

North Elementary Student Handbook

2009-2010

North Elementary is a Campus-Wide Title I Campus

NORTH ELEMENTARY

Named an “Exemplary” Campus by the Texas Education Agency Accountability System

Principal: Eddie Lynge

9850 Legacy Drive

Fort Worth, TX 76108

(817) 367-1323

Fax: (817) 367-1308

Office Hours: 7:15 AM-3:15 PM

SCHOOL HOURS:

DOORS OPEN	7:00 AM
BREAKFAST	7:00-7:30 AM
TEACHERS ON DUTY	7:25-3:25
1 ST BELL K-4 TH	7:30
TARDY BELL K-4 TH	7:40
PRE K AM	7:25-10:25
PRE K PM	10:55-1:55
K-4 TH DISMISSAL	2:40

PARENTS: THE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM FOR THE NORTH ELEMENTARY STUDENT HANDBOOK IS FOUND ON THE LAST PAGE OF THE WSISD STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT. AFTER YOU REVIEW THE HANDBOOK AND THE CODE OF CONDUCT, PLEASE COMPLETE THE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM, REMOVE IT, AND RETURN IT TO YOUR CHILD’S TEACHER. THANK YOU.

North Elementary

Our School Mission...

We believe that all our students can and will learn if we create an academic environment rich with learning opportunities and examples of excellence.

We want our students to be cooperative, active and enthusiastic learners.

We want our students to demonstrate ever increasing competence and independence in reading, writing, math, and information processing skills.

Every aspect of our planning and teaching is directed toward our students' continuing development as constructive individuals and contributing future citizens.

We mutually pledge all our instructional knowledge, teaching experience, and professional commitments to our students' academic achievement.

North Elementary is...a Place to Shine!

NOTICES TO PARENTS

Statement of Nondiscrimination

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

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

- Title IX Coordinator, for concerns regarding discrimination on the basis of gender: Dr. Audrey Arnold, Superintendent, 401 S. Cherry Lane, (817) 367-1350.
- Section 504 Coordinator, for concerns regarding discrimination on the basis of disability: Sandy Borden, Director of Special Programs, (817)367-1327.
- All other concerns regarding discrimination: See the superintendent.

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

Asbestos Management Plan

The district's Asbestos Management Plan, designed to be in compliance with state and federal regulations addressing asbestos, is available in the maintenance office. If you have any questions, please contact Victor Jones, Director of Maintenance and Operations, (817) 367-1221.

Pest Management Plan

The district applies only pest control products that comply with state and federal guidelines. Except in an emergency, signs will be posted 48 hours before application. Parents who want to be notified prior to pesticide application inside their child's school assignment area may contact Victor Jones at (817) 367-1221.

Additional Notices

Other important notices in the Student Handbook cover the following topics:

- Student participation in a survey, analysis, or evaluation;
- Opting out of surveys and data collection activities;
- Requesting the professional qualifications of teachers and staff;
- Requesting a transfer of your child to a safe public school;
- Assistance to students who have learning difficulties;
- Student records;
- Bacterial meningitis;
- Career and technology programs;
- Homeless students; and
- School lunch programs.

Please take some time to review these notices and other important information contained in the Student Handbook.

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PREFACE

To Students and Parents:

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

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

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

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

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

Both students and parents should become familiar with the White Settlement ISD *Student Code of Conduct*, which is a document adopted by the board and intended to promote school safety and an atmosphere for learning. The *Student Code of Conduct* will be sent home to parents as a separate document.

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

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

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

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

SECTION I: REQUIRED NOTICES AND INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

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

STATEMENT OF NONDISCRIMINATION

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

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

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- Section 504 Coordinator, for concerns regarding discrimination on the basis of disability: Sandy Borden, Director of Special Programs, 8500 Rockway Drive, White Settlement, TX, (817) 367-1327.
- All other concerns regarding discrimination: See the superintendent, Dr. Audrey Arnold.

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

Working Together

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

- Encouraging your child to put a high priority on education and working with your child on a daily basis to make the most of the educational opportunities the school provides.
- Ensuring that your child completes all homework assignments and special projects and comes to school each day prepared, rested, and ready to learn.
- Becoming familiar with all of your child's school activities and with the academic programs, including special programs, offered in the district.
- Discussing with the 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, if your child is entering ninth grade.
- Monitoring your child's academic progress and contacting teachers as needed.

- Attending scheduled conferences and requesting additional conferences as needed. To schedule a telephone or in-person conference with a teacher, counselor, or principal, please call the school office at (817) 367-1323 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 44.]
- Becoming a school volunteer. [For further information, see policies at GKG and contact the school office at (817) 367-1323.]
- Participating in campus parent organizations. Parent organizations include the North Elementary PTA.
- Serving as a parent representative on the district-level or campus-level planning committees, assisting in the development of educational goals and plans to improve student achievement. For further information, see policies at BQA and BQB, and contact the principal.
- Serving on the School Health Advisory Council, assisting the district in ensuring local community values are reflected in health education instruction. [See policies at BDF, EHAA, FFA, and information in this handbook at **School Health Advisory Council** on page 37.]
- Attending board meetings to learn more about district operations. [See policies at BE and BED for more information.]

PARENTAL RIGHTS

Obtaining Information and Protecting Student Rights

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

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

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

“Opting Out” of Surveys and Activities

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

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

Inspecting Surveys

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

Requesting Professional Qualifications of Teachers and Staff

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

Reviewing Instructional Materials

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

Displaying a Student’s Artwork and Projects

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

Accessing Student Records

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

- Attendance records,
- Test scores,
- Grades,
- Disciplinary records,

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

[See **Student Records** on page 8.]

Granting Permission to Video or Audio Record a Student

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

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

Granting Permission to Receive Parenting and Paternity Awareness Instruction

As a parent, if your child is under the age of 14, you must grant permission for your child to receive instruction in the district's parenting and paternity awareness program or your child will not be allowed to participate in the instruction. This program, developed by the Office of the Texas Attorney General and the Texas State Board of Education, is incorporated into the district's health education classes. Removing a Student Temporarily from the Classroom

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

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

As a parent, you may request that your child be excused from participation in the daily recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States flag and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Texas flag. The request must be in writing. State law does not allow your child to be excused from participation in the required minute of silence or silent activity that follows. [See **Pledges of Allegiance and a Minute of Silence** on page 43 and policy EC(LEGAL).]

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

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

Requesting Notices of Certain Student Misconduct

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

Requesting Transfers for Your Child

As a parent, you have a right:

- To request the transfer of your child to another classroom or campus if your child has been determined by the principal to have been a victim of bullying as the term is defined by Education Code 25.0341. Transportation is not provided for a transfer to another campus. See the principal for information. [See policy FDB.]
[See **Bullying** on page 14, and policy FFI(LOCAL).]
- To request the transfer of your child to attend a safe public school in the district if your child attends school at a campus identified by TEA as persistently dangerous or if your child has been a victim of a violent criminal offense while at school or on school grounds. [See the district's (LOCAL) policy on School Safety Transfers.]
- To request the transfer of your child to another campus if your child has been the victim of a sexual assault by another student assigned to the same campus, whether that assault occurred on or off campus, and that student has been convicted of or placed on deferred adjudication for that assault. [See the district's (LEGAL) and (LOCAL) policies on School Safety Transfers.]

Requesting Classroom Assignment for Multiple Birth Siblings

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

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Parents of Students with Disabilities

Parents of students with learning difficulties or who may need special education services may request an evaluation for special education at any time. For more information, see **Special Programs** on page 48 and contact Sandy Borden, Director of Special Programs, at (817) 367-1327.

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

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

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

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

The designated person to contact regarding options for a child experiencing learning difficulties or a referral for evaluation for special education is Marcy Wetsel at (817) 367-1323 x6108.

If a student is receiving special education services at a campus outside his or her attendance zone, the parent or guardian may request that any other student residing in the household be transferred to the same campus, if the appropriate grade level for the transferring student is offered on that campus. [See policy FDB(LOCAL).]

Accommodations for Children of Military Families

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

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

- Graduation requirements.

In addition, absences related to a student visiting with his or her parent related to leave or deployment activities may be excused by the district.

Services for Title I Participants

The Parent Involvement Coordinator, who works with parents of students participating in Title I programs is Frank Molinar, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources. He may be contacted at (817) 367-5390.

Student Records

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

A parent or eligible student who provides a written request and pays copying costs of ten cents per page may obtain copies. If circumstances prevent inspection during regular school hours and the student qualifies for free or reduced-price meals, the district will either provide a copy of the records requested or make other arrangements for the parent or student to review these records. The address of the superintendent's office is 401 S. Cherry Lane, White Settlement, TX, 76108.

The address of the principal's office is: 9850 Legacy Dr, Ft. Worth, TX, 76108.

A parent (or eligible student) may inspect the student's records and request a correction if the records are considered inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy rights. A request to correct a student's record should be submitted to the principal. The request must clearly identify the part of the record that should be corrected and include an explanation of how the information in the record is inaccurate. If the district denies the request to amend the records, the parent or eligible student has the right to request a hearing. If the records are not amended as a result of the hearing, the parent or eligible student has 30 school days to exercise the right to place a statement commenting on the information in the student's record. Although improperly recorded grades may be challenged, contesting a student's grade in a course is handled through the general complaint process found in policy FNG(LOCAL). A grade issued by a classroom teacher can be changed only if, as determined by the board of trustees, the grade is arbitrary, erroneous, or inconsistent with the district's grading policy. [See FINALITY OF GRADES at FNG(LEGAL), **Report Cards/Progress Reports and Conferences** on page 44, and **Student or Parent Complaints and Concerns** on page 16 for an overview of the process.]

The district's policy regarding student records found at FL(LEGAL) and (LOCAL) is available from the principal's or superintendent's office or on the district's website at www.wsisd.net.

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

Please note:

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

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

Directory Information

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

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

Directory Information for School-Sponsored Purposes

The district often needs to use student information for school-sponsored purposes:

- Student’s name, address, telephone number, and date and place of birth
- Photograph, participation in officially recognized sports, and weight and height of athletic teams
- Dates of attendance, grade level, enrollment status, degrees, honors and awards received in school, major field of study and most recent school previously attended
- Student’s email address

For specific school-sponsored purposes, the district would like to use your child’s name, address, telephone number, date and place of birth, photograph, and dates of attendance, enrollment status, and grade level. 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.

Bacterial Meningitis

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

- What is meningitis?

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

- What are the symptoms?

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

Children (over 1 year old) and adults with meningitis may have a severe headache, high temperature, vomiting, sensitivity to bright lights, neck stiffness or joint pains, and

drowsiness or confusion. In both children and adults, there may be a rash of tiny, red-purple spots. These can occur anywhere on the body.

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

- How serious is bacterial meningitis?

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

- How is bacterial meningitis spread?

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

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

- How can bacterial meningitis be prevented?

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

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

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

You should seek prompt medical attention.

- Where can you get more information?

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

SECTION II: INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS AND PARENTS

Topics in this section of the handbook contain important information on academics, school activities, and school operations and requirements. Take a moment with your child to become familiar with the various issues addressed in this section. It is conveniently organized in alphabetical order to serve as a quick-reference when you or your child has a question about a specific school-related issue. Should you be unable to find the information on a particular topic, please contact Principal Eddie Lyngge at (817) 367-1323 x6100.

ABSENCES/ATTENDANCE

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

Compulsory Attendance

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

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

Students enrolled in Pre-kindergarten or Kindergarten are required to attend school.

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

A student in grades 3–8 will be required to attend any assigned accelerated instruction program, which may occur before or after school or during the summer, if the student does not meet the passing standards on the state assessment for his or her grade level and applicable subject area.

Exemptions to Compulsory Attendance

State law allows exemptions to the compulsory attendance requirements for several types of absences. These include the following activities and events:

- Religious holy days;
- Required court appearances;

- Activities related to obtaining United States citizenship;
- Service as an election clerk; and
- Documented health-care appointments, including absences for recognized services for students diagnosed with autism spectrum disorders.

In addition, a junior or senior student's absence of up to two days related to visiting a college or university may be considered an exemption, provided the student receives approval from the campus principal, follows the campus procedures to verify such a visit, and makes up any work missed.

Failure to Comply with Compulsory Attendance

School employees must investigate and report violations of the state compulsory attendance law. A student absent without permission from school; from any class; from required special programs, such as additional special instruction, termed "accelerated instruction" by the state; or from required tutorials will be considered in violation of the compulsory attendance law and subject to disciplinary action.

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

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

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

Attendance for Credit

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

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

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

- All absences will be considered in determining whether a student has attended the required percentage of days. If makeup work is completed, absences for the reasons listed above at **Exemptions to Compulsory Attendance** will be considered days of attendance for this purpose.

- A transfer or migrant student begins to accumulate absences only after he or she has enrolled in the district. For a student transferring into the district after school begins, including a migrant student, only those absences after enrollment will be considered.
- In reaching a decision about a student's absences, the committee will attempt to ensure that it is in the best interest of the student.
- The committee will consider the acceptability and authenticity of documented reasons for the student's absences.
- The committee will consider whether the absences were for reasons over which the student or the student's parent could exercise any control.
- The committee will consider the extent to which the student has completed all assignments, mastered the essential knowledge and skills, and maintained passing grades in the course or subject.
- The student or parent will be given an opportunity to present any information to the committee about the absences and to talk about ways to earn or regain credit.

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

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

Parent's Note After an Absence

When a student must be absent from school, the student—upon returning to school—must bring a note, signed by the parent that describes the reason for the absence. A note signed by the student, even with the parent's permission, will not be accepted unless the student is 18 or older.

Doctor's Note After an Absence for Illness

Upon return to school, a student absent for more than 3 consecutive days because of a personal illness must bring a statement from a doctor or health clinic verifying the illness or condition that caused the student's extended absence from school. [See FEC(LOCAL).]

AWARDS AND HONORS

North Elementary recognizes student achievement after the first semester and at the end of the year. North awards the following certificates: A Honor Roll, A/B Honor Roll, B Honor Roll, Perfect Attendance, and All E's in Citizenship.

BREAKFAST

Breakfast will be served daily in the cafeteria from 7:00-7:30. The doors to the breakfast line close at 7:30. Please be sure your child is at school before 7:30 if they need to eat breakfast.

BULLYING

Bullying occurs when a student or group of students directs written or verbal expressions or physical conduct against another student and the behavior results in harm to the student or the student's property, places a student in fear of harm to himself or his property, or is so severe,

persistent, or pervasive that it creates an intimidating, threatening or abusive educational environment.

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

CHECK ACCEPTANCE POLICY

The district has established the following policy for accepting checks and collecting insufficient checks: All checks must include a current and accurate name, address, telephone number, driver's license number and state. If the check is returned for non-payment, the face value may be recovered electronically as well as the state-allowed recovery fee. WSISD has contracted with an electronic check recovery service to simplify and expedite payments returned for insufficient funds. This process will eliminate the need for individuals to provide an additional check or cash after a check has been returned.

CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

The district has established a plan for addressing child sexual abuse, which may be accessed at the superintendent's office. As a parent, it is important for you to be aware of warning signs that could indicate a child may have been or is being sexually abused. Sexual abuse in the Texas Family Code is defined as any sexual conduct harmful to a child's mental, emotional, or physical welfare as well as a failure to make a reasonable effort to prevent sexual conduct with a child. Anyone who suspects that a child has been or may be abused or neglected has a legal responsibility, under state law, for reporting the suspected abuse or neglect to law enforcement or to Child Protective Services (CPS).

Possible physical warning signs of sexual abuse could be difficulty sitting or walking, pain in the genital areas, and claims of stomachaches and headaches. Behavioral indicators may include verbal references or pretend games of sexual activity between adults and children, fear of being alone with adults of a particular gender, or sexually suggestive behavior. Emotional warning signs to be aware of include withdrawal, depression, sleeping and eating disorders, and problems in school.

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

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

The following Web sites might help you become more aware of child sexual abuse:

<http://www.tea.state.tx.us/index.aspx?id=2820>

<http://sapn.nonprofitoffice.com/>

<http://www.taasa.org/member/materials2.php>

http://www.oag.state.tx.us/AG_Publications/txts/childabuse1.shtml

http://www.oag.state.tx.us/AG_Publications/txts/childabuse2.shtml

Reports may be made to:

The Child Protective Services (CPS) division of the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (1 800-252-5400 or on the Web at <http://www.txabusehotline.org>).

COMPLAINTS AND CONCERNS

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

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

COMPUTER RESOURCES

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

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

Internet Acceptable Use Policy

The White Settlement Independent School District (WSISD) provides its students with a Wide Area Network (WAN), and Internet access necessary for the performance and fulfillment of curriculum requirements. Through this system, students will be able to communicate with other schools, colleges, organizations, and people around the world. Students will have access to numerous on-line, electronic information systems and networks.

It is important that you read the District policy, administrative regulations, and agreement and ask questions if you need help understanding the contents. Your network access is provided so that you may complete educational curriculum requirements in accordance with WSISD educational policies. The system is not intended for non-WSISD use.

Please note that the Internet is a network of many types of communication and information networks. WSISD utilizes a content filtering system to block and filter content for both minors

and adults to certain text and visual depictions as required by The Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA). It is possible that you may run across areas of adult content and some material you (or your parent/guardian) might find objectionable. While the District will take reasonable steps to restrict access to such material, it is not possible to absolutely prevent such access. It will be your responsibility to follow the rules for appropriate use.

Students are not provided e-mail services unless it is required by classroom curriculum. In these cases, the teacher will make all arrangements for the student's e-mail account. Student requiring e-mail services must follow the rules for appropriate use to maintain their e-mail account.

Inappropriate use of WSISD network resources can result in the loss of the privilege to use the educational tool.

Any connection to the Internet offers an opportunity for non-authorized users to view or access WSISD information. Therefore, it is important that all network connections be secure, controlled, and monitored.

Consequently, you should have no expectation of privacy while using WSISD-owned or WSISD-leased equipment. Information passing through or stored on WSISD equipment can and will be monitored. You should understand that WSISD maintains the right to monitor and review Internet, e-mail, and WAN use as necessary.

RULES FOR APPROPRIATE USE

The WAN, e-mail, and Internet connections of WSISD exist primarily to support education-related activities (e.g., classroom instruction, etc.)

In general, the support of WSISD network resources requires a consistent operating environment. A major component of this environment is the software configuration on each computer on the WSISD network. It is vitally important that the configuration on each computer be as consistent and static as possible. Any uncoordinated and/or unauthorized changes (e.g., by downloading software from the Internet) to one or more computer configurations can result in significantly degraded network performance. It is understood that new software requirements come up frequently in a school environment. The District will strive to meet all educational technology needs, provided they are coordinated with appropriate WSISD personnel.

Therefore, it is vitally important that you do not alter the configuration of a machine in any way, unless it has been coordinated and approved by WSISD staff.

PERMITTED USE

Use of network resources is restricted to educational purposes. Specific purpose and methods of use will be guided by state, district, and campus regulations and policies.

PROHIBITED USES

You are not authorized to use WSISD network resources for any personal, recreational, or malicious purposes. In general, improper uses of the WSISD WAN, e-mail, and Internet systems fall into three categories:

- Copyright infringements or software licensing violations
- Illegal activities
- Degradation or abuse of network resources

Examples of improper use which fall into the above categories include, but are not limited to:

- Any illegal purpose.
- Any use of WSISD network systems and data other than what is required to meet your class/curriculum requirements.

- Any attempt or method to obtain another user's password (student or staff member), or a system password which has not been explicitly assigned to you for educational purposes.
- Any attempt to access, modify or manipulate WSISD network systems with the intention of degrading or prohibiting system access, compromising user or system passwords, or modifying or destroying data.
- Accessing or distributing materials which are offensive, abusive, sexually oriented, threatening, harassing, damaging to another's reputation, or illegal.
- Any activity or use which promotes discrimination on the basis of race, gender, national origin, age, marital status, sexual orientation, religion, or disability.
- Threatening or violent behavior
- Commercial messages.
- Posting personal information about yourself or others (such as addresses and phone numbers).
- Using someone else's network account (with or without permission).
- Abuse of WSISD network resources. Examples include, but are not limited to:
 - Physical defacement, damage or destruction of network resources
 - Excessive printing, particularly for personal needs
 - Misrepresenting yourself and the WSISD to others
 - Any activity which interferes with the ability of others to make effective use of WSISD network resources (e.g., playing internet games).
- Creation and/or distribution of software viruses.
- Gaining unauthorized access to restricted information or resources.
- Gambling.
- Forwarding e-mail chain letters.
- Spamming e-mail accounts from WSISD e-mail services or company machines.
- Downloading and/or installing of unauthorized and/or unlicensed software or files.
- Improper/unauthorized downloads include, but are not limited to:
 - Pornographic material.
 - Utilities, tools, and applications used to seek out system vulnerabilities and crack passwords.
 - Media players.
 - MP3 files.
 - Music sharing clients, such as Napster, KaZaa, Morpheus, Gnutella, Blubster, or any other like program
 - Web browser enhancements (Bonzai Buddy, Gator, etc.)
 - Games of any kind.
 - Instant messaging clients (AOL, MSN Messenger, Bonzai Buddy, etc.)
 - Copyrighted material without permission from the copyright holder.
 - Illegal/unlicensed software of any kind.

NOTE: Elementary (Pre Kindergarten through fourth grade) students will have limited and supervised Internet use and no email access.

Parent or Guardian Agreement

Signing the Student Handbook Acknowledgment Form you acknowledge that you have read the District's Student - Acceptable Use Policy and gives permission for your child to use the District's WAN and Internet. You hereby release the District, its operators, and any institutions with which they are affiliated from any and all claims and damages of any nature arising from your child's use of, or inability to use, the system, including, without limitation, the type of damage identified in the District's policy and administrative regulations.

If you do not give permission for your child to use the District's WAN and Internet, please inform your child's teacher..

CONDUCT

Applicability of School Rules

As required by law, the board has adopted a ***Student Code of Conduct*** that prohibits certain behaviors and defines standards of acceptable behavior—both on and off campus—and consequences for violation of these standards. The district has disciplinary authority over a student in accordance with the ***Student Code of Conduct***. Students and parents should be familiar with the standards set out in the ***Student Code of Conduct***, as well as campus and classroom rules.

Corporal Punishment

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

Disruptions

As identified by law, disruptions include the following:

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

required class or activity; and entering a classroom without authorization and disrupting the activity with loud or profane language or any misconduct.

- Interference with the transportation of students in vehicles owned or operated by the district.

Telecommunications Devices, Including Mobile Telephones

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

A student who uses a telecommunications device during the school day shall have the device confiscated. The parent may pick up the confiscated telecommunications device from the principal's office.

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

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

Other Electronic Devices

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

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

Inappropriate Use of Technology

Students are prohibited from sending or posting electronic messages that are abusive, obscene, sexually oriented, threatening, harassing, damaging to another's reputation, or illegal. This prohibition applies to conduct off school property if it results in a substantial disruption to the educational environment. Any person taking, disseminating, transferring, or sharing obscene, sexually oriented, lewd, or otherwise illegal images or photographs will be disciplined according to the *Student Code of Conduct* and may, in certain circumstances, be reported to law enforcement.

Social Events

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

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

CONTAGIOUS DISEASES / CONDITIONS

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

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

Personal Counseling

The school counselor is available to assist students with a wide range of personal concerns, including such areas as social, family, or emotional issues, or substance abuse. The counselor may also make available information about community resources to address these concerns. A parent who wishes their child to meet with the counselor should contact Pam Turpen at (817) 367-1323 x6107.

Psychological Exams, Tests, or Treatment

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

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

CREDIT BY EXAM—If a Student Has Taken the Course

A student who has previously taken a course or subject—but did not receive credit for it—may, in circumstances determined by the teacher, counselor, principal, or attendance committee, be permitted to earn credit by passing an exam on the essential knowledge and skills defined for that course or subject. Prior instruction may include, for example, incomplete coursework due to a failed course or excessive absences, homeschooling, correspondence courses, or independent study supervised by a teacher.

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

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

A student may not use this exam, however, to regain eligibility to participate in extracurricular activities.

[For further information, see the counselor and policies EEJA.]

CREDIT BY EXAM—If a Student Has Not Taken the Course

A student will be permitted to take an exam to earn credit for an academic course for which the student has had no prior instruction.

**White Settlement ISD
Credit-by-Examination Calendar
2009-10**

Cycle 1: September 1, 2009- December 31, 2009

Testing Dates

Registration Deadlines

October 8, 2009	Thursday
October 9, 2009	Friday

September 11, 2009
September 11, 2009

Cycle 2: January 1, 2010 - June 30, 2010

Testing Dates

Registration Deadlines

February 23, 2010	Tuesday
February 24, 2010	Wednesday
June 22, 2010	Monday
June 23, 2010	Tuesday

January 22, 2010
January 22, 2010
May 21, 2010
May 21, 2010

Cycle 3: July 1, 2010 – December 31, 2010

Testing Dates		Registration Deadlines
July 13, 2010	Tuesday	June 8, 2010
July 14, 2010	Wednesday	June 8, 2010
October 6, 2010	Wednesday	September 10, 2010
October 7, 2010	Thursday	September 10, 2010

All testing will take place on the individual campus. Please contact Carolyn Dickinson, 817-367-5318. The appropriate registration form must be completed and faxed to 817-367-1391 by the registration deadline. It takes approximately 6 weeks to receive scores.

Acceleration for grades K-8

Student must test in June or July so results will be available in time to make the grade level acceleration before school begins. Student must score at least 90% on each of the following areas for the grade level to be skipped: mathematics, language arts, science and social studies.

Students must not have had prior instruction for the grade level. Depending on the grade level of acceleration, the student may be required to take both the fall semester and spring semester exams for each core subject requiring 4 days to test. Each test is 3 hours in length and the student is required to stay in the testing area the full 3 hours.

Acceleration for grades 9-12

Students must score at least 90% on the exam for an academic subject in which the student has received no prior instruction. If credit is given, the examination score will be entered on the student's transcript.

Each test is 3 hours in length and the student is required to stay in the testing area the full 3 hours.

Students and parents should view the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) on the Texas Education Agency website www.tea.state.tx.us/teks before requesting a credit-by-exam.

Students and parents can log-on to the Texas Tech website www.depts.ttu.edu to get review materials for the credit-by-exam requested.

A student will earn credit with a passing score of at least 90 on the exam.

If a student plans to take an exam, the student (or parent) must register with the principal no later than 30 days prior to the scheduled testing date. The district will not honor a request by a parent to administer a test on a date other than the published dates. If the district agrees to administer a test other than the one chosen by the district, the parent must purchase a test from a university approved by the State Board of Education. [For further information, see EEJB(LOCAL).]

DATING VIOLENCE, DISCRIMINATION, HARASSMENT, AND RETALIATION

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

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

Dating Violence

Dating violence occurs when a person in a current or past dating relationship uses physical, sexual, verbal, or emotional abuse to harm, threaten, intimidate, or control the other person in the relationship. This type of conduct is considered harassment if the conduct is so severe, persistent, or pervasive that it affects the student's ability to participate in or benefit from an educational program or activity; creates an intimidating, threatening, hostile, or offensive educational environment; or substantially interferes with the student's academic performance.

Examples of dating violence against a student may include, but are not limited to, physical or sexual assaults, name-calling, put-downs, threats to hurt the student or 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, attempts to isolate the student from friends and family, stalking, or encouraging others to engage in these behaviors.

Discrimination

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

Harassment

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

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

Sexual Harassment

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

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

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

Retaliation

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

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

Reporting Procedures

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

Investigation of Report

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

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

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

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

DISCRIMINATION

[See **Dating Violence, Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation** on page 24.]

DISMISSAL PROCEDURES

Dismissal Times:

Pre-Kindergarten AM--10:25 AM (if students stay for lunch, they should be picked up by 10:50)

Pre-Kindergarten PM--1:55 PM

Kindergarten-4th Grade--2:40 PM

All students are classified as a Bus Rider, Day Care Rider, Car Rider, or Walker based on information given to the student's homeroom teacher by the parent or guardian on their first day of class. **Any change to a student's normal dismissal procedure must be put in writing for the classroom teacher.**

Bus Rider

A Bus Rider is any student that lives in the designated area that bus transportation is provided. Students must register every year to ride the bus. [See Transportation, on page _____, for additional transportation information.]

Car Rider

A Car Rider is any student who is picked up by a motor vehicle by a parent or designee. Car riders are picked up in the following locations:

Pre-Kindergarten AM--drive by the cafeteria

Pre-Kindergarten PM--front of the school

Kindergarten--front of the school

1st-4th Grade--east side of the school

Pre-K parents or designees may form two lines in front of the school when the traffic cones are removed (approximately 1:40 PM). Before this time, only one lane of traffic is permitted to provide an open lane for emergency vehicles. Occasionally you may be asked to move your car to accommodate school business needs.

1st through 4th grade parents or designees will pick up students on the east side in the drive that goes behind the school. The entrance to this drive is located on Academy. Please form one lane

until the gate is opened at 2:30. Please be aware that cars in the right lane of the drive behind the school must turn right on to Legacy. The left lane must turn left.

To speed up the dismissal process, parents should have their child's name written on a piece of poster board which is placed on their car visor or dashboard.

Students who are waiting to be picked up are expected to sit quietly by grade level and listen for their name to be called.

School buses have priority when leaving the school. All bus lanes must be kept open.

Parents may park and walk up to the car rider area to pick-up your student. Please be aware of the "No Parking" areas in the front of school. There is a designated "parent area" for you to wait for your student. Parents of Pre-K and Kindergarten students must remain outside the building.

Day Care

A Day Car Rider is any student who is picked up by one of the local day care facilities. These students are sent to the cafeteria to be picked up by their designated day car.

Walker

A Walker is any student who walks home from school. Students are divided into two walker groups:

Legacy Group--students who live in the neighborhood south of the school. These students meet in the Blue Hall to be escorted to the cross-walk by school personnel.

Academy Group--students who live mainly west and north of the school and must cross Academy to go home. These students meet in the front foyer to be escorted to the cross walk by school personnel.

Walkers will follow these rules:

- Walkers may not be picked up in a motor vehicle.
- Walkers will follow all normal school rules and procedures.

Walkers will be subject to disciplinary action if they cannot abide by the rules:

- First Offense--warning and parent will be contacted.
- Second Offense--student receives one day of In School Suspension (ISS).
- Third Offense--student loses privilege of walking home for 10 days. Parent must make different arrangements for student to get home.
- Fourth Offense--student loses privilege of walking home for 20 days. Parent must make different arrangements for student to get home.
- Fifth Offense--student loses privilege of walking home for the rest of the school year.

Parents: School personnel are cautioned not to allow Walkers to get into a car parked along the side of the road. If you must pick your child up, please send a note to the teacher and go through the Car Rider procedures.

DISTRIBUTION OF PUBLISHED MATERIALS OR DOCUMENTS

School Materials

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

The school memory book is available to all students for purchase.

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

[See **Directory Information for School-Sponsored Purposes** on page 10.]

Nonschool Materials...from students

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

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

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

Nonschool Materials...from others

Written or printed materials, handbills, photographs, pictures, films, tapes, or other visual or auditory materials not sponsored by the district or by a district-affiliated school-support organization will not be sold, circulated, distributed, or posted on any district premises by any district employee or by persons or groups not associated with the district, except as permitted by policy GKDA. To be considered for distribution, any nonschool material must meet the limitations on content established in the policy, include the name of the sponsoring person or organization, and be submitted to the principal for prior review. The principal will approve or reject the materials within two school days of the time the materials are received. The requestor may appeal a rejection in accordance with the appropriate district complaint policy. [See policies at DGBA, FNG, or GF.]

Prior review will not be required for:

- Distribution of materials by an attendee to other attendees of a school-sponsored meeting intended for adults and held after school hours.

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

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

DRESS AND GROOMING

The district's dress code is established to teach grooming and hygiene, prevent disruption, and minimize safety hazards. Students and parents may determine a student's personal dress and grooming standards, provided that they comply with the following:

2009-2010 ELEMENTARY STANDARD DRESS POLICY GRADES PRE-K THROUGH 4

To ensure the safety of our students and to provide a school atmosphere that enables all children to excel, White Settlement ISD implemented a standard dress policy for our students in 2007-2008. The Standard Dress Policy is a vital step toward maintaining our students' safety and to better prepare them for the future.

Some "school uniforms" DO NOT meet White Settlement ISD's standard dress guidelines (i.e. extra pockets). Please adhere to the district's policy when making your shopping decisions. **Minor revisions were made to this year's policy. They are highlighted in black.** Administrative discretion will be given for all dress code policy decisions.

ACCEPTABLE SHIRTS, SWEATERS AND SWEATSHIRTS FOR ALL STUDENTS

- All shirts, sweatshirts and sweaters are solid colors. Sweatshirts and sweaters must be worn over an approved shirt.
- Collared polo-style or oxford-style dress shirts (short, three-quarter or long sleeve)
- Turtlenecks/mock turtlenecks and sweater vests
- Shirts with uneven hems, shirt tails, and any shirt longer than the wrist must be tucked in. Shirts must fit appropriately.
- Sweaters and sweatshirts are pull-over or cardigan style and cannot extend more than 4 inches below the waist.
- Solid-colored undershirts, T-shirts as undershirts, Henley shirts as undershirts, or thermal shirts as undershirts must fit appropriately.

UNACCEPTABLE SHIRTS, SWEATERS AND SWEATSHIRTS FOR ALL STUDENTS

- T-shirts or thermal type shirts as outer shirts
- Denim shirts or vests and denim jackets as shirts
- Unhemmed or sleeveless shirts

- Shirts that are tight, low-cut, show cleavage or midriff. (If a collared shirt has button holes, no more than the top two may be unbuttoned.)
- Hooded sweaters and sweatshirts inside the building (see outerwear)
- Logos larger than 1.5 X 1.5 inches (school approved logos accepted)
- Shirts, sweaters and sweatshirts with **pinstripes**, stripes, polka dots, etc.

ACCEPTABLE PANTS & SHORTS for YOUNG MEN

- Dockers® or similar style pants or shorts and dress pants in tan or light-colored khaki, navy, black, gray, or brown
- Pre-K thru 4th grade may wear jeans, denim shorts and skorts that meet same requirements.
- Pants or shorts are flat-front or pleated.
- Pants and shorts must have no more than 5 pockets (2 in front, 2 in back and a fob/watch pocket).
- Shorts are finger-tip length or longer.
- Pants must be worn at the waist.
- All bottoms must be hemmed or cuffed.
- Boys-Pant legs must be worn over boots-not tucked inside them.

UNACCEPTABLE PANTS AND SHORTS FOR YOUNG MEN

- Oversized or baggy clothing
- Pajama pants
- Sweatpants, drawstrings, overalls or similar styles
- Cargo or carpenter-style pants or shorts (These pants will have additional loops and pockets.) Pockets sewn on the outside of the pants and any shorts/pants with pockets below the hips are not allowed.
- Soccer or boxer-style shorts
- Brads, studs, embellishments or other extraneous decorations
- Leather, suede, spandex, nylon, vinyl or stretch-type materials
- Bottoms with tears or holes
- Logos larger than 1.5 x 1.5 inches
- Pinstripes
- Tight-fitting pants

ACCEPTABLE PANTS, SHORTS, SKIRTS, SKORTS, JUMPERS AND CAPRIS FOR YOUNG WOMEN

- Dockers® or similar style pants, shorts, or capris and dress pants in tan or light-colored khaki, navy, gray, brown or black
- Pre-K thru 4th grade students may wear jeans that meet the same requirements.
- Pants, shorts and capris are flat-front or pleated.
- Pants/shorts must have no more than 5 pockets (2 in front, 2 in back and a fob/watch pocket).
- Shorts, skirts, skorts and jumpers are

fingertip-length or longer.

- Jumpers must be worn with an approved standard dress shirt.
- Girls must wear shorts under skirts and jumpers (i.e. cheer shorts).
- Denim shorts, skirts, jumpers and capris are allowed in grades pre-k thru 4 only. Shorts and capris must meet same requirements.
- Pants and capris must be worn at waist.
 - All bottoms must be hemmed or cuffed.
- Girls must wear shorts under skirts and jumpers (i.e. cheer shorts).

UNACCEPTABLE PANTS, SHORTS, SKORTS, JUMPERS AND CAPRIS FOR YOUNG WOMEN

- Oversized or baggy clothing
- Pajama pants
- Sweatpants, drawstrings, overalls or similar styles
- Cargo or carpenter-style pants, capris or shorts (These pants will have additional loops and pockets.) Pockets sewn on the outside of the pants and any shorts/pants/skirts/capris with pockets below the hips are not allowed.
- Soccer or boxer-style shorts
- Brads, studs, embellishments or other extraneous decorations
- Slits or kick pleats that extend above the knee.
- Leather, suede, spandex, nylon, vinyl or stretch-type materials
- Bottoms with tears or holes
 - Logos larger than 1.5 x 1.5 inches
- Pinstripes
- Tight-fitting pants

ACCEPTABLE OUTERWEAR

- All outerwear must be worn with an approved standard dress shirt and fitted appropriately.
- Lightweight jackets that are worn in the school building must be a solid color (unless school approved).
- Letter jackets and solid colored jackets of similar weight and style may be worn in the building.
- Any outerwear garment that does not meet standard dress requirements must be removed upon entering the school building and remain off.
- The outerwear must be placed in a locker or on the back of chair in classroom (if school does not have lockers).
- Any jacket must remain unbuttoned or unzipped in the building.

UNACCEPTABLE OUTERWEAR

- Heavy coats and oversized jackets may not be worn in the building.
- Outerwear with lettering or logos larger than 1.5 by 1.5 inches is not allowed (unless district or campus logo).
- Sweaters or sweatshirts with hoods
- Hoods or headwear worn in building
 - Trenchcoats or parkas

- Denim coats and jackets

ACCEPTABLE SHOES, SOCKS, BELTS AND ACCESSORIES FOR YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN

- Tennis shoes, loafer-style shoes, dress shoes, boots or other closed-toe shoes, open toe/open heel shoes
- **Belts may not be distracting or create a safety hazard.**
- Socks, tights or hosiery must be solid colored.
- **Leggings and knee socks must be white, black, gray, brown, navy or light or tan khaki.**
- Shoelaces must be white or match the primary color of shoe.
- Shoes designed with shoestrings must have shoestrings and be appropriately tied.
- Pierced jewelry is limited to the ears.
- Armwear/jewelry is limited to no more than two bracelets or watches on each arm.
- Accessories that may be distracting in the classroom will not be allowed.
- Velcro and straps must be fastened and shoelaces must be tied.
- **Socks must be matching.**
- **Shoes must be matching.**

UNACCEPTABLE SHOES, SOCKS, BELTS AND ACCESSORIES

- Flip flops (any shoe that goes between toes) and athletic slides
- Crocs®
- Slippers, house shoes
- Skate shoes, Heelies®
- Para-military boots
- Steel-toed boots
- Fishnet hosiery/clothing
- Designs on socks or hosiery
- Belt buckles larger than a credit card
- Belts with lettering, symbols, designs or excessive decorations
- Tie, fringe, chain or metal belts
- Scarves or ribbons used as a belt
- Hats, caps, visors, head coverings, do-rags, bandanas, sweatbands and sunglasses
- Grills, spacers, piercing coverings and bandages
- Armsocks/gloves
- Extreme hairstyles (mohawks, superspikes) or unnatural hair colors
- Wild eye contacts
- Chains that attach to wallets or other clothing accessories that might reasonably be used as a weapons
- Suspenders

Special Needs Students

- Students who have a special need may apply for a waiver.
- Waivers will be evaluated and approved by the building principal.

Other Guidelines

- Principals may designate certain days per year as spirit days and will determine what can be worn on those days.
- Wording/lettering on any clothing is not allowed unless school approved.
- No rolling backpacks.
- **Spirit days will only be held on Fridays, and all T-shirts must be royal blue.**
- **Dark on dark colors (i.e. navy and black) will be allowed.**

All returning students and any new students that registered prior to August 24, 2009, are expected to be in standard dress on the first day of school.

New Students will have five days inclusive of the day they enroll to comply with the standard dress guidelines.

Consequences for Violation of Standard Dress

Elementary Campuses/Tannahill/Fine Arts Academy (Pre K – Grade 6)

- First Five Days of School – Parent will be contacted and informed that child is in standard dress violation.
- If the parent cannot bring clothing that meets the standard dress code, the parent will be contacted and informed of ISS placement.
- After three placements in ISS for Standard Dress Violation, student will be placed on home suspension for one day. Student must be escorted by parent and in standard dress upon return to school.
- Any additional violations will result in one day of suspension. Student must be escorted by parent and in standard dress upon return to school. After student has received three separate suspensions, the student will be placed in DAEP. Each occurrence is a separate infraction.

EARLY DISMISSAL

Students may be dismissed during the school day by a parent. Parents should send a note to the classroom teacher on the day of the early dismissal. Parents will check their student out through the front office and must present a valid driver's license or ID. Please note the following restrictions:

- Students may not receive early dismissals within 20 minutes of their normal dismissal time.
- Students may not be called from class before the parent arrives.

ELECTRONIC DEVICE POLICY

White Settlement Independent School District prohibits students from using electronic devices during the school day. Electronic devices are those items deemed to be a distraction to the educational process, including, but not limited to, cellular phones, video cameras, compact disc players, cameras, MP3 players (e.g. the iPod and the Zune), and handheld video game systems (e.g. Sony PSP and Nintendo DS). For safety purposes, the District does, however, permit students to possess telecommunication devices on school property. Telecommunication devices include, but are not limited to, cellular phones, camera phones, video phones, one-way and two-way pagers, electronic PDAs (e.g. Palm Pilot), and digital calendars. Although students are permitted to possess telecommunication devices on school property, White Settlement ISD is not responsible for the theft or loss of any electronic device.

All electronic devices must be turned off once the student enters the school building. Electronic devices shall be turned off until the end of the instructional day. Electronic devices are prohibited from being powered on, used, seen, and heard within the school building, including, but not limited to, classrooms, hallways, computer laboratories, the gymnasium, the auditorium, the library, bathrooms, and the cafeteria.

If a student's electronic device is seen or heard, the entire device, including any sim cards and batteries, will be confiscated and given to a school administrator. The student's parent/guardian must pick the device up. The phone can be released the same day with a \$15 fine in cash/money order or be subject to being held and can be picked up according to the order of the offense. The following consequences will apply when any electronic device is confiscated from a student:

First Offense

The electronic device is returned to the parent on the next school day or \$15 fine.*

Second Offense

The electronic device will be returned to the parent after either ten calendar days, or \$15 fine.*

Third Offense

The electronic device will be returned to the parent after either thirty calendar days, or \$15 fine.

Fourth Offense

The electronic device is returned to the parent at the end of the school year.

Students who use another student's electronic device are subject to disciplinary actions by administration.

In the instance where the electronic device is taken from someone other than the owner, the parents/guardians of all parties involved will be contacted. The electronic device will only be returned to the owner's parent/guardian. The above consequences will be applied to the owner of the device.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES, CLUBS, AND ORGANIZATIONS

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

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

- A student who receives at the end of a grading period a grade below 70 in any academic class—other than an advanced placement or international baccalaureate course; or an honors or dual credit course in English language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, economics, or a foreign language—may not participate in extracurricular activities for at least three school weeks.
- A student with disabilities who fails to meet the standards in the individualized education program (IEP) may not participate for at least three school weeks.
- An ineligible student may practice or rehearse.
- A student is allowed in a school year up to 15 absences not related to post-district competition, a maximum of 5 absences for post-district competition prior to state, and a maximum of 2 absences for state competition. All extracurricular activities and public performances, whether UIL activities or other activities approved by the board, are subject to these restrictions.
- An absence for participation in an activity that has not been approved will receive an unexcused absence.

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

[For further information, see policies at FM and FO. For student-organized, student-led groups, see **Meetings of Noncurriculum-Related Groups** on page 47.]

FEES

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

- Costs for materials for a class project that the student will keep.
- Membership dues in voluntary clubs or student organizations and admission fees to extracurricular activities.
- Security deposits.
- Personal physical education and athletic equipment and apparel.
- Voluntarily purchased pictures, publications, class rings, yearbooks, graduation announcements, etc.
- Voluntarily purchased student accident insurance.
- Musical instrument rental and uniform maintenance, when uniforms are provided by the district.
- Personal apparel used in extracurricular activities that becomes the property of the student.
- Parking fees and student identification cards.
- Fees for lost, damaged, or overdue library books.
- Fees for driver training courses, if offered.
- 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 50.]
- A fee not to exceed \$50 for costs of providing an educational program outside of regular school hours for a student who has lost credit because of absences and whose parent chooses the program in order for the student to meet the 90 percent attendance requirement. The fee will be charged only if the parent or guardian signs a district-provided request form.

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 principal. [For further information, see policies at FP.]

FUND-RAISING

Student groups or classes and/or parent groups may be permitted to conduct fund-raising drives for approved school purposes. An application for permission must be made to the principal at least 30 days before the event. [For further information, see policies at FJ and GE.]

GANG-FREE ZONES

Certain criminal offenses, including those involving organized criminal activity such as gang-related crimes, will be enhanced to the next highest category of offense if they are committed in a gang-free zone. For purposes of the district, a gang-free zone includes a school bus and a location in, on, or within 1000 feet of any district-owned or leased property or campus playground.

GRADING GUIDELINES

In grades Pre K and Kindergarten, achievement is reported to parents as *skill not introduced*, *skill developing*, or *skill mastered* in all subject areas. In 1st Grade, achievement is reported as numerical grades in all subjects except for Science and Social Studies, which are reported as an E, S, N, or U. In grades 2-4, all grades are reported in numerical form.

HARASSMENT

[See **Dating Violence, Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation** on page 24.]

HEALTH-RELATED MATTERS

Physical Activity for Students in Elementary and Middle School

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

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

School Health Advisory Council

During the preceding school year, the district's School Health Advisory Council held 3 meetings. Additional information regarding the district's School Health Advisory Council is available from Frank Molinar, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources and Community Relations, at (817) 367-5390. [See also policies at BDF and EHAA.]

Physical Fitness Assessment

Annually, the district will conduct a physical fitness assessment of students in grades 3–12. At the end of the school year, a parent may submit a written request to the principal to obtain the results of his or her child's physical fitness assessment conducted during the school year.

Vending Machines

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

Other Health-Related Matters

Tobacco Prohibited

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

Asbestos Management Plan

The district's Asbestos Management Plan, designed to be in compliance with state and federal regulations, is available in the maintenance office. If you have any questions, please contact Victor Jones, Director of Maintenance and Operations at (817) 367-1221.

Pest Management Plan

The district applies only pest control products that comply with state and federal guidelines. Except in an emergency, signs will be posted 48 hours before application. Parents who want to be notified prior to pesticide application inside their child's school assignment area may contact Victor Jones, Director of Maintenance and Operations at (817) 367-1221.

HOMELESS STUDENTS

For more information on services for homeless students, contact the district's Liaison for Homeless Children and Youths, Gwynne Hulcy, at (817) 367-1327 x5751.

HOMEWORK

Students are responsible for completing all homework assignments. If a student is absent, they are responsible for securing the missed assignments from the teacher. To request homework, please call the office at (817) 367-1323

IMMUNIZATION

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

The immunizations required are: diphtheria, rubeola (measles), rubella (German measles), mumps, tetanus, pertussis, poliomyelitis (polio), hepatitis A, hepatitis B, varicella (chicken pox), and meningococcal. The school nurse can provide information on age-appropriate doses or on

an acceptable physician-validated history of illness required by the Department of State Health Services. Proof of immunization may be established by personal records from a licensed physician or public health clinic with a signature or rubber-stamp validation.

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

<http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/immunize/school/default.shtm>.]

LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

Questioning of Students

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

- The principal will verify and record the identity of the officer or other authority and ask for an explanation of the need to question or interview the student at school.
- The principal ordinarily will make reasonable efforts to notify the parents unless the interviewer raises what the principal considers to be a valid objection.
- The principal ordinarily will be present unless the interviewer raises what the principal considers to be a valid objection.

Students Taken Into Custody

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

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

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

The principal will immediately notify the superintendent and will ordinarily attempt to notify the parent unless the officer or other authorized person raises what the principal considers to be a valid objection to notifying the parents. Because the principal does not have the authority to prevent or delay a student's release to a law enforcement officer, any notification will most likely be after the fact.

Notification of Law Violations

The district is required by state law to notify:

- All instructional and support personnel who have responsibility for supervising a student who has been arrested or referred to the juvenile court for any felony offense or for certain misdemeanors.
- All instructional and support personnel who have regular contact with a student who is required to register as a sex offender or who has been convicted, received deferred prosecution, received deferred adjudication, or was adjudicated for delinquent conduct for any felony offense or certain misdemeanors.

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

LUNCH

Lunch is available daily to all students. Parents are invited to eat with their students whenever possible. Occasionally, grade level lunch times are changed to accommodate field trips, testing, etc. Please contact the classroom teacher for lunch times.

Parents will need to stop by the front office and have their driver's license or ID scanned by the *Intercept* computer. If the scan is successful, the machine will print a name badge. The badge must be worn at all times while you are in the building. Parent tables are provided for students to eat with their parent. Students may not invite other classmates to join them. **Due to the dietary restrictions of some students, please do not provide food for anyone except your student. Store bought cupcakes for a student's birthday are allowed.**

MAKEUP WORK

Routine and In-depth Makeup Work Assignments Because of Absence

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

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

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

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

DAEP Makeup Work

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

In-school Suspension Makeup Work

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

MEDICINE AT SCHOOL

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

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

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

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

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

Psychotropic Drugs

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

Teachers and other district employees may discuss a student's academic progress or behavior with the student's parents or another employee as appropriate; however, they are not permitted to recommend use of psychotropic drugs. A district employee who is a registered nurse, an advanced nurse practitioner, a physician, or a certified or credentialed mental health professional can recommend that a student be evaluated by an appropriate medical practitioner, if appropriate. [For further information, see policies at FFAC.]

PHYSICAL EDUCATION CLASS

Physical Education classes are mandated by the state of Texas. At North Elementary School your child will be participating in an organized, regularly scheduled Physical Education class. As you dress your child for school, please keep this in mind. On PE day, girls must wear shorts under dresses or skirts.

All students **must wear sneakers**, or athletic-type shoes, in order to safely and comfortably participate in PE class. **Boots, sandals, dress shoes, Skechers, and shoes with cleats are not safe and could cause slipping, falling, and/or serious injury.**

Any student who is unable to participate in PE because they have been ill or have an injury must give a note to the PE teacher before class to be excused from participation. After the student misses three PE classes, a note from a doctor will be required. If serious injury or illness has occurred, a doctor's release will be required before the student will be allowed to participate in PE or recess.

Morning PE is a privilege. The gym opens at 7:00 AM. Students must meet the following requirements: Be a 2nd-4th grade student, maintain passing grades, maintain an "E" or "S" in citizenship, eat breakfast before coming to the gym, be in the gym by 7:15 AM, wear sneakers/tennis shoes, and remain in the gym until dismissal at 7:30 AM.

PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS / HEALTH SCREENINGS

Once a year, North Elementary provides free dental screenings for all students. Free sealants may be applied to selected grade levels. North also provides free vision and hearing screenings to all Pre K, Kindergarten, 1st, and 3rd Grade students.

PLEDGES OF ALLEGIANCE AND A MINUTE OF SILENCE

Each school day, students will recite the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States flag and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Texas flag. Parents may submit a written request to the principal to excuse their child from reciting a pledge. [See **Excusing a Student from Reciting the Pledges to the U.S. and Texas Flags** on page 5.]

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

PRAYER

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

PROMOTION AND RETENTION

A student will be promoted only on the basis of academic achievement or demonstrated proficiency in the subject matter of the course or grade level, the recommendation of the student's teacher, the score received on any criterion-referenced or state-mandated assessment, and any other necessary academic information as determined by the district. To earn credit in a course, a student must receive a grade of at least 70 based on course-level or grade-level standards.

In grades 1-4, promotion is based on an overall average of 70 on a scale score of 100 based on course-level standards (essential knowledge and skills) for all subject areas and a grade of 70 or above in language arts and mathematics.

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

- In order to be promoted to grade 6, students enrolled in grade 5 must perform satisfactorily on the mathematics and reading sections of the grade 5 assessment in English or Spanish.
- In order to be promoted to grade 9, students enrolled in grade 8 must perform satisfactorily on the mathematics and reading sections of the grade 8 assessment in English.

Parents of a student in grades 3–8 who does not perform satisfactorily on his or her exams will be notified that their child will participate in special instructional programs designed to improve performance. The student may be required to participate in this instruction before or after normal school hours or outside of the normal school year.

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. Whether the student is retained or promoted, an educational plan for the student will be designed to enable the student to perform at grade level by the end of the next school year. [See policies at EIE.]

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

A Personal Graduation Plan (PGP) will be prepared for any student in a middle school or beyond 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 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 counselor or principal and policy EIF(LEGAL).]

RELEASE OF STUDENTS FROM SCHOOL

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

A student who will need to leave school during the day must bring a note from his or her parent that morning and follow the campus sign-out procedures before leaving the campus. Otherwise, a student will not be released from school at times other than at the end of the school day. Unless the principal or his designee has granted approval because of extenuating circumstances, a student will not regularly be released before the end of the instructional day.

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

REPORT CARDS / PROGRESS REPORTS AND CONFERENCES

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

At the end of the first three weeks of a grading period, parents will be given a written progress report of their child's performance. If the student receives a grade lower than 70 in any class or subject at the end of a grading period, the parent will be requested to schedule a conference with the teacher of that class or subject. [See **Working Together** on page 2 for how to schedule a conference.]

Teachers follow grading guidelines that have been approved by the principal pursuant to the board-adopted policy and are designed to reflect each student's relative mastery of each

assignment for the grading period, semester, or course. State law provides that a test or course grade issued by a teacher cannot be changed unless the board determines that the grade was arbitrary or contains an error, or that the teacher did not follow the district's grading policy. [See policy EIA(LOCAL).]

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

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

Report cards and unsatisfactory progress reports must be signed by the parent and should be returned to the school within 3 days.

RESTROOMS

We do not have public restrooms available during the school day. In an emergency, parents and non-school children may use the restroom in the nurse's area.

RETALIATION

[See **Dating Violence, Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation** on page 24.]

SAFETY

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

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

Accident Insurance

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

Drills: Fire, Tornado, and Other Emergencies

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

Fire Drill

Alarm sounds	leave the building
2 bells	return to the classroom

Tornado Drill

Alarm sounds	move quietly but quickly to the designated locations
2 bells	return to the classroom

Emergency Medical Treatment and Information

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

Emergency School-Closing Information

Information regarding school closings due to inclement weather can be found on television channel 5 or WBAP radio 820 AM. Parents may also be contacted by the Alert Now phone calling system.

SCHOOL FACILITIES

Use By Students Before and After School

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.

The following areas are open to students before school, beginning at 7:00 a.m.

- Cafeteria--all students are required to go to the cafeteria if they arrive at school before 7:30 AM.
- Morning PE--the gym is open to students in grades 2-4. Students who meet the required criteria are allowed to go to the gym until 7:15. Students must ask permission of an adult in the cafeteria before they may leave to go to the gym. If the student eats breakfast at school, they must eat before they go to the gym. **Students will not be allowed to go to morning PE if they have an “N” or a “U” in conduct, have had discipline problems, are failing a course(s), or do not have appropriate footwear.**

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.

Conduct Before and After School

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

Use of Hallways During Class Time

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

Cafeteria Services

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

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

Library

The library is a learning laboratory with books, computers, magazines, and other materials available for classroom assignments, projects, and reading or listening pleasure

Meetings of Noncurriculum-Related Groups

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

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

SEARCHES

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

Students' Desks and Lockers

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

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

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

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

Vehicles on Campus

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

Trained Dogs

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

Metal Detectors

[For further information, see policy FNF(LOCAL).]

Drug-Testing

[For further information, see policy FNF(LOCAL). Also, see **Steroids**, on page 48.]

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

The district provides special programs for gifted and talented students, homeless students, bilingual students, migrant students, students with limited English proficiency, dyslexic students, and students with disabilities. The coordinator of each program can answer questions about eligibility requirements, as well as programs and services offered in the district or by other organizations. A student or parent with questions about these programs should contact Sandy Borden, Director of Special Programs, at (817) 367-1327.

STEROIDS

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

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

Students participating in UIL athletic competition may be subject to random steroid testing. More information on the UIL testing program may be found on the UIL Web site at http://www.uil.utexas.edu/athletics/health/steroid_information.html.

[See FNA(LOCAL).]

SUMMER SCHOOL

North Elementary provides a remedial summer school program for students currently enrolled in grades Kindergarten through 4th grade. This free program is designed to help students with the key academic skills needed for success in their classes next year.

All students who are recommended by their teacher or the principal are encouraged to enroll. Transportation is provided for all students who regularly ride the bus. Contact your child's teacher for more information.

TAKS (TEXAS ASSESSMENT OF KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS)

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

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

[See policy EKB(LEGAL).]

TARDINESS

Students will be counted tardy if they are not in class by the 7:40 bell. Any student who is tardy to class must obtain a tardy pass from the front office or a designee. Repeated instances of tardiness may result in legal action. The tardy policy will go into effect on Tuesday, September 8, 2009.

TEXTBOOKS, ELECTRONIC TEXTBOOKS, AND TECHNOLOGICAL EQUIPMENT

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

TRANSFERS

[See **Requesting Transfers for Your Child**, on page 6, and **Options and Requirements for Providing Assistance to Students Who Have Learning Difficulties or Who Need or May Need Special Education**, on page 7, for other transfer options.]

TRANSPORTATION

School-Sponsored Trips

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

Buses and Other School Vehicles

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

A parent may also designate a child-care facility or grandparent's residence as the regular pickup and drop-off location for his or her child. The designated facility or residence must be on an approved stop on an approved route. For information on bus routes and stops or to designate an alternate pickup or drop-off location, you may contact Dale Brock, Assistant Superintendent of Student Services, at (817) 367-1298.

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

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

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

- Fasten their seat belts, if available.
- Wait for the driver's signal upon leaving the bus or van and before crossing in front of the vehicle.

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

WSISD Bus Disciplinary Actions

1st Offense--The student will be given a written warning to be sent home, signed by the parent and returned to the driver. Additional disciplinary action may be taken.

2nd Offense--The student will be suspended from the bus up to ten school days.

3rd Offense--The student will be suspended from the bus for up to twenty school days..

4th Offense--The student will be suspended from the bus for the remainder of the semester or school year.

Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten parents must be at the bus stop to receive their child or they will be subject to the above consequences. If a student's normal mode of transportation changes, the teacher must be notified in writing.

VANDALISM

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

VIDEO CAMERAS

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

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

VISITORS TO THE SCHOOL

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 (except for parents dropping off their children in the morning), must first report to the front office and present their driver's license or ID to be scanned by the *Intercept* computer. If the scan is successful, the machine will print a name badge that must be worn at all times while the visitor is in the building.

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

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

First of School

Parents may walk students to class until Tuesday, September 8, 2009. On that day and for the rest of the year, students will be expected to walk to class by themselves or with their grade level leaving the cafeteria unless the parent is escorted by a school official. Parents should drop off their student(s) at the following locations:

Pre-K and Kindergarten--Cafeteria

1st and 2nd Grade--Front Entrance

3rd and 4th Grade--Back entrance on the north side of the school by the small playground.

Note: younger students may be dropped off with older siblings.

Volunteers

Volunteers are welcome and needed through-out the school year. They are used to assist various school events including assisting classroom teachers, field trips (if requested by the teacher), picture day, and fundraisers. All volunteers must be on the district's approved VIPS (Volunteers in Public Schools) list. To be placed on the list volunteers need to fill out the VIPS form (available in the front office) and undergo a criminal background check. A new VIPS form must be completed each school year. Please allow at least one week for the form to be processed. The list is updated monthly and sent to the schools. Volunteers must have their driver's license or ID scanned for a name badge each time they are in the building.

PTA Board Members

PTA Board Members and volunteers should check in with the front office when they arrive to assist at school. You will need to have your PTA name badge visible at all times. Board Members are asked to wait until 8:00 AM to be in the hallways.

WITHDRAWING FROM SCHOOL

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

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

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

GLOSSARY

Accelerated instruction is an intensive supplemental program designed to address the needs of an individual student in acquiring the knowledge and skills required at his or her grade level and/or as a result of a student not meeting the passing standard on a state-mandated assessment.

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

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

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

DAEP stands for disciplinary alternative education program, a placement for students who have violated certain provisions of the *Student Code of Conduct*.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

