

**FARMERSVILLE HIGH  
SCHOOL  
STUDENT HANDBOOK  
2018 - 2019**



***Striving for Excellence***

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### PREFACE

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The Farmersville Student Code of Conduct contains information for parents and students necessary to ensure a successful school year. This handbook is organized alphabetically by topic. The term “the student’s parent” used throughout this document refers to a parent, legal guardian, or other person who has agreed to assume responsibility for a student.

Students and parents should read the Student Code of Conduct, which describes consequences for inappropriate student behavior. The Student Code of Conduct is required by state law, approved by the Fisd School Board, and is intended to promote school safety and foster a positive atmosphere maximizing student success. The Code of Conduct is included in this Handbook and is available in its entirety at each local campus.

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

Also, 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. The district reserves the right to modify provisions of the Student Handbook at any time, whenever it is deemed necessary. Notice of any revision or modification will be given as is reasonably practical under the circumstances and will supersede existing provisions listed in the Handbook.

Although the Student Handbook may refer to rights established through law or district policy, the

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

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 a teacher, the counselor, or the principal.

Farmersville High School Student Code of Conduct 2018–19 School Year

If you have difficulty accessing the information in this document because of disability, please contact Farmersville ISD at 972-782-6601.

Please complete and return to your child's campus the following required forms provided in the forms packet accompanying this handbook:

1. Student and Parental Acknowledgment and Student Code of Conduct Acknowledgment Form;
2. Student Directory Information and Release of Student Information Form;
3. Parent's Objection to the Release of Student Information to Military Recruiters and Institutions of Higher Education Form, if you choose to restrict the release of information to these entities;
4. Emergency Contact Form;
5. Field Trip Release Form;
6. Acceptable Use Policy Acknowledgment Form;
7. Publications, Video, Internet Consent and Release Agreement;
8. Texas Public School Student/Staff Ethnicity and Race Data Questionnaire;
9. Home Language Survey; and
10. Medical Information Request;

**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 district office or online at [www.farmersvilleisd.org](http://www.farmersvilleisd.org).**

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## ACADEMIC DISHONESTY/ CHEATING/ PLAGIARISM

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

## ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY

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Farmersville ISD uses a variety of procedures to protect our students and provide for appropriate use of technology. First, we utilize a filter for the Internet, allowing us to block identified, inappropriate sites. This database is updated nightly. Second, students will be monitored when using the Internet for research. Third, administrators and faculty may review files and messages to maintain system integrity and ensure that users are acting responsibly.

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*ALL SECONDARY STUDENTS IN FARMERSVILLE ISD MUST ADHERE TO THE FOLLOWING STANDARDS:*

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1. Students must not access, modify, download, or install computer programs, files, or information belonging to others.
2. Students must not alter computers, networks, printers or other equipment except as directed by a staff member.
3. Technology, including electronic communication, should be used for appropriate educational purposes only.
4. Students must not release personal information on the Internet.
5. Personal FID network access information should not be conveyed to other students.
6. If a student finds an inappropriate site or image, he or she must immediately minimize the program and contact the instructor.
7. Students must not create and should report any instances of disrespectful, threatening, or profane communication.
8. Students shall adhere to all laws and statutes related to issues of copyright or plagiarism.
9. Students must not bypass or attempt to bypass Internet Filters.
10. Students must not engage in “cyber-bullying”. The use of technology (computers & internet social networks) that has the effect of physically harming a student, damaging a student’s property, or placing a student in reasonable fear of harm to the student’s person or of damage to the student’s property; or be sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive to create an intimidating, threatening, or abusive educational environment for a student.
11. Students must not engage in “sexting” which is the sharing of provocative or nude photos using technology.

**Violation of any of these standards may result in suspension of computer use, Internet privileges and/or other disciplinary action.**



## ACCOUNTABILITY

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

- The Texas Academic Performance Report (TAPR) for the district, compiled by TEA, the state agency that oversees public education, based on academic factors and ratings;
- A School Report Card (SRC) for each campus in the district compiled by TEA based on academic factors and ratings;
- The district's financial management report, which will include the financial accountability rating assigned to the district by TEA;
- The performance ratings of the district's evaluation of community and student engagement using the indicators required by law; and
- Information compiled by TEA for the submission of a federal report card that is required by the No Child Left Behind Act.

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

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

## ADMISSION

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A student (or the student's parent) who wants to enroll in the District should contact the counselor at Farmersville High School. All potential students to FHS must meet the residency requirements as described in FSD board policy.

## ALCOHOL, DRUGS, TOBACCO, AND WEAPONS

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Under state and federal law a student is not allowed to possess, sell, give away, or use alcohol, illegal drugs, and tobacco products including electronic cigarettes or any other electronic vaporizing device, guns, or any weapons on school property. Having one of these items in a privately owned vehicle that the student has driven to school and parked on District property is also prohibited.

## ARRIVAL ON CAMPUS/ CAMPUS VISITATION

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Once students arrive on school property, i.e. getting off the bus, parking in the student parking lot, being dropped off in the front of the school, etc., students must come into the school building to wait for their class to begin. Failure to follow this procedure could result in disciplinary action(s).

Visitors to Farmersville High School must sign in the office and wear identification while they are in the building. Only a student's immediate family or clergy may visit the student on campus unless approved by the principal. Immediate family is defined as parents, children, siblings or spouse.

Farmersville High School students are strictly forbidden to visit other FISD campuses without explicit approval from the principal. No exceptions.

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## ASSEMBLIES

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

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## ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS

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Regular school attendance is essential for the student to make the most of his or her education – to benefit from teacher-led activities, to build each day's learning on that of the previous day, and to grow as an individual.

### **The following are the state attendance laws in Texas:**

1. State law requires that a student between the ages of 6 and 19 attend school, as well as any applicable accelerated instruction programs, extended year programs, or tutorial session, unless the student is otherwise legally exempt or excused. A student who voluntarily attends or enrolls after his or her 19th birthday is required to attend each school day until the end of the school year and may be subject to compulsory attendance laws. In addition, if a student 19 or older has more than five unexcused absences in a semester the district may revoke the student's enrollment. The student's presence on school property thereafter would be unauthorized and may be considered trespassing.
2. School employees must investigate and report violations of the state compulsory attendance law. A student absent without permission from school; from any class; from required special programs, such as additional special instruction (termed "accelerated instruction" by the state) assigned by the grade placement committee and basic skills for ninth graders; or from required tutorials will be considered in violation of the compulsory attendance law, could be given an Unexcused Absence, and are subject to disciplinary action.
3. In grades 9-12, the grade for make-up work in any class for an unexcused absence shall be no higher than 70. No grade penalty will be imposed for an absence due to a mandated school suspension.

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## *TRUANCY*

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If a student is absent from school on 10 or more days or parts of days within a 6-month period in the same school year (**tardies are considered parts of days**) the student and the student's parents are subject to truancy prevention measures and potential liability. The burden of showing an absence should be excused is the responsibility of the student and/or parent. Furthermore, the decision by the court to excuse an absence for the purposes of this section does not affect the ability of the school district to determine whether the absence should be excused.

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## TRUANCY PREVENTION PROGRAM

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Pursuant to House Bill 2398 "Truancy Reform" Farmersville ISD has adopted the following plan to address students with unexcused absences. On the third unexcused absence in a four week period, the student will be assigned to the Truancy Prevention Program. The duration of the program will be 45 school days beginning on the day of official notification to the student. Parents will be sent a copy of the notification as well as a request to meet with school officials to review the penalties for additional unexcused absences. Once a student is placed on the Truancy Prevention Program, only doctor's notes will be accepted for excused absences during the 45 day period of the Truancy Prevention Program.

Additional unexcused absences occurring during the 45 day period will be dealt with as follows:

- 4<sup>th</sup> unexcused absence.....Campus Intervention (parent conference)
- 5<sup>th</sup> unexcused absence.....After School Detention
- 6<sup>th</sup> unexcused absence.....Saturday/Thursday School
- 7<sup>th</sup> unexcused absence.....Saturday/Thursday School
- 8<sup>th</sup> unexcused absence.....ISS
- 9<sup>th</sup> unexcused absence.....ISS

(Students will also be required to complete behavior modification curriculum during the detentions/Saturday school and mandatory counseling)

Students who accumulate 10 unexcused absences in a 6 month period will be referred to the truancy prosecutor for the offense of “truant conduct”. This is a civil case, not a criminal case, pursuant to HB 2398. Parents may be charged with the criminal offense of “Parent Contributing to Nonattendance” which carries fines from \$100 to \$500.

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## NON-ABSENCES

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**A student missing school for the following reasons will not be counted absent:**

- If the student is participating in a Board-approved extracurricular activity or performance (no more than 20 days can be missed in any class per year for this reason.)
- For the purpose of observing religious holy days, including one day of travel to and from the site as long as the student satisfactorily completes all missed school work.
- For treatment by health care professionals if the student begins classes or returns to school on the same day of the appointment or treatment and the appointment is verified with a doctor or dentist’s note.
- Temporary absence resulting from any cause acceptable to the principal or superintendent.
- Approved college visitation.

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## EXCUSED ABSENCES

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**Students absent for the following reasons will be given an excused absence:**

- An excused absence based on personal illness, illness or death in the family, quarantine, weather or road conditions making travel dangerous or any unusual cause acceptable to the superintendent or principal.
- A juvenile court proceeding documented by a law enforcement official.
- A migrant student’s late enrollment or early withdrawal.
- An absence required by state or local welfare authorities.
- Homelessness, as defined in federal law.
- Family emergency or unforeseen incident requiring immediate attention and approved by the principal.
- Teen parent absences to care for his/her child.
- Required screening, diagnosis, and treatment for Medicaid-eligible students.
- Mental health or therapy appointments
- Court-ordered family visitations or any other court-ordered activity provided it is not practicable to schedule the student’s participation in the activity outside of school hours.
- Absences of up to five days will be excused for a student to visit with a parent, stepparent, or legal guardian who has been called to duty for, is on leave from, or immediately returned from certain deployments.
- The state of Texas is a member of the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunities for Military Children, which entitles students of military families to flexibility regarding certain district and state requirements. State law requires that absences related to parent deployment be considered as days of attendance for purposes of the district’s ADA funding. However, these absences are limited to five

per school year, and Education Code 25.087(b-4) and the adjacent text describe the circumstances for which they will be excused. The district may excuse additional absences under existing statutory authority to excuse any absence at the principal's discretion, but ADA funding would not be generated. If your district will allow additional absences, update the adjacent text accordingly.

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### *EXTENDED ABSENCES*

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- Please contact the school principal regarding absences that will require the student to miss multiple days of school (e.g. family trips).

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### *PARENT'S NOTE AFTER AN ABSENCE*

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When a student must be absent from school, the student—upon returning to school—must bring a note signed by the parent (within 3 days of the absence) 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 19 or older or is an emancipated minor under state law. A phone call from the parent may be accepted, but the district reserves the right to require a written note.

Please note that, unless the absence is for a statutorily allowed reason under compulsory attendance laws, the district is not required to excuse any absence.

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### *DOCTOR'S NOTE AFTER AN ABSENCE FOR ILLNESS*

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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 (within 3 days of the absence) that caused the student's extended absence from school. Otherwise, the student's absence may be considered unexcused and, if so, would be considered to be in violation of compulsory attendance laws.

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

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### ATTENDANCE RECEIVING CREDIT

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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 fewer than 90 percent of the days (but no less than 75 percent of the days the class is offered,) may be referred to the attendance review committee to determine whether there are extenuating circumstances for the absences and how the student can regain credit. Students may not miss more than ten percent of the days of a semester (8 days for the Fall semester and 10 days for the Spring semester.) Also, students must remain in class for at least the first 15 minutes of class in order to be counted present for that particular class. Attendance is taken for each class period and counts toward the student earning credit in each specific course.

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

- All absences, whether excused or unexcused must, be considered when determining whether a student has attended the required percentage of days.
- 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.

If the committee determines that there have been extenuating circumstances, it will decide how the credit may be regained. If the committee determines, however, that there are no extenuating circumstances, the student must attend Saturday school to regain credit. Students required to attend Saturday School or Summer School or to make up days missed may be required to pay a fee. [See the section on Fees.] The student or parent may appeal the decision to the District's Board of Trustees by filing a written request with the superintendent.

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### *ABSENCE FOR COLLEGE/CAREER DAY VISITS*

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Students may not be excused more than one day as a junior and two days as a senior for college/career day visits. These visits must be arranged three to five days in advance with the counselor or principal. It is strongly recommended that students contact the college in advance to schedule a visit to ensure the proper documentation is available. Verification of an official college/career day visit must be provided to the office upon returning to school or the visit will be counted as an unexcused absence leading to possible truancy charges.

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### *ATTENDANCE AND MAKE-UP WORK*

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A student absent for any reason should promptly make up specific assignments missed and/or complete additional in-depth study assigned by the teacher to meet subject or course requirements. Students will be permitted a reasonable time (generally one day per day missed) within which to make up work that is missed. A student who does not make up assigned work within the time allotted by the teacher may receive a grade of zero for the assignment. Not all circumstances are the same; teacher and administration will evaluate absences.

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### *EXTRACURRICULAR ABSENCES*

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A student may not be absent from class more than twenty days for extracurricular activities.

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### *ABSENCE RECONCILIATION PROCEDURES*

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If a student is absent from school the parent/guardian should:

- Call in and inform the school of why the child is absent on the day of the absence, AND
- Provide a note within three (3) days of the absence which shall be signed and dated by the student's parent or guardian verifying the date of absence(s), and reason for absence(s).

Failure to follow the above attendance reconciliation procedure may result in:

- Unexcused Absence(s)
- Disciplinary action such as In-School-Suspension for skipping school.
- Truancy charges filed against the student and/or the parent/guardian.

If the student is 19 or older or has been declared by a court to be an emancipated minor, the student may sign in place of a parent or guardian. However, a note signed by the student, even with parent permission, will not be accepted and the principal will take disciplinary action if it is found that the note has been forged or signed by the student without permission.

If a student is absent more than 3 consecutive days a doctor's note is required to be turned in within three days of the most recent absence for the absence to be excused.

Students who have been absent beyond ten percent of the instructional days allocated for a semester will be required to present a note from a doctor for an excused absence in order to have an absence waived for credit purposes. All return-to-school notes from doctors should be filed in the office no later than three (3) days after student returns to school from doctor's appointment. Students and parents should request these from Healthcare Providers.

Please note - A student absent from school for any reason, other than for a documented health care appointment, or for a cause acceptable to the principal, will not be allowed to participate in school-related activities on that day or evening.

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## AWARDS

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An awards night for high school will be held during the spring semester near the end of school. At that time, students will receive awards and honors for their achievements during the year. Parents are notified and encouraged to attend the assembly.

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## BELL SCHEDULES

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### **Farmersville High School Bell Schedule**

First Period 8:15-9:05

Second Period 9:10-10:00

Tutorials 10:05-10:30

Third Period 10:35-11:25

Fourth Period 11:30-12:50

A Lunch 11:25-11:55

B Lunch 12:20-12:50

Fifth Period 12:55-1:45

Sixth Period 1:50-2:40

Seventh Period 2:45-3:35

## Pep Rally Bell Schedule

First Period 8:15-9:05

Second Period 9:10-10:00

Third Period 10:05-10:55

Fourth Period 11:00-11:30

A Lunch 11:00-11:30

B Lunch 11:55-12:25

Fifth Period 12:20-1:20

Sixth Period 1:25-2:15

Seventh Period 2:20-3:10

Pep Rally 3:15-3:35

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## BULLYING

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

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

This conduct is considered bullying if it exploits an imbalance of power between the student perpetrator(s) and the student victim and if it interferes with a student's education or substantially disrupts the operation of the school. Bullying is prohibited by the district and could include hazing, threats, taunting, teasing, confinement, assault, demands for money, destruction of property, theft of valued possessions, name-calling, rumor-spreading, or ostracism. In some cases, bullying can occur through electronic methods, called "cyberbullying."

If a student believes that he or she has experienced bullying or has witnessed bullying of another student, it is important for the student or parent to notify a teacher, counselor, principal, or another district employee as soon as possible to obtain assistance and intervention. The administration will investigate any allegations of bullying and will take appropriate disciplinary action if an investigation indicates that bullying has occurred. Disciplinary or other action may be taken even if the conduct did not rise to the level of bullying or other related misconduct.

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

Upon the recommendation of the administration, the board may, in response to an identified case of bullying, decide to transfer a student found to have engaged in bullying to another classroom at the campus. The parent of

a student who has been determined by the district to be a victim of bullying may request that his or her child be transferred to another class room.

A copy of the district's policy is available in the principal's office, superintendent's office, and on the district's Web site. A student or parent who is dissatisfied with the outcome of an investigation may appeal through policy FNG (LOCAL)

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## CAFETERIA SERVICES

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The district participates in the National School Lunch Program and offers free and reduced-price meals based on a student's financial need. Information can be obtained from the school secretary. Meal prices for 2017-2018:

Breakfast \$1.15 Reduced \$.40

Lunch \$2.75 Reduced \$.40

When the student account goes under \$2.65, the student will be verbally reminded they need money in their account.

**When charges total over \$2.65** student will write their name on a ledger or notebook documenting the date and amount of charges. This will serve to remind the student they are responsible for repayment.

**When charges total \$5.30** the Child Nutrition Manager will attempt to contact the parent or guardian concerning the charges due in the cafeteria.

**After \$10.00 in charges** the student may receive an alternate courtesy meal of a sandwich and water.

Parents are responsible for the cost of meals until the date a Free or Reduced Meal application is approved in the Child Nutrition Office.

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### *APPLICATION FOR FREE AND REDUCED LUNCH*

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All students are given an application for the free/reduced meals program. If you wish to apply, please complete the form and return it to the front office. Parents are responsible for all meal charges on the student's account until the free/reduced meals application is approved in the Child Nutrition Office.

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### *LUNCH CHARGE POLICY*

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A student will be allowed to charge three meals. If the student has three meal charges that are NOT paid he/she will not be allowed to charge again until the prior charges have been paid. In the event that the student has three meal charges and does not have lunch money a fourth time, they will be offered a courtesy meal consisting of either a peanut butter or cheese sandwich and water.

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## CELL PHONES/PAGING DEVICES/CD PLAYERS OR ANY ELECTRONIC DEVICE

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

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



**The Farmersville High School cell phone confiscation policy is as follows:**

**1<sup>st</sup> offense** – Student must come to the school office and pick up the phone after school.

**2<sup>nd</sup> offense** – Parents must meet with the Principal or Designee in order to pick up the phone.

**3<sup>rd</sup> offense** – Parents must meet with the Principal or Designee in order to pick up the phone, an administrative fee of \$15 is due.

**4<sup>th</sup> offense** – Parents must meet with the Principal or Designee in order to pick up the phone, an administrative fee of \$15 is due, and the student will receive a Saturday School assignment or equivalent punishment decided by the Principal or Designee.

**5<sup>th</sup> offense and subsequent offenses** – Parents must meet with the Principal or Designee in order to pick up the phone, an administrative fee of \$15 is due, and the student will receive a minimum of 3 days in ISS or equivalent punishment decided by the Principal or Designee.

The use of mobile telephones or any device capable of capturing images is strictly prohibited in locker rooms or restroom areas while at school or at a school related or school-sponsored event. In limited circumstances and in accordance with law, a student's personal telecommunications device may be searched by authorized personnel. Any student that refuses to turn over their electronic device when asked by Faculty or Staff will be punished for insubordination. Any student that refuses to turn over their electronic device when asked by the Principal or Assistant Principal could face suspension for insubordination. When students are caught using another student's cell phone both students are subject to punishment according to the policy above.

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***UNACCEPTABLE AND INAPPROPRIATE USE OF TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES***

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Students are prohibited from possessing, sending, forwarding, posting, accessing, or displaying electronic messages that are abusive, obscene, sexually oriented, threatening, harassing, damaging to another's reputation, or illegal. This prohibition also applies to conduct off school property, whether the equipment used to send such messages is district-owned or personally owned, if it results in a substantial disruption to the educational environment. Education 37.082; FNCE(LEGAL) and (LOCAL), FNF(LEGAL); CQ in the *TASB Regulations Resource Manual* Any person taking, disseminating, transferring, possessing, or sharing obscene, sexually oriented, lewd, or otherwise illegal images or other content, commonly referred to as "sexting," will be disciplined according to the Student Code of Conduct, may be required to complete an educational program related to the dangers of this type of behavior, and, in certain circumstances, may be reported to law enforcement. Because engaging in this type of behavior can lead to bullying or harassment, as well as possibly impede future endeavors of a student.

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**CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE**

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The district has established a plan for addressing child sexual abuse and other maltreatment of children, which may be accessed at [farmersvilleisd.org](http://farmersvilleisd.org) (District Improvement Plan). 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 or any other type of abuse or neglect should be encouraged to seek out a trusted adult. Be aware as a parent or other trusted adult that disclosures of sexual abuse and neglect 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 or other maltreatment, 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](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 abuse and neglect:

<http://www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/factsheets/signs.cfm>

<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/childabuse1.shtml)

[http://www.oag.state.tx.us/AG\\_Publications/txts/childabuse2.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>).

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## CLASS SCHEDULE CHANGES

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Students will not be able to change class schedules after the first week of the semester. All student requests for a change of schedule will be denied for the remainder of the semester. Where extenuating circumstances exist, each case will be reviewed on an individual basis. The request must be made to the counselor, who will work with the principal to make the decision.

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## CLASS RANK/HONOR GRADUATES

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To be recognized as an honor graduate, students must have a 90.0 or higher numerical average for all core classes (English, Math, Science, Social Studies, and Foreign Language) in 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade.

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## *VALEDICTORIAN AND SALUTATORIAN*

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The honor of valedictorian shall be given to the senior student making the highest numerical average. The honor of salutatorian shall be given to the senior student making the next highest numerical average.

To be eligible for valedictorian or salutatorian honors, a student shall have been continuously enrolled in the District high school for four consecutive semesters preceding graduation.

To qualify to give the valedictorian or salutatorian speech, a student shall not have engaged in a serious violation of the Student Code of Conduct, including removal to DAEP or expulsion during his or her last two (2) semesters. Should a tie develop for valedictorian, co-valedictorians shall be declared, and no salutatorian shall be recognized. Should a tie develop for salutatorian, all those tying shall be recognized.

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## *CLASS RANK*

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High School rank for students seeking automatic admission to a general teaching institution on the basis of their class rank is determined and reported as follows:

- Class rank shall be based on the end of the eleventh grade, middle of the twelfth grade, or at high school graduation, whichever is most recent at the application deadline.
- The top ten percent of a high school class shall not contain more than ten percent of the total class size.
- The student's rank shall be reported by the applicant's high school or school district as a specific number out of a specific number total class size.
- The Texas school or school district from which the student graduated or is expected to graduate shall determine class rank.
- A student who completes the high school program requirement in fewer than four years shall be ranked in the class with which he/she actually graduates.

For two school years following their graduation, district graduates who ranked in the top ten percent and, in some cases, the top 25% of their graduating class are eligible for admission into four-year public universities and colleges in Texas. Students and parents should contact the counselor for further information about how to apply and the deadline for application.

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## *STATE SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS*

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Under the Texas Early High School Graduation Scholarship Program, students who complete the Recommended or Advanced (Distinguished Achievement) High School Program may earn financial credits in varying amounts to apply toward college tuition. The amounts depend on the number of consecutive months in which the student completed graduation requirements and the number of early college credits earned and may be used at public or private higher education institutions within the state. The counselor can provide additional information about meeting the program's eligibility requirements.

Students who have a financial need according to federal criteria and who complete the Recommended High School Program or Distinguished Achievement Program may be eligible under the TEXAS Grant Program for tuition and fees to Texas public universities, community colleges, and technical schools, as well as to private institutions. For further information, see the principal or counselor.

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## COLLEGE CREDIT COURSES

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

- Certain courses taught at the high school campus, which may include courses termed dual credit or Advanced Placement (AP);
- Enrollment in an AP or dual credit course through the Texas Virtual School Network;
- Enrollment in courses taught in conjunction and in partnership with Collin College;
- Certain CTE courses.

All of these methods have eligibility requirements and must be approved prior to enrollment in the course. Please see the counselor for more information.

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

## COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY ADMISSIONS

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

- Completes the Recommended or Advanced/Distinguished Achievement Program

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

In addition, the student must submit a completed application for admission in accordance with the deadline established by the college or university. The student is ultimately responsible for ensuring that he or she meets the admission requirements of the university or college to which the student submits an application. Students and parents should contact the school counselor for further information about automatic admissions, the application process, and deadlines. A student who has satisfactorily completed all coursework requirements for graduation, but has failed to meet applicable exit-level testing requirements, shall be allowed to participate in commencement activities and ceremonies if he or she has complied with the established remediation and retesting requirements, and been continuously enrolled in the District high school since his or her freshman year.

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### *STUDENTS WHO FAIL EXIT-LEVEL TESTING*

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Students in grades 9 – 11 are required to pass the following EOC exams before graduation:

1. English I (Reading and Writing)
2. English II (Reading and Writing)
3. Algebra I
4. Biology
5. U.S. History

Students who fail any of these tests have the option of re-taking the test(s) during the three scheduled re-test opportunities each year.

#### Grade 11 Students Not Meeting EOC Score Requirements

Upon completion of the 11<sup>th</sup> grade, if a student has still not passed one or more parts of the EOC exams, the district may require the following:

1. The parent/guardian and student shall attend a conference with the principal and counselor stipulating the courses and tutorials that are available to the student. The parent/guardian and student will be required to sign a commitment letter stating that the student has failed to meet state testing requirements and outlining the necessary remediation.
2. The student must enroll in a corresponding content-area college preparatory course during the ensuing school year and attend at least 90% of the days the course is offered.
3. The student must enroll in a summer accelerated intervention program and attend at least 90 percent of the days the course is offered.
4. The student shall be required to retake each applicable EOC exam every time it is administered. The only acceptable reason to miss an applicable testing administration is a death in the immediate family or severe illness of the student. Death in the immediate family must be verified by a written statement from the parent or guardian delivered during a personal conference with the principal. Severe illness of the student must be verified by a written statement from a physician or other acceptable licensed practitioner delivered by the parent or guardian during a personal conference with the principal. In either case, the parent or guardian shall be notified in writing whether the principal has excused the absence.

A student who has satisfactorily completed all coursework requirements for graduation; has been continuously enrolled in the District high school since his or her freshman year; and has completed all of the requirements listed above shall be allowed to participate in commencement activities and ceremonies. The student shall be seated with his or her classmates, and there shall be no indication of whether or not a student is graduating from high school or merely participating in the ceremony.

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## COMMUNICABLE DISEASES / CONDITIONS

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To protect children from contagious illnesses, students infected with certain diseases are not allowed to come to school while contagious. Parents of a student with a communicable or contagious disease should phone the school nurse or principal so that other students who have been exposed to the disease can be alerted. These diseases include:

- Amebiasis
- Campylobacteriosis
- Chickenpox
- Common cold with fever
- Fifth disease (Erythema infectiosus)
- Gastroenteritis, Viral
- Giardiasis
- Head Lice (Pediculosis)
- Hepatitis, Viral A
- Impetigo
- Influenza
- Measles (Rubella)
- Meningitis, Bacterial
- Mononucleosis, Infectious
- Mumps
- Pinkeye (conjunctivitis)
- Ringworm of the scalp
- Rubella (German Measles, including congenital)
- Salmonellas (including typhoid fever)
- Scabies
- Shigellosis
- Streptococcal disease, invasive
- Tuberculosis
- Whooping Cough (Pertussis)

### **Bacterial Meningitis Alert**

#### 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 very 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 causes meningitis or other 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 freshman living in dorms or residence halls. The vaccine is safe and effective (85-90%). It can cause mild side effects, such as redness and pain at the injection site lasting up to two days. Immunity develops within 7 to 10 days after the vaccine is given and lasts for up to 5 years.

#### WHAT YOU SHOULD DO IF YOU THINK YOU OR A FRIEND MIGHT HAVE BACTERIAL MENINGITIS?

Seek prompt medical attention

#### FOR MORE INFORMATION

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

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## COMMUNICATION BETWEEN HOME AND SCHOOL

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Good communication between home and school regarding a child's education is more than a "plus;" it is essential for the student to make the most of the opportunities provided. School communication starts with information documents such as this handbook, progress reports and report cards, and student work for parents to review and sign. It continues into interaction: messages and phone calls from teachers and school open houses or back-to-school nights.

Communication might also include requests for conferences, initiated by the school or the parent, to discuss student progress, to find out more about the curriculum and how the parent can support learning, to head off or resolve problems, etc. A parent who wants to schedule a phone or in-person conference with a teacher, counselor, or principal should call the school office for an appointment. Generally, a teacher will be able to meet with parents or return calls during his or her conference period, although other mutually convenient times before or after school might be arranged as well. Contact via e-mail is also possible.

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## COMPLAINTS BY STUDENTS / PARENTS

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Complaints by students or parents about instructional materials, loss of credits on a basis of attendance, removal to alternative education programs, expulsion, or prior review of non-school materials intended for distribution to students are handled through procedures specific to policies in those particular areas. To review relevant policies or to obtain further information, please contact the principal.

A student and/or parent with a complaint regarding possible discrimination in any school program on the basis of sex should contact the principal. A complaint or concern regarding the placement of a student with disabilities, who is not eligible for special education or about the District's programs and services available to the student, should be addressed with the counselor.

On all other matters, a student or parent who has a complaint should first bring the matter to the appropriate teacher. If the outcome is not satisfactory, a conference with the principal may be requested. If the outcome of the conference with the principal is not satisfactory, a conference with the superintendent or designee may be requested. If the outcome of this conference is not satisfactory, the student or parent may appear before the Board of Trustees, in accordance with Board policy.

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## CORPORAL PUNISHMENT

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Corporal punishment, spanking or paddling the student, may be used as a discipline management technique in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct. Corporal punishment will be governed by the following conditions:

- The student will be told the reason for the corporal punishment,
- Only the principal, or assistant principal may administer the punishment,
- The instrument to be used will be approved by the principal,
- The punishment will be administered in the presence of one other District professional employee and out of view of other students,
- If you do not wish for your child to be administered corporal punishment, please let the principal know as soon as possible.

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

A record will be maintained of each instance of corporal punishment.

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

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## CONFERENCES

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Students and parents may expect teachers to request a conference if the student is not maintaining passing grades or achieving the expected level of performance, if the student presents any other problem to the teacher or in any other case the teacher considers necessary.

A student or parent who wants information or wants to raise a question or concern is encouraged to confer with the appropriate teacher, counselor, or principal. A parent who wishes to confer with a teacher may call the office for an appointment during the teacher's conference period or request that the teacher call the parent during a conference period or at another mutually convenient time.

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## CORRESPONDENCE COURSES

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A student in grades 9-12 may earn a maximum of 2 units of credit by correspondence. These credits may be applied toward state or local graduation requirements. Please contact the school counselor for more information.

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## COUNSELING

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### *ACADEMIC*

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Students and their parents are encouraged to talk with the school counselor or principal to learn about course offerings, the graduation requirements of various programs, and early graduation procedures. Each spring, students in grades 9-12 and their parents will be provided information on anticipated course offerings for the next year and other information that will help them make the most of academic and vocational opportunities.

To plan for the future, students should work closely with the counselor in order to take the high school courses that best prepare them for attendance at a college, university, or training school, or for pursuit of some other type of advanced education. The counselor can also provide information about entrance exams and deadlines for application, as well as information about automatic admission to state colleges and universities, financial aid, housing, and scholarships.

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### *PERSONAL*

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The school counselor is available to assist students with a wide range of personal concerns, including such areas as social, family, emotional, academic, or chemical dependency needs. The counselor may also make available information about community resources to address personal concerns.

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## COURSE CREDIT

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

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## CREDIT BY EXAMINATION

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### 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 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 failed course or excessive absences, homeschooling, or coursework by a student transferring from a non-accredited school.

The principal would determine if the student could take an exam for this purpose. If approval is granted, the student must score at least a 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.

### 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. The dates on which exams are scheduled for the 2018 – 2019 school year will be published in appropriate district publications and on the district's website. The only exceptions to



the published dates will be for any exams administered by another entity besides the district or if a request is made outside of these time frames by a student experiencing homelessness or by a student involved in the foster care system.

A student will earn course credit with a passing score of at least 80 on the exam. If a student plans to take an exam, the student (or parent) must register with the principal or counselor in advance.

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## DATING VIOLENCE, DISCRIMINATION, HARASSMENT, AND RETALIATION

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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.] A copy of the district's policy is available in the principal's office and in the superintendent's office.

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### *DATING VIOLENCE*

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

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

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### *DISCRIMINATION*

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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.

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## *HARASSMENT*

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

Examples of harassment may include, but are not limited to, offensive or derogatory language directed at a person's religious beliefs or practices, accent, skin color, or need for accommodation; threatening 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.

Two types of prohibited harassment are described below.

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### *SEXUAL HARASSMENT AND GENDER-BASED HARASSMENT*

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Sexual harassment and gender-based harassment of a student by an employee, volunteer, or another student is prohibited. Examples of sexual harassment may include, but not be limited to, touching private body parts or coercing physical contact that is sexual in nature; sexual advances; jokes or conversations of a sexual nature; and other sexually motivated conduct, communications, or contact.

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

Gender-based harassment includes harassment based on a student's gender, expression by the student of stereotypical characteristics associated with the student's gender, or the student's failure to conform to stereotypical behavior related to gender. Examples of gender-based harassment directed against a student, regardless of the student's actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity, may include, but not be limited to, offensive jokes, name-calling, slurs, or rumors; physical aggression or assault; threatening or intimidating conduct; or other kinds of aggressive conduct such as theft or damage to property.

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### *RETALIATION*

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

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

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### *REPORTING PROCEDURES*

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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 district officials to whom to make a report.

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### *INVESTIGATION OF REPORT*

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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 promptly notify the parents of any student alleged to have experienced prohibited conduct involving an adult associated with the district. In the event alleged prohibited conduct involves another student, the district will notify the parents of the student alleged to have experienced the prohibited conduct when the allegations, if proven, would constitute a violation as defined by policy. During the course of an investigation, the district may take interim action to address the alleged prohibited conduct.

When an investigation is initiated for alleged prohibited conduct, the district will determine whether the allegations, if proven, would constitute bullying, as defined by law. If so, an investigation of bullying will also be conducted. [See policy FFI.]

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

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

Freedom from Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation policy is on-line FFH (local)

In its efforts to promote nondiscrimination, the district makes the following statements:

Farmersville ISD does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, gender, sex, 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.

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### DETENTION

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A student may be detained after or before school hours (for not more than one hour) on one or more days if the student violates the school's Student Code of Conduct or needs to do academic work.

Once a detention is assigned the teacher will attempt to contact the parents in a timely manner to inform them of the infraction that caused the detention.

Detention(s) must be served the day the detention is assigned, or during the next two school days.

Failure to serve detention will result in further disciplinary action not limited to Saturday School, ISS, etc., as determined by the principal or other school administrator.

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## DISPLAYING A STUDENT'S ARTWORK, PROJECTS AND PHOTOS

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

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## DISTRIBUTION OF MATERIAL

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All aspects of school-sponsored newspapers and/or yearbooks are completely under the supervision of the teacher and campus principal.

Written materials, handbills, photographs, pictures, petitions, films, tapes, or other visual or auditory materials may not be sold, circulated, or distributed on any campus by a student or a non-student without the approval of the principal and in accordance with campus regulations.

All materials intended for distribution to students that is not under the District's editorial control must be submitted to the principal for review and approval. If the material is not approved within 24 hours of the time it was submitted, it must be considered disapproved.

Disapprovals may be appealed by submitting the disapproved material to the superintendent; material not approved by the superintendent within three days is considered disapproved. This disapproval may be appealed to the Board at its next regular meeting when the student will have a reasonable period of time to present his or her viewpoint.

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## DRESS CODE

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The District's dress code is established to teach grooming and hygiene, instills discipline, prevent disruption, avoid safety hazards, and teach respect for authority.

It is an established fact that a school is judged to some degree by the appearance of its students; therefore, dress is very important. A school where students dress in poor taste is automatically considered poor by many visitors and observers. Modesty and the avoidance of distracting influences is the key to appropriate student dress. It is the duty of every student and staff member to uphold the fine reputation of Farmersville High School. The administration, assisted by the faculty, shall be responsible for interpreting and enforcing student dress regulations. The principal reserves the right to take disciplinary action if these policies are violated.

Violators will be sent home to change or placed in ISS for the remainder of the day. On the first offense for items such as earrings, nose rings, tongue rings, any body piercing item, hats, caps, bandanas, and sun glasses the item will be confiscated by school personnel and given back at the end of the school day. The second offense will result in the parent or guardian having to stop by the school office in order to retrieve the items. Students that continue to violate the dress code will be disciplined in accordance with the student code of conduct.

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### *DRESS CODE SPECIFICS FOR ALL STUDENTS*

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1. Items with provocative or drug-related pictures or slogans will not be permitted. Items advertising alcoholic beverages or tobacco products will not be permitted. Racist or obscene slogans or emblems will not be permitted.
2. Tube tops, bare midriff or half shirts, halter-type and see-through blouses, sports bras, or mesh shirts will not be permitted.
3. Low-cut blouses or any clothing that exposes undergarments will not be permitted.
4. Sleeveless shirts or muscle shirts will not be permitted on males.
5. Shoulder straps on shirts and dresses should cover all undergarment straps.
6. Shoes must be worn at all times. No bare feet or house shoes will be permitted.
7. Males or females are not permitted to wear any items on or around the head while in the school building.
8. Dark glasses, other than prescription glasses, may not be worn in the building.
9. Nose rings, tongue rings, or any visible body piercing jewelry (other than earrings for girls) may not be worn. Refusal to remove visible body piercings will result in disciplinary action. Spacers are not permitted.
10. Males may not wear earrings or spacers.
11. Visible tattoos are not permitted. If a student has a tattoo that is visible the student is responsible to wear appropriate clothing to cover the tattoo during the school day.
12. Any dress, clothing, or jewelry that represent a gang or is a recognized gang symbol will not be allowed (including, but not limited to skulls, crossbones or images of death).
13. Belts are to be worn with pants that fit loosely. All pants are to be worn at the waist. No sagging allowed. Underwear should never be visible.
14. Unusual or inappropriate patches are not acceptable; placement of patches might determine their inappropriateness.
15. Pants, shorts, skirts, etc. shall not have holes or tears above fingertip length and shall be hemmed at the bottom. Large holes below fingertip length can be prohibited under administrator's discretion.
16. All button-type shirts will be buttoned to within one button of the throat and are not allowed to flare open down the front.
17. No skin should be exposed or visible between the shirt (or blouse) and the pants (shorts or skirts) or the garment is too short and must not be worn. Students should be aware that if their garments expose skin or undergarments in a sitting position, this is a dress code violation.
18. Dog chains, collars, etc. may not be worn.
19. Shorts and dresses must come to mid-thigh or at fingertip length with relaxed shoulders. If a student is wearing spandex or leggings, they must have a top or dress that meets the same standards for shorts and dresses. The following items of clothing are not permitted;
  - a. Pajama type clothes of any kind.
  - b. Make-up of any kind (Unless authorized by Principal or special event) is prohibited on male students (including fingernail polish).
  - c. Skin tight shorts or pants are not allowed. Leggings/Yoga type stretch pants can only be worn under shorts or skirts that meet the standard length requirement outlined in the dress code or with a shirt that is fingertip length when the arms are held at the side.
  - d. Blankets are not permitted in the classroom or hallways.

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### *HAIR RESTRICTIONS (MALE)*

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- Hair that extends below the ear lobe (including sideburns), hair that extends over the shirt collar, or hair that falls into the eyes is not acceptable.
- Ponytails and pigtails are unacceptable.

- No beards are allowed. Male students who arrive at school who need to shave, or have been asked to shave prior to that day, will be sent to the office to do so, and will have a disciplinary consequence as a result of not shaving.
- Hair is to be a natural color. No extreme or disruptive styles and/or colors permitted. Students with unnatural hair color will be sent home or placed in ISS until hair returns to natural color.

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### *HAIR RESTRICTIONS (FEMALE)*

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- Hair is to be a natural color. Hairstyles and/or colors that are extreme or disruptive are not permitted.
- Florescent coloring is unacceptable. Students with unnatural hair color may be sent home or placed in ISS until hair returns to natural color.

**The principal or his designee will determine the appropriateness of any clothing, manner of dress, and manner of grooming not listed above. The principal will also determine the appropriateness of any questionable hairstyles. These dress and hair code regulations are in effect during school hours and at designated school activities.**

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### DRILLS – FIRE, TORNADO, AND OTHER EMERGENCY DRILLS

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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 marshals quickly, quietly, and in an orderly manner. The school will hold a minimum of 2 emergency drills per year.

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### DRIVER LICENSE ATTENDANCE VERIFICATION (VOE)

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

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### DUAL CREDIT COURSES

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Students wishing to take a dual credit course their senior year must maintain the following overall average in the prerequisite course from their junior year: a 90 or higher in a regular course or an 85 or higher in an honors/AP course. Juniors wishing to take dual credit U.S. History must maintain an average of 90 or higher for World History or World Geography. All students wishing to take dual credit courses must also meet the placement testing requirements of the college (pass the TSI test or meet SAT/ACT minimum score requirements) in order to qualify for dual credit courses.

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### ELECTRONIC MEDIA

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#### **Requesting Limited or No Contact with a Student through Electronic Media**

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

An employee described above may also contact a student individually through electronic media to communicate about items such as homework or upcoming tests. However, instant or text messages sent to an individual student are only allowed if a district employee with responsibility for an extracurricular activity needs to communicate with a student participating in the extracurricular activity.

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

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## EMERGENCY MEDICAL TREATMENT

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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 secretary to update any information that the nurse or the teacher needs to know.

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## EMERGENCY SCHOOL CLOSING INFORMATION

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In the event of school closure due to inclement weather, the following media will notify students and parents of such:

WBAP—820 AM Radio, KLTY—94.9 FM Radio

Channels 4, 5, 8, and 11 in the Dallas/Ft. Worth television market.

School Messenger Notification System - Each parent has the opportunity to sign up for email, telephone and/or text messaging for emergency information, school closing information, and other timely updates. <https://contactme.schoolmessenger.com/> (must sign up using information obtained in the school office).

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## EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES, CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS

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

State law and the rules of the University Interscholastic League (UIL), a statewide association overseeing inter-district competition, govern eligibility for participation in many of these activities.

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 a class identified as Advanced Placement or Dual Credit by either the State Board of Education or by the local board of trustees, 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 twenty absences not related to post-district competition, a maximum of five absences for post-district competition prior to state, and a maximum of two 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.

A student who misses a class because of participation in an activity that has not been approved will receive an unexcused absence.

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

All students participating in extra curriculum activities will be subject to random drug testing throughout the school year. Any student who fails a drug test will be suspended from extra-curricular activities for 30 school days and be subject to further disciplinary action determined by coach/sponsor. Any ensuing positive drug test will result in further disciplinary action as determined by the FISD Drug Testing Policy.

**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.

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## FEES

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Materials that are part of the basic educational program are provided without charge to a student. A student is expected to provide his or her own supplies of pencils, paper, erasers, and notebooks, and may be required to pay certain other fees or deposits, including:

- The material for a class project that the student will keep;
- Membership dues in clubs or student organizations and admission fees to extracurricular activities;
- Security deposits;
- Personal physical education and athletic equipment and apparel;
- Voluntary purchase of pictures, publications, class rings, yearbooks, graduation announcements, etc.;
- Voluntary purchase of school insurance;
- Musical instrument rental and uniform maintenance, when provided by District;
- Personal apparel used in extracurricular activities that becomes the property of the student;
- Parking fees and student identification cards;
- Fees for damaged library books or school owned equipment;
- Fees established by the State Board for driver training courses, if offered;
- Fees for optional courses offered for credit that requires use of facilities not available on District premises;
- Summer school courses offered tuition-free during the regular school year.



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## FIELD TRIPS

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Each year parents are required to sign a Field Trip Permission form in order for student to attend any school- sponsored field trip that may occur during the school year. All school-sponsored field trips off campus will utilize the district transportation system, and students must ride the school bus to the site of the field trip unless there is medical documentation excusing them from riding a bus. Only parents may pick up students at the site of the field trip by signing for them with the sponsor. Students will be under the direct supervision of the teacher or teachers while on the field trip.

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## FIGHTING

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Students who engage in a fight or altercation with another student on school property, within 300 feet of school property, or at a school related event are subject to disciplinary action including; out of school suspension (OSS), in school suspension (ISS), citation from law enforcement, and placement in a disciplinary alternative education program (DAEP). The first offense will result in a citation from law enforcement, minimum 1 day of OSS and a minimum of 3 days of ISS. The second offense will result in a citation from law enforcement, minimum 2 days OSS and 5 days of ISS. The third offense may result in a DAEP placement. The principal has the right to add to or take away from disciplinary actions as he or she sees fit based on the investigation of the incident.

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## FOOD ALLERGY

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The district has developed and annually reviews a food allergy management plan, which addresses employee training, dealing with common food allergens, and specific strategies for dealing with students diagnosed with severe food allergies. When the district receives information that a student has a food allergy that puts the student at risk for anaphylaxis, individual care plans will be developed to assist the student in safely accessing the school environment. The district's food allergy management plan can be accessed \_by contacting Anna Wells at Farmersville Intermediate School. Also see policy FFAF.

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## FUND RAISING

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Student clubs or classes, outside organizations, and/or parent groups may occasionally be permitted to conduct fund-raising drives. An application for permission must be submitted to the principal at least 30 days prior to the event. Fund raising is not permitted on school property, except as approved by the principal.

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## GANGS, GANG-FREE ZONES, AND OTHER PROHIBITED ORGANIZATIONS

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Under state law, a student is prohibited from membership or involvement in a public school fraternity, sorority, secret society, or gang.

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

## GENDER-BASED HARASSMENT

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[See Dating Violence, Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation on pages 18.]

## GOVERNMENTAL AUTHORITIES

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### ***Questioning of Students***

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

- The principal or assistant 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.
- The principal or assistant principal ordinarily will make reasonable efforts to notify parents unless the interviewer provides what the principal considers to be a valid objection.
- The principal or assistant principal ordinarily will be present unless the interviewer provides 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;
- To comply with a properly issued directive to take a student into custody;
- By an authorized representative of Child Protective Services, Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory 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 and safety.

Before a student is delivered 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 or assistant principal will ordinarily attempt to notify the parent unless the officer or other authorized person provides what the principal considers to be a valid objection to notifying the parents. A principal does not have the authority to block a custody action; therefore notification will most likely be after the fact.

### ***Notification of Law Violations***

The District is also required by state law to notify:

- All instructional and support personnel who have responsibility for supervising a student who has been arrested or referred to the juvenile court for any felony offense or for certain misdemeanors;
- All instructional and support personnel who have regular contact with a student who has been convicted or adjudicated of delinquent conduct for any felony offense or certain misdemeanors.

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## GRADE CLASSIFICATION AND GRADE POINT AVERAGES

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After the ninth grade, students are classified according to the number of units earned toward graduation. Re-classification of students is done prior to the beginning of school and after credits have been earned in the previous year and summer school (if applicable.)

Units of Credit Earned for Grade Placement

Sophomore – 6 credits needed

Junior – 12 credits needed

Senior – 18 credits needed

Grade points are awarded based on semester averages, or year-long averages for a two semester class, depending on the course(s) taken. Honors, Advanced Placement, and Dual-Credit classes are awarded higher grade points due to more rigorous curriculum, but no student can receive a grade higher than a 105 in any of these classes, nor can points “roll-over” from one six-weeks grading period to the next even if the student average is higher than 105. Students in regular (non-honors) classes can earn a grade no higher than 100 per six weeks.

Courses that receive honors grade points are those designed as honors, Pre-AP, AP, and dual credit. GPA is calculated using classes taken in the 9th-12 grade. Courses in athletics, P.E., drill team, band, dance, student aide classes, SAT/ACT prep, correspondence, and credit by exam classes receive no grade points. Beginning with the class of 2016, all state credit classes, including correspondence courses, will count toward the students’ GPA. Non-state or local credit classes including student aide classes, EOC remediation classes, and SAT/ACT prep will not count toward GPA calculations.

The grade point average is calculated several times during the year – the end of the first and second semester for all students, and the end of the fifth six weeks for graduating seniors.

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## GRADUATION CEREMONIES

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Graduating seniors who have successfully completed all FISD and state requirements for graduation are encouraged to participate in FISD Graduation Ceremonies, but participation is not mandatory. Graduates electing to participate in the ceremony are expected to adhere to FHS dress code and behavior expectations. Graduation regalia must be worn by graduates and not altered from the original form until the graduation ceremonies are completed. A DAEP placement which occurs during the last six weeks or a placement in ISS/suspension during the last week of school will forfeit the student’s opportunity to participate in the graduation ceremony.

A student who has satisfactorily completed all coursework requirements for graduation, but has failed to meet applicable exit-level testing requirements, shall be allowed to participate in commencement activities and ceremonies if he or she has complied with the established remediation and retesting requirements, and been continuously enrolled in the District high school since his or her freshman year.

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## GRADUATING EARLY

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Students wishing to graduate in three years must take the EOC tests during the spring of their third year in high school. They must pass all components of the EOC tests in order to be eligible for early graduation. Students must have at least 18 high school credits entering their third year in high school to qualify for early graduation. Students will only be allowed to transfer two credits via correspondence courses. Students will not be allowed to take courses early in Summer School unless they have achieved a 90% or higher on the appropriate EOC test and earned an average of 90% or higher in the prerequisite course (i.e. – if a student received a Level III Advanced score on the 10<sup>th</sup> grade English Language Arts EOC test and an average of 95 in English II class he or she would then be eligible to take English III in Summer School.) Students graduating in three years will be eligible for class ranking honors.

## GRADUATION PROGRAM OPTIONS

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### **Plan #1-Foundation High School Plan-24 credits**

- English-4 credits
- Math-3 credits
- Science-3 credits
- Social Studies-3 credits
- Foreign Lang-2 credits
- PE-1 credit
- Fine Arts-1 credit
- Speech-0.5 credit
- Electives-6.5 credits

Students cannot drop to this plan until after their 10<sup>th</sup> grade year, and then must have parent & administrator approval. This plan is also not approved by THECB for acceptance into a 4-year university.

### **Plan #2-Foundation Plan with Endorsements-26 credits**

- English-4 credits
- Math-4 credits
- Science-4 credits
- Social Studies-3 credits
- Foreign Lang-2 credits
- PE-1 credit
- Fine Arts-1 credit
- Speech-0.5 credit
- Electives-6.5 credits

This plan also requires that students declare and finish an endorsement in one of 5 areas (Business & Industry, Arts & Humanities, Public Services, STEM, and Multidisciplinary) that will take up at least 4 elective credits.

A personal graduation plan will be developed for each high school student who is subject to the requirements of the foundation graduation program. The district encourages all students to pursue a personal graduation plan that includes the completion of at least one endorsement and to graduate with the distinguished level of achievement. Attainment of the distinguished level of achievement entitles a student to be considered for automatic admission to a public four year university in Texas, depending on his or her rank in class. In order to obtain the distinguished level of achievement, a student must complete an endorsement and take Algebra II as one of the four mathematics credits.

The school will review personal graduation plan options with each student entering grade 9 and his/her parent. Before the end of grade 9, a student and his/her parent will be required to sign off on a personal graduation plan that includes a course of study that promotes college and workforce readiness. A student may, with parental permission, amend his/her personal graduation plan after the initial confirmation. Changes to the graduation plan will be restricted to the end of a semester or school year.

See the counselor for information regarding graduation programs. Upon the recommendation of the ARD committee, a student receiving special education services may be permitted to graduate under the provisions of his or her IEP.

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## HAZING

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

Hazing will not be tolerated by the district. If an incident of hazing occurs, disciplinary consequences will be handled in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct. It is a criminal offense if a person engages in hazing;

solicits, encourages, directs, aids, or attempts to aid another in hazing; or has firsthand knowledge of an incident of hazing being planned or having occurred and fails to report this to the principal or superintendent. [Also see Bullying on page 8]

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## HOMELESS STUDENTS

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For more information on services for homeless students, contact the district's homeless education liaison, Garry Jameson 972-782-6601.

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## HONORS/AP CLASS POLICY

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In order to enroll in an honors/Advanced Placement (AP) course students must have maintained an average of 90 or higher in the prerequisite course. Students already enrolled in honors classes must maintain an average of 85 or higher to remain in honors courses. Students who fall below an 85 for two consecutive six weeks' grading periods or for a semester will be removed from the honors class and placed in a regular class.

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## IMMUNIZATION

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A student must be fully immunized against certain diseases or must present a certificate or statement that, for medical or religious reasons, the student should not be immunized. The immunizations required are: diphtheria, rubeola (measles), rubella, mumps, tetanus, haemophilus influenza type B, poliomyelitis, hepatitis A, hepatitis B, and varicella (chicken pox). The school nurse can provide information on age-appropriate doses or on an acceptable physician-validated history of illness required by the Texas Department of Health. Proof of immunization may be 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 that states that, in the doctor's opinion, the immunization required would be harmful to the health and well-being of the student or any member of the student's family or household. This certificate must be renewed yearly unless the physician specifies a life-long contra-indication

If a student's religious beliefs conflict with the requirement that the student be immunized, the student must present a statement signed by the student (or by the parent if the student is a minor) that states that immunization conflicts with the beliefs and practices of a recognized church or religious denomination of which the student is an adherent or member. This statement must be renewed yearly.

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## LATE WORK

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Student assignments not turned in on the date due are considered late. Students will be given the opportunity to turn the assignment the next day for a grade up to 70. All assignments turned in after the one-day exception will be given a zero. The teacher may assign discipline as he or she sees fit depending on the late or missing assignment. Teachers have the options to extend the policy depending on the assignment and/or circumstances with administrator approval.

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## MEDICINE AT SCHOOL

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**All student medication must be kept in the office and administered by a school employee.**

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

Prescription medication, in the original, properly labeled container, provided by the parent, along with a written request.

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.

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 or principal.

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

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### *PSYCHOTROPIC DRUGS*

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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.

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### NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY SELECTION PROCEDURES

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Candidates eligible for election to this chapter must be a member of the sophomore, junior, or senior class. Candidates must have been in attendance at the school the equivalent of one semester. Candidates eligible for election to this chapter must have a minimum cumulative average of 90%. This scholastic level of achievement shall remain fixed, and shall be required minimum level of achievement for admission to candidacy. Students shall then be evaluated on the basis of character, service, and leadership.

The selection of members to the chapter is by invitation only; students may not apply. Membership is granted only to those students selected by a majority of the faculty council. The faculty council consists of five members of the faculty, other than the advisor(s), who are chosen by the principal. The term of the faculty council shall be one year. Members may be appointed to consecutive terms.

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### NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY RESPONSIBILITIES

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Membership in National Honor Society is an honor and a commitment. All members are expected to continue to demonstrate the quality of scholarship, service, leadership, and character for which they were selected. All members are expected to attend the induction ceremony for new members. All members will be required to do ten hours of community service within the school year.

Members who fail to meet membership requirements will be placed on probation and could possibly be removed from the organization.

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## NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

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In its efforts to promote nondiscrimination, [Farmersville ISD] does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, gender, or disability in providing education services, activities, and programs, including CTE programs, in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972; and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), as amended, which incorporates and expands upon the requirements of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.

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

- Title IX Coordinator, for concerns regarding discrimination on the basis of gender: Jeff Adams, Superintendent, 501A Hwy 78N · Farmersville, Texas 75442, 972-782-6601.
- ADA/Section 504 Coordinator, for concerns regarding discrimination on the basis of disability: Jill Cooper, Counselor, 499 Hwy 78N Farmersville, Texas 75442, 972-782-7757.  
See FB (LOCAL) and FFH (LOCAL) for the names of the Title IX and ADA/Section 504 coordinators for district students.
- All other concerns regarding discrimination: See Jeff Adams, Superintendent. 501A Hwy 78N • Farmersville, Texas 75442, 972-782-6601. See policies FB (LOCAL) and FFH (LOCAL).

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## OTHER HEALTH-RELATED MATTERS

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### *SCHOOL HEALTH ADVISORY COUNCIL (SHAC)*

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During the preceding school year, the district's School Health Advisory Council (SHAC) held four meetings. Additional information regarding the district's School Health Advisory Council is available from the district website <http://www.farmersvilleisd.org>.

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

Farmersville ISD is committed to encouraging healthy students and therefore has developed a board-adopted wellness policy at FFA(LOCAL) and corresponding plans and procedures to implement the policy. You are encouraged to contact Jill Cooper with questions about the content or implementation of the district's wellness policy and plan.

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## ASBESTOS MANAGEMENT PLAN

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The district works diligently to maintain compliance with federal and state law governing asbestos in school buildings. A copy of the district's Asbestos Management Plan is available in the superintendent's office. If you have any questions or would like to examine the district's plan in more detail, please contact Sherry McGuire, the district's designated asbestos coordinator, at 972-782-6601. See CKA (LEGAL).

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## PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT, RESPONSIBILITIES AND RIGHTS

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Education succeeds best when there is a strong partnership between home and school, a partnership that thrives on communication. Parents are partners with teachers, administrators, and the Board; and they are encouraged to:

- Review the Student Handbook with your child prior to signing and returning to the school the written statement that you understand and consent to the responsibilities outlined in the Student Code of Conduct.
- Encourage your child to put a high priority on education and work with your child on a daily basis to make the most of the educational opportunities the school provides. Ensure that your child completes all homework assignments and special projects. Be sure your child comes to school each day prepared, rested, and ready to learn.
- Become familiar with all of your child's school activities and with the academic programs, including special programs, offered in the district. Discuss with the counselor or principal any questions you may have about the options and opportunities available to your child. If your child is entering ninth grade, review the requirements of the graduation programs with your child. Monitor your child's academic progress and contact teachers as needed. Attend Board meetings to learn more about ongoing operations of the District.
- Attend scheduled conferences and request additional conferences as needed. To schedule a telephone or in-person conference with a teacher, counselor, or principal, please call the school office at 972-548-0576 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.
- Offer to serve 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.
- Participate in campus parent organizations. Activities are varied, ranging from band boosters to campus and District committees that assist the Board of Trustees in formulating educational goals and objectives for campuses and the District.
- Review your child's school records when needed. Monitor your child's progress; contact teachers as needed. Follow up on a matter not resolved administratively by presenting it to the Board for review according to policy.
- Be aware of the school's ongoing bullying and harassment prevention efforts.

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## PROTECTION OF STUDENT RIGHTS & OBTAINING INFORMATION

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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.
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### *"OPTING OUT" OF SURVEYS AND ACTIVITIES*

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

Any survey concerning the private information listed above, regardless of funding.

School activities involving the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information gathered from your child for the purpose of marketing, selling or otherwise disclosing that information.

Any non-emergency, 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.

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### *DISPLAY OF YOUR CHILD'S ARTWORK, PROJECTS, AND OTHER SPECIAL WORK PRODUCTS:*

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Teachers may display students' work in classrooms or elsewhere on campus as recognition of student achievement. However, the district will seek parental consent before displaying students' artwork, special projects, photographs taken by students, and the like, or other original works on the district's Web site, on any campus or classroom Web site, in printed material, by video, or by any other method of mass communication.

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### *AS A PARENT, YOU MAY:*

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Request information regarding the professional qualifications of your child's teachers, including whether the teacher has met state qualification and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction; 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.

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.

Inspect a survey created by a third party before the survey is administered or distributed to your child.

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.

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.

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.

Review your child's student records when needed.

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

Grant or deny any written request from the district to make a videotape or voice recording of your child. State law, however, permits the school to make a videotape 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 co-curricular or extracurricular activity; or
- When it relates to media coverage of the school.

Request in writing, if you are a non-custodial parent, that you be provided for the remainder of the school year a copy of any written notice usually provided to a parent related to misconduct that may involve placement in a Disciplinary Alternative Education Program (DAEP) or expulsion.

Request the transfer of your child to another classroom or campus if your child has been determined by the superintendent to be a victim of bullying as the term is defined by Education Code 25.0341.

Transportation is not provided for a transfer to another campus.

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.

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 the assault occurred on or off campus, and that student has been convicted of or placed on deferred adjudication for that assault.

Consult with district administrators if your child has been determined by the district to have engaged in bullying and the district decides to transfer your child to another campus.

Transportation is not provided in this circumstance.

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## PARTIES AND SOCIAL EVENTS

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The rules of good conduct and grooming will be observed at school social events held outside the regular school day. Guests are expected to observe the same rules as students attending the event, and the person inviting the guest will share responsibility for the conduct of the guest. A student attending a party or social event may be asked to sign out when leaving before the end of the party; anyone leaving before the end of the party will not be readmitted.

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## PEST CONTROL INFORMATION

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

## School District Authority and Jurisdiction

All pesticides used are registered for their intended use by the United States Environmental Protection Agency and are applied only by certified pesticide applicators. Except in an emergency, signs will be posted 48 hours before indoor application. All outdoor applications will be posted at the time of treatment, and signs will remain until it is safe to enter the area. Parents who have further questions or who want to be notified prior to pesticide application inside their child's school assignment area may contact Jerry Biggs, the district's IPM coordinator, at 972-782-7174.

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### PUBLIC DISPLAYS OF AFFECTION

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Students are not permitted to show public displays of affection during school hours, while on school property, or on school transportation. Holding hands, kissing, or any prolonged physical contact is not appropriate in an educational environment. Repeated violations of this policy will result in disciplinary action(s).

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### PROMOTION AND RETENTION

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

In addition, at certain grade levels a student, with limited exceptions, will be required to pass the STAAR EOC (End of Course) exams.

A Personal Graduation Plan (PGP) will be prepared for any student 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 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.]

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.

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### RELEASE OF STUDENTS FROM SCHOOL

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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 will not be released from school at times other than regular dismissal hours except with the principal's permission or according to the campus sign-out procedures. The principal, assistant principal, or school secretary will determine that permission has been granted before allowing the student to leave. A student who will need to leave school during the day must bring a note from his or her parent that morning.

A student who becomes ill during the school day should, with the teacher's permission, report to the school nurse. The nurse or school secretary, with the assistance of the school nurse, will decide whether or not the student should be sent home and will notify the student's parent.

**Regardless of the reason for release, all students MUST SIGN-IN or OUT in the office when returning or leaving campus. NO EXCEPTIONS. Failure to follow this policy will result in an unexcused absence and disciplinary action.**

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## REPORT CARDS AND PROGRESS REPORTS

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Progress reports are issued to every student each 3 weeks and a report card is issued at the end of the 6 weeks grading period. Parents should ask for the report from their son or daughter. Students may be required to return the report cards signed by the parent. Parents can request a report card, progress report, or attendance record from the school secretary anytime during school hours. Each semester report cards are mailed home indicating a student's semester grade.

If a student has received a 70 or above in a respective course for a semester, then he or she will receive one-half ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ) credit for that course. Parents should require their children to present them with the progress report or report card at the end of each grading period. If a student receives a grade of less than 70 in any class or subject during a grading period, the parents will be requested to schedule a conference with the teacher of that class or subject.

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## RETESTING POLICY

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Students who score lower than a 70 on a chapter test or major exam may take a retest if they meet the following conditions:

1. Students must complete a remediation or review assignment as determined by the teacher.
2. Students must come to tutorials before or after school with the teacher.
3. Students must complete the retest within one week of the time the original test was returned to the students. Retests must be completed before the end of the grading period.
4. Retests must be taken before or after school as scheduled by the teacher.
5. The retest will be a different version of the test but will cover the same material (TEKS.)
6. Students may not score higher than a 70 on a retest. If the student scores lower on the retest than on the original test, the higher grade will be taken.

### *EXCEPTIONS TO THE RE-TEST POLICY*

1. Students may not retest a six weeks' exam or semester exam due to the time constraints of the grading period coming to an end.
2. Students caught cheating on an exam will not have the opportunity to retest. They will receive a score of zero and disciplinary consequences

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## SCHOOL BUSES OR OTHER VEHICLES – POLICIES AND GUIDELINES

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Farmersville ISD provides bus service to and from school for eligible students who reside in the school district. The service is provided at State expense and is offered as a courtesy to eligible students who wish to avail themselves of the district at least two miles from the school they should attend, as measured by the nearest practical route. The nearest practical route is the nearest traveled public road, which may or may not be the road used by the school bus.

## School District Authority and Jurisdiction

In order to meet the conditions outlined by the state and provide safe and efficient transportation of eligible students, the transportation department has adopted standard rules and regulations and has provided measures for violations of the rules. Students riding the bus to and from school are considered under the jurisdiction of school authorities from the time they arrive at the bus stop in the morning until they leave the bus in the afternoon. The bus driver is charged with the responsibility of enforcing proper conduct on the school bus and must take necessary steps to maintain order, just as a teacher would maintain discipline in the classroom. These rules are listed for your information and for the guidance of your child.

### ***Section I: Rules and Regulations:***

At no time will students act toward or address comments to a driver in a disrespectful manner or refuse to cooperate with the driver.

Follow the driver's directions at all times.

Wait for the driver's signal upon leaving the bus or van and before crossing in front of the vehicle.

1. Students will be discharged from the bus only at the designated regular stop nearest home, unless a written, signed, and dated authorization to get off the bus elsewhere along the route, is given by the parent and/or school principal to the driver.
2. Students will not refuse to sit in an assigned seat or deny another person a place to sit.
3. Students will remain seated with feet on the floor until the bus stops at the student's destination.
4. Students will not throw or shoot articles within the bus or out of the bus window.
5. Students will 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.
6. Students will keep the walkway isle clear at all times.
7. Students will not take or handle any emergency equipment inside the bus.
8. Students will neither board nor exit the bus through the emergency exit door except in an emergency.
9. Students will not yell, scream, whistle, or use any musical instrument that may distract the driver from watching the road.
10. Students will not engage in scuffling, fighting, and the use of obscene, vulgar, or profane language.
11. Students will not carry weapons, explosives (such as fireworks), unsheathed pointed articles, animals, intoxicating beverages, or drugs on the bus.
12. Students will not possess or use matches, lighters, or tobacco in any form on the bus.
13. Students will not eat or drink on the bus unless authorized by the bus driver.
14. Students, when loading and unloading the bus, will never cross behind the bus.
15. Students will not write on, disfigure, or destroy any part of the school bus.
16. Students will not have laser pointers, beepers, or cell phones on the bus at any time.
17. Farmersville ISD is not responsible for any article(s) left unattended on the bus.

### ***Section II: Violation of said rules and regulations may result in the following:***

**First Infraction:** The bus driver will assign a seat near the front of the bus for an extended period of time, as the driver may deem necessary.

**Second Infraction:** An infraction report is written and forwarded to the principal. The principal may assign the student lunch detention, afternoon detention, in school suspension, or Saturday school depending on the violation and/or campus.

**Third Infraction:** An infraction report is written and forwarded to the principal. The student may be denied bus privileges for 3 to 5 days depending on the violation. The principal or designee will notify the student's parents.

## School District Authority and Jurisdiction

**Fourth Infraction:** An infraction report is written and forwarded to the principal. The student may be denied bus privileges for 5 to 10 days depending on the violation. The principal or designee will notify the student's parents.

**Fifth Infraction:** An infraction report is written and forwarded to the principal. The student may be denied bus privileges for 10 days to a semester depending on the violation. The principal or designee will notify the student's parents.

**Note:** The principal or designee has the authority to skip infraction steps for serious violations or to designate other such punishment as deemed appropriate.

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### *REMOVAL FROM THE SCHOOL BUS*

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A bus driver may refer a student to the principal's office or the campus behavior coordinator's office to maintain effective discipline on the bus. The principal or campus behavior coordinator must employ additional discipline management techniques, as appropriate, which can include restricting or revoking a student's bus riding privileges.

Since the district's primary responsibility in transporting students in district vehicles is to do so as safely as possible, the operator of the vehicle must focus on driving and not have his or her attention distracted by student misbehavior. Therefore, when appropriate disciplinary management techniques fail to improve student behavior or when specific misconduct warrants immediate removal, the principal or the campus behavior coordinator may restrict or revoke a student's transportation privileges, in accordance with law.

#### ***Section III: Message to the parents:***

You can be of great assistance in providing safe and effective transportation for your children by accepting joint responsibility with school officials for maintaining proper conduct of your children while they are involved in various phases of school transportation. You know the safety rules and we hope that you will encourage your children to know and obey them.

Please keep a copy of the Policies and Guidelines for your records.

Disciplinary sanctions and changes in transportation for a student with a disability will be made in accordance with the student's Individual Education Plan (IEP) or other individually designed program.

FISD allows any secondary student to ride a bus from either secondary campus to the intermediate to avoid having to cross Highway 78. Elementary students can ride the bus from Tatum or Intermediate to the High School to avoid crossing Highway 78. If you are interested in having your child ride please contact out transportation director, Earnie Phelps at 972-782-8241.

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## SEARCHES

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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 and may include student vehicles.

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### *SEARCHES BY TRAINED DOGS*

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FISD uses dogs to check cars in the parking lot and lockers in the building. These searches are made periodically throughout the school year and are unannounced to both students and building principal. Trained dogs may also conduct searches of classrooms, common areas, or student belongings when

students are not present. School officials may search a locker, a vehicle, or an item in a classroom to which a trained dog alerts.

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*STUDENTS' DESKS AND LOCKERS*

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Students' desks and lockers are school property and remain under the control and jurisdiction of the school even when assigned to an individual student. A locker may be requested for use provided the student brings his/her combination or key lock. The office must have a copy of the combination or a key to the lock. Locks placed on lockers without permission from administration will be cut off at the owner's expense.

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 board 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.

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*TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES*

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Use of district-owned equipment and its network systems is not private and will be monitored by the district. Any searches of personal telecommunications or other personal electronic devices will be conducted in accordance with law, and the device may be confiscated in order to perform a lawful search. A confiscated device may be turned over to law enforcement to determine whether a crime has been committed.

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SEMESTER EXAMS

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All students will take semester exams in academic classes. Exceptions would be P.E., Athletics, and Band. Semester exams will count as 1/7 of the semester average. Students in grades 9 - 11 will be required to take semester exams in all core subjects (Math, Science, English, and History) in the fall. Students that pass the spring administration of the EOC exam can be exempt from their spring semester exams in those subjects.

Seniors will take at least two exams in the fall (English and Government/Economics) and may be exempt from all exams in the spring if they meet the criteria listed below:

- Average of 80-89 and two or less absences (excused or unexcused) in the class.
- Average of 90-100 and three or less absences (excused or unexcused) in the class.

**\*No student will be exempt from any semester exam, no matter what their EOC test scores are, when he or she has accumulated 5 or more unexcused absences, or 9 or more total absences in the semester.**

**\*\*Any student who has been placed in ISS, suspended during the semester, or placed in the DAEP/JJAEP will automatically lose all semester exam exemptions for that semester.**

**Three tardies equal one absence for exemption purposes.**

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## SMOKING, DIPPING, CHEWING TOBACCO

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Students may not smoke or use tobacco products, including electronic cigarettes, on school property or at any school-related or school-sanctioned activity, on or off school property. Violators may be subject to being ticketed by law enforcement authorities and disciplinary action in accordance with the student code of conduct.

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## SPECIAL EDUCATION

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### **Options and Requirements For Providing Assistance to Students Who Have Learning Difficulties or Who Need or May Need Special Education Services**

If a child is experiencing learning difficulties, the parent may contact the person listed below to learn about the district's overall general education referral or screening system for support services. This system links students to a variety of support options, including referral for a special education evaluation. Students having difficulty in the regular classroom should be considered for tutorial, compensatory, and other academic or behavior support services that are available to all students including a process based on Response to Intervention (RtI). The implementation of RTI has the potential to have a positive impact on the ability of local education agencies 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 45 school days of the date the district receives the written consent. The district must give a copy of the report to the parent.

A request for special education evaluation may be made verbally; it does not need to be made in writing. Districts must still comply with all federal prior-written notices and procedural safeguard requirements and well as the requirements for identifying, locating, and evaluating children who are suspected of having disability and in need of special education. However, a verbal request does not require the district to respond within the 15 school-day timeline.

If the district determines that the evaluation is not needed, the district will provide the parent with prior written notice that explains why the child will not be evaluated. This written notice will include a statement that informs the parents of their rights, if they disagree with the district. The district is required to give parents the *Notice of Procedural Safeguards – Rights of Parents of Students with Disabilities*. Additional information regarding the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) is available from the school district in a companion document, A Guide to the Admission, Review, and Dismissal Process.

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

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

The designated person to contact regarding options for a child experiencing learning difficulties or a referral for evaluation for special education services is:

Contact Person            Josh Martin

Phone Number            972-782-8319



**Opciones Y Requisitos para Ofrecer Asistencia a Estudiantes que Tienen Dificultades de Aprendizaje o que Necesitan o Pueden Necesitar Servicios de Educación Especial**

Si un niño experimenta dificultades de aprendizaje el padre o la madre puede ponerse en contacto con la persona que se menciona abajo para aprender sobre el sistema global de investigación o remisión para educación general del distrito para los servicios de apoyo. Este sistema vincula a los estudiantes con una variedad de opciones de apoyo, inclusive los remite a una evaluación para educación especial. Los estudiantes que tienen dificultades en la clase normal deberían ser considerados para servicios de tutorías, compensatorios u otro servicio de apoyo académico o de comportamiento, que están disponibles para todos los estudiantes y que incluyen un proceso basado en la Respuesta a la Intervención (Rtl, por sus siglas en inglés). La implementación de la Rtl tiene el potencial para producir un impacto positivo en la habilidad de las agencias locales de educación, para cubrir las necesidades de todos los estudiantes con dificultades.

El padre o la madre tiene derecho a pedir una evaluación para los servicios de educación especial en cualquier momento. El distrito debe decidir si la evaluación es necesaria dentro de un período razonable de tiempo. Si la evaluación es necesaria, el padre o la madre será notificado/a y se le pedirá que presente un consentimiento informado por escrito para la evaluación. El distrito debe completar la evaluación y el informe dentro de los 45 días descolar a partir de la fecha en que el distrito recibió el consentimiento por escrito. El distrito debe entregar una copia del informe al padre o la madre.

Si el distrito determina que la evaluación no es necesaria, el distrito le entregará al padre o la madre una notificación por escrito donde explique por qué el niño no será evaluado. Esta notificación incluirá una declaración en la que se le informa sobre sus derechos, si éste/a no está de acuerdo con el distrito. Además, la notificación deberá informarle al padre o la madre cómo obtener una copia de la *Notificación de las Salvaguardas del Procedimiento - Derechos de los Padres de los Estudiantes con Discapacidades* (Notice of Procedural Safeguards-Rights of Parents of Students with Disabilities).

La persona designada para ser contactada acerca de las opciones que tiene un niño que experimenta dificultades de aprendizaje o una remisión para una evaluación para los servicios de educación especial es:

Persona de contacto: Josh Martin  
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Número de teléfono: 972-782-8319  
\_\_\_\_\_

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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. A student or parent with questions about these programs should contact the school counselor. The coordinator of each program will answer questions about eligibility requirements and programs and services offered in the District or by other organizations.

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*SECTION 504*

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

The designated person to contact regarding a referral for evaluation applicable to Section 504 is Jill Cooper at 972-782-7757.

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*STUDENTS WHO SPEAK A PRIMARY LANGUAGE OTHER THAN ENGLISH*

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

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SPECIAL EDUCATION RECORDS

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Parents of children with disabilities who have been provided special education services by the district will be notified when any information that specifically identifies the student is no longer needed. If the parent request destruction of the information and the time established by law for retention has expired, the records will be destroyed. However, if the retention period established by law has not expired, the material will be deleted from the records but the records will be maintained until the time has expired.

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STATE-MANDATED TESTS/STANDARDIZED TESTING

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

Many colleges require either the American College Test (ACT) or the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) for admission. Students are encouraged to talk with the counselor early during their junior year to determine the appropriate exam to take; these exams are usually taken beginning the second semester of the junior year.

The ACT or SAT may be available at no cost to students that are economically disadvantaged or in the 11th grade (contingent upon state funding). In addition, students in grades 10 may have the opportunity to take the corresponding preparation assessments (PSAT) or (PLAN) at no charge (contingent upon state funding). Please check with the counselor for details.

End-of-Course (EOC) Assessments (STAAR) for Students in Grades 9-12

End-of-course (EOC) assessments will be administered for the following courses:

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

Satisfactory performance on the applicable assessments will be required for graduation and will also affect the plan under which the student may graduate.

## School District Authority and Jurisdiction

Normally, there will be three testing windows during the year in which a student may take an EOC assessment, which will occur during the fall, spring, and summer months.

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

STAAR Alternate 2, available for students receiving special education services who meet certain criteria established by the state, will be available for eligible students, as determined by the student's ARD committee. Please also be aware that if an ARD committee places a student with a disability on a modified curriculum in a subject area, the student will be automatically placed in the Minimum Program, in accordance with state rules, or will be identified as graduating under their IEP, depending on the students current graduation program.

If a student receiving special education services is scheduled to graduate under the Minimum Program or in accordance with the provisions of his or her IEP, the student's ARD committee will determine whether the general EOC assessment is an accurate measure of the student's achievement and progress and, if so, whether successful performance is required for graduation, or whether an alternative assessment is more appropriate. At this time, the STAAR Alt. 2 is the only specially designed assessment for students meeting specific criteria for this alternate assessment tool.

### TSI (Texas Success Initiative) Assessment

Prior to enrollment in a Texas public college or university, most students must take a standardized test call the Texas Success Initiative (TSI) assessment. The purpose of the TSI assessment is to assess the reading, mathematics and writing skills that entering freshman-level students should have if they are to perform effectively in undergraduate certificate or degree programs in Texas public colleges or universities. This assessment may be required before a student enrolls in a dual-credit course offered through the district as well. Beginning in the fall of 2013, all Texas public colleges and universities will begin administering a new TSI assessment, which will assist as one of several factors in determining whether the student is considered ready to enroll in college-level courses or whether the student needs to enroll in what is termed developmental education courses prior to enrollment in college level courses.

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## STERIODS

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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.

Bodybuilding, 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.uiltexas.org/health/steroid-information>.

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## STUDENT CONDUCT

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## School District Authority and Jurisdiction

Students are expected to:

- Behave in responsible manner, demonstrating courtesy and respect for the rights of other students and District staff. (Student cooperation and respect for the property of others, including District property and facilities is essential to the maintenance of facilities, safety, order, and discipline.)
- Attend all classes regularly and on time; being prepared for each class and taking appropriate materials and assignments to class;
- To be well groomed and appropriately dressed each day.

As required by law, the District has developed and adopted a Student Code of Conduct that establishes prohibited behavior standards, both on and off campus, and consequences for violation of the standards. Students need to be familiar with the standards set out in the Student Code of Conduct, as well as campus and classroom rules, in order to avoid violations and the subsequent consequences. [Please see Preface for further information.]

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### ***CONDUCT BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL***

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**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.**

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## STUDENT RECORDS

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A federal law, known as the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, or FERPA, affords parents and eligible students certain rights with respect to student education records. For purposes of student records, an “eligible” student is one who is age 18 or older or who is attending an institution of postsecondary Education. 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:

- Inspection and release of student records is primarily restricted to the eligible student or a student’s parents—whether married, separated, or divorced—unless the school is given a copy of a court order terminating parental rights or the right to access a student’s education records. Since a court could terminate a parent’s right to access a child’s education records, we have specified that as an exception in this text. Federal law requires that, as soon as a student becomes 18, is emancipated by a court, or enrolls in a postsecondary institution, control of the records goes to the student. The parents may continue to have access to the records, however, if the student is a dependent for tax purposes and under limited circumstances when there is a threat to the health and safety of the student or other individuals.
- 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

## School District Authority and Jurisdiction

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, including juvenile service providers.
- 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 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 principals' office: 499 Hwy 78 N. Farmersville, TX 75442.

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 45 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. 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.

The district's policy regarding student records is available from the superintendent's office or on the district's Web site at [www.farmersvilleisd.net](http://www.farmersvilleisd.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

## School District Authority and Jurisdiction

Both FERPA and state laws safeguard student records from unauthorized inspection or use and provide parents and eligible students certain rights of privacy. Before disclosing any personally identifiable information from a student's records, the district must verify the identity of the person, including a parent or the student, requesting the information. Virtually all information pertaining to student performance, including grades, test results, and disciplinary records, is considered confidential educational records. Inspection and release of student records is primarily restricted to an eligible student or a student's parents—whether married, separated, or divorced—unless the school is given a copy of a court order terminating parental rights or the right to access a student's education records. Federal law requires that, as soon as a student reaches the age of 18, is emancipated by a court, or enrolls in a postsecondary institution, control of the records goes to the student. The parents may continue to have access to the records, however, if the student is a dependent for tax purposes and under limited circumstances when there is a threat to the health and safety of the student or other individuals.

### **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 [or on another date established by the district. See the "Notice Regarding Directory Information and Parent's Response Regarding Release of Student Information" included in this handbook OR included in the forms packet.

### **Directory Information for School-Sponsored Purposes**

The district often needs to use student information for school-sponsored purposes as found in the district policy. For these specific school-sponsored purposes, the district would like to use your child's directory information. This information will not be used for other purposes without the consent of the parent or eligible student, except as described above at Directory Information. 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 school-sponsored purposes.

### **Release of Student Information to Military Recruiters and Institutions of Higher Education**

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

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## STUDENT'S RIGHT TO PRAY

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

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## TARDY POLICY

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Students are expected to be on time, in their seats, and prepared for class when the tardy bell rings. If tardy then the following consequences will be imposed:

**1<sup>st</sup> Tardy -** One detention; parents contacted.

## School District Authority and Jurisdiction

**2<sup>nd</sup> Tardy** - One detention; parents contacted.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Tardy** - One detention; parents contacted.

**4<sup>th</sup> Tardy & any additional tardies** - Office referral; parents contacted; decision by administration to assign Saturday School; ISS; etc.

Any student tardy more than 15 minutes to any class will be counted absent for that class unless they have a written excuse from school staff. Students that are more than 15 minutes late to class without a valid excuse will receive both an unexcused absence and a detention. Three tardies equal one absence for final exam exemption purposes.

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## TECHNOLOGY (BRING YOUR OWN TECHNOLOGY)

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Secondary students, staff, and parents may bring their own technology devices to school for instructional purposes. All non-district devices (laptops, iPads, smart phones, etc.) will have access to FISD's wireless network to access the Internet. With classroom teacher approval, students may use their own devices in the classroom to access and save information from the Internet, communicate with other learners, and use productivity tools that may be loaded on the device for instructional purposes. FISD is not responsible for theft, damage, or loss of any non-district device.

FISD is providing wireless connectivity as a guest service and offers no guarantees that any use of the wireless connection is in any way secure, or that any privacy can be protected when using this wireless connection. Use of the FISD wireless network is entirely at the risk of the user, and Farmersville ISD is not responsible for any loss of any information that may arise from the use of the wireless connection, or for any loss, injury or damages resulting from the use of the wireless connection. All users of the FISD wireless connection are bound by the districts Acceptable Use Policy for Technology Usage. Once on the wireless network, all users will have filtered Internet access just as they would on a district owned device.

FISD makes no guarantee that the functions or the services provided by or through the district system will be error-free or without defect. The district will not be responsible for any damage the user may suffer, including but not limited to, loss of data or interruptions of service. The district is not responsible for the accuracy or quality of the information obtained through or stored on the system. The district will not be responsible for financial obligations arising from unauthorized use of the system.

Computer network privileges, including Internet, will be granted only after the following signature form is signed and returned to school. Upon communicating with school personnel, parents have the right to limit the access to electronic information and view the contents of the files created by their child. Furthermore, the use of electronic mail (e-mail) between school personnel and parent(s) is not guaranteed to be private. By signing, you and your child agree to comply with the acceptable use policy presented here.

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## *ACCEPTABLE USE OF TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES*

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

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*UNACCEPTABLE AND INAPPROPRIATE USE OF TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES*

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Students are prohibited from sending, posting, accessing, or displaying electronic messages/images that are abusive, obscene, sexually oriented, threatening, harassing, damaging to another's reputation, or illegal. This prohibition applies to conduct off school property, whether the equipment used to send such messages is district owned or personally owned, if it results in a substantial disruption to the educational environment. Any person taking, disseminating, transferring, or sharing obscene, sexually oriented, lewd, or otherwise illegal images or other content, commonly referred to as "sexting," will be disciplined according to the student code of conduct and may, be required to complete an educational program related to the dangers of this type of behavior, and, in certain circumstances, may be reported to law enforcement. Because engaging in this type of behavior can lead to bullying or harassment, as well as possibly impede future endeavors of a student, we encourage you to review with your child <http://beforeyoutext.com>, a state-developed program that addresses the consequences of engaging in inappropriate behavior using technology.

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

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TEXTBOOKS

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Students will be issued textbooks to use at home for homework and study purposes if requested by the student or the student's parent/guardian. Therefore, students are not required to bring their textbooks to class each day unless the teacher requires it for book check purposes. Teachers have been issued a class set of books to use during the school day. This will enable students to carry less to class and will free them from the heavy load books levy and result in fewer trips to the lockers.

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

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TRANSFER POLICY

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A nonresident student shall not be permitted to attend District schools except as provided in district policy FDA Local. (<http://pol.tasb.org/Policy/Search/308?filter=FDA%20local>)

Parents may request a transfer of your child to another classroom or campus if your child has been verified by the board or its designee to be a victim of bullying as the Education Code 25.0341 defines the term. Transportation is not provided for a transfer to another campus. See the superintendent or designee for information.

Parents may request a 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 was a victim of a violent criminal offense while in school or on school grounds. See policy FDD (LOCAL).



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### TRAVEL-- SCHOOL-SPONSORED

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Students who participate in school-sponsored trips are required to ride in transportation provided by the school to and from the event. However, the principal may make an exception to this requirement under the following circumstances:

- The parent personally requests that the student be permitted to ride with the parent; or
- On the day before the scheduled trip, the parent presents a written request that the student be permitted to ride with an adult designated by the parent.

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### TRAVEL – NON-SCHOOL SPONSORED

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All travel that is not school sanctioned by the Farmersville ISD or Farmersville High School (i.e. private graduation trips) must be planned off campus before or after school hours. Farmersville High School will not announce or promote any non-sanctioned trip and is not responsible for any person injury or property damage resulting from these trips. Parents are encouraged to call the school office for clarification of those trips that are sanctioned and that are not.

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### TUTORIALS

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A student must attend tutorial sessions as required by the District unless he or she is exempt under the compulsory attendance law.

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### VEHICLES ON CAMPUS

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Students must purchase parking permits prior to driving to school and have a copy of their current driver's license and current insurance on file. Vehicles parked on school property without a current permit will be subject to towing at the owner's expense. Vehicles parked on school property are under the jurisdiction of the school. The school reserves the right to search any vehicle if reasonable cause exists to do so. A student has full responsibility for the security of his or her vehicle and must make certain it is locked and that the keys are not given to others. A student will be held responsible for prohibited objects or substances, such as alcohol, drugs, or weapons that are found in his or her car and will be subject to disciplinary action by the District, as well as referral for criminal prosecution. Searches of vehicles may be conducted any time there is reasonable cause to do so, with or without the presence of the student. Students who drive their vehicle in a reckless manner may have their parking privilege revoked by school officials and disciplinary action taken in accordance with the student code of conduct.

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### VIDEO CAMERAS

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

## School District Authority and Jurisdiction

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

### Special Education Video Cameras

Video/audio monitoring is conducted in accordance with Texas Education Code 29.022 in certain classrooms in Farmersville ISD. The Purpose of video and audio surveillance is for promoting student safety in certain self-contained classrooms and other education settings. Parents that have students in monitored classrooms are informed and notices are posted outside all rooms with this provision. The process of monitoring this is listed on the district website. Please contact Lisa Caldwell with any questions or concerns.

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## VISITORS

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Parents and other visitors are welcome to visit District schools. For the safety of those within the school and to avoid disruption of instructional time, all visitors must first report to the main office and must comply with all applicable district policies and procedures. When arriving on campus, all parents and other visitors should be prepared to show identification. Visits during lunches are limited to student's immediate family and clergy unless otherwise approved by the Principal.

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## WITHDRAWAL FROM FHS

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

On the student's last day, the withdrawal form must be presented to each teacher for current grade averages and book clearance; to the librarian to ensure a clear library record; to the clinic for health records; to the counselor for the last report card and course clearance; and finally, to the principal. FHS will ask the withdrawing student and parent to be responsible for all textbooks and for paying all fees and charges before withdrawing

The school secretary will then handle the required records and will forward all required records to the new school or learning institution as required by law. A copy of the withdrawal form will be given to the student, and a copy will be placed in the student's permanent record. Please call the registrar prior to withdrawing for an appointment.

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.

Their parent or custodial guardian must accompany students who withdraw from Farmersville High School. FHS will ask the withdrawing student and parent to be responsible for all textbooks and for paying all fees and charges before withdrawing. Students withdrawing to be home schooled must have a letter signed by the legal guardian as to their intention. The school secretary will then handle the required records and will forward all required records to the new school or learning institution as required by law. Please call the registrar prior to withdrawing for an appointment.

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## WORK / COMP RELEASE

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Seniors may leave the campus to work or to go home under the following conditions:

- Parent grants permission;
- All parts of the STAAR test have been passed;

## School District Authority and Jurisdiction

- All seniors are eligible to be off 6<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup> period only if all course requirements are satisfied for graduation in May of the current school year;
- Students with excessive absences may have early release revoked by the principal or assistant principal.

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## STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

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### *ACCESSIBILITY*

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If you have difficulty accessing the information in this document because of disability, please contact Lisa Caldwell, Special Education Director, 972-782-8319.

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### *PURPOSE*

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The Student Code of Conduct (“Code”) is the district’s response to the requirements of Chapter 37 of the Texas Education Code.

The Code provides methods and options for managing students in the classroom and on school grounds, disciplining students, and preventing and intervening in student discipline problems.

The law requires the district to define misconduct that may—or must—result in a range of specific disciplinary consequences including removal from a regular classroom or campus, out-of-school suspension, placement in a disciplinary alternative education program (DAEP), placement in a juvenile justice alternative education program (JJAEP), or expulsion from school.

This Student Code of Conduct has been adopted by the *Farmersville ISD* Board of Trustees and developed with the advice of the district-level committee. This Code provides information to parents and students regarding standards of conduct, consequences of misconduct, and procedures for administering discipline. It remains in effect during summer school and at all school-related events and activities outside the school year until an updated version adopted by the board becomes effective for the next school year.

In accordance with state law, the Code shall be posted at each school campus or shall be available for review at the office of the campus principal. Additionally, the Code shall be available at the office of the campus behavior coordinator and posted on the district website. Parents shall be notified of any conduct violation that may result in a student being suspended, placed in a DAEP or JJAEP, expelled, or taken into custody by a law enforcement officer under Chapter 37 of the Education Code.

Because the Student Code of Conduct is adopted by the district’s board of trustees, it has the force of policy; therefore, in case of conflict between the Code and the Student Handbook, the Code shall prevail.

**Please note:** The discipline of students with disabilities who are eligible for services under federal law (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973) is subject to the provisions of those laws.

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## SCHOOL DISTRICT AUTHORITY AND JURISDICTION

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### *CAMPUS BEHAVIOR COORDINATOR*

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## School District Authority and Jurisdiction

As required by law, a person at each campus must be designated to serve as the campus behavior coordinator. The designated person may be the principal of the campus or any other campus administrator selected by the principal. The campus behavior coordinator is primarily responsible for maintaining student discipline. The district maintains a current list of the persons serving as a campus behavior coordinator in the Student Handbook or on the district's website at farmersvilleisd.net.

School rules and the authority of the district to administer discipline apply whenever the interest of the district is involved, on or off school grounds, in conjunction with or independent of classes and school-sponsored activities.

The district has disciplinary authority over a student:

1. During the regular school day and while the student is going to and from school or a school-sponsored or school-related activity on district transportation;
2. During lunch periods in which a student is allowed to leave campus;
3. While the student is in attendance at any school-related activity, regardless of time or location;
4. For any school-related misconduct, regardless of time or location;
5. When retaliation against a school employee, board member, or volunteer occurs or is threatened, regardless of time or location;
6. When a student engages in cyberbullying, as provided by Education Code 37.0832;
7. When criminal mischief is committed on or off school property or at a school-related event;
8. For certain offenses committed within 300 feet of school property as measured from any point on the school's real property boundary line;
9. For certain offenses committed while on school property or while attending a school-sponsored or school-related activity of another district in Texas;
10. When the student commits a felony, as provided by Education Code 37.006 or 37.0081; and
11. When the student is required to register as a sex offender.

The district has the right to search a vehicle driven to school by a student and parked on school property whenever there is reasonable cause to believe it contains articles or materials prohibited by the district.

The district has the right to search a student's locker or desk when there is reasonable cause to believe it contains articles or materials prohibited by the district.

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### *REPORTING CRIMES*

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The principal or campus behavior coordinator and other school administrators as appropriate shall report crimes as required by law and shall call local law enforcement when an administrator suspects that a crime has been committed on campus.

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### *"PARENT" DEFINED*

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Throughout the Code of Conduct and related discipline policies, the term "parent" includes a parent, legal guardian, or other person having lawful control of the child.

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### *PARTICIPATING IN GRADUATION ACTIVITIES*

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The district has the right to limit a student's participation in graduation activities for violating the district's Code.

Participation might include a speaking role, as established by district policy and procedures.

## School District Authority and Jurisdiction

Students eligible to give the opening and closing remarks at graduation shall be notified by the campus principal. Notwithstanding any other eligibility requirements, in order to be considered as an eligible student to give the opening or closing remarks, a student shall not have engaged in any misconduct in violation of the district's Code resulting in an out-of-school suspension, removal to a DAEP, or expulsion during the semester immediately preceding graduation.

The valedictorian and salutatorian may also have speaking roles at graduation. No student shall be eligible to have such a speaking role if he or she engaged in any misconduct in violation of the district's Code resulting in an out-of-school suspension, removal to a DAEP, or expulsion during the semester immediately preceding graduation.

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### *UNAUTHORIZED PERSONS*

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In accordance with Education Code 37.105, a school administrator, school resource officer (SRO), or district police officer shall have the authority to refuse entry or eject a person from district property if the person refuses to leave peaceably on request and:

1. The person poses a substantial risk of harm to any person; or
2. The person behaves in a manner that is inappropriate for a school setting, and the person persists in the behavior after being given a verbal warning that the behavior is inappropriate and may result in refusal of entry or ejection.

Appeals regarding refusal of entry or ejection from district property may be filed in accordance with FNG(LOCAL) or GF(LOCAL), as appropriate.

See **DAEP—Restrictions During Placement** on page 65, for information regarding a student assigned to DAEP at the time of graduation.

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### *STANDARDS FOR STUDENT CONDUCT*

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Each student is expected to:

- Demonstrate courtesy, even when others do not.
- Behave in a responsible manner, always exercising self-discipline.
- Attend all classes, regularly and on time.
- Prepare for each class; take appropriate materials and assignments to class.
- Meet district and campus standards of grooming and dress.

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### *OBEY ALL CAMPUS AND CLASSROOM RULES*

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- Respect the rights and privileges of students, teachers, and other district staff and volunteers.
- Respect the property of others, including district property and facilities.
- Cooperate with and assist the school staff in maintaining safety, order, and discipline.
- Adhere to the requirements of the Student Code of Conduct.

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### GENERAL CONDUCT VIOLATIONS

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The categories of conduct below are prohibited at school, in vehicles owned or operated by the district, and at all school-related activities, but the list does not include the most severe offenses. In the subsequent sections on Out-of-School Suspension, DAEP Placement, Placement and/or Expulsion for

## Discipline Management Techniques

Certain Offenses, and Expulsion, certain offenses that require or permit specific consequences are listed. Any offense, however, may be severe enough to result in Removal from the Regular Educational Setting as detailed in that section.

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### *DISREGARD FOR AUTHORITY*

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Students shall not:

- Fail to comply with directives given by school personnel (insubordination).
- Leave school grounds or school-sponsored events without permission.
- Disobey rules for conduct in district vehicles.
- Refuse to accept discipline management techniques assigned by a teacher or principal.

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### *MISTREATMENT OF OTHERS*

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Students shall not:

- Use profanity or vulgar language or make obscene gestures.
- Fight or scuffle. (For assault, see DAEP Placement and Expulsion.)
- Threaten a district student, employee, or volunteer, including off school property, if the conduct causes a substantial disruption to the educational environment.
- Engage in bullying, cyberbullying, harassment, or making hit lists. (See glossary for all four terms.)
- Release or threaten to release intimate visual material of a minor or a student who is 18 years of age or older without the student's consent.
- Engage in conduct that constitutes sexual or gender-based harassment or sexual abuse, whether by word, gesture, or any other conduct, directed toward another person, including a district student, employee, board member, or volunteer.
- Engage in conduct that constitutes dating violence. (See glossary.)
- Engage in inappropriate or indecent exposure of private body parts.
- Participate in hazing. (See glossary.)
- Cause an individual to act through the use of or threat of force (coercion).
- Commit extortion or blackmail (obtaining money or an object of value from an unwilling person).
- Engage in inappropriate verbal, physical, or sexual conduct directed toward another person, including a district student, employee, or volunteer.
- Record the voice or image of another without the prior consent of the individual being recorded or in any way that disrupts the educational environment or invades the privacy of others.

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### *PROPERTY OFFENSES*

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Students shall not:

- Damage or vandalize property owned by others. (For felony criminal mischief, see DAEP Placement or Expulsion.)
- Deface or damage school property—including textbooks, technology and electronic resources, lockers, furniture, and other equipment—with graffiti or by other means.
- Steal from students, staff, or the school.

## Discipline Management Techniques

- Commit or assist in a robbery or theft, even if it does not constitute a felony according to the Texas Penal Code. (For felony robbery, aggravated robbery, and theft, see DAEP Placement and Expulsion.)

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### *POSSESSION OF PROHIBITED ITEMS*

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Students shall not possess or use:

- Fireworks of any kind, smoke or stink bombs, or any other pyrotechnic device;
- A razor, box cutter, chain, or any other object used in a way that threatens or inflicts bodily injury to another person;
- A “look-alike” weapon that is intended to be used as a weapon or could reasonably be perceived as a weapon;
- An air gun or BB gun;
- Ammunition;
- \*A location-restricted knife;
- A hand instrument designed to cut or stab another by being thrown;
- \*A firearm;
- A stun gun;
- A pocketknife or any other small knife;
- Mace or pepper spray;
- Pornographic material;
- Tobacco products; cigarettes; e-cigarettes; and any component, part, or accessory for an e-cigarette device;
- Matches or a lighter;
- A laser pointer for other than an approved use; or
- Any articles not generally considered to be weapons, including school supplies, when the principal or designee determines that a danger exists.

\*For weapons and firearms, see DAEP Placement and Expulsion. In most circumstances, possession of these items is punishable by mandatory expulsion under federal or state law.

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### *POSSESSION OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS OR OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES*

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Students shall not:

- Use a telecommunications device, including a cellular telephone, or other electronic device in violation of district and campus rules.

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### *ILLEGAL, PRESCRIPTION, AND OVER-THE-COUNTER DRUGS*

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Students shall not:

- Possess, use, give, or sell alcohol or an illegal drug. (Also see DAEP Placement and Expulsion for mandatory and permissive consequences under state law.)
- Possess or sell seeds or pieces of marijuana in less than a usable amount. Possess, use, give, or sell paraphernalia related to any prohibited substance. (See glossary for “paraphernalia.”)
- Possess, use, abuse, or sell look-alike drugs or attempt to pass items off as drugs or contraband.

## Discipline Management Techniques

- Abuse the student's own prescription drug, give a prescription drug to another student, or possess or be under the influence of another person's prescription drug on school property or at a school-related event. (See glossary for "abuse.")
- Abuse over-the-counter drugs. (See glossary for "abuse.") Be under the influence of prescription or over-the-counter drugs that cause impairment of the physical or mental faculties. (See glossary for "under the influence.")
- Have or take prescription drugs or over-the-counter drugs at school other than as provided by district policy.

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### *MISUSE OF TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES AND THE INTERNET*

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Students shall not:

- Violate policies, rules, or agreements signed by the student or the student's parent regarding the use of technology resources.
- Attempt to access or circumvent passwords or other security-related information of the district, students, or employees or upload or create computer viruses, including off school property if the conduct causes a substantial disruption to the educational environment.
- Attempt to alter, destroy, or disable district technology resources including, but not limited to, computers and related equipment, district data, the data of others, or other networks connected to the district's system, including off school property if the conduct causes a substantial disruption to the educational environment.
- Use the Internet or other electronic communications to threaten district students, employees, board members, or volunteers, including off school property if the conduct causes a substantial disruption to the educational environment or infringes on the rights of another student at school.
- Send, post, deliver, or possess electronic messages that are abusive, obscene, sexually oriented, threatening, harassing, damaging to another's reputation, or illegal, including cyberbullying and "sexting," either on or off school property, if the conduct causes a substantial disruption to the educational environment or infringes on the rights of another student at school.
- Use the Internet or other electronic communication to engage in or encourage illegal behavior or threaten school safety, including off school property if the conduct causes a substantial disruption to the educational environment or infringes on the rights of another student at school.

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### *SAFETY TRANSGRESSIONS*

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Students shall not:

- Possess published or electronic material that is designed to promote or encourage illegal behavior or that could threaten school safety.
- Engage in verbal (oral or written) exchanges that threaten the safety of another student, a school employee, or school property.
- Make false accusations or perpetrate hoaxes regarding school safety.
- Engage in any conduct that school officials might reasonably believe will substantially disrupt the school program or incite violence.
- Throw objects that can cause bodily injury or property damage.
- Discharge a fire extinguisher without valid cause.

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### *MISCELLANEOUS OFFENSES*

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Students shall not:

- Violate dress and grooming standards as communicated in the Student Handbook.



## Discipline Management Techniques

- Cheat or copy the work of another.
- Gamble.
- Falsify records, passes, or other school-related documents.
- Engage in actions or demonstrations that substantially disrupt or materially interfere with school activities.
- Repeatedly violate other communicated campus or classroom standards of conduct.

The district may impose campus or classroom rules in addition to those found in the Code. These rules may be posted in classrooms or given to the student and may or may not constitute violations of the Code.

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## DISCIPLINE MANAGEMENT TECHNIQUES

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Discipline shall be designed to improve conduct and to encourage students to adhere to their responsibilities as members of the school community. Disciplinary action shall draw on the professional judgment of teachers and administrators and on a range of discipline management techniques. Discipline shall be correlated to the seriousness of the offense, the student's age and grade level, the frequency of misbehavior, the student's attitude, the effect of the misconduct on the school environment, and statutory requirements.

Because of these factors, discipline for a particular offense, including misconduct in a district vehicle owned or operated by the district, unless otherwise specified by law, may bring into consideration varying techniques and responses.

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### *STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES*

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The discipline of students with disabilities is subject to applicable state and federal law in addition to the Student Code of Conduct. To the extent any conflict exists, state and/or federal law shall prevail.

In accordance with the Education Code, a student who receives special education services may not be disciplined for conduct meeting the definition of bullying, cyberbullying, harassment, or making hit lists (see glossary) until an ARD committee meeting has been held to review the conduct.

In deciding whether to order suspension, DAEP placement, or expulsion, regardless of whether the action is mandatory or discretionary, the district shall take into consideration a disability that substantially impairs the student's capacity to appreciate the wrongfulness of the student's conduct.

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### *TECHNIQUES*

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The following discipline management techniques may be used alone, in combination, or as part of progressive interventions for behavior prohibited by the Student Code of Conduct or by campus or classroom rules:

- Verbal correction, oral or written.
- Cooling-off time or "time-out."
- Seating changes within the classroom or vehicles owned or operated by the district.
- Temporary confiscation of items that disrupt the educational process.
- Behavioral contracts.
- Counseling by teachers, school counselors, or administrative personnel.
- Parent-teacher conferences.
- Behavior coaching.

## Discipline Management Techniques

- Anger management classes.
- Mediation (victim-offender).
- Classroom circles.
- Family group conferencing.
- Grade reductions for cheating, plagiarism, and as otherwise permitted by policy.
- Detention, including outside regular school hours.
- Sending the student to the office or other assigned area, or to in-school suspension.
- Assignment of school duties, such as cleaning or picking up litter.
- Withdrawal of privileges, such as participation in extracurricular activities, eligibility for seeking and holding honorary offices, or membership in school-sponsored clubs and organizations.
- Penalties identified in individual student organizations' extracurricular standards of behavior.
- Restriction or revocation of district transportation privileges.
- School-assessed and school-administered probation.
- Corporal punishment, unless the student's parent or guardian has provided a signed statement prohibiting its use.
- Out-of-school suspension, as specified in the Out-of-School Suspension section of this Code.
- Placement in a DAEP, as specified in the DAEP section of this Code.
- Placement and/or expulsion in an alternative educational setting, as specified in the Placement and/or Expulsion for Certain Offenses section of this Code.
- Expulsion, as specified in the Expulsion section of this Code.
- Referral to an outside agency or legal authority for criminal prosecution in addition to disciplinary measures imposed by the district.
- Other strategies and consequences as determined by school officials.

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### *NOTIFICATION*

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The campus behavior coordinator shall promptly notify a student's parent by phone or in person of any violation that may result in in-school or out-of-school suspension, placement in a DAEP, placement in a JJAEP, or expulsion. The campus behavior coordinator shall also notify a student's parent if the student is taken into custody by a law enforcement officer under the disciplinary provisions of the Education Code. A good faith effort shall be made on the day the action was taken to provide to the student for delivery to the student's parent written notification of the disciplinary action. If the parent has not been reached by telephone or in person by 5:00 p.m. of the first business day after the day the disciplinary action was taken, the campus behavior coordinator shall send written notification by U.S. Mail. If the campus behavior coordinator is not able to provide notice to the parent, the principal or designee shall provide the notice.

Before the principal or appropriate administrator assigns a student under age 18 to detention outside regular school hours, notice shall be given to the student's parent to inform him or her of the reason for the detention and permit arrangements for necessary transportation.

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### *APPEALS*

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Questions from parents regarding disciplinary measures should be addressed to the teacher, campus administration, or campus behavior coordinator, as appropriate. Appeals or complaints regarding the use of specific discipline management techniques should be addressed in accordance with policy FNG(LOCAL). A copy of the policy may be obtained from the principal's office, the campus behavior coordinator's office, or the central administration office or through *Policy On Line* at the following address: [farmersvilleisd.org](http://farmersvilleisd.org).

Consequences shall not be deferred pending the outcome of a grievance.

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## REMOVAL FROM THE REGULAR EDUCATIONAL SETTING

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In addition to other discipline management techniques, misconduct may result in removal from the regular educational setting in the form of a routine referral or a formal removal.

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### *ROUTINE REFERRAL*

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A routine referral occurs when a teacher sends a student to the campus behavior coordinator's office as a discipline management technique. The campus behavior coordinator shall employ alternative discipline management techniques, including progressive interventions. A teacher or administrator may remove a student from class for a behavior that violates this Code to maintain effective discipline in the classroom.

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### *FORMAL REMOVAL*

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A teacher **may** also initiate a formal removal from class if:

1. The student's behavior has been documented by the teacher as repeatedly interfering with the teacher's ability to teach his or her class or with the student's classmates' ability to learn; or
2. The behavior is so unruly, disruptive, or abusive that the teacher cannot teach, and the students in the classroom cannot learn.

Within three school days of the formal removal, the campus behavior coordinator or appropriate administrator shall schedule a conference with the student's parent; the student; the teacher, in the case of removal by a teacher; and any other administrator.

At the conference, the campus behavior coordinator or appropriate administrator shall inform the student of the misconduct for which he or she is charged and the consequences. The student shall have an opportunity to give his or her version of the incident.

When a student is removed from the regular classroom by a teacher and a conference is pending, the campus behavior coordinator or other administrator may place the student in:

- Another appropriate classroom.
- In-school suspension.
- Out-of-school suspension.
- DAEP.

A teacher or administrator **must** remove a student from class if the student engages in behavior that under the Education Code requires or permits the student to be placed in a DAEP or expelled. When removing for those reasons, the procedures in the subsequent sections on DAEP or expulsion shall be followed.

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### *RETURNING A STUDENT TO THE CLASSROOM*

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When a student has been formally removed from class by a teacher for conduct against the teacher containing the elements of assault, aggravated assault, sexual assault, aggravated sexual assault, murder, capital murder, or criminal attempt to commit murder or capital murder, the student may not be returned to the teacher's class without the teacher's consent.

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OUT-OF-SCHOOL SUSPENSION

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*MISCONDUCT*

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Students may be suspended for any behavior listed in the Code as a general conduct violation, DAEP offense, or expellable offense.

The district shall not use out-of-school suspension for students in grade 2 or below unless the conduct meets the requirements established in law.

A student in grade 2 or below shall not be placed in out-of-school suspension unless, while on school property or while attending a school-sponsored or school-related activity on or off school property, the student engages in:

- Conduct that contains the elements of a weapons offense, as provided in Penal Code Section 46.02 or 46.05;
- Conduct that contains the elements of assault, sexual assault, aggravated assault, or aggravated sexual assault, as provided by the Penal Code; or
- Selling, giving, or delivering to another person or possessing, using, or being under the influence of any amount of marijuana, an alcoholic beverage, or a controlled substance or dangerous drug as defined by federal or state law.

The district shall use a positive behavior program as a disciplinary alternative for students in grade 2 or below who commit general conduct violations instead of suspension or placement in a DAEP. The program shall meet the requirements of law.

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*PROCESS*

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State law allows a student to be suspended for no more than three school days per behavior violation, with no limit on the number of times a student may be suspended in a semester or school year.

Before being suspended a student shall have an informal conference with the campus behavior coordinator or appropriate administrator, who shall advise the student of the conduct of which he or she is accused. The student shall be given the opportunity to explain his or her version of the incident before the administrator's decision is made.

The number of days of a student's suspension shall be determined by the campus behavior coordinator, but shall not exceed three school days.

In deciding whether to order out-of-school suspension, the campus behavior coordinator shall take into consideration:

1. Self-defense (see glossary),
2. Intent or lack of intent at the time the student engaged in the conduct,
3. The student's disciplinary history, or
4. A disability that substantially impairs the student's capacity to appreciate the wrongfulness of the student's conduct.

The appropriate administrator shall determine any restrictions on participation in school-sponsored or school-related extracurricular and cocurricular activities.

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## DISCIPLINARY ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION PROGRAM (DAEP) PLACEMENT

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The DAEP shall be provided in a setting other than the student's regular classroom. An elementary school student may not be placed in a DAEP with a student who is not an elementary school student.

For purposes of DAEP, elementary classification shall be kindergarten–grade 5 and secondary classification shall be grades 6–12.

A student who is expelled for an offense that otherwise would have resulted in a DAEP placement does not have to be placed in a DAEP in addition to the expulsion.

In deciding whether to place a student in a DAEP, regardless of whether the action is mandatory or discretionary, the campus behavior coordinator shall take into consideration:

1. Self-defense (see glossary),
2. Intent or lack of intent at the time the student engaged in the conduct,
3. The student's disciplinary history, or
4. A disability that substantially impairs the student's capacity to appreciate the wrongfulness of the student's conduct.

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### *DISCRETIONARY PLACEMENT: MISCONDUCT THAT MAY RESULT IN DAEP PLACEMENT*

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A student **may** be placed in a DAEP for behaviors prohibited in the General Conduct Violations section of this Code.

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### *MISCONDUCT IDENTIFIED IN STATE LAW*

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In accordance with state law, a student **may** be placed in a DAEP for any one of the following offenses:

- Engaging in bullying that encourages a student to commit or attempt to commit suicide.
- Inciting violence against a student through group bullying.
- Releasing or threatening to release intimate visual material of a minor or a student who is 18 years of age or older without the student's consent.
- Involvement in a public school fraternity, sorority, or secret society, including participating as a member or pledge, or soliciting another person to become a pledge or member of a public school fraternity, sorority, secret society, or gang. (See glossary.)
- Involvement in criminal street gang activity. (See glossary.)
- Criminal mischief, not punishable as a felony.
- Assault (no bodily injury) with threat of imminent bodily injury.
- Assault by offensive or provocative physical contact.

In accordance with state law, a student **may** be placed in a DAEP if the superintendent or the superintendent's designee has reasonable belief (see glossary) that the student has engaged in conduct punishable as a felony, other than aggravated robbery or those listed as offenses in Title 5 (see glossary) of the Texas Penal Code, that occurs off school property and not at a school-sponsored or school-related event, if the student's presence in the regular classroom threatens the safety of other students or teachers or will be detrimental to the educational process.

The campus behavior coordinator **may**, but is not required to, place a student in a DAEP for off-campus conduct for which DAEP placement is required by state law if the administrator does not have knowledge of the conduct before the first anniversary of the date the conduct occurred.

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*MANDATORY PLACEMENT: MISCONDUCT THAT REQUIRES DAEP PLACEMENT*

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A student **must** be placed in a DAEP if the student:

- Engages in conduct relating to a false alarm or report (including a bomb threat) or a terroristic threat involving a public school. (See glossary.)
- Commits the following offenses on school property or within 300 feet of school property as measured from any point on the school's real property boundary line, or while attending a school-sponsored or school-related activity on or off school property:
  - Engages in conduct punishable as a felony.
  - Commits an assault (see glossary) under Texas Penal Code 22.01(a)(1).
  - Sells, gives, or delivers to another person, or possesses, uses, or is under the influence of marijuana, a controlled substance, or a dangerous drug in an amount not constituting a felony offense. A student with a valid prescription for low-THC cannabis as authorized by Chapter 487 of the Health and Safety Code does not violate this provision. (School-related felony drug offenses are addressed in the Expulsion section.) (See glossary for "under the influence.")
  - Sells, gives, or delivers to another person an alcoholic beverage; commits a serious act or offense while under the influence of alcohol; or possesses, uses, or is under the influence of alcohol, if the conduct is not punishable as a felony offense. (School-related felony alcohol offenses are addressed in the Expulsion section.)
  - Behaves in a manner that contains the elements of an offense relating to abusable volatile chemicals.
  - Behaves in a manner that contains the elements of the offense of public lewdness or indecent exposure.
- Engages in expellable conduct and is between six and nine years of age.
- Commits a federal firearms violation and is younger than six years of age.
- Engages in conduct that contains the elements of the offense of retaliation against any school employee or volunteer on or off school property. (Committing retaliation in combination with another expellable offense is addressed in the Expulsion section of this Code.)
- Engages in conduct punishable as aggravated robbery or a felony listed under Title 5 (see glossary) of the Texas Penal Code when the conduct occurs off school property and not at a school-sponsored or school-related event and:
  - The student receives deferred prosecution (see glossary),
  - A court or jury finds that the student has engaged in delinquent conduct (see glossary), or
  - The superintendent or designee has a reasonable belief (see glossary) that the student engaged in the conduct.

The campus behavior coordinator **may**, but is not required to, place a student in a DAEP for off-campus conduct for which DAEP placement is required by state law if the administrator does not have knowledge of the conduct before the first anniversary of the date the conduct occurred.

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**COURSEWORK NOTICE**

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The parent or guardian of a student placed in DAEP shall be given written notice of the student's opportunity to complete a foundation curriculum course in which the student was enrolled at the time of removal and which is required for graduation, at no cost to the student. The notice shall include information regarding all methods available for completing the coursework.

## Placement and/or Expulsion for Certain Offenses

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### *LENGTH OF PLACEMENT*

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The duration of a student's placement in a DAEP shall be determined by District Policy.

The minimum placement for any secondary student at the DAEP in Princeton will be as follows:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Offense during the school year – 30 school days
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Offense (and ensuing offenses) – 30 school days

Student conduct during the DAEP placement may warrant increasing (up to 30 additional days) or decreasing (by no more than 10 percent of the original sentence) the length of time a student attends DAEP.

The maximum period of DAEP placement shall be one calendar year, except as provided below.

Unless otherwise specified in the placement order, days absent from a DAEP shall not count toward fulfilling the total number of days required in a student's DAEP placement order.

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### *EXCEEDS ONE YEAR*

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Placement in a DAEP may exceed one year when a review by the district determines that the student is a threat to the safety of other students or to district employees.

The statutory limitations on the length of a DAEP placement do not apply to a placement resulting from the board's decision to place a student who engaged in the sexual assault of another student so that the students are not assigned to the same campus.

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### *EXCEEDS SCHOOL YEAR*

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Students who commit offenses requiring placement in a DAEP at the end of one school year may be required to continue that placement at the start of the next school year to complete the assigned term of placement.

For placement in a DAEP to extend beyond the end of the school year, the campus behavior coordinator or the board's designee must determine that:

1. The student's presence in the regular classroom or campus presents a danger of physical harm to the student or others, or
2. The student has engaged in serious or persistent misbehavior (see glossary) that violates the district's Code.

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### *EXCEEDS 60 DAYS*

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For placement in a DAEP to extend beyond 60 days or the end of the next grading period, whichever is sooner, a student's parent shall be given notice and the opportunity to participate in a proceeding before the board or the board's designee.

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### *APPEALS*

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Questions from parents regarding disciplinary measures should be addressed to the campus administration.

## Placement and/or Expulsion for Certain Offenses

Student or parent appeals regarding a student's placement in a DAEP should be addressed in accordance with FNG(LOCAL). A copy of this policy may be obtained from the principal's office, the campus behavior coordinator's office, the central administration office, or through *Policy On Line* at the following address: farmersvilleisd.org.

Appeals shall begin at Level One with the campus principal.

Disciplinary consequences shall not be deferred pending the outcome of an appeal. The decision to place a student in a DAEP cannot be appealed beyond the board.

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### *RESTRICTIONS DURING PLACEMENT*

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State law prohibits a student placed in a DAEP for reasons specified in state law from attending or participating in school-sponsored or school-related extracurricular activities.

The district shall provide transportation to students in a DAEP from the Fisd bus barn to DAEP and back to the bus barn.

For seniors who are eligible to graduate and are assigned to a DAEP at the time of graduation, the placement in the program shall continue through graduation, and the student shall not be allowed to participate in the graduation ceremony and related graduation activities.

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### *PLACEMENT REVIEW*

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A student placed in a DAEP shall be provided a review of his or her status, including academic status, by the campus behavior coordinator or the board's designee at intervals not to exceed 120 days. In the case of a high school student, the student's progress toward graduation and the student's graduation plan shall also be reviewed. At the review, the student or the student's parent shall be given the opportunity to present arguments for the student's return to the regular classroom or campus. The student may not be returned to the classroom of a teacher who removed the student without that teacher's consent.

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### *ADDITIONAL MISCONDUCT*

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If during the term of placement in a DAEP the student engages in additional misconduct for which placement in a DAEP or expulsion is required or permitted, additional proceedings may be conducted, and the campus behavior coordinator may enter an additional disciplinary order as a result of those proceedings.

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### *NOTICE OF CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS*

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When a student is placed in a DAEP for certain offenses, the office of the prosecuting attorney shall notify the district if:

1. Prosecution of a student's case was refused for lack of prosecutorial merit or insufficient evidence and no formal proceedings, deferred adjudication (see glossary), or deferred prosecution will be initiated; or
2. The court or jury found a student not guilty, or made a finding that the student did not engage in delinquent conduct or conduct indicating a need for supervision, and the case was dismissed with prejudice.

If a student was placed in a DAEP for such conduct, on receiving the notice from the prosecutor, the superintendent or designee shall review the student's placement and schedule a review with the student's



## Placement and/or Expulsion for Certain Offenses

parent not later than the third day after the superintendent or designee receives notice from the prosecutor. The student may not be returned to the regular classroom pending the review.

After reviewing the notice and receiving information from the student's parent, the superintendent or designee may continue the student's placement if there is reason to believe that the presence of the student in the regular classroom threatens the safety of other students or teachers.

The student or the student's parent may appeal the superintendent's decision to the board. The student may not be returned to the regular classroom pending the appeal. In the case of an appeal, the board shall, at the next scheduled meeting, review the notice from the prosecutor and receive information from the student, the student's parent, and the superintendent or designee, and confirm or reverse the decision of the superintendent or designee. The board shall make a record of the proceedings.

If the board confirms the decision of the superintendent or designee, the student and the student's parent may appeal to the Commissioner of Education. The student may not be returned to the regular classroom pending the appeal.

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### *WITHDRAWAL DURING PROCESS*

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When a student violates the district's Code in a way that requires or permits the student to be placed in a DAEP and the student withdraws from the district before a placement order is completed, the campus behavior coordinator may complete the proceedings and issue a placement order. If the student then re-enrolls in the district during the same or a subsequent school year, the district may enforce the order at that time, less any period of the placement that has been served by the student during enrollment in another district. If the campus behavior coordinator or the board fails to issue a placement order after the student withdraws, the next district in which the student enrolls may complete the proceedings and issue a placement order.

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### *NEWLY ENROLLED STUDENTS*

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The district shall continue the DAEP placement of a student who enrolls in the district and was assigned to a DAEP in an open-enrollment charter school or another district.

A newly enrolled student with a DAEP placement from a district in another state shall be placed as any other newly enrolled student if the behavior committed is a reason for DAEP placement in the receiving district.

If the student was placed in a DAEP by a school district in another state for a period that exceeds one year, this district, by state law, shall reduce the period of the placement so that the total placement does not exceed one year. After a review, however, the placement may be extended beyond a year if the district determines that the student is a threat to the safety of other students or employees or the extended placement is in the best interest of the student.

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### *EMERGENCY PLACEMENT PROCEDURE*

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When an emergency placement is necessary because the student's behavior is so unruly, disruptive, or abusive that it seriously interferes with classroom or school operations, the student shall be given oral notice of the reason for the action. Not later than the tenth day after the date of the placement, the student shall be given the appropriate conference required for assignment to a DAEP.

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## PLACEMENT AND/OR EXPULSION FOR CERTAIN OFFENSES

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This section includes two categories of offenses for which the Education Code provides unique procedures and specific consequences.

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### *REGISTERED SEX OFFENDERS*

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Upon receiving notification in accordance with state law that a student is currently required to register as a sex offender, the administration must remove the student from the regular classroom and determine appropriate placement unless the court orders JJAEP placement.

If the student is under any form of court supervision, including probation, community supervision, or parole, the placement shall be in either DAEP or JJAEP for at least one semester.

If the student is not under any form of court supervision, the placement may be in DAEP or JJAEP for one semester or the placement may be in a regular classroom. The placement may not be in the regular classroom if the board or its designee determines that the student's presence:

1. Threatens the safety of other students or teachers,
2. Will be detrimental to the educational process, or
3. Is not in the best interests of the district's students.

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### *REVIEW COMMITTEE*

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At the end of the first semester of a student's placement in an alternative educational setting and before the beginning of each school year for which the student remains in an alternative placement, the district shall convene a committee, in accordance with state law, to review the student's placement. The committee shall recommend whether the student should return to the regular classroom or remain in the placement. Absent a special finding, the board or its designee must follow the committee's recommendation.

The placement review of a student with a disability who receives special education services must be made by the ARD committee.

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### *NEWLY ENROLLED STUDENT*

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If a student enrolls in the district during a mandatory placement as a registered sex offender, the district may count any time already spent by the student in a placement or may require an additional semester in an alternative placement without conducting a review of the placement.

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### *APPEAL*

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A student or the student's parent may appeal the placement by requesting a conference between the board or its designee, the student, and the student's parent. The conference is limited to the factual question of whether the student is required to register as a sex offender. Any decision of the board or its designee under this section is final and may not be appealed.

## Placement and/or Expulsion for Certain Offenses

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### *CERTAIN FELONIES*

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Regardless of whether placement or expulsion is required or permitted by one of the reasons in the DAEP Placement or Expulsion sections, in accordance with Education Code 37.0081, a student may be expelled and placed in either DAEP or JJAEP if the board or campus behavior coordinator makes certain findings and the following circumstances exist in relation to aggravated robbery or a felony offense under Title 5 (see glossary) of the Texas Penal Code. The student must:

- Have received deferred prosecution for conduct defined as aggravated robbery or a Title 5 felony offense;
- Have been found by a court or jury to have engaged in delinquent conduct for conduct defined as aggravated robbery or a Title 5 felony offense;
- Have been charged with engaging in conduct defined as aggravated robbery or a Title 5 felony offense;
- Have been referred to a juvenile court for allegedly engaging in delinquent conduct for conduct defined as aggravated robbery or a Title 5 felony offense; or
- Have received probation or deferred adjudication or have been arrested for, charged with, or convicted of aggravated robbery or a Title 5 felony offense.

The district may expel the student and order placement under these circumstances regardless of:

1. The date on which the student's conduct occurred,
2. The location at which the conduct occurred,
3. Whether the conduct occurred while the student was enrolled in the district, or
4. Whether the student has successfully completed any court disposition requirements imposed in connection with the conduct.

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### *HEARING AND REQUIRED FINDINGS*

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The student must first have a hearing before the board or its designee, who must determine that in addition to the circumstances above that allow for the expulsion, the student's presence in the regular classroom:

1. Threatens the safety of other students or teachers,
2. Will be detrimental to the educational process, or
3. Is not in the best interest of the district's students.

Any decision of the board or the board's designee under this section is final and may not be appealed.

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### *LENGTH OF PLACEMENT*

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The student is subject to the placement until:

1. The student graduates from high school,
2. The charges are dismissed or reduced to a misdemeanor offense, or
3. The student completes the term of the placement or is assigned to another program.

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### *NEWLY ENROLLED STUDENTS*

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A student who enrolls in the district before completing a placement under this section from another school district must complete the term of the placement.

## Expulsion

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### *EXPULSION*

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In deciding whether to order expulsion, regardless of whether the action is mandatory or discretionary, the campus behavior coordinator shall take into consideration:

1. Self-defense (see glossary),
2. Intent or lack of intent at the time the student engaged in the conduct,
3. The student's disciplinary history, or
4. A disability that substantially impairs the student's capacity to appreciate the wrongfulness of the student's conduct.

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### *DISCRETIONARY EXPULSION: MISCONDUCT THAT MAY RESULT IN EXPULSION*

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Some of the following types of misconduct may result in mandatory placement in a DAEP, whether or not a student is expelled. (See DAEP Placement)

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### *ANY LOCATION*

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A student **may** be expelled for:

- Engaging in bullying that encourages a student to commit or attempt to commit suicide.
- Inciting violence against a student through group bullying.
- Releasing or threatening to release intimate visual material of a minor or a student who is 18 years of age or older without the student's consent.
- Conduct that contains the elements of assault under Penal Code 22.01(a)(1) in retaliation against a school employee or volunteer.
- Criminal mischief, if punishable as a felony.
- Engaging in conduct that contains the elements of one of the following offenses against another student:
  - Aggravated assault.
  - Sexual assault.
  - Aggravated sexual assault.
  - Murder.
  - Capital murder.
  - Criminal attempt to commit murder or capital murder.
  - Aggravated robbery.
- Breach of computer security. (See glossary)
- Engaging in conduct relating to a false alarm or report (including a bomb threat) or a terroristic threat involving a public school.

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### *AT SCHOOL, WITHIN 300 FEET, OR AT A SCHOOL EVENT*

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A student **may** be expelled for committing any of the following offenses on or within 300 feet of school property, as measured from any point on the school's real property boundary line, or while attending a school-sponsored or school-related activity on or off school property:

- Selling, giving, or delivering to another person, or possessing, using, or being under the influence of marijuana, a controlled substance, or a dangerous drug, if the conduct is not punishable as a felony. A student with a valid prescription for low-THC cannabis as authorized by Chapter 487 of the Health and Safety Code does not violate this provision. (See glossary for "under the influence.")

## Expulsion

- Selling, giving, or delivering to another person, or possessing, using, or being under the influence of alcohol; or committing a serious act or offense while under the influence of alcohol, if the conduct is not punishable as a felony.
- Engaging in conduct that contains the elements of an offense relating to abusable volatile chemicals.
- Engaging in conduct that contains the elements of assault under Section 22.01(a)(1) against an employee or a volunteer.
- Engaging in deadly conduct. (See glossary.)

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### *WITHIN 300 FEET OF SCHOOL*

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A student **may** be expelled for engaging in the following conduct while within 300 feet of school property, as measured from any point on the school's real property boundary line:

- Aggravated assault, sexual assault, or aggravated sexual assault.
- Arson. (See glossary.)
- Murder, capital murder, or criminal attempt to commit murder or capital murder.
- Indecency with a child, aggravated kidnapping, manslaughter, criminally negligent homicide, or aggravated robbery.
- Continuous sexual abuse of a young child or children.
- Felony drug- or alcohol-related offense.
- Carrying on or about the student's person a handgun, a location-restricted knife, or a club, as these terms are defined by state law. (See glossary.)
- Possessing, manufacturing, transporting, repairing, or selling a prohibited weapon, as defined by state law. (See glossary.)
- Possession of a firearm, as defined by federal law. (See glossary.)

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### *PROPERTY OF ANOTHER DISTRICT*

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A student **may** be expelled for committing any offense that is a state-mandated expellable offense if the offense is committed on the property of another district in Texas or while the student is attending a school-sponsored or school-related activity of a school in another district in Texas.

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### *WHILE IN DAEP*

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A student **may** be expelled for engaging in documented serious misbehavior that violates the district's Code, despite documented behavioral interventions while placed in a DAEP. For purposes of discretionary expulsion from a DAEP, serious misbehavior means:

1. Deliberate violent behavior that poses a direct threat to the health or safety of others;
2. Extortion, meaning the gaining of money or other property by force or threat;
3. Conduct that constitutes coercion, as defined by Section 1.07, Penal Code; or
4. Conduct that constitutes the offense of:
  - a. Public lewdness under Section 21.07, Penal Code;
  - b. Indecent exposure under Section 21.08, Penal Code;
  - c. Criminal mischief under Section 28.03, Penal Code;
  - d. Personal hazing under Section 37.152; or
  - e. Harassment under Section 42.07(a)(1), Penal Code, of a student or district employee.

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### *MANDATORY EXPULSION: MISCONDUCT THAT REQUIRES EXPULSION*

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## Expulsion

A student **must** be expelled under federal or state law for any of the following offenses that occur on school property or while attending a school-sponsored or school-related activity on or off school property:

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### *UNDER FEDERAL LAW*

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Bringing to school or possessing at school, including any setting that is under the district's control or supervision for the purpose of a school activity, a firearm, as defined by federal law. (See glossary.)

*Note:* Mandatory expulsion under the federal Gun Free Schools Act does not apply to a firearm that is lawfully stored inside a locked vehicle, or to firearms used in activities approved and authorized by the district when the district has adopted appropriate safeguards to ensure student safety.

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### *UNDER THE TEXAS PENAL CODE*

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- Carrying on or about the student's person the following, as defined by the Texas Penal Code:
  - A handgun, defined by state law as any firearm designed, made, or adapted to be used with one hand. (See glossary.) Note: A student may not be expelled solely on the basis of the student's use, exhibition, or possession of a firearm that occurs at an approved target range facility that is not located on a school campus, while participating in or preparing for a school-sponsored, shooting sports competition or a shooting sports educational activity that is sponsored or supported by the Parks and Wildlife Department, or a shooting sports sanctioning organization working with the department. [See policy FNCG(LEGAL).]
  - A location-restricted knife, as defined by state law. (See glossary.)
  - A club, as defined in state law. (See glossary.)
- Possessing, manufacturing, transporting, repairing, or selling a prohibited weapon, as defined in state law. (See glossary.)
- Behaving in a manner that contains elements of the following offenses under the Texas Penal Code:
  - Aggravated assault, sexual assault, or aggravated sexual assault.
  - Arson. (See glossary.)
  - Murder, capital murder, or criminal attempt to commit murder or capital murder.
  - Indecency with a child.
  - Aggravated kidnapping.
  - Aggravated robbery.
  - Manslaughter.
  - Criminally negligent homicide.
  - Continuous sexual abuse of a young child or children.
  - Behavior punishable as a felony that involves selling, giving, or delivering to another person, or possessing, using, or being under the influence of marijuana, a controlled substance, a dangerous drug, or alcohol; or committing a serious act or offense while under the influence of alcohol.
- Engaging in retaliation against a school employee or volunteer combined with one of the above-listed mandatory expulsion offenses.

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### *UNDER AGE TEN*

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When a student under the age of ten engages in behavior that is expellable behavior, the student shall not be expelled, but shall be placed in a DAEP. A student under age six shall not be placed in a DAEP unless the student commits a federal firearm offense.

## Expulsion

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### *PROCESS*

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If a student is believed to have committed an expellable offense, the campus behavior coordinator or other appropriate administrator shall schedule a hearing within a reasonable time. The student's parent shall be invited in writing to attend the hearing.

Until a hearing can be held, the campus behavior coordinator or other administrator may place the student in:

- Another appropriate classroom.
- In-school suspension.
- Out-of-school suspension.
- DAEP.

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### *HEARING*

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A student facing expulsion shall be given a hearing with appropriate due process. The student is entitled to:

1. Representation by the student's parent or another adult who can provide guidance to the student and who is not an employee of the district,
2. An opportunity to testify and to present evidence and witnesses in the student's defense, and
3. An opportunity to question the witnesses called by the district at the hearing.

After providing notice to the student and parent of the hearing, the district may hold the hearing regardless of whether the student or the student's parent attends.

The board of trustees delegates to the superintendent or his designee authority to conduct hearings and expel students.

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### *BOARD REVIEW OF EXPULSION*

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After the due process hearing, the expelled student may request that the board review the expulsion decisions. The student or parent must submit a written request to the superintendent within seven days after receipt of the written decision. The superintendent must provide the student or parent written notice of the date, time, and place of the meeting at which the board will review the decision.

The board shall review the record of the expulsion hearing in a closed meeting unless the parent requests in writing that the matter be held in an open meeting. The board may also hear a statement from the student or parent and from the board's designee.

The board shall hear statements made by the parties at the review and shall base its decision on evidence reflected in the record and any statements made by the parties at the review. The board shall make and communicate its decision orally at the conclusion of the presentation. Consequences shall not be deferred pending the outcome of the hearing.

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### *EXPULSION ORDER*

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Before ordering the expulsion, the board or campus behavior coordinator shall take into consideration:

## Expulsion

1. Self-defense (see glossary),
2. Intent or lack of intent at the time the student engaged in the conduct,
3. The student's disciplinary history, or
4. A disability that substantially impairs the student's capacity to appreciate the wrongfulness of the student's conduct.

If the student is expelled, the board or its designee shall deliver to the student and the student's parent a copy of the order expelling the student.

Not later than the second business day after the hearing, the superintendent or designee shall deliver to the juvenile court a copy of the expulsion order and the information required by Section 52.04 of the Family Code.

If the length of the expulsion is inconsistent with the guidelines included in the Student Code of Conduct, the expulsion order shall give notice of the inconsistency.

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### *LENGTH OF EXPULSION*

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The length of an expulsion shall be correlated to the seriousness of the offense, the student's age and grade level, the frequency of misbehavior, the student's attitude, and statutory requirements.

The duration of a student's expulsion shall be determined on a case-by-case basis. The maximum period of expulsion is one calendar year, except as provided below.

An expulsion may not exceed one year unless, after review, the district determines that:

1. The student is a threat to the safety of other students or to district employees, or
2. Extended expulsion is in the best interest of the student.

State and federal law require a student to be expelled from the regular classroom for a period of at least one calendar year for bringing a firearm, as defined by federal law, to school. However, the superintendent may modify the length of the expulsion on a case-by-case basis.

Students who commit offenses that require expulsion at the end of one school year may be expelled into the next school year to complete the term of expulsion.

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### *WITHDRAWAL DURING PROCESS*

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When a student has violated the district's Code in a way that requires or permits expulsion from the district and the student withdraws from the district before the expulsion hearing takes place, the district may conduct the hearing after sending written notice to the parent and student.

If the student then re-enrolls in the district during the same or subsequent school year, the district may enforce the expulsion order at that time, less any expulsion period that has been served by the student during enrollment in another district.

If the campus behavior coordinator or the board fails to issue an expulsion order after the student withdraws, the next district in which the student enrolls may complete the proceedings.



## Expulsion

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### *ADDITIONAL MISCONDUCT*

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If during the expulsion, the student engages in additional conduct for which placement in a DAEP or expulsion is required or permitted, additional proceedings may be conducted, and the campus behavior coordinator or the board may issue an additional disciplinary order as a result of those proceedings.

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### *RESTRICTIONS DURING EXPULSION*

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Expelled students are prohibited from being on school grounds or attending school-sponsored or school-related activities during the period of expulsion.

No district academic credit shall be earned for work missed during the period of expulsion unless the student is enrolled in a JJAEP or another district-approved program.

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### *NEWLY ENROLLED STUDENTS*

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The district shall continue the expulsion of any newly enrolled student expelled from another district or an open-enrollment charter school until the period of the expulsion is completed.

If a student expelled in another state enrolls in the district, the district may continue the expulsion under the terms of the expulsion order, may place the student in a DAEP for the period specified in the order, or may allow the student to attend regular classes if:

1. The out-of-state district provides the district with a copy of the expulsion order, and
2. The offense resulting in the expulsion is also an expellable offense in the district in which the student is enrolling.

If a student is expelled by a district in another state for a period that exceeds one year and the district continues the expulsion or places the student in a DAEP, the district shall reduce the period of the expulsion or DAEP placement so that the entire period does not exceed one year, unless after a review it is determined that:

1. The student is a threat to the safety of other students or district employees, or
2. Extended placement is in the best interest of the student.

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### *EMERGENCY EXPULSION PROCEDURES*

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When an emergency expulsion is necessary to protect persons or property from imminent harm, the student shall be given verbal notice of the reason for the action. Within ten days after the date of the emergency expulsion, the student shall be given appropriate due process required for a student facing expulsion.

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### *DAEP PLACEMENT OF EXPELLED STUDENTS*

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The district may provide educational services to any expelled student in a DAEP; however, educational services in the DAEP must be provided if the student is less than ten years of age.

## GLOSSARY

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**Abuse** is improper or excessive use.

**Aggravated robbery** is defined in part by Texas Penal Code 29.03(a) as when a person commits robbery and:

1. Causes serious bodily injury to another;
2. Uses or exhibits a deadly weapon; or
3. Causes bodily injury to another person or threatens or places another person in fear of imminent bodily injury or death, if the other person is:
  - a. 65 years of age or older, or
  - b. A disabled person.

**Armor-piercing ammunition** is defined by Texas Penal Code 46.01 as handgun ammunition used in pistols and revolvers and designed primarily for the purpose of penetrating metal or body armor.

**Arson** is defined in part by Texas Penal Code 28.02 as:

1. A crime that involves starting a fire or causing an explosion with intent to destroy or damage:
  - a. Any vegetation, fence, or structure on open-space land; or
  - b. Any building, habitation, or vehicle:
    - i. Knowing that it is within the limits of an incorporated city or town,
    - ii. Knowing that it is insured against damage or destruction,
    - iii. Knowing that it is subject to a mortgage or other security interest,
    - iv. Knowing that it is located on property belonging to another,
    - v. Knowing that it has located within it property belonging to another, or
    - vi. When the person starting the fire is reckless about whether the burning or explosion will endanger the life of some individual or the safety of the property of another.
1. A crime that involves recklessly starting a fire or causing an explosion while manufacturing or attempting to manufacture a controlled substance and the fire or explosion damages any building, habitation, or vehicle; or
2. A crime that involves intentionally starting a fire or causing an explosion and in so doing:
  - a. Recklessly damages or destroys a building belonging to another, or
  - b. Recklessly causes another person to suffer bodily injury or death.

**Assault** is defined in part by Texas Penal Code §22.01(a)(1) as intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly causing bodily injury to another; §22.01(a)(2) as intentionally or knowingly threatening another with imminent bodily injury; and §22.01(a)(3) as intentionally or knowingly causing physical contact with another that can reasonably be regarded as offensive or provocative.

**Breach of Computer Security** includes knowingly accessing a computer, computer network, or computer system without the effective consent of the owner as defined in Texas Penal Code 33.02, if the conduct involves accessing a computer, computer network, or computer system owned by or operated on behalf of a school district; and the student knowingly alters, damages, or deletes school district property or information; or commits a breach of any other computer, computer network, or computer system.

## Glossary

**Bullying** is defined in Section 37.0832 of the Education Code as a single significant act or a pattern of acts by one or more students directed at another student that exploits an imbalance of power and involves engaging in written or verbal expression, expression through electronic means, or physical conduct that:

1. Has the effect or will have the effect of physically harming a student, damaging a student's property, or placing a student in reasonable fear of harm to the student's person or of damage to the student's property;
2. Is sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive enough that the action or threat creates an intimidating, threatening, or abusive educational environment for a student;
3. Materially and substantially disrupts the educational process or the orderly operation of a classroom or school; or
4. Infringes on the rights of the victim at school.

Bullying includes cyberbullying. (See below) This state law on bullying prevention applies to:

1. Bullying that occurs on or is delivered to school property or to the site of a school-sponsored or school-related activity on or off school property;
2. Bullying that occurs on a publicly or privately owned school bus or vehicle being used for transportation of students to or from school or a school-sponsored or school-related activity; and
3. Cyberbullying that occurs off school property or outside of a school-sponsored or school-related activity if the cyberbullying interferes with a student's educational opportunities or substantially disrupts the orderly operation of a classroom, school, or school-sponsored or school-related activity.

**Chemical dispensing device** is defined by Texas Penal Code 46.01 as a device designed, made, or adapted for the purpose of dispensing a substance capable of causing an adverse psychological or physiological effect on a human being. A small chemical dispenser sold commercially for personal protection is not in this category.

**Club** is defined by Texas Penal Code 46.01 as an instrument specially designed, made, or adapted for the purpose of inflicting serious bodily injury or death. A blackjack, nightstick, mace, and tomahawk are in the same category.

**Criminal street gang** is three or more persons having a common identifying sign or symbol or an identifiable leadership who continuously or regularly associate in the commission of criminal activities.

**Cyberbullying** is defined by Section 37.0832 of the Education Code as bullying that is done through the use of any electronic communication device, including through the use of a cellular or other type of telephone, a computer, a camera, electronic mail, instant messaging, text messaging, a social media application, an Internet website, or any other Internet-based communication tool.

**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 another person in the relationship. Dating violence also occurs when a person commits these acts against a person in a marriage or dating relationship with the individual who is or was once in a marriage or dating relationship with the person committing the offense, as defined by Section 71.0021 of the Family Code.

## Glossary

**Deadly conduct** occurs when a person recklessly engages in conduct that places another in imminent danger of serious bodily injury, such as knowingly discharging a firearm in the direction of an individual, habitation, building, or vehicle.

**Deferred adjudication** is an alternative to seeking a conviction in court that may be offered to a juvenile for delinquent conduct or conduct indicating a need for supervision.

**Deferred prosecution** may be offered to a juvenile as an alternative to seeking a conviction in court for delinquent conduct or conduct indicating a need for supervision.

**Delinquent conduct** is conduct that violates either state or federal law and is punishable by imprisonment or confinement in jail. It includes conduct that violates certain juvenile court orders, including probation orders, but does not include violations of traffic laws.

**Discretionary** means that something is left to or regulated by a local decision maker.

**E-cigarette** means an electronic cigarette or any other device that simulates smoking by using a mechanical heating element, battery, or electronic circuit to deliver nicotine or other substances to the individual inhaling from the device. The term includes any device that is manufactured, distributed, or sold as an e-cigarette, e-cigar, or e-pipe or under another product name or description and a component, part, or accessory for the device, regardless of whether the component, part, or accessory is sold separately from the device.

**Explosive weapon** is defined by Texas Penal Code 46.01 as any explosive or incendiary bomb, grenade, rocket, or mine and its delivery mechanism that is designed, made, or adapted for the purpose of inflicting serious bodily injury, death, or substantial property damage, or for the principal purpose of causing such a loud report as to cause undue public alarm or terror.

**False alarm or report** occurs when a person knowingly initiates, communicates, or circulates a report of a present, past, or future bombing, fire, offense, or other emergency that he or she knows is false or baseless and that would ordinarily:

1. Cause action by an official or volunteer agency organized to deal with emergencies;
2. Place a person in fear of imminent serious bodily injury; or
3. Prevent or interrupt the occupation of a building, room, or place of assembly.

**Firearm** is defined by federal law (18 U.S.C. § 921(a)) as:

1. Any weapon (including a starter gun) that will, is designed to, or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive;
2. The frame or receiver of any such weapon;
3. Any firearm muffler or firearm weapon; or
4. Any destructive device, such as any explosive, incendiary or poison gas bomb, or grenade.

Such term does not include an antique firearm.

**Firearm silencer** is defined by Texas Penal Code 46.01 as any device designed, made, or adapted to muffle the report of a firearm.

## Glossary

**Graffiti** are markings with paint, an indelible pen or marker, or an etching or engraving device on tangible property without the effective consent of the owner. The markings may include inscriptions, slogans, drawings, or paintings.

**Handgun** is defined by Texas Penal Code 46.01 as any firearm that is designed, made, or adapted to be fired with one hand.

**Harassment** is:

1. Conduct that meets the definition established in district policies DIA(LOCAL) and FFH(LOCAL); or
2. Conduct that threatens to cause harm or bodily injury to another person, including a district student, employee, board member, or volunteer; is sexually intimidating; causes physical damage to the property of another student; subjects another student to physical confinement or restraint; or maliciously and substantially harms another student's physical or emotional health or safety, as defined in Section 37.001(b)(2) of the Education Code.

**Hazing** is defined by Section 37.151 of the Education Code as an intentional, knowing, or reckless act, on or off campus, by one person alone or acting with others, that endangers the mental or physical health or safety of a student for the purpose of pledging, initiation into, affiliation with, holding office in, or maintaining membership in an organization.

**Hit list** is defined in Section 37.001(b)(3) of the Education Code as a list of people targeted to be harmed, using a firearm, a knife, or any other object to be used with intent to cause bodily harm.

**Improvised explosive device** is defined by Texas Penal Code 46.01 as a completed and operational bomb designed to cause serious bodily injury, death, or substantial property damage that is fabricated in an improvised manner using nonmilitary components.

**Indecent exposure** is defined by Texas Penal Code 21.08 as an offense that occurs when a person exposes his or her anus or any part of his or her genitals with intent to arouse or gratify the sexual desire of any person, and is reckless about whether another is present who will be offended or alarmed by the act.

**Intimate visual material** is defined by Texas Civil Practices and Remedies Code 98B.001 and Texas Penal Code 21.16 as visual material that depicts a person with the person's intimate parts exposed or engaged in sexual conduct. "Visual material" means any film, photograph, video tape, negative, or slide of any photographic reproduction or any other physical medium that allows an image to be displayed on a computer or other video screen and any image transmitted to a computer or other video screen.

**Location-restricted knife** is defined by Texas Penal Code 46.01 as a knife with a blade over five and one-half inches.

**Knuckles** as defined by Texas Penal Code 46.01 are any instrument consisting of finger rings or guards made of a hard substance and designed or adapted for inflicting serious bodily injury or death by striking a person with a fist enclosed in the knuckles.

**Look-alike weapon** means an item that resembles a weapon but is not intended to be used to cause serious bodily injury.

## Glossary

**Machine gun** as defined by Texas Penal Code 46.01 is any firearm that is capable of shooting more than two shots automatically, without manual reloading, by a single function of the trigger.

**Mandatory** means that something is obligatory or required because of an authority.

**Paraphernalia** are devices that can be used for inhaling, ingesting, injecting, or otherwise introducing a controlled substance into a human body.

**Possession** means to have an item on one's person or in one's personal property, including, but not limited to, clothing, purse, or backpack; a private vehicle used for transportation to or from school or school-related activities, including, but not limited, to an automobile, truck, motorcycle, or bicycle; telecommunications or electronic devices; or any school property used by the student, including, but not limited to, a locker or desk.

**Prohibited weapon** under Texas Penal Code 46.05(a) means:

1. The following items unless registered with the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives or otherwise not subject to that registration requirement or unless the item is classified as a curio or relic by the U.S. Department of Justice:
  - a. An explosive weapon;
  - b. A machine gun;
  - c. A short-barrel firearm;
2. Knuckles;
3. Armor-piercing ammunition;
4. A chemical dispensing device;
5. A zip gun;
6. A tire deflation device;
7. An improvised explosive device; or
8. A firearm silencer, unless classified as a curio or relic by the U.S. Department of Justice or the actor otherwise possesses, manufactures, transports, repairs, or sells the firearm silencer in compliance with federal law.

**Public Lewdness** is defined by Texas Penal Code 21.07 as an offense that occurs when a person knowingly engages in an act of sexual intercourse, deviate sexual intercourse, or sexual contact in a public place or, if not in a public place, is reckless about whether another is present who will be offended or alarmed by the act.

**Public school fraternity, sorority, secret society, or gang** means an organization composed wholly or in part of students that seeks to perpetuate itself by taking additional members from the students enrolled in school based on a decision of its membership rather than on the free choice of a qualified student. Educational organizations listed in Section 37.121(d) of the Education Code are excepted from this definition. **Reasonable belief** is a determination made by the superintendent or designee using all available information, including the information furnished under Article 15.27 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

**Self-defense** is the use of force against another to the degree a person reasonably believes the force is immediately necessary to protect himself or herself.

## Glossary

### **Serious misbehavior** means:

1. Deliberate violent behavior that poses a direct threat to the health or safety of others;
2. Extortion, meaning the gaining of money or other property by force or threat;
3. Conduct that constitutes coercion, as defined by Section 1.07, Texas Penal Code; or
4. Conduct that constitutes the offense of:
  - a. Public lewdness under Section 21.07, Texas Penal Code;
  - b. Indecent exposure under Section 21.08; Texas Penal Code;
  - c. Criminal mischief under Section 28.03, Texas Penal Code;
  - d. Personal hazing under Section 37.152, Education Code; or
  - e. Harassment under Section 42.07(a)(1), Texas Penal Code, of a student or district employee.

### **Serious or persistent misbehavior** includes, but is not limited to:

- Behavior that is grounds for permissible expulsion or mandatory DAEP placement.
- Behavior identified by the district as grounds for discretionary DAEP placement.
- Actions or demonstrations that substantially disrupt or materially interfere with school activities.
- Refusal to attempt or complete school work as assigned.
- Insubordination.
- Profanity, vulgar language, or obscene gestures.
- Leaving school grounds without permission.
- Falsification of records, passes, or other school-related documents.
- Refusal to accept discipline assigned by the teacher or principal.

**Short-barrel firearm** is defined by Texas Penal Code 46.01 as a rifle with a barrel length of less than 16 inches or a shotgun with a barrel length of less than 18 inches, or any weapon made from a rifle or shotgun that, as altered, has an overall length of less than 26 inches.

**Terroristic threat** is defined by Texas Penal Code 22.07 as a threat of violence to any person or property with intent to:

1. Cause a reaction of any type by an official or volunteer agency organized to deal with emergencies;
2. Place any person in fear of imminent serious bodily injury;
3. Prevent or interrupt the occupation or use of a building; room, place of assembly, or place to which the public has access; place of employment or occupation; aircraft, automobile, or other form of conveyance; or other public place;
4. Cause impairment or interruption of public communications; public transportation; public water, gas, or power supply; or other public service;
5. Place the public or a substantial group of the public in fear of serious bodily injury; or
6. Influence the conduct or activities of a branch or agency of the federal government, the state, or a political subdivision of the state (including the district).

**Tire deflation device** is defined in part by Section 46.01 of the Texas Penal Code as a device, including a caltrop or spike strip, that, when driven over, impedes or stops the movement of a wheeled vehicle by puncturing one or more of the vehicle's tires.

**Title 5 felonies** are those crimes listed in Title 5 of the Texas Penal Code that typically involve injury to a person and may include:

## Glossary

- Murder, manslaughter, or homicide under Sections 19.02, – .05, Texas Penal Code;
- Kidnapping under Section 20.03, Texas Penal Code;
- Trafficking of persons under Section 20A.02, Texas Penal Code;
- Smuggling or continuous smuggling of persons under Sections 20.05 – .06, Texas Penal Code;
- Assault under Section 22.01, Texas Penal Code;
- Aggravated assault under Section 22.02, Texas Penal Code;
- Sexual assault under Section 22.011, Texas Penal Code;
- Aggravated sexual assault under Section 22.021, Texas Penal Code;
- Unlawful restraint under Section 20.02, Texas Penal Code;
- Continuous sexual abuse of a young child or children under Section 21.02, Texas Penal Code;
- Bestiality under Section 21.09, Texas Penal Code;
- Improper relationship between educator and student under Section 21.12, Texas Penal Code;
- Voyeurism under Section 21.17, Texas Penal Code;
- Indecency with a child under Section 21.11, Texas Penal Code;
- Invasive visual recording under Section 21.15, Texas Penal Code;
- Disclosure or promotion of intimate visual material under Section 21.16, Texas Penal Code;
- Sexual coercion under Section 21.18, Texas Penal Code;
- Injury to a child, an elderly person, or a disabled person of any age under Section 22.04, Texas Penal Code;
- Abandoning or endangering a child under Section 22.041, Texas Penal Code;
- Deadly conduct under Section 22.05, Texas Penal Code;
- Terroristic threat under Section 22.07, Texas Penal Code;
- Aiding a person to commit suicide under Section 22.08, Texas Penal Code; and
- Tampering with a consumer product under Section 22.09, Texas Penal Code.

[See FOC(EXHIBIT).]

**Under the influence** means lacking the normal use of mental or physical faculties. Impairment of a person’s physical or mental faculties may be evidenced by a pattern of abnormal or erratic behavior, the presence of physical symptoms of drug or alcohol use, or by admission. A student “under the influence” need not be legally intoxicated to trigger disciplinary action.

**Use** means voluntarily introducing into one’s body, by any means, a prohibited substance.

**Zip gun** is defined by Texas Penal Code 46.01 as a device or combination of devices, not originally a firearm, but adapted to expel a projectile through a smooth-bore or rifled-bore barrel by using the energy generated by an explosion or burning substance.



