

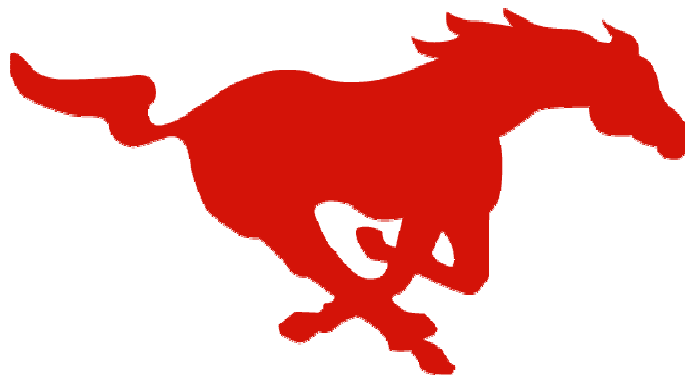
***Denver City ISD***

**2016–2017**

***Student Handbook***

***&***

***Athletic Handbook***



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## **PREFACE**

To Students and Parents:

Welcome to school year 2016–17! 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 Denver City Independent School District Student Handbook is designed to provide basic information that you and your child will need during the school year. The handbook is divided into two sections:

**Section I—PARENTAL RIGHTS**—with 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.

**Section II—OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS AND PARENTS**—organized alphabetically by topic, and, where possible, further divided by applicability to ages and/or grade levels, for quick access when searching for information on a specific issue.

Please be aware that the term “parent,” unless otherwise noted, is used to refer to the parent, legal guardian, any person granted some other type of lawful control of the student, or any other person who has agreed to assume school-related responsibility for a student.

Both students and parents should become familiar with the Denver City Independent School District 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 on the district’s website at [www.dcisid.org](http://www.dcisid.org) and is available in hard copy upon request.

The Student Handbook is a general reference guide only and is designed to be in harmony with board policy and the Student Code of Conduct. Please be aware that it is not a complete statement of all policies, procedures, or rules that may be applicable in a given circumstance.

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

Also, please be aware that the Student Handbook is updated yearly, while policy adoption and revision may occur throughout the year. The district encourages parents to stay informed of proposed board policy changes by attending board meetings. Changes in policy or other rules that affect Student Handbook provisions will be made available to students and parents through newsletters or other communications. The district reserves the right to modify provisions of the Student Handbook at any time, whenever it is deemed necessary. Notice of any revision or modification will be given as is reasonably practical under the circumstances.

Although the Student Handbook may refer to rights established through law or district policy, the Student Handbook does not create any additional rights for students and parents. It does not, nor is it intended to, create contractual or legal rights between any student or parent and the district.

If you or your child has questions about any of the material in this handbook, please contact the principal.

Your child's school will request that you provide contact information, such as your current phone number and e-mail address, in order for the school to communicate items specific to your child, your child's school, or the district. If you consent to receive such information through a landline or wireless phone, please ensure that you notify the school's administration office immediately upon a change in or disconnection of your phone number. The district or school may generate automated or pre-recorded messages, text messages, or real-time phone or e-mail communication, so prompt notification of any change in contact information will be crucial to maintain timely communication with you. Standard messaging rates of your phone carrier may apply. If you have specific requests or needs related to how the district contacts you, please contact your child's principal. Please see **Safety** on page **80** for information regarding contact with parents during an emergency situation.

Also, please complete and return to your child's campus the Acknowledgment form included in this handbook.

[See **Objecting to the Release of Directory Information** on page **4** and **Consent Required Before Student Participation in a Federally Funded Survey, Analysis, or Evaluation** on page **5** for more information.]

Please note that references to policy codes are included so that parents can refer to current board policy. The district's official policy manual is available for review in the district administration office and an unofficial electronic copy is available at [www.dcisd.org](http://www.dcisd.org).

## **SECTION I: PARENTAL RIGHTS**

This section of the Denver City ISD Student Handbook includes information related to certain rights of parents as specified in state or federal law.

### **CONSENT, OPT-OUT, AND REFUSAL RIGHTS**

#### **Consent to Conduct a Psychological Evaluation**

A district employee will not conduct a psychological examination, test, or treatment without obtaining prior written parental consent unless the examination, test, or treatment is required under state or federal law regarding requirements for special education or by the Texas Education Agency (TEA) for child abuse investigations and reports.

#### **Consent to Display a Student's Original Works and Personal Information**

Teachers may display students' work, which may include personally identifiable student information, in classrooms or elsewhere on campus as recognition of student achievement.

However, the district will seek parental consent before displaying students' artwork, special projects, photographs taken by students, original videos or voice recordings, and other original works on the district's website, a website affiliated or sponsored by the district, such as a campus or classroom website, and in district publications, which may include printed materials, videos, or other methods of mass communication.

#### **Consent to Receive Parenting and Paternity Awareness Instruction if Student is Under Age 14**

A child under the age of 14 must have parental permission to receive instruction in the district's parenting and paternity awareness program; otherwise, the child will not be allowed to participate in the instruction. This program, developed by the Office of the Texas Attorney General and the State Board of Education (SBOE), is incorporated into the district's health education classes.

#### **Consent to Video or Audio Record a Student When Not Otherwise Permitted by Law**

State law 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;
- When it relates to media coverage of the school; or
- When it relates to the promotion of student safety as provided by law for a student receiving special education services in certain settings.

The district will seek parental consent through a written request before making any other video or voice recording of your child not otherwise allowed by law.

[See **Video Cameras** on page 89 for more information, including a parent’s right to request video and audio equipment be placed in certain special education settings.]

### **Prohibiting the Use of Corporal Punishment**

Corporal punishment—spanking or paddling the student—may be used as a discipline management technique in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct and policy FO(LOCAL) in the district’s policy manual.

If you do not want corporal punishment to be administered to your child as a method of student discipline, please return the form included in this handbook. A signed statement must be provided each year if you do not want corporal punishment to be administered to your child.

You may choose to revoke this prohibition at any time during the year by providing a signed statement to the campus principal. However, district personnel may choose to use discipline methods other than corporal punishment even if the parent requests that this method be used on the student.

Please note that if the district is made aware that a student is in temporary or permanent conservatorship (custody) of the state, through foster care, kinship care, or other arrangements, corporal punishment shall not be administered, even when a signed statement prohibiting its use has not been submitted by the student’s caregiver or caseworker.

### **Limiting Electronic Communications with Students by District Employees**

Teachers and other approved employees are permitted by the district to communicate with students through the use of electronic media within the scope of the individual’s professional responsibilities. For example, a teacher may set up a social networking page for his or her class that has information related to class work, homework, and tests. As a parent, you are welcome to join or become a member of such a page.

An employee described above may also contact a student individually through electronic media to communicate about items such as homework or upcoming tests.

However, instant or text messages sent to an individual student are only allowed if a district employee with responsibility for an extracurricular activity needs to communicate with a student participating in the extracurricular activity.

If you prefer that your child not receive any one-to-one electronic communications from a district employee or if you have questions related to the use of electronic media by district employees, please contact the campus principal.

### **Objecting to the Release of Directory Information**

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, or FERPA, permits the district to disclose appropriately designated “directory information” from a child’s education records without written consent. “Directory information” is information that is generally not considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if released. Examples include a student’s photograph for publication in the school yearbook; a student’s name and grade level for purposes of communicating class and teacher assignment; the name, weight, and height of an athlete for publication in a school athletic program; a list of student birthdays for generating schoolwide or classroom recognition; a student’s name and photograph posted on a district-approved and -managed social media

platform; and the names and grade levels of students submitted by the district to a local newspaper or other community publication to recognize the A/B honor roll for a specific grading period. Directory information will be released to anyone who follows procedures for requesting it.

However, a parent or eligible student may object to the release of a student's directory information. 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 the forms packet.]

The district often needs to use student information for the following school-sponsored purposes: yearbook, athletics, academic records, newspaper articles, Facebook, and programs for school sponsored activities. For these specific school-sponsored purposes, the district has designated the following as directory information: child's name, address, telephone number, electronic mail address, photograph, date and place of birth, major field of study, degrees, honors, awards received, dates of attendance, grade level, most recent educational institution attended participation in officially recognized activities and sports, and weight and height of members of athletic teams. If you do not object to the use of your child's information for these limited school-sponsored purposes, the school will not need to ask your permission each time the district wishes to use the information for the school-sponsored purposes listed above.

For all other purposes, the district has identified the following as directory information: student name; address; telephone listing; degrees, honors, and awards received; grade level; participation in officially recognized activities and sports; and weight and height of members of athletic teams. If you do not object to the use of your child's information for these purposes, the school must release this information when the school receives a request from an outside entity or individual.

Also review the information at **Authorized Inspection and Use of Student Records** on page 9.

### **Objecting to the Release of Student Information to Military Recruiters and Institutions of Higher Education (Secondary Grade Levels Only)**

The district is required by federal law to comply with a request by a military recruiter or an institution of higher education for students' names, addresses, and telephone listings, unless parents have advised the district not to release their child's information without prior written consent. A form included in this handbook is available if you do not want the district to provide this information to military recruiters or institutions of higher education.

### **Participation in Third-Party Surveys**

#### ***Consent Required Before Student Participation in a Federally Funded Survey, Analysis, or Evaluation***

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.
- Sexual behavior or attitudes.

- 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).]

***“Opting Out” of Participation in Other Types of Surveys or Screenings and the Disclosure of Personal Information***

As a parent, you have a right to receive notice of and deny permission for your child's participation in:

- Any survey concerning the private information listed above, regardless of funding.
- School activities involving the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information gathered from your child for the purpose of marketing, selling, or otherwise disclosing that information. Note that this does not apply to the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information collected from students for the exclusive purpose of developing, evaluating, or providing educational products or services for, or to, students or educational institutions.
- Any nonemergency, invasive physical examination or screening required as a condition of attendance, administered and scheduled by the school in advance and not necessary to protect the immediate health and safety of the student. Exceptions are hearing, vision, or scoliosis screenings, or any physical exam or screening permitted or required under state law. [See policies EF and FFAA.]

As a parent, you may inspect a survey created by a third party before the survey is administered or distributed to your child.

**REMOVING A STUDENT FROM INSTRUCTION OR EXCUSING A STUDENT FROM A REQUIRED COMPONENT OF INSTRUCTION**

**Human Sexuality Instruction**

As a part of the district's curriculum, students receive instruction related to human sexuality. The School Health Advisory Council (SHAC) is involved with the selection of course materials for such instruction.

State law requires that any instruction related to human sexuality, sexually transmitted diseases, or human immunodeficiency virus or acquired immune deficiency syndrome must:

- Present abstinence from sexual activity as the preferred choice of behavior in relationship to all sexual activity for unmarried persons of school age;
- Devote more attention to abstinence from sexual activity than to any other behavior;
- Emphasize that abstinence is the only method that is 100 percent effective in preventing pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases, and the emotional trauma associated with adolescent sexual activity;
- Direct adolescents to a standard of behavior in which abstinence from sexual activity before marriage is the most effective way to prevent pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases; and
- If included in the content of the curriculum, teach contraception and condom use in terms of human use reality rates instead of theoretical laboratory rates.

In accordance with state law, below is a summary of the district’s curriculum regarding human sexuality instruction:

Denver City ISD utilizes a sexual abstinence curriculum entitled “Worth the Wait”. This curriculum teaches our youth that sexual abstinence until marriage is the most effective way to prevent pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases, and infection with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) or acquired immune deficiency syndrome.

As a parent, you are entitled to review the curriculum materials. In addition, you may remove your child from any part of the human sexuality instruction with no academic, disciplinary, or other penalties. You may also choose to become more involved with the development of curriculum used for this purpose by becoming a member of the district’s SHAC. Please see the campus principal for additional information.

### **Reciting a Portion of the Declaration of Independence in Grades 3–12**

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).]

### **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 7 and policy EC(LEGAL).]

### **Religious or Moral Beliefs**

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 state law.

### **Tutoring or Test Preparation**

Based on informal observations, evaluative data such as grades earned on assignments or tests, or results from diagnostic assessments, a teacher may determine that a student is in need of additional targeted assistance in order for the student to achieve mastery in state-developed essential knowledge and skills. The school will always attempt to provide tutoring and strategies for test-taking in ways that prevent removal from other instruction as much as possible. In accordance with state law and policy EC, the school will not remove a student from a regularly scheduled class for remedial tutoring or test preparation for more than ten percent of the school days on which the class is offered, unless the student's parent consents to this removal.

The school may also offer tutorial services, which students whose grades are below 70 will be required to attend.

[Also refer to policies EC and EHBC, and contact your student's teacher with questions about any tutoring programs provided by the school.]

## **RIGHT OF ACCESS TO STUDENT RECORDS, CURRICULUM MATERIALS, AND DISTRICT RECORDS/POLICIES**

### **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.

You are also entitled to request that the school allow your child to take home any instructional materials used by the student. If the school determines that sufficient availability exists to grant the request, the student must return the materials at the beginning of the next school day if requested to do so by the child's teacher.

### **Notices of Certain Student Misconduct to Noncustodial Parent**

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.]

### **Participation in Federally Required, State-Mandated, and District Assessments**

You may request information regarding any state or district policy related to your child's participation in assessments required by federal law, state law, or the district.



## **Student Records**

### ***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 school counselor evaluations,
- Reports of behavioral patterns,
- State assessment instruments that have been administered to your child, and
- Teaching materials and tests used in your child's classroom.

### ***Authorized Inspection and Use of Student Records***

A federal law, known as the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, or FERPA, affords parents and eligible students certain rights with respect to the student's education records. For purposes of student records, an "eligible" student is one who is 18 or older or who is attending an institution of postsecondary education. These rights, as discussed in this section as well as at **Objecting to the Release of Directory Information** on page 4 are:

- The right to inspect and review student records within 45 days after the day the school receives a request for access.
- The right to request an amendment to a student record the parent or eligible student believes is inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of FERPA.
- The right to provide written consent before the school discloses personally identifiable information from the student's records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent.
- The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning failures by the school to comply with FERPA requirements. The name and address of the office that administers FERPA are:

Family Policy Compliance Office  
U.S. Department of Education

400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20202-5901

Both FERPA 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.

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

Inspection and release of student records is primarily restricted to an eligible student or a student's 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 postsecondary 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.

FERPA permits the disclosure of personally identifiable information from a student's education records, without written consent of the parent or eligible student, in the following circumstances:

- When district school officials have what federal law refers to as a “legitimate educational interest” in a student's records. School officials would include board members and employees, such as the superintendent, administrators, and principals; teachers, school counselors, diagnosticians, and support staff (including district health or district medical staff); a person or company with whom the district has contracted or allowed to provide a particular institutional service or function (such as an attorney, consultant, third-party vendor that offers online programs or software, auditor, medical consultant, therapist, school resource officer, 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 to the school and the student; or investigating or evaluating programs.
- To authorized representatives of various governmental agencies, including juvenile service providers, the U.S. Comptroller General's office, the U.S. Attorney General's office, the U.S. Secretary of Education, TEA, the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture's office, and Child Protective Services (CPS) caseworkers or other child welfare representatives, in certain cases.
- To individuals or entities granted access in response to a subpoena or court order.
- To another school, school district/system, or institution of postsecondary education to which a student seeks or intends to enroll or in which he or she is already enrolled.
- In connection with financial aid for which a student has applied or which the student has received.

- To accrediting organizations to carry out accrediting functions.
- To organizations conducting studies for, or on behalf of, the school, in order to develop, validate, or administer predictive tests; administer student aid programs; or improve instruction.
- To appropriate officials in connection with a health or safety emergency.
- When the district discloses information it has designated as directory information [see **Objecting to the Release of Directory Information** on page 4 for opportunities to prohibit this disclosure].

Release of personally identifiable information 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 superintendent or designee is the custodian of all records for students who have withdrawn or graduated.

A parent or eligible student who wishes to inspect the student’s records should submit a written request to the records custodian identifying the records he or she wishes to inspect. 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 501 Mustang, Denver City, TX 79323.

The address(es) of the principals’ offices are: Denver City High School, 601 Mustang, Denver City, TX 79323; William G. Gravitt JH, 419 Mustang, Denver City, TX 79323; Kelley Elementary, 500 N. Soland, Denver City, TX 79323; and Dodson Primary, 600 N. Soland, Denver City, TX 79323.

A parent (or eligible student) may inspect the student’s records and request a correction or amendment 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 appropriate records custodian. 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 or on an examination 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 78 and **Complaints and Concerns** on page 30 for an overview of the process.]

The district's policy regarding student records found at policy FL is available from the principal's or superintendent's office or on the district's website at [www.dcid.org](http://www.dcid.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.

### ***Inspección autorizada y uso de expedientes de estudiantes***

Una ley federal, conocida como la Ley de Derechos y Privacidad Educacional de Familias, o FERPA, provee a padres y estudiantes elegibles ciertos derechos con respeto a los expedientes educativos del estudiante. En asuntos relacionados con expedientes de estudiantes, un estudiante “elegible” es aquel que tiene o es mayor de 18 años o que está asistiendo a una institución educativa pos-secundaria. Estos derechos, como discutido en esta sección tal como en **Objetar a la divulgación de información del directorio** en la página 4 son:

- El derecho de inspeccionar y repasar expedientes de estudiantes entre 45 días después del día en que la escuela recibe una solicitud de acceso.
- El derecho de pedir una corrección a un expediente de estudiante que el padre o estudiante elegible cree que sea incorrecto, engañoso, o de otra manera sea violación de FERPA.
- El derecho de proveer consentimiento escrito antes de que la escuela divulgue de los expedientes del estudiante información que es identificable de manera personal, menos que al punto en que FERPA autoriza la divulgación sin consentimiento.
- El derecho de hacer queja con el Departamento de Educación de U.S. sobre fracasos de la escuela de cumplir con los requisitos de FERPA. El nombre y la dirección de la oficina que administra FERPA son:

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

Ambos las leyes estatales y FERPA protegen los expedientes de estudiantes contra inspecciones o uso sin autorización y suministra a los padres y estudiantes elegibles ciertos derechos de privacidad. Antes de divulgar cualquier información personal identificable del expediente de un estudiante, el distrito debe verificar la identidad de la persona, incluyendo padres y el estudiante, solicitando la información.

Casi toda la información relacionada al rendimiento del estudiante, incluyendo calificaciones, resultados de exámenes, e informes disciplinarios, son considerados expedientes educativos confidenciales.

Inspección y divulgación de expedientes de estudiante se restringe principalmente a un estudiante elegible o padres de un estudiante—casados, separados o divorciados— a menos que

la escuela reciba una orden de la corte poniendo fin a los derechos de los padres o al derecho de acceder a los expedientes educativos del estudiante.

La ley federal requiere que, apenas el estudiante cumple 18 años, es emancipado por una corte o se inscribe en una institución pos-secundaria, el control de los expedientes pase al estudiante. Sin embargo, los padres pueden continuar teniendo acceso a los expedientes si el estudiante es un dependiente para propósitos impositivos y bajo circunstancias limitadas donde existe una amenaza a la salud y la seguridad del estudiante u otras personas.

La ley FERPA se permite la divulgación de información que es identificable de manera personal de los expedientes educativos de un estudiante, sin consentimiento escrito del padre o estudiante elegible, en las circunstancias siguientes:

- Cuando directivos del distrito escolar tienen lo que la ley federal se refiere como “un interés educacional legítimo” en los expedientes de un estudiante. Los directivos de la escuela incluirían a miembros de la mesa directiva y empleados, como el superintendente, personal administrativo y el director; maestros, consejeros de la escuela, personal de diagnóstico y de apoyo (incluso a empleados de salud del distrito o empleados médicos del distrito); una persona o compañía con quien el distrito tiene un contrato o permite suministrar un servicio o función institucional (como un abogado, consultor, vendedor de entidad tercera que ofrece programas en línea o software, auditor, consultor médico, terapeuta, oficial de recursos de la escuela, o voluntario); padres o estudiantes que son parte del comité escolar; o padres o estudiantes que asisten a un directivo de la escuela en su trabajo. Un “interés educacional legítimo” en los expedientes de un estudiante incluye trabajar con el estudiante; considerar acciones disciplinarias o académicas, el caso del estudiante o un programa educativo individualizado para un estudiante con discapacidades; compilar datos estadísticos; revisar un expediente educativo para cumplir con la responsabilidad profesional de un directivo a la escuela y al estudiante; o investigar o evaluar programas.
- A representativas autorizadas de varias agencias gubernamentales, incluso a proveedores de servicios para juveniles, la oficina de Contralor General de U.S., la oficina de Abogado General de U.S., el Secretario de Educación de U.S., TEA, la oficina del Secretario de Agrícola de U.S., y empleados de Servicios Protectores de Niños (CPS) u otras representativas del bienestar de niños, en ciertos casos.
- A individuos o entidades con acceso otorgado en respuesta a una citación u orden de la corte.
- A otra escuela, distrito/sistema escolar, o institución educativa pos-secundaria a la que un estudiante quiere inscribirse o ya está inscripto.
- Conectado con apoyo financiero para lo que un estudiante ha solicitado o lo que ha recibido.
- A organizaciones de acreditación para llevar a cabo oficios de acreditación.
- A organizaciones dirigiendo estudios para, o a nombre de, la escuela, para desarrollar, validar, o administrar exámenes predictivos; administrar programas de apoyo estudiantil; o mejorar la instrucción.
- A oficiales apropiados conectados con una emergencia de salud o seguridad.

- Cuando el distrito divulga la información que ha designado como información del directorio [vea **Objetar a la divulgación de información del directorio** en la página 4 para oportunidades de prohibir esta divulgación].

La divulgación de información que es identificable de manera personal a cualquier otra persona o agencia —como un futuro empleador o aplicación para una beca— ocurrirá solamente con el permiso de los padres o del estudiante como corresponde.

El director es el custodio de todos los expedientes de los estudiantes actualmente inscriptos en su escuela. El director es el custodio de todos los expedientes de estudiantes que se han graduado o retirado.

Un padre o estudiante elegible que desea inspeccionar los expedientes del estudiante debe presentar una petición escrita al custodio de expedientes identificando los expedientes que él o ella quiere inspeccionar. Los expedientes pueden ser inspeccionados por los padres o el estudiante elegible durante el horario escolar. El custodio de los expedientes o persona designada responderá a peticiones razonables para la explicación e interpretación de los expedientes.

Los padres o estudiante elegible que suministren una petición escrita y paguen el costo de copiado de diez centavos por página pueden sacar fotocopias. Si las circunstancias previenen la inspección durante el horario escolar y el estudiante califica para comidas gratuitas o de precio reducido, el distrito suministrará una copia del expediente o hará arreglos para que el estudiante o padre pueda revisar estos documentos. La dirección de la oficina del superintendente es 501 Mustang, Denver City, TX 79323.

La(s) dirección(es) de la(s) oficina(s) del director es(son): Denver City High School, 601 Mustang, Denver City, TX 79323; William G. Gravitt JH, 419 Mustang, Denver City, TX 79323; Kelley Elementary, 500 N. Soland, Denver City, TX 79323; and Dodson Primary, 600 N. Soland, Denver City, TX 79323.

El padre o madre (o estudiante elegible) puede inspeccionar el expediente del estudiante y solicitar una corrección o enmienda si los documentos son inexactos, falaces o en violación del derecho de privacidad del estudiante. La solicitud para corregir el expediente del estudiante se deberá presentar al custodio de expedientes. La solicitud deberá identificar claramente qué parte del expediente debe corregirse e incluir una explicación de qué manera la información no es la correcta. Si el distrito niega la solicitud para corregir el expediente, los padres o el estudiante tienen el derecho de pedir una audiencia. Si el expediente no es corregido como resultado de la audiencia, los padres o el estudiante tienen 30 días escolares para ejercitar el derecho de colocar una declaración comentando la información en el expediente del estudiante.

A pesar que las calificaciones en un curso o un examen registradas incorrectamente pueden ser desafiadas, el desafío del puntaje del estudiante en una materia se maneja a través del proceso de quejas generales que se encuentra en la regla FNG(LOCAL). La calificación que dio el maestro de salón de clases puede ser cambiada solamente si, como lo determinó la mesa directiva, ésta es arbitraria, errónea o inconsistente con el reglamento de puntaje del distrito. [Vea FINALITY OF GRADES en FNG(LEGAL)].

El reglamento del distrito acerca de los expedientes de los estudiantes ubicado en regla FL está disponible en la oficina del director o superintendente [www.dcisd.org](http://www.dcisd.org).

El derecho de los padres o el estudiante de acceder a y hacer copias del expediente del estudiante no cubre todo los documentos. Los materiales que no son considerados documentos educativos —como los comentarios personales del maestro acerca del estudiante que son compartidos solamente con un maestro suplente— no tienen que estar disponibles a los padres o estudiante.

### **Teacher and Staff Professional Qualifications**

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 whether the teacher is currently teaching in the field of discipline of his or her certification. You also have the right to request information about the qualifications of any paraprofessional who may provide services to your child.

## **STUDENTS WITH EXCEPTIONALITIES OR SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES**

### **Children of Military Families**

Children of military families will be provided flexibility regarding certain district requirements, including:

- Immunization requirements.
- Grade level, course, or educational program placement.
- Eligibility requirements for participation in extracurricular activities.
- Graduation requirements.

In addition, absences related to a student visiting with his or her parent, including a stepparent or legal guardian, who has been called to active duty for, is on leave from, or is returning from a deployment of at least four months will be excused by the district. The district will permit no more than five excused absences per year for this purpose. For the absence to be excused, the absence must occur no earlier than the 60th day before deployment or no later than the 30th day after the parent’s return from deployment.

Additional information may be found at <http://tea.texas.gov/index2.aspx?id=7995>.

### **Parental Role in Certain Classroom and School Assignments**

#### ***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 policy FDB(LEGAL).]

#### ***Safety Transfers/Assignments***

As a parent, you may:

- Request the transfer of your child to another classroom if your child has been determined by the district to have been a victim of bullying as the term is defined by Education Code 37.0832. Transportation is not provided for a transfer to another campus. See the campus principal for information.
- Consult with district administrators if your child has been determined by the district to have engaged in bullying and the board decides to transfer your child to another classroom or campus. Transportation is not provided for a transfer to another campus.  
[See **Bullying** on page 26 policy FDB, and policy FFI.]
- Request the transfer of your child to attend a safe public school in the district if your child attends school at a campus identified by TEA as persistently dangerous or if your child has been a victim of a violent criminal offense while at school or on school grounds. [See policy FDE.]
- Request the transfer of your child to a neighboring district if your child has been the victim of a sexual assault by another student assigned to the same campus, whether the assault occurred on or off campus, and that student has been convicted of or placed on deferred adjudication for that assault. If the victim does not wish to transfer, the district will transfer the assailant in accordance with policy FDE.

### **Service/Assistance Animal Use by Students**

A parent of a student who uses a service/assistance animal because of the student's disability must submit a request in writing to the principal at least ten district business days before bringing the service/assistance animal on campus.

### **Students in the Conservatorship of the State (Foster Care)**

A student who is currently in the conservatorship (custody) of the state and who enrolls in the district after the beginning of the school year will be allowed credit-by-examination opportunities outside the district's established testing windows, and the district will grant proportionate course credit by semester (partial credit) when a student does only passes one semester of a two-semester course.

A student who is currently in the conservatorship of the state and who is moved outside of the district's or school's attendance boundaries, or who is initially placed in the conservatorship of the state and who is moved outside the district's or school's boundaries, is entitled to continue in enrollment at the school he or she was attending prior to the placement or move until the student reaches the highest grade level at the particular school. In addition, if a student in grade 11 or 12 transfers to another district but does not meet the graduation requirements of the receiving district, the student can request to receive a diploma from the previous district if he or she meets the criteria to graduate from the previous district.

[See also **Credit by Examination For Advancement/Acceleration** on page 34, **Course Credit** on page 34, and **Students in Foster Care** on page 86 for more information.]



## **Students Who Are Homeless**

Children who are homeless will be provided flexibility regarding certain district provisions, including:

- Proof of residency requirements;
- Immunization requirements;
- Educational program placement, if the student is unable to provide previous academic records, or misses an application deadline during a period of homelessness;
- Credit-by-examination opportunities;
- The award of partial credit (awarding credit proportionately when a student passes only one semester of a two-semester course);
- Eligibility requirements for participation in extracurricular activities; and
- Graduation requirements.

If a student in grade 11 or 12 is homeless and transfers to another school district but does not meet the graduation requirements of the receiving district, the student can request to receive a diploma from the previous district if he or she meets the criteria to graduate from the previous district.

Federal law also allows a homeless student to remain enrolled in what is called the “school of origin” or to enroll in a new school in the attendance area where the student is currently residing.

[See also **Credit by Examination for Advancement/Acceleration** on page 34, **Course Credit** on page 34, and **Homeless Students** on page 65 for more information.]

## **Students Who Have Learning Difficulties or Who Need Special Education Services**

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 (RtI). The implementation of RtI has the potential to have a positive impact on the ability of 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 the timeline prescribed by law once the district receives written consent. The district must give a copy of the evaluation report to the parent.

If the district determines that the evaluation is not needed, the district will provide the parent with prior written notice that explains why the child will not be evaluated. This written notice will include a statement that informs the parents of their rights, if they disagree with the district. The district is required to give parents the *Notice of Procedural Safeguards—Rights of Parents of Students with Disabilities*. Additional information regarding the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) is available from the school district in a companion document, *A Guide to the Admission, Review, and Dismissal Process*. Both documents may also be found at <http://framework.esc18.net/display/Webforms/LandingPage.aspx>.

The following websites provide information to those who are seeking information and resources specific to students with disabilities and their families:

- Texas Project First, at <http://www.texasprojectfirst.org>
- Partners Resource Network, at <http://www.partnerstx.org>

The designated person to contact regarding options for a child experiencing learning difficulties or a referral for evaluation for special education services is The designated person to contact regarding options for a child experiencing learning difficulties or a referral for evaluation for special education services is: High School – Mr. Rick Martinez - 806-592-5952; Jr. High – Mr. Billy Moore – 806-592-5941; Kelley Elem. – Mrs. Lori Alexander - 806-592-5921; and Dodson Primary – Mrs. Angie Sutton – 806-592-5931.

### **Estudiantes que tienen problemas de aprendizaje o que necesitan servicios de educación especial**

Si un estudiante está experimentando problemas de aprendizaje, el padre puede contactar a la persona listada a continuación para informarse del sistema de referencias de educación o de análisis del distrito para los servicios de apoyo. Este sistema conecta a los estudiantes con una variedad de opciones de apoyo, incluyendo la referencia para una evaluación de educación especial. Los estudiantes que están teniendo dificultades en el salón de clases regular deberían ser considerados para servicios tutoriales, compensatorios, y otros de apoyo académico o conductual disponibles para todos los estudiantes, incluyendo un proceso basado en la Respuesta a la Intervención. La implementación de la Respuesta a la Intervención tiene el potencial de tener un impacto positivo en la habilidad de los distritos para responder a las necesidades de sus estudiantes con dificultades.

En cualquier momento, un padre o madre tiene el derecho de solicitar una evaluación para servicios de educación especial. Dentro de un periodo razonable, el distrito debe decidir si se necesita la evaluación. Si es necesaria, se notificará al padre o la madre y se le pedirá que suministre por escrito un consentimiento para la evaluación. El distrito debe completar la evaluación y el informe dentro del tiempo dictado por la ley al momento que el distrito recibe consentimiento por escrito. El distrito debe dar una copia del informe de evaluación a los padres.

Si el distrito determina que la evaluación no es necesaria, éste dará a los padres una notificación escrita explicando por qué no se evaluará al estudiante. Esta notificación por escrito incluirá una declaración informando a los padres de sus derechos si éstos no están de acuerdo con el distrito. Es requerido que el distrito da a los padres la *Notificación de garantías de procedimiento—Derechos de los padres de estudiantes con discapacidades*. Más información sobre el Acto de los individuos con discapacidades (IDEA) es disponible del distrito en un documento adicional, *Una*

guía al proceso de admitir, revisar, y despedir. También se puede encontrar ambos documentos en <http://framework.esc18.net/display/Webforms/LandingPage.aspx>.

Los siguientes sitios del Web proveen información a las personas que buscan información y recursos específicos a estudiantes con discapacidades y sus familias:

- Texas Project First, en <http://www.texasprojectfirst.org>
- Partners Resource Network, en <http://www.partnerstx.org>

La persona designada para contactar acerca de las opciones de un estudiante con problemas de aprendizaje o una referencia de evaluación para educación especial es High School – Mr. Rick Martinez - 806-592-5952; Jr. High – Mr. Billy Moore – 806-592-5941; Kelley Elem. – Mrs. Lori Alexander - 806-592-5921; and Dodson Primary – Mrs. Angie Sutton – 806-592-5931.

### **Students Who Receive Special Education Services with Other School-Aged Children in the Home**

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. However, the district is not required to provide transportation to the other children in the household. The parent or guardian should speak with the principal of the school regarding transportation needs prior to requesting a transfer for any other children in the home. [See policy FDB(LOCAL).]

### **Students Who Speak a Primary Language Other than English**

A student may be eligible to receive specialized support if his or her primary language is not English, and the student has difficulty performing ordinary class work in English. If the student qualifies for these extra services, the Language Proficiency Assessment Committee (LPAC) will determine the types of services the student needs, including accommodations or modifications related to classroom instruction, local assessments, and state-mandated assessments.

### **Estudiantes que hablan una lengua primaria que no es inglés**

Un estudiante puede ser elegible de recibir apoyo especializado si su lengua primaria no es inglés y también si tiene dificultades en hacer trabajo típico de clase en inglés. Si el estudiante tiene derecho a estos servicios extras, el Grupo de evaluación de competencia en lenguaje (LPAC) determinará los tipos de servicios que requiere el estudiante, incluyendo adaptaciones o modificaciones relacionadas a la instrucción de clase, evaluaciones locales, y exámenes obligatorios del estado.

### **Students With Physical or Mental Impairments Protected under Section 504**

A child determined to have a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits a major life activity, as defined by law, and who does not otherwise qualify for special education services, may qualify for protections under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. Section 504 is a federal law designed to prohibit discrimination against individuals with disabilities. When an evaluation is requested, a committee will be formed to determine if the child is in need of services and

supports under Section 504 to receive a free appropriate public education (FAPE), as this is defined in federal law.

The designated person to contact regarding a referral for evaluation applicable to Section 504 is Mrs. Kellie Adams at 806-592-5902.

[Also see policy FB.]

## **SECTION II: OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS AND PARENTS**

Topics in this section of the Student 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 organized in alphabetical order to serve as a quick-reference when you or your child has a question about a specific school-related issue. Where possible, the topics are also organized to alert you to the applicability of each topic based on a student's age or grade level. Should you be unable to find the information on a particular topic, please contact the campus principal.

### **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 the required presence of school-aged children in school, e.g., compulsory attendance, the other with how a child's attendance affects the award of a student's final grade or course credit—are of special interest to students and parents. They are discussed below.

#### **Compulsory Attendance**

##### ***Age 19 and Older***

A student who voluntarily attends or enrolls after his or her 19th birthday is required to attend each school day until the end of the school year. If a student age 19 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 policy FEA.]

##### ***Between Ages 6 and 19***

State law requires that a student between the ages of 6 and 19 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.

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.

A student will be required to attend any assigned accelerated instruction program, which may occur before or after school or during the summer, if the student does not meet the passing standards on the state assessment for his or her grade level and/or applicable subject area.

##### ***Prekindergarten and Kindergarten***

Students enrolled in prekindergarten or kindergarten are required to attend school and are subject to the compulsory attendance requirements.

## **Exemptions to Compulsory Attendance**

### ***All Grade Levels***

State law allows exemptions to the compulsory attendance requirements for several types of absences if the student makes up all work. These include the following activities and events:

- Religious holy days;
- Required court appearances;
- Activities related to obtaining United States citizenship;
- Documented health-care appointments for the student or a child of the student, including absences for recognized services for students diagnosed with autism spectrum disorders, if the student comes to school or returns to school on the same day as the appointment. A note from the health-care provider must be submitted upon the student’s arrival or return to campus; and
- For students in the conservatorship (custody) of the state,
  - An activity required under a court-ordered service plan; or
  - Any other court-ordered activity, provided it is not practicable to schedule the student’s participation in the activity outside of school hours.

As listed in Section I at **Children of Military Families**, absences of up to five days will be excused for a student to visit with a parent, stepparent, or legal guardian who has been called to duty for, is on leave from, or immediately returned from certain deployments. Please see page 14 for that section.

### ***Secondary Grade Levels***

In addition, a junior or senior student’s absence of up to two days related to visiting a college or university will be considered an exemption, provided this has been authorized by the board under policy FEA(LOCAL), the student receives approval from the campus principal, follows the campus procedures to verify such a visit, and makes up any work missed.

Absences of up to two days in a school year will also be considered an exemption for:

- A student serving as an early voting clerk, provided the district’s board has authorized this in policy FEA(LOCAL), the student notifies his or her teachers, and the student receives approval from the principal prior to the absences, and
- A student serving as an election clerk, if the student makes up any work missed.

An absence of a student in grades 6–12 for the purpose of sounding “Taps” at a military honors funeral for a deceased veteran will also be excused by the district.

## **Failure to Comply with Compulsory Attendance**

### ***All Grade Levels***

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; or from required tutorials will be considered in violation of the compulsory attendance law and subject to disciplinary action.

### ***Age 19 and Older***

After a student age 19 or older incurs a third unexcused absence, the district will send the student a letter as required by law explaining that the district may revoke the student’s enrollment for the remainder of the school year if the student has more than five unexcused absences in a semester. As an alternative to revoking a student’s enrollment, the district may implement a behavior improvement plan.

### ***Between Ages 6 and 19***

When a student between ages 6 and 19 incurs unexcused absences for three or more days or parts of days within a four-week period, the school will send a notice to the student’s parent, as required by law, to remind the parent that it is the parent’s duty to monitor his or her child’s attendance and to require the student to come to school. The notice will also inform the parent that the district will initiate truancy prevention measures and request a conference between school administrators and the parent. These measures will include a behavior improvement plan, school-based community service, or referrals to either in-school or out-of-school counseling or other social services. Any other measures considered appropriate by the district will also be initiated.

The truancy prevention facilitator for the district is Mrs. Kellie Adams, 806-592-5902. If you have questions about your student and the effect of his or her absences from school, please contact the facilitator or any other campus administrator.

A court of law may also impose penalties against a student’s parent 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 without excuse from school on ten or more days or parts of days within a six-month period in the same school year.

If a student ages 12 through 18 incurs unexcused absences on ten or more days or parts of days within a six-month period in the same school year, the district, in most circumstances, will refer the student to truancy court.

[See policy FEA(LEGAL).]

To receive credit or a final grade in a class, a student in kindergarten–grade 12 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 or a final grade 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 or a final grade for the class.

If a student attends less than 75 percent of the days a class is offered or has not completed the 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 or a final grade lost because of absences. [See policy FEC.]

All absences, whether excused or unexcused, must be considered in determining whether a student has attended the required percentage of days. In determining whether there were extenuating circumstances for the absences, the attendance committee will use the following guidelines:

- If makeup work is completed, absences for the reasons listed above at **Exemptions to Compulsory Attendance** will be considered extenuating circumstances for purposes of attendance for credit or the award of a final grade.
- A transfer or migrant student begins to accumulate absences only after he or she has enrolled in the district.
- 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 review absences incurred based on the student's participation in board-approved extracurricular activities. These absences will be considered by the attendance committee as extenuating circumstances in accordance with the absences allowed under FM(LOCAL) if the student made up the work missed in each class.
- 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 or a final grade.
- The committee may impose any of the following conditions for receiving credit lost because of excessive absences: completing additional assignments, as specified by the committee or teacher, satisfying time-on-task requirements before and/or after school, attending tutorial sessions as scheduled, attending Saturday classes, and/or maintaining the attendance standards for the rest of the semester.

The student or parent may appeal the committee's decision to the board by following policy FNG(LOCAL).

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

### **Official Attendance-Taking Time (All Grade Levels)**

The district must submit attendance of its students to the TEA reflecting attendance at a specific time each day.



Official attendance is taken every day during the second instructional hour at Dodson Primary and Kelley Elementary and every period at William G. Gravitt Jr. High and Denver City High School.

A student absent for any portion of the day, including at the official attendance-taking time, should follow the procedures below to provide documentation of the absence.

### **Documentation after an Absence (All Grade Levels)**

When a student is absent from school, the student—upon arrival or return to school—must bring a note signed by the parent that describes the reason for the absence. A note signed by the student, even with the parent’s permission, will not be accepted unless the student is 18 or older or is an emancipated minor under state law. A phone call from the parent may be accepted, but the district reserves the right to require a written note.

The campus will document in its attendance records for the student whether the absence is considered by the district to be excused or unexcused. Please note that, unless the absence is for a statutorily allowed reason under compulsory attendance laws, the district is not required to excuse any absence, even if the parent provides a note explaining the absence.

If a student is absent and no documentation is presented to the office within a 48-hour time limit of his/her return to school, an unexcused absence will be recorded, resulting in loss of exemption for semester exams.

### **Doctor’s Note after an Absence for Illness (All Grade Levels)**

Within 2 days of returning to school, a student absent for more than 5 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. Otherwise, the student’s absence may be considered unexcused and, if so, would be considered to be in violation of compulsory attendance laws.

Should the student develop a questionable pattern of absences, the principal or attendance committee may require a statement from a doctor or health clinic verifying the illness or condition that caused the student’s absence from school in order to determine whether the absence or absences will be excused or unexcused.

[See policy FEC(LOCAL).]

### **Driver License Attendance Verification (Secondary Grade Levels Only)**

For a student between the ages of 16 and 18 to obtain a driver license, written parental permission must be provided for the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) to access the student’s attendance records and, in certain circumstances, for a school administrator to provide the student’s attendance information to DPS. A verification of enrollment (VOE) form may be obtained from the office, which the student will need to submit to DPS upon application for a driver license.

## **ACCOUNTABILITY UNDER STATE AND FEDERAL LAW (All Grade Levels)**

Denver City ISD and each of its campuses are held to certain standards of accountability under state and federal law. A key component of the accountability requirements is the dissemination and publication of certain reports and information, which include:

- The Texas Academic Performance Report (TAPR) for the district, compiled by TEA, the state agency that oversees public education, based on academic factors and ratings;
- A School Report Card (SRC) for each campus in the district compiled by TEA based on academic factors and ratings;
- The district's financial management report, which will include the financial accountability rating assigned to the district by TEA;
- The performance ratings of the district's evaluation of community and student engagement using the indicators required by law; and
- Information compiled by TEA for the submission of a federal report card that is required by federal law.

Information about all of these can be found on the district's website at [www.dcisid.org](http://www.dcisid.org) Hard copies of any reports are available upon request to the district's administration office.

TEA also maintains additional accountability and accreditation information at <http://www.texaschoolaccountabilitydashboard.org> and <http://www.tea.texas.gov>.

## **AWARDS AND HONORS (All Grade Levels)**

### **Perfect Attendance Awards**

Denver City High School and William G. Gravitt Jr. High present monetary awards for perfect attendance at the end of each school year to those students who have met the following requirements:

Students at Denver City High School must: (1) be in attendance each and every period of every day during the entire school year, and (2) have NO MORE THAN 1 tardy on their record (no exceptions). For award purposes, every two tardies will count as an absence.

#### **Perfect Attendance Awards for High School students are:**

1 year - \$100      2 consecutive years - \$150      3 consecutive years - \$200      4 consecutive years - \$300

Students receive \$50 for each nonconsecutive year of perfect attendance.

Students at Williams G. Gravitt Jr. High must: (1) be in attendance each and every period of every day during the entire school year, and (2) have no tardies on their record (no exceptions).

#### **Perfect Attendance Awards for Jr. High students are:**

\$25 for each year of perfect attendance.

The only absences that WILL NOT count against perfect attendance on either campus are the Present/Absent marks which are given for a school-sponsored activity.

#### **Perfect Attendance Awards for Kelley Elem. and Dodson Primary students are:**

Students will be recognized each six week period. Students who maintain perfect attendance for the entire six weeks period will have a group photo taken and placed on the Perfect Attendance recognition display outside of the office. Students who have maintained perfect attendance for the entire year will be individually recognized and rewarded accordingly.

**Students at Kelley Elem. and Dodson Primary must be in attendance each day. Only school sponsored or school related absences will be counted as Present/Absent.**

## **BULLYING (All Grade Levels)**

Bullying occurs when a student or group of students engages in written or verbal expression, expression through electronic methods, or physical conduct against another student on school property, at a school-sponsored or -related activity, or in a district operated vehicle, and the behavior:

- Results in harm to the student or the student's property,
- Places a student in reasonable fear of physical harm or of damage to the student's property, or
- Is so severe, persistent, and pervasive that it creates an intimidating, threatening, or abusive educational environment.

This conduct is considered bullying if it exploits an imbalance of power between the student perpetrator(s) and the student victim and if it interferes with a student's education or substantially disrupts the operation of the school.

Bullying is prohibited by the district and could include hazing, threats, taunting, teasing, confinement, assault, demands for money, destruction of property, theft of valued possessions, name-calling, rumor-spreading, or ostracism. In some cases, bullying can occur through electronic methods, called "cyberbullying."

If a student believes that he or she has experienced bullying or has witnessed bullying of another student, it is important for the student or parent to notify a teacher, school counselor, principal, or another district employee as soon as possible to obtain assistance and intervention. The administration will investigate any allegations of bullying or other related misconduct.

If the results of an investigation indicate that bullying has occurred, the administration will take appropriate disciplinary action. Disciplinary or other action may be taken even if the conduct did not rise to the level of bullying. The district will also contact the parents of the victim and of the student who was found to have engaged in the bullying. Available counseling options will be provided to these individuals, as well as to any students who have been identified as witnesses to the bullying.

Any retaliation against a student who reports an incident of bullying is prohibited.

Upon the recommendation of the administration, the board may, in response to an identified case of bullying, decide to transfer a student found to have engaged in bullying to another classroom at the campus. The parent of a student who has been determined by the district to be a victim of bullying may request that his or her child be transferred to another classroom or campus within the district. [Also see **Safety Transfers/Assignments** on page 15].

A copy of the district's policy is available in the principal's office, superintendent's office, and on the district's website, and is included at the end of this handbook in the form of an appendix. Procedures related to reporting allegations of bullying may also be found on the district's website.

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

[Also see **Safety Transfers/Assignments** on page 15, **Dating Violence, Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation** on page 35, **Hazing** on page 58, policy FFI, and the district improvement plan, a copy of which can be viewed in the campus office.]

## **CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION (CTE) PROGRAMS (Secondary Grade Levels Only)**

The district offers career and technical education programs in the following areas: Industrial Arts, Technology Applications, Automotive Technology, Vocational Agriculture, and Human Development and Management. Admission to these programs is based on prerequisite requirements.

These programs will be offered without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, or disability. Denver City ISD will take steps to ensure that lack of English language skills will not be a barrier to admission and participation in all educational and CTE programs. [Also see **Nondiscrimination Statement** on page 74 for the name and contact information for the Title IX coordinator and Section 504 coordinator, who will address certain allegations of discrimination.]

## **CELEBRATIONS (All Grade Levels)**

Although a parent or grandparent is not prohibited from providing food for a school-designated function or for children in the child's or grandchild's classroom for his or her birthday, please be aware that children in the school may have severe allergies to certain food products. Therefore, it is imperative to discuss this with the child's teacher prior to bringing any food in this circumstance. Occasionally, the school or a class may host certain functions or celebrations tied to the curriculum that will involve food. The school or teacher will notify students and parents of any known food allergies when soliciting potential volunteers for bringing food products.

[Also see **Food Allergies** on page 61.]

## **CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE AND OTHER MALTREATMENT OF CHILDREN (All Grade Levels)**

The district has established a plan for addressing child sexual abuse and other maltreatment of children, which may be accessed at the Central Office or online at [www.dcisd.org](http://www.dcisd.org). As a parent, it is important for you to be aware of warning signs that could indicate a child may have been or is being sexually abused. Sexual abuse in the Texas Family Code is defined as any sexual conduct harmful to a child's mental, emotional, or physical welfare as well as a failure to make a reasonable effort to prevent sexual conduct with a child. A person who compels or encourages a child to engage in sexual conduct commits abuse. It is illegal to make or possess child pornography or to display such material to a child. Anyone who suspects that a child has been or may be abused or neglected has a legal responsibility, under state law, for reporting the suspected abuse or neglect to law enforcement or to Child Protective Services (CPS).

Possible physical warning signs of sexual abuse could be difficulty sitting or walking, pain in the genital areas, and claims of stomachaches and headaches. Behavioral indicators may include verbal references or pretend games of sexual activity between adults and children, fear of being

alone with adults of a particular gender, or sexually suggestive behavior. Emotional warning signs to be aware of include withdrawal, depression, sleeping and eating disorders, and problems in school.

A child who has experienced sexual abuse or any other type of abuse or neglect should be encouraged to seek out a trusted adult. Be aware as a parent or other trusted adult that disclosures of sexual abuse may be more indirect than disclosures of physical abuse and neglect, and it is important to be calm and comforting if your child, or another child, confides in you. Reassure the child that he or she did the right thing by telling you.

As a parent, if your child is a victim of sexual abuse or other maltreatment, the school counselor or principal will provide information regarding counseling options for you and your child available in your area. The Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (TDFPS) also manages early intervention counseling programs. To find out what services may be available in your county, see [http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Prevention\\_and\\_Early\\_Intervention/Programs\\_Available\\_In\\_Your\\_County/default.asp](http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Prevention_and_Early_Intervention/Programs_Available_In_Your_County/default.asp).

The following websites might help you become more aware of child abuse and neglect:

- <https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/factsheets/whatiscan.pdf>
- <http://kidshealth.org/en/parents/child-abuse.html>
- <http://taasa.org/resources-2/>
- <https://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/cvs/what-we-can-do-about-child-abuse-1>
- <https://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/cvs/what-we-can-do-about-child-abuse-2>

Reports of abuse or neglect may be made to:

The CPS division of the TDFPS (1-800-252-5400 or on the web at <http://www.txabusehotline.org>).

## **CLASS RANK / HIGHEST RANKING STUDENT (Secondary Grade Levels Only)**

The weighted grade-point system is designed to rank more accurately and fairly the students attending Denver City High School. This system differentiates all courses by giving weight to the degree of difficulty. It does not penalize students for taking more difficult courses. Scholastic honors, class rank, Valedictorian and Salutatorian are determined by averaging grade points earned during the freshman, sophomore, junior and senior years.

The calculation of class rank shall exclude grades earned in physical education, athletics, cheerleading, band, local credit courses, student council, and courses substituted for physical education.

In addition, the calculation of class rank shall exclude grades earned through distance learning, unless the grade is earned in a distance learning course either assigned to the student by the District or offered as a course option along with traditional District courses.

For the purpose of determining honors to be conferred during graduation activities, the District shall calculate class rank using grades available at the time of calculation at the end of the fifth

six-week grading period of the senior year. The average of the fourth and fifth six-week grades shall be used as the semester grade for this purpose.

For the purpose of applications to institutions of higher education, the District shall also calculate class ranking as required by state law. The District's eligibility criteria for local graduation honors shall apply only for local recognitions and shall not restrict class ranking for the purpose of automatic admission under state law. [See EIC(LEGAL)]

The valedictorian and salutatorian shall be the eligible students with the highest and second highest ranking, respectively. To be eligible for such recognition, a student must: 1. Have completed the Foundation 4 Endorsements or the Distinguished Level of Achievement Program for graduation; and 2. Be graduating after exactly eight semesters of enrollment in high school.

The District shall recognize as an honor graduate each student who has earned a cumulative weighted GPA of at least 4.0, regardless of graduation program. [For further information, see policy EIC.]

### **CLASS SCHEDULES (Secondary Grade Levels Only)**

All students are expected to attend school for the entire school day and maintain a class/course schedule to fulfill each period of the day. Exceptions may be made occasionally by the campus principal for students in grades 9–12 who meet specific criteria and receive parental consent to enroll in less than a full-day's schedule. Any changes requested must be made with prior approval of the campus principal.

### **COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY ADMISSIONS (Secondary Grade Levels Only)**

For two school years following his or her graduation, a district student who graduates in the top ten percent and, in some cases, the top 25 percent, of his or her class is eligible for automatic admission into four-year public universities and colleges in Texas if the student:

- Completes the Recommended or Advanced/Distinguished Achievement Program\*; or
- Satisfies the ACT College Readiness Benchmarks or earns at least a 1500 out of 2400 on the SAT.

\*Beginning with ninth graders in the 2014–15 school year, to be eligible for automatic admission to a Texas four-year college or university, a student must be on track to graduate with the distinguished level of achievement under the foundation graduation program. This means that a student must graduate with at least one endorsement and must have taken Algebra II as one of the four required math courses.

In addition, the student must submit a completed application for admission in accordance with the deadline established by the college or university. The student is ultimately responsible for ensuring that he or she meets the admission requirements of the university or college to which the student submits an application.

The University of Texas at Austin may limit the number of students automatically admitted to 75 percent of the University's enrollment capacity for incoming resident freshmen. For students who are eligible to enroll in the University of Texas at Austin during the summer or fall 2017 term, the University will be admitting the top seven percent of the high school's graduating class

who meet the above requirements. Additional applicants will be considered by the University through a holistic review process.

Should a college or university adopt an admissions policy that automatically accepts the top 25 percent of a graduating class, the provisions above will also apply to a student ranked in the top 25 percent of his or her class.

Students and parents should contact the school counselor for further information about automatic admissions, the application process, and deadlines.

[See also **Class Rank/Highest-Ranking Student** on page 29 for information specifically related to how the district calculates a student's rank in class, and requirements for **Graduation** on page 48 for information associated with the foundation graduation program].

### **COLLEGE CREDIT COURSES (Secondary Grade Levels Only)**

Students in grades 9–12 have opportunities to earn college credit through the following methods:

- Certain courses taught at the high school campus, which may include courses termed dual credit, Advanced Placement (AP), or college preparatory;
- Enrollment in an AP or dual credit course through the Texas Virtual School Network;
- Enrollment in courses taught in conjunction and in partnership with South Plains College, in Levelland, TX, and from the University of Texas Permian Basin, in Odessa, TX; and
- Certain CTE courses.

All of these methods have eligibility requirements and must be approved prior to enrollment in the course. Please see the school counselor for more information. Depending on the student's grade level and the course, a state-mandated end-of-course assessment may be required for graduation.

It is important to keep in mind that not all colleges and universities accept credit earned in all dual credit or AP courses taken in high school for college credit. Students and parents should check with the prospective college or university to determine if a particular course will count toward the student's desired degree plan.

### **COMPLAINTS AND CONCERNS (All Grade Levels)**

Usually student or parent complaints or concerns can be addressed informally by a phone call or a conference with the teacher or principal. For those complaints and concerns that cannot be handled so easily, the board 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 website at [www.dcisid.org](http://www.dcisid.org).

Should a parent or student feel a need to file a formal complaint, the parent or student should file a district complaint form within the timelines established in policy FNG(LOCAL). In general, the student or parent should submit the written complaint form to 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.

## **CONDUCT (All Grade Levels)**

### **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 as well as on district vehicles—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. During any periods of instruction during the summer months, the Student Handbook and Student Code of Conduct in place for the year immediately preceding the summer period shall apply, unless the district amends either or both documents for the purposes of summer instruction.

### **Academic Dishonesty/Cheating/Plagiarism**

Academic dishonesty-cheating or plagiarism-is not acceptable. Cheating includes the copying of another student's work-homework, classwork, test answers, etc.-as one's own. Plagiarism is the use of another person's original ideas or writing without giving credit to the true author. A student found to have engaged in academic dishonesty will be subject to loss of credits for the work in question, as well as disciplinary penalties, according to the Student Code of Conduct.

### **Campus Behavior Coordinator**

By law, each campus has a campus behavior coordinator to apply discipline management techniques and administer consequences for certain student misconduct, as well as provide a point of contact for student misconduct. The campus behavior coordinator at each district campus is listed below:

- Dodson Primary – Mrs. Elizabeth Calk
- Kelley Elementary – Ms. Tori Prothro
- Gravitt JH – Mrs. Kristi Ivy
- Denver City HS – Mr. Beau Rains

### **Disruptions of School Operations**

Disruptions of school operations are not tolerated and may constitute a misdemeanor offense. 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.

## **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.

Please contact the campus principal if you are interested in serving as a chaperone for any school social events.

## **COUNSELING**

### **Academic Counseling**

#### ***Elementary and Middle/Junior High School Grade Levels***

The school counselor is available to students and parents to talk about the importance of postsecondary education and how best to plan for postsecondary education, including appropriate courses to consider and financial aid availability and requirements.

In either grade 7 or 8, each student will receive instruction related to how the student can best prepare for high school, college, and a career.

#### ***High School Grade Levels***

High school students and their parents are encouraged to talk with a school counselor, teacher, or principal to learn more about course offerings, graduation requirements, and early graduation procedures. Each year, high school students will be provided information on anticipated course offerings for the next school year and other information that will help them make the most of academic and CTE opportunities, as well as information on the importance of postsecondary education.

The school counselor can also provide information about entrance exams and application deadlines, as well as information about automatic admission, financial aid, housing, and scholarships as these relate to state colleges and universities. The school counselor can also provide information about workforce opportunities after graduation or technical and trade school opportunities, including opportunities to earn industry-recognized certificates and licenses.

## **Personal Counseling (All Grade Levels)**

The school counselor is available to assist students with a wide range of personal concerns, including such areas as social, family, emotional or mental health issues, or substance abuse. A student who wishes to meet with the school counselor should contact their campus counselor. As a parent, if you are concerned about your child's mental or emotional health, please speak with the school counselor for a list of resources that may be of assistance.

[Also see **Substance Abuse Prevention and Intervention** on page 86 and **Suicide Awareness** on page 87.]

## **COURSE CREDIT (Secondary Grade Levels Only)**

A student in grades 9–12, or in a lower grade when a student is enrolled in a high school credit-bearing course, will earn credit for a course only if the final grade is 70 or above. For a two-semester (1 credit) course, the student's grades from both semesters will be averaged and credit will be awarded if the combined average is 70 or above. Should the student's combined average be less than 70, the student will be required to retake the semester in which he or she failed.

## **CREDIT BY EXAM—If a Student Has Taken the Course/Subject (All Grade Levels)**

A student who has previously taken a course or subject—but did not receive credit or a final grade for it—may, in circumstances determined by the principal or attendance committee, be permitted to earn credit by passing an exam approved by the district's board of trustees on the essential knowledge and skills defined for that course or subject. Prior instruction may include, for example, incomplete coursework due to a failed course or excessive absences, homeschooling, or coursework by a student transferring from a nonaccredited school. The opportunity to take an examination to earn credit for a course or to be awarded a final grade in a subject after the student has had prior instruction is sometimes referred to as "credit recovery."

The school counselor or principal would determine if the student could take an exam for this purpose. If approval is granted, the student must score at least 70 on the exam to receive credit for the course or subject.

The attendance review committee may also offer a student with excessive absences an opportunity to earn credit for a course by passing an exam.

[For further information, see the school counselor and policy EHDB(LOCAL).]

## **CREDIT BY EXAM FOR ADVANCEMENT/ACCELERATION—If a Student Has Not Taken the Course/Subject**

A student will be permitted to take an exam to earn credit for an academic course or subject area for which the student has had no prior instruction, i.e., for advancement or to accelerate to the next grade level. The exams offered by the district are approved by the district's board of trustees, and state law requires the use of certain exams, such as College Board Advanced Placement (AP) and College Level Examination Program (CLEP) tests, when applicable. The dates on which exams are scheduled during the 2016–17 school year will be published in appropriate district publications and on the district's website. The only exceptions to the published dates will be for any exams administered by another entity besides the district or if a

request is made outside of these time frames by a student experiencing homelessness or by a student involved in the foster care system. When another entity administers an exam, a student and the district must comply with the testing schedule of the other entity. During each testing window provided by the district, a student may attempt a specific exam only once.

If a student plans to take an exam, the student (or parent) must register with the school counselor no later than 30 days prior to the scheduled testing date. [For further information, see policy EHDC.]

### **Kindergarten Acceleration**

In accordance with State Board rules, the Board shall approve procedures developed by the Superintendent or designee to allow a child who is five years old at the beginning of the school year to be assigned initially to grade 1 rather than kindergarten. Criteria for acceleration may include: 1. Scores on readiness tests or achievement tests that may be administered by appropriate District personnel. 2. Recommendation of the kindergarten or preschool the student has attended. 3. Chronological age and observed social and emotional development of the student. 4. Other criteria deemed appropriate by the principal and Superintendent.

### **Students in Grades 1–5**

A student in elementary school will be eligible to accelerate to the next grade level if the student scores at least 80 on each exam in the subject areas of language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies, a district administrator recommends that the student be accelerated, and the student's parent gives written approval of the grade advancement.

### **Students in Grades 6–12**

A student in grade 6 or above will earn course credit with a passing score of at least 80 on the exam, a scaled score of 50 or higher on an exam administered through the CLEP, or a score of 3 or higher on an AP exam, as applicable. A student may take an exam to earn high school course credit no more than twice. If a student fails to achieve the designated score on the applicable exam before the beginning of the school year in which the student would need to enroll in the course according to the school's high school course sequence, the student must complete the course.

## **DATING VIOLENCE, DISCRIMINATION, HARASSMENT, AND RETALIATION (All Grade Levels)**

The district believes that all students learn best in an environment free from dating violence, 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. A copy of the district's policy is

available in the principal's office and in the superintendent's office or on the district's website at [www.dcid.org](http://www.dcid.org). [See policy FFH.]

## **Dating Violence**

Dating violence occurs when a person in a current or past dating relationship uses physical, sexual, verbal, or emotional abuse to harm, threaten, intimidate, or control the other person in the relationship. Dating violence also occurs when a person commits these acts against a person in a marriage or dating relationship with the individual who is or was once in a marriage or dating relationship with the person committing the offense. This type of conduct is considered harassment if the conduct is 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.

Examples of dating violence against a student may include, but are not limited to, physical or sexual assaults; name-calling; put-downs; threats to hurt the student, the student's family members, or members of the student's household; destroying property belonging to the student; threats to commit suicide or homicide if the student ends the relationship; threats to harm a student's current dating partner; attempts to isolate the student from friends and family; stalking; or encouraging others to engage in these behaviors.

## **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.

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, intimidating, or humiliating 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.

In addition to dating violence as described above, two other types of prohibited harassment are described below.

## **Sexual Harassment and Gender-Based Harassment**

Sexual harassment and gender-based harassment of a student by an employee, volunteer, or another student are prohibited.

Examples of 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.

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, such as comforting a child with a hug or taking the child's hand. However, romantic and other inappropriate social relationships, as well as all sexual relationships, between students and district employees are prohibited, even if consensual.

Gender-based harassment includes harassment based on a student's gender, expression by the student of stereotypical characteristics associated with the student's gender, or the student's failure to conform to stereotypical behavior related to gender.

Examples of gender-based harassment directed against a student, regardless of the student's or the harasser's actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity, may include, but not be limited to, offensive jokes, name-calling, slurs, or rumors; physical aggression or assault; threatening or intimidating conduct; or other kinds of aggressive conduct such as theft or damage to property.

## **Retaliation**

Retaliation against a person who makes a good faith report of discrimination or harassment, including dating violence, 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.

Examples of retaliation may include threats, rumor spreading, ostracism, assault, destruction of property, unjustified punishments, or unwarranted grade reductions. Unlawful retaliation does not include petty slights or annoyances.

## **Reporting Procedures**

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

Upon receiving a report of prohibited conduct as defined by policy FFH, the district will determine whether the allegations, if proven, would constitute prohibited conduct as defined by that policy. If not, the district will refer to policy FFI to determine if the allegations, if proven, would constitute bullying, as defined by law and that policy. If the alleged prohibited conduct, if proven, would constitute prohibited conduct and would also be considered bullying as defined by law and policy FFI, an investigation of bullying will also be conducted.

The district will promptly notify the parents of any student alleged to have experienced prohibited conduct involving an adult associated with the district. In the event alleged 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 FFH.

## **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.

If a law enforcement or other regulatory agency notifies the district that it is investigating the matter and requests that the district delay its investigation, the district will resume the investigation at the conclusion of the agency's investigation.

During the course of an investigation and when appropriate, the district will take interim action to address the alleged prohibited conduct.

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

All involved parties will be notified of the outcome of the district investigation within the parameters and limits allowed under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

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

## **DISCRIMINATION**

[See **Dating Violence, Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation** on page 35.]

## **DISTANCE LEARNING**

### **All Grade Levels**

Distance learning and correspondence courses include courses that encompass the state-required essential knowledge and skills but are taught through multiple technologies and alternative methodologies such as mail, satellite, Internet, video-conferencing, and instructional television.

If a student wishes to enroll in a correspondence course or a distance learning course that is not provided through the Texas Virtual School Network (TxVSN), as described below, in order to earn credit in a course or subject, the student must receive permission from the principal prior to enrolling in the course or subject. If the student does not receive prior approval, the district may not recognize and apply the course or subject toward graduation requirements or subject mastery.

### **Texas Virtual School Network (TxVSN) (Secondary Grade Levels)**

The Texas Virtual School Network (TxVSN) has been established by the state as one method of distance learning. A student has the option, with certain limitations, to enroll in a course offered through the TxVSN to earn course credit for graduation.

Depending on the TxVSN course in which a student enrolls, the course may be subject to the "no pass, no play" rules. [Also see **Extracurricular Activities, Clubs, and Organizations** on page 44.] In addition, for a student who enrolls in a TxVSN course for which an end-of-course (EOC) assessment is required, the student must still take the corresponding EOC assessment.

If you have questions or wish to make a request that your child be enrolled in a TxVSN course, please contact the school counselor. Unless an exception is made by the principal, a student will not be allowed to enroll in a TxVSN course if the school offers the same or a similar course.

A copy of policy EHDE will be distributed to parents of middle and high school students at least once each year. If you do not receive a copy or have questions about this policy, please contact the school counselor.

## **DISTRIBUTION OF LITERATURE, PUBLISHED MATERIALS, OR OTHER DOCUMENTS (All Grade Levels)**

### **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 yearbook is an example of a publication that is 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 campus principal before selling, posting, circulating, or distributing more than 10 copies of written or printed materials, handbills, photographs, pictures, films, tapes, 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.

Check with the campus principal for the location for approved for approved nonschool materials to be placed for voluntary viewing or collection by students. [See policy FNAA.]

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

#### ***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 or GF.]

The campus principal shall designate the location for approved nonschool materials to be placed for voluntary viewing or collection.

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 (All Grade Levels)**

The district's dress code is established to teach grooming and hygiene, prevent disruption, and minimize safety hazards. Students and parents may determine a student's personal dress and grooming standards, provided that they comply with the following hair, grooming, and dress policy for K-12. It will be left up to the principal's (or designee's) discretion as to whether the hair style choice, grooming choice or dress choice the student has made is appropriate for the school setting.

### **HAIR POLICY – PreK-12**

A student's hair must be kept trimmed, clean, and well-groomed at all times while attending school, school functions, and school sponsored activities. It will also be styled in a manner that will keep it out of the student's eyes and not obstruct one's vision. Students shall not cut sidewalls, half long/half short, skid marks in the hair, or any other combination of unusual hairstyles including but not limited to mohawks or faux-hawks. Dreadlocks and shaving large portions of the head, while leaving other portions unshaved, are prohibited. No unnatural or bizarre hair colors or haircuts will be permitted. Eyebrows must not be notched or shaved in an unnatural manner.

Male students will be clean-shaven at all times, sideburns will be limited to the bottom of the ear lobe in length, and will be no wider than one inch (no lamb chops, etc.). Male students' hair may be worn no longer than the top of the collar on a collared shirt.

### **GROOMING POLICY - PreK-12**

Tongue studs and body piercing ornaments in exposed areas, except for the ears, will not be allowed. Ear ornaments for male students are prohibited. Violation of this policy will result in the immediate confiscation of the piercing ornament.

All tattoos will be covered while on school property or at any school function or school sponsored activity.



## DRESS POLICY - PreK-12

The Denver City ISD dress code is established to teach and enforce grooming and hygiene, instill discipline, prevent disruption, avoid safety hazards, teach respect for authority, and promote a climate conducive to learning.

- All clothing will be neat and clean and will not be worn to draw undue attention to the student.
- All standard footwear is acceptable and must be worn at all times during school hours.
- Shorts, dresses, and skirts are acceptable under the following conditions:
  1. Length must be not shorter than the tip of the middle finger when the student is standing straight with arms extended at his/her side. It will be left up to the principal's discretion as to whether the length is appropriate.
  2. No spandex biker shorts or wind shorts are allowed (loose-legged, athletic running shorts). Elastic waist shorts that meet length and other requirements will be allowed. No athletic or athletic type workout attire will be worn to classes (including workout pants or shorts, t-shirts or sweat shirts). This clothing is appropriate for P.E., off-season or athletics only.
  3. Shorts must be tailored (hemmed with no frayed edges).
- Shirts and blouses must be buttoned appropriately with midriff and back covered at all times. (Tops must be long enough that skin does not show when arms are lifted).
- Half shirts, crop tops, low cut tops or sleeveless t-shirts will not be allowed.
- Undergarments must not be exposed at any time.
- Leggings and Tights are acceptable under the following conditions:
  1. Shirt or blouse must be no shorter than the tip of the middle finger when the student is standing straight with arms extended at side. It will be left up to the principal's discretion as to whether the length is appropriate.
- Students may wear tank tops or blouses with spaghetti straps if t-shirts are worn under them or shirts are worn over them. When over shirts are worn, straps must not be visible, and see-through over shirts are not permitted. Over shirts must be worn continuously during school hours.
- Clothing with inappropriate or suggestive symbols, patches, or lettering may not be worn. Clothes may not say, show, or advertise any product prohibited under FNCF (Local).
- Apparel or accessories that separate individual students from the general student body into a smaller group and as such denotes gang-related association are prohibited (including but not limited to sagging and bandannas).
- Hats and caps are not permitted to be worn in the building.
- Sunglasses may not be worn in the building during school hours unless prescribed by a doctor.
- No “*saggin, baggin, or draggin.*” Wearing of oversized or baggy pants and/or jeans is prohibited at school or at any school-sponsored activity on or off campus. Pants must be an appropriate length and not drag the floor. Boys' pants will be worn at the waist and properly fit the waistline. Boys must wear belts. No excessively wide legged pants will be allowed,

and all pockets must be standard size. No chains will be allowed on school property or at school-sponsored functions.

- Articles found to be a distraction in the classroom as determined by the teacher and/or principal will not be allowed.
- No trench coats, dusters, or paramilitary attire will be allowed.

Students should remember that whatever type of “dress” they choose; they must be clean and well groomed.

If a student is found to be in violation of the dress code, he/she will be given the choice of school issued clothing and return to the regular classroom. A student will not be allowed to call home for clothing. If a student refuses to comply with the dress code, he/she may be placed in in-school suspension or out of school suspension, until compliance is met. A discipline referral will be submitted on dress code violations and will be entered in the school discipline plan.

Denver City ISD reserves the right to remove any student from school property or school functions if that student's dress or behavior is inappropriate or offensive.

## **ELECTRONIC DEVICES AND TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES (All Grade Levels)**

### **Possession and Use of Personal Telecommunications Devices, Including Mobile Telephones**

For safety purposes, the district permits students to possess personal mobile telephones; however, these devices must remain turned off during the instructional day, including during all testing, unless they are being used for approved instructional purposes. A student must have approval to possess other telecommunications devices such as netbooks, laptops, tablets, or other portable computers.

The use of mobile telephones or any device capable of capturing images is strictly prohibited in locker rooms or restroom areas while at school or at a school-related or school-sponsored event.

If a student uses a telecommunications device without authorization during the school day, the device will be confiscated. The student or 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 the student’s parents will be disposed of after the notice required by law. [See policy FNCE.]

In limited circumstances and in accordance with law, a student’s personal telecommunications device may be searched by authorized personnel. [See **Searches** on page **82** and policy FNF.]

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

### **Possession and Use of Other Personal Electronic Devices**

Except as described below, students are not permitted to possess or use personal electronic devices such as MP3 players, video or audio recorders, DVD players, cameras, games, e-readers, or other electronic devices at school, unless prior permission has been obtained. 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.

In limited circumstances and in accordance with law, a student's personal electronic device may be searched by authorized personnel. [See **Searches** on page **82** and policy FNF.]

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

### **Instructional Use of Personal Telecommunications and Other Electronic Devices**

In some cases, students may find it beneficial or might be encouraged to use personal telecommunications or other personal electronic devices for instructional purposes while on campus. Students must obtain prior approval before using personal telecommunications or other personal electronic devices for instructional use. Students must also sign a user agreement that contains applicable rules for use (separate from this handbook). When students are not using the devices for approved instructional purposes, all devices must be turned off during the instructional day. Violations of the user agreement may result in withdrawal of privileges and other disciplinary action.

### **Acceptable Use of District Technology Resources**

To prepare students for an increasingly technological society, the district has made an investment in the use of district-owned technology resources for instructional purposes; specific resources may be issued individually to students. Use of these technological resources, which include the district's network systems and use of district equipment, is restricted to approved purposes only. Students and parents will be asked to sign a user agreement (separate from this handbook) regarding use of these district resources. Violations of the user agreement may result in withdrawal of privileges and other disciplinary action.

### **Unacceptable and Inappropriate Use of Technology Resources**

Students are prohibited from possessing, sending, forwarding, posting, accessing, or displaying electronic messages that are abusive, obscene, sexually oriented, threatening, harassing, damaging to another's reputation, or illegal. This prohibition also applies to conduct off school property, whether the equipment used to send such messages is district-owned or personally owned, if it results in a substantial disruption to the educational environment.

Any person taking, disseminating, transferring, possessing, or sharing obscene, sexually oriented, lewd, or otherwise illegal images or other content, commonly referred to as "sexting," will be disciplined according to the Student Code of Conduct, may be required to complete an educational program related to the dangers of this type of behavior, and, in certain circumstances, may be reported to law enforcement. Because engaging in this type of behavior can lead to bullying or harassment, as well as possibly impede future endeavors of a student, we encourage you to review with your child <http://beforeyoutext.com>, a state-developed program that addresses the consequences of engaging in inappropriate behavior using technology.

In addition, any student who engages in conduct that results in a breach of the district's computer security will be disciplined in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct, and, in some cases, the consequence may rise to the level of expulsion.

## **END-OF-COURSE (EOC) ASSESSMENTS**

[See **Graduation** on page 47 and **Standardized Testing** on page 84.]

### **ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS (All Grade Levels)**

A student who is an English language learner is entitled to receive specialized services from the district. To determine whether the student qualifies for services, a Language Proficiency Assessment Committee (LPAC) will be formed, which will consist of both district personnel and at least one parent representative. The student's parent must consent to any services recommended by the LPAC for an English language learner. However, pending the receipt of parental consent or denial of services, an eligible student will receive the services to which the student is entitled and eligible.

In order to determine a student's level of proficiency in English, the LPAC will use information from a variety of assessments. If the student qualifies for services, and once a level of proficiency has been established, the LPAC will then designate instructional accommodations or additional special programs that the student will require to eventually become proficient at grade level work in English. Ongoing assessments will be conducted to determine a student's continued eligibility for the program.

The LPAC will also determine whether certain accommodations are necessary for any state-mandated assessments. The STAAR L, as mentioned at **Standardized Testing** on page 84, may be administered to an English language learner, or, for a student up to grade 5, a Spanish version of STAAR. In limited circumstances, a student's LPAC may exempt the student from an otherwise required state-mandated assessment or may waive certain graduation requirements related to the English I end-of-course (EOC) assessment. The Texas English Language Proficiency Assessment System (TELPAS) will also be administered to English language learners who qualify for services.

If a student is considered an English language learner and receives special education services because of a qualifying disability, the student's ARD committee will make instructional and assessment decisions in conjunction with the LPAC.

### **EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES, CLUBS, AND ORGANIZATIONS (All Grade Levels)**

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.

Participation in some of these activities may result in events that occur off-campus. When the district arranges transportation for these events, students are required to use the transportation provided by the district to and from the events. Exceptions to this may only be made with the approval of the activity's coach or sponsor. [Also see **Transportation** on page 87.]

Eligibility for initial and continuing 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. If a student is involved in an academic, athletic, or music activity governed by UIL, the student and parent are expected to know and follow all rules of the UIL organization. Students involved in UIL athletic activities and their parents can access the

UIL Parent Information Manual at <https://www.uil texas.org/athletics/manuals>; a hard copy can be provided by the coach or sponsor of the activity on request. To report a complaint of alleged noncompliance with required safety training or an alleged violation of safety rules required by law and the UIL, please contact the curriculum division of TEA at (512) 463-9581 or [curriculum@tea.texas.gov](mailto:curriculum@tea.texas.gov).

[See <http://www.uil texas.org> for additional information on all UIL-governed activities.]

Student safety in extracurricular activities is a priority of the district. The equipment used in football is no exception. As a parent, you are entitled to review the district's records regarding the age of each football helmet used by the campus, including when a helmet has been reconditioned.

In addition, the following provisions apply to all extracurricular activities:

- A student who receives at the end of a grading period a grade below 70 in any academic class, including Advanced Placement (AP), honors, and dual credit courses, shall be subject to and must comply with the UIL no pass/no play restrictions. The restrictions shall not apply for a class taken for college credit only and not high school credit.
- A student who receives special education services and 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 but may not participate in any competitive activity.
- A student is allowed in a school year up to 15 absences not related to post-district competition. All absences related to post-district and state competition will be considered excused and will be allowed over and above the 15 days. In addition, students who maintain an average grade of 80 in all classes for the six-weeks will be granted an additional 5 days. All extracurricular activities and public performances, whether UIL activities or other activities approved by the board, are subject to these restrictions.
- An absence for participation in an activity that has not been approved will receive an unexcused absence.
- Students in violation of compulsory attendance laws will not be permitted to participate in any extracurricular or co-curricular activity.

## **Standards of Behavior**

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 board policy will apply in addition to any consequences specified by the organization's standards of behavior.

## **Offices and Elections**

Certain clubs, organizations, and performing groups will hold elections for student officers. These elections will be conducted in accordance with each organizations procedures.

## FEES (All Grade Levels)

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.
- Security deposits.
- Personal physical education and athletic equipment and apparel.
- Voluntarily purchased pictures, publications, class rings, yearbooks, graduation announcements, etc.
- 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.
- Vehicle registration.
- Fees for lost, damaged, or overdue library books.
- Fees for driver training courses, if offered.
- Fees for optional courses offered for credit that requires use of facilities not available on district premises.
- Summer school for courses that are offered tuition-free during the regular school year.
- A reasonable fee for providing transportation to a student who lives within two miles of the school. [See **Buses and Other School Vehicles** on page 88.]
- A fee not to exceed \$50 for costs of providing an educational program outside of regular school hours for a student who has lost credit or has not been awarded a final grade because of absences and whose parent chooses the program in order for the student to meet the 90 percent attendance requirement. The fee will be charged only if the parent or guardian signs a district-provided request form.
- In some cases, a fee for a course taken through the Texas Virtual School Network (TxVSN).

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 campus principal. [For further information, see policy FP.]

## **FUNDRAISING (All Grade Levels)**

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 campus principal prior to planning the event. The District shall permit non-profit organizations to conduct fund raising events on District property when these activities do not conflict with school use or with policy. [For further information, see policies at FJ and GE.]

## **GANG-FREE ZONES (All Grade Levels)**

Certain criminal offenses, including those involving organized criminal activity such as gang-related crimes, will be enhanced to the next highest category of offense if they are committed in a gang-free zone. For purposes of the district, a gang-free zone includes a school bus and a location in, on, or within 1,000 feet of any district-owned or leased property or campus playground.

## **GENDER-BASED HARASSMENT**

[See **Dating Violence, Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation** on page 35.]

## **GRADE LEVEL CLASSIFICATION (Grades 9–12 Only)**

After the ninth grade, students are classified according to the number of credits earned toward graduation.

Credits Earned	Classification
6	Grade 10 (Sophomore)
12	Grade 11 (Junior)
18	Grade 12 (Senior)

## **GRADING GUIDELINES (All Grade Levels)**

Grading guidelines for each grade level or course will be communicated and distributed to students and their parents by the classroom teacher. These guidelines have been reviewed by each applicable curriculum department and have been approved by the campus principal. These guidelines establish the minimum number of assignments, projects, and examinations required for each grading period. In addition, these guidelines establish how the student's mastery of concepts and achievement will be communicated (i.e., letter grades, numerical averages, checklist of required skills, etc.). Grading guidelines also outline in what circumstances a student will be allowed to redo an assignment or retake an examination for which the student originally made a failing grade. Procedures for a student to follow after an absence will also be addressed.

Each teacher's grading policy will be kept on file in the principal's office.

**Prekindergarten Grading Guidelines** – Student progress shall be measured for mastery and reported no later than the second nine weeks and each nine weeks thereafter in the area of academic readiness based upon state Pre-K Guidelines as well as standardized academic measures as appropriate. Other areas of reporting shall include social development/citizenship skills and student work habits.

**Kindergarten Grading Guidelines** – State standards (TEKS) shall be measured and reported no later than the second nine weeks and each nine weeks thereafter to reflect progress toward mastery in the areas of reading, language, math, science, and social studies as well as standardized assessment measures as appropriate. General behavior and growth in citizenship skills shall be reported throughout the year to parents.

### ***Test Exemptions***

Students in grades 9-12 may be exempted from taking semester examinations if they meet the following criteria and have cleared all fines and fees with the office:

1. A 90 semester average in a class and no more than three (3) absences in that class for the semester.
2. An 85 semester average in a class and no more than two (2) absences in that class for the semester.
3. An 80 semester average in a class and no more than one (1) absence in that class for the semester.
4. If a student has an unexcused absence in a class, his/her right for exemption in that class is forfeited.
5. If a student has been placed in AEP and/or ISS during the semester, his/her right for exemption is forfeited in all classes.

All students enrolled in Advanced Placement and/or Pre-Advanced Placement courses will be required to take a comprehensive semester exam in those classes.

[Also see **Report Cards/Progress Reports and Conferences** on page 78 for additional information on grading guidelines.]

## **GRADUATION (Secondary Grade Levels Only)**

### **Requirements for a Diploma for a Student Enrolled in High School Prior to the 2014–15 School Year**

To receive a high school diploma from the district and be allowed to participate in commencement exercises, a student who was enrolled in high school prior to the 2014–15 school year must successfully:

- Complete the required number of credits established by the state and any additional credits required by the district;
- Complete any locally required courses in addition to the courses mandated by the state; and
- Achieve passing scores on certain end-of-course (EOC) assessments or approved substitute assessments, unless specifically waived as permitted by state law.

[Also see **Standardized Testing** on page 84 for more information.]

### **Requirements for a Diploma Beginning with the 2014–15 School Year**

Beginning with students who entered grade 9 in the 2014–15 school year, as well as any currently enrolled high school student who decides to graduate under the foundation graduation



program, a student must meet the following requirements to receive a high school diploma and participate in commencement exercises from the district:

- Complete the required number of credits established by the state and any additional credits required by the district;
- Complete any locally required courses in addition to the courses mandated by the state;
- Achieve passing scores on certain end-of-course (EOC) assessments or approved substitute assessments, unless specifically waived as permitted by state law; and
- Demonstrate proficiency, as determined by the district, in the specific communication skills required by the State Board of Education.

### **Testing Requirements for Graduation**

Students are required, with limited exceptions and regardless of graduation program, to perform satisfactorily on the following EOC assessments: English I, English II, Algebra I, Biology, and United States History. A student who has not achieved sufficient scores on the EOC assessments to graduate will have opportunities to retake the assessments. State law and state rules also provide for certain scores on norm-referenced national standardized assessments or on the state-developed assessment used for entrance into Texas public universities to substitute for the requirement to meet satisfactory performance on an applicable EOC assessment, should a student choose this option. See the school counselor for more information on the state testing requirements for graduation.

If a student fails to perform satisfactorily on an EOC assessment, the district will provide remediation to the student in the content area for which the performance standard was not met. This may require participation of the student before or after normal school hours or at times of the year outside normal school operations.

In limited circumstances, a student who fails to demonstrate proficiency on two or fewer of the required assessments may still be eligible to graduate if an individual graduation committee, formed in accordance with state law, unanimously determines that the student is eligible to graduate.

[Also see **Standardized Testing** on page 84 for more information.]

### **Minimum, Recommended, and Advanced/Distinguished Achievement Graduation Programs**

For students who were enrolled in high school prior to the 2014–15 school year, the district offers the graduation programs listed in this section. Students enrolled in high school prior to the 2014–15 school year also have the option to pursue the foundation graduation program as described below. Note that permission to enroll in the Minimum Program as described in this section will be granted only if a written agreement is reached among the student, the student's parent or person standing in parental relation, and the school counselor or appropriate administrator. In order for a student to take courses under the Minimum Program, the student must be at least 16 years of age; have completed at least two credits each in English language arts, math, science, and social studies courses that are required for graduation; or have failed grade 9 one or more times. [See policy EIF(LEGAL).]

All students who were enrolled in high school prior to the 2014–15 school year must meet the following credit and course requirements for graduation under the programs listed or may choose to pursue the foundation graduation program as described on page 51:

<b>Courses</b>	<b>Number of credits Minimum Program</b>	<b>Number of credits Recommended Program</b>	<b>Number of credits Advanced/ Distinguished Achievement Program</b>
English/Language Arts	4	4	4
Mathematics	3	4	4
Science	**2 or 3	4	4
Social Studies, including Economics	3 or 4	4	4
Physical Education*	1	1	1
Speech	0.5	0.5	0.5
Language other than English		2	3
Fine Arts	1	1	1
Locally required courses	1 credit in Professional Communication		
Electives**	8.5 credits	5.5 credits	3.5 credits
Miscellaneous			Completion of 4 Advanced Measures***
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>26 credits</b>	<b>26 credits</b>	<b>26 credits</b>

\*\*If 2 Science credits are taken, 3.5 Social Studies must be taken. If 3 Science credits are taken, 2.5 Social Studies must be taken.

\* A student who is unable to participate in physical activity due to a disability or illness may be able to substitute a course in English language arts, mathematics, science, or social studies for the required credit of physical education. This determination will be made by the student’s ARD committee, Section 504 committee, or other campus committee, as applicable.

\*\* State rules prohibit a student from combining a half-credit of a course for which there is an EOC assessment with another half-credit of an elective credit course to satisfy an elective credit requirement. However, the district will allow a student to satisfy a graduation requirement for which there are multiple options with one-half credit of one allowable option and one-half credit of another allowable option, if neither course has an EOC assessment.

\*\*\* A student graduating under the Advanced/Distinguished Achievement Program must also achieve a combination of four of the following advanced measures:

1. An original research project or other project that is related to the required curriculum. These projects must be judged by a panel of professionals or conducted under the direction of a mentor and reported to an appropriate audience. Please note that no more than two of the four advanced measures may be received from this option.
2. Test data where a student receives:
  - a. A score of three or above on an Advanced Placement (AP) exam;
  - b. A score of four or above on an International Baccalaureate (IB) exam; or
  - c. A score on the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) that qualifies the student for recognition as a commended scholar or higher by the College Board and National Merit Scholarship Corporation, as part of the National Hispanic Recognition Program (NHRP) of the College Board, or as part of the National Achievement Scholarship Program of the National Merit Scholarship Corporation. The PSAT/NMSQT score will count as only one advanced measure regardless of the number of honors received by the student.
3. College academic courses, including those taken for dual credit, and advanced technical courses, including locally articulated courses, provided the student scores the equivalent of a 3.0 or higher.

## **Foundation Graduation Program**

Every student in a Texas public school who entered grade 9 in the 2014–15 school year and thereafter, will graduate under the “foundation graduation program”. Within the foundation graduation program are “endorsements,” which are paths of interest that include Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM); Business and Industry; Public Services; Arts and Humanities; and Multidisciplinary Studies. Endorsements earned by a student will be noted on the student’s transcript. The foundation graduation program also involves the term “distinguished level of achievement,” which reflects the completion of at least one endorsement and Algebra II as one of the required advanced mathematics credits. A personal graduation plan will be completed for each high school student, as described on page 53.

State law and rules prohibit a student from graduating solely under the foundation graduation program without an endorsement unless, after the student’s sophomore year, the student and student’s parent are advised of the specific benefits of graduating with an endorsement and submit written permission to the school counselor for the student to graduate without an endorsement. A student who anticipates graduating under the foundation graduation program without an endorsement and who wishes to attend a four-year university or college after graduation must carefully consider whether this will satisfy the admission requirements of the student’s desired college or university.

Graduating under the foundation graduation program will also provide opportunities to earn “performance acknowledgments” that will be acknowledged on a student’s transcript. Performance acknowledgments are available for outstanding performance in bilingualism and biliteracy, in a dual credit course, on an AP or IB exam, on certain national college preparatory

and readiness or college entrance exams, or for earning a state recognized or nationally or internationally recognized license or certificate. The criteria for earning these performance acknowledgments are prescribed by state rules, and the school counselor can provide more information about these acknowledgments.

A student enrolled in high school prior to the 2014–15 school year has the option of graduating under the foundation graduation program rather than the programs identified above that would otherwise be applicable to that student. See the school counselor for additional information.

The foundation graduation program requires completion of the following credits:

<b>Course Area</b>	<b>Number of credits Foundation Graduation Program</b>	<b>Number of credits Foundation Graduation Program with an Endorsement</b>
English/Language Arts	4	4
Mathematics	3	4*
Science	3	4
Social Studies, including Economics	3	3
Physical Education**	1	1
Language other than English***	2	2
Fine Arts	1	1
Locally required courses	½ credit in Professional Communication	½ credit in Professional Communication
Electives	4 ½	4 ½
Miscellaneous		Available Endorsements****: Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math Business and Industry Public Services Arts and Humanities Multidisciplinary
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>22 credits</b>	<b>26 credits</b>

\* In order to obtain the distinguished level of achievement under the foundation graduation program, which will be denoted on a student’s transcript and is a requirement to be considered for automatic admission purposes to a Texas four-year college or university, a student must complete an endorsement and take Algebra II as one of the four mathematics credits.

\*\* A student who is unable to participate in physical activity due to a disability or illness may be able to substitute a course in English language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, or another locally determined credit-bearing course for the required credit of physical education. This determination will be made by the student's ARD committee, Section 504 committee, or other campus committee, as applicable.

\*\*\* Students are required to earn two credits in the same language other than English to graduate. Any student may substitute computer programming languages for these credits. In limited circumstances, a student may be able to substitute this requirement with other courses, as determined by a district committee authorized by law to make these decisions for the student.

\*\*\*\* A student must specify upon entering grade 9 the endorsement he or she wishes to pursue.

### ***Personal Graduation Plans for Students Under The Foundation Graduation Program***

A personal graduation plan will be developed for each high school student who is subject to the requirements of the foundation graduation program. The district encourages all students to pursue a personal graduation plan that includes the completion of at least one endorsement and to graduate with the distinguished level of achievement. Attainment of the distinguished level of achievement entitles a student to be considered for automatic admission to a public four year college or university in Texas, depending on his or her rank in class. The school will review personal graduation plan options with each student entering grade 9 and his or her parent. Before the end of grade 9, a student and his or her parent will be required to sign off on a personal graduation plan that includes a course of study that promotes college and workforce readiness and career placement and advancement, as well as facilitates the transition from secondary to postsecondary education. The student's personal graduation plan will denote an appropriate course sequence based on the student's choice of endorsement.

Please also review TEA's Graduation Toolkit, available here:  
<http://tea.texas.gov/communications/brochures.aspx>.

A student may, with parental permission, amend his or her personal graduation plan after the initial confirmation.

### **Available Course Options for all Graduation Programs**

Information regarding specific courses required or offered in each curriculum area will be distributed to students each spring in order to enroll in courses for the upcoming school year. Note that the district may require the completion of certain courses for graduation even if these courses are not required by the state for graduation.

**RECOMMENDED & \*\*DISTINGUISHED GRADUATION PLAN**: Under Texas House Bill 3, the Recommended High School Program graduation requirement and the Distinguished High School Program graduation requirement for students is **26** credits. Credits include the following: **English Language Arts**: English I, II, III, and IV; **Math**: Algebra I; Geometry; Algebra II; and a 4<sup>th</sup> approved course: **Science**: Biology; Chemistry; Physics; and a 4<sup>th</sup> approved science course: **Social Studies**: World Geography; World History; U.S. History; U.S. Government; U.S. Economics; **Physical Education**: (one credit); **Languages other than English**: Any two courses in the same language other than English; **Speech**: (1/2 credit); **Fine Arts**: (one credit); **Electives**: all other remaining credits shall be electives.

\*\***The Distinguished Achievement Plan (DAP)** includes all of the courses listed above and includes an additional credit of **Language other than English**; **Technology Applications**; and four credits of advanced measures, which

include Distance Learning courses. An additional requirement is for the student to achieve a score of 3 or better on an Advanced Placement (AP) examination.

**MINIMUM GRADUATION PLAN:** Under Texas House Bill 3, the Minimum High School Program graduation requirement for students is 22 credits. DCISD requires an additional 4 credits for a total of 26. The Minimum High School Program graduation requirement for students is 26 credits. Credits include the following: **English Language Arts:** English I, II, III, and IV; **Math:** Algebra I; Geometry; and a third SBOE approved math course; **Science:** IPC and Biology; **Social Studies:** World Geography or World History; U.S. History; Government (1/2); Economics (1/2); (Total Credits for Science and Social Studies combined should equal 5.5 credits); **Technology Applications** (1); **Fine Arts** (1); **Physical Education:** (1 credit); **Electives:** The student must select (1) Academic elective. All remaining credits shall be elective courses.

*The weighted grade-point system is designed to rank more accurately and fairly the students attending Denver City High School. This system differentiates all courses by giving weight to the degree of difficulty. It does not penalize students for taking more difficult courses.*

*Scholastic honors, Class rank, Valedictorian and Salutatorian are determined by averaging grade points earned during the freshman, sophomore, junior and senior years.*

*Each course will be classified into Honors (Pre-AP, AP or Distance Learning), Regular or Basic. The classification of each course was made by a High School Committee. The present high school courses are classified in the following categories:*

**Pre-AP, AP or Distance Learning**

English 1 - 4	US History	English 1301 & 1302
Biology 1 & 2	US History 1301 & 1302	World History
Chemistry 1 & 2	Spanish 3	Physics
US Government AP	Algebra 1 & 2	Anatomy & Physiology
Economics AP	Geometry	World Geography
Calculus	Pre-Calculus	Psychology 2301
Math 1314	Sociology 1301	Forensic Science
Statistics	Art Appreciation	Music Appreciation
Communications	GOVT 2305	ECON 2301

**Regular**

Energy, Power, & Transportation	Automotive Technology	Advanced Auto Tech
Transportation Systems & Construction	Construction Technology	Principals of Architecture
Precision Metal Manufacturing	Advanced Precision Metal Manufacturing	Construction Management
Intro. to Agriculture	Professional Standards in Ag.	Wildlife, Fisheries, & Ecology
Ag Design & Fabrications Technology	Ag. Facilities Design & Fabrication	Ag Mechanics & Metal
Problems & Solutions		
**Band 1 - 4	**Lab Band.	**PE Equivalent 1 - 4
**PE 1	**Athletic Trainer	**Student Council
Ag Power Systems	Principles of Human Services	Child Development
Lifetime Nutrition & Wellness Preparation	Interior Design	Diversified Career

English 1, 2, 3, 4	Communication App.	Journalism
Yearbook 1, 2, & 3	Photojournalism	
Theater Arts 1	Algebra 1 & 2	Geometry
Math Models	IPC	Biology 1
Chemistry	World Geography	US History
World History	US Government	Economics
Spanish 1 & 2	Principles of Business	
Accounting 1 & 2	Business Information Management 1 & 2	Digital & Interactive Media
Art 1, 2, 3 & 4	Theater Production	CNA
Physics	Environmental Systems	Sports Medicine

**Basic - Local Credit**

Math STAAR	Science STAAR	Language Arts STAAR
Social Studies STAAR		

\*\*UIL

\*\*Office Aide

***\*\*These classes will not be counted toward Valedictorian, Salutatorian and class rank. All students will fall under the present system. Grades are weighted according to the following scale.***

AP, Pre AP or DL	Advanced	Regular	Basic	Grade Point
100				6.0
99				5.9
98				5.8
97				5.7
96				5.6
95	100			5.5
94	99			5.4
93	98			5.3
92	97			5.2
91	96			5.1
90	95	100		5.0
89	94	99		4.9
88	93	98		4.8
87	92	97		4.7
86	91	96		4.6
85	90	95		4.5
84	89	94		4.4
83	88	93		4.3
82	87	92		4.2
81	86	91		4.1
80	85	90	100	4.0
79	84	89	99	3.9
78	83	88	98	3.8
77	82	87	97	3.7
76	81	86	96	3.6
75	80	85	95	3.5
74	79	84	94	3.4
73	78	83	93	3.3
72	77	82	92	3.2
71	76	81	91	3.1
70	75	80	90	3.0
	74	79	89	2.9
	73	78	88	2.8

	72	77	87	2.7
	71	76	86	2.6
	70	75	85	2.5
		74	84	2.4
		73	83	2.3
		72	82	2.2
		71	81	2.1
		70	80	2.0
			79	1.9
			78	1.8
			77	1.7
			76	1.6
			75	1.5
			74	1.4
			73	1.3
			72	1.2
			71	1.1
			70	1.0

G.P.A.            100 = 5.0  
                          90 = 4.0  
                          80 = 3.0  
                          70 = 2.0

No Grade Points given to grades from 69 to 0 in ANY area.

**Early Graduation**

Students wishing to graduate early must pass all portions of the state-mandated assessment in order to be eligible for this option. In addition, only (1) one alternative education elective credit may be applied toward graduation requirements. When a student selects the early graduation option, he/she and a parent will be required to sign a student/parent permission form. Once this form has been signed and submitted, the student will be required to graduate early. If, for any reason, the student is unable to complete the graduation requirements during the year, he/she will be placed in the alternative education program (Excalibur) in order to complete graduation requirements. His/her diploma will be issued from that program upon completion.

**Certificates of Coursework Completion**

A certificate of coursework completion will not be issued to a student who has successfully completed state and local credit requirements for graduation but has not yet demonstrated satisfactory performance on the state-mandated tests required for graduation.

**Students with Disabilities**

Upon the recommendation of the admission, review, and dismissal (ARD) committee, a student with a disability who receives special education services may be permitted to graduate under the provisions of his or her IEP and in accordance with state rules.

A student who receives special education services and has completed four years of high school, but has not met the requirements of his or her IEP, may participate in graduation ceremonies and receive a certificate of attendance. Even if the student participates in graduation ceremonies to receive the certificate of attendance, he or she may remain enrolled to complete the IEP and earn



his or her high school diploma; however, the student will only be allowed to participate in one graduation ceremony.

[See policy FMH(LEGAL).]

Please also be aware that if an ARD committee places a student with a disability on a modified curriculum in a subject area, the student will be automatically placed in the Minimum Program, if that program is applicable based on the school year in which the student entered high school, in accordance with state rules.

If a student receiving special education services is scheduled to graduate under the Minimum Program or in accordance with the provisions of his or her IEP, the student's ARD committee will determine whether the general EOC assessment is an accurate measure of the student's achievement and progress and, if so, whether successful performance is required for graduation, or whether an alternative assessment is more appropriate. STAAR Alternate 2 is the alternative assessment currently allowed by the state. [See **Standardized Testing** for additional information.]

ARD committees for students with disabilities who receive special education services and who are subject to the foundation graduation program will make instructional and assessment decisions for these students in accordance with state law and rules. In order to earn an endorsement under the foundation program, a student must perform satisfactorily on the EOC assessments and receive no modified curriculum in the student's chosen endorsement area. A student may still be awarded an endorsement when the student fails to perform satisfactorily on no more than two EOC assessments but meets the other requirements for graduation under state law.

### **Graduation Activities**

A student enrolled in the Disciplinary AEP Program on the last day of the student's graduating semester is ineligible to participate in graduation ceremonies.

### **Graduation Expenses**

Because students and parents will incur expenses in order to participate in the traditions of graduation—such as the purchase of invitations, senior ring, cap and gown, and senior picture—both the student and parent should monitor progress toward completion of all requirements for graduation. The expenses often are incurred in the junior year or first semester of the senior year. [See **Student Fees** on page 44.]

### **Scholarships and Grants**

- Students who have a financial need according to federal criteria and who complete the Recommended Program or Advanced/Distinguished Achievement Program, for as long as those programs are in place, or who complete the foundation graduation program, may be eligible under the T.E.X.A.S. Grant Program for tuition and fees to Texas public universities, community colleges, and technical schools, as well as to private institutions.
- Contact the school counselor for information about other scholarships and grants available to students.

## **HARASSMENT**

[See **Dating Violence, Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation** on page 35.]

### **HAZING (All Grade Levels)**

Hazing is defined as any intentional, knowing, or reckless act occurring on or off campus directed against a student that endangers the mental or physical health or the safety of a student for the purpose of pledging, being initiated to, affiliating with, holding office in, or maintaining membership in any organization whose members are or include other students.

Hazing will not be tolerated by the district. If an incident of hazing occurs, disciplinary consequences will be handled in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct. It is a criminal offense if a person engages in hazing; solicits, encourages, directs, aids, or attempts to aid another in hazing; or has firsthand knowledge of an incident of hazing being planned or having occurred and fails to report this to the principal or superintendent.

[Also see **Bullying** on page 27 and policies FFI and FNCC.]

## **HEALTH-RELATED MATTERS**

### **Student Illness (All Grade Levels)**

When your child is ill, please contact the school to let us know he or she won't be attending that day. It is important to remember that schools are required to exclude students with certain illnesses from school for periods of time as identified in state rules. For example, if your child has a fever over 100 degrees, he or she must stay out of school until fever free for 24 hours without fever-reducing medications. In addition, students with diarrheal illnesses must stay home until they are diarrhea free without diarrhea-suppressing medications for at least 24 hours. A full list of conditions for which the school must exclude children can be obtained from the school nurse.

If a student becomes ill during the school day, he or she must receive permission from the teacher before reporting to the school nurse. If the nurse determines that the child should go home, the nurse will contact the parent.

The district is also required to report certain contagious (communicable) diseases or illnesses to the Texas Department of State Health Services (TDSHS) or our local/regional health authority. The school nurse can provide information from TDSHS on these notifiable conditions.

Contact the school nurse if you have questions or if you are concerned about whether or not your child should stay home.

### **Bacterial Meningitis (All Grade Levels)**

State law requires the district to provide information about bacterial meningitis:

- 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 common and most people recover fully. Parasitic and fungal meningitis are very rare. Bacterial meningitis is

very serious and may involve complicated medical, surgical, pharmaceutical, and life support management.

- 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 2 years old) and adults with bacterial meningitis commonly have a severe headache, high fever, and neck stiffness. Other symptoms might include nausea, vomiting, discomfort looking into bright lights, confusion, and sleepiness. 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. They are spread when people exchange respiratory or throat secretions (such as by kissing, coughing, or sneezing).

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?

Maintaining healthy habits, like getting plenty of rest, can help prevent infection. Using good health practices such as covering your mouth and nose when coughing and sneezing and washing your hands frequently with soap and water can also help stop the spread of the bacteria. It's a good idea not to share food, drinks, utensils, toothbrushes, or cigarettes. Limit the number of persons you kiss.

There are vaccines available to offer protection from some of the bacteria that can cause bacterial meningitis.\* The vaccines are safe and effective (85–90 percent). They 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 Department of State Health Services office to ask about a meningococcal vaccine. Additional information may also be found at the websites for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, <http://www.cdc.gov>, and the Department of State Health Services, <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us>.

\* Please note that the TDSHS requires at least one meningococcal vaccination for a student ages 11 to 12 or for a student enrolling in grades 7 through 12, and state guidelines recommend this vaccination be administered between ages 11 and 12, with a booster dose at 16 years of age. Also note that entering college students must show, with limited exception, evidence of receiving a bacterial meningitis vaccination within the five-year period prior to enrolling in and taking courses at an institution of higher education. Please see the school nurse for more information, as this may affect a student who wishes to enroll in a dual credit course taken off campus.

[Also refer to **Immunization** on page 64 for more information.]

## **ASUNTOS RELACIONADOS A LA SALUD**

### **Enfermedades de estudiantes**

Cuando su hijo está enfermo, favor de contactar a la escuela para notificarnos que él o ella no asiste ese día. Es importante recordarse de que las escuelas están requeridas a excluir estudiantes con ciertas enfermedades por periodos de tiempo como identificado en las reglas estatales. Por ejemplo, si su hijo tenga una fiebre más que 100 grados, él o ella debería quedarse fuera de la escuela hasta que haya sido libre de fiebre para 24 horas sin medicamentos que reducen fiebre. También, estudiantes con enfermedades con diarrea deben quedarse en casa hasta que haya sido libre de diarrea por 24 horas sin medicamentos que reducen la diarrea. Se puede obtener del enfermero de la escuela una lista entera de las condiciones para las cuales la escuela tiene que excluir los niños.

Si un estudiante se hace enfermo durante el día escolar, él o ella debe recibir permiso del maestro antes de ir al enfermero de la escuela. Si el enfermero determina que el hijo debe irse a casa, el enfermero contactará a los padres.

El distrito también está requerido de reportar ciertas enfermedades contagiosas al Departamento Estatal de Servicios de Salud de Texas (TDSHS) o a nuestra autoridad de salud local/regional. El enfermero de la escuela se puede proveer información de TDSHS sobre estas condiciones que requieren notificación.

Contacte al enfermero de la escuela si Ud. tiene preguntas o si está preocupado de que su hijo debe quedarse en casa.

### **Meningitis bacteriana**

La ley estatal requiere que el distrito suministre información sobre meningitis bacteriana:

- ¿Qué es meningitis?

La meningitis es la inflamación del revestimiento del cerebro y la médula espinal. Puede ser causada por virus, parásitos, hongos y bacterias. La meningitis viral es común y la mayoría de las personas recupera totalmente. La meningitis parásita y la meningitis de

fungosidad son muy raras. La meningitis bacteriana es muy seria y se puede involucrar tratamiento complicado de médico, de cirugía, de farmacéuticos, y de apoyo de la vida.

- ¿Cuáles son los síntomas?

Una persona con meningitis se enfermará gravemente. La enfermedad puede desarrollarse en el transcurso de uno o dos días, pero puede progresar rápidamente en cuestión de horas. No todas las personas con meningitis tendrán los mismos síntomas.

Los niños (mayores de 2 años de edad) y adultos con meningitis bacteriana normalmente padecen de jaquecas severas, fiebre alta, y entumecimiento en el cuello. Otras síntomas pueden incluir náusea, vómitos, incomodidad mirar a luces fuertes, confusión, o somnolencia. En ambos niños y adultos, puede aparecer un sarpullido con manchas pequeñas de color rojo-púrpura. Éstas pueden aparecer en cualquier parte del cuerpo.

El diagnóstico de la meningitis bacteriana se basa en la combinación de síntomas y resultados de análisis clínicos.

- ¿Cuán grave es la meningitis bacteriana?

Si se diagnostica en forma temprana y se comienza el tratamiento enseguida, la mayoría de las personas se recuperan completamente. En algunos casos puede llegar a ser mortal o la persona puede quedar con una discapacidad permanente.

- ¿Cómo se transmite la meningitis bacteriana?

Afortunadamente, ninguna de las bacterias que causan meningitis es tan contagiosa como las del resfrío común o la gripe, y no se transmiten por el contacto casual o simplemente por respirar el aire donde estuvo una persona con meningitis. Se transmiten cuando personas intercambian secreciones respiratorias o de la garganta (por ejemplo, por besar, toser, o estornudar).

El microbio no causa la meningitis en la mayoría de las personas. En vez, las personas se convierten en portadoras de la bacteria por días, semanas o hasta meses. La bacteria muy raramente vence al sistema inmunitario del cuerpo y causa meningitis u otra enfermedad grave.

- ¿Cómo se puede prevenir la meningitis bacteriana?

Mantener hábitos sanos, como descansar bastante, se puede prevenir la infección. Usar costumbres sanas como cubriendo la boca y el nariz cuando tose y estornuda y como lavando las manos frecuentemente con agua y jabón se puede ayudar en agarrar la propagación de bacterias. Es buena idea no compartir alimentos, bebidas, utensilios, cepillos de dientes o cigarrillos. Limite el número de personas a las que besa.

Hay vacunas disponibles que ofrecen protección contra alguna de las bacterias que pueden causar la meningitis bacteriana.\* Las vacunas son seguras y efectivas (85 a 90 por ciento). Pueden causar efectos secundarios leves, como dolor y enrojecimiento en la zona de la inyección por hasta dos días. Se desarrolla inmunidad de siete a diez días después de recibir la vacuna y dura por hasta cinco años.

- ¿Qué debería hacer si piensa que usted o un amigo puede haber contraído meningitis bacteriana?

Debe consultar a un médico en forma inmediata.

- ¿Dónde puede encontrar más información?

El enfermero de su escuela, su médico y el personal del departamento de salud local o regional son fuentes excelentes de información sobre enfermedades contagiosas. También puede llamar a su departamento de salud local o a la oficina del Departamento Regional de Servicios de Salud del Estado para preguntar acerca de la vacuna meningocócica. Para más información visite los sitios Web de los Centros de Control y Prevención de Enfermedades, <http://www.cdc.gov>, y el Departamento Estatal de Servicios de Salud, <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/>.

\* Favor de notar que TDSHS requiere por lo menos una vacuna contra la meningitis entre los grados 7 y 12, y las directrices estatales se recomienda que un estudiante recibe la vacuna entre las edades de 11 y 12 años, con una inyección de revacunación en la edad de 16 años. También note que estudiantes entrando a la universidad tiene que presentar, con excepciones limitadas, comprobante de recibir una vacuna contra la meningitis bacteriana entre un periodo de cinco años antes de matricularse en y asistir a cursos en una institución de educación possecundaria. Favor de contactar el enfermero de la escuela para más información, a causa de que este requisito puede afectar a un estudiante que quiere matricularse en un curso de crédito doble fuera de la escuela.

También, refiera a **Inmunizaciones** en la página 66 para más información.

### **Food Allergies (All Grade Levels)**

The district requests to be notified when a student has been diagnosed with a food allergy, especially those allergies that could result in dangerous or possibly life-threatening reactions either by inhalation, ingestion, or skin contact with the particular food. It is important to disclose the food to which the student is allergic, as well as the nature of the allergic reaction. Please contact the school nurse or campus principal if your child has a known food allergy or as soon as possible after any diagnosis of a food allergy.

The district has developed and annually reviews a food allergy management plan, which addresses employee training, dealing with common food allergens, and specific strategies for dealing with students diagnosed with severe food allergies. When the district receives information that a student has a food allergy that puts the student at risk for anaphylaxis, individual care plans will be developed to assist the student in safely accessing the school environment. The district's food allergy management plan can be accessed at [www.dcsd.org](http://www.dcsd.org).

[Also see policy FFAF and **Celebrations** on page 28.]

### **Alergias de comida (Todos los niveles de grado)**

El distrito pide la notificación cuando un estudiante ha sido diagnosticado con una alergia de comida, especialmente esos alergias que pueden resultar en reacciones peligrosas o quizás amenazantes a la vida por la inhalación, la ingestión, o contacto con la piel de la comida. Es importante desvelar la comida a que el estudiante tiene una alergia, así como el tipo de reacción alérgica. Favor de contactar a la enfermera o al director de la escuela si Ud. sabe que su niño

tiene una alergia de comida o lo pronto que es posible después de un diagnóstico de una alergia de comida.

El distrito ha desarrollado y revisa anualmente un plan de gestión de alergias de comida, que se enfrenta al entrenamiento de empleados, el tratamiento de alergias de comida comunes, y estrategias específicas para enfrentarse con estudiantes diagnosticados con alergias de comida severas. Cuando el distrito recibe información que un estudiante tiene una alergia de comida que pone al estudiante en riesgo de anafilaxia, planes de cuidado individuales estarán desarrollados para ayudar al estudiante en acceder al ambiente de la escuela con seguridad. El plan de gestión de alergias de comida se puede acceder en [www.dcisid.org](http://www.dcisid.org).

### **Head Lice (All Grade Levels)**

Head lice, although not an illness or a disease, is very common among children and is spread very easily through head-to-head contact during play, sports, or nap time and when children share things like brushes, combs, hats, and headphones. If careful observation indicates that a student has head lice, the school nurse will contact the student's parent to determine whether the child will need to be picked up from school and to discuss a plan for treatment with an FDA-approved medicated shampoo or cream rinse that may be purchased from any drug or grocery store. After the student has undergone one treatment, the parent should check in with the school nurse to discuss the treatment used. The nurse can also offer additional recommendations, including subsequent treatments and how best to get rid of lice and prevent their return.

More information on head lice can be obtained from the TDSHS website at <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/schoolhealth/lice.shtm>.

### **Piojos**

Un caso de piojos, aunque no es una enfermedad, es muy común entre los niños y se transmite muy fácilmente por contacto entre cabezas durante los juegos, deportes, o la siesta, y cuando los niños comparten cosas como cepillos, peines, sombreros, y auriculares. Si la observación cuidadosa indica que un estudiante tiene piojos, el enfermero de la escuela contactará a los padres del estudiante para determinar si el niño debería estar recogido de la escuela y para discutir un plan para el tratamiento con un champú o enjuague aprobado por el FDA, lo cual se puede comprar de cualquier farmacia o supermercado. Después de que el estudiante haya tenido un tratamiento, el padre deberá contactar al enfermero de la escuela para discutir el tratamiento usado. El enfermero también se puede ofrecer recomendaciones adicionales, incluso a tratamientos subsiguientes y la manera mejor de eliminar los piojos y prevenir el regreso de ellos.

Se puede obtener más información del sitio Web de TDSHS en <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/schoolhealth/lice.shtm>.

## **Physical Activity Requirements**

### ***Elementary School***

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

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

### ***Junior High/Middle School***

In accordance with policies at EHAB, EHAC, EHBG, and FFA, the district will ensure that students in middle or junior high school will engage in 30 minutes of moderate or vigorous physical activity per day for at least four semesters.

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

### **School Health Advisory Council (SHAC) (All Grade Levels)**

During the preceding school year, the district’s School Health Advisory Council (SHAC) held 4 meetings. Additional information regarding the district’s SHAC is available from the Director of Operations and Federal Programs, Mrs. Kellie Adams.

The duties of the SHAC range from recommending curriculum to developing strategies for integrating curriculum into a coordinated school health program encompassing issues such as school health services, counseling services, a safe and healthy school environment, recess recommendations, improving student fitness, mental health concerns, and employee wellness.

[See policies at BDF and EHAA. See **Human Sexuality Instruction** on page 6 for additional information.]

### **Student Wellness Policy/Wellness Plan (All Grade Levels)**

Denver City ISD is committed to encouraging healthy students and therefore has developed a board-adopted wellness policy at FFA(LOCAL) and corresponding plans and procedures to implement the policy.

### **Other Health-Related Matters**

#### ***Physical Fitness Assessment (Grades 3–12)***

Annually, the district will conduct a physical fitness assessment of students in grades 3–12 who are enrolled in a physical education course or a course for which physical education credit is awarded. At the end of the school year, a parent may submit a written request to the campus principal to obtain the results of his or her child’s physical fitness assessment conducted during the school year.

#### ***Vending Machines (All Grade Levels)***

The district has adopted and implemented the state and federal policies and guidelines for food service, including the guidelines to restrict student access to vending machines. For more information regarding these policies and guidelines, see the Food Service Director at 806-592-5902. [See policies at CO and FFA.]



### ***Tobacco and E-Cigarettes Prohibited (All Grade Levels and All Others on School Property)***

Students are prohibited from possessing or using any type of tobacco product, electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes), or any other electronic vaporizing device, while on school property at any time or while attending an off-campus school-related activity.

The district and its staff strictly enforce prohibitions against the use of all tobacco products, e-cigarettes, or any other electronic vaporizing device, by students and all 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 (All Grade Levels)***

The district works diligently to maintain compliance with federal and state law governing asbestos in school buildings. A copy of the district's Asbestos Management Plan is available in the superintendent's office. If you have any questions or would like to examine the district's plan in more detail, please contact Mr. Butch Johnson, the district's designated asbestos coordinator, at 806-592-5900.

### ***Pest Management Plan (All Grade Levels)***

The district is required to follow integrated pest management (IPM) procedures to control pests on school grounds. Although the district strives to use the safest and most effective methods to manage pests, including a variety of non-chemical control measures, pesticide use is sometimes necessary to maintain adequate pest control and ensure a safe, pest-free school environment.

All pesticides used are registered for their intended use by the United States Environmental Protection Agency and are applied only by certified pesticide applicators. Except in an emergency, signs will be posted 48 hours before indoor application. All outdoor applications will be posted at the time of treatment, and signs will remain until it is safe to enter the area. Parents who have further questions or who want to be notified prior to pesticide application inside their child's school assignment area may contact Mr. Butch Johnson, the district's IPM coordinator, at 806-592-5900.

### **HOMELESS STUDENTS (All Grade Levels)**

You are encouraged to inform the district if you or your child are experiencing homelessness. District staff can share resources with you that may be able to assist you and your family.

For more information on services for homeless students, contact the district's homeless education liaison Mrs. Kellie Adams, at 806-592-5902.

### **HOMEWORK (All Grade Levels)**

Homework may be assigned for one or more of the following purposes: independent practice, extension of classroom work, a bridge between home and school, reinforcement of a learned skill or concept or enrichment. In congruence with the emphasis on quality, relevancy, and connections, homework shall be assigned only if it is meaningful. Busy work is as unacceptable for homework as it is for seatwork. When homework is assigned, it shall be evaluated within a

reasonable period of time. Feedback must be promptly given to the student in order to retain the intended purpose of homework.

## **ILLNESS**

[See **Student Illness** under **Health-Related Matters** on page 58.]

## **IMMUNIZATION (All Grade Levels)**

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 (TDSHS), Immunization Branch, can be honored by the district. This form may be obtained by writing the TDSHS Immunization Branch (MC 1946), P.O. Box 149347, Austin, Texas 78714-9347; or online at <https://corequest.dshs.texas.gov/>. 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, tetanus, and pertussis; measles, mumps, and rubella; polio; hepatitis A; hepatitis B; varicella (chicken pox); and meningococcal. The school nurse can provide information on age-appropriate doses or on an acceptable physician-validated history of illness required by the TDSHS. 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. registered and licensed physician stating that, in the doctor's opinion, the immunization required is medically contraindicated or poses a significant risk to the health and well-being of the student or a member of the student's family or household. This certificate must be renewed yearly unless the physician specifies a life-long condition.

As noted at **Bacterial Meningitis**, entering college students must also, with limited exception, furnish evidence of having received a bacterial meningitis vaccination within the five years prior to enrolling in and attending classes at an institution of higher education. A student wanting to enroll in a dual credit course taken off campus may be subject to this requirement.

[For further information, see policy FFAB(LEGAL) and the TDSHS website: <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/immunize/school/default.shtm>.]

## **Provisional Enrollment**

All immunizations should be completed by the first date of attendance. The law requires that students be fully vaccinated against the specified diseases. A student may be enrolled provisionally if the student has an immunization record that indicates the student has received at least one dose of each specified age-appropriate vaccine required by this rule. To remain enrolled, the student must complete the required subsequent doses in each vaccine series on schedule and as rapidly as is medically feasible and provide acceptable evidence of vaccination to the school. A school nurse or school administrator shall review the immunization status of a provisionally enrolled student every 30 days to ensure continued compliance in completing the required doses of vaccination. If, at the end of the 30-day period, a student has not received a

subsequent dose of vaccine, the student is not in compliance and the school shall exclude the student from school attendance until the required dose is administered.

## **INMUNIZACIONES (Todos los niveles de grado)**

Un estudiante debe estar totalmente inmunizado contra ciertas enfermedades o debe presentar un certificado o declaración que, por razones médicas o razones de conciencia, incluyendo creencias religiosas, el estudiante no será vacunado. Para exenciones basadas en razones de conciencia, se honrarán únicamente formularios oficiales otorgados por el Departamento Estatal de Servicios de Salud de Texas (TDSHS), Ramo Inmunizaciones. Este formulario puede obtenerse escribiendo al TDSHS Immunization Branch (MC 1946), P.O. Box 149347, Austin, Texas 78714-9347; o en línea en <https://corequest.dshs.texas.gov/>. El formulario debe ser notariado y presentado al director o enfermero de la escuela dentro de los 90 días de la firma del notario. Si el padre o la madre están solicitando una exención para más de un estudiante en la familia, se debe presentar un formulario para cada estudiante.

Las vacunas requeridas son: difteria, tétano, y tos ferina; sarampión, paperas, y rubéola; polio; hepatitis A; hepatitis B; varicela; y meningocócica. El enfermero de la escuela puede suministrar información de las dosis apropiadas para cada edad o de un historial de enfermedades aceptable y validado por un médico requerido por el TDSHS. El comprobante de inmunización puede establecerse con documentación de parte de un médico o una clínica pública con una validación firmada o con sello de goma.

Si el estudiante no deberá ser inmunizado por razones médicas, el estudiante o padres deberán presentar un certificado firmado por un médico con licencia y registro de Estados Unidos, declarando que, en opinión del médico, la inmunización requerida está contraindicado médicamente o impone un riesgo significativo a la salud y bienestar del estudiante o de un miembro del hogar del estudiante. Este certificado debe renovarse cada año a menos que el médico especifique una condición a largo plazo.

Como ha sido notado en **Meningitis bacteriana**, estudiantes entrando a la universidad debe también presentar, con excepción limitada, comprobante de recibir una vacuna de meningitis bacteriana entre los cinco años antes de matricularse en y asistir a clases en una institución de educación pos-secundaria. Un estudiante que se quiere matricular en un curso de crédito doble fuera de la escuela puede estar sujeto a este requisito.

[Para más información, vea la regla FFAB(LEGAL) y el sitio Web de TDSHS: <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/immunize/school/default.shtm>.]

## **Inscripción Provisional**

Todas las vacunaciones se deben finalizar antes de la primera fecha de asistencia. La Ley exige que los estudiantes estén completamente vacunados contra las enfermedades señaladas. Un Estudiante se puede inscribir provisionalmente si el estudiante cuenta con cartilla de vacunación que indique que el estudiante ha recibido al menos una dosis de cada vacuna apropiada para la edad señalada que esta regla exige. Para seguir inscrito, el estudiante debe completar las dosis posteriores requeridas de cada serie de vacunas conforme al calendario y tan rápidamente como sea médicamente posible y proveer prueba suficiente de la vacunación a la escuela. Una enfermera escolar o administrador escolar revisará el estado de vacunación de un estudiante inscrito provisionalmente cada 30 días para asegurar el cumplimiento ininterrumpido en la

finalización de las dosis de vacunas requeridas. Si, al final del periodo de 30 días, un estudiante no ha recibido una dosis posterior de la vacuna, el estudiante no está cumpliendo y la escuela excluirá al estudiante de la asistencia a la escuela hasta que se administre la dosis requerida.

2016-2017 Texas Minimum State Vaccine Requirements for Students Grades K-12

This chart summarizes the vaccine requirements incorporated in the [Texas Administrative Code \(TAC\), Title 25 Health Services, §§97.61-97.72](#). This document is not intended as a substitute for the TAC, which has other provisions and details. The Department of State Health Services (DSHS) is granted authority to set immunization requirements by the Texas Education Code, Chapter 38.



**IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS**

A student shall show acceptable evidence of vaccination prior to entry, attendance, or transfer to a child-care facility or public or private elementary or secondary school in Texas.

Vaccine Required (Attention to notes and footnotes)	Minimum Number of Doses Required by Grade Level			NOTES
	K – 6th	7th	8th – 12th	
Diphtheria/Tetanus/Pertussis (DTaP/DTP/DT/Td/Tdap) <sup>1</sup>	5 doses or 4 doses	3 dose primary series and 1 Tdap / Td booster within last 5 years	3 dose primary series and 1 Tdap / Td booster within last 10 years	For K – 6th grade: 5 doses of diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis vaccine; 1 dose must have been received on or after the 4th birthday. However, 4 doses meet the requirement if the 4th dose was received on or after the 4th birthday. For students aged 7 years and older, 3 doses meet the requirement if 1 dose was received on or after the 4th birthday. For 7th grade: 1 dose of Tdap is required if at least 5 years have passed since the last dose of tetanus-containing vaccine. For 8th – 12th grade: 1 dose of Tdap is required when 10 years have passed since the last dose of tetanus-containing vaccine. Td is acceptable in place of Tdap if a medical contraindication to pertussis exists.
Polio <sup>1</sup>	4 doses or 3 doses			For K – 12th grade: 4 doses of polio; 1 dose must be received on or after the 4th birthday. However, 3 doses meet the requirement if the 3rd dose was received on or after the 4th birthday.
Measles, Mumps, and Rubella <sup>1,2</sup> (MMR)	2 doses			For K – 12th grade: 2 doses are required, with the 1st dose received on or after the 1st birthday. Students vaccinated prior to 2009 with 2 doses of measles and one dose each of rubella and mumps satisfy this requirement.
Hepatitis B <sup>3</sup>	3 doses			For students aged 11 – 15 years, 2 doses meet the requirement if adult hepatitis B vaccine (Recombivax <sup>®</sup> ) was received. Dosage (10 mcg / 1.0 mL) and type of vaccine (Recombivax <sup>®</sup> ) must be clearly documented. If Recombivax <sup>®</sup> was not the vaccine received, a 3-dose series is required.
Varicella <sup>1,2,3</sup>	2 doses			The 1st dose of varicella must be received on or after the 1st birthday. For K – 12th grade: 2 doses are required.
Meningococcal (MCV4) <sup>3</sup>		1 dose		For 7th – 12th grade, 1 dose of quadrivalent meningococcal conjugate vaccine is required on or after the student's 11th birthday.
Hepatitis A <sup>1,2</sup>	2 doses			The 1st dose of hepatitis A must be received on or after the 1st birthday. For K – 7th grade: 2 doses are required. Special note: a child will not be considered delinquent in this series until 18 months have elapsed since receiving the 1st dose.

NOTE: Shaded area indicates that the vaccine is not required for the respective age group.

1 Receipt of the dose up to (and including) 4 days before the birthday will satisfy the school entry immunization requirement.

2 Serologic evidence of infection or serologic confirmation of immunity to measles, mumps, rubella, hepatitis B, hepatitis A, or varicella is acceptable in place of vaccine.

3 Previous illness may be documented with a written statement from a physician, school nurse, or the child's parent or guardian containing wording such as: "This is to verify that (name of student) had varicella disease (chickenpox) on or about (date) and does not need varicella vaccine." This written statement will be acceptable in place of any and all varicella vaccine doses required.

Rev. 05/2016

**Requisitos mínimos de vacunas en el estado de Texas de 2016 - 2017 para estudiantes de kínder a 12.º grado**

Esta gráfica resume los requisitos de vacunación incorporados al [Código Administrativo de Texas \(TAC\), título 25, Servicios de salud, secciones 97.61 a 97.72](#). Este documento no tiene como propósito sustituir al TAC, el cual contempla otras disposiciones y detalles. El Código Educativo de Texas, capítulo 38, concede al Departamento Estatal de Servicios de Salud (DSHS) la autoridad para establecer los requisitos de inmunización.



**REQUISITOS DE INMUNIZACIÓN**

Los estudiantes deberán mostrar comprobantes de vacunación aceptables antes de inscribirse, asistir o ser transferidos a una guardería o una escuela primaria o secundaria pública o privada de Texas.

Vacuna requerida (Vea las notas y las notas de pie de página)	Número mínimo de dosis requeridas por nivel de grado			NOTAS
	Kínder – 6.º	7.º	8.º – 12.º	
Difteria, tétanos, tosferina (DTaP, DTP, DT, Td, Tdap) <sup>1</sup>	5 dosis o 4 dosis	Una serie primaria de 3 dosis y 1 refuerzo de la vacuna Tdap / Td en los últimos 5 años	Una serie primaria de 3 dosis y 1 refuerzo de la vacuna Tdap / Td en los últimos 10 años	Para los grados kínder a 6.º: 5 dosis de la vacuna contra la difteria, el tétanos y la tosferina; debe haberse recibido 1 dosis en o después del 4.º cumpleaños. Sin embargo, con 4 dosis se cubre el requisito si la 4.ª dosis se recibió en o después del 4.º cumpleaños. Para los estudiantes de 7 años de edad o más, con 3 dosis cumplen con el requisito si recibieron 1 de las dosis en o después del 4.º cumpleaños. Para el 7.º grado: Se requiere 1 dosis de la vacuna Tdap si han pasado al menos 5 años desde la última dosis de una vacuna que contenga tétanos. Para los grados 8.º a 12.º: Se requiere 1 dosis de la vacuna Tdap cuando hayan pasado 10 años desde la última dosis de una vacuna que contenga tétanos. La vacuna Td es aceptable en lugar de la vacuna Tdap si existe una contraindicación médica para la vacuna contra la tosferina.
Polio <sup>1</sup>	4 dosis o 3 dosis			Para los grados kínder a 12.º: 4 dosis de la vacuna contra la polio; debe recibirse 1 dosis en o después del 4.º cumpleaños. Sin embargo, con 3 dosis se cumple con el requisito si la 3.ª dosis se recibió en o después del 4.º cumpleaños.
Sarampión, paperas y rubéola <sup>1, 2</sup> (MMR)	2 dosis			Para los grados kínder a 12.º: Se requieren 2 dosis de la vacuna, la 1.ª de las cuales debe recibirse en o después del 1.º cumpleaños. Los estudiantes que fueron vacunados antes de 2009 con 2 dosis contra el sarampión y una dosis contra la rubéola y una dosis contra las paperas cumplen con este requisito.
Hepatitis B <sup>2</sup>	3 dosis			Para los estudiantes de 11 a 15 años de edad, con 2 dosis cumplen con el requisito si recibieron la vacuna contra la hepatitis B para adultos (Recombivax®). Tanto la dosis (10 mcg / 1.0 ml) como el tipo de vacuna (Recombivax®) deben documentarse claramente. Si la vacuna recibida no fue la Recombivax®, se requiere una serie de 3 dosis.
Varicela <sup>1, 2, 3</sup>	2 dosis			La 1.ª dosis de la vacuna contra la varicela debe recibirse en o después del 1.º cumpleaños. Para los grados kínder a 12.º: Se requieren 2 dosis.
Vacuna antimeningocócica (MCV4) <sup>1</sup>	1 dosis			Para los grados 7.º a 12.º: Se requiere 1 dosis de la vacuna antimeningocócica tetravalente conjugada en o después del 11.º cumpleaños del estudiante.
Hepatitis A <sup>1, 2</sup>	2 dosis			La 1.ª dosis de la vacuna contra la hepatitis A debe recibirse en o después del 1.º cumpleaños. Para los grados kínder a 7.º: Se requieren 2 dosis. Nota especial: No se considerará que el niño se ha retrasado con esta serie hasta que hayan pasado 18 meses desde que recibió la 1.ª dosis.

NOTA: Las casillas sombreadas indican que no se requiere la vacuna para el grupo de edad correspondiente.

<sup>1</sup> Recibir la dosis hasta (e inclusive) 4 días antes del cumpleaños satisfará el requisito de inmunización para inscribirse en la escuela.

<sup>2</sup> Son aceptables en lugar de la vacuna una prueba serológica de infección o la confirmación serológica de inmunidad al sarampión, las paperas, la rubéola, la hepatitis B, la hepatitis A o la varicela.

<sup>3</sup> Si se ha tenido la enfermedad previamente, puede documentarse con una declaración escrita de un médico, un enfermero escolar o uno de los padres o el tutor del niño que diga algo como: "Esto es para comprobar que (nombre del estudiante) tuvo la enfermedad de la varicela el (fecha) o alrededor de esa fecha y no necesita la vacuna contra la varicela". Dicha declaración escrita será aceptable en lugar de alguna o todas las dosis requeridas de la vacuna contra la varicela.

Rev. 05/2016

## LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES (All Grade Levels)

### Questioning of Students

When law enforcement officers or other lawful authorities wish to question or interview a student at school, the principal will cooperate fully regarding the conditions of the interview, if the questioning or interview is part of a child abuse investigation. In other circumstances:

- 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.

### 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 student's release to a law enforcement officer, any notification will most likely be after the fact.

### **Notification of Law Violations**

The district is required by state law to notify:

- All instructional and support personnel who have responsibility for supervising a student who has been taken into custody, 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 is thought to have committed certain offenses or who has been convicted, received deferred prosecution, received deferred adjudication, or was adjudicated for delinquent conduct for any felony offense or certain misdemeanors.
- All appropriate district personnel in regards to a student who is required to register as a sex offender.

[For further information, see policies FL(LEGAL) and GRAA(LEGAL).]

### **LEAVING CAMPUS (All Grade Levels)**

Please remember that student attendance is crucial to learning. We ask that appointments be scheduled outside of school hours as much as reasonably possible. Also note that picking up a child early on a regular basis results in missed opportunities for learning. Unless the principal has granted approval because of extenuating circumstances, a student will not regularly be released before the end of the school day.

State rules require that parental consent be obtained before any student is allowed to leave campus for any part of the school day. The district has put the following procedures in place in order to document parental consent:

- For students in elementary and middle school, a parent or otherwise authorized adult must come to the office and sign the student out. Please be prepared to show identification. Once an identity is verified, a campus representative will then call for the student or collect the student and bring him or her to the office. For safety purposes and stability of the learning environment, we cannot allow you to go to the classroom or other area unescorted to pick up the student. If the student returns to campus the same day, the parent or authorized adult must sign the student back in through the main office upon the student's return. Documentation regarding the reason for the absence will also be required.
- For students in high school, the same process will be followed. If the student's parent will authorize the student to leave campus unaccompanied, a note provided by the parent must be submitted to the main office in advance of the absence, no later than two hours prior to the student's need to leave campus. A phone call received from the parent may be accepted, but the school may ultimately require a note to be submitted for documentation purposes. Once the office has received information that the student's parent consents to the student leaving campus, a pass will be issued to the student to hand to his or her teacher with the necessary information. The student must sign out through the main office and sign in upon his or her return, if the student returns the same day. If a student is 18 years of age or is an emancipated minor, the student may produce a note on his or her own behalf. Documentation regarding the reason for the absence will be required.
- If a student becomes ill during the school day and the school nurse or other district personnel determines that the student should go home, the nurse will contact the student's parent and document the parent's wishes regarding release from school. Unless directed by the parent to release the student unaccompanied, the parent or other authorized adult must follow the sign-out procedures as listed above. If a student is allowed to leave campus by himself or herself, as permitted by the student's parent, or if the student is age 18 or is an emancipated minor, the nurse will document the time of day the student was released. Under no circumstances will a child in elementary or middle school be released unaccompanied by a parent or adult authorized by the parent.

### **At Any Other Time During the School Day**

Students are not authorized to leave campus during regular school hours for any other reason, except with the permission of the principal.

Students who leave campus in violation of these rules will be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct.

### **LOST AND FOUND (All Grade Levels)**

A "lost and found" collection box is located in the campus office. If your child has lost an item, please encourage him or her to check the lost and found box. The district discourages students from bringing to school personal items of high monetary value, as the district is not responsible for lost or stolen items. The campus will dispose of lost and found items at the end of each semester.

## **MAKEUP WORK**

### **Makeup Work Because of Absence (All Grade Levels)**

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. “Work Recovery” may be assigned by an administrator for incomplete work, missing work or late work. According to teacher grading policies, reductions in assignment grade for late work may also apply.

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.

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.

The grade for make-up work after an unexcused absence shall be in accordance with campus policy. The District shall not impose a grade penalty for make-up work after an absence because of suspension.

**HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS - Make-Up Work** - A High School student that misses school for a school-sponsored event must collect all makeup work before the absence. The assignments will be due the next school day the student is in attendance. All assignments that cannot be done before the absence will need to be done in the next two days following the absence. A student that has an unexcused absence will receive a zero on all assignments for that day. A student will have an equivalent number of days to make-up the assignments based on the number of days missed (For example one day for one day). All assignments not taken care of in the above mentioned time-frame will result in zeros for each assignment.

**HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS - Incompletes** - At the end of each grading period, all incompletes will have a seven day grace period. All incomplete work not taken care of by the end of the grace period will result in zeros. If a High School student needs longer than the aforementioned grace period, administrator approval must be petitioned and granted.

### **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, another distance learning option, 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 (ISS) Makeup Work (All Grade Levels)**

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, another distance learning option, or summer school. The district will not charge the student for any method of completion provided by the district. [See policy FO(LEGAL).]

## **MEDICINE AT SCHOOL (All Grade Levels)**

Medication that must be administered to a student during school hours must be provided by the student's parent. All medication, whether prescription or nonprescription, must be kept in the nurse's office and administered by the nurse or another authorized district employee, unless the student is authorized to possess his or her own medication because of asthma or a severe allergy as described below or as otherwise allowed by law.

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

Only authorized employees, in accordance with policy FFAC, may administer:

- Prescription medication, in the original, properly labeled container, provided by the parent, along with a written request.
- Prescription 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, in the original, properly labeled container, provided by the parent along with a written request.
- Herbal or dietary supplements provided by the parent only if required by the student's individualized education program (IEP) or Section 504 plan for a student with disabilities.

Students whose schedules provide for regular time spent outdoors, including for recess and physical education classes, should apply sunscreen before coming to school.

For students at the elementary level, the student's teacher or other district personnel will apply sunscreen to a student's exposed skin if the student brings the sunscreen to school and requests assistance with the application of the sunscreen. Nothing prohibits a student at this level from applying his or her own sunscreen if the student is capable of doing so.

For students at the secondary level, a student may possess and apply sunscreen when necessary. If the student will need assistance with this application, please address the need for assistance with the school nurse.

Whether a student is at the elementary or secondary level, if sunscreen needs to be administered to treat any type of medical condition, this should be handled through communication with the school nurse so that the district is made aware of any safety and medical issues.

A student with asthma or severe allergic reaction (anaphylaxis) may be permitted to possess and use prescribed asthma or anaphylaxis medication at school or school-related events only if he or she has written authorization from his or her parent and a physician or other licensed health-care provider. The student must also demonstrate to his or her physician or health-care provider and to

the school nurse the ability to use the prescribed medication, including any device required to administer the medication.

If the student has been prescribed asthma or anaphylaxis medication for use during the school day, the student and parents should discuss this with the school nurse.

In accordance with a student's individual health plan for management of diabetes, a student with diabetes will be permitted to possess and use monitoring and treatment supplies and equipment while at school or at a school-related activity. See the school nurse for information. [See policy FFAF(LEGAL).]

## **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 policy FFAC.]

## **NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT (All Grade Levels)**

In its efforts to promote nondiscrimination and as required by law, Denver City ISD does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, gender, sex, disability, age, or any other basis prohibited by law, in providing education services, activities, and programs, including CTE programs, and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following district representatives have been designated to coordinate compliance with these legal requirements:

- Title IX Coordinator, for concerns regarding discrimination on the basis of sex, including sexual harassment or gender-based harassment: Mrs. Kellie Adams, Director of Operations and Federal Programs, 501 Mustang, Denver City, TX 79323, 806-592-5902.
- ADA/Section 504 Coordinator, for concerns regarding discrimination on the basis of disability: Mrs. Kellie Adams, Director of Operations and Federal Programs, 501 Mustang, Denver City, TX 79323, 806-592-5902.
- All other concerns regarding discrimination: See the superintendent, Mr. Gary Davis, 501 Mustang, Denver City, TX 79323, 806-592-5901.

[See FB, FFH, and GKD.]

## PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT (All Grade Levels)

### 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 and engagement 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.
- Discussing with the school counselor or principal any questions you may have about the options and opportunities available to your child.
- Reviewing the requirements and options for graduation with your child in middle school and again while your child is enrolled in high school.
- Monitoring your child's academic progress and contacting teachers as needed. [See **Academic Counseling** on page 33.]
- Attending scheduled conferences and requesting additional conferences as needed. To schedule a telephone or in-person conference with a teacher, school counselor, or principal, please call the school office 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 78.]
- Becoming a school volunteer. [For further information, see policy GKG and **Volunteers** on page 90.]
- Participating in campus parent organizations. Parent organizations include: Band Boosters, Athletic Boosters, and FFA Boosters.
- 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 Mrs. Kellie Adams, Director of Operations, at 806-592-5902.
- Serving on the School Health Advisory Council (SHAC), assisting the district in ensuring local community values are reflected in health education instruction and other wellness issues. [See policies at BDF, EHAA, FFA, and information in this handbook at **School Health Advisory Council** on page 64.]
- Serving on a committee to determine criteria to be used to evaluate the overall performance of the district and each campus in community and student engagement. For further information, please contact the campus principal.
- Being aware of the school's ongoing bullying and harassment prevention efforts.

- Contacting school officials if you are concerned with your child’s emotional or mental well-being.
- Attending board meetings to learn more about district operations. [See policies at BE and BED for more information.]

## **PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS / HEALTH SCREENINGS**

### **Athletics’ Participation (Secondary Grade Levels Only)**

A student who wishes to participate in, or continue participation in, the district’s athletics program governed by the UIL must submit certification from a health-care provider authorized under UIL rules that the student has been examined and is physically able to participate in the athletic program.

This examination is required in the first year of middle school competition and the first and third years of high school competition. During the alternate years, the student must complete a medical appraisal form, and the results of this appraisal may prompt the district to require a physical examination.

[Also see policy FFAA.]

### **PLEDGES OF ALLEGIANCE AND A MINUTE OF SILENCE (All Grade Levels)**

Each school day, students will recite 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. [See **Reciting the Pledges to the U.S. and Texas Flags** on page 7.]

State law requires that one minute of silence 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. In addition, state law requires that each campus provide for the observance of one minute of silence at the beginning of the first class period when September 11 falls on a regular school day in remembrance of those who lost their lives on September 11, 2001.

[See policy EC for more information.]

### **PRAYER (All Grade Levels)**

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, the recommendation of the student’s teacher, the score received on any criterion-referenced or state-mandated assessment, and any other necessary academic information as determined by the district. 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 9-12, students must earn a combined semester average of at least 70 in the core subject areas of English, Math and Science to receive credit in the class. The content taught in these classes is built upon knowledge of the previous subject matter and must be taught and mastered in succession. For this reason, if any student's combined yearly average falls below a 70 in any of these classes, he/she will be required to repeat the entire course in order to receive credit.

In grades 3-5, promotion to the next grade level shall be based upon an overall yearly average of 70 or above in all core subject areas reflecting mastery of grade level standards (TEKS) and a minimum yearly average of 70 in reading and math. Standardized assessments shall be considered in determining a student's promotion in all grade levels.

In grades K-2, promotion to the next grade level shall be based upon a mastery of standards in reading and math.

In grades 6-8, promotion to the next grade level shall be based on an overall average of 70 on a scale of 100 based on course-level, grade-level standards (essential knowledge and skills) for all core subject areas and a grade of 70 or above in three of the following areas: English language arts, reading, mathematics, science, and social studies.

In addition, at certain grade levels a student—with limited exceptions—will be required to pass the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR), if the student is enrolled in a public Texas school on any day between January 1 and the date of the first administration of the STAAR.

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.

In order to be promoted to grade 9, students enrolled in grade 8 must perform satisfactorily on the mathematics and reading sections of the grade 8 assessment in English.

If a student in grade 5 or 8 is enrolled in a course that earns high school credit and for which an end-of-course (EOC) assessment will be administered, the student will not be subject to the promotion requirements described above for the relevant grade 5 or 8 assessment. The student will instead take the corresponding EOC assessment.

If a student in grades 3–8 is enrolled in a class or course intended for students above his or her current grade level in which the student will be administered a state-mandated assessment, the student will be required to take an applicable state mandated assessment only for the course in which he or she is enrolled, unless otherwise required to do so by federal law.

[See **Standardized Testing** on page 84.]

A student in grade 5 or 8 will have two additional opportunities to take a failed assessment. 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 and the student must complete additional special instruction before beginning the next grade level.

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 policy 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, school counselor, or special education director.

Parents of a student at or above grade level 3 who does not perform satisfactorily on his or her state-mandated exams will be notified that their child will participate in special instructional programs designed to improve performance. The student may be required to participate in this instruction before or after normal school hours or outside of the normal school year. Failure of a student to attend these programs may result in violations of required school attendance as well as the student not being promoted to the next grade level.

A Personal Graduation Plan (PGP) will be prepared for any student at the middle school or junior high level who did not perform satisfactorily on a state-mandated assessment or is determined by the district as not likely to earn a high school diploma before the fifth school year following enrollment in grade 9. The PGP will be designed and implemented by a school counselor, teacher, or other staff member designated by the principal. The plan will, among other items, identify the student's educational goals, address the parent's educational expectations for the student, and outline an intensive instruction program for the student. [For additional information, see the school counselor and policy EIF(LEGAL).] For a student receiving special education services, the student's IEP may serve as the student's PGP and would therefore be developed by the student's ARD committee.

[For information related to the development of personal graduation plans for high school students, see **Personal Graduation Plans for Students Under the Foundation Graduation Program** on page 53.]

### **High School Grade Levels**

To earn credit in a course, a student must receive a grade of at least 70 based on course-level or grade-level standards.

A student in grades 9–12 will be advanced a grade level based on the number of course credits earned. [Also see **Grade Level Classification** on page 47.]

Students will also have multiple opportunities to retake EOC assessments. [See **Graduation** on page 48 and **Standardized Testing** on page 84 for more information about EOC assessments.]

### **RELEASE OF STUDENTS FROM SCHOOL**

[See **Leaving Campus** on page 70.]

### **REPORT CARDS / PROGRESS REPORTS AND CONFERENCES (All Grade Levels)**

Report cards with each student's grades or performance and absences in each class or subject are issued at least once every 9 weeks.

At the end of the first three weeks of a grading period, parents will receive a progress report if their child's performance in any course/subject area is below 75, or is below the expected level

of performance. If the student receives a grade lower than 75 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. [See **Working Together** on page 75 for how to schedule a conference.]

Teachers follow grading guidelines that have been approved by the principal pursuant to the board-adopted policy and are designed to reflect each student's relative mastery of each assignment 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) and **Grading Guidelines** on page 47.]

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 sent to parents of students in grades K-8 must be signed by the parent and returned to the school within 2 days.

## **RETALIATION**

[See **Dating Violence, Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation** on page 35.]

## **SAFETY (All Grade Levels)**

Student safety on campus, at school-related events, and on district vehicles 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 is expected to:

- Avoid conduct that is likely to put the student or others 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, campus behavior coordinator, 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. A parent who desires coverage for his or her child will be responsible for paying insurance premiums and for submitting required claims.

## **Preparedness Drills: Evacuation, Severe Weather, and Other Emergencies**

From time to time, students, teachers, and other district employees will participate in preparedness drills of emergency procedures. When the command is given or alarm is sounded, students need to 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 may have to rely on previously provided 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**

Each year, parents are asked to complete an emergency release form to provide contact information in the event that school is dismissed early or opening is delayed because of severe weather or another emergency, or if the campus must restrict access due to a security threat.

The district will rely on contact information on file with the district to communicate with parents in an emergency situation, which may include real-time or automated messages. It is crucial to notify your child's school when a phone number previously provided to the district has changed.

If the campus must close, delay opening, or restrict access to the building because of an emergency, the district will also alert the community in the following ways: Local television and radio stations, [www.dcsd.org](http://www.dcsd.org), automated phone call from SchoolMessenger, and Facebook.

## **SAT, ACT, AND OTHER STANDARDIZED TESTS**

[See **Standardized Testing** on page 84.]



## **SCHOOL FACILITIES**

### **Use by Students Before and After School (All Grade Levels)**

Certain areas of the school will be accessible to students before and after school for specific purposes. Students are required to remain in the area where their activity is scheduled to take place.

Unless the teacher or sponsor overseeing an activity gives permission, a student will not be permitted to go to another area of the building or campus.

After dismissal of school in the afternoon, unless a student is involved in an activity under the supervision of a teacher or other authorized employee or adult, or unless students are granted permission to remain on campus in accordance with policy FNAB, students must leave campus immediately.

### **Conduct Before and After School (All Grade Levels)**

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 play rehearsals, club meetings, athletic practices, and 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.

### **Use of Hallways During Class Time (All Grade Levels)**

Loitering or standing in the halls during class is not permitted. During class time, a student must have a hall pass to be outside the classroom for any purpose. Failure to obtain a pass will result in disciplinary action in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct.

### **Cafeteria Services (All Grade Levels)**

The district participates in the School Breakfast Program and National School Lunch Program and offers students nutritionally balanced meals daily in accordance with standards set forth in state and federal law.

Free and reduced-price meals are available based on financial need or household situation. Information about a student's participation is confidential; however, disclosure of a student's eligibility may be made without prior notice or consent to programs, activities, and individuals that are specifically authorized access under the National School Lunch Act (NSLA), which is the law that sets forth the disclosure limits for the district's child nutrition programs. A student's name, eligibility status, and other information may be disclosed to certain agencies as authorized under the NSLA to facilitate the enrollment of eligible children in Medicaid or the state children's health insurance program (CHIP) unless the student's parent notifies the district that a student's information should not be disclosed. A parent's decision will not affect the child's eligibility for free and reduced price meals or free milk. See the Food Service Director, at 806-592-5902 to apply for free or reduced price meal services.

Parents are strongly encouraged to continually monitor their child's meal account balance. When a student's meal account is depleted, the district will notify the parent. The student will be

allowed to continue purchasing meals for up to 3 days or up to \$6.00, whichever occurs first, and the district will present the parent with a schedule of repayment for any outstanding account balance. If the district is unable to work out an agreement with the student’s parent on replenishment of the student’s meal account and payment of any outstanding balance, the student will receive an alternate meal.

**Cafeteria Fees**

<b>Students</b>	<b>Lunch</b>	<b>Breakfast</b>
Pre-K-5 <sup>th</sup>	\$1.85	No Charge
6 <sup>th</sup> – 12 <sup>th</sup>	\$2.10	No Charge
Staff Members	\$3.00	\$1.00
Other Adults	\$4.00	\$1.50

**Library (All Grade Levels)**

The library is a learning laboratory with books, computers, magazines, and other materials available for classroom assignments, projects, and reading or listening pleasure. Check with the campus principal or librarian for times the library is open for independent student use.

**Meetings of Noncurriculum-Related Groups (Secondary Grade Levels Only)**

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).

A list of these groups is available in the principal’s office.

**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 (All Grade Levels)**

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. If locks are used, copies of the key or combination must be kept in the campus office.

Searches of desks or lockers may be conducted at any time there is reasonable suspicion 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.

## **Telecommunications and Other Electronic Devices (All Grade Levels)**

Use of district-owned equipment and its network systems is not private and will be monitored by the district. [See policy CQ for more information.]

Any searches of personal telecommunications or other personal electronic devices will be conducted in accordance with law, and the device may be confiscated in order to perform a lawful search. A confiscated device may be turned over to law enforcement to determine whether a crime has been committed.

[See policy FNF(LEGAL) and **Electronic Devices and Technology Resources** on page 41 for more information.]

## **Vehicles on Campus (Secondary Grade Levels Only)**

A student has full responsibility for the security and content of his or her vehicle parked on district property and must make certain that it is locked and that the keys are not given to others. [See also the Student Code of Conduct.]

Vehicles parked on district property are under the jurisdiction of the district. School officials may search any vehicle any time there is reasonable suspicion to do so, with or without the permission of the student. If a vehicle subject to search is locked, the student will be asked to unlock the vehicle. If the student refuses, the student's parent will be contacted. If a search is also refused by the student's parent, the district will turn the matter over to law enforcement. The district may, in certain circumstances, contact law enforcement even if permission to search is granted.

All students parking vehicles at school must have a parking sticker. A sticker can be obtained with proof of liability and a driver's license. The first sticker will be at no cost. The second sticker will cost the purchase price. For vehicles without stickers, for the first offense, there will be a warning. For the second offense, the vehicle will be towed or immobilized. See also the Student Code of Conduct. **Remember**, bringing a vehicle on campus is a privilege that can be denied for traffic violations on campus or no vehicle sticker. [See also the *Student Code of Conduct*.]

## **Trained Dogs (All Grade Levels)**

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. If contraband of any kind is found, the possessing student shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct.

## **PARENT NOTIFICATION**

The student's parent or guardian shall be notified if any prohibited articles or materials are found in a student's locker, in a student's vehicle parked on school property, or on the student's person, as a result of a search conducted in accordance with this policy.

## **Drug-Testing (Secondary Grade Levels Only)**

The District requires drug and alcohol testing of any student in grades 9-12 who chooses to participate in school-sponsored extracurricular activities. Each participating student will be subject to random drug and alcohol testing for the entire school year or until he or she discontinues participation in extracurricular activities. No student shall be allowed to practice or participate in any extracurricular activity until the student has returned the properly signed “Student Acknowledgment Form” and the “Parental Consent for Random Drug-Testing Program for Extracurricular Activities and the Voluntary Drug-Testing Program.” After a mandatory base-line test at the beginning of the school year, each student shall make up a random testing pool and be subject for random testing throughout the school year. Testing information and disciplinary sanctions can be found in policy FNF(LOCAL).

[For further information, see policy FNF(LOCAL). Also see **Steroids** on page 86.]

## **SEXUAL HARASSMENT**

[See **Dating Violence, Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation** on page 35.]

## **SPECIAL PROGRAMS (All Grade Levels)**

The district provides special programs for gifted and talented students, homeless students, bilingual students, migrant students, English language learners, students diagnosed with dyslexia, 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 the campus principal.

## **STANDARDIZED TESTING**

### **Secondary Grade Levels**

#### ***SAT/ACT (Scholastic Aptitude Test and American College Test)***

Many colleges require either the American College Test (ACT) or the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) for admission. Students are encouraged to talk with the school counselor early during their junior year to determine the appropriate exam to take; these exams are usually taken at the end of the junior year. The Preliminary SAT (PSAT) and ACT-Aspire are the corresponding preparatory and readiness assessments for the SAT and ACT, and more information can be obtained on these assessments from the school counselor.

Note that participation in these assessments may qualify a student to receive a performance acknowledgment on his or her diploma and transcript under the foundation graduation program and may qualify as a substitute for an end-of-course testing requirement in certain circumstances. A student’s performance at a certain level on the SAT or ACT also makes the student eligible for automatic admission to a Texas public institution of higher education.

#### ***TSI (Texas Success Initiative) Assessment***

Prior to enrollment in a Texas public college or university, most students must take a standardized test called the Texas Success Initiative (TSI) assessment. The purpose of the TSI

assessment is to assess the reading, mathematics, and writing skills that entering freshmen-level students should have if they are to perform effectively in undergraduate certificate or degree programs in Texas public colleges and universities. This assessment may be required before a student enrolls in a dual-credit course offered through the district as well. Achieving certain benchmark scores on this assessment for college readiness may also waive certain end-of-course assessment requirements in limited circumstances.

## **STAAR (State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness)**

### ***Grades 3–8***

In addition to routine tests and other measures of achievement, students at certain grade levels are required to take the state assessment, called STAAR, in the following subjects:

- Mathematics, annually in grades 3–8
- Reading, annually in grades 3–8
- Writing, including spelling and grammar, in grades 4 and 7
- Science in grades 5 and 8
- Social Studies in grade 8

Successful performance on the reading and math assessments in grades 5 and 8 is required by law, unless the student is enrolled in a reading or math course intended for students above the student's current grade level, in order for the student to be promoted to the next grade level. [See **Promotion and Retention** on page 76 for additional information.]

STAAR-A will be available for an eligible student with a Section 504 accommodation plan who has been identified with dyslexia or a related disorder, as well as for a student receiving special education services, if the student meets state-established criteria and requires certain instructional and assessment accommodations on a routine basis.

STAAR Alternate 2, for students receiving special education services who meet certain state-established criteria, will be available for eligible students, as determined by the student's ARD committee.

STAAR-L is a linguistically accommodated assessment that is available for certain limited English proficient (LEP) students, as determined by the student's Language Proficiency Assessment Committee (LPAC). A Spanish version of STAAR is also available to students through grade 5 who need this accommodation.

### ***High School Courses—End-of-Course (EOC) Assessments***

STAAR end-of-course (EOC) assessments are administered for the following courses:

- Algebra I
- English I and English II,
- Biology
- United States History

Satisfactory performance on the applicable assessments will be required for graduation, unless otherwise waived or substituted as allowed by state law and rules.

There are three testing windows during the year in which a student may take an EOC assessment, which will occur during the fall, spring, and summer months. If a student does not meet satisfactory performance, the student will have additional opportunities to retake the assessment.

STAAR-A will be available for an eligible student with a Section 504 accommodation plan who has been identified with dyslexia or a related disorder, as well as for a student receiving special education services, if the student meets state-established criteria and requires certain instructional and assessment accommodations on a routine basis.

STAAR Alternate 2, for students receiving special education services who meet certain criteria established by the state, will be available for eligible students, as determined by the student's ARD committee.

An ARD committee for a student receiving special education services will determine whether successful performance on the EOC assessments will be required for graduation within the parameters identified in state rules and the student's personal graduation plan.

STAAR L, which is a linguistically accommodated assessment, will be available for English language learners who require this type of testing accommodation.

[Also see **Graduation** on page **48** for additional information.]

### **STEROIDS (Secondary Grade Levels Only)**

State law prohibits students from possessing, dispensing, delivering, or administering an anabolic steroid. Anabolic steroids are for medical use only, and only a physician can prescribe use.

Body building, muscle enhancement, or the increase of muscle bulk or strength through the use of an anabolic steroid or human growth hormone by a healthy student is not a valid medical use and is a criminal offense.

### **STUDENTS IN FOSTER CARE (All Grade Levels)**

In an effort to provide educational stability, the district strives to assist any student who is currently placed or newly placed in foster care (temporary or permanent custody of the state), sometimes referred to as substitute care) with the enrollment and registration process, as well as other educational services throughout the student's enrollment in the district.

Please contact Mrs. Kellie Adams, who has been designated as the district's foster care liaison, at 806-592-5902, 501 Mustang Avenue, Denver City, TX, with any questions.

### **SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION (All Grade Levels)**

If you are worried that your child may be using or is in danger of experimenting, using, or abusing illegal drugs or other prohibited substances, please contact the school counselor. The school counselor can provide you with a list of community resources that may be of assistance to you. The TDSHS maintains information regarding children's mental health and substance abuse intervention services on its website: <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/mhsa-child-adolescent-services/>.

## **SUICIDE AWARENESS (All Grade Levels)**

The district is committed to partnering with parents to support the healthy mental, emotional, and behavioral development of its students. If you are concerned about your child, please access <http://www.texasuicideprevention.org> or contact the school counselor for more information related to suicide prevention services available in your area.

## **SUMMER SCHOOL (All Grade Levels)**

For information concerning summer school or extended day, please contact your school counselor.

## **TARDIES (All Grade Levels)**

After 20 minutes, a student on a secondary campus will be considered absent. Repeated instances of tardiness will result in more severe disciplinary action, in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct.

## **TEXTBOOKS, ELECTRONIC TEXTBOOKS, TECHNOLOGICAL EQUIPMENT, AND OTHER INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS (All Grade Levels)**

Textbooks and other district-approved instructional materials are provided to students free of charge for each subject or class. Any books must be covered by the student, as directed by the teacher, and treated with care. Electronic textbooks and technological equipment may also be provided to students, depending on the course and course objectives. A student who is issued a damaged item should report the damage to the teacher. Any student failing to return an item in acceptable condition loses the right to free textbooks and technological equipment until the item is returned or the damage paid for by the parent; however, the student will be provided the necessary instructional resources and equipment for use at school during the school day.

## **TRANSFERS (All Grade Levels)**

The principal is authorized to transfer a student from one classroom to another.

A nonresident student wishing to transfer into the District shall file an application for transfer each school year with the Superintendent or designee. A transfer student shall be notified in writing that he or she must follow all rules and regulations of the District, and that violation of the District's rules and regulations may result in revocation of the transfer agreement.

[See **Safety Transfers/Assignments**, on page 15, **Bullying**, on page 27, and **Students Who Have Learning Difficulties or Who Need Special Education Services**, on page 17, for other transfer options.]

## **TRANSPORTATION (All Grade Levels)**

### **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 that the student be released to the parent or to another adult designated

by the parent. The District shall not be liable for any injury that occurs to students riding in vehicles that are not provided by the school.

### **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 stops will be designated annually, and any subsequent changes will be posted at the school and on the district's website. For the safety of the operator of the vehicle and all passengers, students must board buses or other vehicles only at authorized stops, and drivers must unload passengers only at authorized stops.

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 the Transportation Director, Mr. Alonzo Diaz, at 806-215-0393.

[See the Student Code of Conduct for provisions regarding transportation to the DAEP.]

Students are expected to assist district staff in ensuring that buses and other district vehicles remain in good condition and that transportation is provided safely. When riding in district vehicles, including buses, 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 vehicle in an orderly manner at the designated stop.
- Keep feet, books, instrument cases, and other objects out of the aisle.
- Not deface the vehicle 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 vehicle.
- Not possess or use any form of tobacco or e-cigarettes in any district vehicle.
- 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 vehicle and before crossing in front of the vehicle.
- Follow any other rules established by the operator of the vehicle.

Misconduct will be punished in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct; the privilege to ride in a district vehicle, including a school bus, may be suspended or revoked.



## **VANDALISM (All Grade Levels)**

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 for years to come—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 (All Grade Levels)**

For safety purposes, video and audio recording equipment is 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 and audio recordings routinely and document student misconduct. Discipline will be in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct.

Upon request of a parent of a student who receives special education services, a staff member, or a board member, state law requires the district to place video and audio recording equipment in a classroom in which the student spends at least 50 percent of his or her instructional day, referred to in the law as a self-contained classroom. The majority of students in this type of classroom must also be students who receive special education services. Before the district places a video camera in a classroom or other setting in which your child receives special education services, the district will provide notice to you. Please speak directly with the principal for further information or to request the installation and operation of this equipment.

## **VISITORS TO THE SCHOOL (All Grade Levels)**

### **General Visitors**

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 main office and must comply with all applicable district policies and procedures. When arriving on campus, all parents and other visitors should be prepared to show identification.

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. Even if the visit is approved prior to the visitor's arrival, the individual must check in at the main office first.

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

### **Visitors Participating in Special Programs for Students**

On High School Career Day, the district invites representatives from colleges and universities and other higher education institutions, prospective employers, and military recruiters to present information to interested students.

## **VOLUNTEERS (All Grade Levels)**

We appreciate so much the efforts of parent and grandparent volunteers that are willing to serve our district and students. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the Administration Building for more information and to complete an application.

## **VOTER REGISTRATION (Secondary Grade Levels Only)**

A student who is eligible to vote in any local, state, or federal election may obtain a voter registration application at the main campus office.

## **WITHDRAWING FROM SCHOOL (All Grade Levels)**

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 and equipment clearance; to the librarian to ensure a clear library record; to the clinic for health records; to the school 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.

A student who is 18 or older, who is married, or who has been declared by a court to be an emancipated minor may withdraw without parental signature.

## **ATHLETIC HANDBOOK**

### **GENERAL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

#### **Discipline of Athletes:**

1. A Student is not required to take part in athletics, nor is it required for graduation. Therefore, athletics is a privilege. Consequently, when high ideals and standards are violated, the privilege can be revoked. All Denver City Independent School District athletes will be expected to conduct themselves with pride and dignity at all times.
2. The general philosophy of the Denver City Independent School District Athletics Department is that we will attempt to help an individual who has made a mistake; however, if a mistake is repeated, the welfare of the team must take priority. (A mistake may mean a violation of training rules, missing practice, poor attitude, etc.).
3. Coaches have the right to discipline athletes on their individual teams, but should exercise sound judgment in evaluating specific penalties. Keeping in mind the welfare of the team, as well as the welfare of the individual, coaches will discipline consistently.
4. Coaches should not dismiss a player from a team until they have discussed it with the Athletic Director and that sport's Head Coach.
5. Athletes found in possession of, under the influence of, or discovered to have used alcohol at a school – sponsored activity or trip will be placed in AEP. A student in AEP is not allowed to participate in extracurricular athletics.
6. Any athlete removed from a contest for unsportsmanlike conduct, whether towards an opponent, coach, or official, will be counseled by the head coach and A.D. the next day and before the athlete participates in another game or match. Any or all punishment (if

any is assessed) will be made known at the Head Coach's meeting. Should this action be repeated in the same school year, the player may be removed from all athletics for the remainder of the school year.

7. Equipment, which is school property, will be issued to each player and a record should be kept. It is the Athlete's "Responsibility to take care of equipment, and if there are items missing, the player will be required to pay for them at replacement prices. Athletes should be made aware of these requirements at the beginning of each particular sport's season.
8. Profanity by athletes is not acceptable. It will not be permitted or condoned at any level or in any sport.
9. Athletes must show respect for all coaches, teachers, and administrators. Athletes should strive for, and be taught, acceptable and proper conduct at all school functions and in the community as they are representatives of their school and athletic program. Lying to a coach or person in charge will not be tolerated. Forging a parent, guardian, or teacher's signature on any document is also lying. The discipline for such an action will depend on the status of the athlete with the athletic department. It will be documented by the coach and the athlete will be counseled. Additional disciplinary measures may be assigned.
10. Unexcused absences from practice during the season – If any player has an unexcused absence from a scheduled practice, he/she must make up the work missed, plus any added sanctions deemed appropriate by that sport's Head Coach. For an excused absence, the conditioning portion of the workout missed is all that will be made up.
11. Attitude, sportsmanship, and respect for authority are qualities we desire in each athlete. Coaches should require and expect these in their program. The higher the expectations, the higher the achievement.
12. All participants in an athletic contest will remain with the team under the supervision of the coach or trainer until dismissed by the coach or trainer. If a player is ejected from the contest or substituted for in the contest, they will remain under the supervision of the coach until the coach dismisses them. In case of an injury, the coach, trainer, or doctor may become the supervisor if the player is removed from the site of the contest.
13. Travel Rule: Any athlete who goes to a contest with a coach or team should return from said contest with that coach and or team. Exception: An athlete may leave with his/her parents, but a note must be given to the coach. When possible, one day's advance notice should be given. If leaving with anyone but their parents, arrangements must be made through the school's office.
14. If an athlete is consistently a problem in more than one area (missing practice, in trouble at school, not passing, breaking other rules, etc.). he or she may be suspended from the athletic program indefinitely.
15. TRACK: All male athletes who wish to participate in football or basketball will be required to participate in track the preceding Spring. All female athletes who wish to participate in volleyball or basketball will also be required to participate in track the preceding Spring. If they fail to do so, they will not be allowed to participate in the Fall in the previously mentioned sports.

## **DENVER CITY ATHLETIC CODE OF CONDUCT**

### **Rules and Policies:**

A. Student Athletes will not drink alcoholic beverages or use tobacco products of any kind in or out of season. A minor in possession citation from the police will be considered a violation of this policy. If you are knowingly at a party, a home, in a vehicle, etc. where a minor is illegally in possession of alcoholic beverages, you are condoning it and will be considered guilty by association. The following will also count as a violation of policy: A.) If an athlete receives a citation (MIP/MIC) from the police, they will be considered guilty and no excuses will be accepted; B.)The Denver City and Yoakum County Law Enforcement Agencies occasionally break up underage drinking parties and when this happens, they will issue a citation to the minors apprehended, or they will write their names on a list and give the list to the school district. If an athlete receives a citation or if their name is included on the list, they are considered guilty, no matter what the circumstances or excuses may be; C.) If the athlete admits to their guilt, their punishment will be reduced to half. Example: 1<sup>st</sup> offense for a sport that plays once a week would be to run 12 ½ miles and miss the 1<sup>st</sup> half of the next contest; 1<sup>st</sup> offense for a sport that plays twice a week would be run 12 ½ miles and miss one contest, etc.). **This applies to the first offense only: subsequent offenses carry the full punishment no matter what.**

**Punishment: First Offense** – Athlete will not be allowed to participate in the next contest in sports where athletes have one contest per week (Football, track, tennis, golf, cross country) or next two contests where athletes have two contests per week (Volleyball, basketball, baseball). Sports where two contests are played per week play twice as many games as those sports that play one game per week. The same percentage of playing time will be missed. The athlete must agree to take a random urinalysis test (at the athlete’s expense) and attend any counseling sessions set up by the Athletic Department. Failure to take the test or attend a session will result in immediate suspension from all contests until a test is taken or a session attended. Athletes will also do 5000 yards of whistle drills, or will run 25 miles under the supervision of the head coach of the sport of the season. All running will be completed before the athlete will be allowed to participate in another contest. Running during practice does not count. CONTEST will be defined as a competition with an opponent from another school (includes dual matches, scrimmages, etc.).

Whether the player gets to travel with the team, etc. left to the discretion of the coaches.

**Second Offense** – contest suspensions will double and the tests and counseling will continue. Subsequent violations will result in the contest suspensions doubling each time and continued random testing and counseling. Athletes will double the number of whistle drills for each violation.

**Subsequent Violations:**

Example – Football – **1<sup>st</sup> Offense**

- one game suspension
- counseling sessions
- random urinalysis
- 5000 yards of whistle drills or run 25 miles

**2<sup>nd</sup> Offense**

- two game suspension
- counseling sessions
- random urinalysis
- 10,000 yards of whistle drills or run 50 miles

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Offense**

- four game suspension
- counseling sessions
- random urinalysis
- 20,000 yards of whistle drills or run 100 miles

Great emphasis is being placed on changing the behavior after the first violation. The philosophy is if we kick them out of the program we can no longer be an influence in their life. Athletes will essentially miss the rest of the season if they have a third violation. Students will have a very difficult time completing the whistle drills after a practice. Many students will remove themselves from the program.

B. Student athletes will not use, or in any way become involved with illegal drugs.

The school drug policy will be in effect and will be followed by the athletic department. The 1<sup>st</sup> offense will be treated the same as the 2<sup>nd</sup> offense in the alcohol policy. The athletic department will add the running portion from the alcohol policy to the punishment: ex. 1<sup>st</sup> offense 15 days out of competition (50 miles or 10,000 yards of whistle drills will be added). If no contests are missed during an athlete's drug policy suspension, then the athletic department will refer back to its alcohol policy and contests will be missed accordingly. A 2<sup>nd</sup> drug offense will be treated as a 3<sup>rd</sup> alcohol policy offense, etc.

C. Academics: Student athletes will be expected to excel to their fullest potential in the classroom. A study hall on the high school level may be run by the in-season sport's coach for any athlete carrying an average of 75 or below. The study hall may be set at a time and place so designated by the head coach in charge.

Punishment will be left up to the coach for failure to attend the study hall.

\*\*Student Athletes will be expected to be the example of the ideal student in the classroom; misbehavior or misconduct is not acceptable and athletic sanctions may be imposed for such behavior.

D. Attendance: Attendance at all practices and games is not only expected but mandatory.

Extreme emergencies or illness are the only excuses for missing either. Should an athlete miss a practice or contest, he/she should contact the head coach personally to notify them that they will be absent. Failure to attend any or all workouts prior to a contest, without an illness or emergency, will result in appropriate punishment. Missing practice for In-School Suspension or other disciplinary reasons will result in whatever punishment the individual coach deems necessary including game suspension. Anyone in In-School Suspension cannot participate in any extracurricular activities the day they are in ISS, including practice.

E. Hair Policy: Males will wear a boy's hair cut with hair not to exceed the eye brows in the front, the bottom of the ear on the side, and the top of the collar on a collared shirt. No unusual or extreme hairstyles or colors will be allowed, nor will tails, braids, etc. No names, numbers, or

lines will be cut in the hair. Layers or multilevel layers of cuts are acceptable. Mohawks are not allowed.

Females will wear girl's haircuts. The same rules, as far as lines, numbers, unnatural colors, etc., will apply to the female athletes as well as to the male athletes.

\*\*\* Facial Hair of any kind exceeding one day's growth will not be permitted. Earrings will not be worn at any time by the male athletes on school property or to a school function. Permanent tattoos will be covered during any athletic contest. This policy is to be observed the entire school year, in-season and off-season alike.

\*\*\* Points of Emphasis:

- 1) Any athlete who violates the hair policy will receive immediate physical punishment, such as whistle drills, on a daily basis during the athletic period until his/her hair complies with the policy. If said athlete fails to conform with the policy within two day, said athlete will not be permitted to take part in any form or fashion with his/her next athletic contest. A contest will be deducted for every two days thereafter that the athlete's hair fails to comply with the policy. If the athlete is in off-season, the contests will be deducted from the athlete's participation in the next sport.
- 2) Senior Athletes who are no longer competing, or who have checked out of the athletic period must also comply with all athletic policies including the hair policy. Any failure to do so may result in forfeiture of said athlete's privilege to attend and be recognized at the Spring All-sports Banquet. Any awards and or letter jackets that said athlete has coming may also be forfeited.
- 3) Spring Sport Only Athletes: All spring sports only athletes will be required to register with the Athletic Department during the first week of school. Said athletes will be held liable for all athletic policies leading up to, during, and after their Spring Sport. All Spring Sport Only athletes will be required to check with their Head Coach on a weekly basis until their sport begins as insurance that all policies, plus academic requirements, are being followed. Sub-section #1 of this section will be implemented equally in regards to Spring Sports Only athletes. Loss of contests will be deducted and number of days of physical punishment will be kept and handled once the Spring Sport in which that athlete participates in, begins.

F. Quitting A Sport- Before any athlete is permitted to quit a sport, he/she must meet with the head coach of that sport and then with the athletic director. Any athlete who quits one sport, will not be allowed to participate in the new sport until the former sport has been completed (the athlete may work out but not play in the new sport). If an athlete is in two sports at the same time, the two head coaches and A.D. will meet and decide whether the athlete will be allowed to drop one of the sports. It must be a unanimous decision of the coaches involved. Otherwise the athlete either stays in both sports or is out of both sports.

G. Equipment- Denver City ISD and the Athletic Department take great financial pains to outfit our athletes in the best equipment available. Purposeful destruction of equipment and misuse or misplacing of supplies, school issued clothing, etc., will not be tolerated. As athletes, you have the best equipment and supplies money can buy. Be responsible and take care of it! Use it and then return it so we can continue to provide you with the best in equipment and supplies.

H. Dismissal from Athletics: Grounds for possible suspension or dismissal from any and or all athletics include lying, stealing, cheating, being disrespectful to coaches or any authority figure, as well as, an athlete's attitude and or work ethic. An athlete can be removed from athletics if the athlete has engaged in serious or persistent misbehavior that violates the district's student code of conduct. (Anything that might cause them to be placed in AEP. AEP students are not allowed to participate in extracurricular activities).

I. UIL Requirements for athletes: All forms and or necessary paper work will be filled out and filed with the appropriate person(s) before an athlete will be allowed to participate in any sport. Forms include physicals if needed, insurance, UIL forms, parent consent forms, athletic policy, etc.

J. DC Requirements for Athletes: Every athlete is required to put forth their very best effort in every practice and in every contest. Also, in order for Denver City athletics to continue to be successful and make the step up to the highest level of competition, we must have you our athletes competing. All athletes therefore are encouraged to participate in any and all sports you can work into your schedule. We as coaches want to see you as athletes from Denver City make your mark on athletics. It will require our best, (each and every one of you) to join in every phase and sport in our athletic program and help to make it the best athletic program in the entire State of Texas.

K. The lettering for DC Athletics will be as follows: While on the varsity, an athlete must meet the individual head coach's lettering requirements of points scored, quarters played, etc.

L. Social Media: (Facebook, Insta-Gram, Twitter, etc...) These should never be used to negatively portray any aspect of the athletic program (teammates, coaches, policy, rules, etc.). Any athlete that sends a negative comment about athletics, teammates, etc. or sends a picture that discredits the athletic program will be subject to disciplinary action. The discipline will be determined by the coaches of that athlete at the time or by the athletic director.

M. Videos/Pictures: Athletes are NEVER to take pictures or videos in the gyms, school buses, or field house and especially not in any athletic locker room. If an athlete takes pictures/videos or knowingly participates in either one they may be suspended from the athletic program indefinitely. The length of the suspension will be determined by the coaching staff on a case by case basis.

## **ATHLETIC CHAIN OF COMMAND**

If you have a problem with something going on in our athletic program or do not understand something that is going on, please **feel free to come visit** with us so that we can explain and so that there will not be any false information or misunderstandings. Below is the process we would like you to follow:

**Step 1.** The athlete needs to talk to the coach in question and discuss the problem. This step is the only one that may be skipped and that will be if the athlete does not have a problem or question, but the parent does.

**Step 2.** Once that has been done if they do not resolve the issue the athlete/parent should come talk to the Coach in question. **The Athletic Director will attend this meeting only at the request of the Coach in question.**

**Step 3.** Once that has been done if the athlete/parent are not satisfied then they can come visit with the Athletic Director and the Coach in question.

**Step 4.** The next step after that would be to come talk to the Principal of the school (Jr Hi/High School) that the athlete attends.

**Step 5.** The next step is the Superintendent.

**Step 6.** The final step is the School Board.

**NO STEP** should be skipped. You should not go straight to Step 2 if you haven't taken step 1 (unless it's the one exception) or go straight to step 3 if you haven't taken step 2, etc...

**The Athlete will be required to be in all the meetings unless the Coach and parent agree otherwise.**

Following this Chain Of Command will eliminate a lot of wasted time, misunderstandings and miscommunication.

### **Athlete's Promise to DC Athletics**

As an athlete participating in the Athletic Program at Denver City, I do hereby promise to read, understand, support and abide by the DENVER CITY ATHLETIC CODE OF CONDUCT. It is my desire to be a contributing part of the Denver City Athletic Program and to help make it the very best possible. I understand that I am under these rules all year long (12 months).



## 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 and/or as a result of a student not meeting the passing standard on a state-mandated assessment.

**ACT-Aspire** refers to an assessment that took the place of ACT-Plan and is designed as a preparatory and readiness assessment for the ACT. This is usually taken by students in grade 10.

**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 and his or her parents are members of the committee.

**Attendance review committee** is responsible for reviewing a student's absences when the student's attendance drops below 90 percent, or in some cases 75 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 or a final grade 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.

**EOC assessments** are end-of-course tests, which are state-mandated, and are part of the STAAR program. Successful performance on EOC assessments are required for graduation. These exams will be given in English I, English II, Algebra I, Biology, and United States History.

**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; whether successful completion of state-mandated assessments is required for graduation, etc.

**IGC** is the individual graduation committee, formed in accordance with state law, to determine a student's eligibility to graduate when the student has failed to demonstrate satisfactory performance on no more than two of the required state assessments.

**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.

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

**PGP** stands for Personal Graduation Plan, which is required for high school students beginning with ninth graders in the 2014–15 school year, and for any student in middle school 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.

**PSAT** is the preparatory and readiness assessment for the SAT.

**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.

**SHAC** stands for School Health Advisory Council, a group of at least five members, a majority of whom must be parents, appointed by the school board to assist the district in ensuring that local community values and health issues are reflected in the district’s health education instruction, along with providing assistance with other student and employee wellness issues.

**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.

**STAAR** is the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness, the state’s system of standardized academic achievement assessments, effective beginning with certain students for the 2011–2012 school year.

**STAAR-A** is an accommodated version of the STAAR that is available for certain students who receive special education services or students who have been identified as dyslexic.

**STAAR Alternate 2** is an alternative state-mandated assessment designed for students with severe cognitive disabilities receiving special education services who meet the participation requirements, as determined by the student’s ARD committee.

**STAAR Linguistically Accommodated (STAAR L)** is an alternative state-mandated assessment with linguistic accommodations designed for certain recent immigrant English language learners.

**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 STAAR EOC assessments 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 and identifies the circumstances, consistent with law, when a student may be removed from a classroom, campus, or district vehicle. 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. The Student Code of Conduct also addresses notice to the parent regarding a student’s violation of one of its provisions.

**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.

**TSI assessment** is the Texas Success Initiative assessment designed to measure the reading, mathematics, and writing skills that entering college-level freshmen students should have if they are to be successful in undergraduate programs in Texas public colleges and universities.

**TxVSN** is the Texas Virtual School Network, which provides online courses for Texas students to supplement the instructional programs of public school districts. Courses are taught by qualified instructors, and courses are equivalent in rigor and scope to a course taught in a traditional classroom setting.

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

## APPENDIX I: Freedom From Bullying Policy

*Note to handbook developer: Because state law requires that the district's policy on bullying be distributed in its Student Handbook(s), the following has been formatted for you to more easily insert the district's FFI(LOCAL) policy here rather than in the body of the handbook itself.*

Note that school board policies may be revised at any time. For legal context and the most current copy of the local policy, visit <http://pol.tasb.org/Policy/Code/1269?filter=FFI>

Below is the text of Denver City ISD's policy FFI(LOCAL) as of the date that this handbook was finalized for this school year.

### STUDENT WELFARE: FREEDOM FROM BULLYING

FFI(LOCAL)

Adopted on 2/20/2012

BULLYING PROHIBITED	The District prohibits bullying as defined by this policy. Retaliation against anyone involved in the complaint process is a violation of District policy and is prohibited.
DEFINITION	<p>Bullying occurs when a student or group of students engages in written or verbal expression, expression through electronic means, or physical conduct that occurs on school property, at a school-sponsored or school-related activity, or in a vehicle operated by the District and that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Has the effect or will have the effect of physically harming a student, damaging a student's property, or placing a student in reasonable fear of harm to the student's person or of damage to the student's property; or</li> <li>2. Is sufficiently severe, persistent, and pervasive enough that the action or threat creates an intimidating, threatening, or abusive educational environment for a student.</li> </ol> <p>This conduct is considered bullying if it:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Exploits an imbalance of power between the student perpetrator and the student victim through written or verbal expression or physical conduct; and</li> <li>2. Interferes with a student's education or substantially disrupts the operation of a school.</li> </ol>
EXAMPLES	Bullying of a student may include hazing, threats, taunting, teasing, confinement, assault, demands for money, destruction of property, theft of valued possessions, name calling, rumor spreading, or ostracism.
RETALIATION	The District prohibits retaliation by a student or District employee against any person who in good faith makes a report of bullying, serves as a witness, or participates in an investigation.

EXAMPLES	Examples of retaliation may include threats, rumor spreading, ostracism, assault, destruction of property, unjustified punishments, or unwarranted grade reductions. Unlawful retaliation does not include petty slights or annoyances.
FALSE CLAIM	A student who intentionally makes a false claim, offers false statements, or refuses to cooperate with a District investigation regarding bullying shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action.
TIMELY REPORTING	Reports of bullying shall be made as soon as possible after the alleged act or knowledge of the alleged act. A failure to immediately report may impair the District's ability to investigate and address the prohibited conduct.
REPORTING PROCEDURES	To obtain assistance and intervention, any student who believes that he or she has experienced bullying or believes that another student has experienced bullying should immediately report the alleged acts to a teacher, counselor, principal, or other District employee.
STUDENT REPORT	
EMPLOYEE REPORT	Any District employee who suspects or receives notice that a student or group of students has or may have experienced bullying shall immediately notify the principal or designee.
REPORT FORMAT	A report may be made orally or in writing. The principal or designee shall reduce any oral reports to written form.
PROHIBITED CONDUCT	The principal or designee shall determine whether the allegations in the report, if proven, would constitute prohibited conduct as defined by policy FFH, including dating violence and harassment or discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, national origin, or disability. If so, the District shall proceed under policy FFH. If the allegations could constitute both prohibited conduct and bullying, the investigation under FFH shall include a determination on each type of conduct.
INVESTIGATION OF REPORT	The principal or designee shall conduct an appropriate investigation based on the allegations in the report. The principal or designee shall promptly take interim action calculated to prevent bullying during the course of an investigation, if appropriate.
CONCLUDING THE INVESTIGATION	Absent extenuating circumstances, the investigation should be completed within ten District business days from the date of the initial report alleging bullying; however, the principal or designee shall take additional time if necessary to complete a thorough investigation.
	The principal or designee shall prepare a final, written report of the investigation. The report shall include a determination of whether bullying occurred, and if so, whether the victim used reasonable self-defense. A copy of the report shall be sent to the Superintendent or designee.

NOTICE TO PARENTS	If an incident of bullying is confirmed, the principal or designee shall promptly notify the parents of the victim and of the student who engaged in bullying.
DISTRICT ACTION BULLYING	If the results of an investigation indicate that bullying occurred, the District shall promptly respond by taking appropriate disciplinary action in accordance with the District's Student Code of Conduct and may take corrective action reasonably calculated to address the conduct.
DISCIPLINE	A student who is a victim of bullying and who used reasonable self-defense in response to the bullying shall not be subject to disciplinary action.  The discipline of a student with a disability is subject to applicable state and federal law in addition to the Student Code of Conduct.
CORRECTIVE ACTION	Examples of corrective action may include a training program for the individuals involved in the complaint, a comprehensive education program for the school community, follow-up inquiries to determine if any new incidents or any instances of retaliation have occurred, involving parents and students in efforts to identify problems and improve the school climate, increasing staff monitoring of areas where bullying has occurred, and reaffirming the District's policy against bullying.
TRANSFERS	The principal or designee shall refer to FDB for transfer provisions.
COUNSELING	The principal or designee shall notify the victim, the student who engaged in bullying, and any students who witnessed the bullying of available counseling options.
IMPROPER CONDUCT	If the investigation reveals improper conduct that did not rise to the level of prohibited conduct or bullying, the District may take action in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct or any other appropriate corrective action.
CONFIDENTIALITY	To the greatest extent possible, the District shall respect the privacy of the complainant, persons against whom a report is filed, and witnesses. Limited disclosures may be necessary in order to conduct a thorough investigation.
APPEAL	A student who is dissatisfied with the outcome of the investigation may appeal through FNG(LOCAL), beginning at the appropriate level.
RECORDS RETENTION	Retention of records shall be in accordance with CPC(LOCAL).
ACCESS TO POLICY AND PROCEDURES	This policy and any accompanying procedures shall be distributed annually in the employee and student handbooks. Copies of the policy and procedures shall be posted on the District's Web site, to the extent practicable, and shall be readily available at each campus and the District's administrative offices.

## **APPENDIX II: Bad Weather/Emergency Closing**

The district may close schools because of bad weather or emergency conditions. When such conditions exist, the superintendent will make the official decision concerning the closing of the district's facilities. When it becomes necessary to close, to open late or to release students early, the following locations will be notified by school officials:

KIKZ Radio-Seminole  
KAMC TV-Lubbock (Channel 28 & 13)  
KCBD TV-Lubbock - (Channel 11)  
Fox 34  
Denver City Police Station 592-3516

Check the Denver City ISD Web site at: <http://www.dcisd.org> and [Facebook](#).

You should also receive an automated call from SchoolMessenger. Please make sure your child's contact information is correct.

DENVER CITY INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT  
**ACKNOWLEDGMENT FORM**

**ALL** Denver City ISD Handbooks can be viewed at our website: [www.dcisd.org](http://www.dcisd.org). Please check the appropriate answers below and return to your campus principal by **Friday, August 26, 2016**.

- \_\_\_\_\_ initial My child and I have viewed the 2016-17 Denver City ISD **Student Handbook, Athletic Handbook, and Student Code of Conduct** and understand that students will be held accountable for their behavior and will be subject to the disciplinary consequences outlined in the Code.
- Yes  No My child will participate in certain school activities such as student surveys, analysis, or evaluations that concern one or more of eight areas listed on **page 5** of the **Student Handbook**, under the heading “Participation in Third-Party Surveys”.
- \_\_\_\_\_ initial My child and I have read the District’s acceptable use policy for computers, found in the **Student Handbook** on page **43**, and agree to abide by these guidelines.
- Yes  No My child and I agree to corporal punishment. (see **Handbook, page 4**)
- Yes  No I do give the district permission to use my child’s artwork or special project on the district’s Website and in district publications.

**Note:** My child and I understand that state law requires that “directory information” on my child be released by the District to anyone who requests it **UNLESS I OBJECT IN WRITING** to the release of any or all of the following information: name, address, telephone listing, date and place of birth, photograph, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, weight and height of members of athletic teams, dates of attendance, grade level, enrollment status, honors and awards received in school, most recent previous school attended and e-mail address.

**Note:** My child and I understand that federal law requires the district to release to military recruiters and institutions of higher education, upon request, the name, address, and phone number of secondary school students enrolled in the district, **UNLESS I (OR ELIGIBLE STUDENT) OBJECT IN WRITING**.

If you would like to request a paper copy of the student handbook for review, contact the child’s campus.

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Printed Name of Student	Student’s Signature	Grade
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Printed Name of Parent/Guardian	Parent/Guardian Signature	Date
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DENVER CITY INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

**FORMA DE RECONOCIMIENTO**

**TODOS** los manuals de Denver City ISD se puede ver en nuestra página de internet **www.dcisd.org**. Por favor revise las respuestas apropiadas a continuación y regresar a su Director de la escuela el viernes, **26 de agosto, 2016**.

- \_\_\_\_\_ initial Mi hijo/a y yo hemos visto el 2016-17 Denver City ISD **manual del Estudiante, Deportivo y Manual de Código de Conducta del Estudiante** y entender que los estudiantes tendrán que rendir cuentas por su comportamiento y estarán sujetos a las consecuencias disciplinarias escritas en el código.
- Si  No Mi hijo/a va a participar en ciertas actividades escolares, tales como encuestas estudianta les, análisis o evaluaciones que afectan a uno o más de las ocho áreas que se encuentran en la **página 5 del manual del estudiante**, bajo el título “obteniendo información y Protegiendo los derechos de los estudiantes”.
- \_\_\_\_\_ initial Mi hijo/a y yo hemos leído la poliza del distrito de uso aceptable de computadoras, que se encuentra en el **manual del estudiante** en la página **43**, y estoy de acuerdo en cumplir con estas directrices.
- Si  No Mi hijo/a y yo estamos de acuerdo con el castigo corporal. (consulte el **manual, página 4**)
- Si  No Yo doy permiso al distrito de usar obras de arte de mi hijo/a o proyecto especial en el sitio web del distrito y en las publicaciones del distrito.

**Nota:** Mi hijo y yo entiendo que la ley estatal requiere que “la información del directoriosobre mi hijo/a puede ser dada por el distrito quien lo solicite, **a menos que se oponga por escrito** a la liberación de cualquiera o todos los siguientes datos: nombre, dirección, número de teléfono, fecha y lugar de nacimiento, fotografía, participación en actividades y deportes oficialmente reconocidos, peso y estatura de los miembros de equipos atléticos, fechas de asistencia, nivel de grado, el estado de la inscripción, honores y premios recibidos en la escuela, la escuela que asistió recientemente y la dirección de correo electrónico.

**Nota:** Mi hijo/a y yo entendemos que la ley federal requiere que el distrito de información a los reclutadores militares e instituciones de educación superior, previa solicitud, el nombre, dirección y número de teléfono de los estudiantes de secundaria matriculados en el distrito, **a menos que yo (o el estudiante elegible) nos oponamos por escrito**.

Si usted desea una copia del manual del alumno para su revisión, póngase en contacto con la oficina de la escuela de su hijo/a.

_____	_____	_____
Nombre de Estudiante en letra de molde	Firma de Estudiante	Grado
_____	_____	_____
Nombre del padre/tutor En letra de molde	firma de padre/guardian	Fecha