McKinney ISD
Student
Handbook
2023–2024



Independent School District

#### 2023-24 School Year

If you have difficulty accessing the information in this document because of disability, please contact the campus administrator.

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#### **Preface Parents and Students:**

Welcome to the new school year!

Education is a team effort. Students, parents, teachers, and other staff members working together will make this a successful year.

The McKinney ISD's Student Handbook is a general reference guide that is divided into two sections:

**Section One: Parental Rights** describes certain parental rights as specified in state or federal law.

**Section Two: Other Important Information for Parents and Students** is organized alphabetically by topic. Where applicable, the topics are further organized by grade level.

**Note:** Unless otherwise noted, the term "parent" refers to the parent, legal guardian, any person granted some other type of lawful control of a student, or any other person who has agreed to assume school-related responsibility for a student.

The Student Handbook is designed to align with law, board-adopted policy, and the Student Code of Conduct, a board-adopted document intended to promote school safety and an atmosphere for learning. The Student Handbook is not meant to be a complete statement of all policies, procedures, or rules in any given circumstance.

In case of conflicts between board policy (including the Student Code of Conduct) and any Student Handbook provision, the district will follow board policy and the Student Code of Conduct.

Therefore, parents and students should become familiar with the McKinney ISD's Student Code of Conduct. To review the Code of Conduct, visit the district's website at <a href="www.mckinneyisd.net">www.mckinneyisd.net</a>. State law requires that the Code of Conduct be prominently displayed or made available for review at each campus.

The Student Handbook is updated annually; however, policy adoption and revisions may occur throughout the year. The district encourages parents to stay informed of proposed policy changes by attending board meetings and reviewing communications explaining changes in policy or other rules that affect Student Handbook provisions. The district reserves the right to modify the Student Handbook at any time. Notice of revisions will be provided as is reasonably practical.

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

A hard copy of either the Student Code of Conduct or Student Handbook can be requested at the school campus.

**Note:** References to board policy codes are included for ease of reference. The hard copy of the district's official policy manual is available for review in the district administration office, and an unofficial electronic copy is available at <a href="https://www.mckinneyisd.net">www.mckinneyisd.net</a>

The policy manual includes:

- Legally referenced (LEGAL) policies that contain provisions from federal and state laws and regulations, case law, and other legal authorities that provide the legal framework for school districts.
- Board-adopted (LOCAL) policies that articulate the board's choices and values regarding district practices.

For questions about the material in this handbook, please contact the campus administrator.

Complete and return to the student's campus the following forms (provided in the forms packet distributed at the beginning of the year or upon enrollment):

- Acknowledgment of Electronic Distribution of Student Handbook
- Notice Regarding Directory Information and Parent's Response Regarding Release of Student Information,
- Parent's Objection to the Release of Student Information to Military Recruiters and Institutions of Higher Education (if you choose to restrict the release of information to these entities), and
- Consent/Opt-Out Form for participation in third-party surveys.

[See Objecting to the Release of Directory Information on page 8 and Consent Required Before Student Participation in a Federally Funded Survey on page 9 for more information.]

#### Accessibility

If you have difficulty accessing this handbook because of a disability, please contact the campus administrator.

#### **Section One: Parental Rights**

This section describes certain parental rights as specified in state or federal law.

Working Together

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

- Encouraging your child to put a high priority on education and working with your child on a daily basis to make the most of the educational opportunities the school provides.
- Utilizing the Naviance Course Planner for grades 6-12. For more information see http://www.mckinneyisd.net/secondary-student-support/academic-planning-guides/ and contact your campus counselor.
- 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 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 of the graduation programs with your child, once your child begins enrolling in courses that earn high school credit.
- Monitoring your child's academic progress and contacting teachers as needed.
- Attending scheduled conferences and requesting additional conferences as needed. To schedule a telephone or in-person conference with a teacher, school counselor, or principal, please call the school office for an appointment. The teacher will return your call or meet with you during his or her conference period before or after school.
- Becoming a school volunteer.
- Participating in campus parent organizations. For a listing of parent organizations, contact the campus principal.
- 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, or contact the campus principal.
- 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].
- Serving on a committee to determine criteria to be used to evaluate the overall performance of the District and each campus' community and student engagement levels. For information, 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 wellbeing.
- Attending school board meetings to learn more about District operations. [See policies at BE and BED for more information.]
- Understanding graduation requirements utilizing APG. For more information see <a href="http://www.mckinneyisd.net/secondary-student-support/academic-planningguides/">http://www.mckinneyisd.net/secondary-student-support/academic-planningguides/</a> and contact your campus counselor.
- Attend Parent Engagement Sessions.

#### **Parent Involvement Coordinator**

The Parent Involvement Coordinator, who works with parents of students participating in Title I programs, is Jennifer Akins and may be contacted at 469-302-4150.

#### Consent, Opt-Out, and Refusal Rights

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

Unless required under state or federal law, a district employee will not conduct a psychological examination, test, or treatment without obtaining prior written parental consent.

**Note:** An evaluation may be legally required under special education rules or by the Texas Education Agency for child abuse investigations and reports.

#### **Consent to Human Sexuality Instruction**

#### **Annual Notification**

As a part of the district's curriculum, students receive instruction related to human sexuality. The School Health Advisory Council (SHAC) makes recommendations for curriculum materials, and the school board adopts the materials and determines the specific content of the instruction.

Per state law, here is a summary of the district's curriculum regarding human sexuality instruction:

- McKinney ISD has developed a scope and sequence of growth and development and related body changes, which begins in 4th grade. All materials are available for review. Grades 6-12 utilize information from the health textbooks and other approved materials.
- As a parent, you are entitled to review the curriculum materials. You may 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 district website for additional information.
- A parent must sign an opt-in permission slip in grades 4-12 which will be sent home prior to instruction. A parent may remove his or her child from any part of the human sexuality instruction without academic, disciplinary, or other penalties. (See the campus principal for details.)
- Use the district's grievance procedure concerning a complaint. See Complaints and Concerns (All Grade Levels) on page 37 and FNG for information on the grievance and appeals process.

In accordance with state law, a parent may:

- Review, receive a copy of, or purchase a copy of curriculum materials depending on the copyright of the materials.
- Remove his or her child from any part of the human sexuality instruction without academic, disciplinary, or other penalties.
- Become involved in the development of this curriculum by becoming a member of the district's SHAC or attending SHAC meetings. (See the campus principal for details.)
- Use the district's grievance procedure concerning a complaint. See **Complaints and Concerns (All Grade Levels)** on page 37 and FNG(LOCAL).

State law also requires that instruction related to human sexuality, sexually transmitted diseases, or human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) or acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS):

- Present abstinence from sexual activity as the preferred choice 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, if used consistently and correctly, is the only method that is 100 percent effective in preventing pregnancy, sexually transmitted infections, and the emotional trauma associated with adolescent sexual activity.
- Direct adolescents to abstain from sexual activity before marriage as the most effective way to prevent pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases.

• 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.

[See Consent to Instruction of Prevention of Child Abuse, Family Violence, Dating Violence, and Sex Trafficking on page 6.]

#### **Consent Before Human Sexuality Instruction**

Before a student receives human sexuality instruction, the district must obtain written consent from the student's parent. Parents will be sent a request for written consent at least 14 days before the instruction will begin.

# Consent to Instruction on Prevention of Child Abuse, Family Violence, Dating Violence, and Sex Trafficking

Before a student receives instruction on the prevention of child abuse, family violence, dating violence and sex trafficking, the district must obtain written consent from the student's parent. Parents will be sent a request for written consent at least 14 days before the instruction will begin.

#### **Annual Notification**

Students receive instruction related to the prevention of child abuse, family violence, dating violence, and sex trafficking. The School Health Advisory Council (SHAC) makes recommendations for curriculum materials, and the school board adopts the materials and determines the specific content of the instruction.

- Students receive developmentally appropriate instruction related to the prevention of child abuse, family violence, dating violence, and sex trafficking. The School Health Advisory Council (SHAC) makes recommendations for curriculum materials, and the school board adopts the materials and determines the specific content of the instruction. For further information, see the district's abuse prevention instruction website.
- As a parent, you are entitled to review the curriculum materials. You may 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 district website for additional information.
- A parent must sign an opt-in permission slip in grades 6-12 which will be sent home prior to instruction. A parent may remove his or her child from any part of the abuse prevention instruction without academic, disciplinary, or other penalties. (See the campus principal for details.)
- Remove his or her child from any part of this instruction without academic, disciplinary, or other penalties.
- Use the district's grievance procedure concerning a complaint. See Complaints and Concerns (All Grade Levels) on page 37 and FNG for information on the grievance and appeals process.

In accordance with state law, a parent may:

- Review, receive a copy of, or purchase a copy of curriculum materials depending on the
  copyright of the materials. As required by law, any curriculum materials in the public domain
  used in this instruction will be posted on the district's website at the location indicated above.
- Remove his or her child from any part of this instruction without academic, disciplinary, or other penalties.

- Become involved in the development of this curriculum by becoming a member of the district's SHAC or attending SHAC meetings. (See the campus principal for details.)
- Use the district's grievance procedure concerning a complaint. See Complaints and Concerns (All Grade Levels) on page 37 and policy FNG for information on the grievance and appeals process.

[See Consent to Human Sexuality Instruction on page 5; Dating Violence on page 42; and Child Sexual Abuse, Trafficking, and Other Maltreatment of Children on page 31]

#### **Consent to Provide a Mental Health Care Service**

The district will not provide a mental health care service to a student or conduct a medical screening of a student as part of the district's intervention procedures except as permitted by law.

The district has established procedures for recommending to a parent an intervention for a student with early warning signs of mental health concerns, substance abuse, or suicide risk.

#### [See **Mental Health Support** on page 67]

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

Teachers may display a student's work in classrooms or elsewhere on campus as recognition of student achievement without seeking prior parental consent. These displays may include personally identifiable student information. Student work includes:

- Artwork
- Special projects
- Photographs
- Original videos or voice recordings
- Other original works

However, the district will seek parental consent before displaying a student's work on the district's website, a website affiliated or sponsored by the district (such as a campus or classroom website), or in district publications, which may include printed materials, videos, or other methods of mass communication.

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

A student under age 14 must have parental permission to participate in the district's <a href="Parenting and Paternity Awareness Program">Paternity Awareness Program</a> (<a href="https://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/child-support/programs-and-initiatives/parenting-and-paternity-awareness-papa/papa-educators/papa-curriculum">Paternity-awareness-papa/papa-educators/papa-curriculum</a>). This program was developed by the Office of the Texas Attorney General and the State Board of Education (SBOE) to be incorporated into health education classes.

#### Consent to Video or Audio Record a Student when Not Already Permitted by Law

State law permits the school to make a video or voice recording without parental permission when it:

- Is to be used for school safety,
- Relates to classroom instruction or a cocurricular or extracurricular activity,

- Relates to media coverage of the school, or
- Relates to the promotion of student safety as provided by law for a student receiving special education services in certain settings.

In other circumstances, the district will seek written parental consent before making a video or voice recording of a student.

Please note that parents and visitors to a classroom, both virtual and in person, may not record video or audio or take photographs or other still images without permission from the teacher or other school official.

#### **Opting Out of Advanced Mathematics in Grades 6-8**

The district will automatically enroll a student in grade 6 in an advanced mathematics course if the student performed in the top 40 percent on the grade 5 mathematics STAAR or a local measure that demonstrates proficiency in the student's grade 5 mathematics course work.

Enrollment in an advanced mathematics course in grade 6 will enable students to enroll in Algebra I in grade 8 and advanced mathematics in grades 9-12.

The student's parent may opt the student out of automatic enrollment in an advanced mathematics course.

#### **Limiting Electronic Communications between Students and District Employees**

The district permits teachers and other approved employees to use electronic communications with students within the scope of professional responsibilities, as described by district guidelines.

For example, a teacher may create a social networking page for his or her class to relay information regarding class work, homework, and tests. A parent is welcome to access such a page.

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

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 extra-curricular 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 student's education records without written consent.

"Directory information" is information that, if released, is generally not considered harmful or an invasion of privacy. Examples include:

- A student's photograph (for publication in the school yearbook)
- A student's name and grade level (for communicating class and teacher assignments)

- 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)
- 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.

The District shall not release any student directory information to third-party requestors except as required by law. "Directory information" means information contained in an education record of a student that is not considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if disclosed. The District will use "directory information", as defined above, for school-sponsored purposes, unless the parent requests confidentiality of this information. Further, this information will not be used for other purposes without the consent of the parent or eligible student. Unless you object to the use of your child's information for these limited purposes, the school will not need to ask your permission each time the District wishes to use this information for the school-sponsored purposes listed above.

Note: Also see Authorized Inspection and Use of Student Records on page 13.

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

Unless a parent has advised the district not to release his or her student's information, the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) requires the district to comply with requests from military recruiters or institutions of higher education to provide the following information about students:

- Name
- Address
- Telephone listing

Military recruiters may also have access to a student's district-provided email address, unless a parent has advised the district not to release this information.

[See Parent's Objection to the Release of Student Information to Military Recruiters and Institutions of Higher Education, included in the forms packet.]

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

#### Consent Required Before Student Participation in a Federally Funded Survey

The Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA) provides parents certain rights regarding participation in surveys, the collection and use of information for marketing purposes, and certain physical exams.

A parent has the right to consent before a student is required to submit to a survey funded by the U.S. Department of Education that concerns any of the following protected areas:

- Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or the student's parent
- Mental or psychological problems of the student or the student's family
- Sex behavior or attitudes

- Illegal, antisocial, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior
- Critical appraisals of individuals with whom the student has a close family relationship
- Legally recognized privileged relationships, such as with lawyers, doctors, and ministers
- Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or parent
- Income, except when the information is required by law and will be used to determine the student's eligibility for a program

A parent may inspect the survey or other instrument and any corresponding instructional materials used in connection with such a survey. [See policy EF(LEGAL) for more information.]

# "Opting Out" of Participation in Other Types of Surveys or Screenings and the Disclosure of Personal Information

The PPRA gives parents the right to receive notice and an opportunity to opt a student out of:

- Activities involving the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information gathered from the child for the purpose of marketing, selling, or otherwise disclosing that information to others.
- Any nonemergency, invasive physical examination or screening required as a condition of attendance, administered by the school or its agent, and not necessary to protect the immediate health and safety of the student.

Exceptions are hearing, vision, or spinal screenings, or any physical examination or screening permitted or required under state law. [See policies EF and FFAA for more information.]

A parent may inspect:

- Protected information surveys of students and surveys created by a third party
- Instruments used to collect personal information from students for any of the above marketing, sales, or other distribution purposes
- Instructional material used as part of the educational curriculum

The ED provides extensive information about the <u>Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment</u> (<a href="https://studentprivacy.ed.gov/resources/protection-pupil-rights-amendment-ppra-general-guidance">https://studentprivacy.ed.gov/resources/protection-pupil-rights-amendment-ppra-general-guidance</a>), including a PPRA Complaint Form (<a href="https://studentprivacy.ed.gov/file-a-complaint">https://studentprivacy.ed.gov/file-a-complaint</a>).

# Removing a Student from Instruction or Excusing a Student from a Required Component of Instruction

See Consent to Human Sexuality Instruction on page 5 and Consent to Instruction on Prevention of Child Abuse, Family Violence, Dating Violence, and Sex Trafficking on page 6 for information on a parent's right to remove a student from such instruction.

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

State law designates the week of September 17 as Celebrate Freedom Week and requires all social studies classes to provide the following:

- Instruction concerning the intent, meaning, and importance of the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution
- A specific recitation from the Declaration of Independence for students in grades 3-12.

Per state law, a student may be excused from recitation of a portion of the Declaration of Independence if any of the following apply:

- A parent provides a written statement requesting that his or her child be excused.
- The district determines that the student has a conscientious objection to the recitation.
- A parent is a representative of a foreign government to whom the U.S. government extends diplomatic immunity.

[See policy EHBK(LEGAL) for more information.]

#### Reciting the Pledges to the U.S. and Texas Flags

A parent may request that his or her child be excused from participation in the daily recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. flag and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Texas flag. The request must be made in writing.

State law, however, requires that all students participate in one minute of silence following recitation of the pledges.

[See **Pledges of Allegiance and a Minute of Silence** on page 76 and policy EC(LEGAL) for more information.]

#### **Religious or Moral Beliefs**

A parent may remove his or her child temporarily from the classroom if a scheduled instructional activity conflicts with the parent's religious or moral beliefs.

The removal may not be used to avoid a test and may not extend for an entire semester. The student must also satisfy grade-level and graduation requirements as determined by the school and by state law.

#### **Tutoring or Test Preparation**

A teacher may determine that a student needs additional targeted assistance for the student to achieve mastery in state-developed essential knowledge and skills based on:

- Informal observations
- Evaluative data such as grades earned on assignments or tests
- Results from diagnostic assessments

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, districts must obtain parental permission before removing a student from a regularly scheduled class for remedial tutoring or test preparation for more than ten percent of the days the class is offered.

If a district offers tutorial services to students, state law requires a student with a grade below 70 for a reporting period to attend.

[For questions about school-provided tutoring programs, contact the student's teacher and see policies EC and EHBC. See **Standardized Testing** on page 88 for information regarding required accelerated instruction after a student fails to perform satisfactorily on certain statemandated tests.]

#### Right of Access to Student Records, Curriculum Materials, and District Records/Policies

#### **Parent Review of Instructional Materials**

A parent has the 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, whether instruction is delivered in-person, virtually, or remotely.

The district will make instructional materials available for parent review no later than 30 days before the school year begins and for at least 30 days after the school year ends. However, tests that have not yet been administered will not be made available for parent examination.

The district will provide login credentials to each student's parent for any learning management system or online learning portal used in instruction to facilitate parent access and review.

A parent is also entitled to request that the school allow the student to take home instructional materials the student uses. The school may ask the student to return the materials at the beginning of the next school day.

A school must provide printed versions of electronic instructional materials to a student if the student does not have reliable access to technology at home.

#### **District Review of Instructional Materials**

A parent may request that the district conduct an instructional material review in a math, English Language Arts, science, or social studies class in which the parent's student is enrolled to determine alignment with state standards and the level of rigor for the grade level.

The district is not required to conduct an instructional material review for a specific subject area or grade level at a specific campus more than once per school year.

For more information about requesting an instructional material review, contact the campus principal.

#### **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 the Student Code of Conduct and policy FO(LEGAL) for more information.]

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

In accordance with the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), a parent may request information regarding any federal, state, or district policy related to his or her child's participation in required assessments.

#### **Student Records**

#### **Accessing Student Records**

A parent may review his or her child's 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
- Records relating to assistance provided for learning difficulties, including information collected regarding any intervention strategies used with the child, as the term "intervention strategy" is defined by law
- State assessment instruments that have been administered to the child
- Teaching materials and tests used in the child's classroom

#### Authorized Inspection and Use of Student Records

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents and eligible students certain rights regarding student education records.

For purposes of student records, an "eligible" student is anyone age 18 or older or who attends a postsecondary educational institution. These rights, as discussed here and at **Objecting to the Release of Directory Information** on page 8, are the right to:

- Inspect and review student records within 45 days after the day the school receives a request for access.
- Request an amendment to a student record the parent or eligible student believes is inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of FERPA.
- 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.
- <u>File a complaint</u> (<a href="https://studentprivacy.ed.gov/file-a-complaint">https://studentprivacy.ed.gov/file-a-complaint</a>) with the U.S. Department of Education concerning failures by the school to comply with FERPA requirements.

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 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 restricted to an eligible student or a student's parent unless the school receives a copy of a court order terminating parental rights or the right to access a student's education records. A parent's rights regarding access to student records are not affected by the parent's marital status.

Federal law requires that control of the records goes to the student as soon as the student:

- Reaches the age of 18;
- Is emancipated by a court; or
- Enrolls in a postsecondary educational institution.

However, the parent may continue to have access to the records 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 when school officials have what federal law refers to as a "legitimate educational interest" in a student's records.

Legitimate educational interest may include:

- 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
- Investigating or evaluating programs

School officials may include:

- Board members and employees, such as the superintendent, administrators, and principals
- Teachers, school counselors, diagnosticians, and support staff (including district health or medical staff)
- A person or company with whom the district has contracted or allowed to provide a specific 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 person appointed to serve on a team to support the district's safe and supportive school program
- A parent or student serving on a school committee
- A parent or student assisting a school official in the performance of his or her duties

FERPA also permits the disclosure of personally identifiable information without written consent:

- 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, the Texas Education Agency, the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture's office, and Child Protective Services (CPS) caseworkers or, in certain cases, other child welfare representatives.
- To individuals or entities granted access in response to a subpoena or court order.
- To another school, district/system, or postsecondary educational institution to which a student seeks or intends to enroll or in which the student already is enrolled.

- In connection with financial aid for which a student has applied or has received.
- To accrediting organizations to carry out accrediting functions.
- To organizations conducting studies for, or on behalf of, the school 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 directory information-designated details. [See **Objecting to the Release of Directory Information** on page 8 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 campus 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 wants to inspect the student's records should submit a written request to the custodian of records identifying the records he or she wants to inspect.

Records may be reviewed in person during regular school hours. The records custodian or designee will be available to explain the record and to answer questions.

A parent or eligible student who submits 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 the records.

The address of the superintendent's office is 1 Duval St., McKinney, Texas 75069. Please find the address and contact number for your child's school by contacting 469-302-4000.

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 custodian of records. The request must clearly identify the part of the record that should be corrected and include an explanation of how the information 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 after the hearing the records are not amended, the parent or eligible student has 30 school days to place a statement 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 complaint process found in policy FNG(LOCAL). A grade issued by a teacher can be changed only if the board of trustees determines that the grade is arbitrary, erroneous, or inconsistent with the district's grading guidelines.

[See Report Cards/Progress Reports and Conferences on page 79, Complaints and Concerns on page 37, and Finality of Grades at policy FNG(LEGAL).]

The district's student records policy is found at policy FL(LEGAL) and (LOCAL) and is available at the principal's or superintendent's office <a href="https://www.mckinneyisd.net/">https://www.mckinneyisd.net/</a>.

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

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

A parent may request information regarding the professional qualifications of his or her child's teachers, including whether the teacher:

- Has met state qualification and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction;
- Has an emergency permit or other provisional status for which state requirements have been waived; and
- Is currently teaching in the field or discipline of his or her certification.

The parent also has the right to request information about the qualifications of any paraprofessional who may provide services to the child.

#### A Student with Exceptionalities or Special Circumstances

#### **Children of Military Families**

The Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunities for Military Children
(https://www.dodea.edu/partnership/interstatecompact.cfm) entitles children of military families to flexibility regarding certain district and state requirements, including:

- Immunization requirements
- Grade level, course, or educational program placement
- Eligibility requirements for participation in extracurricular activities
- Enrollment in the Texas Virtual School Network (TXVSN)
- Graduation requirements

The district will excuse absences related to a student visiting a parent, including a stepparent or legal guardian, who is:

- Called to active duty
- On leave
- Returning from a deployment of at least four months

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 <u>Military Family Resources at the Texas Education</u> <u>Agency (https://tea.texas.gov/about-tea/other-services/military-family-resources)</u>.

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

#### Multiple-Birth Siblings

State law permits a parent of multiple-birth siblings (for example, twins, triplets) assigned to the same grade and campus to request in writing that the children be placed in either the same classroom or separate classrooms.

Written requests must be submitted by the 14th day after the students' enrollment. [See policy FDB(LEGAL) for more information.]

#### Safety Transfers/Assignments

The board or its designee will honor a parent's request to transfer his or her child to another classroom or campus if the district has determined that the child has been a victim of bullying, including cyberbullying, as defined by Education Code 37.0832.

The board may transfer a student who has engaged in bullying to another classroom. The board will consult with the parent of a child who has engaged in bullying before deciding to transfer the child to another campus.

Transportation is not provided for a transfer to another campus. Contact the student services department for more information.

[See **Bullying** on page 28, and policies FDB and FFI for more information.]

The district will honor a parent's request for the transfer of his or her child to a safe public school in the district if the child attends a school identified by the Texas Education Agency as persistently dangerous or if the child has been a victim of a violent criminal offense while at school or on school grounds.

[See policy FDE for more information.]

The board will honor a parent's request for the transfer of his or her child to another district campus or a neighboring district if the child has been the victim of 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 the assault. In accordance with policy FDE, if the victim does not wish to transfer, the board will transfer the assailant.

#### Student Use of a Service/Assistance Animal

A parent of a student who uses a service/assistance animal because of the student's disability must submit a written request to the principal before bringing the service/assistance animal on campus. The district will try to accommodate a request as soon as possible but will do so within ten district business days.

#### A Student in the Conservatorship of the State (Foster Care)

In an effort to provide educational stability, the district will provide enrollment and registration assistance, as well as other educational services throughout the student's enrollment, to 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).

A student in the conservatorship (custody) of the state who enrolls in the district after the beginning of the school year will be allowed credit-by-examination opportunities at any point during the year.

The district will assess the student's available records to determine transfer of credit for subjects and courses taken before the student's enrollment in the district.

The district will award partial course credit when the student only passes one half of a two-half course. [For provisions on partial course credit for students who are not in the conservatorship of the state, see EI(LOCAL).]

A student in the conservatorship of the state who is moved outside the district's or school's attendance boundaries — or who is initially placed in the conservatorship of the state and moved outside the district's or school's boundaries — is entitled to remain at the school the student was attending prior to the placement or move until the student reaches the highest grade level at that particular school.

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 a diploma from the previous district if the student meets its graduation criteria.

For a student in the conservatorship of the state who is eligible for a tuition and fee exemption under state law and likely to be in care on the day preceding the student's 18th birthday, the district will:

- Assist the student with the completion of applications for admission or financial aid.
- Arrange and accompany the student on campus visits.
- Assist in researching and applying for private or institution-sponsored scholarships.
- Identify whether the student is a candidate for appointment to a military academy.
- Assist the student in registering and preparing for college entrance examinations, including (subject to the availability of funds) arranging for the payment of examination fees by the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS).
- Coordinate contact between the student and a liaison officer for students formerly in the conservatorship of the state.

Please contact the District's foster care liaison with any questions at 469-302-4000.

[See Credit by Examination for Advancement/Acceleration on page 41 and Course Credit on page 40.]

#### A Student Who Is Homeless

A parent is encouraged to inform the district if his or her child is experiencing homelessness. District staff can share resources that may be able to assist families.

A student who is 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 at any point during the year (if the student enrolled in the district after the beginning of the school year), per State Board of Education (SBOE) rules

- Assessment of the student's available records to determine transfer of credit for subjects and courses taken before the student's enrollment in the district
- Awarding partial credit when a student passes only one half of a two-half course
- Eligibility requirements for participation in extracurricular activities
- Graduation requirements

Federal law allows a student who is homeless to remain enrolled in the "school of origin" or to enroll in a new school in the attendance area where the student is currently residing.

If a student who is homeless in grade 11 or 12 transfers to another district but does not meet the graduation requirements of the receiving district, state law allows the student to request a diploma from the previous district if the student meets the criteria to graduate from the previous district.

A student or parent who is dissatisfied by the district's eligibility, school selection, or enrollment decision may appeal through policy FNG(LOCAL). The district will expedite local timelines, when possible, for prompt dispute resolution.

Please contact the District's homeless liaison with any questions at 469-302-4000.

[See Credit by Examination for Advancement/Acceleration on page 41 and Course Credit on page 40.]

#### A Student Who Has Learning Difficulties or Who Needs Special Education or Section 504 Services

For those students who are having difficulty in the regular classroom, all school districts must consider 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.

If a student is experiencing learning difficulties, his or her parent may contact the individuals listed below to learn about the school's overall general education referral or screening system for support services.

This system links students to a variety of support options, including making a referral for a special education evaluation or for a Section 504 evaluation to determine whether the student needs specific aids, accommodations, or services. A parent may request an evaluation for special education or Section 504 services at any time.

#### **Special Education Referrals**

If a parent makes a written request for an initial evaluation for special education services to the director of special education services or to a district administrative employee of the school district, the district must respond no later than 15 school days after receiving the request. At that time, the district must give the parent prior written notice of whether it agrees or refuses to evaluate the student, along with a copy of the <u>Notice of Procedural Safeguards</u> (<a href="https://fw.escapps.net/Display">https://fw.escapps.net/Display</a> Portal/publications). If the district agrees to evaluate the student, it must also give the parent the opportunity to give written consent for the evaluation.

**Note:** A request for a special education evaluation may be made verbally; it does not need to be made in writing. Districts must still comply with all federal prior-written notices and procedural safeguard requirements as well as the requirements for identifying, locating, and evaluating

children who are suspected of having a disability and in need of special education. However, a verbal request does not require the district to respond within the 15 school-day timeline.

If the district decides to evaluate the student, it must complete the student's initial evaluation and evaluation report no later than 45 school days from the day it receives a parent's written consent. However, if the student is absent from school during the evaluation period for three or more school days, the evaluation period will be extended by the number of school days equal to the number of school days that the student is absent.

There is an exception to the 45-school-day timeline. If the district receives a parent's consent for the initial evaluation at least 35 but less than 45 school days before the last instructional day of the school year, it must complete the written report and provide a copy of the report to the parent by June 30 of that year. However, if the student is absent from school for three or more days during the evaluation period, the June 30 due date no longer applies. Instead, the general timeline of 45 school days plus extensions for absences of three or more days will apply.

Upon completing the evaluation, the district must give the parent a copy of the evaluation report at no cost.

Additional information regarding special education is available from the school district in a companion document titled <u>Parent's Guide to the Admission, Review, and Dismissal Process</u> (https://fw.escapps.net/Display Portal/publications).

#### **Contact Person for Special Education Referrals**

The designated contact person regarding options for a student experiencing learning difficulties or regarding a referral for evaluation for special education services is the campus administration.

For questions regarding post-secondary transitions, including the transition from education to employment, for students receiving special education services, contact the campus administration.

#### Section 504 Referrals

Each school district must have standards and procedures in place for the evaluation and placement of students in the district's Section 504 program. Districts must also implement a system of procedural safeguards that includes:

- Notice
- An opportunity for a parent or guardian to examine relevant records
- An impartial hearing with an opportunity for participation by the parent or guardian and representation by counsel
- A review procedure

#### **Contact Person for Section 504 Referrals**

The designated person to contact regarding options for a student experiencing learning difficulties or regarding a referral for evaluation for Section 504 services is the campus 504 coordinator.

[See A Student with Physical or Mental Impairments Protected under Section 504 on page 21.]

Visit these websites for information regarding students with disabilities and the family:

- <u>Legal Framework for the Child-Centered Special Education Process</u> (https://fw.escapps.net/Display Portal?destination=/)
- Partner Resource Network (http://prntexas.org/)
- SPEDTEX: Special Education Information Center (https://www.spedtex.org/)
- Texas First Project (http://www.texasprojectfirst.org/)

## Notification to Parents of Intervention Strategies for Learning Difficulties Provided to Students in General Education

In accordance with state law, the district will annually notify parents if their child receives assistance for learning difficulties. Details of such assistance can include intervention strategies. This notice is not intended for those students already enrolled in a special education program.

#### A Student Who Receives 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, state law permits the parent or guardian to request that other students residing in the household be transferred to the same campus — if the grade level for the transferring student is offered on that campus.

The student receiving special education services would be entitled to transportation; however, the district is not required to provide transportation to other children in the household.

The parent or guardian should contact the school principal regarding transportation needs prior to requesting a transfer for other children in the home. [See policy FDB(LOCAL) for more information.]

#### A Student Who Speaks 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 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.

[See Emergent Bilingual Students on page 53 and Special Programs on page 88.]

#### A Student with Physical or Mental Impairments Protected under Section 504

A student with 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 whether the student needs services and supports under Section 504 in order to receive a free appropriate public education (FAPE), as defined in federal law.

[See A Student Who Has Learning Difficulties or Who Needs Special Education or Section **504 Services** on page 19 and policy FB for more information.]

#### **Section Two: Other Important Information for Parents and Students**

This section contains important information on academics, school activities, and school operations and requirements.

It is organized alphabetically to serve as a quick-reference guide. Where applicable, the topics are further organized by grade level.

Parents and children should take a moment together to become familiar with the issues addressed in this section. For guidance on a particular topic, please contact the campus principal.

#### Absences/Attendance

Regular school attendance is essential. Absences from class may result in serious disruption of a student's education. The student and parent should avoid unnecessary absences.

Two important state laws are discussed below — one dealing with compulsory attendance and the other with how attendance affects the award of a student's final grade or course credit.

#### **Compulsory Attendance**

#### **Prekindergarten and Kindergarten**

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

#### Ages 6-18

State law requires that a student who is at least six years of age, or who is younger than six years of age and has previously been enrolled in first grade, and who has not yet reached their 19th birthday, shall 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 a student in kindergarten-grade 2 to attend any assigned accelerated reading instruction program. Parents will be notified in writing if their child is assigned to an accelerated reading instruction program based on a diagnostic reading instrument.

A student will be required to attend any assigned accelerated instruction program before or after school or during the summer if the student does not meet the passing standards on an applicable subject area state assessment.

#### 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 the student incurs 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 for more information.]

#### **Compulsory Attendance — Exemptions**

#### All Grade Levels

State law allows exemptions to the compulsory attendance requirements for the following activities and events, as long as the student makes up all work:

- Religious holy days
- Required court appearances
- Appearing at a governmental office to obtain U.S. citizenship
- Taking part in a US naturalization oath ceremony
- Serving as an election clerk
- Health-care appointments for the student or a child of the student, including absences related to autism services
- Absences resulting from a serious or life-threatening illness or related treatment that makes a student's attendance infeasible, with certification by a physician
- For students in the conservatorship 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.

For children of military families, absences of up to five days will be excused for a student to visit a parent, stepparent, or legal guardian going to, on leave from, or returning from certain deployments. [See **Children of Military Families** on page 16.]

Note that documented health-care appointments may include telehealth appointments. Students who are physically on campus will not be allowed to participate in telehealth or other online appointments without specific authorization from an appropriate administrator. Students should not use district-issued technology, including wifi or internet, for telehealth appointments because use of district-owned equipment and its network systems is not private and may be monitored by the district. For more information, see **Telecommunication and Other Electronic Devices** on page 87.

#### Secondary Grade Levels

The district will allow a student who is 15 years of age or older to be absent for one day to obtain a learner license and one day to obtain a driver's license, provided that the board has authorized such excused absences under policy FEA(LOCAL). The student will be required to provide documentation of his or her visit to the driver's license office for each absence and must make up any work missed.

#### [See **Driver License Attendance Verification** on page 27.]

The district will allow junior and senior students to be absent for up to two days per year to visit a college or university if the following conditions are met:

- The board has authorized such excused absences under policy FEA(LOCAL).
- The principal has approved the student's absence.
- The student follows campus procedures to verify the visit and makes up any work missed.

The district will allow a student 17 years old or older to be absent for up to four days during the period the student is enrolled in high school to pursue enlistment in the U.S. armed services or Texas National Guard, provided the student verifies these activities to the district.

The district will allow a student to be absent for up to two days during the student's junior year and two days during the student's senior year for a career investigation day to visit a professional at that individual's workplace to determine the student's interest in pursuing a career in the professional's field, provided the student verifies these activities to the district.

The district will allow a student to be absent for up to two days per school year to serve 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; or
- An election clerk, if the student makes up any work missed.

The district will allow a student in grades 6-12 to be absent for the purpose of sounding "Taps" at a military honors funeral for a deceased veteran.

#### **Compulsory Attendance** — Failure to Comply

#### **All Grade Levels**

School employees must investigate and report violations of the compulsory attendance law.

A student who is absent without permission from school, any class, any required special program, or any required tutorial will be considered in violation of the compulsory attendance law and subject to disciplinary action.

#### Students with Disabilities

If a student with a disability is experiencing attendance issues, the student's ARD or Section 504 committee will determine whether the attendance issues warrant an evaluation, a reevaluation, and/or modifications to the student's individualized education program or Section 504 plan, as appropriate.

#### Ages 6-18

When a student age 6-18 incurs three or more unexcused absences within a four-week period, the law requires the school to send notice to the parent.

The notice will:

- Remind the parent of his or her duty to monitor the student's attendance and require the student to attend school.
- Request a conference between school administrators and the parent.
- Inform the parent that the district will initiate truancy prevention measures, including a
  behavior improvement plan, school-based community service, referrals to counseling or
  other social services, or other appropriate measures.

The truancy prevention facilitator for the district is Kevin James. He may be reached at 469-302-4000.

For any questions about student absences, parents should contact the facilitator or any other campus administrator.

A court of law may impose penalties against the parent if a school-aged student is deliberately not attending school. The district may file a complaint against the parent if the student incurs ten or more unexcused absences within a six-month period in the same school year.

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

[See policies FEA(LEGAL) and FED(LEGAL) for more information.]

#### Age 19 and Older

After a student age 19 or older incurs a third unexcused absence, the district is required by law to send the student a letter 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.

#### **Attendance for Credit or Final Grade (All Grade Levels)**

To receive credit or a final grade in a class, a student must attend the class at least 90 percent of the days it is offered. A student who attends at least 75 percent but fewer than 90 percent of the days may receive credit or a final grade if he or she completes a plan, approved by the principal, that allows the student to fulfill the class's instructional requirements. If a student is involved in a criminal or juvenile court proceeding, the judge presiding over the case must also approve the plan before the student receives credit or a final grade.

If a student attends fewer than 75 percent of the class days or does not complete the principalapproved plan, then the attendance review committee will determine whether there are extenuating circumstances for the absences and how the student can regain credit or a final grade. [See policy FEC for more information.]

With the exception of absences due to serious or life-threatening illness or related treatment, all absences, excused or unexcused, may be held against a student's attendance requirement. To determine whether there were extenuating circumstances for any absences, the attendance committee will consider:

- Whether the student has mastered the essential knowledge and skills and maintained passing grades in the course or subject.
- Whether the student has completed makeup work satisfactorily. If the student completes
  makeup work, absences listed under Compulsory Attendance Exemptions on page 23
  and absences for extracurricular activities will be considered extenuating circumstances.
- Whether the student or the student's parent had any control over the absences.
- Any information presented by the student or parent to the committee about the absences.

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

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

The district will take official attendance every day at (*Elementary* 9:15 a.m., *Middle School*, 10:00 a.m., *High School* 9:30 a.m.).

A student absent for any portion of the day, should follow the procedures below to provide documentation of the absence.

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

A parent must provide an explanation for any absence upon the student's arrival or return to school. The student must submit a note signed by the parent. The campus may accept a phone call from the parent but reserves the right to require a written note.

A note signed by the student will not be accepted unless the student is age 18 or older or is an emancipated minor under state law.

The campus will document in its attendance records whether the absence is excused or unexcused.

**Note:** The district is not required to excuse any absence, even if the parent provides a note explaining the absence, unless the absence is an exemption under compulsory attendance laws.

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

Upon 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 absence. Otherwise, the absence may be considered unexcused and 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 absence to determine whether an absence will be excused or unexcused.

#### Certification of Absence Due to Severe Illness or Treatment

If a student is absent because of a serious or life-threatening illness or related treatment that makes a student's attendance infeasible, a parent must provide certification from a physician licensed to practice in Texas specifying the student's illness and the anticipated period of absence related to the illness or treatment.

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

A currently enrolled student seeking a driver's license shall submit the Texas Department of Public Safety Verification of Enrollment and Attendance Form (VOE), signed by the parent, to the campus central office at least 10 days before it is needed. The district will issue a VOE only if the student meets class credit or attendance requirements. The <a href="VOE form">VOE form</a> (<a href="https://www.tdlr.texas.gov/driver/forms/VOE.pdf">https://www.tdlr.texas.gov/driver/forms/VOE.pdf</a>) is available online.

Further information may be found on the <u>Texas Department of Public Safety website</u> (<a href="https://www.dps.texas.gov/section/driver-license/how-apply-texas-driver-license-teen">https://www.dps.texas.gov/section/driver-license/how-apply-texas-driver-license-teen</a>).

See Compulsory Attendance — Exemptions for Secondary Grade Levels on page 23 for information on excused absences for obtaining a learner license or driver's license.

#### Accountability under State and Federal Law (All Grade Levels)

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

 The Texas Academic Performance Report (TAPR) for the district, compiled by the Texas Education Agency (TEA), based on academic factors and ratings

- A School Report Card (SRC) for each campus in the district, compiled by TEA
- The district's financial management report, which includes the financial accountability rating assigned to the district by TEA
- Information compiled by TEA for the submission of a federal report card that is required by federal law

Accountability information can be found on the district's website at <a href="https://www.mckinneyisd.net/">https://www.mckinneyisd.net/</a>. Hard copies of any reports are available upon request to the district's administration office.

TEA maintains additional accountability and accreditation information at <u>TEA Performance</u> Reporting Division (https://tea.texas.gov/texas-schools/accountability/academic-accountability/performance-reporting).

#### **Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery Test (Grades 10-12)**

A student in grades 10-12 will be offered an opportunity to take the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery test and consult with a military recruiter.

Contact the principal for information about this opportunity.

#### **Bullying (All Grade Levels)**

The district strives to prevent bullying, in accordance with the district's policies, by promoting a positive school culture; building healthy relationships between students and staff; encouraging reporting of bullying incidents, including anonymous reporting; and investigating and addressing reported bullying incidents.

Bullying is defined in state law as a single significant act or a pattern of acts by one or more students directed at another student that exploits an imbalance of power and involves engaging in written or verbal expression, expression through electronic means, or physical conduct that:

- 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
- Is sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive enough that the action or threat creates an intimidating, threatening, or abusive educational environment for a student
- Materially and substantially disrupts the educational process or the orderly operation of a classroom or school
- Infringes on the rights of the victim at school

Bullying includes cyberbullying. Cyberbullying is defined in state law as bullying that is done using any electronic communication device, including:

- A cellular or other type of telephone
- A computer
- A camera
- Electronic mail
- Instant messaging
- Text messaging

- A social media application
- An internet website
- Any other internet-based communication tool

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
- Ostracism

The district will integrate into instruction research-based content designed to reduce bullying that is appropriate for students' age groups.

Students in elementary grades will participate in:

- Instruction designed so that students can recognize bullying behaviors and how to report them
- Age-appropriate discussions that encourage peers to intervene when they observe bullying occur
- Instruction that characterizes bullying as a behavior that results from the student's need to acquire more mature social or coping skills, not an unchangeable trait

Students in secondary grades will participate in:

- Instruction on the brain's ability to change and grow so the student recognizes bullying behavior can come from a developmental need to acquire more social skills, can change when the brain matures and learns better ways of coping, and is not an unchangeable trait
- Discussions that portray bullying as undesirable behavior and a means for attaining or maintaining social status at school, and that discourage students from using bullying as a tool for social status
- Instruction designed so that students recognize the role that reporting bullying behaviors
  plays in promoting a safe school community

The district will use an age-appropriate survey regarding school culture that includes relevant questions on bullying to identify and address student concerns.

Each campus has a committee that addresses bullying by focusing on prevention efforts and health and wellness initiatives. The committee will include parents and secondary students. For more information on this committee, including interest in serving on the committee, contact the campus principal.

If a student believes that he or she has experienced bullying or witnesses the bullying of another student, the student or parent should notify a teacher, school counselor, principal, or another district employee as soon as possible. Any district employee aware of a report of a bullying incident will relay the report to an appropriate administrator. Procedures for reporting allegations of bullying may be found on the district's website.

A student may anonymously report an alleged incident of bullying by sending an anonymous tip to the McKinney Police Department by texting one of the following keywords and tip information to 847411 (tip411) or the McKinney 411 Tip Online at <a href="https://www.mckinneyisd.net/safety-security/tip411/">https://www.mckinneyisd.net/safety-security/tip411/</a>.

The administration will investigate any allegations of bullying and related misconduct. The district will also provide notice to the parent of the alleged victim and the parent of the student alleged to have engaged in bullying.

If an investigation determines that bullying occurred, the administration will take appropriate disciplinary action and may, in certain circumstances, notify law enforcement. Disciplinary or other action may be taken even if the conduct did not rise to the level of bullying.

The district will provide research-based interventions, which may include counseling options, for students who engage in bullying behaviors, students who are targeted by bullying behaviors, and any student who witnessed bullying behaviors.

Any action taken in response to bullying will comply with state and federal law regarding students with disabilities.

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

Upon recommendation of the administration, the board may transfer a student found to have engaged in bullying to another classroom at the campus. In consultation with the student's parent, the board may transfer the student to another campus in the district.

The parent of a student who has been determined to be a victim of bullying may request that the student be transferred to another classroom or campus within the district. [See **Safety Transfers/Assignments** on page 17.]

A copy of the district's bullying 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 as an appendix.

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

[See Safety Transfers/Assignments on page 17, Dating Violence, Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation on page 42, Hazing on page 58, policy FFI, the district's Student Code of Conduct, and the district improvement plan, a copy of which can be viewed in the campus office.]

# Career and Technical Education (CTE) and Other Work-Based Programs (Secondary Grade Levels Only)

The district offers career and technical education programs as provided in the Academic Planning Guide.

District policy prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, or handicap in its vocational programs, services, and activities, as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended.

District policy prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, or handicap in its vocational programs, services, or activities, and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.

District policy also prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, handicap, or age in its employment practices as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended; and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.

The district will take steps to assure that lack of English language skills will not be a barrier to admission or participation in all educational and vocational programs.

For information about your rights or grievance procedures, contact the Title IX coordinator and the ADA/Section 504 coordinator.

[See **Nondiscrimination Statement** on page 75 for the name and contact information for the Title IX coordinator and ADA/Section 504 coordinator.]

#### Child Sexual Abuse, Trafficking, and Other Maltreatment of Children (All Grade Levels)

The district has established a plan for addressing child sexual abuse, trafficking, and other maltreatment of children, which may be accessed at <a href="http://www.mckinneyisd.net/">http://www.mckinneyisd.net/</a>. Trafficking includes both sex and labor trafficking.

#### **Warning Signs of Sexual Abuse**

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, to report the suspected abuse or neglect to law enforcement or to Child Protective Services (CPS).

A child who has been or is being sexually abused may exhibit physical, behavioral, or emotional warning signs, including:

- Difficulty sitting or walking, pain in the genital areas, and claims of stomachaches and headaches
- 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
- Withdrawal, depression, sleeping and eating disorders, and problems in school

Be aware that children and adolescents who have experienced dating violence may show similar physical, behavioral, and emotional warning signs. [See **Dating Violence**, **Discrimination**, **Harassment**, **and Retaliation** on page 42 and **Consent to Instruction on Prevention of Child Abuse**, **Family Violence**, **Dating Violence**, **and Sex Trafficking** on page 6.]

## **Warning Signs of Trafficking**

Child trafficking of any sort is prohibited by the Penal Code. Sex trafficking involves forcing a person, including a child, into sexual abuse, assault, indecency, prostitution, or pornography. Labor trafficking involves forcing a person, including a child, to engage in forced labor or services.

Traffickers are often trusted members of a child's community, such as friends, romantic partners, family members, mentors, and coaches. Some traffickers contact victims online.

Possible warning signs of sexual trafficking in children include:

- Changes in school attendance, habits, friend groups, vocabulary, demeanor, and attitude
- Sudden appearance of expensive items (for example, manicures, designer clothes, purses, technology)
- Tattoos or branding
- Refillable gift cards
- Frequent runaway episodes
- Multiple phones or social media accounts
- Provocative pictures posted online or stored on the phone
- Unexplained injuries
- Isolation from family, friends, and community
- Older romantic partners

Additional warning signs of labor trafficking in children include:

- Being unpaid, paid very little, or paid only through tips
- Being employed but not having a school-authorized work permit
- Being employed and having a work permit but clearly working outside the permitted hours for students
- Owing a large debt and being unable to pay it off
- Not being allowed breaks at work or being subjected to excessively long work hours
- Being overly concerned with pleasing an employer and/or deferring personal or educational decisions to a boss

- Not being in control of his or her own money
- Living with an employer or having an employer listed as a student's caregiver
- A desire to quit a job but not being allowed to do so

[See Consent to Instruction on Prevention of Child Abuse, Family Violence, Dating Violence, and Sex Trafficking on page 6.]

# Reporting and Responding to Sexual Abuse, Trafficking, and Other Maltreatment of Children

Anyone who suspects that a child has been or may be abused, trafficked, or neglected has a legal responsibility, under state law, to report the suspected abuse or neglect to law enforcement or to Child Protective Services (CPS).

A child who has experienced sexual abuse or any other type of abuse or neglect should be encouraged to seek out a trusted adult. Children may be more reluctant to disclose sexual abuse than physical abuse and neglect and may only disclose sexual abuse indirectly. As a parent or trusted adult, 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.

If your child is a victim of sexual abuse, trafficking, or other maltreatment, the school counselor or principal will provide information on counseling options for you and your child available in your area. The Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) also manages early intervention counseling programs.

To find out what services may be available in your county, see <u>Texas Department of Family and Protective Services</u>, <u>Programs Available in Your County</u> (<a href="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</a>)

Reports of abuse, trafficking, or neglect may be made to the CPS division of the DFPS at 1-800-252-5400 or on the web at Texas Abuse Hotline Website (www.txabusehotline.org).

## Further Resources on Sexual Abuse, Trafficking, and Other Maltreatment of Children

The following websites include resources to help increase awareness of child abuse and neglect, sexual abuse, trafficking, and other maltreatment of children:

- Child Welfare Information Gateway (https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubPDFs/whatiscan.pdf)
- KidsHealth, For Parents, Child Abuse (https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/child-abuse.html)
- Office of the Texas Governor's Child Sex Trafficking Team (https://gov.texas.gov/organization/cjd/childsextrafficking)
- <u>Human Trafficking of School-aged Children (https://tea.texas.gov/about-tea/other-services/human-trafficking-of-school-aged-children)</u>
- Child Sexual Abuse: A Parental Guide from the Texas Association Against Sexual Assault (https://taasa.org/product/child-sexual-abuse-parental-guide/)
- National Center of Safe Supportive Learning Environments: Human Trafficking in America's Schools (https://safesupportivelearning.ed.gov/human-trafficking-americas-schools)

# Class Rank/Highest-Ranking Student (Secondary Grade Levels Only)

Each student enrolled in grades 9 through 12 will receive an annual ranking based on the student's grade point average (GPA). For detailed information on class rank, including the GPA scale refer to the Academic Planning Guide (APG) and the Board policy EIC (LOCAL). [See also the COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY ADMISSIONS].

Students who enter grade 9 in the 2014-15 school year or after, will graduate under the Foundation High School Graduation plan. 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 61.

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 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 examination, on certain national college preparatory and readiness or college entrance examinations, 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 is not required to complete an Algebra II course to graduate under the foundation graduation program, and the district will annually notify a student's parent of this fact. However, the student and parent should be aware that not taking Algebra II will make a student ineligible for automatic admission to four-year public universities and colleges in Texas and for certain financial aid and grants while attending those institutions.

[See policy EIC for more information.]

# 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 12th grade and eHigh who meet specific criteria and receive parental consent to enroll in less than a full-day's schedule. Additionally, exceptions may be made in accordance with applicable federal and state laws and regulations. Once a student has enrolled in a particular course, schedule changes may only be made in limited circumstances.

For more information, contact your school counselor or refer to the Academic Planning Guide (APG).

[See **Schedule Changes** on page 83 for information related to student requests to revise their course schedule.]

# College and University Admissions and Financial Aid (All Grade Levels)

For two school years following graduation, a district student who graduates as valedictorian or in the top ten 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 distinguished level of achievement under the foundation graduation program
  (a student must graduate with at least one endorsement and must have taken Algebra II as
  one of the four required math courses); or
- Satisfies the ACT College Readiness Benchmarks or earns at least a 1500 out of 2400 on the SAT.

The student is ultimately responsible for meeting the admission requirements of the university or college, including timely submission of a completed application.

If a college or university adopts 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.

The University of Texas at Austin may limit the number of automatically admitted students to 75 percent of the University's enrollment capacity for incoming resident freshmen. From the summer 2023 term through the spring 2025 term, the University will admit the top six percent of a high school's graduating class who meet the above requirements. Additional applicants will be considered by the University through a holistic review process.

As required by law, the district will provide written notice concerning the following:

- Automatic college admission
- Curriculum requirements for financial aid
- Benefits of completing the requirements for automatic admission and financial aid
- The Texas First Early High School Completion Program, which requires a student to provide an official copy of assessment results and transcripts, as applicable, to receive credit for the assessments and credits required for early graduation under the program
- The Texas First Scholarship Program
- The Future Texas Teachers Scholarship Program

Parents and students will be asked to sign an acknowledgment that they received this information.

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

[See Class Rank/Highest-Ranking Student on page 34 for information specifically related to how the district calculates a student's rank in class, and requirements for **Graduation** on page 57 for information associated with the foundation graduation program.]

[See **Students in the Conservatorship of the State (Foster Care)** on page 17 for information on assistance in transitioning to higher education for students in foster care.]

# College Credit Courses (Secondary Grade Levels Only)

In addition to the programs offered by the District, students in grades 9–12 may earn college credit. For more information, contact the school counselor or reference the McKinney ISD Academic Planning Guide located on the District website at http://www.mckinneyisd.net/secondary-student-support/academic-planning-guides/.

# **Communications (All Grade Levels)**

#### **Parent Contact Information**

A parent is legally required to provide in writing the parent's contact information, including address, phone number, and email address.

A parent must provide the contact information to the district upon enrollment and again within two weeks after the beginning of each following school year while the student is enrolled in the district.

If the parent's contact information changes during the school year, the parent must update the information in writing no more than two weeks after the date the information changes.

A parent may update contact information by contacting the campus administration.

## **Automated Emergency Communications**

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. An emergency situation may include early dismissal, delayed opening, or restricted access to the campus due to severe weather, another emergency, or a security threat. It is crucial to notify your child's school when a phone number changes.

[See **Safety** on page 79 for information regarding contact with parents during an emergency situation.]

#### **Automated Nonemergency Communications**

Your child's school periodically sends information by automated or pre-recorded messages, text messages, or real-time phone or email communications that are closely related to the school's mission and specific to your child, your child's school, or the district.

Standard messaging rates of your wireless phone carrier may apply.

If you do not wish to receive such communications, please contact your child's principal. [See **Safety** on page 81 for information regarding contact with parents during an emergency.]

# **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 resolved informally, the board has adopted a Student and Parent Complaints/Grievances policy FNG(LOCAL). This policy can be viewed in the district's policy manual, available online at http://www.mckinneyisd.net/.The complaint forms can be accessed online at http://www.mckinneyisd.net/ or at the principal's or superintendent's office.

- To file a formal complaint a parent or student should complete and submit the complaint form.
- In general, the written complaint form should be completed and submitted to the campus principal in a timely manner.
- If the concern is not resolved, a parent or student may request a conference with the appropriate central office administrator.
- If the concern is still unresolved, the district provides a process for parents and students to appeal to the board of trustees.

# **Conduct (All Grade Levels)**

## **Applicability of School Rules**

The board has adopted a Student Code of Conduct that defines standards of acceptable behavior — on and off campus, during remote and in-person instruction, and on district vehicles — and outlines 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 summer instruction, the Student Handbook and Student Code of Conduct in place for the school year immediately preceding the summer period shall apply, unless the district amends either or both documents for the purposes of summer instruction.

## **Campus Behavior Coordinator**

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 contact information for each campus behavior coordinator is available on the district's website at <a href="http://www.mckinneyisd.net/">http://www.mckinneyisd.net/</a>.

#### **Deliveries**

Except in emergencies, delivery of messages or packages to students will not be allowed during instructional time. A parent may leave a message or a package, such as a forgotten lunch, for the student to pick up from the front office during a passing period or lunch.

## **Disruption of School Operations**

Disruption of school operations is not tolerated and may constitute a misdemeanor offense. As identified by state 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 or within 500 feet of district property includes:

- Making loud noises
- Trying to entice a student away from, or to prevent a student from attending, a required class or activity
- 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 is also considered a disruption.

#### **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 and will not be readmitted.

A parent interested in serving as a chaperone for any school social events should contact the campus principal.

#### Counseling

The district has a comprehensive school counseling program that includes:

- A guidance curriculum to help students develop their full educational potential, including the student's interests and career objectives
- A responsive services component to intervene on behalf of any student whose immediate personal concerns or problems put the student's continued educational, career, personal, or social development at risk
- An individual planning system to guide a student as the student plans, monitors, and manages the student's own educational, career, personal, and social development
- Systems to support the efforts of teachers, staff, parents, and other members of the community in promoting the educational, career, personal, and social development of students

The district will make a preview of the program, including all materials and curriculum, available to parents to review during school hours.

## **Academic Counseling**

## Elementary and Middle/Junior High School Grade Levels

The school counselor will provide information to students and parents about college and university admissions and the importance of planning for postsecondary education, including appropriate coursework and financial aid availability and requirements.

In either grade 7 or 8, each student will receive instruction on how best to 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, how to make the most of academic and career and technical education (CTE) opportunities, and the importance of postsecondary education.

The school counselor will also provide information each year a student is enrolled in high school regarding:

- The importance of postsecondary education
- The advantages of earning an endorsement and completing the foundation program with the distinguished level of achievement
- The disadvantages of pursuing a high school equivalency exam (GED) as opposed to earning a high school diploma
- Financial aid eligibility and how to apply for financial aid
- Automatic admission to state-funded Texas colleges and universities
- Eligibility requirements for the TEXAS Grant
- Availability of district programs that allow students to earn college credit
- Availability of tuition and fee assistance for postsecondary education for students in foster care
- Availability of college credit awarded by institutions of higher education to veterans and military service members for military experience, education, and training

Additionally, the school counselor can provide information about workforce opportunities after graduation or technical and trade school opportunities, including opportunities to earn industry-recognized certificates and licenses.

[See **Scholarships and Grants** on page 58 for more information.]

## Personal Counseling (All Grade Levels)

The school counselor is available to assist students with a wide range of personal, social, and family concerns, including emotional or mental health issues and substance abuse. A student who wishes to meet with the school counselor should follow the campus' accepted procedures for accessing the school 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.

If your child has experienced trauma, contact the school counselor for more information.

# **Small Group Counseling (All Grade Levels)**

The school counselor may occasionally offer small group opportunities to students on a variety of topics such as social skills, conflict resolution, study skills, managing stress, handling loss or other areas of need. Participation in small groups is voluntary and subject to parent consent. Small groups are typically conducted over a period of four to six weeks. Small group counseling is not appropriate for every student nor is it designed to provide ongoing therapeutic mental health support. Please contact your school counselor for additional information.

#### **IMPACT Counselors**

MISD has a team of specialized counselors that may provide additional individual and small group counseling services to students that complement those being provided by the school counselor. This team also assists the district with our crisis intervention and response as well as with our trauma informed care practices.

# **Harold Murphy Counseling Center**

McKinney ISD and the Department of Counseling at Texas A&M University-Commerce have collaborated to sponsor the Harold Murphy Counseling Center (HMCC). The HMCC provides valuable counseling to MISD students PreK-12th grade and their family members. Costs are assessed on a sliding scale based on income. The HMCC is located at the Greer Annex, 510 Heard Street in McKinney, phone number 469-302-6318. Please see your school counselor for details.

## **Telebehavioral Health Program**

MISD has partnered with the Children's Telebehavioral Health program to provide services to eligible students. Please see your child's counselor for additional information.

[See Mental Health Support on page 67, and Child Sexual Abuse, Trafficking, and Other Maltreatment of Children on page 31 and Dating Violence on page 42.]

## **Course Credit (Secondary Grade Levels Only)**

A student at any grade level enrolled in a high school course will earn credit for the course only if the final grade is 70 or above. For a two-part (two-semester, 1-credit course), the student's grades from both halves (semesters) will be averaged and credit will be awarded if the combined average is 70 or above. If the student's combined average is less than 70, the student will be awarded credit only for the half (semester) with the passing grade.

# Credit by Examination — If a Student Has Taken the Course/Subject (Grades 6-12)

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 or a final grade by passing an examination approved by the district's board of trustees on the essential knowledge and skills defined for that course or subject.

Examples of prior instruction include incomplete coursework due to a failed course or excessive absences, homeschooling, or coursework by a student transferring from a nonaccredited

school. The opportunity to earn credit by examination after the student has had prior instruction is sometimes referred to as "credit recovery."

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

If a student is granted approval to take an examination for credit, the student must score at least 70 on the examination to receive credit for the course or subject.

[See the school counselor and policy EHDB(LOCAL) for more information.]

# Credit by Examination for Advancement/Acceleration — If a Student Has Not Taken the Course/Subject

A student will be permitted to earn credit by examination for an academic course or subject area for which the student had no prior instruction for advancement or to accelerate to the next grade level.

The examinations offered by the district are approved by the district's board of trustees. Testing windows for these examinations will be published in district publications and on the district's website. A student may take a specific examination only once per testing window.

The only exceptions to the published testing windows will be for examinations administered by another entity or to accommodate a student experiencing homelessness or a student involved in the foster care system.

When another entity administers an examination, the student and the district must comply with the testing schedule of the other entity.

If a student plans to take an examination, the student or parent must register with the school counselor no later than 30 days prior to the scheduled testing date. [See policy EHDC for more information.]

# **Kindergarten Acceleration**

## **Students in Grades 1-5**

A student in elementary school is eligible to accelerate to the next grade level if:

- The student scores at least an 80 on each examination 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 is eligible to earn course credit with:

- A passing score of at least 80 on an examination approved by the board; or
- A scaled score of 50 or higher on an examination administered through the College Level Examination Program (CLEP); or
- A score of 3 or higher on an AP examination, as applicable.

A student may take an examination 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)

Students learn best, and their welfare is best served, in a school environment that is free from dating violence, discrimination, harassment, and retaliation.

Students are expected to treat peers and district employees with courtesy and respect, avoid offensive behaviors, and stop those behaviors as directed. District employees are likewise expected to treat students with courtesy and respect.

The board has established policies and procedures to prohibit and promptly address inappropriate and offensive behaviors that are based on a person's race, color, religion, sex, gender, national origin, age, 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 the district website. [See policy FFH for more information.]

# **Dating Violence**

Dating violence will not be tolerated at school. To report dating violence, see **Reporting Procedures**, on page 44.

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 or any of the person's past or subsequent partners. This type of conduct is considered harassment if it is so severe, persistent, or pervasive that it affects a 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 past or current dating partner
- Attempts to isolate the student from friends and family
- Stalking
- Encouraging others to engage in these behaviors

In accordance with law, when the district receives a report of dating violence, a district official will immediately notify the parent of the alleged victim and alleged perpetrator.

The counselor's office has information about the dangers of dating violence and resources for seeking help.

For more information on dating violence, see:

- Texas Attorney General's office recognizing and responding to dating violence flier (https://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/sites/default/files/files/childsupport/papa/session%2010/recognizing-relationship-violence-en.pdf)
- The CDC's <u>Preventing Teen Dating Violence</u> (<a href="https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/intimatepartnerviolence/teendatingviolence/fastfact.html">https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/intimatepartnerviolence/teendatingviolence/fastfact.html</a>)

# [See Consent to Instruction on Prevention of Child Abuse, Family Violence, Dating Violence, and Sex Trafficking on page 6.]

#### Discrimination

Discrimination is defined as any conduct directed at a student on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, gender, national origin, age, 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 a 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
- Other kinds of aggressive conduct such as theft or damage to property

## **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 are not limited to:

- Touching private body parts or coercing physical contact that is sexual in nature
- Sexual advances
- Jokes or conversations of a sexual nature
- 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 that a reasonable person would not construe as sexual in nature, such as comforting a child with a hug or taking the child's hand. However, romantic, sexual, and

other inappropriate social relationships between students and district employees are prohibited, even if consensual.

Gender-based harassment includes physical, verbal, or nonverbal conduct based on a student's gender, the student's expression of characteristics perceived as stereotypical for the student's gender, or the student's failure to conform to stereotypical notions of masculinity or femininity.

Gender-based harassment can occur regardless of the student's or the harasser's actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity. Examples of gender-based harassment directed against a student may include, but are not limited to:

- Offensive jokes, name-calling, slurs, or rumors
- Physical aggression or assault
- Threatening or intimidating conduct
- Other kinds of aggressive conduct such as theft or damage to property

#### Retaliation

Retaliation against a person who makes a good-faith report or participates in an investigation of discrimination, harassment, or dating violence is prohibited. A person who makes a false claim, 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, the district will determine whether the allegations, if proven, constitute prohibited conduct as defined by policy FFH. If not, the district will refer to policy FFI to determine whether the allegations, if proven, constitute bullying, as defined by law and policy FFI. If the alleged prohibited conduct also meets the statutory and policy definitions for bullying, an investigation of bullying will also be conducted. [See **Bullying** on page 28]

The district will promptly notify the parent 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 parent 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**

Allegations of prohibited conduct, which includes dating violence, discrimination, harassment, and retaliation, will be promptly investigated.

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 comply with law.

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 its investigation at the conclusion of the agency's investigation.

During 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 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 42.]

# **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.

Apex Learning has been established as the preferred method of distance learning in MISD. A student has the option, with certain limitations, to enroll in a course offered through Apex Learning to earn course credit for graduation. In limited circumstances, a student in grade 8 may be eligible to enroll in a course through the Apex Learning.

In addition, for a student who enrolls in an Apex Learning 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 to make a request that your child be enrolled in an Apex Learning course, please contact the campus counselor.

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, 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. [See Extracurricular Activities, Clubs, and Organizations on page 58.] In addition, a student who enrolls in a TXVSN course for which an end-of-course (EOC) assessment is required must still take the corresponding EOC assessment.

A parent may ask questions or request that their child be enrolled in a TXVSN course by contacting the school counselor. 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 addressing distance learning is available on our website.

# 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, newspapers, yearbooks, brochures, flyers, and the like.

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

#### **Nonschool Materials**

#### From Students

Students must obtain prior approval from the principal before selling, posting, circulating, or distributing more than ten 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 non-school material must include the name of the sponsoring person or organization. Approval will be granted or denied within two school days.

Please refer to campus specific information to find the designated location for approved non-school materials for voluntary viewing by students. [See policies at FNAA.]

A student may appeal a decision in accordance with policy FNG(LOCAL). Any student who sells, posts, circulates, or distributes non-school 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.

[See policy FNG(LOCAL) for student complaint procedures.]

#### From Others

No person or group will sell, circulate, distribute, or post on any district premises written or printed materials, handbills, photographs, pictures, films, tapes, or other visual or auditory materials that is not sponsored by the district or by a district-affiliated school-support organization, except as permitted by policy GKDA.

To be considered for distribution, any non-school material must meet the limitations on content established in the policy, include the name of the sponsoring person or organization, and be submitted to campus principal for prior review. The campus 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 DGBA or GF for more information.]

Please refer to campus specific information to find the designated location for approved non-school materials for voluntary viewing by students. [See policies at GKDA]

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 policy 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 teaches grooming and hygiene, prevents disruption, and minimizes safety hazards. Students and parents may determine a student's personal dress and grooming standards, provided that they comply with the following:

- Shoes or sandals must be worn at all times (slippers are not allowed)
- Skirts, dresses and shorts must extend below the undergarment area at all times whether in standing or sitting position; no biking shorts, cutoffs, or boxer shorts. If tights, leggings, or other form-fitting pants are worn, the buttocks and pelvic region must be covered at all times by a dress, shirt, skirt, or shorts.
- Pants, shorts, and skirts cannot be worn below the waist ("sagging" garments are not acceptable)
- Yoga pants, jeggings, leggings, tights, exercise/training sportswear, or excessively tight pants or form fitting pants; the buttocks and pelvic region must be covered at all times by a dress, shirt, skirt, or shorts.
- Clothing (pants, shorts, and skirts) with holes/tears must be below the buttocks and pelvic region
- Items that display pictures, slogans, or language that is provocative, offensive, violent, profane, sexual, drug related, tobacco related, gang related or promotes death or hate messages will not be permitted
- No pajamas
- No exposed underwear or undergarments
- Spaghetti straps, tube tops, exposed midriff or cleavage, halter-type blouses, mesh/see through shirts, tank tops, muscle shirts, basketball jerseys must be worn with an appropriate garment, (i.e. T-shirt)
- No trench coats
- No hats, caps, bandannas, hoods, hair nets, head scarves, skull caps, wallet chains, or sunglasses
- A wig, scarf, or cap may be worn for medical exception upon approval
- Hairstyles that are disruptive (head and/or facial) are not permitted
- Earrings and nose studs are permissible; All other visible body-piercing jewelry or ornaments are not permitted unless the piercing is for cultural or religious reasons
- Swastikas, spiked jewelry (dog collars), spoons, or drug related items are not permitted

- Tattoos with provocative, profane, or offensive pictures or writing are not permitted
- · Body paint is prohibited
- Students may wear face coverings in response to COVID-19.

McKinney ISD may update this protocol as additional information becomes available.

If the principal determines that a student's grooming or clothing violates the school's dress code, the student will be given an opportunity to correct the problem at school. If not corrected, the student may be assigned to in-school suspension for the remainder of the day, until the problem is corrected, or until a parent or designee brings an acceptable change of clothing to the school. Repeated offenses may result in more serious disciplinary action in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct.

If the principal determines that a student's grooming or clothing violates the school's dress code, the student will be given an opportunity to correct the problem at school and return to the classroom. If the problem cannot be corrected at school, the principal will work with the student and parent to obtain an acceptable change of clothing for the student in a way that minimizes loss of instructional time.

Repeated or severe offenses may result in more serious disciplinary action in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct.

# **Electronic Devices and Technology Resources (All Grade Levels)**

Possession and Use of Personal Telecommunications Devices, Including Cell Phones, and Other Electronic Devices

The district permits students to possess personal cell phones for safety purposes; however, these devices must remain turned off during the instructional day, including during all testing, unless they are being used for approved instructional purposes. [See **Textbooks, Electronic Textbooks, Technological Equipment, and Other Instructional Materials** on page 90 for graphing calculator applications on computing devices.]

A student must have approval to possess other personal telecommunications devices on campus such as laptops, tablets, or other portable computers.

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.

The use of cell phones 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.

- On the first offense and second offense, the telecommunications device shall be confiscated and then returned to the parent with a warning for the student/parent.
- On the third offenses, a \$15 fine shall be required before the telecommunications device is returned. Any subsequent telecommunications device violations of this policy shall be subject to established disciplinary measures in accordance with the District Student Code of Conduct.

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

In limited circumstances and in accordance with law, a student's personal telecommunications device may be searched by authorized personnel. [See **Searches** on page 86 and policy FNF for more information.]

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.

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

Students must obtain prior approval to use personal telecommunications or other personal electronic devices for instructional purposes while on campus. Students must also sign a user agreement that contains applicable rules for use (separate from this handbook).

All personal devices must be turned off during the instructional day when not in use for approved instructional purposes. Violations of the user agreement may result in withdrawal of privileges and other disciplinary action.

## McKinney ISD Technology Resources Student Acceptable Use Policy

## **Availability of Access**

Access to the District's electronic communication and data management systems, including without limit, its telephone system, computer networks, electronic mail systems, videoconferencing systems, and its Internet and intranet access capabilities (referred to throughout as the "System"), shall be made available to students for identified educational or medical purposes only.

Access to the System is a privilege, not a right. All users shall be required to acknowledge receipt and understanding of all administrative regulations governing use of the system and shall agree in writing to comply with such regulations and guidelines. Noncompliance with applicable regulations may result in suspension or termination of privileges and other disciplinary action consistent with Board Policies. Violations of law may result in prosecution as well as disciplinary action by the District.

System users may not gain unauthorized access to resources or information. Attempts to read, delete, copy, or modify the electronic mail of other System users, interference with the ability of other System users to send/receive electronic mail, or the use of another person's user ID and/or password is prohibited. Users must closely monitor their System passwords. Users should protect their password(s) to help ensure the security and integrity of the System. In order to maintain the integrity of the System, users should not disclose their passwords to any other person. No user should attempt to gain access to another user's electronic mailbox, telephone voicemail box, computer files, or Internet account. Unauthorized access or attempts to access the System are strictly prohibited and will result in appropriate disciplinary action.

The loading of software to the System, including but not limited to, District managed hardware is considered a violation of the Student AUP.

Any attempt to harm or destroy the System, District equipment or data, the data of another user of the District's System, or the data of any of the agencies or other networks that are connected to the Internet, are prohibited. Violating the integrity of the District's System and/or data files or manipulating the District's System and/or data files without proper authorization is prohibited.

Students are prohibited from bypassing the District filters and security protocols. Attempts to degrade or disrupt system performance are violations of Board Policy, the Student Code of Conduct, and the Student AUP and may constitute unlawful activity under applicable State and Federal laws. Such prohibited activity includes, but is not limited to, the uploading or creating of computer viruses and "hacking" into the data or system of another user of the District's System, or any of the agencies or other networks that are connected to the Internet.

System users may not redistribute copyrighted programs or data except with the written permission of the copyright holder or designee, unless permitted by the doctrine of fair use.

The District reserves the right to use the District's System for purposes it sees fit and reserves the right to monitor all activity on the System, including individual student user accounts.

# **Disclaimer of Liability**

The District shall not be liable for a student's inappropriate use of electronic communications resources or violations of copyright restrictions or other laws, a student's mistakes or negligence, and for any costs incurred by a student through use of the System. The District shall not be responsible for ensuring the accuracy, age appropriateness, or usability of any information found on the Internet. No warranties of any kind are offered either expressed or implied.

#### **Student Standards of Conduct**

All students are required to abide by the Student Code of Conduct, District Policy, State and Federal laws, and the Student AUP when communicating with others. This communication includes, without limit, communication with District employees or other students of the District, regardless of whether such communication occurs through use of the System. Additionally, students are responsible for following the Student Code of Conduct, District Policy, State and Federal laws, and the Student AUP when accessing the Internet through use of the System, while on campus, and while at school sponsored events These same rules apply using District sponsored websites, blogs, and Eduphoria. Furthermore, use of the District's System resources to access external, non-District approved blogs, micro-blogs, chat rooms, messaging services, or social networking sites without first obtaining written permission from the designated campus administrator, is strictly prohibited. Social networking sites include, but are not limited to, Facebook, Twitter, Flickr, Snap Chat and dating or match-making websites.

Students are required to follow the Student Code of Conduct and Board Policy regarding the use and possession of personal telecommunications devices on school property and at school sponsored functions. [See Board Policy FNCE (LOCAL)].

# **Violations Sanctions**

Non-compliance with the Student AUP and/or District Policy may result in suspension of access, termination of privileges, and/or other disciplinary action consistent with Board Policies and State or Federal law. [See Board Policies FO series]. Additional disciplinary action may be determined at the building level in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct. Violations of law may result in referral to law enforcement as well as disciplinary action by the District. Persons whose violations of the Student AUP result in system disruption or damage may be responsible for reimbursement of costs incurred in system restoration.

## **Monitored Use**

Electronic mail transmissions and other use of the System by students are not private and maybe monitored, reviewed, audited, intercepted, accessed, or disclosed at any time by designated District staff to ensure appropriate use.

One level of security McKinney ISD has implemented is the installation of an Internet filtering service. Students may not disable, or attempt to disable, any Internet filtering service. In addition, all students will receive classroom instruction regarding appropriate technology use and acceptable Internet behavior, including a review of the Student AUP. System users and parents of students with access to the System should be aware that use of the System may provide access to other electronic communications systems in the global electronic network that may contain inaccurate and/or objectionable material. McKinney ISD makes every effort to limit access to objectionable material; however, controlling all such materials on the Network/Internet is impossible, even with filtering in place. A student who gains access to such material is expected to discontinue the access as quickly as possible and to immediately report the incident to the supervising teacher or staff. Ultimately, however, it is the user's responsibility to appropriately use technology resources. Should a user be found in violation of the Student AUP, the incident will be regarded as a violation of with school rules and the Student Code of Conduct, resulting in disciplinary measures.

## **Acceptable Use**

The District's System will only be used for learning, teaching, and administrative purposes consistent with the District's mission and goals. Commercial use of or solicitation using the District's System is strictly prohibited. The System may not be used for illegal purposes, in support of illegal activities, or for any other activity prohibited by District Policy or guidelines. Students will be provided information regarding appropriate online behavior, appropriate interaction with others on social networking sites and chat rooms, and cyber-bullying awareness and response in accordance with Board Policy CQ (LOCAL).

#### 1. Responsibility:

- Student access to telecommunications and networked information resources shall follow guidelines developed for the selection of appropriate instructional materials contained in Board Policy EFA (Local)
- Since access could extend beyond evaluated or previewed resources, students and parents must be informed that inappropriate materials could be encountered during students' research required to achieve valid instructional objectives. If such inappropriate material is inadvertently encountered, it shall be disengaged from immediately.
- Users may not purposefully access materials or send or post messages that are offensive, abusive, obscene, profane, pornographic, sexually oriented, threatening, harassing, damaging to another's reputation, racially offensive, or illegal. Students are expected to use appropriate language and refrain from swearing, using vulgarity, and/or ethnic or racial slurs.
- During school, teachers will help guide students toward appropriate materials. Outside of school, families bear responsibility for such guidance as they exercise with other information sources such as television, telephones, movies, radio and other potentially offensive media.
- While using the Internet on District computers, you may not give out your first name, last name, your picture, your parents' names, your telephone number, your address, or your Social Security number.

• Students should never use District equipment to make appointments to meet people whom they met on-line and should report to a teacher or administrator if they receive any request for such a meeting.

## 2. Privacy:

• Network storage areas may be treated like school lockers. Designated District staff may review files and communications to maintain system integrity and insure that users are using the system responsibly. Users should not expect that files stored on District servers or District approved Internet sites such as Google Drive, Canvas etc. will always be private.

Any attempt to harm or destroy District equipment or data or the data of another user of the District's System, or any of the agencies or other networks that are connected to the Internet is prohibited. Violating the integrity of the District's data systems or manipulating the District's data files without proper authorization is prohibited. Attempts to degrade or disrupt system performance are violations of Board Policy and administrative regulations and may constitute unlawful activity under applicable state and federal laws. Such prohibited activity includes, but is not limited to, the uploading or creating of computer viruses and "hacking" into the data or system of another user of the District's System, or any of the agencies or other networks that are connected to the Internet.

#### **COPPA Notice**

The Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA) is a federal law governing the online collection of personal information from children under 13. The rules spell out what a website operator must include in a privacy policy, when and how to seek verifiable consent from a parent and what responsibilities an operator has to protect children's privacy and safety online. McKinney ISD utilizes several educational software applications and web-based services that are operated by third parties. In order for our students to use these valuable programs and services, certain personal identifying information, generally the student's name and username and/or email address, must be provided to the website operator. Under federal law, these websites must provide parental notification and obtain parental consent before collecting personal information from children under the age of 13. The law permits schools to consent to the collection of personal information on behalf of all of its students, eliminating the need for individual parental consent given directly to the website operator. More information regarding COPPA is available on the Federal Trade Commission website at www.ftc.gov.

A list of applications and websites that may be used in District classrooms, with links to their privacy policies and terms of service, is available on the McKinney ISD website at http://www.mckinneyisd.net/instructional-technology

## **MCKINNEY ISD Technology Resources Acceptable Use Agreement**

My child and I have read, understand, and will comply with the McKinney ISD Technology Resources Student Acceptable Use Policy. We understand that non-compliance with this policy may result in suspension of my child's access or termination of my child's privileges and other disciplinary action consistent with Board Policies and state law. [See the Student Code of Conduct, and Board Policies FN series, and FO series.] I realize that any of my child's actions that are violations of law may result in criminal prosecution as well as disciplinary action by the District. Any violation of this policy that results in system disruption or damage may result in the assignment of financial liability to my child or me. Furthermore, I consent to the release of my child's personal information for the purpose of accessing educational software applications and

web-based services utilized by the District. I have been informed that I can access a list of applications and websites that may be used in District classrooms on the McKinney ISD website.

## **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 on district-owned or personally owned equipment, 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 in accordance with 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.

This type of behavior may constitute bullying or harassment, as well as impede future endeavors of a student. We encourage parents to review with their child the "Before You Text" Sexting Prevention Course, a state-developed program that addresses the consequences of sexting.

In accordance with state law, the district prohibits the installation or use of TikTok or any successor application or service on a district device, along with any other social media application or service determined by the governor.

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. In some cases, the consequence may be expulsion.

# **End-of-Course (EOC) Assessments**

[See **Graduation** on page 57 and **Standardized Testing** on page 88.]

## **Emergent Bilingual Students (All Grade Levels)**

A student who is an emergent bilingual student is entitled to receive specialized services from the district. A Language Proficiency Assessment Committee (LPAC), consisting of both district personnel and at least one parent representative, will determine whether the student qualifies for services. The student's parent must consent to any services recommended by the LPAC. 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.

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 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 statemandated assessments. The STAAR Spanish, as mentioned at **Standardized Testing** on page 88, may be administered to an emergent bilingual student up to grade 5. 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 emergent bilingual students who qualify for services.

If a student is considered an emergent bilingual student 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.

Some extracurricular activities may include off-campus events. Students are required to use transportation provided by the district to and from the events. Exceptions may only be made with the approval of the activity's coach or sponsor. [See **Transportation** on page 91.]

Eligibility for 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 and parents can access the <a href="UIL Parent Information Manual">UIL Parent Information Manual (https://www.uiltexas.org/athletics/manuals)</a>) online. A hard copy can be provided by the coach or sponsor of the activity on request.

To report 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.

[See <u>UIL Texas</u> (<u>https://www.uiltexas.org/</u>) for additional information on all UIL-governed activities.]

Student safety in extracurricular activities is a priority of the district. Parents 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.

Generally, a student who receives a grade below 70 at the end of a grading period in any academic class may not participate in extracurricular activities for at least three school weeks.

However, if a student receives a grade below 70 at the end of a grading period in an Advanced Placement (AP) or International Baccalaureate (IB), honors, or dual credit course in English language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, economics, or languages other than English, the student remains eligible for participation in all extracurricular activities.

In addition, the following applies to all extracurricular activities:

- A student who receives at the end of a grading period a grade below 70 in any academic class— other than an advanced placement or international baccalaureate course; or an honors or dual credit course in English language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, economics, or a foreign language—may not participate in extracurricular activities for at least three school weeks.
- A student 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.
- The District shall make no distinction between absences for UIL activities and absences for
  other extracurricular activities approved by the Board. Absences allowed during a school
  year for extracurricular activities shall be limited to: ten absences not related to post-district
  competition, five absences for post-district competition prior to state, and two absences for
  state competition, up to a maximum of 17 days total. See Policy FM (LOCAL).
- An absence for participation in an activity that has not been approved will receive an unexcused absence.
- An absence for participation in an activity that has not been approved will be considered an unexcused absence.

#### 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.

# Fees (All Grade Levels)

Basic educational program materials are provided at no charge to a student. However, a student is expected to provide his or her own supplies, such as pencils, paper, erasers, and notebooks. A student may also be required to pay certain other costs, fees, or deposits, including:

- Materials for a class project that the student will keep.
- Membership dues in voluntary clubs or student organizations.
- Admission fees to extracurricular activities.
- Security deposits.
- Personal physical education and athletic equipment and apparel.
- Voluntarily purchased pictures, publications, class rings, yearbooks, graduation announcements, and the like.
- Voluntarily purchased student health and 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.
- Parking fees and student identification cards.
- Fees for lost, damaged, or overdue library books.
- Fees for driver training courses.
- Fees for optional courses offered for credit that require 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 91.]
- A maximum fee of \$50 for 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 for the student to meet the 90 percent attendance requirements. 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. [See policy FP for more information.]

# **Fundraising (All Grade Levels)**

Student groups or classes and/or parent groups may be permitted to conduct fundraising drives for approved school purposes in accordance with administrative regulations. [See policies FJ and GE for more information.]

# **Gang-Free Zones (All Grade Levels)**

Certain criminal offenses, including gang-related crimes, will be enhanced to the next-highest category of offense if they are committed in a gang-free zone. Gang-free zones include a school bus and any 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 42.]

## **Grade-Level Classification (Grades 9-12 Only)**

After grade 9, 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)**

For additional information see EIA (LOCAL) and the McKinney ISD APG

http://www.mckinneyisd.net/secondary-student-support/academic-planning-guides/

[See **Report Cards/Progress Reports and Conferences** on page 79 for additional information on grading guidelines.]

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

See EIA(LOCAL) and <a href="http://www.mckinneyisd.net/secondary-student-support/academic-planning-guides/">http://www.mckinneyisd.net/secondary-student-support/academic-planning-guides/</a>

# Financial Aid Application Requirement

Before graduating from high school, each student must complete and submit an application for financial aid for post-secondary education. Students must complete and submit either a free application for federal student aid (FAFSA) or a Texas application for state financial aid (TASFA).

Contact the school counselor for assistance completing and submitting the FAFSA or TASFA.

A student is not required to complete and submit a FAFSA or TASFA if:

- The student's parent submits a form provided by the district indicating that the parent authorizes the student to opt out;
- A student who is 18 years of age or older or a legally independent minor submits a form provided by the district indicating that the student opts out; or
- A school counselor authorizes the student to opt out for good cause.

Please contact the school counselor for more information.

To confirm that a student has completed and submitted a TASFA, the student must submit one of the following:

- A screenshot that includes the processed date field of the FAFSA ApplyTexas Counselor Suite
- Notification, such as a copy of an email, from the United States Department of Education verifying completion of the FAFSA
- A copy or screenshot of the FAFSA acknowledgment page
- A screenshot of the TASFA submission acknowledgment page (from those institutions that offer an electronic form)
- An acknowledgment receipt from an institution of higher education (IHE)
- A copy of a financial aid award letter from an IHE

#### **Personal Graduation Plans**

A personal graduation plan will be developed for each high school student.

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 is a requirement for 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 promotes college and workforce readiness, promotes career placement and advancement, and facilitates the transition from secondary to postsecondary education.

The student's personal graduation plan will outline an appropriate course sequence based on the student's choice of endorsement.

Please review <u>TEA's Graduation Toolkit</u> (<u>https://tea.texas.gov/about-tea/news-and-multimedia/brochures/tea-brochures</u>).

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

## **Graduation Speakers**

Certain graduating students will be given an opportunity to speak at graduation ceremonies.

A student must meet local eligibility criteria, which may include requirements related to student conduct, to have a speaking role. Students eligible for speaking roles will be notified by the principal and given an opportunity to volunteer.

[See the Student Code of Conduct and policy FNA(LOCAL) for more information.]

[See Student Speakers on page 88 for student speakers at other school events.]

#### **Graduation Expenses**

Because students and parents will incur expenses 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 **Fees** on page 55.]

## **Scholarships and Grants**

Students who have a financial need according to federal criteria and who complete the foundation graduation program may be eligible under the TEXAS Grant Program, Teach for Texas Grant Program, and Future Texas Teachers Scholarship Program for scholarships and grants toward tuition and fees to Texas public universities, community colleges, and technical schools, as well as to private institutions. Certain students who graduate early may also be eligible for the Texas First Scholarship Program.

See College and University Admissions and Financial Aid (All Grade Levels) on page 35 for more information.

Contact the school counselor for information about other scholarships and grants available to students.

#### Harassment

[See Dating Violence, Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation on page 42.]

# Hazing (All Grade Levels)

Hazing is defined as an intentional, knowing, or reckless act, on or off campus, by one person alone or acting with others, directed against a student for the purpose of pledging, initiation into, affiliation with, holding office in, or maintaining membership in a student organization if the act meets the elements in Education Code 37.151, including:

Any type of physical brutality

- An activity that subjects the student to an unreasonable risk of harm or that adversely affects
  the student's mental or physical health, such as sleep deprivation, exposure to the elements,
  confinement to small spaces, calisthenics, or consumption of food, liquids, drugs, or other
  substances
- An activity that induces, causes, or requires the student to perform a duty or task that violates the Penal Code
- Coercing a student to consume a drug or alcoholic beverage in an amount that would lead a reasonable person to believe the student is intoxicated

The district will not tolerate hazing. Disciplinary consequences for hazing will be 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, superintendent, or law enforcement official.

[See **Bullying** on page 28 and policies FFI and FNCC for more information.]

# **Health** — Physical and Mental

## Illness (All Grade Levels)

#### Clinic

A professional registered nurse is located in every McKinney ISD campus clinic, except the alternative campus. The professional school nurse has the educational background, experience, critical thinking, and competencies to provide preventative health, health assessment, and referral services to students. The school nurse educates and informs campus staff about appropriate medical needs/incidents to send to the clinic for nursing assessment. A parent/guardian will not be called for each clinic visit. A parent/guardian will be notified by phone call, or clinic information form of the following types of injuries or illnesses:

- Head Injury potential for delayed repercussions/possible concussions
- Vomiting, Diarrhea, and/or Fever greater than 100.0 degrees-potential for a contagious condition/illness
- Ineffective Medication regime-such as but not limited to asthma inhaler, diabetes management, ADHD
- Life threatening occurrences
- Orthopedic injuries that are not relieved with rest and ice
- Any injury/illness deemed necessary by the nurse

The following over the counter medications is kept in the clinic with standing physician orders: antifungal cream, caladryl clear, calamine, first aid cream, hydrocortisone cream, mentholated rub, moisture eye drops, saline solution and petroleum jelly.

McKinney ISD has standing physician orders for the emergency use of unassigned epinephrine for signs and symptoms of anaphylaxis, albuterol for respiratory distress, and Narcan (Naloxone) for known or suspected opioid overdose by the trained MISD staff member. Any resulting EMS or 911 fees based on the administration of these medications would be the responsibility of the parent or guardian.

The administration of epinephrine whether provided by parent or guardian, or from stock medication requires an EMS/911 call anytime administered.

#### CONDITIONS RESULTING IN EXCLUSION FROM SCHOOL AND AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

When your child is ill, please contact the school to let us know he or she will not be attending that day.

State rules require schools to exclude students with certain illnesses from school for certain periods of time. For example, if a child has a fever over 100 degrees, he or she must stay out of school until fever-free for 24 hours without use of fever-reducing medications. Students with diarrheal illnesses must stay home until they are diarrhea-free without use of diarrhea-suppressing medications for 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, and the school nurse determines that the child should go home, the nurse will contact the parent.

The district is 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.

The school nurse is available to answer any questions for parents who are concerned about whether or not their child should stay home.

To protect students from communicable illnesses, students infected with certain diseases are not allowed to come to school while contagious. In addition, students that have been recently hospitalized and/or treated for a serious medical condition (physical or mental) may also be excluded from school pending a physician's recommendation to return. If a parent suspects that his or her child has a communicable or contagious disease, the parent should contact the campus nurse so that other students who might have been exposed to the disease may be alerted according to Department of State Health Services. Students should be symptom free for 24 hours before returning to school. Prior to the student's return to school, the parent should contact the campus nurse.

A student with any of the following symptoms must be excluded from school until such time as the student is free from symptoms.

- Temperature of 100.0 degrees or more. Student must be fever free for 24 hours, without medication, before re-entry (Texas Administrative Code)
- Vomiting (not related to a single event such as gagging, positioning, mucus, running after eating, or eating spicy food) Student must be symptom free for 24 hours, without medication before re- entry
- Diarrhea, of two or more loose or watery stools; all students must be diarrhea free for 24 hours without the use of medications before re-entry (Texas Administrative Code)
- Pain and/or swelling at angle of jaw
- Undetermined rash over any part of the body accompanied by fever
- Under diagnosed scaly patches on the body or scalp
- Red, draining eyes
- Intense itching with signs and symptoms of secondary infection
- Open, draining lesions or wounds
- Jaundice
- See McKinney ISD Lice guidelines
- For any other reason deemed necessary by the school for the safety of the student and all students and staff.

## **RETURN TO SCHOOL GUIDELINES**

 Parents must contact the campus nurse prior to the student's return to the school and provide documentation from the medical provider that is familiar with the student and the situation. This provider should be the individual responsible for treating the current situation.

- Symptoms that could be attributed to a vaccine preventable illness will require a medical provider's certification ruling out the presence of communicable disease before re-entry to school.
- For any infection, antibiotics must be taken for a minimum of 24 hours prior to re-entry to school.
- A physician's letter to readmit to school will not supersede the Department of State Health Services (DSHS).
- A certificate of the attending physician which attests that the child does not currently
  have signs symptoms of a communicable disease or another imminent medical concern;
  may be deemed necessary for reentry into school.

#### **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 (DSHS), Immunization Branch, can be honored by the district. You may access the <u>DSHS exemption form</u> (<a href="https://www.dshs.texas.gov/immunization-unit/texas-school-child-care-facility-immunization/texas-immunization-exemptions">https://www.dshs.texas.gov/immunization-unit/texas-school-child-care-facility-immunization/texas-immunization-exemptions</a>) online or by writing to this address:

Texas Department of State Health Services Immunization Section, Mail Code 1946 P.O. Box 149347 Austin, Texas 78714-9347

The form must be notarized and submitted to the principal or school nurse. 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
- Polio
- Measles, mumps, and rubella
- Hepatitis B
- Varicella (chicken pox)
- Meningococcal
- Hepatitis A

The school nurse can provide information on immunization requirements. 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 lifelong condition.

For information on immunization against bacterial meningitis and college enrollment and attendance, see **Bacterial Meningitis** on page 69.

[See the DSHS's <u>Texas School & Child Care Facility Immunization Requirements</u> (https://www.dshs.texas.gov/immunization-unit/texas-school-child-care-facility-immunization) and policy FFAB(LEGAL) for more information.]

## Lice (All Grade Levels)

Head lice is very common among children. Although not an illness or a disease, head lice spread through head-to-head contact during play, sports, 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 discuss a treatment plan using an FDA-approved medicated shampoo or cream rinse that may be purchased from any drug or grocery store. After the student undergoes one treatment, the parent should contact the school nurse to discuss the treatment used. The nurse can also offer additional recommendations, including subsequent treatments, how best to get rid of lice, and how to prevent lice from returning.

The district will provide notice to parents of elementary school students in an affected classroom without identifying the student with lice.

More information on head lice can be obtained from the DSHS website Managing Head Lice in School Settings and at Home (https://www.dshs.texas.gov/texas-school-health/skilled-procedures-texas-school-health/managing-head-lice-school) and from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's website Head Lice Information for Parents (https://www.cdc.gov/parasites/lice/head/parents.html).

[See policy FFAA for more information.]

## Medicine at School (All Grade Levels)

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

McKinney ISD does not allow for students in possession of medication of any kind, including herbal supplements, vitamins, and all over the counter medications including cough drops/lozenges. All medications must be delivered and picked up by a parent or guardian. Students are not allowed to drop off or take home their medication(s) from the school clinic. All medications are to be stored in the nurse's office with the exception of prescribed medications for the treatment of asthma, anaphylaxis and diabetes. Please see the campus nurse if your child has one of these conditions.

Students with asthma or anaphylaxis may carry prescribed inhalers or medications provided written authorization from the parent or guardian is given to the campus nurse as well as a written statement from the student's physician or licensed health care provider stating that the student has asthma or anaphylaxis and is capable of self-administering the prescribed medication. The physician must also provide written information of the name and purpose of the

medication and the prescribed dosage. All medications must be examined and approved by the campus nurse and must also have the prescription label on the medication.

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 and FFA.]

All other medications must be stored in the campus clinic in the original container clearly labeled with the student's name. Failure to store medication in the campus clinic or follow the abovementioned procedure may result in serious disciplinary action.

#### Medication Guidelines:

- 1. All medication must be stored in the clinic except in special circumstances for a student with asthma, diabetes or a life-threatening allergy (See above no tolerance section). Special education classrooms will work one on one with campus nurse for medication procedures.
- 2. All prescription medication MUST be in the original container with pharmacy prescription label. No more than one month's supply of medication, in a prescription labeled bottle, shall be brought to the clinic at one time. ALL prescription medication will be counted and documented upon arrival to the clinic.
- 3. Over the counter medication MUST be in the original container with the student's name on the container. Due to limited storage, no more than a 30-count container shall be stored in the clinic. Over the counter medications may be left in the clinic during the entire school year with a parent's signature. We are unable to store any medication at the school during the summer and will dispose of all medication left in the clinic after the last day of school.
- 4. Over the counter medications will be given according to the label on the package unless otherwise directed by a physician.
- 5. Over the counter medications will not be given for more than 5 consecutive school days without a physician's signature.
- 6. MISD Medication Administration Form must be complete with parent's signature.
- 7. Medications are to be brought to the clinic by the parent or guardian. Only an adult may pick up medications from the clinic.
- 8. All prescription medication given over 10 days will REQUIRE a physician's signature.
- 9. No medication container may contain more than one (1) type of medication.
- 10. Medications prescribed or requested to be given three (3) times per day or less are not to be given at school unless the nurse determines that a special need exists.
- 11. A student MAY NOT share medication with another student.

Siblings MAY NOT share medication.

12. MISD health services personnel do not administer dietary or herbal supplements, essential oils, homeopathic or alternative medications, including but not limited to, CBD products, and medication(s) with THC will NOT be given on any MISD campus, unless otherwise required by law. In accordance with the Nurse Practice Act, Texas Code, Section 217.11, the school nurse has the responsibility and authority to refuse to administer medications that in the nurse's professional judgment are not in the best interest of the student.

- 13. District employees will not give a student prescription medication, nonprescription medication, herbal substances, anabolic steroids, dietary supplements, caffeine in any form, energy drinks, or use essential oils on a student with the following exceptions:
- a. In certain emergency situations, the District will maintain and administer to a student appropriate treatment, but only:
- b. In accordance with the guidelines developed with the District's medical advisor. [See policy FFAF and FFA.]

#### Sunscreen

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

At the elementary level, a student's teacher or other district personnel will apply sunscreen to the student's exposed skin if the student brings the sunscreen to school and asks for help applying it. A student at this level may apply his or her own sunscreen if the student is able to do so.

At the secondary level, a student may possess and apply sunscreen when necessary. If the student needs assistance with sunscreen application, please address the need 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.

Sunscreen, if to be applied by district personnel, will follow established nonprescription medication guidelines.

#### Cannabis/Marijuana/CBD

- Will not be given in the MISD school setting unless otherwise required by law.
- It is the position of the National Association of School Nurses (NASN) that only FDA approved cannabis/marijuana medications be allowed in the school setting.
- The school nurse shall have a working knowledge of their state/jurisdiction's medical marijuana program, if applicable.
- States (Texas) with limited medical marijuana laws, such as those only permitting use
  of CBD oil, are not considered to have adopted broad medical marijuana laws.
  <a href="https://www.governing.com/gov-data/safety-justice/state-marijuana-laws-map-medical-recreational.html">https://www.governing.com/gov-data/safety-justice/state-marijuana-laws-map-medical-recreational.html</a>.
- Herbal supplements, dietary supplements, essential oils, homeopathic or alternative medications, including but not limited to, CBD oil, medication with THC will NOT be given on any MISD campus.

#### **Asthma and Severe Allergic Reactions**

A student with asthma or severe allergic reaction (anaphylaxis) may 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 health-care provider and 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 or principal.

See also **Food Allergies** on page 69.

## **Unassigned Epinephrine Auto-injectors**

In accordance with Chapter 38, Subchapter E of the Education Code, the board has adopted a policy to allow authorized [school personnel and/or school volunteers] who have been adequately trained to administer an unassigned epinephrine auto-injector to a person who is reasonably believed to be experiencing a severe allergic reaction (anaphylaxis).

An "unassigned epinephrine auto-injector" is an epinephrine auto-injector prescribed by an authorized health-care provider in the name of the school issued with a non-patient-specific standing delegation order for the administration of an epinephrine auto-injector.

Epinephrine auto-injectors include brand-name devices such as EpiPens®.

Authorized and trained individuals may administer an epinephrine auto-injector at any time to a person experiencing anaphylaxis on a school campus.

The district will ensure that at each campus a sufficient number of school personnel are trained to administer epinephrine so that at least one trained individual is present on campus during regular school hours and whenever school personnel are physically on site for school-sponsored activities.

For additional information, see FFAC(LOCAL).

## **Unassigned Medication for Respiratory Distress**

In accordance with Chapter 38, Subchapter E of the Education Code, the board has adopted a policy to allow authorized and trained school personnel to administer a medication for respiratory distress on a school campus or at a school-related activity to a person reasonably believed to be experiencing symptoms of respiratory distress.

The district will provide at each campus [school personnel and/or school volunteers] who are trained to administer prescription medication for respiratory distress during regular school hours.

"Unassigned medication for respiratory distress" means albuterol, levalbuterol, or another medication designated by the executive commission of the Health and Human Services Commission for treatment of respiratory distress, prescribed by an authorized health-care provider in the name of the district with a non-patient-specific standing delegation order for the administration of a medication for respiratory distress, and issued by an authorized health-care provider.

For additional information, see FFAC(LOCAL).

## **Unassigned Opioid Antagonists**

In accordance with Chapter 38, Subchapter E of the Education Code, the board has adopted a policy to allow authorized and trained [school personnel and/or school volunteers] at each campus to administer an opioid antagonist, such as Narcan or Naloxone, to an individual who is reasonably believed to be experiencing an opioid-related drug overdose.

One or more authorized and trained individuals will be present on each campus subject to this policy during regular school hours.

## Steroids (Secondary Grade Levels Only)

State law prohibits students from possessing, dispensing, delivering, or administering an anabolic steroid. Anabolic steroids are for physician-prescribed medical use only.

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.

# **Mental Health Support (All Grade Levels)**

The district has implemented programs to address the following mental health, behavioral health, and substance abuse concerns:

- Mental health promotion and early intervention
- Building skills to manage emotions, establish and maintain positive relationships, and engage in responsible decision-making
- Substance abuse prevention and intervention
- Suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention (interventions after a suicide in a community)
- Grief, trauma, and trauma-informed care
- Positive behavior interventions and supports
- Positive youth development
- Safe, supportive, and positive school climates

If a student has been hospitalized or placed in residential treatment for a mental health condition or substance abuse, the district has procedures to support the student's return to school. Please contact the district's mental health liaison for further information.

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 psychotropic drug is a substance used in the diagnosis, treatment, or prevention of a disease or as a component of a medication that is intended to alter perception, emotion, mood, or behavior.

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. [See policy FFEB for more information.]

For related information, see:

- Consent to Conduct a Psychological Evaluation on page 4 and Consent to Provide a
   Mental Health Care Service on page 7 for the district's procedures for recommending a
   mental health intervention and the mental health liaison's contact information;
- Counseling on page 38 for the district's comprehensive school counseling program;
- **Physical and Mental Health Resources** on page 70 for campus and community mental and physical health resources; and

• Policies and Procedures that Promote Student Physical and Mental Health on page 70 for board-adopted policies and administrative procedures that promote student health.

## **Physical Activity Requirements**

#### **Elementary School**

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

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

## Junior High/Middle School

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 **OR** at least 225 minutes of moderate or vigorous physical activity within each two-week period for at least four semesters, in accordance with policies at EHAB, EHAC, EHBG, and FFA.

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

### **Temporary Restriction from Participation in Physical Education**

Students who are temporarily restricted from participation in physical education will not actively participate in skill demonstration but will remain in class to learn the concepts of the lessons. A parent note excusing a student from physical activities is only valid for 3 consecutive days, after this time a note from the student's healthcare provider is required for continued physical activity restrictions. Any notes regarding physical activity restrictions during PE will be enforced during recess and other classes with physical movement both during school hours and district sponsored after school activities.

#### **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 Karin Klemm, Coordinator of Physical Education and Health to obtain the results of his or her child's physical fitness assessment conducted during the school year.

Physical Health Screenings/Examinations

#### 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 physically able to participate in the athletic program.

This examination is required to be submitted annually to the District.

Students should be aware of the rare possibility of sudden cardiac arrest, which in athletes is usually caused by a previously unsuspected heart disease or disorder. A student may request an electrocardiogram (ECG or EKG) to screen for such disorders, in addition to his or her required physical examination.

See the UIL's explanation of <u>sudden cardiac arrest</u> (<u>https://www.uiltexas.org/health/info/sudden-cardiac-death</u>) for more information.

#### Spinal Screening Program

School-based spinal screening helps identify adolescents with abnormal spinal curvature at an early stage when the curve is mild and may go unnoticed. Early detection is key to controlling spinal deformities. Spinal screening is non-invasive and conducted in accordance with the most recent nationally accepted and peer-reviewed standards.

All students who meet the Texas Department of State Health Services criteria will be screened for abnormal spinal curvature before the end of the school year. As appropriate, students will be referred for follow-up with their physician.

For information on spinal screening by an outside professional or exemption from spinal screening based on religious beliefs, contact the superintendent or see policy FFAA(LEGAL).

#### Other Examinations and Screenings (All Grade Levels)

**Special Health Concerns (All Grade Levels)** 

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

Please see the district's website at <a href="https://www.mckinneyisd.net/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Bacterial-Meningitis-061520.pdf">https://www.mckinneyisd.net/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Bacterial-Meningitis-061520.pdf</a> for information regarding meningitis.

**Note:** 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.

## [See **Immunization** on page 62.]

#### Diabetes

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 or principal for information. [See policy FFAF(LEGAL) for more information.]

## Food Allergies (All Grade Levels)

Parents should notify the district when a student has been diagnosed with a food allergy, especially an allergy that could result in dangerous or life-threatening reactions either by breathing, eating, or touching 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, based on the Texas Department of State Health Services' (DSHS) *Guidelines for the Care of Students with Food Allergies at Risk for Anaphylaxis* found on the DSHS <u>Allergies and Anaphylaxis</u> website (https://www.dshs.texas.gov/texas-school-health/allergies-anaphylaxis)

When the district receives information that a student has a food allergy that puts the student at risk for anaphylaxis, an individual care plan will be developed to assist the student in safely

accessing the school environment. The district's food allergy management plan can be accessed at <a href="https://www.mckinneyisd.net">https://www.mckinneyisd.net</a>.

## Seizures (All Grade Levels)

To address the care of a student with a seizure disorder while at school or participating in a school activity, a parent may submit a seizure management and treatment plan to the district before the beginning of the school year, upon enrollment of the student, or as soon as practicable following diagnosis of a seizure disorder.

[See A Student with Physical or Mental Impairments Protected under Section 504 on page 21 and contact the school nurse for more information.]

## 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 cigarette (e-cigarette), or any other electronic vaporizing device while on school property or while attending an off-campus school-related activity.

The district and its staff strictly enforce prohibitions against the use of all tobacco products, ecigarettes, 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 FNCD and GKA for more information.]

## **Health-Related Resources, Policies, and Procedures**

#### Physical and Mental Health Resources (All Grade Levels)

Parents and students in need of assistance with physical and mental health concerns may contact the following campus and community resources:

The Director of Health Services, Julie Blankenship at 469-302-4000.

The Senior Director of Guidance and Counseling, Jennifer Akins, at 469-302-4000.

The local public health authority, *Collin County Health Department* which may be contacted at 972-548-5500

The local mental health authority, Jennifer Akins, which may be contacted at 469-302-4000.

#### Policies and Procedures that Promote Student Physical and Mental Health (All Grade Levels)

The district has adopted board policies that promote student physical and mental health. (LOCAL) policies on the topics below can be found in the district's policy manual, available at <a href="https://pol.tasb.org/Home/Index/310">https://pol.tasb.org/Home/Index/310</a>.

Food and nutrition management: CO, COA, COB

Wellness and Health Services: FFA

Physical Examinations: FFAA

Immunizations: FFAB

Medical Treatment: FFAC

Communicable Diseases: FFAD

School-Based Health Centers: FFAE

Care Plans: FFAF

Crisis Intervention: FFB

• Trauma-informed Care: FFBA

Student Support Services: FFC

Student Safety: FFF

Child Abuse and Neglect: FFG

Freedom from Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation: FFH

Freedom from Bullying: FFI

In addition, the District Improvement Plan details the district's strategies to improve student performance through evidence-based practices that address physical and mental health.

The district has developed administrative procedures as necessary to implement the above policies and plans.

#### 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 school district website.

Notification of upcoming SHAC meetings will be posted at each campus administrative office at least 72 hours before the meeting. Notification of upcoming SHAC meetings, meeting minutes, and a recording of each meeting will be posted on the district website.

[See Consent to Human Sexuality Instruction on page 5, Consent to Instruction on Prevention of Child Abuse, Family Violence, Dating Violence, and Sex Trafficking on page 6, and policies BDF and EHAA. For more information.]

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

To encourage healthy habits in our students, the district has developed a board-adopted wellness policy at FFA(LOCAL) and corresponding plans and procedures to implement it. You are encouraged to contact Julie Blankenship RN, Director of Health Services with questions about the content or implementation of the district's wellness policy and plan.

## **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, including without parental consent, if necessary, if it 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 the student at school.
- Ordinarily make reasonable efforts to notify the parents, unless the interviewer raises what the principal considers to be a valid objection.
- Ordinarily be present for the questioning or interview, 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 law enforcement officer to obtain fingerprints or photographs for comparison in an investigation.
- By a law enforcement officer to obtain fingerprints or photographs to establish a student's identity where the child may have engaged in conduct indicating a need for supervision, such as running away.
- 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 (CPS), Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS), 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 from a juvenile court to take a student into custody.

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

The principal will immediately notify the superintendent and will attempt to notify the parent, unless the legally 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 legally authorized person, 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 has been convicted, received deferred prosecution, received deferred adjudication, or was adjudicated for delinquent conduct for any felony offense or certain misdemeanors that occur in school, on school property, or at a school-sponsored or school-related activity on or off school property. These personnel will also be notified if the principal has reasonable grounds to believe the student has engaged in certain conduct.
- All appropriate district personnel regarding a student who is required to register as a sex offender.

[See policy GRAA(LEGAL) for more information.]

## **Leaving Campus (All Grade Levels)**

Student attendance is crucial. Appointments should be scheduled outside of school hours if possible. Except for extenuating circumstances, students will not regularly be released before the end of the school day.

Parental consent is required before any student leaves campus for any part of the school day.

For students in elementary and middle school, a parent or authorized adult must come to the office and show identification to sign the student out. A campus representative will ask the student to report to the office. For safety purposes and stability of the learning environment, we cannot allow any unescorted adult to go to the classroom or other area 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.

The same process applies to students in high school if a parent picks the student up from campus. If the student's parent authorizes the student to leave campus unaccompanied, a note provided by the parent must be submitted to the main office no later than two hours prior to the student's need to leave campus. A phone call from the parent may be accepted, but the school may ultimately require a note for documentation purposes. 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 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 the parent directs district personnel to release the student unaccompanied, the parent or other authorized adult must follow the sign-out procedures listed above. If a student is permitted by his or her parent to leave campus unaccompanied, the nurse will document the time of day the student was released. Under no circumstances will a student in elementary or middle school be released unaccompanied.

If a student is 18 years of age or is an emancipated minor, the student may sign him- or herself out of school. Documentation regarding the reason for the absence will be required.

## 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. A student who loses an item should check the lost and found box. The district discourages bringing personal items of high monetary value to school, 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)

A teacher may assign makeup work to a student who misses class based on instructional objectives and the needs of the student in mastering the essential knowledge and skills or meeting subject or course requirements.

The student will be responsible for obtaining and completing the makeup work within the time specified by the teacher. 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.

The student is encouraged to speak with his or her teacher if the student knows of an absence ahead of time so that the teacher and student may plan any makeup work. Please remember the importance of student attendance at school. With limited exceptions, all absences count for the 90 percent threshold set in state law regarding attendance for credit or final grade. [See **Attendance for Credit or Final Grade** on page 26.]

A student involved in an extracurricular activity must notify his or her teachers ahead of time about any absences.

A student will be permitted to make up tests and 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 timelines approved by the principal and previously communicated to students.

#### **DAEP Makeup Work**

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

#### Grades 9-12

If a high school student is enrolled in a foundation curriculum course at the time of removal to a disciplinary alternative education program (DAEP), he or she will have an opportunity to complete the course before the beginning of the next school year. 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) for more information.]

## In-School Suspension (ISS) and Out-of-School Suspension (OSS) Makeup Work (All Grade Levels)

#### **Alternative Means to Receive Coursework**

While a student is in ISS or OSS, the district will provide the student with all course work for the student's foundation curriculum classes that the student misses as a result of the suspension.

#### **Opportunity to Complete Courses**

A student removed from the regular classroom to ISS 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) for more information.]

## **Nondiscrimination Statement (All Grade Levels)**

In its efforts to promote nondiscrimination and as required by law, the district 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 Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs. The district 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: *Chad Teague, Chief Human Resources Officer at 469-302-4117.*
- ADA/Section 504 Coordinator for concerns regarding discrimination on the basis of disability: Adrienne Morris, Senior Director of Special Populations at 469-302-6302.
- All other concerns regarding discrimination: See the superintendent, Contact the Office of the Superintendent at 469-742-4000.
- [See policies FB, FFH, and GKD for more information.]

## Parent and Family Engagement (All Grade Levels)

#### **Working Together**

Experience and research tell us that a child succeeds in education with good communication and a strong partnership between home and school. A parent's involvement and engagement in this partnership may include:

- Encouraging your child to put a high priority on education and working with your child every day 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 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 39.]
- 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 79.]
- Becoming a school volunteer. [See Volunteers on page 93 and policy GKG for more information.]

- Serving as a parent representative on the district-level or campus-level planning committees
  that develop educational goals and plans to improve student achievement. For more
  information, see policies BQA and BQB and contact the campus principal.
- Serving on the School Health Advisory Council (SHAC) and assisting the district in aligning local community values with health education instruction, human sexuality instruction, instruction on prevention of child abuse, family violence, dating violence, and sex trafficking, and other wellness issues. [See School Health Advisory Council (SHAC) on page 71 and policies BDF, EHAA, FFA for more information.]
- 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 wellbeing.
- Attending board meetings to learn more about district operations. [See policies BE and BED for more information.]

## Parking and Parking Permits (Secondary Grade Levels Only)

A student must present a valid driver's license and proof of insurance to be eligible for a parking permit.

Students must request a parking permit to park in a school parking lot. So long as space is available, parking permits may be issued throughout the year.

Students will not be permitted to:

- Speed
- Double-park
- Park across a white or yellow line
- Park in a fire lane
- Sit in parked cars during school hours

Students may be subject to disciplinary action for violation of these rules. The district may tow cars that are parked in violation of these rules.

#### Pledges of Allegiance and a Minute of Silence (All Grade Levels)

Each school day, students will recite the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. 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 11.]

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 in remembrance of those who lost their lives on September 11, 2001, at the beginning of the first class period when September 11 falls on a regular school day.

[See policy EC for more information.]

## Prayer (All Grade Levels)

Each student has a right to pray individually, voluntarily, and silently or to meditate in school in a manner that does not disrupt school activities. The school will not encourage, require, or coerce a student to engage in or 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 proficiency. In making promotion decisions, the district will consider the following:

- Teacher recommendation
- Grades
- Scores on criterion-referenced or state-mandated assessments
- Any other necessary academic information as determined by the district

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

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.

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 only 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.]

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 or in a course intended for students above the student's current grade level in which the student will be administered a state mandated assessment, the student will not be subject to the promotion requirements described above for the relevant grade 5 or 8 assessment.

If a student 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 only be required to take an applicable state mandated assessment for the course in which he or she is enrolled

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 policies at EIE.]

Certain students—some with disabilities and some with limited English proficiency—may be eligible for exemptions, accommodations, or deferred testing. For more information, see the principal, 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 in a middle school or junior high 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 guidance 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, principal or 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 refer to the Academic Planning Guide (APG) on the McKinney ISD website <a href="http://www.mckinneyisd.net/secondary-student-support/academic-planning-guides/">http://www.mckinneyisd.net/secondary-student-support/academic-planning-guides/</a>

## Repeating Kindergarten— Grade-8 at Parent Request

A parent may request in writing that a student repeat kindergarten, or any grade in grade 1-8. Before granting the request, the district may convene a retention committee to meet and discuss the request and will invite the parent to participate.

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

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

A student in grades 9-12 will be advanced a grade level based on the number of course credits earned. [See **Grade-Level Classification** on page 56.]

Students will also have multiple opportunities to retake EOC assessments. [See **Graduation** on page 57 and **Standardized Testing** on page 88.]

#### **Repeating a High-School Credit Course**

A parent may request in writing that a student repeat a high-school credit course in which the student was enrolled during the previous school year unless the district determines that the student has met all requirements for graduation.

Before granting the request, the district may convene a retention committee to meet and discuss the request and will invite the parent to participate.

Only the student's first passing grade will be included in the calculation of class ranking.

#### Release of Students from School

[See Leaving Campus on page 73.]

## 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 to parents at least once every nine weeks.

Progress reports are sent home every four weeks. Parents will be given a written progress report if their child's performance in any course OR in English language arts, mathematics, science, or social studies is near or below 70, or is below the expected level of performance. If the student receives a grade lower than 70 in any class or subject at the end of a grading period, the parent will be requested to schedule a conference with the teacher of that class or subject.

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

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

The report card or unsatisfactory progress report will state whether tutorials are required for a student who receives a grade lower than 70 (secondary student) or 2 (elementary student) in a class or subject.

#### Retaliation

[See Dating Violence, Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation on page 42.]

## **Required State Assessments**

## STAAR (State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness) for 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
- Science in grades 5 and 8
- Social Studies in grade 8

#### Standardized Testing for a Student Enrolled Above Grade Level

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.

A student in grades 3-8 shall be assessed at least once in high school with the ACT or the SAT if the student completes the high school end-of-course assessments in mathematics, reading/language arts, or science prior to high school.

#### 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
- U.S. History

Satisfactory performance on the applicable assessments is required for graduation, unless 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. The windows occur in the fall, spring, and summer months. If a student does not meet satisfactory performance, the student will have opportunities to retake the assessment.

#### **Standardized Testing for a Student in Special Programs**

Certain students — some with disabilities and some classified as emergent bilingual students — may be eligible for exemptions, accommodations, or deferred testing. For more information, see the principal, school counselor, or special education director.

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

An admission, review, and dismissal (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 (PGP). [See **Graduation** on page 57.]

STAAR Spanish is available for eligible students for whom a Spanish version of STAAR is the most appropriate measure of their academic progress.

For more information, see the principal, school counselor, or special education director

#### Failure to Perform Satisfactorily on STAAR or EOC

If a student does not perform satisfactorily on a required state assessment in any subject, the district will provide accelerated instruction for the student in the subsequent school year by:

- Assigning the student to a teacher who is certified as a master, exemplary, or recognized teacher if one is available in the grade and subject matter of the state assessment on which the student did not perform satisfactorily, or
- Providing supplemental instruction.

A student may be required to attend any assigned supplemental instruction program before or after school or during the summer.

When a student fails to perform satisfactorily on a required state assessment in the same subject area for two or more years, the district shall develop an accelerated education plan. Parents are encouraged to participate in developing this plan.

## Safety (All Grade Levels)

Student safety on campus, at school-related events, and in district vehicles is a high priority of the district. 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 all behavioral standards in this handbook and the Student Code of Conduct or set by district employees.

- Help secure the campus by keeping all exterior doors closed, latched, and locked unless the door is actively monitored by a district employee.
- Follow instructions from teachers and other district employees regarding classroom doors.
- Remain alert to any safety hazards, such as intruders on campus or threats made by any
  person toward a student or staff member, and promptly report any incidents to a district
  employee. A student may make anonymous reports about safety concerns at
  <a href="https://www.mckinneyisd.net/safety-security/tip411/">https://www.mckinneyisd.net/safety-security/tip411/</a>.
- 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.

## Insurance for Career and Technical Education (CTE) Programs

The district may purchase accident, liability, or automobile insurance coverage for students and businesses involved in the district's CTE programs.

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

Periodically, the school will conduct 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.

## **Preparedness Training: CPR and Stop the Bleed**

The district will offer instruction in CPR and the use of an automated external defibrillator (AED) at least once to students enrolled in in grades 7-12. The instruction can be provided as part of any course and is not required to result in CPR or AED certification.

The district will annually offer students in grades 7-12 instruction on the use of bleeding control stations to respond to traumatic injury. For more information, see:

- Homeland Security's Stop the Bleed (https://www.dhs.gov/stopthebleed)
- Stop the Bleed Texas (https://stopthebleedtexas.org/)

#### **Emergency Medical Treatment and Information**

All parents are asked each year to complete a medical care authorization form, providing written parental consent to obtain emergency treatment and information about allergies to medications or drugs. Parents should contact the school nurse to update emergency care information (name of doctor, emergency phone numbers, allergies, and the like).

The district may consent to medical treatment, including dental treatment, if necessary, for a student if:

- The district has received written authorization from a person having the right to consent;
- That person cannot be contacted; and
- That person has not given the district actual notice to the contrary.

The emergency care authorization form will be used by the district when a student's parent or authorized designee cannot be contacted. A student may provide consent if authorized by law or court order.

Regardless of parental authorization for the district to consent to medical treatment, district employees will contact emergency medical services to provide emergency care when required by law or when deemed necessary, such as to avoid a life-threatening situation.

## **Emergency School Closing Information**

McKinney ISD administration makes decisions about canceling school due to severe weather on a case-by-case basis. The first and foremost determining factor in the decision making process is based on the safety of the students. During severe weather conditions (snow/ice storms), information about school closings can be obtained through the McKinney ISD website (www.mckinneyisd.net), MISD Communications Department and through local media sources.

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 changes.

[See Parent Contact Information on page 36 and Automated Emergency Communications on page 36.]

## **SAT, ACT, and Other Standardized Tests**

[See Standardized Testing on page 88.]

## Schedule Changes (Middle/Junior High and High School Grade Levels)

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 12th grade and eHigh who meet specific criteria and receive parental consent to enroll in less than a full-day's schedule. Additionally, exceptions may be made in accordance with applicable federal and state laws and regulations. Once a student has enrolled in a particular course, schedule changes may only be made in limited circumstances.

#### School Facilities

## **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 campus main office. If you have any questions, or would like to examine the District's plan in more detail, please contact the campus principal.

#### Food and Nutrition 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.

Some students are eligible for free and reduced-price meals based on financial need. Information about a student's participation is confidential. The district may share information such as a student's name and eligibility status to help enroll eligible children in Medicaid or the state children's health insurance program (CHIP) unless the student's parent requests the student's information not be disclosed.

Participating students will be offered the same meal options as their peers and will not be treated differently from their peers.

[See policy CO for more information.]

Meal Charging Policy

Students without sufficient funds in their account may charge up to 3 breakfast or lunch meals to allow for nutrition while funds are added to their account, but this will take their account negative. Once a student has reached their negative maximum, a courtesy meal will be provided until positive funds are reestablished to allow for further purchases.

- No charging for any a la carte items
- No charging for adults

Parents should continually monitor their child's meal account balance. When a student's meal account is depleted, the district will notify the parent. The student may continue to purchase meals according to the grace period set by the school board. The district will present the parent with a schedule of repayment for any outstanding account balance and an application for free or reduced meals.

If the district is unable to work out an agreement with the student's parent on replenishment of the meal account and payment of any outstanding balance, the student will receive a meal. The district will make every effort to avoid bringing attention to the student.

The following information is published as required by the USDA for participation in the National School Lunch Program:

"In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity.

"Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

"To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at: https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/ad-3027.pdf, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by:

#### 1. mail:

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or

2. fax:

(833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or

3. email:

Program.Intake@usda.gov

The responsible state agency that administers the program is the <u>Texas Department of Agriculture</u> (<a href="https://www.texasagriculture.gov/Home/Contact-Us">https://www.texasagriculture.gov/Home/Contact-Us</a>), which can be reached at (800) TELL-TDA (835-5832) or (800) 735-2989 (TTY).

The local agency that administers the program is the district. See **Nondiscrimination Statement** on page 75 for the name and contact information for the Title IX coordinator,

ADA/Section 504 coordinator, and superintendent for other concerns about discrimination.

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

The district has adopted and implemented the state and federal policies for food service, including guidelines to restrict student access to vending machines. For more information regarding these policies and guidelines, contact the School Nutrition Department at 469-302-6363.

[See policy FFA for more information.]

#### 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, periodic indoor and outdoor 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. Except in 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 of the times and types of applications prior to pesticide application inside their child's school assignment area may contact Nathan Hansard, IPM Coordinator, 469-302-4280 or <a href="mailto:nhansard@mckinneyisd.net">nhansard@mckinneyisd.net</a>.

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

Teachers and administrators have full authority over student conduct at before- or after-school activities. Whether a school activity is on or off district premises, students must follow the same rules of conduct that apply during the instructional day. Misbehavior 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.

<sup>&</sup>quot;This institution is an equal opportunity provider."

## **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. The library is open for independent student use with teacher permission.

#### Use of Hallways during Class Time (All Grade Levels)

During class times, loitering or standing in the halls is not permitted, and 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.

#### **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. For a list of areas on school property that are opened to students before school and the times when these areas are available check with the school principal.

Unless the teacher or sponsor overseeing the 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, and unless involved in an activity under the supervision of a teacher, students must leave campus immediately. Failure to leave campus may result in disciplinary consequences.

#### 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.

## **School-Sponsored Field Trips (All Grade Levels)**

The district periodically takes students on field trips for educational purposes.

A parent must provide permission for a student to participate in a field trip.

The district may ask the parent to provide information about a student's medical provider and insurance coverage and may also ask the parent to sign a waiver allowing for emergency medical treatment in the case of a student accident or illness during the field trip.

The district may require a fee for student participation in a field trip that is not required as part of a basic educational program or course to cover expenses such as transportation, admission, and meals; however, a student will not be denied participation because of financial need. See **Fees (All Grade Levels)** on page 55 for more information.

The district is not responsible for refunding fees paid directly to a third-party vendor.

#### Searches

#### Searches in General (All Grade Levels)

In the interest of promoting student safety and drug-free schools, district officials may occasionally conduct searches.

District officials may search students, their belongings, and their vehicles in accordance with law and district policy. Searches of students will be conducted without discrimination, based on, for example, reasonable suspicion or voluntary consent or pursuant to district policy providing for suspicionless security procedures, including the use of metal detectors.

In accordance with the Student Code of Conduct, students are responsible for prohibited items found in their possession, including items in their personal belongings or in vehicles parked on district property.

If there is reasonable suspicion to believe that searching a student's person, belongings, or vehicle will reveal evidence of a violation of the Student Code of Conduct, a district official may conduct a search in accordance with law and district regulations.

## **District Property (All Grade Levels)**

Desks, lockers, district-provided technology, and similar items are the property of the district and are provided for student use as a matter of convenience. District property is subject to search or inspection at any time without notice. Students have no expectation of privacy in district property.

Students are responsible for any item found in district property provided to the student that is prohibited by law, district policy, or the Student Code of Conduct.

#### **Metal Detectors (All Grade Levels)**

To maintain a safe and disciplined learning environment, the district reserves the right to subject students to metal detector searches when entering a district campus and at off-campus, school-sponsored activities.

#### **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 electronic devices will be conducted in accordance with law, and the device may be confiscated to perform a lawful search. A confiscated device may be turned over to law enforcement to determine whether a crime has been committed.

[See **Electronic Devices and Technology Resources** on page 48 and policy FNF(LEGAL) for more information.]

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

The district may use trained dogs to screen for concealed, prohibited items, including drugs and alcohol. Screenings conducted by trained dogs will not be announced in advance. The dogs will not be used with students, but students may be asked to leave personal belongings in an area that is going to be screened, such as a classroom, a locker, or a vehicle. If a dog alerts to an item or an area, it may be searched by district officials.

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

If a vehicle subject to search is locked, the student will be asked to unlock the vehicle. If the student refuses, the district will contact the student's parents. If the parents also refuse to permit the vehicle to be searched, the district may turn the matter over to law enforcement. The district may contact law enforcement even if permission to search is granted.

#### **Sexual Harassment**

[See Dating Violence, Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation on page 42.]

## **Special Programs (All Grade Levels)**

The district provides special programs for gifted and talented students, students who are homeless, students in foster care, bilingual students, migrant students, English 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 building principal.

The Texas State Library and Archives Commission's <u>Talking Book Program</u> (<a href="https://www.tsl.texas.gov/tbp/index.html">https://www.tsl.texas.gov/tbp/index.html</a>) provides audiobooks free of charge to qualifying Texans, including students with visual, physical, or reading disabilities such as dyslexia.

## **Standardized Testing**

#### 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. These assessments are usually taken at the end of the junior year. Students are encouraged to talk with the school counselor early during their junior year to learn about these assessments and determine the appropriate examination to take. The Preliminary SAT (PSAT) and ACT-Aspire are the corresponding preparatory and readiness assessments for the SAT and ACT.

**Note:** These assessments may qualify a student to receive a performance acknowledgment on the student's 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 TSI assesses the reading, mathematics, and writing skills that first-year students need to perform effectively as undergraduates in Texas public colleges and universities. This assessment may also be required before a student enrolls in a dual credit course offered through the district. Achieving certain benchmark scores on this assessment may also waive certain end-of-course assessment requirements in limited circumstances.

## Student Speakers (All Grade Levels)

The District provides students the opportunity to introduce school events: listed in FNA (LOCAL) at INTRODUCTORY SPEAKERS. If a student meets the eligibility criteria and wishes to introduce one of the school events listed above, the student should submit his or her name in accordance with policy FNA (LOCAL).

See policy FNA (LOCAL) regarding other speaking opportunities and Graduation for information related to student speakers at graduation ceremonies.]

[See **Graduation** on page 57 for information related to student speakers at graduation ceremonies and policy FNA(LOCAL) regarding other speaking opportunities.]

## **Tardies (All Grade Levels)**

A student is considered late when the tardy bell rings, and the student is not in the appropriate classroom. Repeated instances of tardiness will result in more severe disciplinary action, in accordance with the **Student Code of Conduct**. Tardies are considered absences under the guidelines and policies regarding compulsory attendance.

#### **TEMPERATURE/SEVERE WEATHER**

#### Cold/Heat/Ozone Guidelines

Weather conditions can pose a risk to the health of students. The following guidelines are intended to assist when making decisions regarding outside activities during periods of high heat or heat index, when there is an ozone warning or when other atmospheric conditions pose a health risk to students. Activity results in the loss of body fluids. Excessive heat and/or humidity increase the amount of fluid loss. The body needs a cool-down period to readjust itself to the cooler temperatures within the building. Efforts will be made to make sure that students consistently drink fluids so they do not dehydrate. If a student becomes thirsty, he or she is already under-hydrated. Fluids are especially important before any physical activity or before leaving an air-conditioned environment. Many medications prescribed for therapeutic purposes can potentially affect heat tolerance. Some students on mediation have an impaired ability to dissipate heat from the body due to their medical conditions.

McKinney ISD staff will utilize one of the following sites to access current weather conditions for McKinney and Collin County:

## Temperature website:

http://forecast.weather.gov/MapClick.php?CityName=Mc+kinney&state=TX&site=FWD&textField1-33.2009&textField2=96.6549&e-0

Air Quality (Ozone) website: http://www.airnow.gov/

Parents should notify the school in writing if they do not want their children to go outside on days other than those mentioned above for recess or any other outside activity.

## Hot Temperatures

When the temperature or heat index rises to 95 degrees or the ozone alert is orange, outdoor recess or activities should be limited to 10 minutes.

When the temperature or heat index rises to 100 or the ozone alert is red or purple no outside recess or activities should be allowed, except of normal dismissal procedures, but caution will be used during dismissal time to keep exposure to heat at a minimum.

Parents are encouraged to dress children in cotton material, loose fitting, lightweight and light colored clothes.

Parents are encouraged to provide a balanced diet including 4 to 5 servings of fruits and vegetables daily. These foods are not only natural sources of vitamins and electrolytes, but provide additional water to the body.

To the extent possible schedules will be rearranged so that outside activities can occur in the mornings, when the temperature is cooler.

Discretion will be used to decrease outside activities when seasonal temperatures and humidity exceed those normal for this area.

Vigilance in hydrating students before, during and after outside activities will be used.

Efforts will be made to ensure that all staff members are aware of the signs, symptoms and treatment procedures for heat-related illnesses.

A cool-down period once the students return to the building from outside activities will be encouraged.

Efforts will be made to ensure that students are aware that metal parts, including swing chains, metals slides, metal wheels, screws and bolts will be hot and to avoid them as much as possible during this time.

During these times of heat, it is advised that students are to be kept inside the building while waiting for a bus, daycare van, or parent pick-up.

#### **Cold Temperatures**

During times of excessive cold weather, the following precautions should be taken:

When the temperature or wind chill is at or below 25 degrees no outdoor recess or activities should be allowed.

Parents are encouraged to dress children in appropriate cold weather clothing including dressing in layers during the cold weather months.

#### If student does not have appropriate outerwear they will be kept indoors.

Efforts will be made to ensure that all staff members are aware of the signs, symptoms and treatment procedures for cold-related illnesses.

During these times of cold it is advised that students are to be kept inside the building while waiting for a bus, daycare van, or parent pick-up.

#### Severe Weather

McKinney ISD administration makes decisions about canceling school due to severe weather on a case-by-case basis. The first and foremost determining factor in that decision-making is based on the safety of the students. During severe weather conditions (snow storms, ice storms, etc.), information about school closings can be obtained at the following media sources: McKinney ISD web site: www.mckinneyisd.net.

# Textbooks, Electronic Textbooks, Technological Equipment, and Other Instructional Materials (All Grade Levels)

Instructional materials are any resources used in classroom instruction as part of the required curriculum, such as textbooks, workbooks, computer software, or online services.

The district selects instructional materials in accordance with state law and policy EFA.

The district provides approved instructional materials to students free of charge for each subject or class. Students must treat instructional materials with care, as directed by the teacher.

If a student needs a graphing calculator for a course and the district does not provide one, the student may use a calculator application with graphing capabilities on a phone, laptop, tablet, or other computing device.

A student who is issued a damaged item should report the damage to the teacher.

Any student who does not return an item or returns an item in an unacceptable condition loses the right to free textbooks and technological equipment until the item is returned or the damage is 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.

For information on library books and other resources students may access voluntarily, see **Library (All Grade Levels)** on page 86.

## Transfers (All Grade Levels)

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

The superintendent is authorized to investigate and approve transfers between schools.

[See Safety Transfers/Assignments on page 17, Bullying on page 28, and A Student Who Has Learning Difficulties or Who Needs Special Education or Section 504 Services on page 19, for other transfer options.]

## **Transportation (All Grade Levels)**

#### **School-Sponsored Trips**

Students who participate in school-sponsored trips are required to use school-provided transportation to and from the event. However, in accordance with campus procedures, a parent may provide written consent for his or her child to ride with or be released after the event to the parent or another adult designated by the parent. [See **School-Sponsored Field Trips** on page 86.]

#### **Buses and Other School Vehicles**

The district makes school bus transportation available to all students living two or more miles from school and to any students who are experiencing homelessness. This service is provided at no cost to students.

Bus routes and stops will be designated annually. Any subsequent changes will be posted at the school and on the district's website. For the safety of the driver and all passengers, students must board district vehicles only at authorized stops and drivers must unload passengers only at authorized stops.

A parent may designate a child-care facility or grandparent's residence as the regular pickup and drop-off location for his or her child. The designated location must be an approved stop on an approved route. For information on bus routes and stops or to designate an alternate pickup or drop-off location, contact Durham Bus Services 972-542-8316.

Students are expected to assist district staff in ensuring that buses and other district vehicles are clean and safe. When riding in district vehicles, students are held to behavioral standards established in this handbook and the Student Code of Conduct. Students must:

- Follow the driver's directions at all times.
- Enter and leave the 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, including loss of the privilege to ride in a district vehicle.

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

## Vandalism (All Grade Levels)

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, the district uses video and audio recording equipment 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 as needed and document student misconduct. Discipline will be in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct.

In accordance with state law, a parent of a student who receives special education services, a staff member (as this term is defined by law), a principal or assistant principal, or the board may make a written request for the district to place video and audio recording equipment in certain self-contained special education classrooms. The district will provide notice before placing a video camera in a classroom or other setting in which a child receives special education services. For more information or to request the installation and operation of this equipment, contact the principal, who the district has designated to coordinate the implementation of and compliance with this law.

[See policy EHBAF(LOCAL) for more information.]

[See Consent to Video or Audio Record a Student when Not Already Permitted by Law on page 7 for video and other recording by parents or visitors to virtual or in-person classrooms.]

## **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:

- Request entry to the school at the primary entrance unless otherwise directed by a district employee.
- Report to the main office.

- Be prepared to show identification.
- Exit the school at the primary entrance and leave all exterior doors closed, latched, and locked unless actively monitored by a district employee.
- Comply with all applicable district policies and procedures.

If requested by a district employee, a visitor must provide identification such as a driver's license, other picture identification issued by a government entity, or employee or student identification issued by the district. A person who refuses to provide identification and who reasonably appears to have no legitimate reason to be on district property may be ejected from district property.

Individuals may visit classrooms or observe virtual instruction during instructional time only with approval of the principal and teacher. Visitors may not interfere with instruction or disrupt the normal school environment.

All visitors are expected to demonstrate the highest standards of courtesy and conduct. Disruptive behavior or violations of student privacy will not be permitted.

[See Consent to Video or Audio Record a Student when Not Already Permitted by Law on page 7 for video and other recording by parents or visitors to virtual or in-person classrooms.]

#### **Unauthorized Persons**

In accordance with Education Code 37.105, a school administrator, school resource officer (SRO), or district police officer has the authority to refuse entry to or eject a person from district property if the person refuses to leave peaceably on request and:

- The person poses a substantial risk of harm to any person; or
- The person behaves in a manner that is inappropriate for a school setting and persists in the behavior after being given a verbal warning that the behavior is inappropriate and may result in refusal of entry or ejection.

Appeals regarding refusal of entry or ejection from district property may be filed in accordance with policies FNG(LOCAL) or GF(LOCAL).

[See the Student Code of Conduct.]

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

#### Business, Civic, and Youth Groups

The district may invite representatives from patriotic societies listed in Title 36 of the United States Code to present information to interested students about membership in the society.

## Career Day

On specified days, 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)**

The district invites and appreciates the efforts of volunteers who are willing to serve our district and students.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the campus administrator for more information and to complete an application.

The district does not require state criminal history background checks for volunteers who are parents, guardians, or grandparents of a child enrolled in the district.

Subject to exceptions in accordance with state law and district procedures, other volunteers will be subject to a state criminal history background check, and the volunteer must pay all costs for the background check.

## **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)

To withdraw a student under age 18 from school, the parent or guardian must submit a written request to the principal specifying the reasons for withdrawal and the final day the student will be in attendance. Withdrawal forms are available from the principal's office.

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

Please provide the school at least three days' notice of withdrawal so that records and documents may be prepared.

## **Glossary**

Accelerated instruction, including supplemental instruction, is an intensive educational program designed to help an individual student acquire the knowledge and skills required at his or her grade level. It is required when a student does not meet the passing standard on a state-mandated assessment. Accelerated instruction may be provided by assigning a student to a classroom teacher who is certified as a master, exemplary, or recognized teacher or by providing supplemental instruction in addition to regular instruction.

**ACT**, or the American College Test, is one of the two most frequently used college or university admissions examinations. The test may be required for admission to certain colleges or universities.

**ACT-Aspire** is designed as a preparatory and readiness assessment for the ACT. This is usually taken by students in grade 10.

**ARD** stands for admission, review, and dismissal. The ARD committee convenes 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.

CPS stands for Child Protective Services.

**DAEP** stands for disciplinary alternative education program, a placement for students who have violated certain provisions of the Student Code of Conduct.

**DFPS** stands for the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services.

**DPS** stands for the Texas Department of Public Safety.

**DSHS** stands for the Texas Department of State Health Services.

**ED** stands for the U.S. Department of Education.

**Emergent bilingual student** refers to a student of limited English proficiency. Other related terms include English learner, English language learner, and limited English proficient student.

**EOC** (end-of-course) assessments are state-mandated and are part of the STAAR program. Successful performance on EOC assessments is required for graduation. These examinations will be given in English I, English II, Algebra I, Biology, and U.S. History.

ESSA is the federal Every Student Succeeds Act.

**FERPA** refers to the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, which 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 years of age or older directs the school not to release directory information.

**IEP** stands for individualized education program and is the written record prepared by the ARD committee for a student with disabilities who is eligible for special education services.

**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.

**PGP** stands for personal graduation plan, which is required for high school students 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. It also serves as the basis for the awarding of National Merit Scholarships.

**SAT** refers to the Scholastic Aptitude Test, one of the two most frequently used college or university admissions examinations. The test may be required 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 help ensure that local community values and health issues are reflected in the district's health education instruction, as well as assist 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.

**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 Spanish** is an alternative state-mandated assessment administered to eligible students for whom a Spanish version of STAAR is the most appropriate measure of their academic progress.

**State-mandated assessments** are required of students at certain grade levels and in specified subjects. Except under limited circumstances, students must pass the STAAR EOC assessments to graduate. Students have multiple opportunities to take the tests, if necessary, for 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; sets out the conditions that authorize or require the principal or another administrator to place the student in a DAEP; and 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.

**TAC** stands for the Texas Administrative Code.

**TEA** stands for the Texas Education Agency, which oversees primary and secondary public education in Texas.

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

**TSI** stands for the Texas Success Initiative, an 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** stands for 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 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 A: Freedom from Bullying Policy**

**Note:** School board policies may be revised at any time. For legal context and the most current copy of the local policy, visit <a href="https://pol.tasb.org/PolicyOnline/PolicyDetails?key=310&code=FFI-localTabContent">https://pol.tasb.org/PolicyOnline/PolicyDetails?key=310&code=FFI-localTabContent</a>. Below is the text of McKinney ISD 's policy FFI(LOCAL) as of the date this handbook was finalized for this school year.

#### **Student Welfare: Freedom from Bullying**

Policy FFI(LOCAL) - Adopted: 6/27/2023

Note: This policy addresses bullying of District students. For purposes of this policy, the term bullying includes cyberbullying.

For provisions regarding discrimination and harassment involving District students, see FFH. Note that FFI shall be used in conjunction with FFH for certain prohibited conduct. For reporting requirements related to child abuse and neglect, see FFG.

#### **Bullying Prohibited**

The District prohibits bullying, including cyberbullying, as defined by state law. Retaliation against anyone involved in the complaint process is a violation of District policy and is prohibited.

## **Examples**

Bullying of a student could occur by physical contact or through electronic means and may include hazing, threats, taunting, teasing, confinement, assault, demands for money, destruction of property, theft of valued possessions, name calling, rumor spreading, or ostracism.

#### **Minimum Standards**

In accordance with law, the Superintendent shall develop administrative procedures to ensure that minimum standards for bullying prevention are implemented.

#### 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**

#### Student Report

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, school counselor, principal, or other District employee. The Superintendent shall develop procedures allowing a student to anonymously report an alleged incident of bullying.

## 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.

## Periodic Monitoring

The Superintendent shall periodically monitor the reported counts of bullying incidents. District leadership will analyze trends in the data, taking into consideration whether declines in bullying reports are indicative of improved campus culture and safety, or whether declines are due to an unwillingness to report.

#### **Notice of Report**

When an allegation of bullying is reported, the principal or designee shall notify a parent of the alleged victim on or before the third business day after the incident is reported. The principal or designee shall also notify a parent of the student alleged to have engaged in the conduct within a reasonable amount of time after the incident is reported.

#### **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, sex, gender, national origin, or disability. If so, the District shall proceed under policy FFH. If the allegations could constitute both prohibited conduct and bullving, 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. The District may notify law enforcement in certain circumstances.

#### 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 whether 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 website, to the extent practicable, and shall be readily available at each campus and the District's administrative offices.

MCKINNEY ISD FFI(LOCAL)-X LDU 2023.03

**DATE ISSUED: 7/7/2023** 

Appendix B: Science Safety Agreement Elementary

### McKinney ISD Science Safety Agreements - Elementary

MISD Elementary Science Safety Agreement
MISD Elementary Science Safety Agreement (Spanish)

# Appendix C: Science Safety Agreement Middle School

# Student Safety Contract

### **Purpose**

SAFETY FAXI Science is a hands-on laboratory class. However, science activities may have potential hazards. We will use some equipment and animals that may be dangerous if not handled properly. Safety in the science classroom is an important part of the scientific process. To ensure a safe classroom, a list of rules has been developed and is called the Science Safety Contract. These rules must be followed at all times. Additional safety instructions will be given for each activity.

No science student will be allowed to participate in science activities until this contract has been signed by both the student and a parent or guardian.

### Safety Rules

- 1. Conduct yourself in a responsible manner at all times in the science room. Horseplay, practical jokes, and pranks will not be tolerated.
- 2. Follow all written and verbal instructions carefully. Ask your teacher questions if you do not understand the instructions.
- 3. Do not touch any equipment, supplies, animals, or other materials in the science room without permission from the teacher.
- 4. Perform only authorized and approved experiments. Do not conduct any experiments when the teacher is out of the room.
- 5. Never eat, drink, chew gum, or taste anything in the science room.
- 6. Keep hands away from face, eyes, and mouth while using science materials or when working with either chemicals or animals. Wash your hands with soap and water before leaving the science room.
- 7. Wear safety glasses or goggles when instructed. Never remove safety glasses or goggles during an experiment. There will be no exceptions to this rule!
- 8. Keep your work area and the science room neat and clean. Bring only your laboratory instructions, worksheets, and writing instruments to the work area.
- 9. Clean all work areas and equipment at the end of the experiment. Return all equipment clean and in working order to the proper
- 10. Follow your teacher's instructions to dispose of any waste materials generated in an experiment.
- 11. Report any accident (fire, spill, breakage, etc.), injury (cut, burn, etc.), or hazardous condition (broken equipment, etc.) to the teacher immediately.
- 12. Consider all chemicals used in the science room to be dangerous. Do not touch or smell any chemicals unless specifically instructed to
- 13. Handle all animals with care and respect.
  - a. Open animal cages only with permission.
  - b. Never handle any animals when the teacher is out of the room.
  - c. Do not take animals out of the science room.
  - d. Do not tease or handle animals roughly.
  - e. Keep animals away from students' faces.
  - f. Wear gloves when handling animals.
  - g. Report any animal bite or scratch to the teacher immediately.
- 14. Always carry a microscope with both hands. Hold the arm with one hand; place the other hand under the base.
- 15. Treat all preserved specimens and dissecting supplies with care and respect.
  - a. Do not remove preserved specimens from the science room.
  - b. Use scalpels, scissors, and other sharp instruments only as instructed.
  - c. Never cut any material towards you—always cut away from your body.

#### Student Safety Contract continued

- d. Report any cut or scratch from sharp instruments to the teacher immediately.
- 16. Never open storage cabinets or enter the prep/storage room without permission from the teacher.
- 17. Do not remove chemicals, equipment, supplies, or animals from the science room without permission from the teacher.
- 18. Handle all glassware with care. Never pick up hot or broken glassware with your bare hands.
- 19. Use extreme caution when using matches, a burner, or hot plate. Only light burners when instructed and do not put anything into a flame unless specifically instructed to do so. Do not leave a lit burner unattended.
- 20. Dress properly—long hair must be tied back, no dangling jewelry, and no loose or baggy clothing. Wear aprons when instructed.
- 21. Learn where the safety equipment is located and how to use it. Know where the exits are located and what to do in case of an emergency or fire drill.

A	$\mathbf{G}$	RI	F)	$F\lambda$	ΛN	Fì	V	${f T}$

			inderstand each of the above safety rules set forth in this con-
tory. I also agree to follow the general rules of	of appropriate l	beha	out also the safety of others in the science classroom or labora- vior for a classroom at all times to avoid accidents and to provide do not follow all the rules and safety precautions, I will not be
Student Signature			
Date			
Dear Parent or Guardian:			
environment. Please read the list of safety rule is signed by both the student and parent/guar	es. No student dian and is on reviewed it wit	will file v	to create and maintain a safe science classroom/ laboratory be permitted to perform science activities unless this contract with the teacher. Your signature on this contract indicates that our child, and are aware of the measures taken to ensure the
Parent/Guardian Signature			
Date			
Important questions:			
Does your child wear contact lenses?			
Is your child color blind?	Y	or	N
is your clinic color billing.	Y	or	N
Does your child have any allergies?			
	V	or	N

If so, please list:

# Appendix D: Science Safety Agreement High School



# **Student Safety Contract**

School Name

Teacher\_\_\_\_

#### **PURPOSE**

Science is a hands-on laboratory class. You will be doing many laboratory activities which require the use of hazardous chemicals. Safety in the science classroom is the #1 priority for students, teachers, and parents. To ensure a safe science classroom, a list of rules has been developed and provided to you in this student safety contract. These rules must be followed at all times. Two copies of the contract are provided. One copy must be signed by both you and a parent or guardian before you can participate in the laboratory. The second copy is to be kept in your science notebook as a constant reminder of the safety rules.

#### **GENERAL RULES**

- 1. Conduct yourself in a responsible manner at all times in the laboratory.
- Follow all written and verbal instructions carefully. If you do not understand a direction or part of a procedure, ask the instructor before proceeding.
- Never work alone. No student may work in the laboratory without an instructor present.
- 4. When first entering a science room, do not touch any equipment, chemicals, or other materials in the laboratory area until you are instructed to do so.
- Do not eat food, drink beverages, or chew gum in the laboratory. Do not use laboratory glassware as containers for food or beverages.
- 6. Perform only those experiments authorized by the instructor. Never do anything in the laboratory that is not called for in the laboratory procedures or by your instructor. Carefully follow all instructions, both written and oral. Unauthorized experiments are prohibited.
- 7. Be prepared for your work in the laboratory. Read all procedures thoroughly before entering the laboratory.
- 8. Never fool around in the laboratory. Horseplay, practical jokes, and pranks are dangerous and prohibited.
- 9. Observe good housekeeping practices. Work areas should be kept clean and tidy at all times. Bring only your laboratory instructions, worksheets, and/or reports to the work area. Other materials (books, purses, backpacks, etc.) should be stored in the classroom area.
- Keep aisles clear. Push your chair under the desk when not in use.

- 11. Know the locations and operating procedures, where appropriate, for all safety equipment including first aid kit, eyewash station, safety shower, fire extinguisher, and fire blanket. Know where the fire alarm and exits are located.
- 12. Always work in a well-ventilated area. Use the fume hood when working with volatile substances or poisonous vapors. Never place your head into the fume hood.
- 13. Be alert and proceed with caution at all times in the laboratory. Notify the instructor immediately of any unsafe conditions you observe.
- 14. Dispose of all chemical waste properly. Never mix chemicals in sink drains. Sinks are to be used only for water and those solutions designated by the instructor. Solid chemicals, metals, matches, filter paper, and all other insoluble materials are to be disposed of in the proper waste containers, not in the sink. Check the label of all waste containers twice before adding your chemical waste to the container.
- 15. Labels and equipment instructions must be read carefully before use. Set up and use the prescribed apparatus as directed in the laboratory instructions or by your instructor.
- 16. Keep hands away from face, eyes, mouth and body while using chemicals or preserved specimens. Wash your hands with soap and water after performing all experiments. Clean all work surfaces and apparatus at the end of the experiment. Return all equipment clean and in working order to the proper storage area.
- 17. Experiments must be personally monitored at all times. You will be assigned a laboratory station at which to work. Do not wander around the room, distract other students, or interfere with the laboratory experiments of others.
- 18. Students are never permitted in the science storage rooms or preparation areas unless given specific permission by their instructor.
- 19. Know what to do if there is a fire drill during a laboratory period; containers must be closed, gas valves turned off, fume hoods turned off, and any electrical equipment turned off.
- 20. Handle all living organisms used in a laboratory activity in a humane manner. Preserved biological materials are to be treated with respect and disposed of properly.

- 21. When using knives and other sharp instruments, always carry with tips and points pointing down and away. Always cut away from your body. Never try to catch falling sharp instruments. Grasp sharp instruments only by the handles.
- 22. If you have a medical condition (e.g., allergies, pregnancy, etc.), check with your physician prior to working in lab.

#### **CLOTHING**

- 23. Any time chemicals, heat, or glassware are used, students will wear laboratory goggles. There will be no exceptions to this rule!
- 24. Contact lenses may be worn provided adequate face and eye protection is provided by specially marked, non-vented safety goggles. The instructor should know which students are wearing contact lenses in the event of eye exposure to hazardous chemicals.
- 25. Dress properly for lab activities. Long hair, dangling jewelry, and loose or baggy clothing are hazardous. Long hair must be tied back and dangling jewelry and loose or baggy clothing must be secured. Shoes must completely cover the foot. No sandals allowed.
- 26. Lab aprons have been provided for your use and should be worn during laboratory activities.

#### **ACCIDENTS AND INJURIES**

- 27. Report any accident (spill, breakage, etc.) or injury (cut, burn, etc.) to the instructor immediately, no matter how trivial it may appear.
- 28. If you or your lab partner are hurt, immediately yell out "Code one, Code one" to get the instructor's attention.
- 29. If a chemical splashes in your eye(s) or on your skin, immediately flush with running water from the eyewash station or safety shower for at least 20 minutes. Notify the instructor immediately.
- 30. When mercury thermometers are broken, mercury must not be touched. Notify the instructor immediately.

#### HANDLING CHEMICALS

- 31. All chemicals in the laboratory are to be considered dangerous. Do not touch, taste, or smell any chemicals unless specifically instructed to do so. The proper technique for wafting chemical vapors will be demonstrated to you.
- 32. Check the label on chemical bottles twice before removing any of the contents. Take only as much chemical as you need.



# **Student Safety Contract Continued**

- Never return unused chemicals to their original containers.
- 34. Never use mouth suction to fill a pipet. Use a rubber bulb or pipet pump.
- 35. When transferring reagents from one container to another, hold the containers away from your body.
- 36. Acids must be handled with extreme care. You will be shown the proper method for diluting strong acids. Always add acid to water, swirl or stir the solution and be careful of the heat produced, particularly with sulfuric acid.
- 37. Handle flammable hazardous liquids over a pan to contain spills. Never dispense flammable liquids anywhere near an open flame or source of heat.
- 38. Never remove chemicals or other materials from the laboratory area.
- 39. Take great care when transporting acids and other chemicals from one part of the laboratory to another. Hold them securely and walk carefully.

# HANDLING GLASSWARE AND EQUIPMENT

- 40. Carry glass tubing, especially long pieces, in a vertical position to minimize the likelihood of breakage and injury.
- 41. Never handle broken glass with your bare hands. Use a brush and dustpan to clean up broken glass. Place broken or waste glassware in the designated glass disposal container.
- 42. Inserting and removing glass tubing from rubber stoppers can be dangerous. Always lubricate glassware (tubing, thistle tubes, thermometers, etc.) before attempting to insert it in a stopper. Always protect your hands with towels or cotton gloves when inserting glass tubing into, or removing it from, a rubber stopper. If a piece of glassware becomes "frozen" in a stopper, take it to your instructor for removal.
- 43. Fill wash bottles only with distilled water and use only as intended, e.g., rinsing glassware and equipment, or adding water to a container.
- 44. When removing an electrical plug from its socket, grasp the plug, not the electrical cord. Hands must be completely dry before touching an electrical switch, plug, or outlet.
- 45. Examine glassware before each use. Never use chipped or cracked glassware. Never use dirty glassware.
- 46. Report damaged electrical equipment immediately. Look for things such as

- frayed cords, exposed wires, and loose connections. Do not use damaged electrical equipment.
- 47. If you do not understand how to use a piece of equipment, ask the instructor for help.
- 48. Do not immerse hot glassware in cold water; it may shatter.

#### **HEATING SUBSTANCES**

- 49. Exercise extreme caution when using a gas burner. Take care that hair, clothing and hands are a safe distance from the flame at all times. Do not put any substance into the flame unless specifically instructed to do so. Never reach over an exposed flame. Light gas (or alcohol) burners only as instructed by the teacher.
- 50. Never leave a lit burner unattended. Never leave anything that is being heated or is visibly reacting unattended. Always turn the burner or hot plate off when not in use.
- 51. You will be instructed in the proper method of heating and boiling liquids in test tubes. Do not point the open end of a test tube being heated at yourself or anyone else.
- 52. Heated metals and glass remain very hot for a long time. They should be set aside to cool and picked up with caution. Use tongs or heat-protective gloves if necessary.
- 53. Never look into a container that is being heated.
- 54. Do not place hot apparatus directly on the laboratory desk. Always use an insulating pad. Allow plenty of time for hot apparatus to cool before touching it.
- 55. When bending glass, allow time for the glass to cool before further handling. Hot and cold glass have the same visual appearance. Determine if an object is hot by bringing the back of your hand close to it prior to grasping it.

#### **QUESTIONS**

56. Do you wear contact lenses?	
☐ YES ☐ NO	
57. Are you color blind?	
☐ YES ☐ NO	
58. Do you have allergies?	
☐ YES ☐ NO	
If so, list specific allergies	

#### **AGREEMENT**

(student'sname)have
read and agree to follow all of the
safety rules set forth in this contract.
I realize that I must obey these rules
to ensure my own safety, and that of
my fellow students and instructors. I
will cooperate to the fullest extent with
my instructor and fellow students to
maintain a safe lab environment. I will
also closely follow the oral and written
instructions provided by the instructor.
I am aware that any violation of this
safety contract that results in unsafe
conduct in the laboratory or misbe-
havior on my part, may result in being
removed from the laboratory, deten-
tion, receiving a failing grade, and/or
dismissal from the course.

Student Signature	_
Date	-

Dear Parent or Guardian:

We feel that you should be informed regarding the school's effort to create and maintain a safe science classroom/laboratory environment.

With the cooperation of the instructors, parents, and students, a safety instruction program can eliminate, prevent, and correct possible hazards.

You should be aware of the safety instructions your son/daughter will receive before engaging in any laboratory work. Please read the list of safety rules above. No student will be permitted to perform laboratory activities unless this contract is signed by both the student and parent/guardian and is on file with the teacher.

Your signature on this contract indicates that you have read this Student Safety Contract, are aware of the measures taken to ensure the safety of your son/daughter in the science laboratory, and will instruct your son/daughter to uphold his/her agreement to follow these rules and procedures in the laboratory.

Parent/Guardian Signature	
Date	

# Appendix E:

**Life Threating Allergy-Science Agreement Parent Letter** 

## Life Threatening Allergy-Science Agreement Parent Letter

Dear	Parent or Guardian,
food stude	re very excited to support your child in learning. In all content areas students will use and consume items. In order to provide a safe learning environment for all students, we would like to ensure that nts with allergies at risk for anaphylaxis /life threatening allergies (LTA) are not exposed to rials that would cause a reaction.
	No, my child does not have an LTA to any materials and can participate in all learning activities.
	Yes, my child does have a LTA to certain food substances and/or materials. My child is allergic to the following things (Please print):
	Yes, I have notified the campus nurse of the LTA.

Appendix F:
Updates in Special Education

# **Updates in Special Education**



School:

Contact Person:

**Phone Number:** 

To begin the special education process for your child:



TEA has created topic specific information for families. Scan the OR code or use the link to access these resources.



direc.to/dVYo

Family members can call or log on to find answers to their questions as well as general information about special education.



SpEdTex.org



1.855.773.3839



Beginning with the 2017 school year, the Texas Education Agency (TEA) changed the way it reports special education enrollment in school systems. TEA no longer includes a target for a school system's total numbers of students in special education as part of state monitoring.

For special education representation, TEA only reports on overrepresentation within certain race, ethnicity and disability categories, as required by federal law. School systems cannot use this reporting data to delay, deny or prevent a referral for an evaluation for special education services.



## Special education/IDEA eligibility:

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, also known as IDEA, is a federal law that gives eligible students with disabilities the right to receive special education services and assistance in school. To be eligible for special education services, a student with a disability must need instruction that is specially designed to meet the student's unique needs based on that disability.



## Who can request an evaluation for special education?



#### **Parents or Guardians:**

A parent or guardian has the right to request a special education evaluation at any time. It is best to submit this request in writing to your school's principal or to the school district's special education director. If your child is pre-school age and not yet enrolled in school, send the letter to the district's special education director.



#### **School:**

If the school knows or has reason to suspect that the student has a disability and a need for special education services, the school must refer the student for a special education evaluation.

More information on evaluation timelines can be found at: direc.to/dVYR

A parent or guardian has the right to request a special education evaluation at any time.





# Actualizaciones en Educación Especial



Persona de contacto para las remisiones de educación especial

Escuela:

Persona de contacto:

Número de teléfono:

Para comenzar el proceso de educación especial para su hijo:



# Recursos para las familias

La TEA ha creado información específica para las familias. Escanee el código QR o utilice el enlace para acceder a estos recursos.



direc.to/dVYo

Los miembros de la familia pueden llamar o conectarse para encontrar respuestas a sus preguntas, así como información general sobre la educación especial.



SpEdTex.org



📞 1.855.773.3839



A partir del año escolar 2017, la Agencia de Educación de Texas (TEA, por sus siglas en inglés) cambió la forma en que informa la inscripción a la educación especial en sistemas escolares. La TEA ya no incluye un objetivo para el número total de estudiantes en educación especial del sistema escolar como parte de la supervisión del estado.

Para la representación de educación especial, la TEA solo informa sobre la excesiva representación dentro de ciertas categorías de raza, grupo étnico y discapacidad, según lo exige la ley federal. Los sistemas escolares no pueden utilizar estos datos para retrasar, negar o evitar una remisión para una evaluación para los servicios de educación especial.



## Elegibilidad para educación especial/IDEA

La Ley de Educación para Personas con Discapacidad, también conocida como IDEA (por sus siglas en inglés) es una ley federal que otorga a los estudiantes elegibles con discapacidad el derecho a recibir servicios de educación especial y asistencia en la escuela. Para ser elegible para los servicios de educación especial, un estudiante con discapacidad debe necesitar instrucciones especialmente diseñadas para satisfacer las necesidades únicas del estudiante basadas en esa discapacidad.



# ¿Quién puede solicitar una evaluación para la educación especial?



### Padres o tutores legales:

Un padre o tutor legal tiene el derecho a solicitar una evaluación de educación especial en cualquier momento. Es mejor presentar esta solicitud por escrito al director de su escuela o al director de educación especial del distrito escolar. Si su hijo está en edad preescolar y aún no está inscrito en la escuela, envíe la carta al director de educación especial del distrito.



#### **Escuela:**

Si la escuela sabe o tiene razones para sospechar que el estudiante tiene una discapacidad y una necesidad de servicios de educación especial, la escuela debe derivar al estudiante para una evaluación de educación especial.

Puede obtener más información sobre los plazos de evaluación en: direc.to/dVYR

Un padre o tutor legal tiene el derecho a solicitar una evaluación de educación especial en cualquier momento.





