

Frankston ISD



STUDENT HANDBOOK
2016 - 2017

Welcome to Frankston Independent School District. It is the sincere hope of the administration and teaching staff that this will be both a challenging and productive year for each and every student in our school. Together our goal is to put forth our best efforts to ensure that Frankston ISD is a place of teaching and learning, where great pride is exhibited in the way we care for our facilities and each other.

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The Frankston I.S.D. Board of Trustees usually meets at 6:00PM the third Monday of each month in the District Administration Board Room on 100 Perry St. Special meetings may be called when necessary. All meetings are posted and open to the public.

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FRANKSTON SCHOOL SONG*

Hail to the Blue and White
Cheer them along their way,
Onward to victory
May they win a game today.
We'll give a cheer for the Blue and White,
Long may they reign Supreme.
Shout 'till the echoes ring
For the glory of our team!

District's Jurisdiction

The Frankston Independent School District has authority and control over its students during the regular school day and while going to and from school on district transportation. This jurisdiction includes any activity during the school day on school grounds, attendance at any school-related activity, regardless of time and location, and any school-related misconduct, regardless of time and location.

PREFACE	i
SECTION I: PARENTAL RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES	iii
PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT	iii
Working Together.....	iii
Parent Involvement Coordinator	iii
PARENTAL RIGHTS	iv
Obtaining Information and Protecting Student Rights	iv
“Opting Out” of Surveys and Activities	iv
Inspecting Surveys	iv
Requesting Professional Qualifications of Teachers and Staff.....	iv
Reviewing Instructional Materials	iv
Displaying a Student’s Artwork, Photos, and Other Original Work.....	iv
Accessing Student Records	v
Granting Permission to Video or Audio Record a Student.....	v
Granting Permission to Receive Parenting and Paternity Awareness Instruction	v
Removing a Student Temporarily from the Classroom.....	v
Removing a Student from Human Sexuality Instruction	v
Excusing a Student from Reciting the Pledges to the U.S. and Texas Flags.....	vi
Excusing a Student from Reciting a Portion of the Declaration of Independence.....	vi
Requesting Limited or No Contact with a Student through Electronic Media	vi
Requesting Notices of Certain Student Misconduct.....	vi
Prohibiting the Use of Corporal Punishment	vi
School Safety Transfers.....	vii
Requesting Classroom Assignment for Multiple Birth Siblings	vii
Parents of Students with Disabilities with Other School-Aged Children in the Home.....	vii
Request for the Use of a Service Animal	vii
Providing Assistance to Students Who Have Learning Difficulties or Who Need or May Need Special Education Services	vii
Parents of Students Who Speak a Primary Language Other than English.....	viii
Accommodations for Children of Military Families.....	viii
Student Records	viii
Directory Information.....	x
Release of Student Information to Military Recruiters and Institutions of Higher Education.....	x
SECTION II: OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS AND PARENTS	xi
ABSENCES/ATTENDANCE	xi
Compulsory Attendance	xi
Exemptions to Compulsory Attendance (Truancy Rules).....	xi
Failure to Comply with Compulsory Attendance (Truancy Rules).....	xii
Attendance for Credit or Final Grade.....	xii
Make-Up Days for Absences	xiii
Official Attendance-Taking Time.....	xiii
Documentation after an Absence	xiii
Doctor’s Note after an Absence for Illness	xiii
Homebound Students	xiv
If a student has serious medical reasons for not being able to attend school for 6 weeks or longer, they may apply for “Homebound” services. See your campus principal or counselor for more information.....	xiv
Driver License Attendance Verification	xiv
ACADEMICS, AWARDS, & HONORS	xiv
Academic Dishonesty	xiv
Dual Credit or Pre-Advanced Placement/ Honors	xiv
Pre-AP General Course Expectations/ Honors:.....	xiv
ARRIVAL AT SCHOOL	xv
BULLYING	xv
CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION (CTE) PROGRAMS	xvi
CELEBRATIONS	xvi

CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE AND OTHER MALTREATMENT OF CHILDREN	xvi
CLASS RANK / HIGHEST RANKING STUDENT	xvii
Grade point average:	xvii
Accelerated points:	xvii
Eligible courses:	xvii
Courses Not Eligible	xvii
Valedictorian and Salutatorian	xvii
Breaking Ties.....	xvii
Honor Graduates	xviii
CLASS SCHEDULES	xviii
COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY ADMISSIONS	xviii
COLLEGE CREDIT COURSES	xviii
COMPLAINTS AND CONCERNS.....	xix
CONDUCT.....	xix
Applicability of School Rules	xix
Disruptions of School Operations	xix
Social Events.....	xix
CONFERENCES.....	xix
CONTAGIOUS DISEASES / CONDITIONS.....	xx
See Student Illness under Health-Related Matters.	xx
COUNSELING.....	xx
Academic Counseling.....	xx
Personal Counseling	xx
Psychological Exams, Tests, or Treatment	xx
COURSE CREDIT.....	xx
CREDIT BY EXAM—If a Student Has Taken the Course	xx
CREDIT BY EXAM—If a Student Has Not Taken the Course.....	xxi
DATING VIOLENCE, DISCRIMINATION, HARASSMENT, AND RETALIATION.....	xxi
Dating Violence	xxi
Discrimination	xxi
Harassment	xxi
Sexual Harassment and Gender-Based Harassment.....	xxii
Retaliation	xxii
Reporting Procedures.....	xxii
Investigation of Report.....	xxii
DISCRIMINATION	xxiii
DISTANCE LEARNING.....	xxiii
DISTRIBUTION OF PUBLISHED MATERIALS OR DOCUMENTS.....	xxiii
School Materials.....	xxiii
Nonschool Materials...from students	xxiii
Nonschool Materials...from others	xxiv
DRESS AND GROOMING	xxiv
Shirts and Tops	xxiv
Pants, Shorts, Skirts, and Dresses.....	xxiv
Footwear	xxiv
Hair & Head Covering	xxiv
Facial Hair	xxv
Other Dress Guidelines.....	xxv
ELECTRONIC DEVICES AND TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES	xxv
Possession and Use of Personal Telecommunications Devices, Including Mobile Telephones.....	xxv
CELL PHONE POLICY - ELEMENTARY	xxvi

Possession and Use of Other Personal Electronic Devices	xxvi
Instructional Use of Personal Telecommunications and Other Electronic Devices	xxvi
Acceptable Use of District Technology Resources	xxvi
Unacceptable and Inappropriate Use of Technology Resources	xxvi
END –OF-COURSE (EOC) ASSESSMENTS	xxvi
EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES, CLUBS, AND ORGANIZATIONS	xxvii
Standards of Behavior	xxvii
<i>OFFICES AND ELECTIONS</i>	<i>xxvii</i>
FEES.....	xxviii
FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE	xxviii
FUND-RAISING	xxviii
GANG-FREE ZONES	xxix
GENDER-BASED HARASSMENT	xxix
GRADE CLASSIFICATION	xxix
GRADING GUIDELINES	xxix
High School Six Weeks Grading Policy	xxix
Middle School Six Weeks Grading Policy	xxix
Exemption from Final Exams:	xxix
GRADUATION	xxx
Requirements for a Diploma for a Student Enrolled in High School Prior to the 2015-2016 School Year	xxx
Requirements for a Diploma Beginning with the 2016-17 School Year	xxx
Testing Requirements for Graduation.....	xxx
Minimum, Recommended, and Advanced/Distinguished Achievement Graduation Programs.....	xxx
Foundation Graduation Program	xxxii
Personal Graduation Plans for Students under The Foundation Graduation Program.....	xxxiii
Available Course Options for all Graduation Programs.....	xxxiii
Certificates of Coursework Completion.....	xxxiii
Students with Disabilities.....	xxxiii
Graduation Activities.....	xxxiv
Graduation activities may include:	xxxiv
Graduation Speakers.....	xxxiv
Graduation Expenses.....	xxxiv
Scholarships and Grants	xxxiv
HARASSMENT.....	xxxv
HAZING.....	xxxv
HEALTH-RELATED MATTERS	xxxv
Student Illness	xxxv
When your child is ill, please contact the school to let us know he or she won't be attending that day. It is important to remember that schools are required to exclude students with certain illnesses from school for periods of time as identified in state rules. For example, if your child has a fever over 100 degrees, he or she must stay out of school until fever free for 24 hours without fever-reducing medications. In addition, students with diarrheal illnesses must stay home until they are diarrhea free without diarrhea-suppressing medications for at least 24 hours. A full list of conditions for which the school must exclude children can be obtained from the school nurse.....	xxxv
Bacterial Meningitis	xxxv
Food Allergies	xxxvi
Head Lice	xxxvi
Physical Activity for Students in Elementary and Middle School.....	xxxvii
School Health Advisory Council (SHAC)	xxxvii
HOMELESS STUDENTS	xxxviii
ILLNESS.....	xxxviii
IMMUNIZATION.....	xxxviii

KEY CARDS & STUDENT ID	xxxviii
As part of the campus security plan, High school and Middle school students will be issued a key card at the beginning of the school year, to provide them access to campus facilities. Students must have their student ID and key card on them at all times, and failure to be able to show their ID or their key card could result in disciplinary action. Loss of a key card will incur a fine of \$8.00 and loss of the student ID card will incur a fine of \$2.00. For more information, see the campus principal.....	
LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES	xxxviii
Questioning of Students	xxxviii
Students Taken Into Custody.....	xxxix
Notification of Law Violations	xxxix
LEAVING CAMPUS	xxxix
During Lunch	xl
At Any Other Time During the School Day	xl
LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENT STUDENTS	xl
LOST AND FOUND	xl
MAKEUP WORK	xli
Makeup Work Because of Absence	xli
DAEP Makeup Work.....	xli
In-school Suspension (ISS) Makeup Work	xli
MEDICINE AT SCHOOL	xli
Psychotropic Drugs	xlii
NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT	xlii
NONTRADITIONAL ACADEMIC PROGRAMS	xlii
ORGANIZATIONS	xliii
HIGH SCHOOL.....	xliii
MIDDLE SCHOOL	xliii
ELEMENTARY	xliii
PHYSICAL RESTRAINT	xliii
PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS / HEALTH SCREENINGS	xliii
PLEDGES OF ALLEGIANCE AND A MINUTE OF SILENCE	xliii
PRAYER	xliii
PROMOTION AND RETENTION	xliii
MIDDLE SCHOOL PROMOTION.....	xliv
RELEASE OF STUDENTS FROM SCHOOL	xliv
REPORT CARDS / PROGRESS REPORTS AND CONFERENCES	xlv
RETALIATION	xlv
SAFETY	xlv
Accident Insurance	xlv
Drills: Fire, Tornado, and Other Emergencies.....	xlv
Emergency Medical Treatment and Information.....	xlv
Emergency School-Closing Information.....	xlvi
SAT, ACT, AND OTHER STANDARDIZED TESTS	xlvi
SCHEDULE CHANGES	xlvi
SCHOOL FACILITIES	xlvi
Use by Students Before and After School.....	xlvi
Conduct Before and After School	xlvi
Use of Hallways During Class Time.....	xlvi

Cafeteria Services.....	xlvi
Library	xlvii
Meetings of Noncurriculum-Related Groups.....	xlvii
SCHOOL PHONE USE.....	xlvii
SEARCHES	xlvii
Students’ Desks and Lockers.....	xlvii
Telecommunications and Other Electronic Devices	xlviii
Vehicles on Campus	xlviii
Each year students must register their vehicles with the office and purchase a parking permit in order to park on campus. The cost of vehicle registration and parking permit is \$10.00 and must be purchased before students will be able to park on school property during school hours. The Parking Permit must be displayed properly attached to the rear-view mirror. Students must present a drivers license, proof of insurance, and vehicle tag number for registration purposes. Students must also park in assigned parking spots, or could have their vehicle towed.	xlviii
Trained Dogs.....	xlviii
Metal Detectors.....	xlviii
Drug-Testing	xlviii
SEXUAL HARASSMENT	xlviii
SPECIAL PROGRAMS	xlviii
STANDARDIZED TESTING	xliv
SAT/ACT (Scholastic Aptitude Test and American College Test).....	xliv
STAAR (State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness).....	xliv
TSI (Texas Success Initiative) Assessment	l
STEROIDS.....	l
STUDENTS IN FOSTER CARE	l
STUDENT SPEAKERS.....	l
SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION.....	l
SUICIDE AWARENESS.....	l
SUMMER SCHOOL.....	li
TARDINESS	li
TEXTBOOKS, ELECTRONIC TEXTBOOKS, TECHNOLOGICAL EQUIPMENT, AND OTHER INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS	li
TRANSFERS.....	li
TRANSPORTATION.....	li
School-Sponsored Trips.....	li
Buses and Other School Vehicles.....	li
VANDALISM	lii
VIDEO CAMERAS	lii
VISITORS TO THE SCHOOL.....	lii
General Visitors	lii
Visitors Participating in Special Programs for Students	lii
VOLUNTEERS	liii
VOTER REGISTRATION	liii
WITHDRAWING FROM SCHOOL	liii
GLOSSARY	liv
APPENDIX I:	
Freedom From Bullying Policy	lvi
Bullying Prohibited	lvi

Definition	lvi
Examples	lvi
Retaliation	lvi
Examples	lvi
False Claim.....	lvi
Timely Reporting	lvii
Reporting Procedures	lvii
Prohibited Conduct.....	lvii
Investigation of report	lvii
Concluding the Investigation	lvii
Notice to Parents	lvii
District Action	lvii
Appeal	lviii
Record Retention	lviii
Access to Policy and Procedures	lviii
As a student, I will:	lix
As a parent/guardian or family member I will:	lx
As a teacher, I will:	lx
As a student I will:	lxi

PREFACE

To Students and Parents:

Welcome to school year 2016-2017! Education is a team effort, and we know that students, parents, teachers, and other staff members all working together can make this a wonderfully successful year for our students.

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

Section I—PARENTAL RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES –information to assist you in responding to school-related issues. We encourage you to take some time to closely review this section of the handbook.

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

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

Both students and parents should become familiar with the Frankston ISD Student Code of Conduct, which is a document adopted by the board and intended to promote school safety and an atmosphere for learning. That document may be found on the district’s website at Frankstonisd.net and is available in hard copy upon request. The Student Handbook is a general reference guide only and is designed to be in harmony with board policy and the Student Code of Conduct. Please be aware that it is not a complete statement of all policies, procedures, or rules that may be applicable in a given circumstance.

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

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

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

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

Also, please complete and return to your child’s campus the following forms included in this handbook OR provided in the forms packet distributed at the beginning of the year or upon the student’s enrollment.

- Student and Parent Acknowledgment Form OR Acknowledgment of Electronic Distribution of Student Handbook form;
- Notice Regarding Directory Information and Parent’s Response Regarding Release of Student Information form;
- Parent’s Objection to the Release of Student Information to Military Recruiters and Institutions of Higher Education form, if you choose to restrict the release of information to these entities; and
- Consent/Opt-Out Form.

[See **Obtaining Information and Protecting Student Rights** and **Directory Information** for more information.]

Please note that references to policy codes are included so that parents can refer to current board policy. A district’s official policy manual is available for review in the superintendent’s office, and an unofficial electronic copy is available at www.franktonisd.net.

SECTION I: PARENTAL RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

This section of the Frankston ISD Student Handbook includes information related to the rights and responsibilities of parents as specified in state or federal law and provides parental notices required by law.

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

Working Together

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

- Encouraging your child to put a high priority on education and working with your child on a daily basis to make the most of the educational opportunities the school provides.
- Ensuring that your child completes all homework assignments and special projects and comes to school each day prepared, rested, and ready to learn.
- Becoming familiar with all of your child's school activities and with the academic programs, including special programs, offered in the district.
- Discussing with the counselor or principal any questions you may have about the options and opportunities available to your child.
- Reviewing the requirements of the graduation programs with your child once your child begins enrolling in courses that earn high school credit.
- Monitoring your child's academic progress and contacting teachers as needed. [See **Academic Counseling**.]
- 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 903-876-2556 for an appointment. The teacher will usually return your call or meet with you during his or her conference period or before or after school. [See **Report Cards/Progress Reports and Conferences**.]
- Becoming a school volunteer. [For further information, see policy GKG and **Volunteers** and contact (903)876-3219.]
- Participating in campus parent organizations. Parent organizations include: Class Parent sponsor, Athletic Booster, Band Booster, Dad's of Great Students, or SHAC Parents representative, Campus Plan Parents Representative.
- Serving as a parent representative on the district-level or campus-level planning committees, assisting in the development of educational goals and plans to improve student achievement. For further information, see BQA and BQB school board policies, and contact (903) 876 - 2556.
- Serving on the School Health Advisory Council (SHAC), assisting the district in ensuring local community values are reflected in health education instruction and other wellness issues. [See school board policies at BDF, EHAA, FFA, and information in this handbook at **School Health Advisory Council**.]
- Serving on a committee to determine criteria to be used to evaluate the overall performance of the district and each campus in community and student engagement. For further information, please contact the campus Principal.
- Being aware of the school's ongoing bullying and harassment prevention efforts.
- Contacting school officials if you are concerned with your child's emotional or mental well-being.
- Attending board meetings to learn more about district operations. [See school board policies BE and BED for more information.]

Parent Involvement Coordinator

The Parent Involvement Coordinator, who works with parents of students participating in Title I programs is Nicci Cook and may be contacted at (903) 876-2556.

PARENTAL RIGHTS

Obtaining Information and Protecting Student Rights

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

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

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

“Opting Out” of Surveys and Activities

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

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

Inspecting Surveys

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

Requesting Professional Qualifications of Teachers and Staff

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

Reviewing Instructional Materials

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

[Also see **Removing a Student Temporarily from the Classroom and Removing a Student from Human Sexuality Instruction** for additional information.]

Displaying a Student’s Artwork, Photos, and Other Original Work

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

Accessing Student Records

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

- Attendance records,
- Test scores,
- Grades,
- Disciplinary records,
- Counseling records,
- Psychological records,
- Applications for admission,
- Health and immunization information,
- Other medical records,
- Teacher and counselor evaluations,
- Reports of behavioral patterns
- State assessment instruments that have been administered to your child, and
- Teaching materials and tests used in your child's classroom

[See **Student Records**.]

Granting Permission to Video or Audio Record a Student

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

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

Granting Permission to Receive Parenting and Paternity Awareness Instruction

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

Removing a Student Temporarily from the Classroom

You may remove your child temporarily from the classroom if participation in an instructional activity 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.

Removing a Student from Human Sexuality Instruction

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

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

- Present abstinence from sexual activity as the preferred choice of behavior in relationship to all sexual activity for unmarried persons of school age;
- Devote more attention to abstinence from sexual activity than to any other behavior;
- Emphasize that abstinence is the only method that is 100 percent effective in preventing pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases, and the emotional trauma associated with adolescent sexual activity;
- Direct adolescents to a standard of behavior in which abstinence from sexual activity before marriage is the most effective way to prevent pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases; and

- If included in the content of the curriculum, teach contraception and condom use in terms of human use reality rates instead of theoretical laboratory rates.

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

Removing a Student from Class for Tutoring or Test Preparation Purposes

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Requesting Limited or No Contact with a Student through Electronic Media

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

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

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

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

Requesting Notices of Certain Student Misconduct

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

Prohibiting the Use of Corporal Punishment

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

If you do not want corporal punishment to be administered to your child as a method of student discipline, please submit a written statement or complete the parent statement prohibiting corporal punishment to the campus principal

stating this decision. A signed statement must be provided each year if you do not want corporal punishment to be administered to your child.

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

School Safety Transfers

As a parent, you may:

- Request the transfer of your child to another classroom or campus if your child has been determined by the district to have been a victim of bullying as the term is defined by Education Code 37.0832. Transportation is not provided for a transfer to another campus. See the superintendent for information.
- Consult with district administrators if your child has been determined by the district to have engaged in bullying and the district decides to transfer your child to another campus. Transportation is not provided in this circumstance.

[See **Bullying**, policy FDB, and policy FFI.]

- Request the transfer of your child to attend a safe public school in the district if your child attends school at a campus identified by TEA as persistently dangerous or if your child has been a victim of a violent criminal offense while at school or on school grounds. [See policy FDE (LOCAL).]
- Request the transfer of your child to a neighboring district if your child has been the victim of a sexual assault by another student assigned to the same campus, whether the assault occurred on or off campus, and that student has been convicted of or placed on deferred adjudication for that assault. [See policy FDE.]

Requesting Classroom Assignment for Multiple Birth Siblings

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

Parents of Students with Disabilities with Other School-Aged Children in the Home

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

Request for the Use of a Service Animal

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

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 school districts to meet the needs of all struggling students.

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

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

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

- Texas Project First, at <http://www.texasprojectfirst.org/>
- 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 contact to campus principal or counselor at (903) 876-3219 HS, (903) 876-2215 MS, (903) 876-2214 Elementary.

Students with Physical or Mental Impairment Protected under Section 504

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

The designated person to contact regarding a referral for evaluation applicable to section 504 is your campus counselor at 903-876-2556.

[Also see policy FB]

Parents of Students Who Speak a Primary Language Other than English

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

Accommodations for Children of Military Families

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

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

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

Additional information may be found at <http://www.tea.state.tx.us/index2.aspx?id=7995>.

Student Records

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

A parent or eligible student who provides a written request and pays copying costs of ten cents per page may obtain copies. If circumstances prevent inspection during regular school hours and the student qualifies for free or reduced-price meals, the district will either provide a copy of the records requested or make other arrangements for the parent or student to review these records. The address of the superintendent’s office is P.O. Box 428, Frankston, Texas 75763.

The address of the principals’ offices is: P.O. Box 428, Frankston, Texas 75763.

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

The district’s policy regarding student records found at FL (LEGAL) and (LOCAL) is available from the principal’s or superintendent’s office or on the district’s Web site at www.frankstonisd.net.

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

Please note:

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

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

Directory Information

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

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

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

- UIL Academic, Athletic, and other school related events
- School Sponsored Clubs: Spanish club, Band, Flags, Twirlers, FFA, FCCLA, Cheerleading, FCA, National Honor Society, Key Club, Yearbook, Chess, Robotics, Student Council, Class Officers, DARE program, Tribe and Braves programs, PAL program, and other school related clubs or organizations.
- School student pictures
- Honor Roll, school newspapers/communications, yearbook, school website and school social sites, recognition activities, and news releases.

For these specific school-sponsored purposes, the district has designated the following as directory information:

- Student’s name
- Address (?)
- Telephone listing (?)
- E-mail address
- Photograph
- Date and place of birth (?)
- Major field of study
- Degrees, honors, and awards received
- Dates of attendance
- Grade level
- Most recent school previously attended
- Participation in officially recognized activities and sports
- Weight and height, if a member of an athletic team

If you do not object to the use of your child’s information for these limited school-sponsored purposes, the school will not need to ask your permission each time the district wishes to use the information for the school-sponsored purposes listed above.

For all other purposes, the district has identified the following as directory information:

- Student name
- Student grade level
- Photograph

If you do not object to the use of your child’s information for these purposes, the school must release this information when the school receives a request from an outside entity or individual.

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

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

SECTION II: OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS AND PARENTS

Topics in this section of the handbook contain important information on academics, school activities, and school operations and requirements. Take a moment with your child to become familiar with the various issues addressed in this section. It is organized in alphabetical order to serve as a quick-reference when you or your child has a question about a specific school-related issue. Should you be unable to find the information on a particular topic, please contact Frankston administration offices at (903) 876-2556.

ABSENCES/ATTENDANCE

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

Compulsory Attendance

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

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

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

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

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

Exemptions to Compulsory Attendance (Truancy Rules)

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

- Religious holy days;
- Required court appearances;
- Activities related to obtaining United States citizenship;
- Service as an election clerk; and
- Documented health-care appointments for the student or a child of the student, including absences for recognized services for students diagnosed with autism spectrum disorders. A note from the health-care provider must be submitted upon the student’s arrival or return to campus; and
- For students in the conservatorship (custody) of the state,
 - Mental health or therapy appointments; or
 - Court-ordered family visitations or any other court-ordered activity provided it is not practicable to schedule the student’s participation in the activity outside of school hours.

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

Absences of up to two days in a school year will also be considered an exemption for a student serving as an early voting clerk, provided the district's board of trustees has authorized this in policy FEA(LOCAL), the student notifies his or her teachers, and receives approval from the principal prior to the absences.

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

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

Failure to Comply with Compulsory Attendance (Truancy Rules)

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

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

- Is absent without excuse from school on ten or more days or parts of days within a six-month period in the same school year, or
- Is absent without excuse on three or more days or parts of days within a four-week period.

For a student younger than 12 years of age, the student's parent could be charged with an offense based on the student's failure to attend school.

If a student age 12 through age 17 violates the compulsory attendance law, both the parent and student could be charged with an offense.

[See policy FEA (LEGAL).]

Attendance for Credit or Final Grade

To receive credit or a final grade 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 will be referred to the attendance review committee to determine whether there are extenuating circumstances for the absences and how the student can regain credit or a final grade lost because of absences. [See policy FEC.]

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

- All absences whether excused or unexcused, must be considered in determining whether a student has attended the required percentage of days. If makeup work is completed, partial absences (4 periods or less) for the reasons listed above at **Exemptions to Compulsory Attendance** will be considered days of attendance for this purpose.
- A transfer or migrant student begins to accumulate absences only after he or she has enrolled in the district.
- 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 or a final grade.

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

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

Make-Up Days for Absences

Students with less than 90% attendance will have the opportunity to receive credit by making up days. Make-up days must be completed by the last Friday of each semester. A student will be required to make-up the number of days needed to accumulate 90% attendance in a semester.

Official Attendance-Taking Time

The district must submit attendance of its students to Texas Education Agency (TEA) reflecting attendance at a specific time each day.

Official attendance is taken every day at 10:00 AM.

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

Documentation after an Absence

When a student must be absent from school, the student—upon returning to school—must bring a note signed by the parent that describes the reason for the absence and must report to the office and sign-in. The student will be issued an admit or pass to class which he/she will present to the teacher of the class for which he/she is arriving late.

A note signed by the student, even with the parent's permission, will not be accepted unless the student is 18 or older or is an emancipated minor under state law. A phone call from the parent may be accepted, but the district reserves the right to require a written note.

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

If a student returns to school after being absent and does not bring a note from home as specified above, the absence is automatically unexcused. It may be changed to excuse only if documentation is received in the attendance office within two days of the absence.

Doctor's Note after an Absence for Illness

Upon return to school, a student absent for more than 3 consecutive days because of a personal illness must bring a statement from a doctor or health clinic verifying the illness or condition that caused the student's extended absence from school. Otherwise, the student's absence may be considered unexcused and, if so, would be considered to be in violation of compulsory attendance laws.

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

[See policy FEC (LOCAL).]

Early Dismissal / Leaving Early

Students having to leave school early due to doctor, dental, court, or any other reason should present a letter signed and dated by the parent listing a phone number, release time, and reason early release to the office and obtain an Early Dismissal Permit. The early dismissal permit must be presented to the teacher at the beginning of class.

All students must be signed out at the office before leaving campus and sign back in upon return. The person picking up a student must come into the building and sign the student out before the student will be permitted to leave school property during school hours. Securing make-up work is the responsibility of the student.

Elementary students will receive an absence for every 3rd early dismissal. High school and Middle school students' attendance is evaluated on a period by period basis and are required to be in each period 90% of the time. For more information regarding the 90% attendance time, see **Attendance for Credit or Final Grade**.

If Sick

A student who becomes ill during the day should, with the teacher's permission, report to the school nurse. The nurse will decide whether or not the student should be sent home and will notify the student's parent to come to school and sign out the student. If the school nurse sends a student home due to illness, it is considered an excused absence, however, the student does not receive perfect attendance and the absence is calculated against other attendance requirements.

Homebound Students

If a student has serious medical reasons for not being able to attend school for 6 weeks or longer, they may apply for “Homebound” services. See your campus principal or counselor for more information.

Driver License Attendance Verification

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

ACADEMICS, AWARDS, & HONORS

The school counselor provides students and parents information regarding academic programs to prepare for higher education and career choices. [For more information, see Academic Counseling of this handbook and policies at EIF.]

Academic Dishonesty

Students found to have engaged in academic dishonesty shall be subject to grade penalties on assignments or tests and disciplinary penalties in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct. Academic dishonesty includes cheating or copying the work of another student, plagiarism, and unauthorized communication between students during an examination. The determination that a student has engaged in academic dishonesty shall be based on the judgment of the classroom teacher or another supervising professional employee, taking into consideration written materials, observation, or information from students.

Dual Credit or Pre-Advanced Placement/ Honors

Dual Credit refers to the process by which a high school student enrolls in a college course and receives simultaneous credit for the course from both the college and the high school. Dual credit courses include both academic courses as well as technical courses. Students begin by consulting their high school counselor to determine if dual credit courses are available and if the student is eligible for enrollment. Students must demonstrate college readiness through standardized test results and achieve the appropriate scores for Dual credit admission. Students must meet all of the college’s admission requirements and the prerequisites for each course. The high school counselor will help students with the admission, enrollment, and registration process. High school students taking college courses must conduct themselves as college students as expected in a collegiate classroom environment. For more information, see the TVCC Dual Credit Manual at <http://www.tvcc.edu/dual-credit/article.aspx?deptid=154&zoneid=363&articleid=2186>.

The purpose of the Pre-Advanced Placement (Pre-AP) courses is to give students the opportunity to develop skills that will enable them to be successful in college courses. Pre-AP courses are characterized by an immersion in rigorous content, an accelerated pace, and performance assessment at the synthesis and evaluative levels. Typically, successful Pre-AP students are task-oriented, proficient readers, able to prioritize their time, and have parental support.

Pre-AP General Course Expectations/ Honors:

Successful completion of each Pre-AP course requires individual study time outside of class on a regular basis. Students may need to purchase supplemental materials for some of the Pre-AP courses. For a student whose grade average for the first six weeks is less than 75, a student will be placed on probation and will be allowed to remain in the class until progress reports for the next nine weeks. At that time, if a student has an average below 75, he or she will be removed from the course and placed in a regular equivalent course. If at the end of the second nine weeks the grade drops to below 75, the student will be removed from the course and placed in a regular equivalent course.

Students beginning the second semester of a Pre-AP course must remain in the class throughout the semester. No individual student may retake a test; however the instructor has the discretion to retest a group of students if the test grade averages were extremely low. Students will be responsible for all summer assignments as required by the Pre-AP course taken. The summer assignments will be posted on the High School website. Late work will not be accepted for major assignments or projects. Further clarification of the late-work policy will be given by individual teachers. Individual integrity is a standard of excellence for Pre-AP students. All students are expected to do their own work. Each teacher will follow FISD policies and school procedures in dealing with any breach of the Honor Code.

Should a student want to request removal from a Pre-AP class, the student should obtain a Pre-AP Exit Form from the counselor's office, and complete the form, along with parent and teacher signatures. The exit form must be submitted to the counselor's office before the drop deadline.

ARRIVAL AT SCHOOL

The arrival of students on the school grounds before 7:20 a.m. is discouraged, as school personnel will not be on duty until then. Students who are eating breakfast may report to their campus cafeteria, otherwise students must report to the following locations:

High School students will report to the high school cafeteria. Students are not permitted to stand outside, sit in parking lots, visit other campuses, or go into classrooms until the bell rings.

Middle School students will report to the Middle school gym until time for class. Students are not permitted to stand outside, visit other campuses, or go to classrooms, unless their teacher is in their classroom and invites them to come to their room.

Elementary School students will report to the elementary gym and will lineup with their class, until they are released to go to their assigned classrooms.

A teacher may admit students who come early for tutorials or other valid purposes to the building, under their supervision.

BULLYING

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Upon the recommendation of the administration, the board may, in response to an identified case of bullying, decide to transfer a student found to have engaged in bullying to another classroom at the campus. In consultation with the student's parent, the student may also be transferred to another campus in the district if available. The parent of a student who has been determined by the district to be a victim of bullying may request that his or her child be transferred to another classroom or campus if available within the district. [Also see **School Safety Transfers**.]

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

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

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

CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION (CTE) PROGRAMS

FISD offers career and technology education programs in Agriculture, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, & Math), Business and Industry, Public Services, and Arts and Humanities. Admission to these programs is based on interest, aptitude, age appropriateness, class space availability, and pre-requisites.

It is the policy of FISD not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, or handicap in its vocational programs, services, or activities as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.

FISD will take steps to ensure that lack of English language skills will not be a barrier to admission and participation in all educational and vocational programs. For information about your rights or grievance procedures, contact the Title IX and 504 Coordinator, Nicci Cook, at PO Box 428, Frankston, Texas, 75763, 903.876.3219.

CELEBRATIONS

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

Also see **Food Allergies**.

CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE AND OTHER MALTREATMENT OF CHILDREN

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

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

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

As a parent, if your child is a victim of sexual abuse or other maltreatment, the 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 manage 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 websites 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 of abuse or neglect 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 RANK / HIGHEST RANKING STUDENT

All students who enter high school will do so under the grade point average system. Class rank will be given to students after their Junior year is complete, and after the 1st semester of their senior year. GPAs for high school students will be available any time after the end of the 1st semester of their freshman year.

Grade point average:

Grade point averages are cumulative. All final individual semester grades from eligible courses are assigned a grade point value from the equivalency scale listed below. The grade points are then added together and divided by the total number of eligible courses. The result is a grade point average (GPA). Colleges and universities prefer this method of reporting grades. Official GPAs for high school students will be computed after the end of each school year, with the exception of senior grades. Senior grades will be computed at the end of the 5th six weeks as per FISD Board policy.

Accelerated points:

For the purposes of rank only in the grade point average system, a weighted equivalency scale is used to assign value to the final semester grade of a course considered to be an accelerated course. All other courses are assigned value according to the regular equivalency scale.

Eligible courses:

The following courses are eligible to receive honors points under the class average system or receive the weighted grade points under the grade point system.

Pre-AP English I	Pre-Calculus	Biology II	Spanish
Pre-AP English II	PAP Physics	Web Technologies	Robotics
All Dual Credit Courses	Anatomy & Physiology	Other topics as available	

Courses Not Eligible

The following courses are not eligible to count towards final class rank for any student. However, this should not be confused with not counting as a credit. All these courses count as credit, but are not counted towards class rank.

All Physical Education All Athletic courses

It should be noted that the raw final scores on the transcript couldn't be used alone to compute the correct grade average or GPA. The above formulas must be used and the correct classes counted. Honors points are added in the calculation of class rank only and are not reflected on the transcript in any way. Obtaining a transcript from the registrar's office and applying the formulas correctly can compute accurate grade averages or GPAs. To calculate grades, see the Grade Equivalent Scale in the Course Selection Guide or see the High School Registrar.

Valedictorian and Salutatorian

The valedictorian and salutatorian shall be the eligible students with the highest and second highest ranking, respectively. To be eligible for such recognition, a student must:

1. Have been continuously enrolled in the District high school for four semesters immediately preceding graduation;
2. Have completed the Recommended Program or the Advanced/Distinguished Achievement Program for graduation.

Breaking Ties

In case of a tie in weighted numerical grade averages the District shall apply the following methods, in this order, to determine recognition as valedictorian or salutatorian:

1. Compute the weighted numerical grade average to a sufficient number of decimal places until the tie is broken.
2. Calculate a weighted numerical grade average using only grades earned in identified advanced courses. If the tie is not broken after applying these methods, the District shall recognize all students involved in the tie as sharing the honor and title.

Honor Graduates

The District shall recognize as an honor graduate each student who has earned a ranking as one of the top ten students. [For further information, see policy EIC.]

CLASS SCHEDULES

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

COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY ADMISSIONS

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

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

*Beginning with ninth graders in the 2014-2015 school year, to be eligible for automatic admission to a Texas four-year college or university, a student must be on track to graduate with the distinguished level of achievement under the foundation graduation program. This means that a student must graduate with at least one endorsement and must have taken Algebra II as one of the four required math courses.

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

The University of Texas at Austin may limit the number of students automatically admitted to 75 percent of the University's enrollment capacity for incoming resident freshmen. For students who are eligible to enroll in the University of Texas at Austin during the summer or fall 2015 term, the University will be admitting the top seven percent of the high school's graduating class who meet the above requirements. Additional applicants will be considered by the University through a holistic review process.

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

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

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

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; Enrollment dual credit course through the Texas Virtual School Network;
- Enrollment in courses taught in conjunction and in partnership with Trinity Valley Community College;
- Certain CTE courses.

Note that if a student wishes to enroll in a community college course that also results in the award of high school course credit at a college that does not include the high school within its service area, the student is limited by state law to enroll in no more than three courses at that particular college.

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

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

COMPLAINTS AND CONCERNS

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

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

CONDUCT

Applicability of School Rules

As required by law, the board has adopted a Student Code of Conduct that prohibits certain behaviors and defines standards of acceptable behavior—both on and off campus as well as on district vehicles—and consequences for violation of these standards. The district has disciplinary authority over a student in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct. Students and parents should be familiar with the standards set out in the Student Code of Conduct, as well as campus and classroom rules. During any periods of instruction during the summer months, the Student Handbook and Student Code of Conduct in place for the year immediately preceding the summer period shall apply, unless the district amends either or both documents for the purposes of summer instruction.

Disruptions of School Operations

Disruptions of school operations are not tolerated and may constitute a misdemeanor offense. As identified by law, disruptions include the following:

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

Social Events

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

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

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

CONFERENCES

One or more conferences shall be held during each year between a teacher and parents of a student if the student is not achieving the expected level of performance or presents some other problem to the teacher. The school encourages parents to be involved in their child's education. Parents wishing to schedule a conference with a teacher may make prior arrangements by calling the school office or by notifying the teacher. All teachers are assigned a

scheduled conference period during which time they may return calls to parents. Teachers will not be called from their classes unless the call is an emergency.

CONTAGIOUS DISEASES / CONDITIONS

See **Student Illness** under **Health-Related Matters**.

COUNSELING

Academic Counseling

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

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

Personal Counseling

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

[Also see **Substance Abuse Prevention and Intervention and Suicide Awareness**]

Psychological Exams, Tests, or Treatment

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

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

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 EXAM—If a Student Has Taken the Course

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

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

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

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

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

A student will be permitted to take an exam to earn credit for an academic course or subject area for which the student has had no prior instruction, i.e., for advancement, or to accelerate to the next grade level. The exams offered by the district are approved by the district's board of trustees, and state law requires the use of certain exams, such as College Board Advance Placement (AP) and College Level Examination Program (CLEP) tests, when applicable. The dates on which exams are scheduled during the current school year will be published in appropriate district publications and on the district's website. The only exceptions to the published dates will be for any exams administered by another entity besides the district. In this case, a student and the district must comply with the testing schedule of the other entity. During each testing window provided by the district, a student may attempt a specific exam only once.

A student in grade 6 or above will earn course credit with a passing score of at least 80 on the exam, a scaled score of 60 or higher on an exam administered through the CLEP, or a score of 3 or higher on an AP exam, as applicable. A student may take an exam to earn high school course credit no more than twice. If a student fails to achieve the designated score on the applicable exam before the beginning of the school year in which the student would need to enroll in the course according to the school's high school course sequence, the student must complete the course.

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

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

DATING VIOLENCE, DISCRIMINATION, HARASSMENT, AND RETALIATION

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

The board has established policies and procedures to prohibit and promptly respond to inappropriate and offensive behaviors that are based on a person's race, color, religion, gender, national origin, disability, or any other basis prohibited by law. A copy of the district's policy is available in the principal's office and in the superintendent's office. [See policy FFH.]

Dating Violence

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

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

Discrimination

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

Harassment

Harassment, in general terms, is conduct so severe, persistent, or pervasive that it affects the student's ability to participate in or benefit from an educational program or activity; creates an intimidating, threatening, hostile, or offensive educational environment; or substantially interferes with the student's academic performance. Examples of harassment may include, but are not limited to, offensive or derogatory language directed at a person's religious beliefs or practices, accent, skin color, or need for accommodation; threatening, intimidating, or humiliating

conduct; offensive jokes, name-calling, slurs, or rumors; physical aggression or assault; graffiti or printed material promoting racial, ethnic, or other negative stereotypes; or other kinds of aggressive conduct such as theft or damage to property.

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

Sexual Harassment and Gender-Based Harassment

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

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

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

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

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

Retaliation

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

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

Reporting Procedures

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

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

The district will promptly notify the parents of any student alleged to have experienced prohibited conduct involving an adult associated with the district. In the event alleged prohibited conduct involves another student, the district will notify the parents of the student alleged to have experienced the prohibited conduct when the allegations, if proven, would constitute a violation as defined by policy FFH.

Investigation of Report

To the extent possible, the district will respect the privacy of the student; however, limited disclosures may be necessary to conduct a thorough investigation and to comply with law. Allegations of prohibited conduct, which includes dating violence, discrimination, harassment, and retaliation, will be promptly investigated.

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

During the course of an investigation, the district may take interim action to address the alleged prohibited conduct.

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

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

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

DISCRIMINATION

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

DISTANCE LEARNING

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

The Texas Virtual School Network (TxVSN) has been established as one method of distance learning. A student has the option, with certain limitations, to enroll in a course offered through the TxVSN to earn course credit for graduation. Depending on the TxVSN course in which a student enrolls, the course may be subject to the "no pass, no play" rules. [Also see **Extracurricular Activities, Clubs, and Organizations.**] In addition, for a student who enrolls in a TxVSN course for which an end-of-course (EOC) assessment is required, the student must still take the corresponding EOC assessment.

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

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

The additional distance learning opportunities available to district students are our Dual credit program through TVCC.

If a student wishes to enroll in a correspondence course or a distance learning course that is not provided through the TxVSN in order to earn credit in a course or subject, the student must receive permission from the principal prior to enrolling in the course or subject. If the student does not receive prior approval, the district will not recognize and apply the course or subject toward graduation requirements or subject mastery.

DISTRIBUTION OF PUBLISHED MATERIALS OR DOCUMENTS

School Materials

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

The school newspapers and the yearbook are available to students.

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

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

Nonschool Materials...from students

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

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

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

Nonschool Materials...from others

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

Prior review will not be required for:

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

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

DRESS AND GROOMING

The district's dress code is established to teach grooming and hygiene, prevents disruption, and minimizes safety hazards. FISD is charged with the responsibility of maintaining an atmosphere conducive to learning. Meeting this responsibility entails providing not only a secure educational environment, but also standards of acceptable behavior and appearance among students. The campus administration shall have the right to appraise ANY fashion or fad and to determine whether it is appropriate to be worn to school.

The school administration shall have the authority to prohibit any student from wearing any article of clothing or any ornament if the administration believes the clothing or ornament is not with the guides of decent and appropriate attire or if it is distracting to other students or teachers.

It is the responsibility of the students and parents to be aware of the dress code and to comply with the rules so that they may determine their personal dress and grooming standards, provided that they comply with the following:

Shirts and Tops

- Styles permitted: Short or long sleeve in any color or print: T-shirts, polos, button-up dress shirts, hoodies, sweatshirts, sweaters, or blouses

Pants, Shorts, Skirts, and Dresses

- Styles permitted in any color or print
- Knee-length shorts, knee-length skirts or dresses (female students), jeans, slacks, non-fleece athletic/warm-up pants.

Footwear

- Styles permitted: Athletic shoes, loafers, dress shoes, boots or other appropriate closed toe shoes

Hair & Head Covering

- Caps, hats, or head coverings on campus are not permitted.
- Boy's hair length may not extend below the eyebrows, below the bottom of the earlobe, or the bottom of a conventional shirt collar.
- Boys shall not wear ponytails or have their hair pinned or tied up in any manner.
- Hair, at no time, should be in the student's eyes.
- Hair shall be a natural hair color.

- Symbols, words, or slogans cut into the hair are not permitted.
- Mohawks are not permitted.
- Any other hairstyle deemed by the campus administration to be distracting is not permitted.

Facial Hair

- Face must be clean-shaven.
- Beards, goatees, or mustaches are not permitted.
- Sideburns are not to extend below the bottom of the earlobe.

Other Dress Guidelines

- Clothing items may not be worn in any way that reflects gang affiliation, conceals contraband, or creates a distraction, including Gothic-like dress.
- All clothing must be properly hemmed, clean, and free from holes or tears and appropriately sized.
- Undershirts must be a solid color with no lettering or designs.
- See-through, provocative, or excessively tight clothing, i.e. spandex tights, shorts or pants and excessively tight shirts or skirts are not permitted.
- Boys may not wear earrings. Girls may wear no more than two earrings per ear. Nose rings, eyebrow rings, lip rings, tongue rings or earrings worn on other visible parts of the body are prohibited for all students. No piercing retainers or bandages will be allowed.
- All clothing must be appropriately sized in the shoulders, sleeves, and length.
- Tattoos, real or not, must be covered (This includes elementary).
- Excessive or distracting makeup/hair color/conspicuous fads are not permitted.
- Jewelry that would distract or cause undue attention is not to be worn.
- Dark glasses (unless prescribed by a physician) or “wild eyes” contacts are not permitted.
- Students must wear appropriate undergarments.
- Frankston ISD discourages the wearing of expensive jewelry and other apparel and is not responsible for lost or stolen items.
- Teachers/coaches/sponsors may define appropriate dress for school-sponsored trips.
- The student’s condition of cleanliness and personal hygiene shall be such that it does not offend other students or adults.

Should the Principal or Assistant Principal determine that a student’s grooming violates the dress code; the student shall be given an opportunity to correct the problem at school. If not corrected, the student will be disciplined as per the administrator’s discretion and can be up to in-school suspension for the remainder of the day or until the problem is corrected. A parent or designee can bring an acceptable change of clothing to school, but the student will not be excused to leave campus to change clothes and will go to ISS. Repeated offenses will result in more serious disciplinary action. Appropriate discipline procedures shall be followed in such cases.

The principal, in cooperation with the sponsor, coach, or other person in charge of an extracurricular activity, may regulate the dress and grooming of students who participate in the activity. For unique events, the campus administrator may establish event-specific dress code requirements. Students who violate those standards may be removed or excluded from the activity for a period determined by the principal or sponsor and may be subject to other disciplinary action.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES AND TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES

Possession and Use of Personal Telecommunications Devices, Including Mobile Telephones

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

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

If a student uses a telecommunications device without authorization during the school day, the device will be confiscated. The student/parent may pick up the confiscated telecommunications device from the principal’s office for a fee of \$15.

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

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

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

CELL PHONE POLICY - ELEMENTARY

For elementary students, cell phones may not be used at any time during the instructional day unless the student is instructed to do so by the teacher or another school employee. If cell phones are brought to school they must remain in the backpack and be on silent.

Possession and Use of Other Personal Electronic Devices

Except as described below, students are not permitted to possess or use personal electronic devices such as MP3 players, video or audio recorders, DVD players, cameras, games, e-readers, or other electronic devices at school, unless prior permission has been obtained. Without such permission, teachers will collect the items and turn them in to the principal’s office. The principal will determine whether to return items to students at the end of the day or to contact parents to pick up the items.

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

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

Instructional Use of Personal Telecommunications and Other Electronic Devices

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

Acceptable Use of District Technology Resources

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

Unacceptable and Inappropriate Use of Technology Resources

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

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

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

END –OF-COURSE (EOC) ASSESSMENTS

See **Graduation and Standardized Testing**.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES, CLUBS, AND ORGANIZATIONS

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

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

Eligibility for initial and continuing participation in many of these activities is governed by state law and the rules of the University Interscholastic League (UIL)—a statewide association overseeing inter-district competition. If a student is involved in an academic, athletic, or music activity governed by UIL, the student and parent are expected to know and follow all rules of the UIL organization. Students involved in UIL athletic activities and their parents can access the UIL Parent Information Manual at <https://www.uil texas.org/athletics/manuals>; a hard copy can be provided by the coach or sponsor of the activity on request. To report a complaint of alleged noncompliance with required safety training or an alleged violation of safety rules required by law and the UIL, please contact the curriculum division of the Texas Education Agency at (512) 463-9581 or curriculum@tea.state.tx.us.

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

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

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

- A student who receives at the end of a grading period a grade below 70 in any academic class—other than an Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate course; or an honors or dual credit course in English language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, economics, or language other than English—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 but may not participate in any competitive activity.
- A student is allowed in a school year up to 10 absences not related to post-district competition, a maximum of 5 absences for post-district competition prior to state, and a maximum of 2 absences for state competition. All extracurricular activities and public performances, whether UIL activities or other activities approved by the board, are subject to these restrictions.
- An absence for participation in an activity that has not been approved will receive an unexcused absence.
- If a student is placed in ISS (In School Suspension) during the week of an Extracurricular activity, the student may not participate until they complete all days assigned to ISS. They will be eligible at 3:33PM on their final day of ISS.

Standards of Behavior

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

[For further information, see policies at FM and FO. For student-organized, student-led groups, see **Meetings of Non curriculum-Related Groups**]

OFFICES AND ELECTIONS

Certain clubs, organizations, and performing groups will hold elections for student officers. Elective offices will be guided by the current applicable constitutions of the organization in question.

1. Class officers, officers of clubs, homecoming king and queen, cheerleaders, flags, band officers, drum major, annual honor positions, or other elective office positions will be elected according to the organization's constitution.

2. The Student Council is the only organization that is represented by the entire student body. It voices the opinion of the student in regard to good fellowship. It aims to cultivate a desire and practice support of all athletic contests. The Student Council zealously works for loyal interest in every worthwhile school activity.
3. Qualifications for elected membership or to any office must comply with those established and outlined in the Constitution of the Frankston High School Student Council.

FEES

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

- Costs for materials for a class project that the student will keep.
- Membership dues in voluntary clubs or student organizations and admission fees to extracurricular activities.
- Security deposits.
- Personal physical education and athletic equipment and apparel.
- Voluntarily purchased pictures, publications, class rings, yearbooks, graduation announcements, etc.
- Voluntarily purchased student accident insurance.
- Musical instrument rental and uniform maintenance, when uniforms are provided by the district.
- Personal apparel used in extracurricular activities that becomes the property of the student.
- Parking fees and student identification cards.
- Fees for lost, damaged, or overdue library books.
- Fees for driver training courses, if offered.
- Fees for optional courses offered for credit that requires use of facilities not available on district premises.
- Summer school for courses that are offered tuition-free during the regular school year.
- A reasonable fee for providing transportation to a student who lives within two miles of the school. [See **Buses and Other School Vehicles**]
- A fee not to exceed \$50 for costs of providing an educational program outside of regular school hours for a student who has lost credit or has not been awarded a final grade because of absences and whose parent chooses the program in order for the student to meet the 90 percent attendance requirement. The fee will be charged only if the parent or guardian signs a district-provided request form.
- In some cases, a fee for a course taken through the Texas Virtual School Network (TxVSN).

Any required fee or deposit may be waived if the student and parent are unable to pay. Application for such a waiver may be made to the club sponsor. [For further information, see policy FP.]

FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE

All campuses will utilize Friday Night Live in place of Saturday School for the current school year. It will be conducted after school on Friday from 3:40PM– 7:40PM. Transportation will not be provided. The program is intended for students who do not complete their class assignments, for attendance make up time, and in some cases, for disciplinary purposes. A teacher may assign a student Friday Night Live to provide students additional time to complete their assignments. Students will be provided with a snack and a drink around 5:30 P.M. Parents will be contacted no later than Thursday if their student is required to attend FNL for missing assignments or quizzes. Principals may contact parents at any time in order to schedule the FNL for discipline or attendance issues. Students who skip or fail to attend an assigned FNL, for attendance purposes, will not regain credits for classes until all time is served. Middle school students who skip or fail to attend an assigned FNL, for missing assignments or for discipline, will be required to serve 3 days ISS. High school students who skip or fail to attend an assigned FNL, for missing assignments or for discipline, will be required to serve 3 days ISS.

FUND-RAISING

Student groups or classes and/or parent groups may be permitted to conduct fund-raising drives for approved school purposes. An application for permission must be made to the campus principal at least 10 days before the event. Sponsors are encouraged to have only one major fundraiser per year. Minor fundraisers may be approved at the discretion of the appropriate principal. Student fund raising will be on a voluntary basis, and no adverse consequences or discipline shall be administered or implied to any student for not participating in a fundraiser or not reaching a particular sales quota. Rewards may be given for participation in fundraisers, but such rewards should be presented in a manner that does not demean those students who did not participate in the fundraiser or reach a certain quota. Fundraising activities shall not be permitted on other campuses without the express permission of the principal of that campus. [For further information, see policies at FJ and GE.]

GANG-FREE ZONES

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

GENDER-BASED HARASSMENT

[See **Dating Violence, Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation**]

GRADE CLASSIFICATION

Grade classification occurs at the beginning of each academic school year. Fourth year students still classified as juniors, who may earn enough credits to graduate that academic year, will be re-classified as seniors after successful completion of the first semester. Grade classification (promotion/retention) is based on total accumulated credits. Grade classification is as follows:

Grade Classification	Credits Earned
9 th	0 – 5.5
10 th	6 – 11.5
11 th	12 – 17.5
12 th	18 and above

GRADING GUIDELINES

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

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

High School Six Weeks Grading Policy

The six week grades are calculated in the following manner: Daily grades = 60%, Tests = 40%. The class averages are based on a minimum of 10 daily grades and a minimum of two test grades per six weeks. The daily grades should reflect a mixture of quizzes, class participation grades (including lab assignments), homework, and other instructionally appropriate assignments for individual subjects. Frankston High School students may be required to take examinations at the end of each six-week grading period at the instructional discretion of the classroom teacher.

Middle School Six Weeks Grading Policy

The six week grades are calculated in the following manner: Daily grades = 50%, Tests = 50%. The averages for classes are based on a minimum of 10 daily grades and a minimum of two test grades per six weeks. The daily grades should reflect a mixture of quizzes, class participation grades (including lab assignments), homework, and other instructionally appropriate assignments for individual subjects.

Exemption from Final Exams:

Exemption from Final Exams will be based on campus plan. Please see your campus principal for more information.

GRADUATION

Requirements for a Diploma for a Student Enrolled in High School Prior to the 2015-2016 School Year

To receive a high school diploma from the district, a student who was enrolled in high school prior to the 2015-2016 school year must successfully:

- Complete the required number of credits established by the state and any additional credits required by the district;
- Complete any locally required courses in addition to the courses mandated by the state; and

Achieve passing scores on certain end-of-course (EOC) assessments or approved substitute assessments, unless specifically waived as permitted by state law. Also see **Standardized Testing** for more information.

Requirements for a Diploma Beginning with the 2016-17 School Year

Beginning with students who entered grade 9 in the 2016–2017 school year, as well as any currently enrolled high school student who decides to graduate under the new foundation graduation program, must meet the following requirements to receive a high school diploma from the district:

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

Testing Requirements for Graduation

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

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

Also see **Grading Guidelines** above and **Standardized Testing** for more information.

Minimum, Recommended, and Advanced/Distinguished Achievement Graduation Programs

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

All students who were enrolled in high school prior to the 2014-15 school year must meet the following credit and course requirements for graduation under the programs listed or may choose to pursue the foundation graduation program as described in the **Foundation Graduation Program** section:

Courses	Number of Credits Minimum Program	Number of Credit Recommended Program	Number of Credits Distinguished Program
English/Language Arts	4.0	4.0	4.0
Mathematics	3.0	4.0	4.0
Science	2.0	4.0	4.0
Social Studies including Economics	3	4	4
Physical Education*	1.0	1.0	1.0
Speech	0.5	0.5	0.5
Language other than English		2.0	3.0
Fine Arts	1.0	1.0	1.0
Health	0.5	0.5	0.5
Technology Application	1.0	1.0	1.0
Electives**	6	4.0	3.0
Miscellaneous	N/A	N/A	–Completion of 4 Advanced Measures***
Total	22 credits	26 credits	26 credits

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

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

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

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

3. College academic courses, including those taken for dual credit, and advanced technical courses, including locally articulated courses, provided the student scores the equivalent of a 3.0 or higher.

Foundation Graduation Program

Every student in a Texas public school who enters grade 9 in the 2014-15 school year and thereafter will graduate under a new program called the “foundation graduation program.” Within the foundation graduation program are “endorsements,” which are paths of interest that include Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM); Business and Industry; Public Services; Arts and Humanities; and Multidisciplinary Studies. Endorsements earned by a student will be noted on the student’s transcript and diploma. The foundation graduation program also involves the term “distinguished level of achievement,” which reflects the completion of at least one endorsement and Algebra II as one of the required advanced mathematics credits. A personal graduation plan will be completed for each high school student, as described in the **Personal Graduation Plans for Students under the Foundation Graduation Program** section. State law and rules prohibit a student from graduating solely under the foundation graduation program without an endorsement unless, after the student’s sophomore year, the student and student’s parent are advised of the specific benefits of graduating with an endorsement and submit written permission to the school counselor for the student to graduate without an endorsement. A student who anticipates graduating under the foundation graduation program without an endorsement and who wishes to attend a four-year university or college after graduation must carefully consider whether this will satisfy the admission requirements of the student’s desired college or university.

Graduating under the foundation graduation program will also provide opportunities to earn “performance acknowledgments” that will be acknowledged on a student’s diploma and transcript. Performance acknowledgments are available for outstanding performance in bilingualism and biliteracy; in a dual credit course; on an AP or IB exam; on the PSAT, ACT-Plan, SAT, or ACT exam, which are national exams; or for earning a nationally or internationally recognized license or certificate. The criteria for earning these performance acknowledgments are prescribed by state rules, and the school counselor can provide more information about these acknowledgements.

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

The foundation graduation program requires completion of the following credits:

Course Area	Number of credits Foundation Graduation Program	Number of credits Foundation Graduation Program with an Endorsement
English/Language Arts	4	4
Mathematics	3	4*
Science	3	4
Social Studies, including Economics	3	3
Physical Education **	1	1
Language other than English***	2	2
Speech	.5	.5
Health	.5	.5
Fine Arts	1	1
Electives	4	6

Miscellaneous		Available Endorsements****: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math • Business and Industry • Public Services • Arts and Humanities • Multidisciplinary
TOTAL	22 credits	26 credits

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

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

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

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

Personal Graduation Plans for Students under The Foundation Graduation Program

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

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

Available Course Options for all Graduation Programs

Information regarding specific courses required or offered in each curriculum area will be distributed to students each spring in order to enroll in courses for the upcoming school year.

Please be aware that not all courses are offered at every secondary campus in the district. A student who wants to take a course not offered at his or her regular campus should contact the school counselor about a transfer or other alternatives. If the parents of at least 22 students request a transfer for those students to take a course in the required curriculum other than fine arts or CTE, the district will offer the course for the following year either by teleconference or at the school from which the transfers were requested.

Certificates of Coursework Completion

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

Students with Disabilities

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

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

[See policy FMH (LEGAL).]

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

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

Graduation Activities

Graduation activities may include:

- Baptist Church Luncheon
- Methodist Church Luncheon
- Baccalaureate
- Mother Daughter Sunday Tea
- Honors Banquet
- Senior Trip
- Project Graduation

Students who have met coursework requirements for graduation but have not yet demonstrated satisfactory performance on end-of-course assessments will be allowed to participate in graduation activities. However, please keep in mind that participating in the activities and ceremonies is not synonymous with graduating. Ultimately, the final awarding of a diploma will be contingent upon the student's completion of all applicable requirements for graduation.

Graduation Speakers

Certain graduating students will be given an opportunity to have speaking roles at graduation ceremonies.

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

[For student speakers at other school events, see **Student Speakers**.]

[See FNA (LOCAL) and the Student Code of Conduct.]

Graduation Expenses

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

Scholarships and Grants

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

HARASSMENT

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

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** and policies FFI and FNCC.]

HEALTH-RELATED MATTERS

Student Illness

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

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

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

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

Bacterial Meningitis

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

- What is meningitis?

Meningitis is an inflammation of the covering of the brain and spinal cord. It can be caused by viruses, parasites, fungi, and bacteria. Viral meningitis is most common and most people recover fully. Parasitic and fungal meningitis are very rare. Bacterial meningitis is very serious and may involve complicated medical, surgical, pharmaceutical, and life support management. What are the symptoms?

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

Children (over 2 years old) and adults with meningitis commonly have a severe headache, high fever, and neck stiffness. Other symptoms might include nausea, vomiting, discomfort looking into bright lights, confusion, and sleepiness. In both children and adults, there may be a rash of tiny, red-purple spots. These can occur anywhere on the body.

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

- How serious is bacterial meningitis?

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

- How is bacterial meningitis spread?

Fortunately, none of the bacteria that cause meningitis are as contagious as diseases like the common cold or the flu, and they are not spread by casual contact or by simply breathing the air where a person with meningitis has

been. They are spread when people exchange respiratory or throat secretions (such as by kissing, coughing, or sneezing).

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

- How can bacterial meningitis be prevented?

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

There are vaccines available to offer protection from some of the bacteria that cause bacterial meningitis.* The vaccine is safe and effective (85–90 percent). They can cause mild side effects, such as redness and pain at the injection site lasting up to two days. Immunity develops within seven to ten days after the vaccine is given and lasts for up to five years.*

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

You should seek prompt medical attention.

- Where can you get more information?

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

* Please note that the TDSHS requires at least one meningococcal vaccination between grades 7 and 10, and state guidelines recommend this vaccination be administered between age 11 and 12, with a booster dose at 16 years of age. Also note that entering college students must show, with limited exception, evidence of receiving a bacterial meningitis vaccination within the five-year period prior to enrolling in and taking courses at an institution of higher education. Please see the school nurse for more information, as this may affect a student who wishes to enroll in a dual credit course taken off campus.

Also refer to **Immunizations** for more information.

Food Allergies

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

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

Head Lice

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

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

Physical Activity for Students in Elementary and Middle School

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

Students in middle or junior high school will engage in 225 minutes of moderate or vigorous physical activity within each two-week period for at least four semesters. For additional information on the district's requirements and programs regarding elementary, middle, and junior high school student physical activity requirements, please see the principal.

School Health Advisory Council (SHAC)

During the preceding school year, the district's School Health Advisory Council held 8 meetings. Additional information regarding the district's School Health Advisory Council is available from the school nurse. [See also policies at BDF and EHAA.]

The duties of the SHAC range from recommending curriculum to developing strategies for integrating curriculum into a coordinated school health program encompassing issues such as school health services, counseling services, a safe and healthy school environment, recess recommendations, improving student fitness, mental health concerns, and employee wellness. See policies at BDF and EHAA. [See **Removing a Student from Human Sexuality Instruction** for additional information.]

Physical Fitness Assessment

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

Vending Machines

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

Tobacco Prohibited

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

The district and its staff strictly enforce prohibitions against the use of all tobacco products, including electronic cigarettes or any other electronic vaporizing device, by students and others on school property and at school-sponsored and school-related activities. Students in possession of tobacco during the school day may be subject to a citation from law enforcement and disciplinary action. [See the Student Code of Conduct and policies at FNCD and GKA.]

Asbestos Management Plan

The district works diligently to maintain compliance with federal and state law governing asbestos in school buildings. A copy of the district's Asbestos Management Plan is available in the superintendent's office. If you have any questions or would like to examine the district's plan in more detail, please contact Chris White, the district's designated asbestos coordinator, at (903) 876-5980.

Pest Management Plan

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 Chris White, the district's IPM coordinator, at (903) 876-5980.

HOMELESS STUDENTS

For more information on services for homeless students, contact the district's Liaison for Homeless Children and Youths, Nicci Cook, at (903) 876-2556.

ILLNESS

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

IMMUNIZATION

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

The immunizations required are: diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis; measles, mumps, and rubella; polio; hepatitis A, hepatitis B, varicella (chicken pox), and meningococcal. The school nurse can provide information on age-appropriate doses or on an acceptable physician-validated history of illness required by the TDSHS. Proof of immunization may be established by personal records from a licensed physician or public health clinic with a signature or rubber-stamp validation.

If a student should not be immunized for medical reasons, the student or parent must present a certificate signed by a U.S. licensed physician stating that, in the doctor's opinion, the immunization required poses a significant risk to the health and well-being of the student or a member of the student's family or household. This certificate must be renewed yearly unless the physician specifies a life-long condition.

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

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

KEY CARDS & STUDENT ID

As part of the campus security plan, High school and Middle school students will be issued a key card at the beginning of the school year, to provide them access to campus facilities. Students must have their student ID and key card on them at all times, and failure to be able to show their ID or their key card could result in disciplinary action. Loss of a key card will incur a fine of \$8.00 and loss of the student ID card will incur a fine of \$2.00. For more information, see the campus principal.

LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

Questioning of Students

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

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

Students Taken Into Custody

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

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

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

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

Notification of Law Violations

The district is required by state law to notify:

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

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

LEAVING CAMPUS

Student attendance is crucial and every period absent is a missed opportunity for learning. Appointments should be scheduled outside of school hours whenever possible. Also note that picking up a child early on a regular basis results in missed opportunities for learning. A student will not regularly be released before the end of the school day, unless the principal has granted approval because of extenuating circumstances.

State rules require that parental consent be obtained before any student is allowed to leave campus for any part of the school day. Failure to obtain parent permission or properly sign out will result in an "unexcused" absence for class periods missed and the student will be subject to disciplinary action. The district has put the following procedures in place in order to document parental consent:

- **For students in elementary and middle school**, a parent or otherwise authorized adult must come to the office and sign the student out. Please be prepared to show identification. Once identity is verified, a campus representative will call for the student or collect the student and bring him or her to the office. For safety purposes and stability of the learning environment, we cannot allow you to go to the classroom or other area unescorted to pick up the student. If the student returns to campus the same day, the parent or authorized adult must sign the student back in through the main office upon the student's return. Documentation regarding the reason for the absence will also be required.
- **For students in high school**, a parent or otherwise authorized adult must come to the office and sign the student out. Please be prepared to show identification. A campus representative will call for the student or collect the student and bring him or her to the office. We cannot allow you to go to the classroom or other area unescorted to pick up the student. If the student's parent will authorize the student to leave campus unaccompanied, a note provided by the parent must be submitted to the main office two hours prior to the student's need to leave campus. A phone call from the parent may be accepted, but the school may

ultimately require a note to be submitted for documentation purposes. Once the office has received notice that the student's parent consents to the student leaving campus, a pass will be issued to the student to hand to his or her teacher with the necessary information. The student is required to report to the main office to must sign out and to sign in upon his or her return. If a student is 18 years of age or is an emancipated minor, the student may produce a note on his or her own behalf. Documentation regarding the reason for the absence will be required. **If a student becomes ill during the school day** and the school nurse or other district personnel determines that the student should go home, the nurse will contact the student's parent and document the parent's wishes regarding release from school. Unless directed by the parent to release the student unaccompanied, the parent or other authorized adult must follow the sign-out procedures as listed above. If a student is age 18, an emancipated minor, or allowed to leave campus by himself or herself or as permitted by the student's parent, the nurse will document the time of day the student was released. Under no circumstances will a child in elementary or middle school be released unaccompanied by a parent or adult authorized by the parent.

During Lunch

Frankston ISD is a closed campus and no students are allowed to leave during lunch without parental consent, and must adhere to the sign out procedures listed above. Failure to sign out is considered skipping school and will result in disciplinary action.

At Any Other Time During the School Day

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

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

LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENT STUDENTS

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

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

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

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

LOST AND FOUND

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

MAKEUP WORK

Makeup Work Because of Absence

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

A student will be responsible for obtaining and completing the makeup work in a satisfactory manner and within the time specified by the teacher. A student who does not make up assigned work within the time allotted by the teacher will receive a grade of zero for the assignment.

A student is encouraged to speak with his or her teacher if the student knows of an absence ahead of time, including absences for extracurricular activities, so that the teacher and student may plan any work that can be completed before or shortly after the absence. Please remember the importance of student attendance at school and that, even though absences may be excused or unexcused, all absences account for the 90 percent threshold in regards to the state laws surrounding “attendance for credit or final grade.” [See also **Attendance for Credit or Final Grade**]

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

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

DAEP Makeup Work

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

In-school Suspension (ISS) Makeup Work

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

MEDICINE AT SCHOOL

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Psychotropic Drugs

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

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

NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

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

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

- Title IX Coordinator, for concerns regarding discrimination on the basis of gender, including sexual harassment or gender-based harassment: Nicci Cook, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, 100 Perry St., Frankston, Texas 75763, (903)876-2556.
- ADA/Section 504 Coordinator, for concerns regarding discrimination on the basis of disability: Cindy Owens, Counselor, (903) 876 -3219.
- All other concerns regarding discrimination: See the superintendent, Mr. John Allen, 100 Perry St., Frankston, Texas 75763, (903)876-2556.

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

NONTRADITIONAL ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

[See **Requirements for a Diploma**]

ORGANIZATIONS

HIGH SCHOOL

Band, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Flags, Cheerleaders, Student Leadership Committee, Student Council, National Honor Society, Chess, Future Farmers of America, Rodeo, Bass Fishing, Friendship, and Yearbook

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Band, Student Council, Cheerleaders, Rodeo, Tribe, Chess, Friendship, Principle's Advisory Committee

ELEMENTARY

Peer Assistance Leadership, B.R.A.V.E.S

PHYSICAL RESTRAINT

Any district employee may, within the scope of the employee's duties, use and apply physical restraint to a student that the employee reasonably believes is necessary in order to:

- Protect a person, including the person using physical restraint, from physical injury
- Obtain possession of a weapon or other dangerous object
- Protect property from serious damage
- Remove from a specific location a student refusing a lawful command of a school employee, including from a classroom or other school property, in order to restore order or impose disciplinary measures
- Restrain an irrational students

PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS / HEALTH SCREENINGS

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

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

Students are required to undergo a risk assessment for type 2 diabetes at the same time the district screens students for hear and vision issues, or for abnormal spinal curvatures.

Also see policy FFAA.

PLEDGES OF ALLEGIANCE AND A MINUTE OF SILENCE

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

One minute of silence will follow recitation of the pledges. Each student may choose to reflect, pray, meditate, or engage in any other silent activity during that minute so long as the silent activity does not interfere with or distract others. In addition, state law requires that each campus provide for the observance of one minute of silence at the beginning of the first class period when September 11 falls on a regular school day in remembrance of those who lost their lives on September 11, 2001.

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

PRAYER

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

PROMOTION AND RETENTION

A student will be promoted only on the basis of academic achievement or demonstrated proficiency in the subject matter of the course or grade level, the recommendation of the student's teacher, the score received on any criterion-referenced or state-mandated assessment, and any other necessary academic information as determined by the

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

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

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

If a student in grade 5 or 8 is enrolled in a course that earns high school credit and for which an end-of-course (EOC) assessment will be administered, the student will not be subject to the promotion requirements described above for the relevant grade 5 or 8 assessment. However, for federal accountability purposes, the student may be required to take both the grade level assessment and EOC assessment.

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

[See **Standardized Testing**.]

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

A student in grade 5 or 8 will have two additional opportunities to take a failed assessment. If a student fails a second time, a grade placement committee, consisting of the principal or designee, the teacher, and the student's parent, will determine the additional special instruction the student will receive. After a third failed attempt, the student will be retained; however, the parent can appeal this decision to the committee. In order for the student to be promoted, based on standards previously established by the district, the decision of the committee must be unanimous and the student must complete additional special instruction before the end of the first 6 weeks of the next grade level. Whether the student is retained or promoted, an educational plan for the student will be designed to enable the student to perform at grade level by the end of the next school year. [See policies at EIE.]

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

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

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

For information related to the development of personal graduation plans for high school students, see **Personal Graduation Plans for Students under the Foundation Graduation Program**.

MIDDLE SCHOOL PROMOTION

To be promoted from one grade to the next, students shall attain an average of 70 or above for the year in three of the following subjects: Language Arts, Mathematics, Social Studies and Science. Promotion may also be affected by the results of student performance or the TAKS/STAAR test.

RELEASE OF STUDENTS FROM SCHOOL

[See **Leaving Campus**]

REPORT CARDS / PROGRESS REPORTS AND CONFERENCES

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

During the sixth week of a six-week grading period, parents will be given a written progress report if their child's performance is near or below 70, or is below the expected level of performance. If the student receives a grade lower than 70 in any class or subject at the end of a grading period, the parent will be requested to schedule a conference with the teacher of that class or subject. [See **Section I - Working Together** for how to schedule a conference.]

Teachers follow grading guidelines that have been approved by the principal pursuant to the board-adopted policy and are designed to reflect each student's relative mastery of each assignment for the grading period, semester, or course. State law provides that a test or course grade issued by a teacher cannot be changed unless the board determines that the grade was arbitrary or contains an error, or that the teacher did not follow the district's grading policy. [See policy EIA (LOCAL) and **Grading Guidelines**.]

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

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

Report cards and unsatisfactory progress reports must be signed by the parent and returned to the school within 7 days. Failure to do so will result in disciplinary action.

RETALIATION

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

SAFETY

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

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

Accident Insurance

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

Drills: Fire, Tornado, and Other Emergencies

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

Emergency Medical Treatment and Information

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

Emergency School-Closing Information

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

If the campus must close, delay opening, or restrict access to the building because of an emergency, the district will alert the community in the following ways:

- District will send out an Sky-Alert message via phone informing as many parents as possible
- Local Media will be contacted in bad weather situations
- Face book and Twitter maybe utilized depending on the extent of the situation.

In the event of bad weather or other disastrous situations, listen to the following radio and TV stations for school closing announcements:

KNUE 101.5 FM

***KTBB 600AM
Channel 56***

KLTV Channel 7

KETK

SAT, ACT, AND OTHER STANDARDIZED TESTS

See **Standardized Testing**.

SCHEDULE CHANGES

Students are able to request a schedule change for two weeks after the semester begins. However, requests will only be granted to meet graduation requirements or class credit needs and will be based on class availability.

SCHOOL FACILITIES

Use by Students Before and After School

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

The following areas are open to students beginning at 7:20AM

- For Elementary students: The elementary cafeteria and the elementary gym.
- For Middle school students: The HS cafeteria or the MS gym.
- For HS students: The HS cafeteria or the HS commons.

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

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

Conduct Before and After School

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

Use of Hallways During Class Time

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

Cafeteria Services

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

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

Prices are as follows:

	Elementary	Secondary	Adult	Visitor
Breakfast	1.85	1.85	2.15	2.40
Lunch	2.55	2.55	3.55	3.80

Breakfast Reduced - \$0.30 all campuses

Lunch Reduced - \$0.40 all campuses

The high school, middle school and elementary school cafeterias use a computer system to control lunch fees. This system allows students to deposit money in their account to be used for purchases. Weekly or monthly deposits are preferred. Students may also pay daily for their lunches.

The High school, Middle school, and Elementary campuses are closed campuses. Students may not leave campus for lunch. Students can bring their own lunch, or have a parent or grandparent drop off a lunch to the campus office for them. Students and parents may not bring food for other children.

Visitors: All visitors must check in at the office, and obtain a visitors pass. The only visitors allowed to sit with students during lunch are parents, grandparents, Youth Directors, or military servicemen who are in uniform. All visitors are required to be dressed appropriately – no shorts or halter tops. The Elementary campus may allow other visitors at the discretion of the campus principal.

Library

The library is a learning laboratory with books, computers, magazines, and other materials available for classroom assignments, projects, and reading or listening pleasure. The library is open for independent student use during school hours

For more information regarding library policies, please visit <http://www.frankstonisd.net/webpages/library/>

Meetings of Noncurriculum-Related Groups

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

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

SCHOOL PHONE USE

School telephones are to be used only to conduct school related business. Students are prohibited from using school phones in classrooms if it does not relate to school content/instruction. Phone calls may be made in the office after receiving permission from an adult staff member in the office. Calls are limited and may be refused. Students must state who is being called and the reason for the call. Permission to use the phone by office aides is not considered official permission.

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 suspicion to believe that they contain articles or materials prohibited by policy, whether or not a student is present.

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

Telecommunications and Other Electronic Devices

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

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

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

Vehicles on Campus

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

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

Each year students must register their vehicles with the office and purchase a parking permit in order to park on campus. **The cost of vehicle registration and parking permit is \$10.00 and must be purchased before students will be able to park on school property during school hours.** The Parking Permit must be displayed properly attached to the rear-view mirror. Students must present a drivers license, proof of insurance, and vehicle tag number for registration purposes. Students must also park in assigned parking spots, or could have their vehicle towed.

Trained Dogs

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

Metal Detectors

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

Drug-Testing

Frankston ISD has determined a need to implement a program of random drug testing of students in grades 7–12 as a condition of their participation in extracurricular activities and/or as a condition of obtaining/maintaining a permit to park on campus. Any parent/guardian whose minor student in grades 7–12 is not subject to the District's mandatory drug-testing program for extracurricular activities and/or parking permits may request that his or her child be tested under the District's drug-testing program. The cost of the testing under this program shall be the responsibility of the parent/guardian.

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

SEXUAL HARASSMENT

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

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

The district provides special programs for gifted and talented students, homeless students, bilingual students, migrant students, students with limited English proficiency or who are English language learners, dyslexic students, and students with disabilities. The coordinator of each program can answer questions about eligibility requirements, as well as programs and services offered in the district or by other organizations. A student or parent with questions about these programs should contact Nicci Cook (903) 876-2556.

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 at the end of the junior year. The Preliminary SAT (PSAT) and ACT-Plan are the corresponding preparatory and readiness assessments for the SAT and ACT. Beginning in April 2014, the ACT-Plan has been replaced by the ACT-Aspire, and more information can be obtained on these assessments from the school counselor.

Note that participation in these assessments may qualify a student to receive a performance acknowledgement on his or her diploma and transcript under the foundation graduation program and may qualify as a substitute for an end-of-course testing requirement in certain circumstances.

STAAR (State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness)

Grades 3–8

In addition to routine tests and other measures of achievement, students at certain grade levels will take state-mandated assessments, such as the STAAR, in the following subjects:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Also see **Course Credit**, **Grading Guidelines**, and **Graduation** for additional information.

TSI (Texas Success Initiative) Assessment

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

STEROIDS

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

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

Students participating in UIL athletic competition may be subject to random steroid testing. More information on the UIL testing program may be found on the UIL Web site at <http://www.uil texas.org/health/steroid-information>.

STUDENTS IN FOSTER CARE

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

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

STUDENT SPEAKERS

The district provides students the opportunity to introduce the following school events: At the beginning of each school year the principal of each campus in the District shall establish the anticipated public speaking opportunities for students to introduce events or speakers and shall provide notice to campus students of those volunteer opportunities. As other opportunities become known to the principal, the principal may add to the list. If a student meets the eligibility criteria and wishes to introduce one of the school events listed, the student should submit his or her name in accordance with policy FNA (LOCAL).

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

SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION

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

SUICIDE AWARENESS

The district is committed to partnering with parents to support the healthy mental, emotional, and behavioral development of its students. If you are concerned about your child, please access the following Web sites or contact the school counselor for more information related to suicide prevention and to find mental health services available in your area:

- <http://www.texassuicideprevention.org>
- <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/mhservices-search/>

SUMMER SCHOOL

Students may enroll in an accredited summer school to earn credit to accelerate or enrich their academic program or to earn credit in courses they failed during the school year. Students who failed one or more of the EOC exams or STAAR tests for grades 3 thru 12 may be required to attend a remediation course in order to prepare for retesting in July (check with school office for exam re-take dates).

TARDINESS

It should be part of the student's training to learn the importance of punctuality. Late arrivals at school disrupt class procedures as well as create a hardship for the child. When the bell rings to begin class teacher will shut their doors and students should be in the classroom.

In Middle School and High School, a student who is tardy to class by more than 20 minutes will be counted absent.

Repeated instances of tardiness will result in more severe disciplinary action, in accordance with the campus plan. See your campus principal for more information.

TEXTBOOKS, ELECTRONIC TEXTBOOKS, TECHNOLOGICAL EQUIPMENT, AND OTHER INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

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

TRANSFERS

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

[See **School Safety Transfers, Bullying, and Providing Assistance to Students Who Have Learning Difficulties or Who Need or May Need Special Education Services**, for other transfer options.]

TRANSPORTATION

School-Sponsored Trips

Students who participate in school-sponsored trips are required to use transportation provided by the school to and from the event. As approved by the principal, a coach or sponsor of an extracurricular activity may establish procedures related to making an exception to this requirement when a parent requests that the student be released to the parent or to another adult designated by the parent.

Buses and Other School Vehicles

The district makes school bus transportation available to all students living two or more miles from school. This service is provided at no cost to students.

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

The district has identified the following areas where hazardous conditions exist for student who live within two miles from the campus: None known at time of publication.

Because student in these areas might encounter hazardous conditions when traveling to and from school independently, the district will provide transportation to these students. Please contact Byron Struve for additional information.

A parent may also designate a child-care facility or grandparent's residence as the regular pickup and drop-off location for his or her child. The designated facility or residence must be on an approved stop on an approved route.

For information on bus routes and stops or to designate an alternate pickup or drop-off location, you may contact (903) 876-2556 and ask to speak to the transportation secretary.

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

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

- Follow the driver's directions at all times.
- Enter and leave the bus or van in an orderly manner at the designated stop.
- Keep feet, books, instrument cases, and other objects out of the aisle.
- Not deface the vehicle or its equipment.
- Not put head, hands, arms, or legs out of the window, hold any object out of the window, or throw objects within or out vehicle.
- Not possess or use any form of tobacco on any school vehicle.
- Observe all usual classroom rules.
- Be seated while the vehicle is moving.
- Fasten their seat belts, if available.
- Wait for the driver's signal upon leaving the vehicle and before crossing in front of the vehicle.
- Follow any other rules established by the operator of the vehicle.

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

VANDALISM

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

VIDEO CAMERAS

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

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

VISITORS TO THE SCHOOL

General Visitors

Parents and others are welcome to visit district schools. For the safety of those within the school and to avoid disruption of instructional time, all visitors must first report to the principal's office and must comply with all applicable district policies and procedures. When arriving on campus, all parents and other visitors should be prepared to show identification.

Visits to individual classrooms during instructional time are permitted only with approval of the principal and teacher and only so long as their duration or frequency does not interfere with the delivery of instruction or disrupt the normal school environment. Even if the visit is approved prior to the visitor's arrival, the individual must check in at the principal's office first. FHS will not allow graduated students, older boyfriends, older girlfriends, cousins or ex-students to visit students or instructors during the school day.

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

Visitors Participating in Special Programs for Students

During various programs, the district invites representatives from colleges and universities and other higher education institutions, prospective employers, and military recruiters to present information to interested students.

VOLUNTEERS

We appreciate so much the efforts of parent and grandparent volunteers that are willing to serve our district and students. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Mrs. Nicci Cook at 903-876-2556 for more information and to complete an application.

VOTER REGISTRATION

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

WITHDRAWING FROM SCHOOL

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

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

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

GLOSSARY

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

ACT-Aspire refer to an assessment that took the place of ACT-Plan and is designed as a preparatory and readiness assessment for the ACT. This is usually taken by students in grade 10.

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

ARD is the Admission, Review, and Dismissal Committee convened for each student who is identified as needing a full and individual evaluation for special education services. The eligible student and his or her parents are members of the committee.

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

Cyber bullying involves the use of information and communication technologies to support deliberate, repeated, and hostile behavior by an individual or group that is intended to harm others. "Cyber bullying" is when a child, preteen or teen is tormented, threatened, harassed, humiliated, embarrassed or otherwise targeted by another child, preteen or teen using the Internet, interactive and digital technologies or mobile phones. It has to have a minor on both sides, or at least have been instigated by a minor against another minor.

DAEP stands for Disciplinary Alternative Education Program, a placement for students who have violated certain provisions of the Student Code of Conduct.

EOC assessments are end-of-course tests, which are state-mandated, and are part of the STAAR program. Successful performance on EOC assessments will be required for graduation. These exams will be given in English I, English II, Algebra I, Biology, and United States History.

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

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

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

PSAT is the preparatory and readiness assessment for the SAT.

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

SHAC stands for School Health Advisory Council, a group of at least five members, a majority of whom must be parents, appointed by the school board to assist the district in ensuring that local community values and health issues are reflected in the district's health education instruction, along with providing assistance with other student and employee wellness issues.

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

STAAR is the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness, the state's system of standardized academic achievement assessments, effective beginning with certain students for the 2011–2012 school year.

STAAR Alternate is an alternative state-mandated assessment designed for students with severe cognitive disabilities receiving special education services who meet the participation requirements, as determined by the student's ARD committee.

STAAR Linguistically Accommodated (STAAR L) is an alternative state-mandated assessment with linguistic accommodations designed for certain recent immigrant English language learners.

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

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

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

TSI assessment is the Texas Success Initiative assessment designed to measure the reading, mathematics, and writing skills that entering college-level freshmen students should have if they are to be successful in undergraduate programs in Texas public colleges and universities.

TxVSN is the Texas Virtual School Network, which provides online courses for Texas students to supplement the instructional programs of public school districts. Courses are taught by qualified instructors, and courses are equivalent in rigor and scope to a course taught in a traditional classroom setting.

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

APPENDIX I: Freedom From Bullying Policy

Note that school board policies may be revised at any time. For legal context and the most current copy of the local policy, visit <http://pol.tasb.org/Policy/Search/119?filter=FFI>. Below is the text of Frankston ISD's policy FFI (LOCAL) as of the date that this Handbook was finalized for this school year.

Note: This policy addresses bullying of District students. For provisions regarding discrimination and harassment involving District students, see FFH. Note that FFI shall be used in conjunction with FFH for certain prohibited conduct. For reporting requirements related to child abuse and neglect, see FFG.

Bullying Prohibited

The District prohibits bullying as defined by this policy. Retaliation against anyone involved in the complaint process is a violation of District policy and is prohibited.

Definition

Bullying occurs when a student or group of students engages in written or verbal expression, expression through electronic means, or physical conduct that occurs on school property, at a school-sponsored or school-related activity, or in a vehicle operated by the District and that:

1. Has the effect or will have the effect of physically harming a student, damaging a student's property, or placing a student in reasonable fear of harm to the student's person or of damage to the student's property; or
2. Is sufficiently severe, persistent, and pervasive enough that the action or threat creates an intimidating, threatening, or abusive educational environment for a student.

This conduct is considered bullying if it:

3. Exploits an imbalance of power between the student perpetrator and the student victim through written or verbal expression or physical conduct; and
4. Interferes with a student's education or substantially disrupts the operation of a school.

Examples

Bullying of a student may include hazing, threats, taunting, teasing, confinement, assault, demands for money, destruction of property, theft of valued possessions, name calling, rumor spreading, or ostracism.

Retaliation

The District prohibits retaliation by a student or District employee against any person who in good faith makes a report of bullying, serves as a witness, or participates in an investigation.

Examples

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

False Claim

A student who intentionally makes a false claim, offers false statements, or refuses to cooperate with a District investigation regarding bullying shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action.

Timely Reporting

Reports of bullying shall be made as soon as possible after the alleged act or knowledge of the alleged act. A failure to immediately report may impair the District's ability to investigate and address the prohibited conduct.

Reporting Procedures

Student Report

To obtain assistance and intervention, any student who believes that he or she has experienced bullying or believes that another student has experienced bullying should immediately report the alleged acts to a teacher, counselor, principal, or other District employee.

Employee Report

Any District employee who suspects or receives notice that a student or group of students has or may have experienced bullying shall immediately notify the principal or designee.

Report Format

A report may be made orally or in writing. The principal or designee shall reduce any oral reports to written form.

Prohibited Conduct

The principal or designee shall determine whether the allegations in the report, if proven, would constitute prohibited conduct as defined by policy FFH, including dating violence and harassment or discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, national origin, or disability. If so, the District shall proceed under policy FFH. If the allegations could constitute both prohibited conduct and bullying, the investigation under FFH shall include a determination on each type of conduct.

Investigation of report

The principal or designee shall conduct an appropriate investigation based on the allegations in the report. The principal or designee shall promptly take interim action calculated to prevent bullying during the course of an investigation, if appropriate.

Concluding the Investigation

Absent extenuating circumstances, the investigation should be completed within ten District business days from the date of the initial report alleging bullying; however, the principal or designee shall take additional time if necessary to complete a thorough investigation.

The principal or designee shall prepare a final, written report of the investigation. The report shall include a determination of whether bullying occurred, and if so, whether the victim used reasonable self-defense. A copy of the report shall be sent to the Superintendent or designee.

Notice to Parents

If an incident of bullying is confirmed, the principal or designee shall promptly notify the parents of the victim and of the student who engaged in bullying.

District Action

Bullying

If the results of an investigation indicate that bullying occurred, the District shall promptly respond by taking appropriate disciplinary action in accordance with the District's Student Code of Conduct and may take corrective action reasonably calculated to address the conduct.

Discipline

A student who is a victim of bullying and who used reasonable self-defense in response to the bullying shall not be subject to disciplinary action.

The discipline of a student with a disability is subject to applicable state and federal law in addition to the Student Code of Conduct.

Corrective Action

Examples of corrective action may include a training program for the individuals involved in the complaint, a comprehensive education program for the school community, follow-up inquiries to determine if any new incidents or any instances of retaliation have occurred, involving parents and students in efforts to identify problems and improve the school climate, increasing staff monitoring of areas where bullying has occurred, and reaffirming the District's policy against bullying.

Transfers

The principal or designee shall refer to FDB for transfer provisions.

Counseling

The principal or designee shall notify the victim, the student who engaged in bullying, and any students who witnessed the bullying of available counseling options.

Improper Conduct

If the investigation reveals improper conduct that did not rise to the level of prohibited conduct or bullying, the District may take action in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct or any other appropriate corrective action.

Confidentiality

To the greatest extent possible, the District shall respect the privacy of the complainant, persons against whom a report is filed, and witnesses. Limited disclosures may be necessary in order to conduct a thorough investigation.

Appeal

A student who is dissatisfied with the outcome of the investigation may appeal through FNG (LOCAL), beginning at the appropriate level.

Record Retention

Retention of records shall be in accordance with CPC (LOCAL).

Access to Policy and Procedures

This policy and any accompanying procedures shall be distributed annually in the employee and student handbooks. Copies of the policy and procedures shall be posted on the District's Web site, to the extent practicable, and shall be readily available at each campus and the District's administrative offices.

STUDENT WELFARE: FREEDOM FROM BULLYING

FFI (LOCAL)

2016-2017

Frankston Independent School District

Title I Parent Involvement Policy

Acknowledging that parents/guardians are a student's first teachers and that this continuing support is essential for academic success, Frankston Independent School District is committed to the following parent involvement policy:

- Title I, Part A parents will annually receive information concerning the implementation of the Title I, Part A program and will be encouraged to offer suggestions for improving/strengthening the program.
- Parents will be given timely information concerning overall student performance standards and expectations (TEKS).
- Parents will be given timely information concerning campus/state assessment instruments: Local assessment measures, TPRI, ITBS, STAAR, and End-Of-Course Exams.
- Parents will be offered opportunities for learning how to foster improved academic performance for their children.
- Parent representatives (including parents of Title I, Part A students) will be involved in the development, review, and evaluation of the campus improvement plan.
- Title I, Part A parents will be involved annually in the review/revision of the School/Parent Compact.
- Title I, Part A parents will be asked to complete surveys seeking evaluations of the Title I, Part A program and parent involvement.
- Parents will annually review/revise this policy.

2016-2017 Frankston Elementary School-Parent Compact

It is important that families and schools work together to help students achieve high academic standards. Through a process that includes teachers, families, students and community representatives, the following are agreed upon roles and responsibilities that we as partners will carry out to support student success in school and in life.

As a student, I will:

- Come to school ready to learn and work hard.
- Bring necessary materials, completed assignments and homework.
- Know and follow school and class rules.
- Ask for help when I need it.
- Communicate regularly with my parents and teachers about school experiences so that they can help me to be successful in school.
- Read every day at school or home and limit the excessive use of electronic devices.
- Respect the school, classmates, staff and families.

As a parent/guardian or family member I will:

- Provide a quiet time and place for homework and monitor the use of electronic devices.
- Read to my child or encourage my child to read every day.
- Communicate with the teacher or the school when I have a concern.
- Ensure that my child attends school every day, gets adequate sleep, regular medical attention and proper nutrition.
- Regularly monitor my child's progress in school.
- Participate at school in activities such as school decision making, volunteering and/or attending parent-teacher conferences.
- Communicate the importance of education and learning to my child.
- Respect the school, staff, students, and families.

As a teacher, I will:

- Provide high-quality curriculum and instruction.
- Endeavor to motivate my students to learn.
- Have high expectations and help every child to develop a love of learning.
- Communicate regularly with families about student progress.
- Provide a warm, safe, and caring learning environment.
- Provide meaningful homework assignments to reinforce and extend learning.
- Participate in professional development opportunities that improve teaching and learning and support the formation of partnerships with families and the community.
- Actively participate in collaborative decision making and consistently work with families and my school colleagues to make schools accessible and welcoming places for families which help each student achieve the school's high academic standards.
- Respect the school, students, staff and families.

Student Date

Parent/Guardian Date

Teacher Date

Revised 6/28/2016

2016-2017 Frankston High/Middle School-Parent Compact

It is important that families and schools work together to help students achieve high academic standards. Through a process that includes teachers, families, students and community representatives, the following are agreed upon roles and responsibilities that we as partners will carry out to support student success in school and in life.

As a student I will:

- Believe that I can learn and will learn.
- Come to school and class on time, ready to learn and with assignments completed.
- Set aside time every day to complete my homework.
- Read daily at school or home.
- Know and follow the school and class rules.
- Regularly talk to my parents and my teachers about my progress in school.
- Ask for help when I need it.
- Respect my school, classmates, staff, and family.

As a parent/guardian or family member I will:

- Talk to my child regularly about the value of education.
- Communicate with the school when I have a concern.
- Provide a quiet, well-lighted place for studying.
- Encourage reading and discourage excessive use of electronic devices.
- Make sure that my child attends school every day, on time, and with homework completed.
- Support the school's discipline code.
- Monitor my child's progress in school.
- Make every effort to attend school events, such as parent-teacher conferences and Open House.
- Ensure that my child gets adequate sleep, regular medical attention, and proper nutrition.
- Participate in shared decision making with school staff and other families for the benefit of students.
- Respect the school, staff, students, and families.

As a teacher I will:

- Provide high-quality curriculum and instruction.
- Communicate high expectations for every student.
- Endeavor to motivate my students to learn.
- Teach and involve students in classes that are interesting and challenging.
- Participate in professional development opportunities that improve teaching and learning and support the formation of partnerships with families and the community.
- Enforce rules equitably and involve students in creating a warm and caring learning environment in the class.
- Communicate regularly with families about their child's progress in school.
- Provide assistance to families on what they can do to support their child's learning.

- Participate in shared decision making with other school staff and families for the benefit of students.
- Respect the school, staff, students, and families.

Student _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian _____ Date _____

Teacher _____ Date _____