

**Slocum Independent School District**  
**Student/Parent Handbook**

**“Excellence In Education”**



**2018-2019**

**OPTIONS AND REQUIREMENTS**  
**For Providing Assistance to Students who have Learning**  
**Difficulties or who Need or May Need Special Education**

If a child is experiencing learning difficulties, the parent may contact the person listed below to learn about the district's overall general education referral or screening system for support services. This system links students to a variety of support options, including referral for a special education evaluation. Students having difficulty in the regular classroom should be considered for tutorial, compensatory, and other support services that are available to all students.

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

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

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

Contact Person: Kim Tutt, Counselor  
Phone Number: (903) 478-3624

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**Las opciones y los Requisitos Para Proporcionar Ayuda a Estudiantes Que Tienen**  
**Dificultades que Aprende o Que**  
**Necesita o Puede Necesitar la Educación Especial**

Si un niño experimenta dificultades que aprenden, el padre puede contactar a la persona listó para aprender abajo acerca del distrito's la referencia de la educación general sistema para servicios de apoyo. Este sistema liga a estudiantes a una variedad de opciones de apoyo, inclusive la referencia para una evaluación especial de la educación. Los estudiantes que tienen dificultad en el aula regular deben ser considerados para tutorial, compensatoria, y otros servicios de apoyo que están disponibles a todos estudiantes.

En tiempo, un padre tiene derecho para solicitar una evaluación para servicios especiales de educación. Dentro de una cantidad razonable de tiempo, el distrito debe decidir si la evaluación se necesita. Si la evaluación se necesita, el padre será notificado y será pedido proporcionar el consentimiento para la evaluación. El distrito debe completar la evaluación y el informe dentro de 60 días de calendario de la fecha que el distrito recibió el consentimiento escrito. El distrito debe dar una copia del informe al padre.

Se el distrito determina que la evaluación no se necesita, el distrito proporcionará al padre con una nota escrita que explica por qué el niño no se evaluará. Esta nota escrita incluirá una declaración que informa al padre sus derechos si ellos disienten del distrito. Adicionalmente, la nota debe informar al padre para cómo obtener una copia de la Nota de Salvaguardias Procesales – los Derechos de Padres de Estudiantes con Incapacidades.

La persona designada a contactar con respecto a opciones para un niño que experimenta dificultades que aprenden o una referencia para la evaluación para la educación especial es:

Contacte a Persona: Kim Tutt, Counselor  
El Número de teléfono: (903) 478-624

**SLOCUM ISD**  
**Student/Parent Handbook**

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Slocum Independent School District  
2018-2019

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Daniel Bailey	President
Steve Webb	Vice President
John Day	Secretary
John Barton	Member
Darren Farley	Member
David Hart	Member
Ben Missildine	Member

ROSTER OF PERSONNEL

Cliff Lasiter	Superintendent
Errin Deer	High School Principal
Mark Leuschner	Elementary/JH Principal
Dana Morgan	Business Manager
Joel Parker	Director of Technology
Kim Tutt	High School Counselor
Lacie Sloan	PK-8 Counselor
Lisa Missildine	Librarian
Traci Mersiovsky	Director of Food Service
Todd Fletcher	Director of Maintenance/Transportation
April Missildine	Elementary/JH Secretary
Amy Jones	High School Secretary

ELEMENTARY TEACHERS

Milissa Becton	Pre-Kindergarten
Wendy Gean	Pre-Kindergarten
Sabrina McLeod	Kindergarten
Charlotte Soileau	Kindergarten
Jennifer Ives	1 <sup>st</sup> Grade
Miranda Lasiter	1 <sup>st</sup> Grade
Laurie Peters	2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade
Alanna Beasley	2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade
Kristin Luce	3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade
Shawna Gardner	3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade
Mackenzie Eason	4 <sup>th</sup> Grade
Lisa Guin	4 <sup>th</sup> Grade
Brandy Martin	5 <sup>th</sup> Grade
Kasey West	5 <sup>th</sup> Grade
Melissa Herring	Accelerated Reading Instr.
Randall Thomason	Elementary PE/JH-HS Athletics
Ginger Bell	Life Skills
Mandy Wilson	Elementary Resource

## SECONDARY TEACHERS

Randall Thomason	Ele PE/JH-HS Athletics/Coach
Michael Skelton	Athletics/Coach
Bailee Duren	Business/Technology HS/JH
Kimberly Bundy	Biology/HS Science
James Caveness	Math
Bret Cockerham	HS Govt/Geog/Coach
Carla Cockerham	Adv Math/Physics
Jody Evers	JH Reading
Janece Fletcher	JH Math
Jennifer Edwards	Spanish
Emily Barton	Vocational Agriculture
Deborah Woody	Family and Consumer Sciences
David Ives	HS PE/Athletics/Coach
Gina Kellum	JH Science
Melissa Basse	HS English
Bryant Latham	HS History/Athletics/Coach
Julie Neel	HS Inclusion/Coach
Joel Parker	Technology Director/Chemistry
Randy Teets	JH History
Lance Thomas	Vocational Agriculture
Loretta Tolar	JH English
Meagan Skelton	JH Resource

## SUPPORT STAFF

Brian Boyd-Technology Specialist	Casey Grimaldo-Instructional Aide
James Dellis- Instructional Aide	Shannon Lawhorn-Instructional Aide
Angela Douglas -PEIMS/Attendance	Miranda Kimbrough-Instructional Aide
Debbie Gruetzner- Nurse	Etoye Seago – Instructional Aide

## CO-OP SPECIAL EDUCATION

Debra Gazaway-Director	Kathi Huffman-Work Program
Cathy Clark-Diagnostician	

## BUS DRIVERS

Casey Grimaldo	Caleb Choate
David Ives	April Missildine
Jennifer Ives	Lance Thomas

## MAINTENANCE

Dan Hernandez	Heather Pierce
Kevin Jones	Oscar Vasquez
David Mitchell-Lead Custodian	Michael Strittmatter

## CAFETERIA

Jennifer Grant	Gayle Wages
Deniese Kidd	

## **PREFACE**

This Booklet contains a great deal of required and useful information for the students and parents of Slocum School. Therefore, it can't be as personal a communication as we would like, and so we address students, not directly as "you" but rather as "the student," or "children." Likewise, the persons who have assumed responsibility for and with whom students live may be their parents or their legal guardians: we will call these people "the student's parent," for easy reference, throughout this handbook.

## **ASSEMBLIES**

Students are required to conduct themselves in assemblies as they do in class. Students who are tardy or who do not abide by District rules of conduct shall be subject to disciplinary action.

## **ATTENDANCE/ TARDIES**

In Texas, children between the ages of 6 and 19, depending on when the child's birthday falls, are required to attend school unless otherwise exempted by law. Students enrolled in Prekindergarten and Kindergarten are required to attend school and are subject to compulsory attendance requirements as long as long as they remain enrolled. School employees investigate and report violations of the state compulsory attendance law. In order to receive credit in class, students must be in attendance for a minimum of 90% of the days that it is offered during a semester. Students who are in attendance for fewer than 90% of the class periods in a semester shall not be given credit for the class unless the student completes a plan approved by the principal that provides for the student to meet the instructional requirements of the class. An attendance committee will hear petitions from students who do not regain credit through a plan approved by the principal. An attendance committee may grant credit due to extenuating circumstances. For an absence to be considered as an extenuating circumstance, the Attendance Review Committee may require official documentation (example- doctor's notes, etc.) for all absences beyond 5. If the attendance committee finds that there are no extenuating circumstances for the absence or if conditions established by the committee for earning or regaining credit are not met, the committee shall deny credit for the class. Students whose petitions for credit are denied may appeal the attendance committee's decision to the board of Trustees. If makeup school is provided to the student to make up credit for excessive absences, it will be the responsibility of the student/parent to complete.

When returning to school after an absence, a student must bring a note signed by the parent that describes the reason for the absence. Please include on the note:

- students full name
- date of absence(s)
- student's grade
- reason for absence

Notes signed by the student, even with the parent's permission, will be considered a forgery and the student will be disciplined. Students with unexcused absences will be subject to discipline.

The district accepts the following as circumstances for the purpose of granting excused absences for a class:

1. Personal sickness, sickness or death in the family, quarantine, weather or road conditions making travel dangerous, or any other unusual cause acceptable to the superintendent, teacher, or principal.
2. Days of suspension.
3. Participation in court proceedings.
4. A migrant student's late enrollment or early withdrawal.
5. Days missed as a runaway.
6. Completion of a competency- based program for at- risk students.
7. Late enrollment or early withdrawal of a student under Texas Youth Commission.
8. Teen Parent absences to care for his or her child.
9. Participation in a substance abuse rehabilitation program.

The district may grant prior approval of an ordinarily unexcused absence on a case by case basis. Absences that have gained prior approval by the principal will not result in make-up school unless the student's attendance rate is below 96%. Prior approval of an absence allows a student to secure assignments in advance of the absence and be prepared to turn assignments in upon the students return to class.

Parents should assist in every way to see that their children attend school regularly and on time. A complaint may be filed on parents of students who are not attending as required. Students who are absent from school or from any class without permission will be considered truant and will be subject to disciplinary action as well as parental notification and justification.

Students who are absent from school for any reason will not be allowed to participate in school-related activities on that day or evening unless the absence is excused and approval by the principal is granted for the student to participate.

The student's individual teachers will determine make up work because of absences.

Failure to make up work in the required time will result in academic penalties.

Students who are not maintaining 90% attendance during a semester will not be provided the Verification of Enrollment and Attendance (VOE) Form required for obtaining or renewing a Driver License. For students to be considered for Slocum School's Work Study Program, they will have to have a minimum of 94% attendance for the previous school year. Students in the Work Study Program are not to go to work on days that they miss school.

The tardy bell signifies time for the students to be seated completely in their seats, with necessary supplies for that class. Students will receive disciplinary consequences on the third tardy and each additional tardy. The only acceptable excuse for being tardy is documented visits to the doctor or dentist.

A student who must leave school during the day must bring a note from his or her parent that morning. Students who become ill during the school 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.

### **AUTOMATIC ADMISSION TO INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

Each general academic teaching institution [see Education Code 61.003(3)] shall admit an applicant for admission as an undergraduate student if the applicant:

1. Graduated: a. With a grade point average in the top ten percent of the student's high school graduating class in one of the two school years preceding the academic year for which the applicant is applying for admission and submitted a complete application defined by the institution before the expiration of the institution's established deadline; or b. In the top 25 percent of the student's high school class, to the extent the governing board of a general academic teaching institution has adopted such an admission policy;
2. Graduated from a public high school in Texas accredited by a generally recognized accrediting organization;
3. Successfully completed the Recommended or Advanced/Distinguished Achievement High School Program as described in 19 Administrative Code 5.5(c), or satisfied ACT's College Readiness Benchmarks on the ACT assessment applicable to the applicant or earned on the SAT assessment a score of at least 1,500 out of 2,400 or the equivalent; and
4. Submitted an official high school transcript or diploma that, not later than the end of the student's junior year, indicates whether the student has satisfied the requirements outlined above regarding successful completion of the Recommended or Advanced/Distinguished Achievement High School Program.

Beginning with admissions for the 2011–12 academic year, the University of Texas at Austin (UT) is not required to offer admission to applicants who qualify for automatic admission in excess of the number required to fill 75 percent of the university's enrollment capacity designated for first-time resident undergraduate students in an academic year. If the number of applicants who apply to UT for admission in the next academic year and who qualify for automatic admission exceeds 75 percent of UT's enrollment capacity, UT shall, not later than September 15, provide to each district, for dissemination to high school juniors and their parents, notice of which percentile ranks of high school seniors who qualify for automatic admission are anticipated to be offered admission during the next school year.

### **CAMPUS BEHAVIOR COORDINATOR**

Each campus principal has been designated as the Campus Behavior Coordinator.

### **CELL PHONES/ELECTRONIC PAGING/MESSAGING DEVICES**

For safety purposes, students are allowed to have cell phones at school but they must remain out of sight.

For grades 8 and below, cell phones and other electronic devices are to remain off and out of sight from the time they arrive on campus until after 3:20 p.m. each school day.

For high school students, smart phones may only be used as a form of technology when allowed by teachers in the classroom. These devices will be used for instructional purposes only. Use of phones as a communication device (calling, texting, messaging, etc.) during the school day, other than the breakfast/lunch period is prohibited. Cell phone violations will result in disciplinary consequences or loss of privileges.

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



**CLASS RANKING**

1. Valedictorian or Salutatorian shall be the eligible students with the highest and second highest rank, respectively. To be eligible for this local graduation honor, a student must attend Slocum High School during his/her entire junior and senior year, must be on the Recommended or Distinguished Achievement Graduation Program and must have accumulated 19 credits prior to the beginning of the fall semester of the senior final year. Beginning with the graduating class of 2018, students will follow the same criteria but will have completed the foundation program with the distinguished level of achievement, or the foundation program with at least one endorsement.
2. The local eligibility criteria for recognition as the valedictorian shall not affect recognition of the highest-ranking graduate for purposes of receiving the honor graduate certificate from the state of Texas. The District shall calculate class rank for this purpose at the end of the school year. In case of a tie in weighted GPAs after calculation to the thousandths place, the District shall recognize all students involved in the tie as sharing the honor and title.
3. For the purpose of determining honors to be conferred during graduation activities, the District shall calculate class rank in accordance with this policy and administrative regulations by using grades available at the time of calculation at the end of the fifth six week grading period of the senior year. For the purpose of applications to institutions of higher education, the District shall also calculate class rank as required by state law. The District’s eligibility criteria for local graduation honors shall apply only for local recognitions and shall not restrict class rank for the purpose of automatic admission under state law. (See EIC -LEGAL)
4. The District shall apply the same class rank calculation method and rules for local graduation honors for all students in a graduating class, regardless of the school year in which a student first earned high school credit. The District shall include in the calculation of class rank semester grades earned in high school credit courses taken at any grade level, unless excluded as follows. The calculation shall include failing grades. The calculation of class rank shall exclude grades earned in summer school, correspondence courses, or through credit by examination without prior instruction. Approved concurrent enrollment college courses taken during the summer will be used in figuring class rankings. All accepted home school grades transferred into the Slocum ISD will be weighted as Basic Courses.
5. When a student transfers semester grades for courses that would be eligible under the Basic category and the District has accepted the credit, the District shall include the grades in the calculation of class rank. When a student transfers semester grades for courses that would be eligible to receive additional weight under the District’s weighted system, the District shall assign additional weight to the grades based on the courses offered by the District and grade weight system used by the District.
6. The District shall categorize and weight eligible courses as Advanced, Regular, or Basic in accordance with provisions of this policy and as designated in appropriate District publications. The District shall convert semester grades earned in eligible courses to grade points in accordance with the following chart and shall calculate a weighted grade point average (GPA):

<u>GRADES</u>	<u>ADVANCED</u>	<u>REGULAR</u>	<u>BASIC</u>
100	10.0	7.0	5.0
99	9.9	6.9	4.9
98	9.8	6.8	4.8
97	9.7	6.7	4.7
96	9.6	6.6	4.6
95	9.5	6.5	4.5
94	9.4	6.4	4.4
93	9.3	6.3	4.3
92	9.2	6.2	4.2
91	9.1	6.1	4.1
90	9.0	6.0	4.0
89	8.9	5.9	3.9
88	8.8	5.8	3.8
87	8.7	5.7	3.7
86	8.6	5.6	3.6
85	8.5	5.5	3.5
84	8.4	5.4	3.4
83	8.3	5.3	3.3
82	8.2	5.2	3.2
81	8.1	5.1	3.1
80	8.0	5.0	3.0
79	7.9	4.9	2.9

	<u>GRADES</u>	<u>ADVANCED</u>	<u>REGULAR</u>	<u>BASIC</u>
	78	7.8	4.8	2.8
	77	7.7	4.7	2.7
	76	7.6	4.6	2.6
	75	7.5	4.5	2.5
	74	7.4	4.4	2.4
	73	7.3	4.3	2.3
	72	7.2	4.2	2.2
	71	7.1	4.1	2.1
	70	7.0	4.0	2.0
Below	70	0	0	0

### **COURSE DESIGNATION BY SUBJECT**

#### **ADVANCED**

Advanced Algebra I, II  
Advanced Geometry  
Anatomy & Physiology

Chemistry  
Microbiology  
Physics

Pre-Calculus  
Spanish III

\*\*Concurrent Enrollment College Courses

#### **REGULAR**

Advanced Animal Science  
Algebra I, II  
Biology  
Comm. Applications  
CTE-Career Courses  
Economics

English I, II, III, IV  
Environmental Systems  
Fine Arts Courses  
Geometry  
Government  
Independent Study Math

Int. Phys & Chem (IPC)  
Leadership  
Math Models  
Phys. Ed (PE)/Athletics  
Spanish I, II  
Technology App. Courses

United States History  
World Geography  
World History

#### **BASIC**

Special Ed Classes w/ IEP Modifications  
STAAR Readiness Courses

VAC Work Program Credits

\*\*Courses are listed on the Concurrent College Program Course Sequence of Study in the HS Counselor's Office.

Class rank will be determined by grade point values. Any ties for rank will be broken by grade averages (average of only those grades that are used to determine point value).

#### **CLOSED CAMPUS**

To assure the safety of each student, it is required that students remain on campus during the entire school day. Once students come on the campus at the start of the academic day, they may not leave except for reasons of illness, parent intervention or other school-sanctioned purposes. Students who must leave school early are to check out through the principal's office. Students, who drive to school, must park their cars on campus, vacate them immediately, and not return to their cars until the end of the school day.

#### **CLUBS/ORGANIZATIONS**

Student clubs and performing groups such as athletic teams may establish rules of conduct and dress (and consequences for misbehaving) that are stricter than those for students in general. If a violation is also a violation of school rules, the consequences specified by the school shall apply in addition to any consequences specified by the organization. Each student member of a group imposing stricter standards shall be notified of the standards of behavior and of the specified consequences of violating the standards.

#### **COMMUNICABLE DISEASE**

Parents of students with a communicable or contagious disease are asked to telephone school nurse/principal so that other students who have been exposed to the disease can be alerted. Convalescing students are not allowed to come to school until the disease is no longer contagious.

## **COMPUTER ACCESS**

Only student who have been authorized by the District and who are under the direct supervision of designated District employees are permitted to use a District computer or access any local network or outside telecommunications resources such as TENET or internet. Prior to such authorization, the student and the student's parents must sign and return the District Student Agreement Form acknowledging their responsibilities and the consequences of violations. Students are expected to observe network etiquette by being polite and using appropriate language. Students are prohibited from pretending to be someone else; transmitting obscene messages or pictures; revealing personal addresses or telephone numbers-either their own or another person's; or using the network in a way that would disrupt use by others. Any malicious attempts to harm or destroy District equipment or materials, data of another user of the District's system or any other agencies or other networks that are connected to the Internet are prohibited. Deliberate attempts to degrade or disrupt system performance may be viewed as violations of District policy and administrative regulations and, possibly, as criminal activity under applicable state and federal laws. This includes, but is not limited to the uploading or creating of computer viruses. Vandalism as defined above will result in the cancellation of system use privileges and will require restitution for cost associated with restoration, hardware, or software cost. As required by law, Forgery or attempted forgery of electronic mail messages is prohibited. Attempts to read, delete, copy, or modify the electronic mail of other system users or deliberate interference with the ability of other system users to send/receive electronic mail is prohibited. A student knowingly bringing prohibited material into the school's electronic environment will be subject to a suspension and/or a revocation of privileges on the District's system and will be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with Student Code of Conduct. SISD has the right to track all school owned devices on or off campus at all times.

## **CONCURRENT COLLEGE PROGRAM (TRINITY VALLY COMMUNITY COLLEGE)**

Some juniors and seniors will be offered the opportunity to attend the local Community College (TVCC) in Palestine, during school hours, for attaining college and/or high school credit. Participation in this advanced academic program shall be based on scholastic performance, standardized test results, and teacher evaluation. The final decision for admission to this program shall rest with the school principal.

This program is free to the students, including tuition, transportation (except for summer courses), and textbooks. All grades awarded by the college must be "C" or higher in order to continue participation in this program. Anyone who fails a course, or who drops or withdraws from a course, will be required to reimburse the school for all money expended by the school for such course or courses and will be removed from the program for one high school semester.

## **CONDUCT**

Students are responsible for conducting themselves properly, in a manner appropriate to their ages and levels of maturity. Student responsibilities for achieving a positive learning environment at school or school-related activities shall include:

1. Attending all classes daily.
2. Being prepared for each class with appropriate materials, prepared assignments, and properly seated in the classroom as the tardy bell sounds.
3. Being properly dressed.
4. Showing proper respect towards others.
5. Behaving in a responsible manner.
6. Paying required fees and fines unless they are waived.
7. Refraining from violations of the student code of conduct.
8. Obeying all school rules, including safety rules
9. Seeking change in school policies and regulations in an orderly and responsible manner through appropriate channels.
10. Cooperating with staff in investigations of disciplinary cases and volunteering information relating to a serious offense.
11. Consuming/possessing all foods and beverages only in the cafeteria and/or commons area.

## **APPLICABILITY OF SCHOOL RULES**

To achieve the best possible learning environment for all our students, the Student Code of Conduct and other campus rules of behavior will apply whenever the interest of the District is involved, on or off school grounds, in conjunction with or independent of classes and school sponsored activities. The District has disciplinary authority over a student:

- During the regular school day and while a student is going to and from school on District transport.
- Within 300 feet of school property.
- While a student is in attendance at any school-related activity, regardless of time or location
- For any school related misconduct, regardless of time or location. This includes school social events to which a student brings a guest. Guests are expected to observe the same rules as students at the event. 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.
- When retaliation against a school employee or volunteer occurs or is threatened regardless of time or location.

- When a student commits a felony, as described by Texas Education Code 37.006.
- When criminal mischief is committed on or off property or at a school-related event.

As required by law, the District has developed and adopted a Student Code of Conduct that prohibits certain behaviors and establishes standards of acceptable behavior both on and off campus – and consequences for violations of the standard.

Students need to be familiar with the standards set out in the Student Code of Conduct, as well as campus and classroom rules.

Students who violate the following rules will be subject to disciplinary action. Students at school or school-related activities are prohibited from:

1. Cheating or copying work of another student.
2. Throwing objects, outside supervised school activities, that can cause bodily injury or damage property.
3. Leaving school grounds or events without permission.
4. Insubordination, such as disobeying directives from school personnel or school policies, rules, and regulations.
5. Being disrespectful or using profanity, vulgar language, or obscene gestures.
6. Playing with matches or fire, or committing arson in any form.
7. Committing robbery, theft or illegal entry.
8. Damaging or vandalizing property.
9. Disobeying school policies and regulations regarding conduct on school buses.
10. Fighting, hitting or physical abuse.
11. Committing extortion, coercion, or blackmail; that is, obtaining money or other objects of value from an unwilling person, or forcing an individual to act through the use of force or threat of force.
12. Name-calling, making ethnic or racial slurs or derogatory statements.
13. Engaging in inappropriate sexual conduct or contact to include undue affection.
14. Assault
15. Selling, giving, or delivering to another person, possessing, using or being under the influence of: marijuana or other controlled substance, a dangerous drug, which includes abuse able glue, aerosol paints or volatile chemical or alcoholic beverages.
16. Possessing a firearm or other weapon.
17. Aggressive behavior or group demonstrations that substantially disrupt or materially interfere with school activities.
18. Possession of candy, gum, drinks, snacks, etc. out of the cafeteria or commons area.
19. Behaving in any way that disrupts the school environment or educational process.
20. Being in the parking lot other than for arrival or departure.
21. Possessing a pager on school property or while attending a school-sponsored or school-related activity on or off school property.
22. Possessing a knife at school or school activities.
23. Using or having in sight cellular phones on the school campus from 8:00 a.m. to 3:20 p.m.

### **CORPORAL PUNISHMENT**

According to Slocum ISD Policy (FO Local) and the Slocum ISD Student Code of Conduct, corporal punishment may be used as a part of the discipline management plan. A parent or guardian or other person having lawful control over a student, may prohibit the use of corporal punishment as a method of student discipline for a child by signing a statement to the Slocum ISD Board of Trustees each school year. A parent or guardian or other person having lawful control over a student, may revoke the statement at any time during the school year by submitting a written, signed revocation to the Slocum ISD Board of Trustees.

Corporal punishment is limited to spanking or paddling the student, and shall occur only in accordance with the following guidelines:

1. The student is told of the reason corporal punishment is being given.
2. The administration or a teacher may give corporal punishment.
3. The principal should approve the instrument used.
4. Corporal punishment shall be done in the presence of another District professional employee out of view of other students.
5. A record shall be maintained of each incident of corporal punishment.
6. State law authorizes corporal punishment.

### **COUNSELING**

Students are encouraged to talk with school counselors, teachers and the administration in order to learn about the curriculum, course offerings and graduation requirements. Students who are interested in attending a college, university, training school or some other advanced education should work closely with the District's counselors so they may take the high school courses that will best prepare them for future work. Counselors can also provide information about entrance examinations required by many colleges and universities, as well as information about financial aid and housing.

School counselors are also available to help students with a wide range of personal concerns. Counselors are familiar with the community resources and may direct a student to these sources of information and assistance.

### **CREDIT BY EXAM**

Any parent interested in acceleration by exam for a student, needs to contact the principal or counselor for information about procedures according to Board Policy. These exams are scheduled for administration four times a year. The dates of testing availability are June 11-12, July 16-17, October, and February. Please contact the school counselor for further information.

### **DAEP (Disciplinary Alternative Education Placement)**

Students may be placed into DAEP as set out in the student code of conduct. Students placed in DAEP will be given the opportunity to make up coursework by various means at no cost to the student.

### **DETENTION**

Student may be detained outside of school hours (for not more than one hour) on one or more days if a student violates the school's rules of conduct. The detention shall not begin, however, until the student's parents have been notified of the reason for the detention and that the parents should arrange for the student's transportation on the day(s) of the detention.

### **DISRUPTIONS**

The District will prosecute any person who disrupts regular school activities. In addition, any student inciting, promoting, or participating in a protest demonstration, a disruption, a riot, a sit-in, a walk-out, blocking of an entrance, etc., shall be subject to disciplinary action. Duplicated, written, or printed materials, handbills, photographs, pictures, petitions, films, tapes or other visual or auditory materials may not be sold, circulated or distributed on any school campus without the approval of the administration.

### **DISTANCE LEARNING/ELECTRONIC COURSES**

As approved by the principal, students may earn course credit through distance learning technologies, such as satellite, Internet, two-way videoconferencing, online courses, the Texas Virtual School Network (TxVSN), and instructional television. The District may charge a fee for enrollment in an electronic course provided through the TxVSN (or other providers). For TxVSN course offerings, visit them on the web at <http://www.txvsn.org> or see the school guidance counselor.

### **DRESS AND GROOMING**

#### **General Guidelines**

1. Students will be responsible for appropriate dress/grooming at school and school activities.
2. The students' dress or apparel must be acceptable to District policy, and shall not cause undue attention nor cause a safety hazard
3. All clothing, bags, backpacks, purses, or any student's possessions should not display any distracting, inappropriate, suggestive, negative, or distasteful words, phrases, or images. These include but are not limited to: satanic symbols, profanity, skulls, daggers, images depicting or promoting violence or death, or symbols or emblems that display drugs, alcohol, or tobacco in any way.
4. Only school authorized uniforms will be worn; others (e.g. military, etc.) are not allowed.
5. THE PRINCIPAL'S DECISION WILL BE FINAL.

#### **Hair**

1. Hairstyles that are extreme enough to create a disturbance or disrupt the normal routine of school shall be deemed inappropriate. These include shaved designs, "rat tails", Mohawks, faux hawks, and spiked hair.
2. Hair must not obstruct the student's vision or a view of the student's face.
3. Haircuts for male students will be moderate, and will be kept neat and clean; may not extend below the top of the collar, over the eyebrows, or below the bottom of the ear. Male students may not wear their hair as "pony tails", in braids, or in corn rows.
4. Male students must be clean-shaven but may have a trimmed mustache and/or sideburns to the bottom of the ears.

#### **Clothing**

1. Clothing should be fashionable, but not exceedingly tight or bulky.
2. Students blouses, dresses and shirts should be of such a type and style, and be worn in such a manner, as to not unduly distract others, nor be considered immodest. Dress tops or blouses that are low cut in front or back or bare shoulders are not considered proper school attire. See-through or transparent blouses may not be worn without an appropriate undershirt that covers the shoulders. All of the midriff should be covered at all times. Excessively long shirts (those extending below the buttocks) are not allowed. "Tank tops" are not allowed unless worn over a regular shirt. Shirt/blouses must have finished sleeves that cover the shoulder and underarm. All but the top collar button on shirts/blouses shall be fastened unless an undershirt is worn

3. Gray or colored cotton sweats that gather at the bottom, athletic pants with button up sides, pants with writing on the buttocks, extremely tight pants, or excessively baggy pants are not allowed. The waistband of jeans or pants is to be worn at the student's waistline (above the point of the hip). No holes/frays/tears of any size or shape in jeans or pants, even below the knee. Covering holes with tape or other temporary patches will not be acceptable. (Permanent patches, so long as they are not distracting or inappropriate, will be allowed.)
4. Students in grades 6-12 may not wear shorts. Primary students in grades PK-5 may wear shorts during the academic day. Shorts can be no more than five inches from the kneecap. Shorts must be neatly hemmed, fringed, or cuffed. Gym shorts, biking shorts, wind shorts, or extremely tight shorts are not allowed.
5. Skirts/dresses may be worn by females, but must come to the top of the kneecap.
6. Appropriate foundation garments shall be worn.
7. Flip-flops, skate shoes (any shoes with wheels), 'house shoes,' slides, or shower shoes are not to be worn. (A flip-flop is backless casual footwear held in place by a thong between the big toe and the second toe of the foot and is so named because of the sound it makes slapping against the sole of the foot as the wearer walks.)

#### Accessories

1. Hats/caps are not to be brought into the academic buildings, library, or cafeteria.
2. Students will refrain from wearing body piercings other than females wearing up to two earrings in each ear that do not promote distraction. Ear gauges are not permitted.
3. Male students may not wear nail polish or earrings.
4. No glasses will be permitted to be worn at school except those that have been prescribed by a physician.
5. No visible tattoos at school or school functions.
6. Bandannas, grills, or items that cover the teeth or unusual/distracting contact lenses are not allowed.

#### **DRILLS-FIRE, TORNADO AND OTHER EMERGENCY DRILLS**

Students, teachers, and other District employees shall participate in frequent drills of emergency procedures. When the announcement is made over the intercom/phone system, students must follow the direction of teachers or administration quickly and in an orderly manner. All drills will be announced over the intercom system if possible.

#### **EARLY GRADUATION**

A parent is entitled to request, with the expectation that the request will not be unreasonably denied, that the parent's child be permitted to graduate from high school earlier than he/she would normally graduate if the child completes each course required for graduation. The child who graduates early may participate in graduation ceremonies at the time of his/her graduation.

#### **END OF DAY SCHOOL CLOSING**

Regarding the safety of students and for proper cleaning of the buildings, the school building will be closed at 4:00 p.m. Students are required to get all books, supplies, clothing, homework, gym equipment, etc. out of their lockers prior to the 4:00 p.m. closing and plan not to return into the building after that time. Students should vacate the school campus immediately following the completion of school activities.

#### **EMERGENCY CLOSING INFORMATION**

In the event of weather severe enough (usually icy roads) to prevent safe transportation to/from school, a decision will be made by the administration after having driven the bus routes for confirmation. Community notification will be by 6:00 a.m. Alert notification will be by text, radio, television, and the Slocum ISD website: KBAP – 93.5 FM, KNET – 1450 AM, KYYK – 98.3 FM; television: KLTV – channel 7, KETK – channel 56; website – [www.slocumisd.org](http://www.slocumisd.org)

#### **EMERGENCY MEDICAL TREATMENT**

Parents shall complete an emergency care form each year that includes a place for parental consent for school officials to request medical treatment for a student, as provided by law. Parents shall also be asked to supply other information that could be required in case of an emergency. Parents should update this information as often as necessary.

Regarding students' release from school as a result of illness, one-hundred (100) degrees Fahrenheit or higher is recommended as the temperature indicating that need. With a temperature of less than 100 degrees Fahrenheit, the students are usually encouraged to remain at school and finish out the day. The school nurse/administration will be responsible for the determination, as there are often extenuating circumstances.

#### **EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

Students shall be permitted to participate in extracurricular activities, subject to the following restrictions.

1. During the initial six-week period of the school year, students must have been promoted into the next grade level or must have accumulated the required number of units toward graduation.
2. During subsequent six-weeks periods, students who receive a six-weeks grade below 70 in any course or subject or handicapped student who fail to meet the standards in their Individual Education Plan (IEP) may not participate in the

extracurricular activities during the following three-week period. The suspension from extracurricular activities goes into effect seven calendar days after the last day of the grading period during which the grade lower than 70 was earned. Student shall not be allowed to participate at the following three-week period providing the student earns a grade of 70 or above.

3. Students are permitted up to 10 absences per year in order to participate in school-related or school-sanctioned activities on or off campus. All UIL activities come under this provision as do field trips, contests, etc.

Any absences resulting from a student's participation in any organization not on the approved list shall be considered unexcused.

### **FEES**

Materials that are part of the basic education program are provided without charge to students. Students are expected to provide their own supplies of pencils, paper, erasers, and notebooks, etc. Students may be required to pay certain other fees or deposits, including:

1. Club dues
2. Security deposits
3. Materials for class projects the student will keep.
4. Personal physical education and the athletic equipment and apparel.
5. Voluntary purchases of pictures, publications, class rings, etc.
6. Student accident insurance and insurance on school-owned instruments.
7. Fees for damaged/lost library books, textbooks and school-owned equipment.
8. Combination lock lease fees with the fee for lost locks.

### **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 good to which the student is allergic, as well as the nature of the allergic reaction. Please contact the health service aide 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, dealing with common food allergens, and specific strategies for dealing with students diagnosed with severe food allergies. When the district receives information that a student has a food allergy that puts the student at risk for anaphylaxis, individual care plans will be developed to assist the student in safely accessing the school environment. The district's food allergy management plan can be accessed at <http://pol.tasb.org/Home/Index/123> (See policy FFAF.)

### **FUND RASING**

Occasionally, student clubs, classes and organizations and parent groups will be permitted to conduct fund raising drives. An application for permission and logistical arrangements must be made with the administration at least five school days prior to the event. Unless approved by the administration, fund raising shall not take place on school property, or in the name of Slocum Independent School District. These funds become a part of the school district's funds by law. The monies can only be used for the purpose they were raised to fund.

### **GANG-FREE ZONE**

Slocum I.S.D. is a gang-free zone. This zone includes all properties owned, rented, or leased by Slocum I.S.D. as well as all school buses owned and/or operated by Slocum I.S.D. Any gang related offense occurring within 1,000 feet of this gang-free zone may result in punishment for the next highest category of offense.

### **GIFTED/TALENTED**

Slocum I.S.D. Gifted/Talented Program offers enrichment in the subject of language arts integrated with science, math, and social studies. Grade levels involved in the program are K-12. The Gifted/Talented Program places an emphasis on critical thinking skills, creative thinking skills, research skills, and problem solving skills. Teachers and parents may nominate students. Nominations are accepted in January or February. The process of selecting gifted learners consists of nominating (nomination forms may be obtained from the office); screening using multiple criteria; and selection done by a committee of members with at least 6 hours of Gifted/Talented training.

### **GRADE CLASSIFICATION**

After the 8<sup>th</sup> grade, students are classified according to the number of units earned toward graduation

<u>Units of Credits Earned</u>	<u>Grade Placement</u>
0	9 <sup>th</sup> - Freshman
6	10 <sup>th</sup> - Sophomore
13	11 <sup>th</sup> - Junior
19	12 <sup>th</sup> - Senior

**GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS**

In order to graduate from the District’s high school, students must successfully complete a certain number of units and pass 5 statewide End-of-Course exams. The State of Texas requires all students to complete a certain series of courses. A graduating senior must have been enrolled in Slocum ISD all of his/her junior and senior years in order to be eligible for honors consideration such as Salutatorians and Valedictorians.

For students entering high school in 2011-2012 and after, the state requires mastery of five STAAR EOC (End of Course) assessments. These will include English I, English II, Algebra I, Biology, and US History. The following provisions have been mandated by current state legislation.

Handicapped students may be permitted to graduate under the provisions of IEP and with the consent of the ARD committee and their parents, in view of state mandates.

**Minimum High School Program Plan of Study:**

Permission to graduate under the minimum high school program must be agreed to in writing and signed by the student, student’s parent (or other person standing in parental relation to the student), and a school counselor or school administrator. In addition, to graduate under the minimum high school program, students must:

- be at least 16 years of age;
- have completed 2 credits required for graduation in each subject of the foundation curriculum; **or**
- have failed to be promoted to the 10<sup>th</sup> grade one or more times as determined by the school district.

**Distinguished Achievement Program Plan of Study:**

Twenty-six credits are required by the state for graduation in the Distinguished Achievement Program. The District shall require additional local credits of advanced measure and one (1) additional year of foreign language. For students entering high school in 2011-2012 and after, the students must meet the college readiness performance standard on the Algebra II and English III assessments in addition to the cumulative score requirement. Students interested in this program should see the High School Counselor.

**Slocum High School Graduation Requirements:**

<u>Discipline</u>	<u>Minimum HSP</u>	<u>Recommended HSP</u>	<u>Distinguished Achievement Program*</u>
<b>English Language Arts ♦</b>	<p><b>Four credits:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• English I, II, and III</li> <li>• English I and II for Speakers of Other Languages may be substituted for English I and II for students with limited English proficiency who are at the beginning or intermediate levels of English language proficiency.</li> <li>• The fourth credit of English may be selected from:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>§ English IV</li> <li>§ Research/Technical Writing</li> <li>§ Creative/Imaginative Writing</li> <li>§ Practical Writing Skills</li> <li>§ Literary Genres</li> <li>§ Business English (CTE)</li> <li>§ Journalism</li> <li>§ AP English Language Composition</li> <li>§ AP English Literature and Composition</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>Four credits:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• English I, II, III, and IV</li> <li>• English I and II for Speakers of Other Languages may be substituted for English I and II only for students with limited English proficiency who are at the beginning or intermediate levels of English language proficiency.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Four credits:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• English I, II, III, and IV</li> <li>• English I and II for Speakers of Other Languages may be substituted for English I and II only for students with limited English proficiency who are at the beginning or intermediate levels of English language proficiency.</li> </ul>
<b>Mathematics ♦</b>	<p><b>Three credits:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Algebra I</li> <li>• Geometry</li> <li>• The third credit may be selected from:</li> </ul>	<p><b>Four credits:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Algebra I</li> <li>• Geometry</li> <li>• Algebra II</li> </ul>	<p><b>Four credits:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Algebra I</li> <li>• Geometry</li> <li>• Algebra II</li> </ul>



	<p>§ Algebra II</p> <p>§ Precalculus</p> <p>§ Mathematical Models with Applications</p> <p>§ Independent Study in Mathematics</p> <p>§ Advanced Quantitative Reasoning (AQR)</p> <p>§ AP Statistics</p> <p>§ AP Calculus AB</p> <p>§ AP Calculus BC</p> <p>§ AP Computer Science</p> <p>§ IB Mathematical Studies Standard Level</p> <p>§ IB Mathematics Standard Level</p> <p>§ IB Mathematics Higher Level</p> <p>§ IB Further Mathematics Standard Level</p> <p>§ Mathematical Applications in Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources (CTE)</p> <p>§ Engineering Mathematics (CTE)</p> <p>§ Statistics and Risk Management (CTE)</p>	<p>• The additional credit may be selected from either of the following and must be successfully completed prior to Algebra II:</p> <p>§ Mathematical Models with Applications</p> <p>§ Mathematical Applications in Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources (CTE)</p> <p>• The fourth credit may be selected from the following after successful completion of Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II:</p> <p>§ Precalculus</p> <p>§ Independent Study in Mathematics</p> <p>§ Advanced Quantitative Reasoning (AQR)</p> <p>§ AP Statistics</p> <p>§ AP Calculus AB</p> <p>§ AP Calculus BC</p> <p>§ AP Computer Science</p> <p>§ IB Mathematical Studies Standard Level</p> <p>§ IB Mathematics Standard Level</p> <p>§ IB Mathematics Higher Level</p> <p>§ IB Further Mathematics Standard Level</p> <p>§ Engineering Mathematics (CTE)</p> <p>§ Statistics and Risk Management (CTE)</p>	<p>• The fourth credit may be selected from any of the following after successful completion of Algebra I, Algebra II, and Geometry:</p> <p>§ Precalculus</p> <p>§ Independent Study in Mathematics</p> <p>§ Advanced Quantitative Reasoning (AQR)</p> <p>§ AP Statistics</p> <p>§ AP Calculus AB</p> <p>§ AP Calculus BC</p> <p>§ AP Computer Science</p> <p>§ IB Mathematical Studies Standard Level</p> <p>§ IB Mathematics Standard Level</p> <p>§ IB Mathematics Higher Level</p> <p>§ IB Further Mathematics Standard Level</p> <p>§ Engineering Mathematics (CTE)</p> <p>§ Statistics and Risk Management (CTE)</p>
<b>Science ♦</b>	<p><b>Two credits:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Biology</li> <li>• Integrated Physics and Chemistry</li> </ul> <p>May substitute Chemistry or Physics for IPC but must use the other as academic elective credit</p>	<p><b>Four credits:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Biology, AP Biology, or IB Biology</li> <li>• Chemistry, AP Chemistry, or IB Chemistry</li> <li>• Physics, Principles of Technology, AP Physics, or IB Physics</li> </ul>	<p><b>Four credits:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Biology, AP Biology, or IB Biology</li> <li>• Chemistry, AP Chemistry, or IB Chemistry</li> <li>• Physics, AP Physics, or IB Physics</li> </ul>
<b><u>Discipline</u></b>	<b><u>Minimum HSP</u></b>	<b><u>Recommended HSP</u></b>	<b><u>Distinguished Achievement Program*</u></b>
		<p>• The additional credit may be IPC and must be successfully completed prior to chemistry and physics.</p> <p>• The fourth credit may be selected from any of the</p>	<p>• After successful completion of a biology course, a chemistry course, and a physics course, the fourth credit may be selected from any of the following:</p> <p>§ Aquatic Science</p>

		<p>following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>§ Aquatic Science</li> <li>§ Astronomy</li> <li>§ Earth and Space Science</li> <li>§ Environmental Systems</li> <li>§ AP Biology</li> <li>§ AP Chemistry</li> <li>§ AP Physics B</li> <li>§ AP Physics C</li> <li>§ AP Environmental Science</li> <li>§ IB Biology</li> <li>§ IB Chemistry</li> <li>§ IB Physics</li> <li>§ IB Environmental Systems</li> <li>§ Scientific Research and Design (CTE)</li> <li>§ Anatomy and Physiology (CTE)</li> <li>§ Engineering Design and Problem Solving (CTE)</li> <li>§ Medical Microbiology (CTE)</li> <li>§ Pathophysiology (CTE)</li> <li>§ Advanced Animal Science (CTE)</li> <li>§ Advanced Biotechnology (CTE)</li> <li>§ Advanced Plant and Soil Science (CTE)</li> <li>§ Food Science (CTE)</li> <li>§ Forensic Science (CTE)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>§ Astronomy</li> <li>§ Earth and Space Science</li> <li>§ Environmental Systems</li> <li>§ AP Biology</li> <li>§ AP Chemistry</li> <li>§ AP Physics B</li> <li>§ AP Physics C</li> <li>§ AP Environmental Science</li> <li>§ IB Biology</li> <li>§ IB Chemistry</li> <li>§ IB Physics</li> <li>§ IB Environmental Systems</li> <li>§ Scientific Research and Design (CTE)</li> <li>§ Anatomy and Physiology (CTE)</li> <li>§ Engineering Design and Problem Solving (CTE)</li> <li>§ Medical Microbiology (CTE)</li> <li>§ Pathophysiology (CTE)</li> <li>§ Advanced Animal Science (CTE)</li> <li>§ Advanced Biotechnology (CTE)</li> <li>§ Advanced Plant and Soil Science (CTE)</li> <li>§ Food Science (CTE)</li> <li>§ Forensic Science (CTE)</li> </ul>
<b>Social Studies ♦</b>	<p><b>Two and one-half credits:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• U.S. History Studies Since 1877 (one credit)</li> <li>• U.S. Government (one-half credit)</li> <li>• The final credit may be selected from the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>§ World History Studies (one credit)</li> <li>§ World Geography Studies (one credit)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>Three and one-half credits:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• World History Studies (one credit)</li> <li>• World Geography Studies (one credit)</li> <li>• U.S. History Studies Since 1877 (one credit)</li> <li>• U.S. Government (one-half credit)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Three and one-half credits:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• World History Studies (one credit)</li> <li>• World Geography Studies (one credit)</li> <li>• U.S. History Studies Since 1877 (one credit)</li> <li>• U.S. Government (one-half credit)</li> </ul>
<b>Economics with emphasis on the free enterprise system and its benefits ♦</b>	<b>One-half credit</b>	<b>One-half credit</b>	<b>One-half credit</b>
<b>Academic Elective</b>	<p><b>One credit from any of the following:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• World History Studies</li> <li>• World Geography Studies</li> <li>• Any science course approved by SBOE</li> </ul>	<b>None</b>	<b>None</b>

	(If substituting Chemistry or Physics for IPC, must use the other as academic elective credit here.)		
<b>Languages Other Than English ♦</b>	<b>None</b>	<b>Two credits: The credits must consist of any two levels in the same language.</b>	<b>Three credits: The credits must consist of any three levels in the same language.</b>
<b>Physical Education</b>	<b>One credit:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The required credit may be from any combination of the following one-half to one credit courses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>§ Foundations of Personal Fitness</li> <li>§ Adventure/Outdoor Education</li> <li>§ Aerobic Activities</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<b>One credit:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The required credit may be from any combination of the following one-half to one credit courses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>§ Foundations of Personal Fitness</li> <li>§ Adventure/Outdoor Education</li> <li>§ Aerobic Activities</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<b>One credit:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The required credit may be from any combination of the following one-half to one credit courses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>§ Foundations of Personal Fitness</li> <li>§ Adventure/Outdoor Education</li> <li>§ Aerobic Activities</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b><u>Discipline</u></b>	<b><u>Minimum HSP</u></b>	<b><u>Recommended HSP</u></b>	<b><u>Distinguished Achievement Program*</u></b>
	§ Team or Individual Sports <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In accordance with local district policy, credit for any of the courses listed above may be earned through participation in the following activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>§ Athletics</li> <li>§ JROTC</li> <li>§ Appropriate private or commercially-sponsored physical activity programs conducted on or off campus</li> </ul> </li> <li>In accordance with local district policy, up to one credit for any one of the courses listed above may be earned through participation in any of the following activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>§ Drill Team</li> <li>§ Marching Band</li> <li>§ Cheerleading</li> </ul> </li> <li>All allowed substitution activities must include at least 100 minutes per five-day school week of moderate to vigorous physical activity.</li> <li>Credit may not be earned for any TEKS-based course more than once. No more than four substitution credits may be earned through any combination of substitutions.</li> </ul>	§ Team or Individual Sports <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In accordance with local district policy, credit for any of the courses listed above may be earned through participation in the following activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>§ Athletics</li> <li>§ JROTC</li> <li>§ Appropriate private or commercially-sponsored physical activity programs conducted on or off campus</li> </ul> </li> <li>In accordance with local district policy, up to one credit for any one of the courses listed above may be earned through participation in any of the following activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>§ Drill Team</li> <li>§ Marching Band</li> <li>§ Cheerleading</li> </ul> </li> <li>All allowed substitution activities must include at least 100 minutes per five-day school week of moderate to vigorous physical activity.</li> <li>Credit may not be earned for any TEKS-based course more than once. No more than four substitution credits may be earned through any combination of substitutions.</li> </ul>	§ Team or Individual Sports <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In accordance with local district policy, credit for any of the courses listed above may be earned through participation in the following activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>§ Athletics</li> <li>§ JROTC</li> <li>§ Appropriate private or commercially-sponsored physical activity programs conducted on or off campus</li> </ul> </li> <li>In accordance with local district policy, up to one credit for any one of the courses listed above may be earned through participation in any of the following activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>§ Drill Team</li> <li>§ Marching Band</li> <li>§ Cheerleading</li> </ul> </li> <li>All allowed substitution activities must include at least 100 minutes per five-day school week of moderate to vigorous physical activity.</li> <li>Credit may not be earned for any TEKS-based course more than once. No more than four substitution credits may be earned through any combination of substitutions.</li> </ul>
<b>Speech</b>	<b>One-half credit from either of the following:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Communication Applications</li> <li>Professional Communications (CTE)</li> </ul>	<b>One-half credit from either of the following:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Communication Applications</li> <li>Professional Communications (CTE)</li> </ul>	<b>One-half credit from either of the following:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Communication Applications</li> <li>Professional Communications (CTE)</li> </ul>

<b>Fine Arts ♦</b>	<b>One credit for students who enter Grade 9 in 2010-11 or later from any of the following:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Art, Level I, II, III, or IV</li> <li>• Dance, Level I, II, III, or IV</li> <li>• Music, Level I, II, III, or IV</li> <li>• Theatre, Level I, II, III, or IV;</li> <li>• Principles and Elements of Floral Design (CTE)</li> </ul>	<b>One credit from any of the following:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Art, Level I, II, III, or IV</li> <li>• Dance, Level I, II, III, or IV</li> <li>• Music, Level I, II, III, or IV</li> <li>• Theatre, Level I, II, III, or IV</li> <li>• Principles and Elements of Floral Design (CTE)</li> </ul>	<b>One credit from any of the following:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Art, Level I, II, III, or IV</li> <li>• Dance, Level I, II, III, or IV</li> <li>• Music, Level I, II, III, or IV</li> <li>• Theatre, Level I, II, III, or IV</li> <li>• Principles and Elements of Floral Design (CTE)</li> </ul>
<b>Elective Courses ♦</b>	<b>Eight and one-half credits from any of the following:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The list of courses approved by the SBOE for Grades 9-12 (relating to Essential Knowledge and Skills)</li> <li>• State-approved innovative courses</li> <li>• JROTC (one to four credits)</li> <li>• Driver Education (one-half credit)</li> </ul>	<b>Five and one-half credits from any of the following:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The list of courses approved by the SBOE for Grades 9-12 (relating to Essential Knowledge and Skills)</li> <li>• State-approved innovative courses</li> <li>• JROTC (one to four credits)</li> <li>• Driver Education (one-half credit)</li> </ul>	<b>Four and one-half credits from any of the following:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The list of courses approved by the SBOE for Grades 9-12 (relating to Essential Knowledge and Skills)</li> <li>• State-approved innovative courses</li> <li>• JROTC (one to four credits)</li> <li>• Driver Education (one-half credit)</li> </ul>
<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>26</b>

♦ College Board advanced placement, college-level concurrent/dual enrollment, and International Baccalaureate courses may be substituted for requirements in appropriate areas.

\* Distinguished Achievement Program requirements also include student achievement of four advanced measures.

### Requirements for a Diploma for a Student Enrolled in High School Prior to the 2014–15 School Year

To receive a high school diploma from the district, a student who was enrolled in high school prior to the 2014–15 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.

### Requirements for a Diploma Beginning with the 2014–15 School Year

Beginning with students who enter grade 9 in the 2014–15 school year, as well as any currently enrolled high school student who decides to graduate under the new foundation graduation program, a student 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 choose 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.

### 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 on page 17. 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 acknowledgments.

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:

<b>Course Area</b>	<b>Number of credits Foundation Graduation Program</b>	<b>Number of credits Foundation Graduation Program with an Endorsement</b>
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
Fine Arts	1	1
Electives/Comm. Applications	6.5/.5	7
Miscellaneous		Available Endorsements****: Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math Business and Industry Public Services Multidisciplinary
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>24 credits</b>	<b>26 credits</b>

\* 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 languages 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.

### **HARASSMENT ON THE BASIS OF RACE, COLOR, RELIGION, NATIONAL ORIGIN, OR DISABILITY**

Student must not engage in harassment behaviors motivated by race, color, religion, national origin, or disability directed toward another student. Students are expected to treat other students and District employees with courtesy and respect; to avoid any behaviors known to be offensive; and to stop these behaviors when asked or told to stop.

The District encourages parental and student support in its efforts to address and prevent harassment in any form in the public schools. Student and/or parents are encouraged to discuss their questions and concerns about expectations in this area with a teacher, counselor, principal or designee. A student who believes another student or District Employee has harassed him or her is encouraged to report the incident to the principal. The allegations will be investigated and addressed. A substantiated complaint against a student will result in appropriate disciplinary action, according to the nature of the offense and the Student Code of Conduct. The student or a parent may appeal the decision of the principal regarding the outcome of the investigation in accordance with policy FNG (LOCAL). See also policy FNCL.

### **SEXUAL HARASSMENT/SEXUAL ABUSE /DATING VIOLENCE**

Students must not engage in unwanted and unwelcome verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature directed toward another student or District employee. This prohibition applies whether the conduct is by word, gesture, or any other sexual conduct, including requests for sexual favors. All students are expected to treat other students and District employees with courtesy and respect, to avoid any behaviors known to be offensive, and to stop these behaviors when asked or told to stop. The District will notify the parents of all students involved in sexual harassment by student(s) when the allegations are not minor, and will notify parents of any incident of sexual harassment or sexual abuse by an employee. To the greatest extent possible, complaints will be treated as confidential. Limited disclosure may be necessary to complete a thorough investigation. A complaint alleging sexual harassment by another student or sexual harassment or sexual abuse by a staff member may be presented by a student and/or parent in a conference with the principal or the designee or with the Title IX coordinator, Fred Fulton. The student or a parent may appeal the decision of the principal regarding the outcome of the investigation in accordance with policy FNCJ (LOCAL).

Dating violence occurs when one partner in a dating relationship, either past or current, intentionally uses physical, sexual, verbal, or emotional abuse to harm, threaten, intimidate, or control the other partner. Examples of dating violence against a student may include, but are not limited to, physical or sexual assaults, name-calling, put-downs, threats to hurt the student or the student's family members or members of the student's household, destroying property belonging to the student, threats to commit suicide or homicide if the student ends the relationship, attempts to isolate the student from friends and family, stalking, or encouraging others to engage in these behaviors. Dating violence is considered prohibited harassment if the conduct is so severe, persistent, or pervasive that the conduct affects a student's ability to participate in or benefit from an educational program or activity, or creates an intimidating, threatening, hostile, or offensive educational environment; has the purpose or effect of substantially or unreasonably interfering with the student's academic performance; or otherwise adversely affects the student's educational opportunities.

### **HAZING**

Senate Bill 24, effective September 1, 1987, provides criminal penalties for students and organizations that engage in or have associations with acts of hazing "occurring on or off the campus of an educational institution." Hazing is defined as "any intentional, knowing, or reckless act...by one person alone or acting with others, directed against a student, that endangers the mental or physical health or safety of a student for the purpose of pledging, being initiated into, affiliating with, holding office in, or maintaining membership in any organization whose members are, or include students at an education agency."

## **IMMUNIZATION**

All students must be immunized against certain diseases or must present a certificate of statement that, for medical or religious reasons, the student should not be immunized. The immunizations required are: diphtheria/tetanus, polio, measles (rubella), mumps, and rubella; the school nurse can provide information concerning these vaccinations. Proof of immunization may be personal records from a licensed physician or public health clinic with a signature or rubber-stamp validation.

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

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

## **IN-SCHOOL SUSPENSION**

Students may be assigned to In-School Suspension (ISS) if the principal deems it necessary. ISS is designed to provide for the removal of disruptive students from academic classes, thus allowing more meaningful instruction to take place. It also serves to effect a positive attitudinal change toward society in general and school in particular, and to make parents more aware of their child's problems. The following guidelines shall be enforced:

1. The student will be told the reason for being placed in ISS.
2. The number of days will vary depending on the seriousness of misconduct.
3. The student will report directly to the ISS room.
4. No talking or unnecessary noise will be allowed.
5. Students will not be permitted to sleep, play, or lay their heads down on their desks.
6. Students must remain in their desks.
7. Only two restroom breaks will be allowed for the day; one in the morning and one in the afternoon. No other breaks will be permitted.
8. Students will have their lunches at their stations in ISS.
9. Students leaving earlier, including those leaving with parental permission, will have one full day added to their in-school suspension.
10. Attendance at, or participation in, any school related activity is prohibited for any day or any portion of the day the student is in ISS for disciplinary reasons.
11. The classroom teacher will furnish work for ISS to the monitor who will give the work to the student.
12. Completed work is to be turned in to the ISS monitor by the conclusion of the school day.
13. The ISS monitor will contact the principal to assign extra days for misconduct.
14. ISS hours are 8:00 a.m. to 3:20 p.m. Tardies will be reported to the principal. Truancy will result in possible legal charges for violation of state attendance laws. Students leaving ISS without permission will be considered taunt.
15. All other school rules and regulations not mentioned above will be strictly enforced.

## **INSURANCE**

At the beginning of the school year, the District will make available to students and parents a low-cost student accident insurance program. Premiums will be paid to, and claims will be submitted through the District office, but the District shall not be responsible for cost of treating injuries or assume liability for any other cost associated with an injury. Before participating in the school-sponsored athletics, student and parent must purchase the student accident insurance or show proof of insurance and sign a form rejecting the student insurance offered waiving any claim against the District for any injury which may result. The student must have an acceptable insurance carrier in order to participate in extra-curricular activities. The name of the insurance carrier, identification number, group number, etc., must be shown on this form.

## **LOCKERS**

Lockers remain under the jurisdiction of the school notwithstanding the fact that they are assigned to individual students. The school reserves the right to inspect all lockers at any time. Students have full responsibility for the security of their lockers, thereby having the option to place a lock on them at their discretion. Copies of keys or combinations must be provided to the office. Searches of lockers, as well as general searches of school property, may be concluded at any time there is reasonable cause to do so with or without the presence of students.

## **LUNCH**

The District participates in the National School Lunch Program and offers free and reduced-priced lunches based on a student's financial need. Information will be disseminated the first week of school regarding free lunches.

Students are not allowed to leave campus for lunch even with permission from a parent. Parents may bring a lunch to the school for their student only. Only parents or grandparents may provide a lunch for their child. Students are required to conduct themselves in an orderly manner during the lunch period. To assure proper student accountability, safety, and ample opportunity for students to eat and properly digest their food, students are under the supervision of teachers' aides and the administration. Walking the halls or visiting classrooms during the lunch hour is prohibited. Students are required to pay for all food and beverage items. Payment must be made at the time of service or in advance. Advance payment for meals may be made by cash, check, or credit card (credit card payment must be made online).

### **MEDICINE AT SCHOOL**

In accordance with Texas Education Code 21.914, students who take a prescription or non-prescription medicine during the school day must bring a written request form his/her parent and the medicine, in its properly labeled bottle, to the school nurse, the teacher or the secretary. The nurse will hold the medicine for safekeeping for a maximum of one week, at which time it must be sent home or destroyed. Prescription medication will be for the duration of physician's orders only. Medication in any form (to include aspirin, Tylenol, etc.) may not be administered to students by any school personnel for any reason.

### **NOTIFICATION TO PARENTS OF TEACHER QUALIFICATIONS**

As a parent of a student enrolled in the Slocum Independent School District you have the right to know the professional qualifications of the classroom teachers who instruct your child, and Federal law requires the school district to provide you this information in a timely manner if you request such information. Specifically, you have a right to request the following information about each of your child's classroom teachers:

- Whether the teacher meets the state qualifications and licensing criteria for the grades and subjects the teacher provides instruction.
- Whether the teacher is teaching under emergency or provisional status because of special circumstances.
- The teachers college major, whether the teacher has any advanced degrees, and the field of discipline of the certification or degree.
- Whether paraprofessionals provide services to your child and, if so, their qualifications.

If you would like any of the above information concerning your child's teacher please direct your request to Cliff Lasiter at 903-478-3624.

### **OFF LIMITS AREAS**

Students are restricted to specific areas for the purposes of learning, accountability and safety. Off limits areas for students include faculty/staff desks, files drawers, folders, and cabinets. Faculty and staff work areas and equipment (e.g. custodian closets, kitchen, lawn mower, computer room, superintendent's office, business office, etc.) are not areas in which students are allowed without permission. Students must park their vehicles on campus parking (not street or highway) and may not return to their cars after they leave them in the morning until the end of the academic day.

### **SLOCUM ISD OPTIONAL FLEXIBLE YEAR PROGRAM GUIDELINES**

Slocum ISD will participate in the Optional Flexible Year program, approved by the 78th Legislature, Regular Session, and in accordance with Texas Education Code, 29.0821. Slocum ISD will offer 178 days of instruction for students who did not or are likely not to perform successfully on an assessment instrument administered under Section 39.023 or who would not otherwise be promoted to the next grade level. These students should benefit from the intense, low student-teacher ratio on flex instructional days. Transportation, food service, special programs, etc. will be provided as usual during these days. As these are special instructional days, parents are asked to not make plans for these Flex Days until notified if the student will not be required to attend.

#### **General Information**

1. Flex days are normal school days are counted in the student calendar. A student must attend unless exempt.
2. All staff will be on duty during flex week.
3. Students who are failing a course at the end of a semester with at least a 66 average will be given the opportunity to improve their grade to a minimum passing standard of 70.
4. Students and parents will be notified approximately one week before the Flex Days indicated on the school calendar
5. Only students asked to attend during the Flex Days will be allowed on campus.

#### **Absences on Flex Days**

1. Attendance on flex days is mandatory if the student is required by the district to attend.
2. Parent notes for absences will not be accepted during flex week. Unless a student has a doctor's note, an absence will be marked as unexcused and the student will have to attend make-up school for each day missed.



3. After the third unexcused absence (during flex week or otherwise), the student and/or his parent or guardian will be filed on in court.

### **Flex Day Exemptions**

For exemption from flex days, a student must:

- Pass all assessment instruments administered under Section 39.023 of the Texas Education Code from the previous school year. Elementary (PK-5) will also include current year assessments (TPRI, benchmark tests, Reading Inventory Levels). For the spring semester only, students may obtain a flex day exemption by passing benchmarks administered by core-curriculum teachers in areas not successfully passed in the previous year.
- Be passing all subjects for the current semester. For elementary students the grade must be no lower than 75.
- Have no more than 5 absences during the semester.
- Have no more than 5 days of Out of school suspension/In school suspension combined during the semester.
- Have not been placed in or attending DAEP during the current school year.

### **PARTIES/SOCIALS/DANCES/SCHOOL EVENTS**

The rules of good conduct and grooming shall be observed for school social events. Guests will be expected to observe the same rules as students attending the event. The person inviting the guest will share the responsibility for the conduct of the guest. Students attending a function may be asked to sign out when leaving before the end of the function. Anyone leaving before the official end of the function will not be readmitted and must vacate the campus. Students at ball games who are too loud, who “move around” too much, or who exit and return may be asked to leave and must vacate the campus. When persons depart the gym, they will be asked to pay upon their return.

### **PESTICIDES**

This school periodically applies pesticides. Information concerning the applications may be obtained from the Superintendent at 903-478-3624 or by mail at 5765 E. State Hwy. 294, Elkhart, TX, 75839. A notification of pest control treatment must be posted at least 48 hours in advance. The purpose of the notice is to inform employees and faculty that pest control treatment will be done. Also, a consumer information sheet must be provided to any employee upon request. Students may not re-enter a treated area for at least 12 hours following application. Outside application areas cannot be used by students for 12 hours following treatment. These re-entry restrictions apply to normal academic and extracurricular activities.

### **PHONE CALLS**

Students and teachers are permitted to receive phone calls only in emergencies. However, if a message is needed, the office can deliver it for return calls, etc. Outgoing calls from students will be held to a minimum, as the phone must stay free for business and emergency purposes. Instances in which students forget their gym clothes, for example, does not require a phone call home, but rather the students shall accept the consequences for lack of preparation in hopes that the students may learn and mature when held accountable for their own actions, or lack thereof. Please make arrangements before school as to whether your child will be a bus or car rider to decrease non-emergency phone calls to the front office.

### **PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

In accordance with policies at EHAB, EHAC, EHBG, (and FFA), the district will ensure that students in full-day prekindergarten through grade 8 engage in moderate or vigorous physical activity for at least 30 minutes per day or 135 minutes per week. Students will be graded in PE on a number of criteria, to include functional, participatory dress as required by the PE department.

### **PLAGIARISM**

Plagiarism consists of using another person’s ideas or writing as one’s own. It is unlawful and unacceptable. Plagiarism will be considered cheating and the student shall be subject to disciplinary action.

### **POSTERS/PUBLICATIONS**

Signs and posters that students wish to display must be approved by the administration. Posters displayed without authorization will be removed. All student publications and other written material intended for distribution to students shall be submitted to the principal for review and approval.

### **PROMOTION, RETENTION, AND PLACEMENT**

Students shall be promoted from one grade to the next on the basis of academic achievement. In order to be promoted, students in grades 1-8 must have an overall average of 70 or above. Students in the first, second, and third grades must have an overall average of 70 or above in math and reading and must have a minimum guided reading level of 14 in the first grade and 28 in the second grade. Fifth and eighth grade students must pass the STAAR assessments in math and reading. Students in grades four and five must pass math, reading, and at least two other of the five subjects taught. Students in grades six, seven, and eight must pass three of the four core subjects (language arts, math, science, social studies) taught.

In grades 9-12, each semester grade stands alone, in averaging the two semester grades together, the second semester may bring up the first to be passing for the year, but the first may not bring up the second.

### **REPORT CARDS**

Written reports of student's grades and absences shall be issued to parents at least once every six weeks. At the end of the first three weeks of the grading period, parents will be notified if the student's grade average is near or below 70. If a student receives a six weeks grade of less than 70 in any class or subject, the parent is requested to schedule a conference with the teacher of that class or subject. Elementary report cards must be signed by the parent and returned to the school within (3) days. Report cards will be sent home on the Thursday following the end of each six weeks.

### **SCHEDULES**

See teacher/student schedules in secretary's office.

### **SCHOOL BUSES/TRANSPORTATION**

Riding a school bus is a privilege, not a right. Students being transported in school-owned vehicles shall comply with the code of student conduct. The school bus driver maintains the authority to seat students in any manner so as to provide for the best operation of management of the vehicle. Any student who fails to comply with that code or established rules of conduct while on school transportation may be denied transportation services and shall be subject to disciplinary action. The following rules shall apply to student conduct on school transportation.

1. Passengers shall follow the driver's direction at all times.
2. Passengers shall board and leave the bus in an orderly manner at the designated bus stops nearest their homes.
3. When on the bus, passengers shall not stand if there is a seat available. If a passenger must ride standing, the passenger shall face the front and hold on to the seat rails.
4. Passengers shall keep books, feet, and other objects out of the aisle of the bus.
5. Passengers shall not deface the bus and/or its equipment.
6. Passengers shall not extend head, arms, or legs out of the window nor hold any objects out of the window or throw objects within or out of the bus.
7. Passengers shall not possess, smoke or use of any form of tobacco on school buses.
8. Usual classroom conduct shall be observed. Unruly conduct, including the use of obscene language, may subject the passenger to being withdrawn from riding privileges.
9. Upon leaving the bus, the student shall not cross immediately in front of the bus until directed by driver.

The following procedures shall be followed when a discipline concern arises on a bus serving a regular route or an extracurricular activity:

1. The driver shall attempt to correct the misbehavior of the passenger.
2. If the driver is unable to resolve the problem, the principal shall be notified immediately, or if the incident occurs in the afternoon, not later than the morning of the following school day.
3. The principal shall investigate the incident and notify the driver of the action taken.
4. A conference involving the principal, the student passenger, the driver, and parent(s) may be required.
5. The principal may suspend the student's bus riding privileges. If such a suspension occurs, the parents shall be notified prior to the time the suspension takes effect.
6. In case of serious misconduct that endangers the safety of the passenger or the driver, the driver shall have the authority to call for the law enforcement assistance. The principal and parents shall be notified of the situation as soon as possible. The student(s) shall not be provided bus service again until a conference involving all persons listed above has been held.

Disciplinary sanctions and changes in transportation for a handicapped student shall be made in accordance with the provisions of the student's Individual Education Plan (IEP).

### **SCHOOL/STUDENT RECORDS**

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

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

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

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

1. Working with the student.
2. Considering disciplinary or academic actions, or a handicapped student's individual education plan.
3. Compiling statistical data.
4. Investigating or evaluating programs.

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

The parent's or student's right to access to, and copies of, student records does not extend to all records. Materials that are not considered educational records, such as teachers personal notes on a student that are shared only with a substitute teacher and records and on ex-students, do not have to be made available to the parents or students.

Students over 18 and parents of minor students may inspect the student's records and request a correction if the records are inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the students privacy or other rights. If the District refuses the request to amend the records, the requestor has the right to a hearing and to place in the student's record a statement commenting on the information. Although improperly recorded grades may be challenged, parents and students are not allowed to contest student's grades in a course through this process. Parents or students may complain to the superintendent if they feel that the district is not in compliance with the law regarding student records.

Copies of student records are available at a cost of 10 cents per page, payable in advance. Parents may be denied copies of students' records (1) after the student reaches age 18 and is no longer dependent to tax purposes; (2) when the student is attending an institution of post-secondary education; or (3) if the parent fails to follow proper procedures and pay the copying charge. If the student qualifies for free or reduced-price lunches and the parents are unable to view the records during regular school hours, upon written request of the parent, one copy of the record will be provided at no charge.

Certain information about District students is considered directory information and will be released to anyone who follows procedures for requesting it, unless the parent objects in writing to the principal within ten school days after the issuance of this handbook. Directory information includes: a student's name, address, telephone number, date and place of birth, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, weight and height of members of athletic teams, dates of attendance, awards received in school, most recent previous school attended, and other similar information.

### **SPECIAL PROGRAMS**

The district provides special programs for handicapped, gifted and talented, and bilingual students. Students or parents with questions about these programs should contact administration; the coordinator of each program can answer questions about eligibility requirements and programs and services offered in the District or by the organizations.

### **Students Who Have Learning Disabilities or Who Need Special Education or Section 504 Services**

For those students who are having difficulty in the regular classroom, all school districts must consider tutorial, compensatory, and other academic or behavior support services that are available to all students, including a process based on Response to Intervention (RtI). The implementation of RtI has the potential to have a positive impact on the ability of districts to meet the needs of all struggling students.

If a student is experiencing learning difficulties, his or her parent may contact the individuals listed below to learn about the school's overall general education referral or screening system for support services. This system links students to a variety of support options, including making a referral for a special education evaluation or for a Section 504 evaluation to determine whether the student needs specific aids, accommodations, or services. A parent may request an evaluation for special education or Section 504 services at any time.

### **Special Education Referrals**

If a parent makes a written request for an initial evaluation for special education services to the director of special education services or to a district administrative employee of the school district, the district must respond no later than 15 school days after receiving the request. At that time, the district must give the parent prior written notice of whether it agrees or refuses to evaluate the student, along with a copy of the *Notice of Procedural Safeguards*. If the district agrees to evaluate the student, it must also give the parent the opportunity to give written consent for the evaluation.

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

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

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

Additional information regarding special education is available from the school district in a companion document titled *Parent's Guide to the Admission, Review, and Dismissal Process*.

### Contact Person for Special Education Referrals

The designated person to contact regarding options for a student experiencing learning difficulties or regarding a referral for evaluation for special education services is your campus principal at 903-478-3624.

### Section 504 Referrals

Each school district must have standards and procedures in place for the evaluation and placement of students in the district's Section 504 program. Districts must also implement a system of procedural safeguards that includes notice, an opportunity for a parent or guardian to examine relevant records, an impartial hearing with an opportunity for participation by the parent or guardian and representation by counsel, and a review procedure.

### Contact Person for Section 504 Referrals

The designated person to contact regarding options for a student experiencing learning difficulties or regarding a referral for evaluation for Section 504 services is the campus counselor at 903-478-3624.

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

- [Legal Framework for the Child-Centered Special Education Process](#)
- [Partners Resource Network](#)
- [Special Education Information Center](#)
- [Texas Project First](#)

### STUDENT OR PARENT COMPLAINTS AND CONCERNS

Usually student or parent complaints or concerns can be addressed simply – by a phone call or a conference with the teacher. 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. In general, the student or parent should first discuss the complaint with the campus principal. If unresolved, a written complaint and 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. Some complaints require different procedures listed below. Any campus office or the Superintendent's office can provide information regarding specific processes for these complaints. Additional information can also be found in the designated Board policy, available in the Principals' and Superintendent's offices. Specialized complaint procedures exist regarding:

- Identification, evaluation, or educational placement of a student with a disability: Policies EHBA and FB.
- Loss of credit because of excessive absences: policy FDD.
- Removal of a student by a teacher for disciplinary reasons: policy FOAA and the Student Code of Conduct.
- Removal of a student to a disciplinary alternative education program: policy FOAB and the Student Code of Conduct.
- Expulsion of a student: policy FOD and the Student Code of Conduct.

- Discrimination on the basis of sex: policy FB.
- Harassment of a student on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, or disability: policy FNCL and the Student Code of Conduct.
- Sexual abuse or sexual harassment of a student: policy FNCJ and the Student Code of Conduct.
- Instructional materials: policy EFA.
- On-campus distribution of non-school materials to students: policy FMA.
- Complaints against District peace officers: policy CKE.

### **SUSPENSION / EXPULSION**

See Student Code of Conduct.

### **TESTING**

The Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery Test (ASVAB) will be given during the month of November.

For information on STAAR Testing go to <http://tea.texas.gov/student.assessment/staar/>.

### **TEXAS GRANT PROGRAM**

The purpose of the Texas Grant Program is to provide money to enable well-prepared eligible students to attend institutions of higher education in Texas.

To qualify a student must be a Texas resident, have graduated from public or accredited private high school in Texas no earlier than Fall 1998, have completed the recommended or distinguished curriculum, have financial need and submitted a FAFSA form, enroll at least ¾ time in a college program and have never been convicted of a felony or a crime involving a controlled substance.

### **TEXTBOOKS/INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS**

State-approved textbooks/instructional materials are provided free of charge for each subject or class. The student, as directed by the teacher, must cover books. Students who are issued a damaged book/instructional material(s) should report that fact to the teacher. Any student failing to return a book/instructional material issued by the school shall lose the right to free materials until the product is returned or paid for by the parent or guardian.

### **TOBACCO/E-CIGARETTES**

Students, parents, and spectators are prohibited from smoking, carrying tobacco, or using tobacco products, including electronic cigarettes or any other electronic vaporizing device, at any school related or school-sanctioned activity on or off school property (70<sup>th</sup> legislature, House Bill 858).

### **TOP RANKED STUDENT**

To be eligible for Slocum School's recognition as top ranked student for the year in grades 1-12, a student must be enrolled in a minimum of four instructional classes during each of the two semesters.

### **TUTORIALS**

Tutorials will be provided for students, if needed, with arrangements being made in the best interest of the family. However, if tutorials are necessary after school, by law, transportation is the responsibility of the family. If the student fails any subject any six weeks, parents may request tutorials for their child.

### **VEHICLES ON CAMPUS**

Vehicles parked on school property are under the jurisdiction of the school. Students must undergo drug testing for the privilege of parking on campus. Students have full responsibility for the security of their vehicles and will make certain they are locked and that the keys are not given to others. Students will be held responsible for any prohibited objects or substances, such as alcohol, drugs, weapons, that are found in their cars and will be subject to disciplinary action. Searches of vehicles, as well as general searches of school property, may be conducted at any time there is reasonable cause to do so, with or without the presence of the student. Students are to vacate vehicles and parking lot immediately upon arrival at school.

### **VIDEO AND AUDIO MONITORING**

Video and audio recording equipment shall be used for safety purposes to monitor student behavior on District property. Signs shall be posted notifying students and parents about the use of audio/video recording equipment. The principal shall review recordings as needed, and evidence of student misconduct shall be documented. A student found to be in violation of the district's student code of conduct shall be subject to appropriate discipline.

### **VISITORS**

Visitors are required to check in and check out at the front office and to conduct themselves according to the school rules. The principal may request identification from any person on school property and may ask any person not having legitimate business to leave. Students are prohibited from bringing visitors (relatives/friends) to school during the school day, as it may tend to be a source of disruption.

## **Slocum I.S.D Random Drug Testing Program**

Slocum ISD requires drug testing of any student in grades 7–12 who chooses to participate in school-sponsored extracurricular activities or requests a permit to park a vehicle on school property.

- **Purpose**
  - a. To prevent injury, illness, and harm resulting from the use of illegal and performance-enhancing drugs or alcohol
  - b. To help enforce a drug-free educational environment
  - c. To deter student use of illegal and performance-enhancing drugs or alcohol
  - d. To educate students regarding the harm caused by the use of illegal and performance-enhancing drugs or alcohol.
- **Covered Activities** - Athletics; Cheerleading; Academic UIL; One-Act Play; Future Farmers of America; Family, Career and Community Leaders of America.
- **Scope** - A student participating in these activities or requesting a parking permit shall be tested for the presence of illegal drugs and alcohol at the beginning of each school year, prior to receiving a parking permit, and prior to joining an extracurricular program at any time during the school year.
- **Distribution of Policy** - The District shall provide each parent and student a copy of the drug-testing policy and consent form prior to the student's participation in an affected activity or receipt of a parking permit.
- **Orientation Meetings** - The District shall conduct meetings with parents and interested student participants prior to the beginning of the fall practice period.
  - a. District employees shall explain the drug-testing program, review the policy and consent form, and provide an educational presentation on the harmful effects of drug and alcohol abuse.
  - b. Student attendance at the orientation meeting is mandatory.
  - c. Parent attendance at an orientation meeting is mandatory for a minor student's parent. If a student and a minor student's parent fail to attend the orientation meeting, the student shall not be allowed to participate in extracurricular activities or to receive a parking permit.
- **Consent** - Before a student is eligible to participate in extracurricular activities or to receive a parking permit, the student shall be required annually to sign a consent form agreeing to be subject to the rules and procedures of the drug-testing program. If the student is under the age of 18, the student's parent or guardian shall also sign a consent form. If appropriate consent is not given, the student shall not be allowed to participate in extracurricular activities or to receive a parking permit.
- **Use of Results** - Drug test results shall be used only to determine eligibility for a parking permit and participation in extracurricular activities. Positive drug test results shall not be used to impose disciplinary sanctions or academic penalties.
  - a. Nevertheless, nothing in this policy shall limit or affect the application of state law, local policy, or the Student Code of Conduct. A student who commits a disciplinary offense shall be subject to consequences in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct.
- **Confidentiality** - Drug-testing results shall be confidential and shall be disclosed only to the student, the student's parents, and designated District officials who need the information in order to administer the drug-testing program. Drug test results shall not be maintained with a student's academic record. Results shall not be otherwise disclosed except as required by law.
- **Testing Laboratory** - The Board shall contract with a certified drug-testing laboratory to conduct testing of students' urine samples.
  - a. Testing laboratories shall not release statistics regarding the rate of positive drug tests to any person or organization without consent of the District.
- **Substances for which Tests are Conducted** - The District shall make available to students and parents a list of the exact substances for which tests will be conducted.

- a. The drug-testing laboratory shall test for the presence of drugs including: marijuana, cocaine, methaqualone, benzodiazepines, phencyclidine (PCP), methadone, barbiturates, propoxyphene, amphetamines, opiates, and metabolites of any of these substances.
- **Collection Procedures**
    - a. Personnel from the drug-testing laboratory shall collect urine samples under conditions that are no more intrusive than the conditions experienced in a public restroom.
    - b. When selected for testing, a student shall be escorted to the school's testing site by a District employee and shall remain under employee supervision until the student provides a sample.
    - c. A student shall produce a sample within a closed restroom stall.
    - d. A District employee of the same gender as the student shall be present when any samples are collected.
  - **Random Testing** - Random tests shall be conducted on as many as ten dates throughout the school year.
    - a. No less than ten percent and no more than twenty-five percent of the students participating in the program shall be randomly selected for each random test date. The drug-testing laboratory shall use a random selection method to identify students chosen for random testing. Students shall not receive prior notice of the testing date or time.
  - **Refusal to Test or Tampering** - A student who refuses to be tested when selected or who is determined to have tampered with a sample shall be deemed to have a positive test result and shall be subject to the appropriate consequences depending on previous positive test results, if any.
    - a. If a student is absent on the day of the random test, a sample shall be collected on the next random testing date.
  - **Confirmation of Positive Results** - An initial positive test shall be confirmed by a second test of the same specimen before being reported as positive.
    - a. Upon receiving results of a positive drug test, the District shall schedule a meeting with the student, the student's parent if the student is under the age of 18, and the coach or sponsor of the extracurricular activity, as applicable, to review the test results and discuss consequences.
    - b. The student or parent shall have three school days following the meeting to provide a medical explanation for a positive result.
  - **Retesting** - If the student wishes to return to participation in extracurricular activities or have a parking permit reinstated after any applicable consequences, the student must be retested at the end of the period of suspension and have a negative test result; following that, the student shall be retested on the next six random test dates so long as the student wishes to participate in extracurricular activities or park a vehicle on school property.
  - **Drug Abuse Prevention** - The District shall notify the parent and student of drug and alcohol abuse prevention resources available in the area.
  - **Consequences** - Consequences of positive test results shall be cumulative through a period of two years from the last positive test result.
    - a. First Offense - Upon a first offense of receiving a confirmed positive drug test, a student shall be suspended from any extracurricular activity, and the student's parking permit shall be suspended, for 30 school days following the date the student and parent are notified of the test results.
      - During the period of suspension, the student shall not be permitted to participate in practices.
    - b. Second Offense - Upon a second offense of receiving a confirmed positive drug test, a student shall be suspended from any extracurricular activity, and the student's parking permit shall be suspended, for 60 school days following the date the student and parent are notified of the test results.
      - During the period of suspension, the student shall not be permitted to participate in practices.

- c. Third Offense - Upon a third offense of receiving a confirmed positive drug test, a student shall be suspended from participation in any extracurricular activity, and the student's parking permit shall be suspended, for a period of two years following the date the student and parent are notified of the test results.
  - During the period of suspension, the student shall not be permitted to participate in practices.
- **Appeals** - A student or parent may appeal a decision made under this policy in accordance with FNG (LOCAL). The student shall be ineligible for participation in extracurricular activities or reinstatement of parking privileges while the appeal is pending.



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# **SLOCUM ISD STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT**

## **Purpose**

The Student Code of Conduct is the district's response to the requirements of Chapter 37 of the Texas Education Code.

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

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

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

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

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

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

## **School District Authority and Jurisdiction**

### **Campus Behavior Coordinator**

As required by law, a person at each campus must be designated to serve as the campus behavior coordinator. The designated person may be the principal of the campus or any other campus administrator selected by the principal. The campus behavior coordinator is primarily responsible for maintaining student discipline. The district maintains a current list of the persons serving as a campus behavior coordinator in the student handbook or on the district's website at [www.slocumisd.org](http://www.slocumisd.org)

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

The district has disciplinary authority over a student:

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

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

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

## **Reporting Crimes**

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

### **'Parent' Defined**

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

### **Participating in Graduation Activities**

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

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

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

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

See **DAEP—Restrictions during Placement** on page 42, for information regarding a student assigned to DAEP at the time of graduation.

### **Unauthorized Persons**

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

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

### **Standards for Student Conduct**

Each student is expected to:

- Demonstrate courtesy, even when others do not.
- Behave in a responsible manner, always exercising self-discipline.
- Attend all classes, regularly and on time.
- Prepare for each class; take appropriate materials and assignments to class.
- Meet district and campus standards of grooming and dress.
- Obey all campus and classroom rules.
- Respect the rights and privileges of students, teachers, and other district staff and volunteers.
- Respect the property of others, including district property and facilities.
- Cooperate with and assist the school staff in maintaining safety, order, and discipline.
- Adhere to the requirements of the Student Code of Conduct.

### **General Conduct Violations**

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

#### **Disregard for Authority**

Students shall not:

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

#### **Mistreatment of Others**

Students shall not:

- Use profanity or vulgar language or make obscene gestures.
- Fight or scuffle. (For assault see DAEP Placement and Expulsion.)
- Threaten a district student, employee, or volunteer, including off school property, if the conduct causes a substantial disruption to the educational environment.

- Engage in bullying, harassment, or making hit lists. (See glossary for all three terms.)
- Engage in conduct that constitutes sexual or gender-based harassment or sexual abuse, whether by word, gesture, or any other conduct, directed toward another person, including a district student, employee, board member, or volunteer.
- Engage in conduct that constitutes dating violence. (See glossary.)
- Engage in inappropriate or indecent exposure of private body parts.
- Participate in hazing. (See glossary.)
- Cause an individual to act through the use of or threat of force (coercion).
- Commit extortion or blackmail (obtaining money or an object of value from an unwilling person).
- Engage in inappropriate verbal, physical, or sexual conduct directed toward another person, including a district student, employee, or volunteer.
- Record the voice or image of another without the prior consent of the individuals being recorded or in any way that disrupts the educational environment or invades the privacy of others.

### **Property Offenses**

Students shall not:

- Damage or vandalize property owned by others. (For felony criminal mischief see DAEP Placement or Expulsion.)
- Deface or damage school property—including textbooks, technology and electronic resources, lockers, furniture, and other equipment—with graffiti or by other means.
- Steal from students, staff, or the school.
- Commit or assist in a robbery or theft even if it does not constitute a felony according to the Texas Penal Code. (For felony robbery, aggravated robbery, and theft see DAEP Placement and Expulsion.)

### **Possession of Prohibited Items**

Students shall not possess or use:

- Fireworks of any kind, smoke or stink bombs, or any other pyrotechnic device;
- A razor, box cutter, chain, or any other object used in a way that threatens or inflicts bodily injury to another person;
- A “look-alike” weapon;
- An air gun or BB gun;
- Ammunition;
- A stun gun;
- A pocketknife or any other small knife;
- Mace or pepper spray;
- Pornographic material;
- Tobacco products; cigarettes; e-cigarettes; and any component, part, or accessory for an e-cigarette device;
- Matches or a lighter;
- A laser pointer for other than an approved use; or
- Any articles not generally considered to be weapons, including school supplies, when the principal or designee determines that a danger exists. (For weapons and firearms see DAEP Placement and Expulsion.)

### **Possession of Telecommunications or Other Electronic Devices**

Students shall not:

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

### **Illegal, Prescription, and Over-the-Counter Drugs**

Students shall not:

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

### **Misuse of Technology Resources and the Internet**

Students shall not:

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

### **Safety Transgressions**

Students shall not:

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

### **Miscellaneous Offenses**

Students shall not:

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

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

### **Discipline Management Techniques**

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

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

### **Students with Disabilities**

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

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

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

### **Techniques**

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

- Verbal correction, oral or written.
- Cooling-off time or "time-out."
- Seating changes within the classroom or vehicles owned or operated by the district.
- Temporary confiscation of items that disrupt the educational process.
- Rewards or demerits.
- Behavioral contracts.
- Counseling by teachers, school counselors, or administrative personnel.
- Parent-teacher conferences.
- Grade reductions for cheating, plagiarism, and as otherwise permitted by policy.
- Detention, including outside regular school hours.
- Sending the student to the office or other assigned area, or to in-school suspension.
- Assignment of school duties such as cleaning or picking up litter.
- Withdrawal of privileges, such as participation in extracurricular activities, eligibility for seeking and holding honorary offices, or membership in school-sponsored clubs and organizations.
- Penalties identified in individual student organizations' extracurricular standards of behavior.
- Restriction or revocation of district transportation privileges.
- School-assessed and school-administered probation.
- Corporal punishment, unless the student's parent or guardian has provided a signed statement prohibiting its use.
- Out-of-school suspension, as specified in the Out-of-School Suspension section of this Code.
- Placement in a DAEP, as specified in the DAEP section of this Code.
- Placement and/or expulsion in an alternative educational setting, as specified in the Placement and/or Expulsion for Certain Offenses section of this Code.
- Expulsion, as specified in the Expulsion section of this Code.
- Referral to an outside agency or legal authority for criminal prosecution in addition to disciplinary measures imposed by the district.
- Other strategies and consequences as determined by school officials.

### **Notification**

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

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

### **Appeals**

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

<http://pol.tasb.org/Home/Index/123>

Consequences shall not be deferred pending the outcome of a grievance

## **Removal from the School Bus**

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

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

## **Removal from the Regular Educational Setting**

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

### **Routine Referral**

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

### **Formal Removal**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## **Returning Student to Classroom**

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

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

## **Out-of-School Suspension**

### **Misconduct**

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

### **Process**

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

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



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

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

1. Self-defense (see glossary),
2. Intent or lack of intent at the time the student engaged in the conduct, and
3. The student's disciplinary history.

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

### **Disciplinary Alternative Education Program (DAEP) Placement**

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

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

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

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

1. Self-defense (see glossary),
2. Intent or lack of intent at the time the student engaged in the conduct, and
3. The student's disciplinary history.

### **Discretionary Placement: Misconduct That May Result in DAEP Placement**

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

#### **Misconduct Identified in State Law**

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

- Engaging in bullying that encourages a student to commit or attempt to commit suicide.
- Inciting violence against a student through group bullying.
- Releasing or threatening to release intimate visual material of a minor or a student who is 18 yrs of age or older without the student's consent.
- Involvement in a public school fraternity, sorority, or secret society, including participating as a member or pledge, or soliciting another person to become a pledge or member of a public school fraternity, sorority, secret society, or gang. (See glossary.)
- Involvement in criminal street gang activity. (See glossary.)
- Any criminal mischief, including a felony.
- Assault (no bodily injury) with threat of imminent bodily injury.
- Assault by offensive or provocative physical contact.

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

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

#### **Mandatory Placement: Misconduct That Requires DAEP Placement**

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

- Engages in conduct relating to a false alarm or report (including a bomb threat) or a terroristic threat involving a public school. (See glossary.)
- Commits the following offenses on school property or within 300 feet of school property as measured from any point on the school's real property boundary line, or while attending a school-sponsored or school-related activity on or off school property:

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

### **Sexual Assault and Campus Assignments**

If a student has been convicted of continuous sexual abuse of a young child or children or convicted of or placed on deferred adjudication for sexual assault or aggravated sexual assault against another student on the same campus, and if the victim’s parent or another person with the authority to act on behalf of the victim requests that the board transfer the offending student to another campus, the offending student shall be transferred to another campus in the district. If there is no other campus in the district serving the grade level of the offending student, the offending student shall be transferred to a DAEP.

### **Emergencies**

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

### **Process**

Removals to a DAEP shall be made by the campus behavior coordinator.

### **Conference**

When a student is removed from class for a DAEP offense, the campus behavior coordinator or appropriate administrator shall schedule a conference within three school days with the student’s parent, the student, and the teacher, in the case of a teacher removal. At the conference, the campus behavior coordinator or appropriate administrator shall inform the student, orally or in writing, of the reasons for the removal and shall give the student an explanation of the basis for the removal and an opportunity to respond to the reasons for the removal.

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

### **Consideration of Mitigating Factors**

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

1. Self-defense (see glossary),
2. Intent or lack of intent at the time the student engaged in the conduct, and
3. The student’s disciplinary history.

### **Placement Order**

After the conference, if the student is placed in the DAEP, the campus behavior coordinator shall write a placement order. A copy of the DAEP placement order shall be sent to the student and the student’s parent.

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

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

### **Coursework Notice**

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

### **Length of Placement**

The duration of a student's placement in a DAEP shall be determined by the campus behavior coordinator.

The duration of a student's placement shall be determined on a case-by-case basis. DAEP placement shall be correlated to the seriousness of the offense, the student's age and grade level, the frequency of misconduct, the student's attitude, and statutory requirements.

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

The district shall administer the required pre- and post-assessments for students assigned to DAEP for a period of 90 days or longer in accordance with established district administrative procedures for administering other diagnostic or benchmark assessments.

### **Exceeds One Year**

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

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

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

### **Exceeds School Year**

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

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

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

### **Exceeds 60 Days**

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

### **Appeals**

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

Student or parent appeals regarding a student's placement in a DAEP should be addressed in accordance with FNG (LOCAL). A copy of this policy may be obtained from the principal's office, the campus behavior coordinator's office, the central administration office, or through *Policy On Line* at the following address: <http://pol.tasb.org/Home/Index/123>

Appeals shall begin at Level One with the principal.

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

### **Restrictions during Placement**

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

A student placed in a DAEP shall not be provided transportation unless he or she is a student with a disability who has transportation designated as a related service in the student's IEP.

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

### **Placement Review**

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

### **Additional Misconduct**

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

### **Notice of Criminal Proceedings**

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

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

If a student was placed in a DAEP for such conduct, on receiving the notice from the prosecutor, the superintendent or designee shall review the student's placement and schedule a review with the student's parent not later than the third day after the superintendent or designee receives notice from the prosecutor. The student may not be returned to the regular classroom pending the review.

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

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

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

### **Withdrawal during Process**

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

### **Newly Enrolled Students**

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

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

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

### **Emergency Placement Procedure**

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

### **Placement and/or Expulsion for Certain Offenses**

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

#### **Registered Sex Offenders**

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

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

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

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

#### **Review Committee**

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

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

#### **Newly Enrolled Student**

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

#### **Appeal**

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

#### **Certain Felonies**

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

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

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

1. The date on which the student's conduct occurred,
2. The location at which the conduct occurred,
3. Whether the conduct occurred while the student was enrolled in the district, or

4. Whether the student has successfully completed any court disposition requirements imposed in connection with the conduct.

### **Hearing and Required Findings**

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

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

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

### **Length of Placement**

The student is subject to the placement until:

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

### **Newly Enrolled Students**

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

### **Expulsion**

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

1. Self-defense (see glossary),
2. Intent or lack of intent at the time the student engaged in the conduct, and
3. The student's disciplinary history.

### **Discretionary Expulsion: Misconduct That May Result in Expulsion**

#### **Any Location**

A student **may** be expelled for:

- Engaging in the following, no matter where it takes place:
  - Conduct that contains the elements of assault under Penal Code 22.01(a)(1) in retaliation against a school employee or volunteer.
  - Criminal mischief, if punishable as a felony.
- Engaging in conduct that contains the elements of one of the following offenses against another student, without regard to where the conduct occurs:
  - Aggravated assault.
  - Sexual assault.
  - Aggravated sexual assault.
  - Murder.
  - Capital murder.
  - Criminal attempt to commit murder or capital murder.
  - Aggravated robbery.
- Breach of computer security.
- Engaging in conduct relating to a false alarm or report (including a bomb threat) or a terroristic threat involving a public school.

#### **At School, Within 300 Feet, or at a School Event**

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

- Selling, giving, or delivering to another person, or possessing, using, or being under the influence of marijuana, a controlled substance, or a dangerous drug, if the conduct is not punishable as a felony. A student with a valid prescription for low-THC

cannabis as authorized by Chapter 487 of the Health and Safety Code does not violate this provision. (See glossary for “under the influence.”)

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

### **Within 300 Feet of School**

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

- Aggravated assault, sexual assault, or aggravated sexual assault.
- Arson. (See glossary.)
- Murder, capital murder, or criminal attempt to commit murder or capital murder.
- Indecency with a child, aggravated kidnapping, manslaughter, criminally negligent homicide, or aggravated robbery.
- Continuous sexual abuse of a young child or children.
- Felony drug- or alcohol-related offense.
- Use or possession of a firearm (as defined by state law), an illegal knife, a club, or prohibited weapon, or possession of a firearm (as defined by federal law).

### **Property of Another District**

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

### **While in DAEP**

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

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

### **Mandatory Expulsion: Misconduct That Requires Expulsion**

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

#### **Under Federal Law**

- Bringing to school a firearm, as defined by federal law. “Firearm” under federal law includes:
  - Any weapon (including a starter gun) that will, is designed to, or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive.
  - The frame or receiver of any such weapon.
  - Any firearm muffler or firearm weapon.
  - Any destructive device, such as any explosive, incendiary or poison gas bomb, or grenade.

#### **Under the Texas Penal Code**

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

- A firearm (any device designed, made, or adapted to expel a projectile through a barrel by using the energy generated by an explosion or burning substance or any device readily convertible to that use), unless the use, exhibition, or possession of the firearm occurs at an off-campus approved target range facility while participating in or preparing for a school-sponsored shooting sports competition or a shooting sports educational activity that is sponsored or supported by the Parks and Wildlife Department or a shooting sports sanctioning organization working with the department.
- An illegal knife, which includes a knife with a blade over 5½ inches; hand instrument, designed to cut or stab another by being thrown; dagger, including but not limited to a dirk, stiletto, and poniard; bowie knife; sword; or spear.
- A club such as an instrument specially designed, made, or adapted for the purpose of inflicting serious bodily injury or death by striking a person with the instrument, including a blackjack, nightstick, mace, and tomahawk. (See glossary.)
- A prohibited weapon, such as an explosive weapon, a machine gun, a short-barrel firearm, a firearm silencer, knuckles, armor-piercing ammunition, a chemical dispensing device, a zip gun, or a tire deflation device. (See glossary.)
- Behaving in a manner that contains elements of the following offenses under the Texas Penal Code:
  - Aggravated assault, sexual assault, or aggravated sexual assault.
  - Arson. (See glossary.)
  - Murder, capital murder, or criminal attempt to commit murder or capital murder.
  - Indecency with a child.
  - Aggravated kidnapping.
  - Aggravated robbery.
  - Manslaughter.
  - Criminally negligent homicide.
  - Continuous sexual abuse of a young child or children.
  - Behavior punishable as a felony that involves selling, giving, or delivering to another person, or possessing, using, or being under the influence of marijuana, a controlled substance, a dangerous drug, or alcohol; or committing a serious act or offense while under the influence of alcohol.
- Engaging in retaliation against a school employee or volunteer combined with one of the above-listed mandatory expulsion offenses.

### **Under Age Ten**

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

### **Emergency**

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

### **Process**

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

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

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

### **Hearing**

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

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

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

The board of trustees delegates to the superintendent authority to conduct hearing and expel students.

### **Board Review of Expulsion**



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

The board shall review the record of the expulsion hearing in a closed meeting unless the parent requests in writing that the matter be held in an open meeting. The board may also hear a statement from the student or parent and from the board's designee. The board shall hear statements made by the parties at the review and shall base its decision on evidence reflected in the record and any statements made by the parties at the review. The board shall make and communicate its decision orally at the conclusion of the presentation. Consequences shall not be deferred pending the outcome of the hearing.

### **Expulsion Order**

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

1. Self-defense (see glossary),
2. Intent or lack of intent at the time the student engaged in the conduct, and
3. The student's disciplinary history.

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

Not later than the second business day after the hearing, the principal/campus behavior coordinator shall deliver to the juvenile court a copy of the expulsion order and the information required by Section 52.04 of the Family Code.

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

### **Length of Expulsion**

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **Withdrawal during Process**

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

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

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

### **Additional Misconduct**

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

### **Restrictions during Expulsion**

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

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

**Newly Enrolled Students**

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

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

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

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

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

**Emergency Expulsion Procedures**

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

**DAEP Placement of Expelled Students**

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

## **Glossary**

The glossary provides legal definitions and locally established definitions and is intended to assist in understanding terms related to the Student Code of Conduct.

**Abuse** is improper or excessive use.

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

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

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

**Arson** is:

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

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

**Bullying** is 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 a school district's board of trustees or the board's designee determines that the behavior:

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:

1. Exploits an imbalance of power between the student perpetrator who is engaging in bullying and the student victim through written or verbal expression or physical conduct; and
2. Interferes with a student's education or substantially disrupts the operation of a school.

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

**Club** is an instrument specially designed, made, or adapted for the purpose of inflicting serious bodily injury or death. A blackjack, mace, and tomahawk are in the same category.

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

**Cyberbullying** is the use of any electronic communication device to engage in bullying or intimidation.

**Dating violence** occurs when a person in a current or past dating relationship uses physical, sexual, verbal, or emotional abuse to harm, threaten, intimidate, or control another person in the relationship. Dating violence also occurs when a person commits these acts against a person in a marriage or dating relationship with the individual who is or was once in a marriage or dating relationship with the person committing the offense, as defined by Section 71.0021 of the Family Code.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Firearm silencer** means any device designed, made, or adapted to muffle the report of a firearm.

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

**Harassment** is:

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

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

**Hit list** is a list of people targeted to be harmed, using a firearm, a knife, or any other object to be used with intent to cause bodily harm.

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

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

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

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

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

**Public school fraternity, sorority, secret society, or gang** means an organization composed wholly or in part of students that seeks to perpetuate itself by taking additional members from the students enrolled in school based on a decision of its membership rather than on the free choice of a qualified student. Educational organizations listed in Section 37.121(d) of the Education Code are excepted from this definition.

**Reasonable belief** is a determination made by the superintendent or designee using all available information, including the information furnished under Article 15.27 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

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

**Serious misbehavior** means:

1. Deliberate violent behavior that poses a direct threat to the health or safety of others;
2. Extortion, meaning the gaining of money or other property by force or threat;
3. Conduct that constitutes coercion, as defined by Section 1.07, Penal Code; or
4. Conduct that constitutes the offense of:
  - a. Public lewdness under Section 21.07, Penal Code;
  - b. Indecent exposure under Section 21.08; Penal Code;

- c. Criminal mischief under Section 28.03, Penal Code;
- d. Personal hazing under Section 37.152; or
- e. Harassment under Section 42.07(a)(1), Penal Code, of a student or district employee.

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

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

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

**Terroristic threat** is a threat of violence to any person or property with intent to:

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

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

**Title 5** offenses are those that involve injury to a person and include:

- Murder;
- Kidnapping;
- Trafficking of persons;
- Smuggling or continuous smuggling of persons;
- Assault;
- Aggravated assault;
- Sexual assault;
- Aggravated sexual assault;
- Unlawful restraint;
- Voyeurism;
- Indecency with a child;
- Invasive visual recording;
- Disclosure or promotion of intimate visual material;
- Injury to a child, an elderly person, or a disabled person of any age;
- Abandoning or endangering a child;
- Deadly conduct;
- Terroristic threat;
- Aiding a person to commit suicide; and
- Tampering with a consumer product.

[See FOC (EXHIBIT)]

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

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

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

## ACKNOWLEDGMENT

### **Student Code of Conduct and Student Handbook Electronic Distribution**

Dear Student and Parent:

As required by state law, the board of trustees has officially adopted the Student Code of Conduct in order to promote a safe and orderly learning environment for every student.

We urge you to read this publication thoroughly and to discuss it with your family. If you have any questions about the required conduct and consequences for misconduct, we encourage you to ask for an explanation from the student's teacher or appropriate campus administrator.

The student and parent should each sign this page in the space provided below, and then return the page to the student's school.

Thank you.

Cliff Lasiter, Superintendent

We acknowledge that we have been offered the option to receive a paper copy of the Slocum ISD Student Code of Conduct and Student Handbook for the 2017-2018 school year or to electronically access them on the district's website at [www.slocumisd.org](http://www.slocumisd.org). We understand that student will be held accountable for his or her behavior and will be subject to the disciplinary consequences outlined in the Code.

We have chosen to:

- Receive a paper copy of the Student Code of Conduct and the Student Handbook
- Accept responsibility for accessing the Student Code of Conduct and the Student Handbook on the district's website.

Print name of student: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of student: \_\_\_\_\_

Print name of parent: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of parent: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade level: \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*Please sign this page, remove it, and return it to the student's school. Thank you.**