coming years—littering, defacing, or damaging school property is not tolerated. Students will be required to pay for damages they cause and will be subject to criminal proceedings as well as disciplinary consequences in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct.

VIDEO CAMERAS

For safety purposes, video/audio equipment may be used to monitor student behavior, including on buses and in common areas on campus. Students will not be told when the equipment is being used.

The principal will review the video/audio recordings routinely and document student misconduct. Discipline will be in accordance with the *Student Code of Conduct*.

TRANSPORTATION

School-Sponsored Trips

Students who participate in school-sponsored trips are required to use transportation provided by the school to and from the event. The principal, however, may make an exception if the parent makes a written request.

Buses and Other School Vehicles

The district makes school bus transportation available to all students living two or more miles from school. This service is provided at no cost to students. Bus routes and any subsequent changes are posted at the school.

A parent may also designate a child-care facility or grandparent's residence as the regular pickup and drop-off location for his or her child. The designated facility or residence must be on an approved stop on an approved route. For information on bus routes and stops or to designate an alternate pickup or drop-off location, you may contact Disa Shulze, Director of Transportation.

See the *Student Code of Conduct* for provisions regarding transportation to the disciplinary alternative education program (DAEP).

Students are expected to assist district staff in ensuring that buses remain in good condition and that transportation is provided safely. When riding in district vehicles, students are held to behavioral standards established in this handbook and the *Student Code of Conduct*. Students must:

- Follow the driver's directions at all times.
- Enter and leave the bus or van in an orderly manner at the designated stop.
- Keep feet, books, instrument cases, and other objects out of the aisle.
- Not deface the bus, van, or its equipment.
- Not put head, hands, arms, or legs out of the window, hold any object out of the window, or throw objects within or out of the bus or van.
- Not possess or use any form of tobacco on school buses.
- Observe all usual classroom rules.
- Be seated while the vehicle is moving.
- Fasten their seat belts, if available.
- Wait for the driver's signal upon leaving the bus or van and before crossing in front of the vehicle.

Misconduct will be punished in accordance with the *Student Code of Conduct*; bus-riding privileges may be suspended.

ASBESTOS MANAGEMENT PLAN

The district's Asbestos Management Plan, designed to be in compliance with state and federal regulations addressing asbestos, and is available in the Principals office. If you have any questions, please contact Disa Shulze, Director of Support Services.

PEST MANAGEMENT PLAN

The district applies only pest control products that comply with state and federal guidelines. Except in an emergency, signs will be posted 48 hours before application. Parents who want to be notified prior to pesticide application inside their child's school assignment area may contact Disa Shulze, Director of Support Services.

WITHDRAWING FROM SCHOOL

A student under 18 may be withdrawn from school only by a parent. The school requests notice from the parent at least three days in advance so that records and documents may be prepared. The parent may obtain a withdrawal form from the principal's office.

On the student's last day, the withdrawal form must be presented to each teacher for current grade averages and book clearance; to the librarian to ensure a clear library record; to the clinic for health records; to the counselor for the last report card and course clearance; and finally, to the principal. A copy of the withdrawal form will be given to the student, and a copy will be placed in the student's permanent record.

GLOSSARY

Accelerated instruction is an intensive supplemental program designed to address the needs of an individual student in acquiring the knowledge and skills required at his or her grade level.

ACT refers to one of the two most frequently used college or university admissions exams: the American College Test. The test may be a requirement for admission to certain colleges or universities.

ARD is the admission, review, and dismissal committee convened for each student who is identified as needing a full and individual evaluation for special education services. The eligible student's parents are part of the committee.

Attendance Review Committee is sometimes responsible for reviewing a student's absences when the student's attendance drops below 90 percent of the days the class is offered. Under guidelines adopted by the board, the committee will determine whether there were extenuating circumstances for the absences and whether the student needs to complete certain conditions to master the course and regain credit lost because of absences.

DAEP stands for disciplinary alternative education program, a placement for students who have violated certain provisions of the *Student Code of Conduct*. Students in the DAEP will be separated from students not assigned to the program. The DAEP will focus instruction on English language arts, mathematics, science, history, and self-discipline, and provide for students' educational and behavior needs, as well as supervision and counseling.

FERPA refers to the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act that grants specific privacy protections to student records. The law contains certain exceptions, such as for directory information, unless a student's parent or a student 18 or older directs the school not to release directory information.

IEP is the written record of the Individualized Education Program prepared by the ARD committee for a student with disabilities who is eligible for special education services. The IEP contains several parts, such as a statement of the student's present educational performance; a statement of measurable annual goals, with short-term objectives; the special education and related services and supplemental aids and services to be provided, and program modifications or support by school personnel; a statement regarding how the student's progress will be measured and how the parents will be kept informed; accommodations for state or districtwide tests, etc.

ISS refers to in-school suspension, a disciplinary technique for misconduct found in the *Student Code of Conduct*. Although different from out-of-school suspension and placement in a DAEP, ISS removes the student from the regular classroom.

LAT stands for Linguistically Accommodated Testing, which is an assessment process for recent immigrant English language learners who are required to be assessed in certain grades and subjects under the NCLB Act.

NCLB Act is the federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001.

Personal Graduation Plan (PGP) is recommended for all students entering grade 9 and is required by state law for any student in middle school or higher who fails a section on a state-mandated test or is identified by the district as not likely to earn a high school diploma before the fifth school year after he or she begins grade 9.

SAT refers to one of the two most frequently used college or university admissions exams: the Scholastic Aptitude Test. The test may be a requirement for admissions to certain colleges or universities.

Section 504 is the federal law that prohibits discrimination against a student with a disability, requiring schools to provide opportunities for equal services, programs, and participation in activities. Unless the student is determined to be eligible for special education services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), general education with appropriate instructional accommodations will be provided.

State-mandated assessments are required of students at certain grade levels and in specified subjects. Successful performance sometimes is a condition of promotion, and passing the grade 11 exit-level test is a condition of graduation. Students have multiple opportunities to take the tests if necessary for promotion or graduation.

Student Code of Conduct is developed with the advice of the district-level committee and adopted by the board; identifies the circumstances, consistent with law, when a student may be removed from the classroom or campus. It also sets out the conditions that authorize or require the principal or another administrator to place the student in a DAEP. It outlines conditions for out-of-school suspension and for expulsion, and states whether self-defense is a consideration in suspension, DAEP placement, or expulsion. The *Student Code of Conduct* also addresses notice to the parent regarding a student's violation of one of its provisions.

TAKS is the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills, the state's standardized achievement test currently given to students in certain subjects in grades 3–11.

TAKS-Accommodated is a state mandated assessment based on the same grade-level academic achievement standards of TAKS available to certain students who receive special education services who need specific accommodations, as determined by the student and his or her ARD committee.

TAKS-Alternate is an alternate state mandated assessment designed for students with severe cognitive disabilities receiving special education services who meet the participation requirements, as determined by the student and his or her ARD committee.

TAKS-Modified is an alternate state mandated assessment based on modified achievement standards and is administered to eligible students receiving special education services, as determined by the student and his or her ARD committee.

TELPAS stands for the Texas English Language Proficiency Assessment System, which assesses the progress that English language learners make in learning the English language, and is administered for those who meet the participation requirements in kindergarten–grade 12.

UIL refers to the University Interscholastic League, the statewide voluntary nonprofit organization that oversees educational extracurricular academic, athletic, and music contests.