

**FARMERSVILLE HIGH SCHOOL
STUDENT HANDBOOK
2011 - 2012**



**499 Hwy. 78 N
Farmersville, TX 75442
Ph: 972-782-7757
Fax: 972-529-3750
www.farmersvilleisd.net**

SECTION ONE

PREFACE

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 as designed is in compliance with board policy and the School Board has adopted the Student Code of Conduct. The Student Handbook is updated annually, however, policy adoption and revision is an ongoing process. Policy change affecting the Student Handbook will be communicated to students and parents through newsletters and other forms of communication. All changes made to the Student Handbook, as a result of periodic board policy change or revision, will supersede existing provisions listed in the Handbook.

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ABSENCE RECONCILIATION PROCEDURES

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 18 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 over nine (9) days for a semester for any reason 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.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY/ CHEATING/ PLAGIARISM

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

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.

All secondary students in Farmersville ISD must adhere to the following standards:

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 FISD 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.

ADMISSION

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 FISD board policy.

ALCOHOL, DRUGS, TOBACCO, AND WEAPONS

Under state and federal law a student is not allowed to possess, sell, give away, or use alcohol, illegal drugs, tobacco products, guns, or other 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.

[See the Student Code of Conduct for disciplinary consequences for misconduct noted above.]

ARRIVAL ON CAMPUS/ CAMPUS VISITATION

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.

ASSEMBLIES

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.

ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS

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 18 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 eighteenth birthday is required to attend each school day.
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 70. No grade penalty will be imposed for an absence due to a mandated school suspension.
4. A court of law may also impose penalties against both the student and his or her parents if a school-aged student is deliberately not attending school. A complaint against the parent may be filed in court if the student:
 - a. Is absent from school on ten or more days or parts of days within a six-month period in the same school year, or
 - b. Is absent on three or more days or parts of days within a four-week period.

A. NON-ABSENCES

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.

B. EXCUSED ABSENCES

Students absent for the following reason 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.
- Days missed as a runaway.
- 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.
- Approved college visitation.

C. ATTENDANCE RECEIVING CREDIT

To receive credit in a class, a student must attend at least 90 percent of the days the class is offered. A student who attends fewer than 90 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. The actual number of days a student must be in attendance in order to receive credit will depend on whether the class is for a semester or for a full year. Students may not miss more than nine days in a semester or 18 days for the full year. 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.

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

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

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.

Absence for College/Career Day Visits

Students may not be excused more than one day as a Junior and two days as a Senior for college/career day visits. The visits are to be arranged one week in advance through the Counselor's Office. 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.

Attendance and Make-up Work

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.

Extracurricular Absences

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

AWARDS

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.

BULLYING

Bullying occurs when a student or group of students engages in written or verbal expression or physical conduct against another student and the behavior:

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

Bullying is prohibited by the district and could include hazing, threats, taunting, teasing, assault, demands for money, confinement, destruction of property, theft of valued possessions, name-calling, rumor-spreading, and 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. 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.

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

CAFETERIA SERVICES

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 the 2011-12 school year are as follows:

Breakfast

Full price -- \$1.10

Reduced price - \$.30

Adult Staff/Visitor -- \$1.75

Lunch

Full price - \$2.15

Reduced price -- \$.40

Adult Staff/Visitor -- \$2.75

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

Instructional Use of Personal Telecommunications and Other Electronic Devices

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

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

- 1st offense** – Parents must come to the school office and pick up the phone after school.
- 2nd offense** – Parents must meet with the Principal or Designee in order to pick up the phone and an administrative fee of \$15 is due.
- 3rd 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.
- 4th offense and subsequent offenses** – Parents must meet with the Principal or Designee in order to pick up the phone, an administrative fee of \$25 is due, and the student will receive a minimum of 3 days in ISS or equivalent punishment decided by the Principal or Designee.

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 Designee 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.

CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

The district has established a plan for addressing child sexual abuse and other maltreatment of children, which may be accessed at <http://farmersville.ednet10.net/DIP20092010.pdf> (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.

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/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>).

CLASS SCHEDULE CHANGES

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.

CLASS RANK/HONOR GRADUATES

To be recognized as an honor graduate, students must have a 90.0 or higher numerical average for all grade point earning classes in 9th – 12th grade.

Valedictorian and Salutatorian

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 a DAEP, a three day suspension, 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.

Class rank

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.

State and Scholarships and Grants

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.]

COLLEGE CREDIT COURSES

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

- Certain courses taught at the high school campus, which may include courses termed dual credit, Advanced Placement (AP), or International Baccalaureate (IB);
- 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 County Community 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.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASES / CONDITIONS

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 and can be caused by viruses, parasites, fungi, and bacteria. Viral meningitis is the most common and 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 and the Texas Department of Health: www.tdh.state.tx.us.

COMMENCEMENT

If all the above has been completed and the student has still not passed the exit-level test, the student shall be allowed to participate in commencement activities.

The student shall be seated with his or her classmates, and there shall be no indication of whether or not a student is graduation from high school or merely participating in the ceremony.

COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES

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.

JUNIOR STUDENTS WHO FAIL THE EXIT-LEVEL TEST

A junior student who fails one or more sections of the state-mandated exit-level test shall only be allowed to participate in commencement activities and ceremonies contingent on successful completion of the following requirements:

1. Immediately following the spring exit-level examination, the parent or guardian of the student shall be mailed a commitment letter. The commitment letter shall include that the student has failed to pass one or more sections of the exit-level test, the state requirements regarding passing the test, and the steps required of the student in order to participate in commencement activities.
2. The student shall follow the remediation and requirements that are spelled out in the letter.
3. The parent or guardian of a student receiving this letter shall enroll the student in a summer accelerated intervention program.

4. The student and the student's parent or guardian shall be required to attend a parent conference with the high school principal and counselor stipulating courses to be taken.
 - a. The student shall be required to attend all tutorials that are available to the student as established during this conference.
 - b. A written record of this conference shall be placed in the student's file and the student and his or her parent or guardian shall be required to sign and date the written record prior to dismissal from the meeting.
 - c. If the student's parent or guardian does not attend the parent conference, the student shall be ineligible to participate in commencement activities.

SENIOR STUDENTS WHO FAIL THE EXIT-LEVEL TEST

Immediately following the fall exit-level examination, a senior student failing one or more sections of the exit-level test shall be required to have a parent conference stipulating remedial activities to be completed prior to the spring administration of the exit-level test. As above for junior students, both the student and the student's parent or guardian shall be required to attend. If the student's parent or guardian does not attend the parent conference, the student shall not be eligible to participate in commencement activities. A written record of this conference shall be placed in the student's file and the student and his or her parent or guardian shall be required to sign and date the written record prior to dismissal from the meeting.

REQUIRED PARTICIPATION IN EXIT-LEVEL EXAMINATIONS

A student who has failed a section of the exit-level test shall be required to take the exit-level examination each time it is administered, not only in the District high school, but any other location and facility where the test is being administered.

The only acceptable reason to miss an administration of the exit-level test is 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 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 accepted the excuse.

ATTENDANCE IN REMEDIATION CLASSES

Enrollment in the designated courses must be coupled with attendance in the class even if the course is for remediation and local credit only. A student must have attended the designated course at least 90 percent of the semester in order to participate in commencement activities.

COMMUNICATION BETWEEN HOME AND SCHOOL

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.

COMPLAINTS BY STUDENTS / PARENTS

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.

CORPORAL PUNISHMENT

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

CONFERENCES

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.

CORRESPONDENCE COURSES

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.

COUNSELING

Academic

Students and their parents are encouraged to talk with a school counselor, teacher, 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.

Personal

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.

COURSE CREDIT

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.

CREDIT BY EXAMINATION

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 2011-2012 school year include:

- Monday, August 29
- Tuesday, September 6
- Tuesday, January 10
- Tuesday, January 17

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

If a student plans to take an exam, the student (or parent) must register with the principal no later than 15 days prior to scheduled testing date.

DATING VIOLENCE

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

DETENTION

A student may be detained after or before school hours (for not more than one and one-half hours) 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.

DISTRIBUTION OF MATERIAL

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.

DRESS AND GROOMING

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

DRESS CODE

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.

DRESS CODE SPECIFICS FOR ALL STUDENTS

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, muscle shirts, or mesh shirts will not be permitted.
3. Tank tops, 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. Shoes must be worn at all times. No bare feet or house shoes will be permitted.
6. Males or females may not wear hats, caps, bandanas or scarves, nor have hoods of hooded sweatshirts and jackets pulled over the head area in the school building. (Exception- special days during Homecoming Week)
7. Dark glasses, other than prescription glasses, may not be worn in the building.
8. Nose rings, tongue rings, and 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.
9. Males may not wear earrings.
10. 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.
11. 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).
12. 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.
13. Unusual or inappropriate patches are not acceptable; placement of patches might determine their inappropriateness.
14. Pants, shorts, skirts, etc. shall not have holes or tears and shall be hemmed at the bottom. No clothing that exposes skin or undergarments, regardless of where the rip, tear, or hole is located will be acceptable. Clothing with holes - even if worn with tights underneath will not be acceptable. Patches must be sewn or ironed into the clothing article to be deemed as appropriate.
15. All button-type shirts will be buttoned to within one button of the throat and are not allowed to flare open down the front.
16. All shirts should be tucked into the pants, except those designed to be worn outside the pants such as T-shirts or pullovers. However, those shirts cannot extend more than six inches past the waistline (approximately mid-thigh.)
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. No chains (including the type worn attached to wallets, etc.) may be worn. Dog chains, collars, etc. may not be worn.
19. Shorts and skirts may not be shorter than the fingertips when arms are held at the side. No skin-tight shorts allowed. The following items of clothing are not permitted;

- a. Un-hemmed blue jean shorts or cut-up shorts.
- b. Shirts that completely cover shorts.
- c. Pajama type clothes of any kind.
- d. Make-up of any kind (Unless authorized by Principal or special event) is prohibited on male students (including fingernail polish).

A. HAIR RESTRICTIONS (MALE)

- 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. Hairstyles must meet these length requirements without being held back by pushing hair behind the earlobes, using headbands, ribbons, barrettes, etc.
- Shaved areas or rails are not acceptable. Ponytails, pigtails, Mohawks, mullets, dreadlocks and coon tails are unacceptable.
- Shaved patterns are not acceptable. (Examples: streaks, letters, numbers, symbols, etc.)
- Spiked hair should not exceed 2 inches in length.
- 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.

HAIR RESTRICTIONS (FEMALE)

- 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.

DRILLS – FIRE, TORNADO, AND OTHER EMERGENCY DRILLS

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.

DRIVER LICENSE ATTENDANCE VERIFICATION (VOE)

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. This form is to verify that the student has met the 90 percent attendance requirement for the semester preceding the date of application. The student can obtain this form at the campus office.

DUAL CREDIT COURSES

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 taking dual credit Government in the spring of their junior year must maintain an average of 90 or higher for U.S. History and have scored 2200 or higher on the 10th grade Social Studies TAKS. All students wishing to take dual credit courses must also meet the placement testing requirements of the college in order to qualify for dual credit courses.

Electronic Media

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.

If you prefer that your child not receive any one-to-one electronic communications from a district employee, please submit a written request to the campus principal stating this preference.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL TREATMENT

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.

EMERGENCY SCHOOL CLOSING INFORMATION

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.

END OF COURSE/TAKS EXAMS

Incoming freshmen will take the new End of Course exam as required by the state of Texas. This test will be required in Algebra I, English I, World Geography, Biology, and Geometry.

Sophomores and juniors will still take the TAKS exams in Math, Science, History and English in the spring. Students that make a passing grade on these TAKS exams will be able to be exempt from their spring semester exams in their core subjects as long as they meet the 90% attendance requirement in each class.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES, CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS

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.

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.

FEES

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.

FIELD TRIPS

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

FIGHTING

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, 1 day of OSS and 3 days of ISS. The second offense will result in a citation from law enforcement, 1 day 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.

FUND RAISING

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.

GANGS AND OTHER PROHIBITED ORGANIZATIONS

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

GANG-FREE ZONES

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

GOVERNMENTAL AUTHORITIES

Questioning of Students

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

- The principal will verify and record the identity of the officer or other authority and ask for an explanation of the need to question or interview the student.
- The principal ordinarily will make reasonable efforts to notify parents unless the interviewer provides what the principal considers to be a valid objection.
- The 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 will immediately notify the superintendent and 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. Since the principal does not have the authority to block a custody action, notification will most likely be after the fact.

Notification of Law Violations

The District is also required by state law to notify:

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

GRADE CLASSIFICATION & GRADE POINT AVERAGES

After the ninth grade, students are classified according to the number of units earned toward graduation; re-classification of students is only done once a year prior to the beginning of school and after credits have been earned in the previous school year.

Units of Credit Earned for Grade Placement

6 - Sophomore

12 - Junior

18 - Senior

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 "rollover" from one six-weeks grading period to the next even if the average for the student is greater than 105. Students in regular (non-honors) classes can earn a grade no higher than 100 per six-weeks.

Courses that receive honors grades points are those designated as honors, Pre-AP, AP, and dual credit. GPA is calculated using classes taken in the 9th – 12th grade. Courses in athletics, P.E., drill team, band, dance, student aide classes, TAKS review classes, SAT/ACT prep, correspondence, and credit by exam classes receive no grade points.

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

GRADUATION CEREMONIES

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. Students assigned to DAEP, ISS, or suspended during any day of the last week of school will not be allowed to participate in the graduation ceremony.

GRADUATING EARLY

Students wishing to graduate in three years must take the 11th grade EXIT Level TAKS test during the spring of their third year in high school. They must pass all components of the TAKS test 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 TAKS test and earned an average of 90% or higher in the prerequisite course (i.e. – if a student received a commended score on the 10th grade English Language Arts TAKS 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

Texas High School Students are given the opportunity to graduate on one of the following Graduation plan options. All students in high school as of the 2007-08 school year must have 26 credits to graduate

Plan #1 – High School Program– 26 credits

- Fine Arts- 1 credit
- English – 4 credits
- Math – 3 credits
- Social Studies – 3 credits
- Science – 2 credits
- P. E. – 1 credits
- Speech – .5 credit
- Academic Electives – 1 credit
- Other Electives – 10.5 credits

Plan #2 – Recommended Program– 26 credits (This is the “default” graduation plan for Texas high school students in order to be eligible for the Texas Grant.)

- English – 4 credits
- Math – 4 credits
- Science – 4 credits
- Social Studies – 4 credits
- Foreign Lang – 2 credits
- P.E. – 1 credit
- Speech – .5 credit
- Fine Arts – 1 credit
- Electives – 5.5 credits

Plan #3 – Distinguished Program– 26 credits (This can also qualify students for the Texas Grant.)

The curriculum requirements are the same as the Recommended Plan except 3 years of foreign language are required. This program recognizes students who demonstrate levels of performance equivalent to college students or work done by professionals in the arts, sciences, business, industry, or community service.

In addition to the core curriculum and 3 years of foreign language, students must also complete 4 advanced measures, including any combination of the following:

- Test data-- score on PSAT for recognition as Commended Scholar or higher or a score of three or above on the College Board Advanced Placement examinations.
- College Courses – grade 3.0 or higher on college credit courses, including Tech Prep and dual/concurrent credit courses.
- Original research/project – Judged by panel of professionals in the field and conducted under the direction of mentor(s) and reported to appropriate audience; and related to the required curriculum set forth in 19 TAC 74.1 (relating to TEKS).
- License awarded by a professional board or association. (This item may count for only one advanced measure, regardless of the number of licenses received.)

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.

HAZING

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 6]

HONORS/AP CLASS POLICY

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.

IMMUNIZATION

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. [For further information, see policy FFAB and the Department of State Health Services Web site: http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/immunize/school/school_info.shtm]

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.

LATE WORK

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.

LOCKERS

Lockers remain under the jurisdiction of the school even when assigned to an individual student. The School reserves the right to inspect all lockers. A student has full responsibility for the security of the locker and is responsible for making certain it is locked and that the combination is not available to others. Searches of lockers may be conducted at any time there is reasonable cause to do so whether or not a student is present.

MEDICINE AT SCHOOL

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

Only authorized employees, in accordance with 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.

In certain emergency situations, the district will maintain and administer to a student nonprescription medication, but only:

In accordance with the guidelines developed with the district's medical advisor and

When the parent has previously provided written consent to emergency treatment on the district's form.

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

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

Psychotropic Drugs

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

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

NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY SELECTION PROCEDURES

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.

NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY RESPONSIBILITIES

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.

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT, RESPONSIBILITIES AND RIGHTS

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.
- Encouraging your child to put a high priority on education and working with your child on a daily basis to make the most of the educational opportunities the school provides. 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.
- Attending scheduled conferences and requesting additional conferences as needed. To schedule a telephone or in-person conference with a teacher, counselor, or principal, please call the school office at 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.

- Offering 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.
- Participating 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.

PROTECTION OF STUDENT RIGHTS

Obtaining Information and Protecting Student Rights

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

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

"Opting Out" of Surveys and Activities

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 or selling 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.

Display of your child's artwork, projects, and other special work products:

As a parent, if you choose that your child's artwork, special projects, photographs, and the like not be displayed to the community on the district's Web site, in printed material, by video, or by any other method of communication, you must notify the principal in writing.

As a parent, you also have a right:

To 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.

To review teaching materials, textbooks, and other teaching aids and instructional materials used in the curriculum and to examine tests that have been administered to your child.

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

To 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

To 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.

To 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.

To 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.

To 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.

To 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.

To 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.

To request the transfer of your child to attend a safe public school in the district if your child attends school at a campus identified by TEA as persistently dangerous or if your child has been a victim of a violent criminal offense while at school or on school grounds.

To request the transfer of your child to another campus if your child has been the victim of a sexual assault by another student on the same campus, whether that assault occurred on or off campus, and that student has been convicted of or placed on deferred adjudication for that assault

PARTIES AND SOCIAL EVENTS

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.

PEST CONTROL INFORMATION

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

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

PUBLIC DISPLAYS OF AFFECTION

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).

PROMOTION AND RETENTION

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

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

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.

RELEASE OF STUDENTS FROM SCHOOL

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

A student 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 could result in an unexcused absence and possible disciplinary action.

REPORT CARDS AND PROGRESS REPORTS

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.

REQUIREMENTS FOR A DIPLOMA

To receive a high school diploma from the district, a student must successfully complete the required number of credits and pass a statewide exit-level exam.

The grade 11 exit-level tests, required for students in grade 11, covers English language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies and requires knowledge of Algebra I, Geometry, Biology, Integrated Chemistry and Physics, English III, and early American and United States History. A student who does not pass the exit-level assessment will have additional opportunities to take the test.

SCHOOL BUSES OR OTHER VEHICLES – POLICIES AND GUIDELINES

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.

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.

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 has the authority to skip infraction steps for serious violations or to designate other such punishment as deemed appropriate.

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.

SEARCHES

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

Students' Desks and Lockers

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

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

Searches of desks or lockers may be conducted at any time there is reasonable cause to believe that they contain articles or materials prohibited by 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.

SEMESTER EXAMS

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 TAKS test will 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. Freshman taking the End of Course Exams may also be exempt from semester exams in the spring according to the following criteria:

- 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 TAKS 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 sent to ISS, suspended during the semester, or placed in the DAEP will automatically lose all semester exam exemptions for that semester. EXCEPTION: These students can still be exempt from spring semester exams if they pass their spring TAKS test in that particular subject. Three (3) tardies equal one (1) absence for exemption purposes.**

SEXUAL HARASSMENT

Freedom from Discrimination

The district believes that all students learn best in an environment free from harassment and that their welfare is best served when they can work free from discrimination. Students are expected to treat other students and district employees with courtesy and respect; to avoid any 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, religion, color, national origin, gender, sex, age, or disability. Prohibited 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; or substantially interferes with the student's academic performance. A copy of the district's policy is available in the principal's office and in the superintendent's office.

Examples of prohibited discrimination may include, but are not limited to, derogatory language directed at a person's religious beliefs or practices, accent, skin color, or need for accommodation; bullying, threatening, or intimidating conduct; name-calling or slurs, taunting, teasing (even when presented as "jokes"), or rumors; aggression or assault; graffiti or printed material promoting racial, ethnic, or other negative stereotypes; or aggressive conduct such as theft or damage to property. Examples of prohibited sexual harassment may include 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, all romantic and inappropriate social relationships, as well as all sexual relationships, between students and district employees are prohibited, even if consensual.

Reporting Procedures

Any student who believes that he or she has experienced prohibited harassment should immediately report the problem to a teacher, counselor, principal or other district employee. The student's parent may make the report.

Investigation of Reported Harassment

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 will be promptly investigated. The district will notify the parents of any student alleged to have experienced prohibited harassment by an adult associated with the district, or by another student, when the allegations, if proven, would constitute "sexual harassment" or "other prohibited harassment" as defined by board policy.

If the district's investigation indicates that prohibited harassment occurred, appropriate disciplinary or corrective action will be taken to address the harassment. The district may take disciplinary action even if the conduct that is the subject of the complaint did not rise to the level of harassment prohibited by law or policy.

Retaliation against a person who makes a good faith report of prohibited harassment is 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.

A student or parent who is dissatisfied with an outcome of the investigation may appeal in accordance with policy FNCJ (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.

SMOKING, DIPPING, CHEWING TOBACCO

Students may not smoke or use tobacco products 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.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

If your 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 support services that are available to all 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 evaluation is needed, the parent will be notified and asked to provide consent for evaluation. The district must complete the evaluation and report within 60 calendar days of the date of the district receives the written consent. The district must give a copy of the report to the parent.

If the district determines an evaluation is not needed, the district will provide the parent with a written notice explaining why the child will not be evaluated. This written notice will include a statement informing the parents of their rights if they disagree with the district. Additionally, the notice must inform the parent how to obtain a copy of the Notice of Procedural Safeguards – Right of Parents of Students with Disabilities.

**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 60 calendar days of the date the district receives the written consent. The district must give a copy of the report to the parent.

If the district determines that the evaluation is not needed, the district will provide the parent with priorwritten 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/>
- 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 Phyllis Stout

Phone Number 972-782-8319

August 2011

**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 (RTI, por sus siglas en inglés). La implementación de la RTI 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 60 días calendario 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: Phyllis Stout

Número de teléfono: 972-782-8319

Agosto de 2011

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.

SPECIAL EDUCATION RECORDS

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.

STATE-MANDATED TESTS STANDARDIZED TESTING

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

Many colleges require either the American College Test (ACT) or the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) for admission. 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) 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

Beginning with ninth graders in the 2011-2012 school year, end-of-course (EOC) assessments will be administered for the following courses:

- Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II
- English I, English II, and English III
- Biology, Chemistry, and Physics
- World Geography, World History, and 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.

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. For the 2011-2012 school year, however, there will be only the spring and summer administrations of the EOC assessments.

In each content area (English language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies), a student must achieve a cumulative score. To determine whether the student meets the cumulative score, the student's EOC assessment scores in each content area will be added together. If the student's total score on the assessments within the content area is not equal to or greater than the cumulative score set by TEA, the student may retake any of the assessments in that content area until the student achieves the cumulative score. A student who does not achieve the minimum required score on any individual assessment will be required to retake that assessment.

A student may choose to retake an EOC assessment in situations other than those listed above as well.

STAAR Modified and STAAR Alternate, for students receiving special education services, will be available for eligible students, as determined by the student's ARD committee. These particular EOC assessments may have different testing windows than the general assessments, and the ARD committee will determine whether successful performance on the assessments will be required for graduation.

STAAR-L, which is a linguistically accommodated assessment, will be available for students who have been determined to be limited English proficient (LEP) and who require this type of testing accommodation.

STEROIDS

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

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>.

Facts:

Steroids affect the heart. Steroid abuse has been associated with cardiovascular disease, including heart attack and stroke. These heart problems can even happen to athletes under the age of 30.

Steroids affect appearance. In both sexes, steroids can cause male-pattern baldness, cysts, acne, and oily hair and skin.

Steroids affect mood. Steroids can make a person angry and hostile for no reason. There are recorded cases of murder attributed to intense anger from steroid use.

Steroids increase risk of infection. Sharing needles or using dirty needles to inject steroids creates a risk for diseases such as HIV/AIDS and hepatitis.

Steroids are illegal to possess without a prescription. Doctors prescribe steroids for specific medical conditions. They are only safe for use when a doctor monitors the patient.

The majority of teens are not using steroids. Among teenage males, who are most likely to use steroids, only 1.8 percent of 8th graders, 2.3 percent of 10th graders, and 3.2 percent of 12 graders reported steroid used in the past year.

SIGNS

How can you tell if a person is abusing steroids? Sometimes it's hard to tell. But there are signs you can look for. If a person has one of more of the following warning signs, he or she may be abusing steroids.

For Boys:

Baldness
Development of Beasts
Impotence

For Girls

Growth of Facial Hair
Deepened Voice
Breast Reduction

For Both:

Jaundice (yellowing of the skin)
Swelling of feet or ankles
Aching Joints
Bad Breath
Mood Swings
Nervousness
Trembling

Questions and Answers:

Q. Are steroids addictive?

A. Yes, they can be. Withdrawal symptoms include mood swings, suicidal thoughts or attempts, fatigue, restlessness, loss of appetite, and sleeplessness.

Q. How long do steroids stay in your system?

A. The length of time that steroids stay in the body varies. Injected steroids may be detected in the body for 3 to 4 months while the oral types may remain for 1 to 4 weeks.

Q. What can I do to excel in sports if I don't use steroids?

A. Focus on getting proper diet, rest, and good overall mental and physical health. These things are all factors in how the body is shaped and conditioned. Excelling in sports is achievable and done by millions of athletes without relying on steroids.

Q. What are the slang terms related to steroids?

A. Arnolds, Gym, Candy, Pumpers, Stackers, Weight Trainers, Juice. Other slang terms associated with steroid use include:

Roid Rages – uncontrolled outbursts of anger, frustration, or combativeness that may result from using anabolic steroids.

Shotgunning – taking steroids on an inconsistent basis

Stacking – using a combination of two or more anabolic steroids.

To learn more about steroids contact:
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
National Clearinghouse for Alcohol and Drug Information
800/729-6686 – TDD 800/487-4889
linea gratis en espanol 877/767-8432
www.ncadi.samhsa.gov

STUDENT CONDUCT

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.]

STUDENT RECORDS

A student's school records are confidential and are protected from unauthorized inspection or use. A cumulative record is maintained for each student from the time the student enters the District until the student withdraws or graduates. This record moves with the student from school to school.

By law, both parents, whether married, separated, or divorced, have access to the records of a student who is under 18 or a dependent for tax purposes. A parent whose rights have been legally terminated will be denied access to the records if the school is given a copy of the court order terminating these rights.

The principal is custodian of all records for currently enrolled students at assigned schools. The superintendent is the custodian of all records for students who have withdrawn or graduated. Records may be reviewed during regular school hours upon completion of the written request form. The records custodian or designee will respond to reasonable requests for explanation and interpretation of the records.

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, the parent or an eligible student may prevent release of a student's directory information. This objection must be made in writing to the principal within ten school days of the child's first day of this school year

Release of Student Info. 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. Please notify the Principal's office in writing if you do not want the district to provide this information to military recruiters or institutions of higher education.

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 district's policy regarding student records is available from superintendent's office.

The parent's or student's right of access to, and copies of, student records does not extend to all records. Materials that are not considered educational records, such as teachers' personal notes on a student that are shared only with a substitute teacher, records pertaining to former students after they are no longer in the District, and records maintained by law enforcement officials for purposes other than school discipline do not have to be made available to the parents or student.

Parents of a minor or of a student who is a dependent for tax purposes, the student (if 18 or older), and school officials with legitimate educational interests are the only persons who have general access to a student's records. "School officials with legitimate educational interests" include any employees, agents, or Trustees of the District, of cooperatives of which the District is a member, or facilities with which the district contracts for the placement of students with disabilities, as well as their attorneys and consultants, who are:

- Working with the student,

- Considering disciplinary or academic actions, the student's case, an Individual Education Plan (IEP) for a student with disabilities,
- Compiling statistical data;
- Investigating or evaluating programs.

Certain officials from various governmental agencies may have limited access to the records. The District forwards a student's records on request and without prior parental consent to a school in which a student seeks or intends to enroll. Parental consent is required to release the records to anyone else. When the student reaches 18 years of age, only the student has the right to consent to release of records.

A student over 18 and parents of a minor student may inspect the student's records and request a correction if the records are inaccurate misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy or other rights. If the District refuses the request to amend the records, the requester has the right to a hearing. If the records are not amended as a result of the hearing, the requester has 30 days to exercise the right to place a statement commenting on the information in the student's record.

Copies of student records are available at no cost. Parents may be denied copies of a student's records (1) after the student reaches age 18 and is no longer a dependent for tax purposes; (2) when the student is attending an institution of post-secondary education; (3) when the District is given a copy of a court order terminating the parental rights. If the student qualifies for free or reduced-price meals and the parents are unable to view the records during regular school hours, one copy of the record will be provided at no cost.

STUDENT'S RIGHT TO PRAY

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.

TARDY POLICY

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:

- 1st Tardy** - One detention; parents contacted.
- 2nd Tardy** - One detention; parents contacted.
- 3rd Tardy** - One detention; parents contacted.
- 4th Tardy & any additional tardies** - Office referral; parents contacted; decision by administration to assign Saturday School; ISS; etc.

Any student more than 10 minutes late to 1st Period will be sent immediately to the office with a referral. Any student more than 10 minutes late to class after their lunch period will be sent immediately to the office with a referral. Any student tardy more than 10 minutes to any class will be counted absent for that class unless they have a written excuse from school staff. Three tardies equal one absence for final exam exemption purposes.

TECHNOLOGY (Bring Your Own Technology)

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.

Acceptable Use of Technology Resources

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

Unacceptable and Inappropriate Use of Technology Resources

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, in certain circumstances, be reported to law enforcement.

TEXTBOOKS

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.

TRANSFER POLICY

No student transfers into Farmersville ISD are allowed after September 1, 1998 with the exception of the following grandfather clause:

- Students of employees accepted with no transfer fee;
- Students who are residents in the district prior to September 1, 1998 and move out of district during school year may complete school year with no fee;
- If the student would like to attend FISD after this initial year, transfer approval and fee are required;
- Present transfer students and siblings may continue to attend FISD with fee;
- Students presently enrolled, if living outside of FISD, must make transfer request and pay fee prior to September 1, 2002.

Transfer policy will be revised each year and may be modified based on space availability.

Fee based on tax levy @ 95% divided by summer PEIMS ADA.

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).

TRAVEL-- SCHOOL-SPONSORED

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.

TRAVEL – NON-SCHOOL SPONSORED

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.

TUTORIALS

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

VEHICLES ON CAMPUS

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 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.

Searches by Trained Dogs

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.

VISITORS

Parents and other visitors are welcome to visit District schools. All visitors must first report to the principal's office and sign-in as well as wear identification. Visits during lunches are limited to student's immediate family and clergy unless otherwise approved by the Principal.

WITHDRAWAL FROM FHS

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

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

WORK / COMP RELEASE

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

- Parent grants permission;
- All parts of the TAKS test have been passed;
- All seniors are eligible to be off 6th or 7th 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.

Student Code of Conduct

Purpose

The Student Code of Conduct 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, suspension, placement in a disciplinary alternative education program (DAEP), or expulsion from school.

This Student Code of Conduct has been adopted by the Farmerville 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.

In accordance with state law, the Code will be posted at each school campus or will be available for review at the office of the campus principal. Parents will be notified of any conduct violation that may result in a student being suspended, placed in a DAEP, or expelled.

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 will 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.

School District Authority and Jurisdiction

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 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 or volunteer occurs or is threatened, regardless of time or location;
6. When criminal mischief is committed on or off school property or at a school-related event;
7. For certain offenses committed within 300 feet of school property as measured from any point on the school's real property boundary line;
8. For certain offenses committed while on school property or while attending a school-sponsored or school-related activity of another district in Texas; and

9. When the student commits a felony, as provided by Texas Education Code 37.006 or 37.0081; and
10. 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 when there is reasonable cause to believe it contains articles or materials prohibited by the district.

School administrators will report crimes as required by law and will call local law enforcement when an administrator suspects that a crime has been committed on campus.

The district has the right to revoke the transfer of a nonresident student for violating the district's Code.

Guidelines for Student Achievement

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.

Obey all campus and classroom rules.

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.

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

General Conduct Violations

The categories of conduct below are prohibited at school and all school-related activities, but the list does not include the most serious offenses. In the subsequent sections on Suspension, DAEP Placement, Placement and/or Expulsion for Certain Serious Offenses, and Expulsion, severe offenses that require or permit specific consequences are listed. Any offense, however, may be serious enough to result in Removal from the Regular Educational Setting as detailed in that section.

The district prohibits the following:

Disruptions

As identified by law, disruptions include the following:

- Interference with the movement of people at an exit, entrance, or hallway of a district building without authorization from an administrator.

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

Disregard for Authority

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 on school buses.
- Refuse to accept discipline management techniques assigned by a teacher or principal.

Mistreatment of Others

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, harassment, and making hit lists. (See glossary for all three terms)
- Engage in conduct that constitutes sexual harassment or sexual abuse, whether by word, gesture, or any other conduct, directed toward another person, including a district student, employee, or volunteer.
- Engage in conduct that constitutes dating violence, including the intentional use of physical, sexual, verbal, or emotional abuse to harm, threaten, intimidate, or control another person with whom the student has or has had a dating relationship.
- 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, sexual conduct, or public displays of affection directed toward another person, including a district student, employee, or volunteer.
- Record the voice or image of another without the prior consent of the individuals being recorded or in any way that disrupts the educational environment or invades the privacy of others.

Property Offenses

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, lockers, furniture, and other equipment—with graffiti or by other means.
- Steal from students, staff, or the school.
- 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 and theft see DAEP Placement and Expulsion)

Possession of Prohibited Items

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;
- an air gun or BB gun;
- ammunition;
- a stun gun;
- a knife, to include, but not limited to, a pocket knife, penknife, dagger, etc.
- mace or pepper spray;
- pornographic material;
- tobacco products;
- 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)

Possession of Telecommunications Devices

Students shall not:

Display, turn on, or use a cellular telephone or other telecommunications device on school property during the school day.

Illegal, Prescription, and Over-the-Counter Drugs

Students shall not:

- Possess or sell seeds or pieces of marijuana in less than a usable amount. (For illegal drugs, alcohol, and inhalants see DAEP Placement and Expulsion)
- Possess, use, give, or sell paraphernalia related to any prohibited substance. (See glossary for “paraphernalia”)
- Possess or sell look-alike drugs or attempt to pass items off as drugs or contraband.
- 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.
- Abuse over-the-counter drugs.
- Be under the influence of prescription or over-the-counter drugs that cause the impairment of the physical or mental faculties. (See glossary for “under the influence”)
- Have or take prescription drugs or over-the-counter at school other than those as provided by district policy.

Misuse of Computers and the Internet

Students shall not:

- Violate computer use policies, rules, or agreements signed by the student or by the student’s parent.
- 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 computer 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, or volunteers, including off school property if the conduct causes a substantial disruption to the educational environment.
- Send or post electronic messages that are abusive, obscene, sexually oriented, threatening, harassing, damaging to another’s reputation, or illegal, including off school property if the conduct causes a substantial disruption to the educational environment.
- Use e-mail or Web sites at school to encourage illegal behavior or threaten school safety.

Safety Transgressions

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.

- Drive recklessly around a school bus, on the school property or in a school zone.

Miscellaneous Offenses

Students shall not:

- Violate dress and grooming standards as communicated in the student handbook.
- 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.
- Engage in piercing or tattooing another student on school property.
- 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.

Discipline Management Techniques

Discipline will be designed to improve conduct and to encourage students to adhere to their responsibilities as members of the school community. Disciplinary action will draw on the professional judgment of teachers and administrators and on a range of discipline management techniques. Discipline will 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 (unless otherwise specified by law) may bring into consideration varying techniques and responses.

The following discipline management techniques may be used—alone or in combination—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.
- Temporary confiscation of items that disrupt the educational process.
- Rewards or demerits.
- Behavioral contracts.
- Counseling by teachers, counselors, or administrative personnel.
- Parent-teacher conferences.
- Grade reductions for cheating, plagiarism, and as otherwise permitted by policy.
- 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.
- Withdrawal or restriction of bus privileges.
- School-assessed and school-administered probation.

- Corporal punishment.
- Out-of-school suspension, as specified in the 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 Serious Offenses section of the Code.
- Expulsion, as specified in the Expulsion section of this Code.
- Citations issued by law enforcement officers for law violations
- Referral to an outside agency or legal authority for criminal prosecution in addition to disciplinary measures imposed by the district.
- Loss of parking privileges
- Other strategies and consequences as determined by school officials.
- Detention

Notification

The principal or appropriate administrator will notify a student's parent by phone or in writing of any violation that may result in a suspension, placement in a DAEP, or expulsion. Notification will be made within three school days after the administrator becomes aware of the violation.

Students with Disabilities

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 will prevail.

In accordance with the Education Code, a student who is enrolled in a special education program may not be disciplined for conduct meeting the definition of bullying, 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 the district will take into consideration a disability that substantially impairs the student's capacity to appreciate the wrongfulness of the student's conduct.

Please note: Students who are carrying out assigned days in ISS (in-school suspension) and students who are suspended are not allowed to attend nor participate in co-curricular, extracurricular, or school related functions on any calendar day in which they were in ISS or suspended. (i.e. if a student begins 3 days of ISS on Friday, the student cannot attend nor participate in any school related activities until Wednesday of the following week).

Appeals

Parental questions or complaints regarding disciplinary measures should be addressed to the teacher or campus administration, as appropriate, and in accordance with policy FNG (LOCAL). A copy of the policy may be obtained from the principal's office or the central administration office or through Policy On Line at the following address: <http://www.farmersvilleisd.net>. Consequences will not be deferred pending the outcome of a grievance.

Removal from the Regular Educational Setting

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.

Routine Referral

A routine referral occurs when a teacher sends a student to the principal's office as a discipline management technique. The principal may then employ additional techniques.

Formal Removal

A teacher or administrator **may** remove a student from class for a behavior that violates this Code to maintain effective discipline in the classroom. 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.

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 will be followed. Otherwise, within three school days of the formal removal, the appropriate administrator will 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 appropriate administrator will inform the student of the misconduct for which he or she is charged and the consequences. The administrator will give the student an opportunity to give his or her version of the incident.

When a teacher removes a student from the regular classroom and a conference is pending, the principal may place the student in:

1. Another appropriate classroom
2. In-school suspension
3. Out-of-school suspension
4. DAEP

Returning Student to Classroom

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.

When a student has been formally removed by a teacher for any other conduct, the student may be returned to the teacher's class without the teacher's consent, if the placement review committee determines that the teacher's class is the best or only alternative available.

Suspension

Misconduct

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

In deciding whether to order suspension, the district will take into consideration:

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

Process

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 will have an informal conference with the appropriate administrator, who shall advise the student of the conduct of which he or she is accused. The student will 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 will be determined by the appropriate administrator, but will not exceed three school days.

The appropriate administrator will determine any restrictions on participation in school-sponsored or school-related extracurricular and co-curricular activities.

Disciplinary Alternative Education Program (DAEP) Placement

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

In deciding whether to order placement in a DAEP, the district will take into consideration:

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

Discretionary Placement: Misconduct That May Result in DAEP Placement

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

Misconduct Identified in State Law

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

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.

Involvement in criminal street gang activity. (See glossary)

Criminal mischief, not punishable as a felony.

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 those listed as offenses involving injury to a person 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 appropriate administrator **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.

Mandatory Placement: Misconduct That Requires DAEP Placement

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. (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 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.

Sexual Assault and Campus Assignments

If a student has been convicted of continuous sexual abuse of a young child or children or convicted of or placed on deferred adjudication for sexual assault or aggravated sexual assault against another student on the same campus, and if the victim's parent or another person with the authority to act on behalf of the victim requests that the board transfer the offending student to

another campus, the offending student shall be transferred to another campus in the district. If there is no other campus in the district serving the grade level of the offending student, the offending student will be transferred to a DAEP.

Emergencies

In an emergency, the principal or the principal's designee may order the immediate placement of a student in a DAEP for any reason for which placement in a DAEP may be made on a non-emergency basis.

Process

Removals to a DAEP will be made by the Principal or Assistant Principal.

Conference

When a student is removed from class for a DAEP offense, the appropriate administrator will schedule a conference within three school days with the student's parent, the student, and the teacher, in the case of a teacher removal.

At the conference, the appropriate administrator will inform the student, orally or in writing, of the reasons for the removal and will give the student an explanation of the basis for the removal and an opportunity to respond to the reasons for the removal.

Following valid attempts to require attendance, the district may hold the conference and make a placement decision regardless of whether the student or the student's parents attend the conference.

Placement Order

After the conference, if the student is placed in the DAEP, the appropriate administrator will write a placement order. A copy of the DAEP placement order will be sent to the student and the student's parent.

Not later than the second business day after the conference, the board's designee will deliver to the juvenile court a copy of the placement order and all information required by Section 52.04 of the Family Code.

If the student is placed in the DAEP and the length of placement is inconsistent with the guidelines included in this Code, the placement order will give notice of the inconsistency.

Length of Placement

The Principal or Asst. Principal will determine the duration of a student's placement in a DAEP. The maximum period of DAEP placement is as follows:

<u>Conduct</u>	<u>Maximum length of time</u>
Mandatory Placement	30 school days*
Discretionary Placement	30 school days*

* The 30-day placement in DAEP is based on the original violation. Student conduct during the DAEP placement may warrant increasing or decreasing length of time as to be determined by the DAEP administrator or his designee.

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

Exceeds One Year

Placement in a DAEP may exceed one year when a review by the district determines that:

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

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.

Exceeds School Year

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 Superintendent or 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.

Exceeds 60 Days

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 will be given notice and the opportunity to participate in a proceeding before the board or the board's designee.

Appeals

Questions or complaints from parents regarding disciplinary measures should be addressed to the campus administration, in accordance with policy FNG (LOCAL). A copy of this policy may be obtained from the principal's office or the central administration office or through Policy On Line at the following address: <http://www.farmersvilleisd.net>

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

Restrictions during Placement

The district does not permit a student who is placed in a DAEP to participate in any school-sponsored or school-related extracurricular or co-curricular activity including seeking or holding honorary positions and/or membership in school-sponsored clubs and organizations.

The district will provide transportation to students in a DAEP.

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

Placement Review

A student placed in a DAEP will be provided a review of his or her status, including academic status, by the Principal, Assistant Principal or DAEP Administrator 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 will also be reviewed. At the review, the student or the student's parent will 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.

Additional Misconduct

If during the term of placement in a DAEP 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 appropriate administrator may enter an additional disciplinary order as a result of those proceedings.

Notice of Criminal Proceedings

The office of the prosecuting attorney will notify the district if a student was placed in a DAEP for certain offenses including any felony, unlawful restraint, indecent exposure, assault, deadly conduct, terroristic threats, organized crime, certain drug offenses, or possession of a weapon, and:

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 will review the student's placement and schedule a review with the student's 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 will, 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 will 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.

Withdrawal during Process

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 district may complete the proceedings and issue a placement order. If the student then reenrolls 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 appropriate administrator 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.

Newly Enrolled Students

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

A newly enrolled student with a DAEP placement from a district in another state will 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, will 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.

Emergency Placement Procedure

When an emergency placement occurs, the student will be given oral notice of the reason for the action. Not later than the tenth day after the date of the placement, the student will be given the appropriate conference required for assignment to a DAEP.

Placement and/or Expulsion for Certain Serious Offenses

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

Registered Sex Offenders

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 will 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 interest of the district's students

Review Committee

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 will 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.

Newly Enrolled Student

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.

Appeal

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 or not 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.

Certain Felonies

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 its designee makes certain findings and the following circumstances exist in relation to a felony offense under Title 5 (see glossary) of the Texas Penal Code. The student must:

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

Hearing and Required Findings

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 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.

Length of Placement

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.

Newly Enrolled Students

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

Discretionary Expulsion: Misconduct That May Result in Expulsion

In deciding whether to order suspension, the district will take into consideration:

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

Any Location

A student **may** be expelled for:

Engaging in the following, no matter where it takes place:

- 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, without regard to where the conduct occurs:

- Aggravated assault.
- Sexual assault.
- Aggravated sexual assault.
- Murder.
- Capital murder.
- Criminal attempt to commit murder or capital murder.
- Aggravated robbery.

Engaging in conduct relating to a false alarm or report (including a bomb threat) or a terroristic threat involving a public school.

At School, Within 300 Feet, or at School Event

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.
- 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)

Within 300 Feet of School

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.
- 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.
- Use, exhibition, or possession of a firearm (as defined by state law), an illegal knife (see page 57&65), a club, or prohibited weapon, or possession of a firearm (as defined by federal law).

Property of Another District

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.

While in DAEP

Engaging in serious offenses or persistent misbehavior (see glossary) that violates the district's Code, while placed in a DAEP.

Mandatory Expulsion: Misconduct That Requires Expulsion

A student **must** be expelled 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:

Federal Law

Bringing to school a firearm, as defined by federal law. "Firearm" under federal law includes:

- 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.
- The frame or receiver of any such weapon.
- Any firearm muffler or firearm weapon.
- Any destructive device, such as any explosive, incendiary or poison gas bomb, or grenade.

Texas Penal Code

Using, exhibiting, or possessing the following, as defined by the Texas Penal Code:

- A firearm (any device designed, made, or adapted to expel a projectile through a barrel by using the energy generated by an explosion or burning substance or any device readily convertible to that use).
- An illegal knife, such as a knife with a blade over 5½ inches; hand instrument, designed to cut or stab another by being thrown; dagger, including but not limited to a dirk, stiletto, and poniard; bowie knife; sword; or spear.
- A club (see glossary) such as an instrument specially designed, made, or adapted for the purpose of inflicting serious bodily injury or death by striking a person with the instrument, including a blackjack, nightstick, mace, and tomahawk.
- A prohibited weapon, such as an explosive weapon, a machine gun, a short-barrel firearm, a firearm silencer, a switchblade knife, knuckles, armor-piercing ammunition, a chemical dispensing device, or a zip gun. (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, with the exception of a federal firearm offense, on or off school property or at a school-related activity.

Under Age Ten

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

Emergency

In an emergency, the principal or the principal's designee **may** order the immediate expulsion of a student for any reason for which expulsion may be made on a non-emergency basis.

Process

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

Until a hearing can be held, the principal may place the student in:

1. Another appropriate classroom
2. In-school suspension
3. Out-of-school suspension
4. DAEP

Hearing

A student facing expulsion will 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 district's witnesses.

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 authority to conduct hearings and expel students.

Board Review of Expulsion

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

Expulsion Order

After the due process hearing, if the student is expelled, the board or its designee will 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 will 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 will give notice of the inconsistency.

Length of Expulsion

The length of an expulsion will 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 will 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 or other appropriate administrator 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.

Withdrawal during Process

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 reenrolls 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 appropriate administrator 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.

Additional Misconduct

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 appropriate administrator or the board may issue an additional disciplinary order as a result of those proceedings.

Restrictions during Expulsion

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 will be earned for work missed during the period of expulsion unless the student is enrolled in a Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Program or another district-approved program.

Newly Enrolled Students

The district will 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 will 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.

Emergency Expulsion Procedures

When an emergency expulsion occurs, the student will be given verbal notice of the reason for the action. Within ten days after the date of the emergency expulsion, the student will be given appropriate due process required for a student facing expulsion.

DAEP Placement of Expelled Students

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

Abuse is improper or excessive use.

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

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

Alternative assessment instrument, developed by the state, may be given to students in special education and students identified as limited English proficient.

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

Armor-piercing ammunition is handgun ammunition designed primarily for the purpose of penetrating metal or body armor and to be used primarily in pistols and revolvers.

Arson occurs when a person starts a fire, regardless of whether the fire continues after ignition, or causes an explosion with intent to destroy or damage:
Any vegetation, fence, or structure on open-space land; or
Any building, habitation, or vehicle:

Knowing that it is within the limits of an incorporated city or town;
Knowing that it is insured against damage or destruction;
Knowing that it is subject to a mortgage or other security interest;
Knowing that it is located on property belonging to another;
Knowing that it has located within it property belonging to another; or
When the person is reckless about whether the burning or explosion will endanger the life of some individual or the safety of the property of another.

Assault is defined in part by Texas Penal Code 22.01(a)(1). A person commits an assault if the person intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly causes bodily injury to another.

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

Bullying is written or oral expression or physical conduct that a school district's board of trustees or the board's designee determines:

To have the effect of physically harming a student, damaging a student's property, or placing a student in reasonable fear of harm to the student's person or of damage to the student's property;

~Or~

To be sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive to create an intimidating, threatening, or abusive educational environment for a student.

Chemical dispensing device is a device, other than a small chemical dispenser sold commercially for personal protection, designed, made, or adapted for the purpose of causing an adverse psychological or physiological effect on a human being.

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.

Club is an instrument specially designed, made, or adapted for the purpose of inflicting serious bodily injury or death by striking a person with the instrument, including a blackjack, mace, and tomahawk.

Cyber-bullying is the use of technology (i.e. cell phones, computers, internet social networks, etc...) 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.

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

Dating violence is the intentional use of physical, sexual, verbal, or emotional abuse by a person to harm, threaten, intimidate, or control another person with whom the student has or has had a dating relationship, as defined by Section 71.0021 of the Family Code.

Deadly conduct occurs when a person commits an offense by recklessly engaging in conduct that places another in imminent danger of serious bodily injury or by 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.

Explosive weapon is 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:

Cause action by an official or volunteer agency organized to deal with emergencies;

Place a person in fear of imminent serious bodily injury; or

Prevent or interrupt the occupation of a building, room, or place of assembly.

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

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

Harassment is:

Conduct that meets the definition established in district policies DIA (LOCAL) and FFH (LOCAL); or Conduct that threatens to cause harm or bodily injury to another student, 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.

Hazing is an intentional 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 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.

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

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

Knuckles is 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.

Machine gun is any firearm that is capable of shooting more than two shots automatically, without manual reloading, by a single function of the trigger.

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

Paraphernalia is any device that can be used to inhale, ingest, inject, or otherwise introduce a controlled substance into a human body.

Persistent misbehavior is two or more violations of the Code in general or repeated occurrences of the same violation.

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

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; or any other school property used by the student, including but not limited to a locker or desk.

Public school fraternity, sorority, secret society, or gang means an organization composed wholly or in part of students that seek to perpetuate themselves 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 accepted 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.

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

Section 504 is the federal law that prohibits discrimination against a student with a disability, requiring schools to provide opportunities for equal services, programs, and participation in activities. Unless the student is determined by an ARD committee to be eligible for special education services, appropriate regular educational services will be provided.

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.

Serious offenses include but are not limited to:

- Murder
- Vandalism
- Robbery or theft
- Extortion, coercion, or blackmail

- Actions or demonstrations that substantially disrupt or materially interfere with school activities
- Hazing
- Insubordination
- Profanity, vulgar language, or obscene gestures
- Fighting, committing physical abuse, or threatening physical abuse
- Possession or distribution of pornographic materials
- Leaving school grounds without permission
- Sexual harassment of a student or district employee
- Possession of or conspiracy to possess any explosive or explosive device
- Falsification of records, passes, or other school-related documents
- Refusal to accept discipline assigned by the teacher or principal

Sexting is the sharing of provocative or nude photos using technology (including, but not limited to cell phones, computers, and/or the internet).

Short-barrel firearm is 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.

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

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

Switchblade is any knife with a blade that folds, closes, or retracts into the handle or sheath and that opens automatically by pressing a button or by the force of gravity or centrifugal force.

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

Terroristic threat occurs when a person threatens to commit any offense involving violence to any person or property with intent to:

Cause a reaction of any type to his or her threat by an official or volunteer agency organized to deal with emergencies;

Place any person in fear of imminent serious bodily injury;

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;

Cause impairment or interruption of public communications, public transportation, public water, gas, or power supply or other public service;

Place the public or a substantial group of the public in fear of serious bodily injury; or 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).

Title 5 offenses involve injury to a person and include murder; kidnapping; assault; sexual assault; unlawful restraint; coercing, soliciting, or inducing gang membership if it causes bodily

injury to a child; indecency with a child; injury to a child, an elderly person, or a disabled person; abandoning or endangering a child; deadly conduct; terroristic threat; aiding a person to commit suicide; and tampering with a consumer product.

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

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 or the presence of physical symptoms of drug or alcohol use. 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 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.