Sabine Middle School
5424 FM 1252 W ~ Gladewater, Texas 75647 ~ 903-984-4767
www.sabineisd.org

Stanton Reaves, Principal
Sara Cantrell, Assistant Principal
Leah Lowery, Counselor
Freda Gantt, School Nurse
Kim Bradbury, Secretary
Sabrina Gresham, Attendance Clerk/Receptionist

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Sabine Middle School is to provide a safe, orderly environment where the educational process promotes lifelong learning, independent thinking, social responsibility, collaborative work ethic, personal planning, and technological proficiency.

If you have difficulty accessing the information in this document because of disability, please contact the district at sreaves@sabineisd.org or 903-984-4767
Table of Contents

**Preface Parents and Students:** .................................................................................................................. 10

Accessibility .................................................................................................................................................. 11

**Section One: Parental Rights** .................................................................................................................. 12

Consent, Opt-Out, and Refusal Rights ........................................................................................................ 12

Consent to Conduct a Psychological Evaluation or Provide a Mental Health Care Service ................... 12

Consent to Display a Student’s Original Works and Personal Information ............................................. 12

Consent to Video or Audio Record a Student when Not Already Permitted by Law ............................... 12

Prohibiting the Use of Corporal Punishment ............................................................................................... 13

Limiting Electronic Communications between Students and District Employees .............................. 13

Objecting to the Release of Directory Information .................................................................................. 14

Participation in Third-Party Surveys ........................................................................................................ 15

Consent Required Before Student Participation in a Federally Funded Survey, Analysis, or Evaluation ................................................................................................................................. 15

“Opting Out” of Participation in Other Types of Surveys or Screenings and the Disclosure of Personal Information ........................................................................................................................................ 15

Removing a Student from Instruction or Excusing a Student from a Required Component of Instruction ........................................................................................................................................ 16

Human Sexuality Instruction ......................................................................................................................... 16

Reciting a Portion of the Declaration of Independence in Grades 3–12 .................................................. 16

Reciting the Pledges to the U.S. and Texas Flags ...................................................................................... 17

Religious or Moral Beliefs ............................................................................................................................ 17

Tutoring or Test Preparation ....................................................................................................................... 17

Right of Access to Student Records, Curriculum Materials, and District Records/Policies .................. 18

Instructional Materials ................................................................................................................................. 18

Notices of Certain Student Misconduct to Noncustodial Parent .............................................................. 18

Participation in Federally Required, State-Mandated, and District Assessments .................................... 18

Student Records .......................................................................................................................................... 18

Accessing Student Records ....................................................................................................................... 18

Authorized Inspection and Use of Student Records ................................................................................. 19

Teacher and Staff Professional Qualifications ............................................................................................ 22

A Student with Exceptionalities or Special Circumstances ...................................................................... 22

Children of Military Families ....................................................................................................................... 22

Parental Role in Certain Classroom and School Assignments .................................................................. 23

Multiple-Birth Siblings ................................................................................................................................. 23

Safety Transfers/Assignments ....................................................................................................................... 23
Section Two: Other Important Information for Parents and Students

Absences/Attendance ................................................................. 30
  Compulsory Attendance ........................................................ 30
    Prekindergarten and Kindergarten ........................................... 30
    Ages 6–18 ............................................................................ 30
Exemptions to Compulsory Attendance ....................................... 30
  All Grade Levels ..................................................................... 30
Failure to Comply with Compulsory Attendance ................................ 31
  All Grade Levels ..................................................................... 31
  Students with Disabilities ........................................................ 31
    Ages 6–18 ............................................................................ 31
Attendance for Credit or Final Grade ........................................... 32
  Official Attendance-Taking Time .............................................. 32
  Documentation after an Absence .............................................. 32
  Doctor’s Note after an Absence for Illness ................................. 33
  Driver License Attendance Verification .................................... 33
Academic Counseling............................................................................................................. 41

Personal Counseling............................................................................................................. 41

Elementary and Middle/Junior High School Grade Levels.................................................. 41

Reporting and Responding to Sexual Abuse, Trafficking, and Other Maltreatment of Children 38

Further Resources on Sexual Abuse, Trafficking, and Other Maltreatment of Children ........ 38

Class Schedules..................................................................................................................... 38

Communications—Automated............................................................................................... 39

Emergency............................................................................................................................. 39

Nonemergency ....................................................................................................................... 39

Complaints and Concerns.................................................................................................... 39

Conduct................................................................................................................................ 40

Applicability of School Rules .............................................................................................. 40

Campus Behavior Coordinator............................................................................................... 40

Elementary, Carrie Mashburn............................................................................................... 40

Middle School, Sara Cantrell................................................................................................. 40

High School, Stephanie Richard........................................................................................... 40

Deliveries................................................................................................................................ 40

Disruption of School Operations........................................................................................... 40

Social Events......................................................................................................................... 41

Counseling.............................................................................................................................. 41

Academic Counseling.......................................................................................................... 41

Communications .................................................................................................................. 37

Warning Signs of Trafficking................................................................................................. 37

Reporting and Responding to Sexual Abuse, Trafficking, and Other Maltreatment of Children 38

Further Resources on Sexual Abuse, Trafficking, and Other Maltreatment of Children ........ 38

Child Sexual Abuse, Trafficking, and Other Maltreatment of Children................................. 36

Warning Signs of Sexual Abuse............................................................................................ 36

Warning Signs of Trafficking................................................................................................. 36

Accountability under State and Federal Law ........................................................................... 33

Awards and Honors ............................................................................................................... 34

• Students who earn all A’s (90 and above in every class) during a six week’s grading period will be recognized on the A Honor Roll ................................................................. 34

• Students who earn A’s and B’s (80 and above in every class) during a six week’s grading period will be recognized on the A-B Honor Roll ......................................................... 34

• Academic Awards are presented to students who remain on the Honor Roll through the fifth six weeks ...................................................................................................................... 34

• Attendance Awards are presented to students who are present every day for each class throughout the school year. Awards will also be presented to students with a partial day absence; however, a medical excuse must be presented ................................................................. 34

Bullying................................................................................................................................ 34
Course Credit ........................................................................................................................................... 42
Credit by Examination—If a Student Has Taken the Course/Subject ...................................................... 42
Credit by Examination for Advancement/Acceleration—If a Student Has Not Taken the Course/Subject ........................................................................................................................................... 42

Students in Grades 6–12 ................................................................................................................... 43

Dating Violence, Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation ............................................................. 43
Dating Violence ......................................................................................................................................... 43
Discrimination ......................................................................................................................................... 44
Harassment ........................................................................................................................................... 44
Sexual Harassment and Gender-Based Harassment ........................................................................... 44
Retaliation ................................................................................................................................................ 45
Reporting Procedures .......................................................................................................................... 45
Investigation of Report .......................................................................................................................... 45

Discrimination ......................................................................................................................................... 46

Distance Learning (All Grade Levels) .................................................................................................. 46

Texas Virtual School Network (TXVSN) .............................................................................................. 46

Distribution of Literature, Published Materials, or Other Documents (All Grade Levels) ............... 47
School Materials ................................................................................................................................... 47
Nonschool Materials ........................................................................................................................... 47
From Students ........................................................................................................................................ 47
From Others .......................................................................................................................................... 47

Dress and Grooming ............................................................................................................................. 48

Dress Code Guidelines ........................................................................................................................ 49

Electronic Devices and Technology Resources ..................................................................................... 49
Possession and Use of Personal Telecommunications Devices, Including Cell Phones, and Other Electronic Devices ........................................................................................................................................... 49

Instructional Use of Personal Telecommunications and Other Electronic Devices ........................... 50
Acceptable Use of District Technology Resources ............................................................................... 50
Unacceptable and Inappropriate Use of Technology Resources ............................................................ 50

End-of-Course (EOC) Assessments ....................................................................................................... 51

English Learners ................................................................................................................................... 51

Extracurricular Activities, Clubs, and Organizations ............................................................................. 51
Standards of Behavior ............................................................................................................................ 52
Offices and Elections ............................................................................................................................ 52
Cheerleading .......................................................................................................................................... 52

Eligibility Requirements for Try-outs: ................................................................................................. 52
National Junior Honor Society ........................................................................................................................................52
Student Council ..........................................................................................................................................................53
Fees ...........................................................................................................................................................................53
Fundraising ..............................................................................................................................................................54
Gang-Free Zones ......................................................................................................................................................54
Gender-Based Harassment ......................................................................................................................................54
Grading Guidelines ................................................................................................................................................55
Harassment ............................................................................................................................................................55
Hazing ........................................................................................................................................................................55
Health—Physical and Mental Health ......................................................................................................................55
Illness .........................................................................................................................................................................55
Immunization ...........................................................................................................................................................56
Lice ............................................................................................................................................................................57
Medicine at School ..................................................................................................................................................57
Asthma and Severe Allergic Reactions ...................................................................................................................58
Steroids ......................................................................................................................................................................58
Mental Health Support .........................................................................................................................................58
Physical Activity Requirements ............................................................................................................................59
Junior High/Middle School ...................................................................................................................................59
Temporary Restriction from Participation in Physical Education .......................................................................59
Physical Fitness Assessment ...................................................................................................................................59
Physical Health Screenings / Examinations ........................................................................................................60
Athletics Participation ...........................................................................................................................................60
Spinal Screening Program ...................................................................................................................................60
Special Health Concerns .......................................................................................................................................60
Bacterial Meningitis ................................................................................................................................................60
Diabetes ...................................................................................................................................................................60
Food Allergies ..........................................................................................................................................................60
Seizures .....................................................................................................................................................................61
Tobacco and E-Cigarettes ......................................................................................................................................61
Health-Related Resources, Policies, and Procedures .................................................................................................61
Physical and Mental Health Resources ................................................................................................................61
Policies and Procedures that Promote Student Physical and Mental Health .......................................................62
School Health Advisory Council (SHAC) ..............................................................................................................62
Student Wellness Policy/Wellness Plan ................................................................................................................62
Homework..........................................................................................................................63
    Homework Detention..........................................................................................................63
Law Enforcement Agencies .................................................................................................63
    Questioning of Students....................................................................................................63
Students Taken into Custody ...............................................................................................63
    Notification of Law Violations..........................................................................................64
Leaving Campus ....................................................................................................................64
    During Lunch.....................................................................................................................65
    At Any Other Time during the School Day .......................................................................65
Lost and Found .....................................................................................................................65
Makeup Work ..........................................................................................................................65
    Makeup Work Because of Absence....................................................................................65
    DAEP Makeup Work..........................................................................................................66
        Elementary and Middle/Junior High School Grade Levels ..........................................66
    In-School Suspension (ISS) and Out-of-School Suspension (OSS) Makeup Work (All Grade Levels) ................................................................................................................66
    Alternative Means to Receive Coursework .......................................................................66
    Opportunity to Complete Courses.....................................................................................66
Nondiscrimination Statement ...............................................................................................66
Parent and Family Engagement ...........................................................................................67
    Working Together.............................................................................................................67
Pledges of Allegiance and a Minute of Silence ....................................................................68
Prayer .....................................................................................................................................68
Promotion and Retention .......................................................................................................68
    Elementary and Middle/Junior High Grade Levels ........................................................68
    High School Grade Levels...............................................................................................70
Release of Students from School .........................................................................................70
Report Cards/Progress Reports and Conferences ...............................................................70
Reteach/Retest .......................................................................................................................71
    Reteach..............................................................................................................................71
    Retest.................................................................................................................................71
    Reteach/Retest Grading Policy .........................................................................................71
Retaliation................................................................................................................................71
Safety ........................................................................................................................................72

Accident Insurance ...............................................................................................................72
Preparedness Drills: Evacuation, Severe Weather, and Other Emergencies .......................72
Counseling........................................................................................................................................87
Improper Conduct..................................................................................................................................87
Confidentiality .........................................................................................................................................87
Appeal.....................................................................................................................................................87
Records Retention..................................................................................................................................87
Access to Policy and Procedures...........................................................................................................87
Preface Parents and Students:

Welcome to the new school year!

Education is a team effort. Students, parents, teachers, and other staff members working together will make this a successful year.

The Sabine Middle School Student Handbook is a general reference guide that is divided into two sections:

Section One: Parental Rights describes certain parental rights as specified in state or federal law.

Section Two: Other Important Information for Parents and Students is organized alphabetically by topic. Where applicable, the topics are further organized by grade level.

Note: Unless otherwise noted, the term “parent” refers to the parent, legal guardian, any person granted some other type of lawful control of a student, or any other person who has agreed to assume school-related responsibility for a student.

The Student Handbook is designed to align with law, board-adopted policy, and the Student Code of Conduct, a board-adopted document intended to promote school safety and an atmosphere for learning. The Student Handbook is not meant to be a complete statement of all policies, procedures, or rules in any given circumstance.

In case of conflicts between board policy (including the Student Code of Conduct) and any Student Handbook provision, the district will follow board policy and the Student Code of Conduct.

Therefore, parents and students should become familiar with the Sabine Middle School Code of Conduct. To review the Code of Conduct, visit the district’s website at www.sabineisd.org. State law requires that the Code of Conduct be prominently displayed or made available for review at each campus.

The Student Handbook is updated annually; however, policy adoption and revisions may occur throughout the year. The district encourages parents to stay informed of proposed policy changes by attending board meetings and reviewing newsletter and other communications explaining changes in policy or other rules that affect Student Handbook provisions. The district reserves the right to modify the Student Handbook at any time. Notice of revisions will be provided as is reasonably practical.

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

A hard copy of either the Student Code of Conduct or Student Handbook can be requested at Sabine ISD central office.

Note: References to board policy codes are included for ease of reference. The hard copy of the district’s official policy manual is available for review in the district administration office and an unofficial electronic copy is available at www.sabineisd.org.

The policy manual includes:
Sabine Middle School Student Handbook

- Legally referenced (LEGAL) policies that contain provisions from federal and state laws and regulations, case law, and other legal authorities that provide the legal framework for school districts.

- Board-adopted (LOCAL) policies that articulate the board’s choices and values regarding district practices.

For questions about the material in this handbook, please contact Sara Cantrell

Complete and return to the student’s campus the following forms (provided in the forms packet distributed at the beginning of the year or upon enrollment):

- [Acknowledgment Form Or Acknowledgment of Electronic Distribution of Student Handbook],

- Notice Regarding Directory Information and Parent’s Response Regarding Release of Student Information,

- Parent’s Objection to the Release of Student Information to Military Recruiters and Institutions of Higher Education (if you choose to restrict the release of information to these entities), and

- Consent/Opt-Out Form for participation in third-party surveys.

[See Objecting to the Release of Directory Information on page 14 and Consent Required Before Student Participation in a Federally Funded Survey, Analysis, or Evaluation on page 15 for more information.]

**Accessibility**

If you have difficulty accessing this handbook because of a disability, please contact the principal, Stanton Reaves at 903-984-4767.
Section One: Parental Rights

This section describes certain parental rights as specified in state or federal law.

Consent, Opt-Out, and Refusal Rights

Consent to Conduct a Psychological Evaluation or Provide a Mental Health Care Service

Unless required under state or federal law, a district employee will not conduct a psychological examination, test, screening, or treatment, without obtaining prior written parental consent.

The district will not provide a mental health care service to a student except as permitted by law.

The district has established procedures for providing a parent with a recommendation for an intervention for a student with early warning signs of mental health concerns or substance abuse or who has been identified as at risk of attempting suicide. The district’s mental health liaison will notify the student’s parent within a reasonable amount of time after the liaison learns that a student has displayed early warning signs and a possible need for intervention and provide information about available counseling options.

The district has also established procedures for staff to notify the mental health liaison regarding a student who may need intervention.

The mental health liaison, Leah Lowery can be reached at llowery@sabineisd.org and can provide further information regarding these procedures as well as educational materials on identifying risk factors, accessing resources for treatment or support on- and off-campus, and accessing available student accommodations provided on campus.

For further information, see Mental Health Support on page 58.

Note: An evaluation may be legally required under special education rules or by the Texas Education Agency for child abuse investigations and reports.

Consent to Display a Student’s Original Works and Personal Information

Teachers may display a student’s work in classrooms or elsewhere on campus as recognition of student achievement without seeking prior parental consent. These displays may include personally identifiable student information. Student work includes:

- Artwork,
- Special projects,
- Photographs,
- Original videos or voice recordings, and
- Other original works.

However, the district will seek parental consent before displaying a student’s work on the district’s website, a website affiliated or sponsored by the district (such as a campus or classroom website), or in district publications, which may include printed materials, videos, or other methods of mass communication.

Consent to Video or Audio Record a Student when Not Already Permitted by Law

State law permits the school to make a video or voice recording without parental permission when it:
• Is to be used for school safety,
• Relates to classroom instruction or a cocurricular or extracurricular activity,
• Relates to media coverage of the school, or
• Relates to the promotion of student safety as provided by law for a student receiving special education services in certain settings.

In other circumstances, the district will seek written parental consent before making a video or voice recording of a student.

Prohibiting the Use of Corporal Punishment

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

However, in accordance with law, the district may not administer corporal punishment if a student’s parent submits a signed, written statement prohibiting its use.

A parent who does not want corporal punishment administered to his or her child must return the form included in the forms packet. This signed statement must be submitted each school year. A parent may revoke this prohibition at any time during the school year by providing a signed statement to the campus principal.

Note:
• District personnel may use discipline methods other than corporal punishment if a parent requests that corporal punishment not be used.
• If the district knows that a student is in temporary or permanent custody of the state (through foster care, kinship care, or other arrangements), corporal punishment will not be administered, even when the student’s caregiver or caseworker has not submitted a signed statement prohibiting its use.

Limiting Electronic Communications between Students and District Employees

The district permits teachers and other approved employees to use electronic communications with students within the scope of professional responsibilities, as described by district guidelines.

For example, a teacher may create a social networking page for his or her class to relay information regarding class work, homework, and tests. A parent is welcome to access such a page.

However, text messages sent to an individual student are only allowed if a district employee with responsibility for an extracurricular activity must communicate with a student participating in that activity and must include one of the following:

• The employee is required to include the student’s parent as a recipient on all text messages.
• The employee is required to include his or her immediate supervisor and the student’s parent as recipients on all text messages.
• The employee is required to send a copy of the text message to the employee’s district email address.

A parent who does not want his or her child to receive one-to-one electronic communications from a district employee should contact the campus principal.

Objecting to the Release of Directory Information

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, or FERPA, permits the district to disclose appropriately designated “directory information” from a student’s education records without written consent.

“Directory information” is information that, if released, is generally not considered harmful or an invasion of privacy. Examples include:

• A student’s photograph (for publication in the school yearbook);
• A student’s name and grade level (for communicating class and teacher assignments);
• The name, weight, and height of an athlete (for publication in a school athletic program);
• A list of student birthdays (for generating schoolwide or classroom recognition);
• A student’s name and photograph (posted on a district-approved and -managed social media platform); and
• The names and grade levels of students submitted by the district to a local newspaper or other community publication (to recognize the A/B honor roll for a specific grading period.)

Directory information will be released to anyone who follows procedures for requesting it. However, a parent or eligible student may object to the release of this information. Any objection must be made in writing to the principal within ten school days of the student’s first day of instruction for this school year.

[See Notice Regarding Directory Information and Parent’s Response Regarding Release of Student Information, included in the forms packet.]

The district requests that families living in a shelter for survivors of family violence or trafficking notify district personnel that the student currently resides in such a shelter. Families may want to opt out of the release of directory information so that the district does not release any information that might reveal the location of such a shelter.

The district has identified the following as directory information: student name; address; telephone listing; electronic mail address; photograph; date and place of birth; major field of study; degrees, honors, and awards received; dates of attendance; grade level; most recent educational institution attended; participation in officially recognized activities and sports; and weight and height of members of athletic teams. If a parent objects to the release of the student’s information included on the directory information response form, this objection also applies to the use of that information for school-sponsored purposes, such as:

• Honor roll,
• School newspaper,
- Yearbook,
- Recognition activities,
- News releases, and
- Athletic programs.

**Note:** Review Authorized Inspection and Use of Student Records on page 19.

### Participation in Third-Party Surveys

**Consent Required Before Student Participation in a Federally Funded Survey, Analysis, or Evaluation**

The Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA) mandates that a student will not be required to participate without parental consent in any survey, analysis, or evaluation—funded in whole or in part by the U.S. Department of Education—that concerns:

- Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or the student’s parent;
- Mental or psychological problems of the student or the student’s family;
- Sex behavior or attitudes;
- Illegal, antisocial, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior;
- Critical appraisals of individuals with whom the student has a close family relationship;
- Legally recognized privileged relationships, such as with lawyers, physicians, and ministers;
- Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or parent; or
- Income, except when the information is required by law and will be used to determine the student’s eligibility for a program.

A parent can inspect the survey or other instrument and any corresponding instructional materials used in connection with such a survey, analysis, or evaluation. [See policy EF(LEGAL) for more information.]

### “Opting Out” of Participation in Other Types of Surveys or Screenings and the Disclosure of Personal Information

The PPRA gives parents the right to receive notice and an opportunity to opt a student out of:

- Any survey concerning protected information, regardless of funding.
- Activities involving the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information gathered from the child for the purpose of marketing, selling, or otherwise disclosing that information to others.
- Any nonemergency, invasive physical examination or screening required as a condition of attendance, administered by the school or its agent, and not necessary to protect the immediate health and safety of the student.

Exceptions are hearing, vision, or spinal screenings, or any physical examination or screening permitted or required under state law. [See policies EF and FFAA for more information.]
A parent may inspect:

- Protected information surveys of students and surveys created by a third party;
- Instruments used to collect personal information from students for any of the above marketing, sales, or other distribution purposes; and
- Instructional material used as part of the educational curriculum.

Removing a Student from Instruction or Excusing a Student from a Required Component of Instruction

Human Sexuality Instruction

As a part of the district’s curriculum, students receive instruction related to human sexuality. The School Health Advisory Council (SHAC) makes recommendations for course materials.

State law requires that the district provide written notice before each school year of the board’s decision to provide human sexuality instruction.

State law also requires that instruction related to human sexuality, sexually transmitted diseases, or human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) or acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS):

- Present abstinence from sexual activity as the preferred choice in relationship to all sexual activity for unmarried persons of school age;
- Devote more attention to abstinence from sexual activity than to any other behavior;
- Emphasize that abstinence, if used consistently and correctly, is the only method that is 100 percent effective in preventing pregnancy, sexually transmitted infections and the emotional trauma associated with adolescent sexual activity;
- Direct adolescents to abstain from sexual activity before marriage as the most effective way to prevent pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases; and
- If included in the content of the curriculum, teach contraception and condom use in terms of human use reality rates instead of theoretical laboratory rates.

A parent is entitled to review the curriculum materials. In addition, a parent may remove his or her child from any part of the human sexuality instruction without academic, disciplinary, or other penalties. A parent may also choose to become more involved with the development of this curriculum by becoming a member of the district’s SHAC. (See the campus principal for details.)

Reciting a Portion of the Declaration of Independence in Grades 3–12

State law designates the week of September 17 as Celebrate Freedom Week and requires all social studies classes provide:

- Instruction concerning the intent, meaning, and importance of the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution, and
- A specific recitation from the Declaration of Independence for students in grades 3–12.

Per state law, a student may be excused from recitation of a portion of the Declaration of Independence if:

- A parent provides a written statement requesting that his or her child be excused,
• The district determines that the student has a conscientious objection to the recitation, or
• A parent is a representative of a foreign government to whom the U.S. government extends diplomatic immunity.

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

**Reciting the Pledges to the U.S. and Texas Flags**

A parent may request that his or her child be excused from participation in the daily recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. flag and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Texas flag. The request must be made in writing.

State law, however, requires that all students participate in one minute of silence following recitation of the pledges.

[See *Pledges of Allegiance and a Minute of Silence* on page 68 and policy EC(LEGAL) for more information.]

**Religious or Moral Beliefs**

A parent may remove his or her child temporarily from the classroom if a scheduled instructional activity conflicts with the parent’s religious or moral beliefs.

The removal may not be used to avoid a test and may not extend for an entire semester. Further, the student must satisfy grade-level and graduation requirements as determined by the school and by state law.

**Tutoring or Test Preparation**

A teacher may determine that a student needs additional targeted assistance for the student to achieve mastery in state-developed essential knowledge and skills based on:

• Informal observations,
• Evaluative data such as grades earned on assignments or tests, or
• Results from diagnostic assessments.

The school will always attempt to provide tutoring and strategies for test-taking in ways that prevent removal from other instruction as much as possible.

In accordance with state law and policy EC, without parental permission, districts are prohibited from removing a student from a regularly scheduled class for remedial tutoring or test preparation for more than ten percent of the days the class is offered.

Under state law, students with grades below 70 for a reporting period are required to attend tutorial services—if the district offers these services.

[For questions about school-provided tutoring programs contact the student’s teacher, and see policies EC and EHBC.]
Right of Access to Student Records, Curriculum Materials, and District Records/Policies

Instructional Materials
A parent has the right to review teaching materials, textbooks, and other teaching aids and instructional materials used in the curriculum, and to examine tests that have been administered.

A parent is also entitled to request that the school allow the student to take home instructional materials the student uses. The school may ask the student to return the materials at the beginning of the next school day.

A school must provide printed versions of electronic instructional materials to a student if the student does not have reliable access to technology at home.

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

Participation in Federally Required, State-Mandated, and District Assessments
In accordance with the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), a parent may request information regarding any federal, state, or district policy related to his or her child’s participation in required assessments.

Student Records

Accessing Student Records
A parent may review his or her child’s records. These records include:

- Attendance records,
- Test scores,
- Grades,
- Disciplinary records,
- Counseling records,
- Psychological records,
- Applications for admission,
- Health and immunization information,
- Other medical records,
- Teacher and school counselor evaluations,
- Reports of behavioral patterns,
• Records relating to assistance provided for learning difficulties, including information collected regarding any intervention strategies used with the child, as the term “intervention strategy” is defined by law,

• State assessment instruments that have been administered to the child, and

• Teaching materials and tests used in the child’s classroom.

**Authorized Inspection and Use of Student Records**

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents and eligible students certain rights regarding student education records.

For purposes of student records, an “eligible” student is anyone age 18 or older or who attends a postsecondary educational institution. These rights, as discussed here and at **Objecting to the Release of Directory Information** on page 14, are the right to:

• Inspect and review student records within 45 days after the day the school receives a request for access;

• Request an amendment to a student record the parent or eligible student believes is inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of FERPA;

• Provide written consent before the school discloses personally identifiable information from the student’s records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent; and

• File a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning failures by the school to comply with FERPA requirements. The office that administers FERPA is:

  **Family Policy Compliance Office**
  **U.S. Department of Education**
  **400 Maryland Ave., S.W.**
  **Washington, DC 20202**

Both FERPA and state laws safeguard student records from unauthorized inspection or use and provide parents and eligible students certain rights of privacy.

Before disclosing personally identifiable information from a student’s records, the district must verify the identity of the person, including a parent or the student, requesting the information.

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

Inspection and release of student records is restricted to an eligible student or a student’s parent—whether married, separated, or divorced—unless the school receives a copy of a court order terminating parental rights or the right to access a student’s education records.

Federal law requires that control of the records goes to the student as soon as the student:

• Reaches the age of 18,

• Is emancipated by a court, or

• Enrolls in a postsecondary educational institution.
However, the parent may continue to have access to the records if the student is a dependent for tax purposes and, under limited circumstances, when there is a threat to the health and safety of the student or other individuals.

FERPA permits the disclosure of personally identifiable information from a student’s education records without written consent of the parent or eligible student:

- When school officials have what federal law refers to as a “legitimate educational interest” in a student’s records.
  - Legitimate educational interest may include:
  - Working with the student;
  - Considering disciplinary or academic actions, the student’s case, or an individualized education program for a student with disabilities;
  - Compiling statistical data;
  - Reviewing an educational record to fulfill the official’s professional responsibility; or
  - Investigating or evaluating programs.

- School officials may include:
  - Board members and employees, such as the superintendent, administrators, and principals;
  - Teachers, school counselors, diagnosticians, and support staff (including district health or medical staff);
  - A person or company with whom the district has contracted or allowed to provide a specific institutional service or function (such as an attorney, consultant, third-party vendor that offers online programs or software, auditor, medical consultant, therapist, school resource officer, or volunteer);
  - A person appointed to serve on a team to support the district’s safe and supportive school program;
  - A parent or student serving on a school committee; or
  - A parent or student assisting a school official in the performance of his or her duties.

FERPA also permits the disclosure of personally identifiable information without written consent:

- To authorized representatives of various governmental agencies, including juvenile service providers, the U.S. Comptroller General’s office, the U.S. Attorney General’s office, the U.S. Secretary of Education, the Texas Education Agency, the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture’s office, and Child Protective Services (CPS) caseworkers or, in certain cases, other child welfare representatives.
- To individuals or entities granted access in response to a subpoena or court order.
- To another school, district/system, or postsecondary educational institution to which a student seeks or intends to enroll or in which the student already is enrolled.
In connection with financial aid for which a student has applied or has received.

To accrediting organizations to carry out accrediting functions.

To organizations conducting studies for, or on behalf of, the school to develop, validate, or administer predictive tests; administer student aid programs; or improve instruction.

To appropriate officials in connection with a health or safety emergency.

When the district discloses directory information-designated details. [To prohibit this disclosure, see Objecting to the Release of Directory Information on page 14.]

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

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

A parent or eligible student who wants to inspect the student’s records should submit a written request to the records custodian identifying the records he or she wants to inspect.

Records may be reviewed in person during regular school hours. The records custodian or designee will be available to explain the record and to answer questions.

A parent or eligible student who submits a written request and pays copying costs of ten cents per page may obtain copies. If circumstances prevent inspection during regular school hours and the student qualifies for free or reduced-price meals, the district will either provide a copy of the records requested or make other arrangements for the parent or student to review the records.

The address of the superintendent’s office is 5424 FM 1252 W, Gladewater, TX 75647.

The address of the principal’s office is: 5424 FM 1252 W, Gladewater, TX 75647.

A parent or eligible student may inspect the student’s records and request a correction or amendment if the records are considered inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student’s privacy rights.

A request to correct a student’s record should be submitted to the appropriate records custodian. The request must clearly identify the part of the record that should be corrected and include an explanation of how the information is inaccurate. If the district denies the request to amend the records, the parent or eligible student has the right to request a hearing. If after the hearing the records are not amended, the parent or eligible student has 30 school days to place a statement in the student’s record.

Although improperly recorded grades may be challenged, contesting a student’s grade in a course or on an examination is handled through the complaint process found in policy FNG(LOCAL). A grade issued by a teacher can be changed only if, as determined by the board of trustees, the grade is arbitrary, erroneous, or inconsistent with the district’s grading guidelines. [See Report Cards/Progress Reports and Conferences on page 70, Complaints and Concerns on page 39, and Finality of Grades at policy FNG(LEGAL).]

The district’s student records policy is found at policy FL(LEGAL) and (LOCAL) and is available at the principal’s or superintendent’s office at www.sabineisd.org.
Note: The parent’s or eligible student’s right of access to and copies of student records does not extend to all records. Materials that are not considered educational records—such as a teacher’s personal notes about a student shared only with a substitute teacher—do not have to be made available.

Teacher and Staff Professional Qualifications
A parent may request information regarding the professional qualifications of his or her child’s teachers, including whether the teacher:

- Has met state qualification and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction,
- Has an emergency permit or other provisional status for which state requirements have been waived, and
- Is currently teaching in the field of discipline of his or her certification.

The parent also has the right to request information about the qualifications of any paraprofessional who may provide services to the child.

A Student with Exceptionalities or Special Circumstances

Children of Military Families
The Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunities for Military Children entitles children of military families to flexibility regarding certain district and state requirements, including:

- Immunization requirements;
- Grade level, course, or educational program placement;
- Eligibility requirements for participation in extracurricular activities;
- Enrollment in the Texas Virtual School Network (TXVSN); and
- Graduation requirements.

The district will excuse absences related to a student visiting a parent, including a stepparent or legal guardian, who is:

- Called to active duty,
- On leave, or
- Returning from a deployment of at least four months.

The district will permit no more than five excused absences per year for this purpose. For the absence to be excused, the absence must occur no earlier than the 60th day before deployment or no later than the 30th day after the parent’s return from deployment.

Additional information may be found at Military Family Resources at the Texas Education Agency.
Parental Role in Certain Classroom and School Assignments

Multiple-Birth Siblings

State law permits a parent of multiple-birth siblings (e.g., twins, triplets) assigned to the same grade and campus to request in writing that the children be placed in either the same classroom or separate classrooms.

Written requests must be submitted by the 14th day after the students’ enrollment. [See policy FDB(LEGAL) for more information.]

Safety Transfers/Assignments

The board or its designee will honor a parent’s request to transfer his or her child to another classroom or campus if the district has determined that the child has been a victim of bullying, including cyberbullying, as defined by Education Code 37.0832.

The board may transfer a student who has engaged in bullying to another classroom. Transportation is not provided for a transfer to another campus. See the superintendent for more information.

[See Bullying on page 34, and policies FDB and FFI for more information.]

The district will honor a parent’s request for the transfer of his or her child to a safe public school in the district if the child attends a school identified by the Texas Education Agency as persistently dangerous or if the child has been a victim of a violent criminal offense while at school or on school grounds.

[See policy FDE for more information.]

The board will honor a parent’s request for the transfer of his or her child to a neighboring district if the child has been the victim of sexual assault by another student assigned to the same campus, whether the assault occurred on or off campus, and that student has been convicted of or placed on deferred adjudication for the assault. In accordance with policy FDE, if the victim does not wish to transfer, the board will transfer the assailant.

Student Use of a Service/Assistance Animal

A parent of a student who uses a service/assistance animal because of the student’s disability must submit a written request to the principal before bringing the service/assistance animal on campus. The district will try to accommodate a request as soon as possible but will do so within ten district business days.

A Student in the Conservatorship of the State (Foster Care)

A student in the conservatorship (custody) of the state who enrolls in the district after the beginning of the school year will be allowed credit-by-examination opportunities at any point during the year.

The district will grant partial course credit by semester when the student only passes one semester of a two-semester course.

A student in the conservatorship of the state who is moved outside the district’s or school’s attendance boundaries—or who is initially placed in the conservatorship of the state and moved outside the district’s or school’s boundaries—is entitled to remain at the school the student was attending prior to the placement or move until the student reaches the highest grade level at that particular school.
If a student in grade 11 or 12 transfers to another district but does not meet the graduation requirements of the receiving district, the student can request a diploma from the previous district if the student meets its graduation criteria.

For a student in the conservatorship of the state who is eligible for a tuition and fee exemption under state law and likely to be in care on the day preceding the student’s 18th birthday, the district will:

- Assist the student with the completion of applications for admission or financial aid;
- Arrange and accompany the student on campus visits;
- Assist in researching and applying for private or institution-sponsored scholarships;
- Identify whether the student is a candidate for appointment to a military academy;
- Assist the student in registering and preparing for college entrance examinations, including (subject to the availability of funds) arranging for the payment of examination fees by the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS); and
- Coordinate contact between the student and a liaison officer for students formerly in the conservatorship of the state.

[See Credit by Examination for Advancement/Acceleration on page 42, Course Credit on page 42, and A Student in Foster Care on page 78.]

**A Student Who Is Homeless**

Children who are homeless will be provided flexibility regarding certain district provisions, including:

- Proof of residency requirements;
- Immunization requirements;
- Educational program placement (if the student is unable to provide previous academic records or misses an application deadline during a period of homelessness);
- Credit-by-examination opportunities at any point during the year (if the student enrolled in the district after the beginning of the school year), per State Board of Education (SBOE) rules;
- Awarding partial credit when a student passes only one semester of a two-semester course;
- Eligibility requirements for participation in extracurricular activities; and
- Graduation requirements.

Federal law allows a student who is homeless to remain enrolled in the “school of origin” or to enroll in a new school in the attendance area where the student is currently residing.

If a student who is homeless in grade 11 or 12 transfers to another district but does not meet the graduation requirements of the receiving district, state law allows the student to request a diploma from the previous district if the student meets the criteria to graduate from the previous district.
A student or parent who is dissatisfied by the district’s eligibility, school selection, or enrollment decision may appeal through policy FNG(LOCAL). The district will expedite local timelines, when possible, for prompt dispute resolution.

[See Credit by Examination for Advancement/Acceleration on page 42, Course Credit on page 42, and Students who are Homeless on page 79.]

**A Student Who Has Learning Difficulties or Who Needs 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 Leah Lowery at (903) 984-4767.

**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 Leah Lowery at (903) 984-4767.

[See *A Student with Physical or Mental Impairments Protected under Section 504* on page 27.]

Visit these websites for information regarding students with disabilities and the family:

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

**Notification to Parents of Intervention Strategies for Learning Difficulties Provided to Students in General Education**

In accordance with state law, the district will annually notify parents if their child receives assistance for learning difficulties. Details of such assistance can include intervention strategies. This notice is not intended for those students already enrolled in a special education program.

**A Student Who Speaks a Primary Language Other than English**

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

[See English Learners on page 51 and Special Programs on page 77.]

**A Student with Physical or Mental Impairments Protected under Section 504**

A student with a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits a major life activity, as defined by law—and who does not otherwise qualify for special education services—may qualify for protections under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act.

Section 504 is a federal law designed to prohibit discrimination against individuals with disabilities.

When an evaluation is requested, a committee will be formed to determine whether the student needs services and supports under Section 504 in order to receive a free appropriate public education (FAPE), as defined in federal law.

[See A Student Who Has Learning Difficulties or Who Needs Special Education or Section 504 Services on page 25 and policy FB for more information.]

**Un estudiante que tiene dificultades de aprendizaje o que necesita educación especial o servicios de la Sección 504**

Para aquellos estudiantes que tienen dificultades en el aula regular, todos los distritos escolares deben considerar servicios de tutoría, compensatorios y otros servicios de apoyo académico o de comportamiento que estén disponibles para todos los estudiantes, incluido un proceso basado en la Respuesta a la Intervención (RtI). La implementación de RtI tiene el potencial de tener un impacto positivo en la capacidad de los distritos para satisfacer las necesidades de todos los estudiantes con dificultades.

Si un estudiante tiene dificultades de aprendizaje, sus padres pueden comunicarse con las personas que se enumeran a continuación para obtener información sobre el sistema general de derivación o evaluación de educación general de la escuela para servicios de apoyo.

Este sistema vincula a los estudiantes con una variedad de opciones de apoyo, incluida la derivación para una evaluación de educación especial o para una evaluación de la Sección 504 para determinar si el estudiante necesita ayudas, adaptaciones o servicios específicos. Un padre puede solicitar una evaluación para educación especial o servicios de la Sección 504 en cualquier momento.

**Referencias de educación especial**

Si un padre hace una solicitud por escrito para una evaluación inicial de servicios de educación especial al director de servicios de educación especial o a un empleado administrativo del distrito del distrito escolar, el distrito debe responder a más tardar 15 días escolares después de recibir la solicitud. En ese momento, el distrito debe dar a los padres un aviso previo por escrito de si está de acuerdo o se niega a evaluar al estudiante, junto con una copia del Aviso de garantías procesales. Si el distrito acepta evaluar al estudiante, también debe darle al padre la oportunidad de dar su consentimiento por escrito para la evaluación.

**Nota:** Una solicitud para una evaluación de educación especial puede hacerse verbalmente; no necesita hacerse por escrito. Los distritos aún deben cumplir con todos los avisos federales previos por escrito y los requisitos de salvaguarda procesal, así como los requisitos para
identificar, ubicar y evaluar a los niños sospechosos de tener una discapacidad y que necesitan educación especial. Sin embargo, una solicitud verbal no requiere que el distrito responda dentro del plazo de 15 días escolares.

Si el distrito decide evaluar al estudiante, debe completar la evaluación inicial y el informe de evaluación del estudiante a más tardar 45 días escolares desde el día en que recibe el consentimiento por escrito de los padres. Sin embargo, si el estudiante está ausente de la escuela durante el período de evaluación durante tres o más días escolares, el periodo de evaluación se extenderá por el número de días escolares igual al número de días escolares que el estudiante está ausente.

Hay una excepción a la línea de tiempo de 45 días escolares. Si el distrito recibe el consentimiento de los padres para la evaluación inicial al menos 35 pero menos de 45 días escolares antes del último día de instrucción del año escolar, debe completar el informe escrito y proporcionar una copia del informe al padre antes del 30 de junio de ese año. Sin embargo, si el estudiante está ausente de la escuela durante tres días o más durante el periodo de evaluación, la fecha de vencimiento del 30 de junio ya no se aplica. En cambio, se aplicará el cronograma general de 45 días escolares más extensiones por ausencias de tres o más días.

Al completar la evaluación, el distrito debe entregar al padre una copia del informe de evaluación sin costo alguno.

Información adicional sobre educación especial está disponible en el distrito escolar en un documento complementario titulado Guía para padres sobre el proceso de admisión, revisión y salida.

**Persona de contacto para referencias de educación especial**

La persona designada para contactar con respecto a las opciones para un estudiante que experimenta dificultades de aprendizaje o con respecto a una referencia para evaluación para servicios de educación especial es Leah Lowery al (903) 984-4767.

**Referencias de la Sección 504**

Cada distrito escolar debe tener normas y procedimientos establecidos para la evaluación y colocación de los estudiantes en el programa de la Sección 504 del distrito. Los distritos también deben implementar un sistema de garantías procesales que incluya:

- Aviso,
- Una oportunidad para que un padre o tutor examine los registros relevantes,
- Una audiencia imparcial con la oportunidad de participación del padre o tutor y la representación de un abogado, y
- Un procedimiento de revisión.

**Persona de contacto para referencias de la Sección 504**

La persona designada para contactar con respecto a las opciones para un estudiante que experimenta dificultades de aprendizaje o con respecto a una referencia para evaluación para los servicios de la Sección 504 es Leah Lowery al (903) 984-4767.

[Veá [Un estudiante con impedimentos físicos o mentales protegidos bajo la Sección 504 en la página 27.]](#)
Visite estos sitios web para obtener información sobre los estudiantes con discapacidades y la familia:

- Legal Framework for the Child-Centered Special Education Process
- Partners Resource Network
- Special Education Information Center
- Texas Project First
Section Two: Other Important Information for Parents and Students

This section contains important information on academics, school activities, and school operations and requirements.

It is organized alphabetically to serve as a quick-reference guide. Where applicable, the topics are further organized by grade level.

Parents and children should take a moment together to become familiar with the issues addressed in this section. For guidance on a particular topic, please contact Stanton Reaves at (903) 984-4767.

Absences/Attendance

Regular school attendance is essential. Absences from class may result in serious disruption of a student’s education. The student and parent should avoid unnecessary absences.

Two important state laws—one dealing with compulsory attendance and the other with how attendance affects the award of a student’s final grade or course credit—are discussed below.

Compulsory Attendance

Prekindergarten and Kindergarten

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

Ages 6–18

State law requires that a student who is at least six years of age, or who is younger than six years of age and has previously been enrolled in first grade, and who has not yet reached their 19th birthday, shall attend school, as well as any applicable accelerated instruction program, extended-year program, or tutorial session, unless the student is otherwise excused from attendance or legally exempt.

State law requires a student in kindergarten–grade 2 to attend any assigned accelerated reading instruction program. Parents will be notified in writing if their child is assigned to an accelerated reading instruction program based on a diagnostic reading instrument.

A student will be required to attend any assigned accelerated instruction program before or after school or during the summer if the student does not meet the passing standards on the state assessment for his or her grade level and/or applicable subject area.

Exemptions to Compulsory Attendance

All Grade Levels

State law allows exemptions to the compulsory attendance requirements for the following activities and events, as long as the student makes up all work:

- Religious holy days;
- Required court appearances;
- Activities related to obtaining U.S. citizenship;
- Documented health-care appointments for the student or a child of the student, including absences related to autism services, if the student returns to school on the same day of the appointment and brings a note from the health-care provider;
• For students in the conservatorship of the state,
  • An activity required under a court-ordered service plan; or
  • Any other court-ordered activity, provided it is not practicable to schedule the
    student’s participation in the activity outside of school hours.

For children of military families, absences of up to five days will be excused for a student to visit
a parent, stepparent, or legal guardian going to, on leave from, or returning from certain
deployments.

**Failure to Comply with Compulsory Attendance**

*All Grade Levels*

School employees must investigate and report violations of the compulsory attendance law.

A student absent without permission from school, any class, any required special program, or
any required tutorial will be considered in violation of the compulsory attendance law and
subject to disciplinary action.

**Students with Disabilities**

If a student with a disability is experiencing attendance issues, the student’s ARD or Section 504
committee will determine whether the attendance issues warrant an evaluation, a reevaluation,
and/or modifications to the student’s individualized education program or Section 504 plan, as
appropriate.

**Ages 6–18**

When a student ages 6–18 incurs three or more unexcused absences within a four-week period,
the law requires the school to send notice to the parent.

The notice will:

• Remind the parent of his or her duty to monitor the student’s attendance and require the
  student to attend school;

• Request a conference between school administrators and the parent; and

• Inform the parent that the district will initiate truancy prevention measures, including a
  behavior improvement plan, school-based community service, referrals to counseling or
  other social services, or other appropriate measures.

The truancy prevention facilitator for the district is Sara Cantrell. For any questions about
student absences, parents should contact the facilitator or any other campus administrator.

A court of law may impose penalties against the parent if a school-aged student is deliberately
not attending school. The district may file a complaint against the parent if the student incurs ten
or more unexcused absences within a six-month period in the same school year.

If a student age 12–18 incurs ten or more unexcused absences within a six-month period in the
same school year, the district, in most circumstances, will refer the student to truancy court.

[See policies FEA(LEGAL) and FED(LEGAL) for more information.]
Attendance for Credit or Final Grade

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

If a student attends fewer than 75 percent of the class days or does not complete the principal-approved plan, then the attendance review committee will determine whether there are extenuating circumstances for the absences and how the student can regain credit or a final grade. [See policy FEC for more information.]

All absences, excused or unexcused, may be held against a student's attendance requirement. To determine whether there were extenuating circumstances for any absences, the attendance committee will use the following guidelines:

- If makeup work is completed, absences listed under Exemptions to Compulsory Attendance on page 30 will be considered extenuating circumstances.
- A transfer or migrant student incurs absences only after he or she has enrolled in the district.
- Absences incurred due to the student’s participation in board-approved extracurricular activities will be considered by the attendance committee as extenuating circumstances if the student makes up the work missed in each class.
- The committee will consider the acceptability and authenticity of documented reasons for the student's absences.
- The committee will consider whether the student or student's parent had any control over the absences.
- The committee will consider the extent to which the student has completed all assignments, mastered the essential knowledge and skills, and maintained passing grades in the course or subject.
- The student or parent will be given an opportunity to present any information to the committee about the absences and discuss ways to earn or regain credit or a final grade.

The student or parent may appeal the committee’s decision to the board by following policy FNG(LOCAL).

Official Attendance-Taking Time

The district will take official attendance every day at 10:00A.M.

A student absent for any portion of the day, should follow the procedures below to provide documentation of the absence.

Documentation after an Absence

A parent must provide an explanation for any absence upon the student’s arrival or return to school. The student must submit a note signed by the parent.

The campus will document in its attendance records whether the absence is excused or unexcused.
Note: The district is not required to excuse any absence, even if the parent provides a note explaining the absence, unless the absence is an exemption under compulsory attendance laws.

Doctor’s Note after an Absence for Illness
Within three days of returning to school, a student absent for more than four consecutive days because of a personal illness must bring a statement from a doctor or health clinic verifying the illness or condition that caused the absence. Otherwise, the absence may be considered unexcused and in violation of compulsory attendance laws.

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

[See policy FEC(LOCAL) for more information.]

Driver License Attendance Verification
A currently enrolled student seeking a driver’s license shall submit the Texas Department of Public Safety Verification of Enrollment and Attendance Form (VOE), signed by the parent, to the campus central office at least 10 days before it is needed. The district will issue a VOE only if the student meets class credit or attendance requirements. The VOE form is available at: https://www.tdlr.texas.gov/driver/forms/VOE.pdf.

Further information may be found on the Texas Department of Public Safety website: https://www.dps.texas.gov/driverlicense/teendriver.htm.

Accountability under State and Federal Law
Sabine ISD and each of its campuses are held to certain standards of accountability under state and federal law. A key component of accountability is the dissemination and publication of certain reports and information, including:

- The Texas Academic Performance Report (TAPR) for the district, compiled by the Texas Education Agency (TEA), based on academic factors and ratings;
- A School Report Card (SRC) for each campus in the district, compiled by TEA;
- The district’s financial management report, which includes the financial accountability rating assigned to the district by TEA; and
- Information compiled by TEA for the submission of a federal report card that is required by federal law.

Accountability information can be found on the district’s website at www.sabineisd.org. Hard copies of any reports are available upon request to the district’s administration office.

TEA maintains additional accountability and accreditation information at TEA Performance Reporting Division and the TEA homepage.
Awards and Honors

- Students who earn all A’s (90 and above in every class) during a six week’s grading period will be recognized on the A Honor Roll.
- Students who earn A’s and B’s (80 and above in every class) during a six week’s grading period will be recognized on the A-B Honor Roll.
- Academic Awards are presented to students who remain on the Honor Roll through the fifth six weeks.
- Attendance Awards are presented to students who are present every day for each class throughout the school year. Awards will also be presented to students with a partial day absence; however, a medical excuse must be presented.

Bullying

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

- 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;
- Is sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive enough that the action or threat creates an intimidating, threatening, or abusive educational environment for a student;
- Materially and substantially disrupts the educational process or the orderly operation of a classroom or school; or
- Infringes on the rights of the victim at school.

Bullying includes cyberbullying. Cyberbullying is defined in state law as bullying that is done through the use of any electronic communication device, including through the use of:

- A cellular or other type of telephone
- A computer
- A camera
- Electronic mail
- Instant messaging
- Text messaging
- A social media application
- An internet website
- Any other internet-based communication tool.

Bullying is prohibited by the district and could include:

- Hazing
- Threats
• Taunting
• Teasing
• Confinement
• Assault
• Demands for money
• Destruction of property
• Theft of valued possessions
• Name-calling
• Rumor-spreading
• Ostracism.

If a student believes that he or she has experienced bullying or witnesses the bullying of another student, the student or parent should notify a teacher, school counselor, principal, or another district employee as soon as possible. Procedures for reporting allegations of bullying may be found on the district’s website.

A student may anonymously report an alleged incident of bullying by contacting a school official.

The administration will investigate any allegations of bullying and related misconduct. The district will also provide notice to the parent of the alleged victim and the parent of the student alleged to have engaged in bullying.

If an investigation determines that bullying occurred, the administration will take appropriate disciplinary action and may, in certain circumstances, notify law enforcement. Disciplinary or other action may be taken even if the conduct did not rise to the level of bullying.

Available counseling options will be provided to the affected individuals, including any student who witnessed the bullying.

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

Upon recommendation of the administration, the board may transfer a student found to have engaged in bullying to another classroom at the campus. In consultation with the student’s parent, the student may also be transferred to another campus in the district.

The parent of a student who has been determined to be a victim of bullying may request that the student be transferred to another classroom within the district. [See Safety Transfers/Assignments on page 23.]

A copy of the district’s bullying policy is available in the principal’s office, superintendent’s office, and on the district’s website, and is included at the end of this handbook as an appendix.

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

[See Safety Transfers/Assignments on page 23, Dating Violence, Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation on page 43, Hazing on page 55, policy FFI, the district’s Student
Code of Conduct, and the district improvement plan, a copy of which can be viewed in the campus office.]

**Career and Technical Education (CTE) Programs**

The district offers career and technical education programs.

Admission to these programs is based on availability and scheduling.

District policy prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, or handicap in its vocational programs, services, and activities, as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended.

District policy also prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, or handicap in its employment practices as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended; and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.

The district will take steps to ensure that lack of English language skills will not be a barrier to admission or participation in all educational and vocational programs.

[See Nondiscrimination Statement on page 66 for the name and contact information for the Title IX coordinator and ADA/Section 504 coordinator, who will address certain allegations of discrimination.]

**Celebrations**

Although a parent or grandparent may provide food to share for a school-designated function or for a student’s birthday, please be aware that children in the school may have severe allergies to certain food products. Therefore, it is imperative to discuss any classroom allergies with the teacher before bringing food to share.

Occasionally, the school or a class may host functions or celebrations tied to the curriculum that involve food. The school or teacher will notify students and parents of any known food allergies when soliciting potential volunteers to provide food.

[See Food Allergies on page 61.]

**Child Sexual Abuse, Trafficking, and Other Maltreatment of Children**

The district has established a plan for addressing child sexual abuse, trafficking, and other maltreatment of children, which may be accessed at www.sabineisd.org. Trafficking includes both sex and labor trafficking.

**Warning Signs of Sexual Abuse**

Sexual abuse in the Texas Family Code is defined as any sexual conduct harmful to a child’s mental, emotional, or physical welfare as well as a failure to make a reasonable effort to prevent sexual conduct with a child. A person who compels or encourages a child to engage in sexual conduct commits abuse. It is illegal to make or possess child pornography or to display such material to a child.

Anyone who suspects that a child has been or may be abused or neglected has a legal responsibility, under state law, to report the suspected abuse or neglect to law enforcement or to Child Protective Services (CPS).
A child who has been or is being sexually abused may exhibit physical, behavioral, or emotional warning signs, including:

- Difficulty sitting or walking, pain in the genital areas, and claims of stomachaches and headaches;
- Verbal references or pretend games of sexual activity between adults and children, fear of being alone with adults of a particular gender, or sexually suggestive behavior; or
- Withdrawal, depression, sleeping and eating disorders, and problems in school.

Be aware that children and adolescents who have experienced dating violence may show similar physical, behavioral, and emotional warning signs. [See Dating Violence, Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation on page 43.]

**Warning Signs of Trafficking**

**Child** trafficking of any sort is prohibited by the Penal Code. Sex trafficking involves forcing a person, including a child, into sexual abuse, assault, indecency, prostitution, or pornography. **Labor trafficking involves forcing a person, including a child, to engage in forced labor or services.**

Traffickers are often trusted members of a child’s community, such as friends, romantic partners, family members, mentors, and coaches, although traffickers frequently make contact with victims online.

Possible warning signs of sexual trafficking in children include:

- Changes in school attendance, habits, friend groups, vocabulary, demeanor, and attitude;
- Sudden appearance of expensive items (for example, manicures, designer clothes, purses, technology);
- Tattoos or branding;
- Refillable gift cards;
- Frequent runaway episodes;
- Multiple phones or social media accounts;
- Provocative pictures posted online or stored on the phone;
- Unexplained injuries;
- Isolation from family, friends, and community; and
- Older boyfriends or girlfriends.

**Additional warning signs of labor trafficking in children include:**

- Being unpaid, paid very little, or paid only through tips;
- Being employed but not having a school-authorized work permit;
- Being employed and having a work permit but clearly working outside the permitted hours for students;
Reporting and Responding to Sexual Abuse, Trafficking, and Other Maltreatment of Children

Anyone who suspects that a child has been or may be abused, trafficked, or neglected has a legal responsibility, under state law, to report the suspected abuse or neglect to law enforcement or to Child Protective Services (CPS).

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

If your child is a victim of sexual abuse, trafficking, or other maltreatment, the school counselor or principal will provide information on counseling options for you and your child available in your area. The Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) also manages early intervention counseling programs.

To find out what services may be available in your county, see Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, Programs Available in Your County.

Reports of abuse, trafficking, or neglect may be made to the CPS division of the DFPS at 1-800-252-5400 or on the web at Texas Abuse Hotline Website.

Further Resources on Sexual Abuse, Trafficking, and Other Maltreatment of Children

The following websites might help you become more aware of child abuse and neglect, sexual abuse, trafficking, and other maltreatment of children:

- Child Welfare Information Gateway Factsheet
- KidsHealth, For Parents, Child Abuse
- Office of the Texas Governor's Child Sex Trafficking Team
- Human Trafficking of School-aged Children
- Child Sexual Abuse: A Parental Guide from the Texas Association Against Sexual Assault
- National Center of Safe Supportive Learning Environments: Child Labor Trafficking

Class Schedules

All students are expected to attend school for the entire school day and maintain a full class schedule. Exceptions may be made occasionally by the campus principal for students in grades
9–12 who meet specific criteria and receive parental consent to enroll in less than a full-day schedule.

[See Schedule Changes on page 73 for information related to student requests to revise their course schedule.]

Communications—Automated

Emergency

The district will rely on contact information on file with the district to communicate with parents in an emergency situation, which may include real-time or automated messages. An emergency situation may include early dismissal, delayed opening, or restricted access to the campus due to severe weather, another emergency, or a security threat. It is crucial to notify your child’s school when a phone number changes.

[See Safety on page 72 for information regarding contact with parents during an emergency situation.]

Nonemergency

Your child’s school will request that you provide contact information for the school to send information specific to your child, your child’s school, or the district. If you provide a phone number for this purpose, please notify the school’s administration office immediately if your number changes.

The district or school may generate automated or pre-recorded messages, text messages, or real-time phone or email communications that are closely related to the school’s mission, so prompt notification of any change in contact information will be crucial.

Standard messaging rates of your wireless phone carrier may apply.

If you have specific requests or needs related to how the district contacts you, please contact your child’s principal. [See Safety on page 72 for information regarding contact with parents during an emergency.]

Complaints and Concerns

Usually student or parent complaints or concerns can be addressed informally by a phone call or a conference with the teacher or principal.

For those complaints and concerns that cannot be resolved informally, the board has adopted a Student and Parent Complaints/Grievances policy FNG(LOCAL). This policy can be viewed in the district’s policy manual, available online at www.sabineisd.org. The complaint forms can be accessed online at www.sabineisd.org or at the principal’s or superintendent’s office.

- To file a formal complaint a parent or student should complete and submit the complaint form.
- In general, the written complaint form should be completed and submitted to the campus principal in a timely manner.
- If the concern is not resolved, a parent or student may request a conference with the superintendent.
- If the concern is still unresolved, the district provides a process for parents and students to appeal to the board of trustees.
Conduct

Applicability of School Rules

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

During summer instruction, the Student Handbook and Student Code of Conduct in place for the school year immediately preceding the summer period shall apply, unless the district amends either or both documents for the purposes of summer instruction.

Campus Behavior Coordinator

Each campus has a campus behavior coordinator to apply discipline management techniques and administer consequences for certain student misconduct, as well as provide a point of contact for student misconduct. The contact information for each campus behavior coordinator is available on the district’s website at www.sabineisd.org and is listed below:

- Elementary, Carrie Mashburn
- Middle School, Sara Cantrell
- High School, Stephanie Richard

Deliveries

Except in emergencies, delivery of messages or packages to students will not be allowed during instructional time. A parent may leave a message for the student to pick up from the front office during a passing period or lunch.

Disruption of School Operations

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

- Interference with the movement of people at an exit, entrance, or hallway of a district building without authorization from an administrator.
- Interference with an authorized activity by seizing control of all or part of a building.
- Use of force, violence, or threats in an attempt to prevent participation in an authorized assembly.
- Use of force, violence, or threats to cause disruption during an assembly.
- Interference with the movement of people at an exit or an entrance to district property.
- Use of force, violence, or threats in an attempt to prevent people from entering or leaving district property without authorization from an administrator.

Disruption of classes or other school activities while on or within 500 feet of district property includes:

- Making loud noises;
• Trying to entice a student away from, or to prevent a student from attending, a required
  class or activity; and

• Entering a classroom without authorization and disrupting the activity with loud or profane
  language or any misconduct.

Interference with the transportation of students in vehicles owned or operated by the district is
also considered a disruption.

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

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

A parent interested in serving as a chaperone for any school social events should contact the
campus principal.

Counseling
The district has a comprehensive school counseling program that includes:

• A guidance curriculum to help students develop their full educational potential, including the
  student's interests and career objectives;

• A responsive services component to intervene on behalf of any student whose immediate
  personal concerns or problems put the student's continued educational, career, personal, or
  social development at risk;

• An individual planning system to guide a student as the student plans, monitors, and
  manages the student's own educational, career, personal, and social development; and

• Systems to support the efforts of teachers, staff, parents, and other members of the
  community in promoting the educational, career, personal, and social development of
  students.

The district will make a preview of the program, including all materials and curriculum, available
to parents to review during school hours. This plan can be found on the school website

Academic Counseling

Elementary and Middle/Junior High School Grade Levels
The school counselor will provide information to students and parents about college and
university admissions and the importance of planning for postsecondary education, including
appropriate coursework and financial aid availability and requirements.

In either grade 7 or 8, each student will receive instruction on how best to prepare for high
school, college, and a career.

Personal Counseling
The school counselor is available to assist students with a wide range of personal, social, and
family concerns, including emotional or mental health issues and substance abuse. A student
who wishes to meet with the school counselor should email llowery@sabineisd.org or fill out a
request to see the counselor and leave it in the office. As a parent, if you are concerned about your child’s mental or emotional health, please speak with the school counselor for a list of resources that may be of assistance.

If your child has experienced trauma, contact the school counselor for more information.

[See Mental Health Support on page 58, and Child Sexual Abuse, Trafficking, and Other Maltreatment of Children and Dating Violence on page 36.]

Course Credit

A student at any grade level enrolled in a high school course will earn credit for the course only if the final grade is 70 or above. For a two-part (two-semester, 1-credit course), the student’s grades from both halves (semesters) will be averaged and credit will be awarded if the combined average is 70 or above. If the student’s combined average is less than 70, the student will be awarded credit only for the half (semester) with the passing grade.

Credit by Examination—If a Student Has Taken the Course/Subject

A student who has previously taken a course or subject but did not receive credit or a final grade for it may, in circumstances determined by the principal or attendance committee, be permitted to earn credit or a final grade by passing an examination approved by the district’s board of trustees on the essential knowledge and skills defined for that course or subject.

Examples of prior instruction include incomplete coursework due to a failed course or excessive absences, homeschooling, or coursework by a student transferring from a nonaccredited school. The opportunity to earn credit by examination after the student has had prior instruction is sometimes referred to as “credit recovery.”

If the student is granted approval to take an examination for this purpose, the student must score at least 70 on the examination to receive credit for the course or subject.

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

[See the school counselor and policy EHDB(LOCAL) for more information.]

Credit by Examination for Advancement/Acceleration—If a Student Has Not Taken the Course/Subject

A student will be permitted to earn credit by examination for an academic course or subject area for which the student had no prior instruction for advancement or to accelerate to the next grade level.

The examinations offered by the district are approved by the district’s board of trustees. Testing windows for these examinations will be published in district publications and on the district’s website. A student may take a specific examination only once per testing window.

The only exceptions to the published testing windows will be for examinations administered by another entity or to accommodate a student experiencing homelessness or a student involved in the foster care system.

When another entity administers an examination, the student and the district must comply with the testing schedule of the other entity.
If a student plans to take an examination, the student or parent must register with the school counselor no later than 30 days prior to the scheduled testing date. [See policy EHDC for more information.]

**Students in Grades 6–12**

A student in grade 6 or above is eligible to earn course credit with;

- A passing score of at least 80 on an examination approved by the board; or
- A scaled score of 50 or higher on an examination administered through the College Level Examination Program (CLEP), or
- A score of 3 or higher on an AP examination, as applicable.

A student may take an examination to earn high school course credit no more than twice. If a student fails to achieve the designated score on the applicable exam before the beginning of the school year in which the student would need to enroll in the course according to the school’s high school course sequence, the student must complete the course.

**Dating Violence, Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation**

Students learn best, and their welfare is best served, in a school environment that is free from dating violence, discrimination, harassment, and retaliation.

Students are expected to treat peers and district employees with courtesy and respect, avoid offensive behaviors, and stop those behaviors as directed. District employees are likewise expected to treat students with courtesy and respect.

The board has established policies and procedures to prohibit and promptly address inappropriate and offensive behaviors that are based on a person’s race, color, religion, sex, gender, national origin, disability, age, or any other basis prohibited by law. A copy of the district’s policy is available in the principal’s office and in the superintendent’s office or at [www.sabineisd.org](http://www.sabineisd.org). [See policy FFH for more information.]

**Dating Violence**

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

Examples of dating violence against a student may include, but are not limited to:

- Physical or sexual assaults;
- Name-calling;
- Put-downs;
- Threats to hurt the student, the student’s family members, or members of the student’s household;
- Destroying property belonging to the student;
• Threats to commit suicide or homicide if the student ends the relationship;
• Threats to harm a student’s past or current dating partner;
• Attempts to isolate the student from friends and family;
• Stalking; or
• Encouraging others to engage in these behaviors.

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

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

Examples of harassment may include, but are not limited to:
• Offensive or derogatory language directed at a person’s religious beliefs or practices, accent, skin color, or need for accommodation;
• Threatening, intimidating, or humiliating conduct;
• Offensive jokes, name-calling, slurs, or rumors;
• Physical aggression or assault;
• Graffiti or printed material promoting racial, ethnic, or other negative stereotypes; or
• Other kinds of aggressive conduct such as theft or damage to property.

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

Examples of sexual harassment may include, but are not limited to:
• Touching private body parts or coercing physical contact that is sexual in nature;
• Sexual advances;
• Jokes or conversations of a sexual nature; and
• Other sexually motivated conduct, communications, or contact.

Sexual harassment of a student by an employee or volunteer does not include necessary or permissible physical contact that a reasonable person would not construe as sexual in nature, such as comforting a child with a hug or taking the child’s hand. However, romantic, sexual, and other inappropriate social relationships between students and district employees are prohibited, even if consensual.
Gender-based harassment includes physical, verbal, or nonverbal conduct based on a student’s gender, the student’s expression of characteristics perceived as stereotypical for the student’s gender, or the student’s failure to conform to stereotypical notions of masculinity or femininity.

Gender-based harassment can occur regardless of the student’s or the harasser’s actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity. Examples of gender-based harassment directed against a student may include, but are not limited to:

- Offensive jokes, name-calling, slurs, or rumors;
- Physical aggression or assault;
- Threatening or intimidating conduct; or
- Other kinds of aggressive conduct such as theft or damage to property.

**Retaliation**

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

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

**Reporting Procedures**

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

Upon receiving a report, the district will determine whether the allegations, if proven, constitute prohibited conduct as defined by policy FFH. If not, the district will refer to policy FFI to determine whether the allegations, if proven, constitute bullying, as defined by law and policy FFI. If the alleged prohibited conduct also meets the statutory and policy definitions for bullying, an investigation of bullying will also be conducted. [See Bullying on page 34]

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

**Investigation of Report**

Allegations of prohibited conduct, which includes dating violence, discrimination, harassment, and retaliation, will be promptly investigated.

To the extent possible, the district will respect the privacy of the student. However, limited disclosures may be necessary to conduct a thorough investigation and comply with law.
If a law enforcement or other regulatory agency notifies the district that it is investigating the matter and requests that the district delay its investigation, the district will resume its investigation at the conclusion of the agency’s investigation.

During the course of an investigation and when appropriate, the district will take interim action to address the alleged prohibited conduct.

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

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

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

**Discrimination**

[See Dating Violence, Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation on page 43.]

**Distance Learning (All Grade Levels)**

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

The distance learning opportunities that the district makes available to district students are Edgenuity and Google.

If a student wishes to enroll in a correspondence course or a distance learning course that is not provided through the Texas Virtual School Network (TXVSN), as described below, to earn credit in a course or subject, the student must receive permission from the principal prior to enrolling in the course or subject. If the student does not receive prior approval, the district may not recognize and apply the course or subject toward graduation requirements or subject mastery.

**Texas Virtual School Network (TXVSN)**

The Texas Virtual School Network (TXVSN) has been established by the state as one method of distance learning. A student has the option, with certain limitations, to enroll in a course offered through the TXVSN to earn course credit for graduation.

Depending on the TXVSN course in which a student enrolls, the course may be subject to the “no pass, no play” rules. [See Extracurricular Activities, Clubs, and Organizations on page 51.] In addition, a student who enrolls in a TXVSN course for which an end-of-course (EOC) assessment is required must still take the corresponding EOC assessment.

A parent may ask questions or request that their child be enrolled in a TXVSN course by contacting the school counselor. Unless an exception is made by the superintendent a student will not be allowed to enroll in a TXVSN course if the school offers the same or a similar course.

A copy of policy EHDE addressing distance learning will be distributed to parents of middle and high school students at least once each year. If you do not receive a copy or have questions about this policy, please contact the superintendent.
Distribution of Literature, Published Materials, or Other Documents (All Grade Levels)

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

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

Nonschool Materials

From Students
Students must obtain prior approval from the principal before selling, posting, circulating, or distributing more than [see policy FNAA2] copies of written or printed materials, handbills, photographs, pictures, films, tapes, or other visual or auditory materials that were not developed under the oversight of the school. To be considered, any nonschool material must include the name of the sponsoring person or organization. Approval will be granted or denied within two school days.

The principal has designated a showcase as the location for approved nonschool materials to be placed for voluntary viewing or collection by students. [See policy FNAA for more information.]

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

[See policy FNG(LOCAL) for student complaint procedures.]

From Others
No person or group will sell, circulate, distribute, or post on any district premises written or printed materials, handbills, photographs, pictures, films, tapes, or other visual or auditory materials that is not sponsored by the district or by a district-affiliated school-support organization, except as permitted by policy GKDA.

To be considered for distribution, any nonschool material must meet the limitations on content established in the policy, include the name of the sponsoring person or organization, and be submitted to the principal for prior review. The principal will approve or reject the materials within two school days of the time the materials are received. The requestor may appeal a rejection in accordance with the appropriate district complaint policy. [See policies DGBA or GF for more information.]

The principal has designated the showcase as the location for approved nonschool materials to be placed for voluntary viewing or collection.

Prior review will not be required for:

- Distribution of materials by an attendee to other attendees of a school-sponsored meeting intended for adults and held after school hours.
Distribution of materials by an attendee to other attendees of a community group meeting held after school hours in accordance with policy GK Dolocal or a noncurriculum-related student group meeting held in accordance with policy FNAB Local.

Distribution for electioneering purposes during the time a school facility is being used as a polling place, in accordance with state law.

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

Dress and Grooming

The district's dress code teaches grooming and hygiene, prevents disruption, and minimizes safety hazards. Students and parents may determine a student's personal dress and grooming standards, provided that they comply with the following:

- Shoes must be worn at ALL times.
- Shorts may be worn. The hem of the shorts cannot be shorter than fingertip length when arms are fully extended by the side.
- Outer clothing (pants, shorts, tights, etc.) made from lycra or other “form-fitting” fabrics is not permitted unless the material is covered by another article of clothing that would stand alone in dress code and is no shorter than fingertip length.
- Skirts and/or dresses will not be shorter than the allowed shorts.
- Any apparel that advertises or implies sex, drugs, tobacco, alcohol, weapons, profanity, etc., or that may distract from the learning process, is NOT permitted.
- No caps, hats or other form of head covering will be allowed at school for either male or female students during regular school hours except designated days decided by the administration.
- Garments that are sleeveless by design may be worn unless undergarments are exposed or deemed inappropriate by the administration. Tank tops, spaghetti straps, and muscle shirts are not allowed.
- Shirts designed to be buttoned MUST be buttoned (layering is allowed).
- Transparent clothes are NOT allowed.
- Apparel that allows the midriff to show (front or back) is not allowed. Shirts, blouses, etc. must be long enough to cover the midriff while standing or sitting.
- Sundresses and shirts that are backless, and have spaghetti straps, etc. are NOT allowed.
- Students will not be permitted to wear sunglasses in the building. Permission will be granted if requested by a doctor.
- Extracurricular organizations may develop apparel guidelines and requirements for participation in their respective activities with the approval of administration.
- No names or insignias that represent public school fraternities, sororities, secret societies, or gangs, as described in TEC 37.121 shall be worn.
• Sagging pants are not permitted. A belt must be worn and cinched at the waist on any oversized pants.

• Appropriate undergarments must be worn.

• No wallet chains or chains that attach to belt loops will be allowed.

• With the exception of female ear piercing, body adornment involving piercing will not be permitted.

• Pajamas, house shoes or attire that imitates sleepwear or loungewear are not to be worn to school.

• No distractible hair colors or hair styles will be permitted.

• Students will not be permitted to wear jeans/ pants that have holes that show skin above their fingertip length when arms are fully extended.

• Hair must be kept in a manner that does not cover the student’s eyes.

• No trench coats will be permitted.

If the principal determines that a student’s grooming or clothing violates the school’s dress code, the student will be given an opportunity to correct the problem at school. If not corrected, the student may be assigned to in-school suspension for the remainder of the day, until the problem is corrected, or until a parent or designee brings an acceptable change of clothing to the school. Repeated offenses may result in more serious disciplinary action in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct. The principal, in cooperation with the sponsor, coach, or other person in charge of an extracurricular activity, may regulate the dress and grooming of students who participate in the activity. Students who violate these standards may be removed or excluded from the activity for a period determined by the principal or designee or sponsor and may be subject to other disciplinary action.

Dress Code Guidelines:

The administration reserves the right to judge whether any current fashion or fad is appropriate for school wear and to require any student to change his/her attire if it is not found acceptable. Clothing and grooming should be in good taste and should not cause undue attention or disruption.

Electronic Devices and Technology Resources

Possession and Use of Personal Telecommunications Devices, Including Cell Phones, and Other Electronic Devices

The district permits students to possess personal cell phones for safety purposes; however, these devices must remain turned off during the instructional day, including during all testing, unless they are being used for approved instructional purposes. [For graphing calculator applications on computing devices, see Textbooks, Electronic Textbooks, Technological Equipment, and Other Instructional Materials on page 79.]

A student must have approval to possess other personal telecommunications devices such as laptops, tablets, or other portable computers.

Students are not permitted to possess or use personal electronic devices at school unless prior permission has been obtained. Without such permission, teachers will collect the items and turn
them in to the principal’s office. The principal will determine whether to return items to students at the end of the day or to contact parents to pick up the items.

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.

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

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

In limited circumstances and in accordance with law, a student’s personal telecommunications device may be searched by authorized personnel. [See Searches on page 76 and policy FNF for more information.]

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

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

Students must obtain prior approval to use personal telecommunications or other personal electronic devices for instructional purposes while on campus. Students must also sign a user agreement that contains applicable rules for use (separate from this handbook).

All personal devices must be turned off during the instructional day when not in use for approved instructional purposes. Violations of the user agreement may result in withdrawal of privileges and other disciplinary action.

**Acceptable Use of District Technology Resources**

District-owned technology resources may be issued to individual students for instructional purposes. Use of the district’s network systems and equipment is restricted to approved purposes only. Students and parents will be asked to sign a user agreement (separate from this handbook) regarding use of these district resources. Violations of the user agreement may result in withdrawal of privileges and other disciplinary action.

**Unacceptable and Inappropriate Use of Technology Resources**

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

Any person taking, disseminating, transferring, possessing, or sharing obscene, sexually oriented, lewd, or otherwise illegal images or other content—commonly referred to as “sexting”—will be disciplined in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct, may be required to complete an educational program related to the dangers of this type of behavior, and, in certain circumstances, may be reported to law enforcement.

This type of behavior may constitute bullying or harassment, as well as impede future endeavors of a student. We encourage parents to review with their child the *Before You Text*
Sexting Prevention Course, a state-developed program that addresses the consequences of sexting.

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

End-of-Course (EOC) Assessments
[See Graduation on page Error! Bookmark not defined. and Standardized Testing on page 77.]

English Learners
A student who is an English learner is entitled to receive specialized services from the district. A Language Proficiency Assessment Committee (LPAC), consisting of both district personnel and at least one parent representative, will determine whether the student qualifies for services. The student’s parent must consent to any services recommended by the LPAC. However, pending the receipt of parental consent or denial of services, an eligible student will receive the services to which the student is entitled and eligible.

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

The LPAC will also determine whether certain accommodations are necessary for any state-mandated assessments. The STAAR Spanish, as mentioned at Standardized Testing on page 77, may be administered to an English learner up to grade 5. In limited circumstances, a student’s LPAC may exempt the student from an otherwise required state-mandated assessment or may waive certain graduation requirements related to the English I end-of-course (EOC) assessment. The Texas English Language Proficiency Assessment System (TELPAS) will also be administered to English learners who qualify for services.

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

Extracurricular Activities, Clubs, and Organizations
Participation in school-sponsored activities is an excellent way for a student to develop talents, receive individual recognition, and build strong friendships.

Some extracurricular activities may include off-campus events. Students are required to use transportation provided by the district to and from the events. Exceptions may only be made with the approval of the activity’s coach or sponsor. [See Transportation on page 80.]

Eligibility for many of these activities is governed by state law and the rules of the University Interscholastic League (UIL), a statewide association overseeing interdistrict competition. If a student is involved in an academic, athletic, or music activity governed by UIL, the student and parent are expected to know and follow all rules of the UIL organization. Students and parents can access the UIL Parent Information Manual at UIL Parent Information Manual. A hard copy can be provided by the coach or sponsor of the activity on request.
To report alleged noncompliance with required safety training or an alleged violation of safety rules required by law and the UIL, please contact the curriculum division of TEA at (512) 463-9581 or curriculum@tea.texas.gov.

[See UIL Texas for additional information on all UIL-governed activities.]

Generally, a student who receives a grade below 70 at the end of a grading period in any academic class may not participate in extracurricular activities for at least three school weeks.

In addition, the following applies to all extracurricular activities:

- A student who receives special education services and who fails to meet the standards in the individualized education program (IEP) may not participate for at least three school weeks.

- An ineligible student may practice or rehearse but may not participate in any competitive activity.

- A student is allowed in a school year up to 10 absences not related to post-district competition, a maximum of five absences for post-district competition prior to state, and a maximum of two absences for state competition. All extracurricular activities and public performances, whether UIL activities or other activities approved by the board, are subject to these restrictions.

- An absence for participation in an activity that has not been approved will be considered an unexcused absence.

Standards of Behavior

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

Offices and Elections

Certain clubs, organizations, and performing groups will hold elections for student officers. These groups include:

Cheerleading

*Eligibility Requirements for Try-outs:*

Please see the Cheerleading Constitution for requirements.

National Junior Honor Society

Membership is open to seventh and eighth grade students who have attended Sabine Middle School for the equivalent of one semester. Candidates for the NJHS will be chosen on a weighted point system for different levels of courses. Students will also be required to submit teacher input forms completed by all his/her teachers. Students will be given a score on the qualities of honor society members. Those scores will be averaged and points will be awarded based on the following scale. Below is the table of how the different courses will be weighted.
Candidates must have a total of 56 points based on seven classes (six plus teacher input), 64 points for students with eight classes (seven plus teacher input), and 72 for students with nine classes, (eight plus teacher input), and maintain conduct grades of S’s and E’s each six weeks. Students who are eligible scholastically will be notified and must then submit an essay that describes themselves in the five qualities of honor society members: scholarship, leadership, service, character, and citizenship. Failure to submit the essay by the established deadline will disqualify a student from further consideration. Those who submit the required essay will then be evaluated on the basis of the five criteria. The annual selection will be by majority vote of the five faculty council members. To remain in the NJHS, a member must maintain the 56 grade points (or equivalent) each six weeks. If a member falls below these numbers, he/she will be put on probation during the next six weeks grading period. At the end of this time if the student has not raised his/her points to the required level, he/she will be dismissed from the NJHS. Members are also required to maintain the same high standards of service, leadership, character, and citizenship that admitted them to membership. Failure to maintain those standards will result in probation or dismissal.

**Student Council**

Certain clubs, organizations, and performing groups will hold elections for student officers. These groups include: **Student Council**

The Sabine Middle School Student Council shall be composed of:

- President
- Vice-President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Historian
- Two Representatives

**Fees**

Basic educational program materials are provided at no charge to a student. However, a student is expected to provide his or her own supplies, such as pencils, paper, erasers, and notebooks. A student may also be required to pay certain other costs, fees, or deposits, including:

- Materials for a class project that the student will keep.
• Membership dues in voluntary clubs or student organizations.
• Admission fees to extracurricular activities.
• Personal physical education and athletic equipment and apparel.
• Voluntarily purchased pictures, publications, class rings, yearbooks, graduation announcements, etc.
• Voluntarily purchased student health and accident insurance.
• Musical instrument rental and uniform maintenance, when uniforms are provided by the district.
• Personal apparel used in extracurricular activities that becomes the property of the student.
• Parking fees and student identification cards.
• Fees for lost, damaged, or overdue library books.
• Fees for driver training courses.
• Fees for optional courses offered for credit that require use of facilities not available on district premises.
• Summer school for courses that are offered tuition-free during the regular school year.
• A reasonable fee for providing transportation to a student who lives within two miles of the school. [See Buses and Other School Vehicles on page 80.]
• A fee not to exceed $50 for an educational program outside of regular school hours for a student who has lost credit or has not been awarded a final grade because of absences and whose parent chooses the program for the student to meet the 90 percent attendance requirement. The fee will be charged only if the parent or guardian signs a district-provided request form.
• In some cases, a fee for a course taken through the Texas Virtual School Network (TXVSN).

Any required fee or deposit may be waived if the student and parent are unable to pay. Application for such a waiver may be made to the superintendent. [See policy FP for more information.]

Fundraising
Student groups or classes and/or parent groups may be permitted to conduct fundraising drives for approved school purposes in accordance with administrative regulations. [See policies FJ and GE for more information.]

Gang-Free Zones
Certain criminal offenses, including gang-related crimes, will be enhanced to the next-highest category of offense if they are committed in a gang-free zone. Gang-free zones include a school bus and any location in, on, or within 1,000 feet of any district-owned or leased property or campus playground.

Gender-Based Harassment
[See Dating Violence, Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation on page 43.]
Grading Guidelines
Approved grading guidelines for each grade level or course will be communicated to students and their parents by the classroom teacher. These guidelines establish:

- The minimum number of assignments, projects, and examinations required for each grading period;
- How the student’s mastery of concepts and achievement will be communicated (i.e., letter grades, numerical averages, checklist of required skills, etc.);
- Circumstances under which a student will be allowed to redo an assignment or retake an examination the student originally failed; and
- Procedures for a student to follow after an absence.

[See Report Cards/Progress Reports and Conferences on page 70 for additional information on grading guidelines.]

Harassment
[See Dating Violence, Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation on page 43.]

Hazing
Hazing is defined as an intentional, knowing, or reckless act, on or off campus, by one person alone or acting with others, directed against a student for the purpose of pledging, initiation into, affiliation with, holding office in, or maintaining membership in a student organization if the act meets the elements in Education Code 37.151, including:

- Any type of physical brutality;
- An activity that subjects the student to an unreasonable risk of harm or that adversely affects the student’s mental or physical health, such as sleep deprivation, exposure to the elements, confinement to small spaces, calisthenics, or consumption of food, liquids, drugs, or other substances;
- An activity that induces, causes, or requires the student to perform a duty or task that violates the Penal Code; and
- Coercing a student to consume a drug or alcoholic beverage in an amount that would lead a reasonable person to believe the student is intoxicated.

The district will not tolerate hazing. Disciplinary consequences for hazing will be in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct. It is a criminal offense if a person engages in hazing; solicits, encourages, directs, aids, or attempts to aid another in hazing; or has firsthand knowledge of an incident of hazing being planned or having occurred and fails to report this to the principal or superintendent.

[See Bullying on page 34 and policies FFI and FNCC for more information.]

Health—Physical and Mental
Illness
When your child is ill, please contact the school to let us know he or she will not be attending that day.
State rules require schools to exclude students with certain illnesses from school for certain periods of time. For example, if a child has a fever over 100 degrees, he or she must stay out of school until fever-free for 24 hours without use of fever-reducing medications. Students with diarrheal illnesses must stay home until they are diarrhea-free without use of diarrhea-suppressing medications for 24 hours.

A full list of conditions for which the school must exclude children can be obtained from the school nurse.

If a student becomes ill during the school day, and the school nurse determines that the child should go home, the nurse will contact the parent.

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

The school nurse is available to answer any questions for parents who are concerned about whether or not their child should stay home.

Immunization

A student must be fully immunized against certain diseases or must present a certificate or statement that, for medical reasons or reasons of conscience, including a religious belief, the student will not be immunized.

For exemptions based on reasons of conscience, only official forms issued by the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS), Immunization Branch, can be honored by the district. This form may be obtained by writing the DSHS Immunization Branch (MC 1946), P.O. Box 149347, Austin, Texas 78714-9347; or online at Affidavit Request for Exemption from Immunization. The form must be notarized and submitted to the principal or school nurse within 90 days of notarization. If the parent is seeking an exemption for more than one student in the family, a separate form must be provided for each student.

The immunizations required are:

- Diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis;
- Rubeola (measles), mumps, and rubella;
- Polio;
- Hepatitis A;
- Hepatitis B;
- Varicella (chicken pox); and
- Meningococcal.

The school nurse can provide information on immunization requirements. Proof of immunization may be established by personal records from a licensed physician or public health clinic with a signature or rubber-stamp validation.

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

As noted at Bacterial Meningitis on page 60, entering college students must also, with limited exception, furnish evidence of having received a bacterial meningitis vaccination within the five years prior to enrolling in and attending classes at an institution of higher education. A student wanting to enroll in a dual credit course taken off campus may be subject to this requirement.

[See the DSHS website: Texas School & Child Care Facility Immunization Requirements and policy FFAB(LEGAL) for more information.]

Lice

Head lice is very common among children. Although not an illness or a disease, it spreads easily through head-to-head contact during play, sports, nap time, and when children share things like brushes, combs, hats, and headphones.

If careful observation indicates that a student has head lice, the school nurse will contact the student’s parent to determine whether the student needs to be picked up from school and to discuss a treatment plan using an FDA-approved medicated shampoo or cream rinse that may be purchased from any drug or grocery store. After the student undergoes one treatment, the parent should contact the school nurse to discuss the treatment used. The nurse can also offer additional recommendations, including subsequent treatments, how best to get rid of lice, and how to prevent their return.

The district will provide notice to parents of elementary school students in the affected classroom without identifying the student with lice.

More information on head lice can be obtained from the DSHS website Managing Head Lice in School Settings and at Home.

[See policy FFAA for more information.]

Medicine at School

If a student must take medication during school hours, the student’s parent must provide the medication. All medication, whether prescription or nonprescription, must be kept in the nurse’s office and be administered by the nurse or another authorized district employee. A student may be authorized to possess his or her own medication because of asthma or a severe allergy as described below or as otherwise allowed by law.

The district will not purchase nonprescription medication to give to a student. District employees will not give a student prescription medication, nonprescription medication, herbal substances, anabolic steroids, or dietary supplements, except that authorized employees, in accordance with policy FFAC, may administer:

- Prescription medication in the original, properly labeled container, provided by the parent, along with a written request.
- Prescription medication from a properly labeled unit dosage container filled by a registered nurse or another qualified district employee from the original, properly labeled container.
- Nonprescription medication in the original, properly labeled container, provided by the parent along with a written request. Note: Insect repellant is considered a nonprescription medication.
• Herbal or dietary supplements provided by the parent only if required by the student’s individualized education program (IEP) or Section 504 plan for a student with disabilities.

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

At the secondary level, a student may possess and apply sunscreen when necessary. If the student needs assistance with sunscreen application, please address the need with the school nurse.

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

**Asthma and Severe Allergic Reactions**

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

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

See also **Food Allergies** on page 61.

**Steroids**

State law prohibits students from possessing, dispensing, delivering, or administering an anabolic steroid. Anabolic steroids are for physician-prescribed medical use only.

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

**Mental Health Support**

The district has implemented programs to address the following mental health, behavioral health, and substance abuse concerns:

• Mental health promotion and early intervention;
• Building skills to manage emotions, establish and maintain positive relationships, and engage in responsible decision-making;
• Substance abuse prevention and intervention;
• Suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention (interventions after a suicide in a community);
• Grief, trauma, and trauma-informed care;
• Positive behavior interventions and supports;
• Positive youth development; and
Safe, supportive, and positive school climates.

If a student has been hospitalized or placed in residential treatment for a mental health condition or substance abuse, the district has procedures to support the student’s return to school. Please contact the district’s mental health liaison for further information.

Teachers and other district employees may discuss a student’s academic progress or behavior with the student’s parents or another employee as appropriate; however, they are not permitted to recommend use of psychotropic drugs. A psychotropic drug is a substance used in the diagnosis, treatment, or prevention of a disease or as a component of a medication that is intended to alter perception, emotion, mood, or behavior.

A district employee who is a registered nurse, an advanced nurse practitioner, a physician, or a certified or credentialed mental health professional can recommend that a student be evaluated by an appropriate medical practitioner, if appropriate. [See policy FFEB for more information.]

For related information, see:

- Consent to Conduct a Psychological Evaluation or Provide a Mental Health Care Service on page 12 for the district’s procedures for recommending a mental health intervention and the mental health liaison’s contact information;
- Counseling on page 41 for the district’s comprehensive school counseling program;
- Physical and Mental Health Resources on page 61 for campus and community mental and physical health resources; and
- Policies and Procedures that Promote Student Physical and Mental Health on page 62 for board-adopted policies and administrative procedures that promote student health.

Physical Activity Requirements

**Junior High/Middle School**

The district will ensure that students in middle or junior high school will engage in 30 minutes of moderate or vigorous physical activity per day for at least four semesters, in accordance with policies at EHAB, EHAC, EHBG, and FFA.

For additional information on the district’s junior high and middle school student physical activity programs and requirements, please see the principal.

**Temporary Restriction from Participation in Physical Education**

Students who are temporarily restricted from participation in physical education will not actively participate in skill demonstration but will remain in class to learn the concepts of the lessons.

**Physical Fitness Assessment**

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

**Athletics Participation**

For certain extracurricular activities, a student must submit certification from an authorized health-care provider. The certification must state that the student has been examined and is physically able to participate in the relevant program, including:

- A district athletics program.
- District marching band.
- **Any district extracurricular program identified by the superintendent.**

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

Students should be aware of the rare possibility of sudden cardiac arrest, which in athletes is usually caused by a previously unsuspected heart disease or disorder. A student may request an electrocardiogram (ECG or EKG) to screen for such disorders, in addition to his or her required physical examination.

See the UIL’s explanation of sudden cardiac arrest for more information.

**Spinal Screening Program**

School-based spinal screening helps identify adolescents with abnormal spinal curvature at an early stage, when the curve is mild and may go unnoticed. Early detection is key to controlling spinal deformities. Spinal screening is non-invasive and conducted in accordance with the most recent, nationally accepted and peer-reviewed standards.

All students who meet the Texas Department of State Health Services criteria will be screened for abnormal spinal curvature before the end of the school year. As appropriate, students will be referred for follow-up with their physician.

For information on spinal screening by an outside professional or exemption from spinal screening based on religious beliefs, contact the superintendent or see policy FFAA(LEGAL).

**Special Health Concerns**

**Bacterial Meningitis**

Please see the district’s website at [www.sabineisd.org](http://www.sabineisd.org) for information regarding meningitis.

**Note:** DSHS requires at least one meningococcal vaccination on or after a student’s 11th birthday, unless the student received the vaccine at age 10.

[See Immunization on page 56.]

**Diabetes**

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

[See policy FFAF(LEGAL) for more information.]
**Food Allergies**

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

The district has developed and annually reviews a food allergy management plan, based on the Texas Department of State Health Services’ (DSHS) “Guidelines for the Care of Students with Food Allergies At-Risk for Anaphylaxis” found on the DSHS website at [Allergies and Anaphylaxis](#).

When the district receives information that a student has a food allergy that puts the student at risk for anaphylaxis, individual care plans will be developed to assist the student in safely accessing the school environment. The district’s food allergy management plan can be accessed at [www.sabineisd.org](http://www.sabineisd.org).

[See Celebrations on page 36 and policy FFAF for more information.]

**Seizures**

To address the care of a student with a seizure disorder while at school or participating in a school activity, a parent may submit a seizure management and treatment plan to the district before the beginning of the school year, upon enrollment of the student, or as soon as practicable following diagnosis of a seizure disorder.

[See A Student with Physical or Mental Impairments Protected under Section 504 on page 27 and contact the school nurse for more information.]

**Tobacco and E-Cigarettes**

Students are prohibited from possessing or using any type of tobacco product, electronic cigarette (e-cigarette), or any other electronic vaporizing device while on school property or while attending an off-campus school-related activity.

The district and its staff strictly enforce prohibitions against the use of all tobacco products, e-cigarettes, or any other electronic vaporizing device by students and all others on school property and at school-sponsored and school-related activities. [See the Student Code of Conduct and policies FNCD and GKA for more information.]

**Health-Related Resources, Policies, and Procedures**

**Physical and Mental Health Resources**

Parents and students in need of assistance with physical and mental health concerns may contact the following campus and community resources:

- The campus full-time nurse, Freda Gantt, at [fgant@sabineisd.org](mailto:fgant@sabineisd.org).
- The campus full-time school counselor, Leah Lowery, at [llowery@sabineisd.org](mailto:llowery@sabineisd.org).
- The local public health authority, Gregg County Health Department, at 903-237-2620
- The local mental health authority, Community Healthcore, which may be contacted at 800-446-8253
Policies and Procedures that Promote Student Physical and Mental Health

The district has adopted board policies that promote student physical and mental health. (LOCAL) policies on the topics below can be found in the district’s policy manual, available at www.sabineisd.org.

- Food and nutrition management: CO, COA, COB
- Wellness and Health Services: FFA
- Physical Examinations: FFAA
- Immunizations: FFAB
- Medical Treatment: FFAC
- Communicable Diseases: FFAD
- School-Based Health Centers: FFAE
- Care Plans: FFAF
- Crisis Intervention: FFB
- Trauma-informed Care: FFBA
- Student Support Services: FFC
- Student Safety: FFF
- Child Abuse and Neglect: FFG
- Freedom from Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation: FFH
- Freedom from Bullying: FFI

In addition, the District Improvement Plan details the district’s strategies to improve student performance through evidence-based practices that address physical and mental health.

The district has developed administrative procedures as necessary to implement the above policies and plans.

Please contact Shelley Yates at 903-984-8564 for further information regarding these procedures and access to the District Improvement Plan.

School Health Advisory Council (SHAC)

During the preceding school year, the district’s School Health Advisory Council (SHAC) held regular meetings. Additional information regarding the district’s SHAC is available from the central office.

[See Human Sexuality Instruction on page 16 and policies BDF and EHAA. for more information.]

Student Wellness Policy/Wellness Plan

To encourage healthy habits in our students, the district has developed a board-adopted wellness policy at FFA(LOCAL) and corresponding plans and procedures to implement it. You
are encouraged to contact the superintendent with questions about the content or implementation of the district’s wellness policy and plan.

**Homework**

Our goal at Sabine Middle School is for every student to be successful. A significant contributor to a student’s success is their ability to turn in work on time.

**Homework Detention**

In an effort to ensure student success, we are implementing a homework policy for our campus. If a student does not have an assignment complete on the due date it is considered late, and the student will be assigned Homework Detention during lunch. The student will continue to have Detention until the assignment is turned in or for three days. If the student continues to not complete work, there may be other consequences according to the Student Code of Conduct.

**Law Enforcement Agencies**

**Questioning of Students**

When law enforcement officers or other lawful authorities wish to question or interview a student at school, the principal will cooperate fully regarding the conditions of the interview, including without parental consent, if necessary, if it is part of a child abuse investigation. In other circumstances, the principal will:

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

**Students Taken into Custody**

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

- To comply with an order of the juvenile court.
- To comply with the laws of arrest.
- By a law enforcement officer if there is probable cause to believe the student has engaged in delinquent conduct or conduct in need of supervision.
- By a law enforcement officer to obtain fingerprints or photographs for comparison in an investigation.
- By a law enforcement officer to obtain fingerprints or photographs to establish a student’s identity where the child may have engaged in conduct indicating a need for supervision, such as running away.
- By a probation officer if there is probable cause to believe the student has violated a condition of probation imposed by the juvenile court.
- By an authorized representative of Child Protective Services (CPS), Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS), a law enforcement officer, or a juvenile probation
officer, without a court order, under the conditions set out in the Family Code relating to the student’s physical health or safety.

- To comply with a properly issued directive from a juvenile court to take a student into custody.

Before a student is released to a legally authorized person, the principal will verify the person’s identity and, to the best of his or her ability, will verify the person’s authority to take custody of the student.

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

**Notification of Law Violations**

The district is required by state law to notify:

- All instructional and support personnel who have responsibility for supervising a student who has been taken into custody, arrested, or referred to the juvenile court for any felony offense or for certain misdemeanors.

- All instructional and support personnel who have regular contact with a student who is thought to have committed certain offenses or who has been convicted, received deferred prosecution, received deferred adjudication, or was adjudicated for delinquent conduct for any felony offense or certain misdemeanors.

- All appropriate district personnel regarding a student who is required to register as a sex offender.

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

**Leaving Campus**

Remember that student attendance is crucial. Appointments should be scheduled outside of school hours if possible. Absent extenuating circumstances, students will not regularly be released before the end of the school day.

State rules require parental consent before any student leaves campus for any part of the school day.

For students in elementary and middle school, a parent or authorized adult must come to the office and show identification to sign the student out. A campus representative will ask the student to report to the office. For safety purposes and stability of the learning environment, we cannot allow any unescorted adult to go to the classroom or other area to pick up the student. If the student returns to campus the same day, the parent or authorized adult must sign the student back in through the main office upon the student’s return. Documentation regarding the reason for the absence will also be required.

The same process applies to students in high school. If the student’s parent authorizes the student to leave campus unaccompanied, a note provided by the parent must be submitted to the main office no later than two hours prior to the student’s need to leave campus. A phone call from the parent may be accepted, but the school may ultimately require a note for documentation purposes. The student must sign out through the main office and sign in upon his or her return if the student returns the same day.
If a student becomes ill during the school day and the school nurse or other district personnel determines that the student should go home, the nurse will contact the student’s parent and document the parent’s wishes regarding release from school.

Unless the parent directs district personnel to release the student unaccompanied, the parent or other authorized adult must follow the sign-out procedures listed above. If a student is permitted by his or her parent to leave campus unaccompanied, the nurse will document the time of day the student was released. Under no circumstances will a student in elementary or middle school be released unaccompanied.

If a student is 18 years of age or is an emancipated minor, the student may sign him- or herself out of school. Documentation regarding the reason for the absence will be required.

**During Lunch**

Sabine Middle School is a closed campus and students are not allowed to leave campus without being checked out from the front office by a parent or guardian.

Students will not be able to receive lunch from anyone unless the visitor has checked into the front office.

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

**At Any Other Time during the School Day**

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

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

**Lost and Found**

A lost and found collection box is located in the campus office. A student who loses an item should check the lost and found box. The district discourages bringing personal items of high monetary value to school, as the district is not responsible for lost or stolen items. The campus will dispose of lost and found items at the end of each semester.

**Makeup Work**

**Makeup Work Because of Absence**

A teacher may assign makeup work to a student who misses class based on instructional objectives and the needs of the student in mastering the essential knowledge and skills or meeting subject or course requirements.

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

The student is encouraged to speak with his or her teacher if the student knows of an absence ahead of time so that the teacher and student may plan any makeup work. Please remember the importance of student attendance at school and that, even though absences may be excused or unexcused, all absences account for the 90 percent threshold regarding the state laws surrounding “attendance for credit or final grade.” [See Attendance for Credit or Final Grade on page 32.]
A student involved in an extracurricular activity must notify his or her teachers ahead of time about any absences.

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

Please note: Parents who want to request assignments missed may call 903-984-4767. In order to receive assignments by the end of the day you must call by 11:00.

DAEP Makeup Work

*Elementary and Middle/Junior High School Grade Levels*

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

In-School Suspension (ISS) and Out-of-School Suspension (OSS) Makeup Work (All Grade Levels)

*Alternative Means to Receive Coursework*

While a student is in ISS or OSS, the district will provide the student with all course work for the student’s foundation curriculum classes that the student misses as a result of the suspension.

*Opportunity to Complete Courses*

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

Nondiscrimination Statement

In its efforts to promote nondiscrimination and as required by law, the district does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, gender, sex, disability, age, or any other basis prohibited by law in providing education services, activities, and programs, including Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs. The district provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups.

*In accordance with Title IX, the district does not and is required not to discriminate on the basis of sex in its educational programs or activities. The requirement not to discriminate extends to admission and employment. Inquiries about the application of Title IX may be referred to the district’s Title IX Coordinator (see below), to the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights of the Department of Education, or both.*

*Other federal laws that prohibit discrimination include Title VI, Section 504, the Age Discrimination Act, the Boy Scouts Act, and Title II.*
The district has designated and authorized the following employee as the Title IX Coordinator to address concerns or inquiries regarding discrimination on the basis of sex, including sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, stalking, or gender-based harassment: Stacey Bryce, Superintendent, 5424 FM 1252 W. Gladewater, TX 75647, (903) 984-8564 sbryce@sabineisd.org. Reports can be made at any time and by any person, including during non-business hours, by mail, phone, or email. During district business hours, reports may also be made in person. Upon the district receiving notice or an allegation of sex-based harassment, the Title IX Coordinator will promptly respond in accordance with the process described at FFH(LOCAL).

The following district representatives have been designated to address concerns or inquiries about other kinds of discrimination:

- For concerns regarding discrimination on the basis of disability, see the ADA/Section 504 Coordinator: Stacey Bryce, Superintendent, 5424 FM 1252 W. Gladewater, TX 75647, (903) 984-8564.

- For all other concerns regarding discrimination, see the superintendent: Stacey Bryce, Superintendent, 5424 FM 1252 W. Gladewater, TX 75647, (903) 984-8564.

[See policies FB, FFH, and GKD for more information.]

**Parent and Family Engagement**

**Working Together**

Experience and research tell us that a child succeeds in education with good communication and a strong partnership between home and school. A parent’s involvement and engagement in this partnership may include:

- Encouraging your child to put a high priority on education and working with your child on a daily basis to make the most of the educational opportunities the school provides.

- Ensuring that your child completes all homework assignments and special projects and comes to school each day prepared, rested, and ready to learn.

- Becoming familiar with all your child’s school activities and with the academic programs, including special programs, offered in the district.

- Discussing with the school counselor or principal any questions you may have about the options and opportunities available to your child.

- Reviewing the requirements and options for graduation with your child in middle school and again while your child is enrolled in high school.

- Monitoring your child’s academic progress and contacting teachers as needed. [See Academic Counseling on page 41.]

- Attending scheduled conferences and requesting additional conferences as needed. To schedule a telephone or in-person conference with a teacher, school counselor, or principal, please call the school office at 903-984-4767 for an appointment. The teacher will usually return your call or meet with you during his or her conference period or before or after school. [See Report Cards/Progress Reports and Conferences on page 70.]

- Becoming a school volunteer. [See Volunteers on page 82 and policy GKG for more information.]
• Participating in campus parent organizations.

• Serving as a parent representative on the district-level or campus-level planning committees that develop educational goals and plans to improve student achievement. [Stanton Reaves and see policies BQA and BQB, for more information.]

• Serving on the School Health Advisory Council (SHAC) and assisting the district in aligning local community values with health education instruction and other wellness issues. [See School Health Advisory Council (SHAC) on page 61 and policies BDF, EHAA, FFA for more information.]

• Being aware of the school’s ongoing bullying and harassment prevention efforts.

• Contacting school officials if you are concerned with your child’s emotional or mental well-being.

• Attending board meetings to learn more about district operations. Regular board meetings are held on the second Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at SISD Central Office Board Room. An agenda for a regular or special meeting is posted no later than 72 hours before each meeting at SISD Central Office, 5424 FM 1252 W. Gladewater, TX 75647 and online at www.sabineisd.org. See policies BE and BED for more information.]

Pledges of Allegiance and a Minute of Silence

Each school day, students will recite the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. flag and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Texas flag. Parents may submit a written request to the principal to excuse their child from reciting a pledge. [See Reciting the Pledges to the U.S. and Texas Flags on page 17.]

State law requires that one minute of silence follow recitation of the pledges. Each student may choose to reflect, pray, meditate, or engage in any other silent activity during that minute so long as the silent activity does not interfere with or distract others.

In addition, state law requires that each campus provide for the observance of one minute of silence in remembrance of those who lost their lives on September 11, 2001, at the beginning of the first class period when September 11 falls on a regular school day.

[See policy EC for more information.]

Prayer

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

Promotion and Retention

A student will be promoted only on the basis of academic achievement or proficiency. In making promotion decisions, the district will consider:

• Teacher recommendation,

• Grades,

• Scores on criterion-referenced or state-mandated assessments, and

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

**Elementary and Middle/Junior High Grade Levels**

In grades 6-8 promotion is based on an overall average of 70 on a scale of 100 based on course-level, grade-level standards (essential knowledge and skills) for all subject areas and a grade of 70 or above in three of the following areas: language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies.

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

To be promoted to grade 9, students enrolled in grade 8 must perform satisfactorily on the mathematics and reading sections of the grade 8 assessment in English.

If a student in grade 5 or 8 is enrolled in a high-school credit course with a corresponding end-of-course (EOC) assessment, the student will not be subject to the promotion requirements described above for the relevant grade 5 or 8 assessment. The student will instead take the corresponding EOC assessment.

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

[See **Standardized Testing** on page 77.]

A student in grade 5 or 8 will have two opportunities to retake a failed assessment. If a student fails a second time, a grade placement committee consisting of the principal or designee, the teacher, and the student’s parent will determine the additional special instruction the student will receive. After a third failed attempt, the student will be retained; however, the parent can appeal this decision to the committee.

For the student to be promoted based on standards previously established by the district, the decision of the committee must be unanimous and the student must complete additional special instruction before beginning the next grade level. Whether the student is retained or promoted, an educational plan for the student will be designed to enable the student to perform at grade level by the end of the next school year. [See policy EIE for more information.]

Certain students—some with disabilities and some classified as English learners—may be eligible for exemptions, accommodations, or deferred testing. An admission, review, and dismissal (ARD) committee meeting will be convened if a student receiving special education services in grade 5 or 8 fails to meet satisfactory performance after the first STAAR administrations in reading or math. For more information, see the principal, school counselor, or special education director.

A student at or above grade 3 who does not perform satisfactorily on his or her state-mandated examinations will participate in special instructional programs designed to improve performance. The district will notify the parent of their child’s participation in this program. The student may be required to participate in this instruction before or after normal school hours or outside of the normal school year. Failure of a student to attend these programs may result in violations of required school attendance as well as the student not being promoted to the next grade level.
For a middle school student who does not perform satisfactorily on his or her state-mandated examinations, a school official will prepare a personal graduation plan (PGP). School officials will also develop a PGP for a middle school student who is determined by the district to be unlikely to earn a high school diploma within five years of high school enrollment. The plan will, among other items, identify the student’s educational goals, address the parent’s educational expectations for the student, and outline an intensive instruction program for the student. [See the principal and policy EIF(LEGAL) for more information.] For a student receiving special education services, the student’s IEP may serve as the student’s PGP and would therefore be developed by the student’s ARD committee.

[See Personal Graduation Plans on page Error! Bookmark not defined. for information related to the development of personal graduation plans for high school students.]

High School Grade Levels

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

Release of Students from School

[See Leaving Campus on page 64.]

Report Cards/Progress Reports and Conferences

Report cards with each student’s performance and absences in each class or subject are issued at least once every six weeks.

At the end of the first three weeks of a grading period, parents will receive a progress report if their child’s performance in any course/subject area is near or below 70 or is below the expected level of performance. If a student receives a grade lower than 70 in any class or subject at the end of a grading period, the parent will be asked to schedule a conference with the teacher. [See Working Together on page 67 for how to schedule a conference.]

Teachers follow grading guidelines that have been approved by the superintendent pursuant to the board-adopted policy. Grading guidelines are designed to reflect each student’s relative mastery of each assignment. State law provides that a test or course grade issued by a teacher cannot be changed unless the board determines that the grade was arbitrary or contains an error, or that the teacher did not follow the district’s grading policy. [See Grading Guidelines on page 55 and policy EIA(LOCAL) for more information.]

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

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

Report cards and unsatisfactory progress reports must be signed by the parent and returned to the school within two days. The district may communicate academic information about a student electronically, including for progress reporting purposes. An electronic signature will be accepted by the district, but parents are entitled to request a handwritten signature of acknowledgment instead.
Reteach/Retest

The purpose of the reteach/retest policy is to allow students the opportunity to learn materials that they previously did not learn, to demonstrate mastery of this material and to receive credit for learning the material.

Reteach/retest will be made available to any student. Students scoring less than 70% on an exam that counts as a test grade (excluding semester tests) MUST retest. In compliance with UIL and the state policy regarding “no pass; no play,” retesting after the end of a six weeks grading period may not be used to change the grade earned for the six weeks.

It is the teacher’s responsibility to make the reteach/retest available to all students.

Students must show evidence of reteach before they can be retested. This may be done by showing the teacher proof of tutorial attendance, completion of review work and/or satisfactory review by the teacher who is giving the retest.

Reteach

A student may receive reteach in a variety of ways such as review during morning or afternoon tutorials, during class, by work assigned by the teacher, or any other means the teacher deems appropriate.

Retest

Retesting will be scheduled by the teacher to take place either during class, during tutorial time, or during GTE. The retest should take place within one week of a student’s receiving test results unless other arrangements are agreed upon by the teacher and the student.

If the majority (50% or more) of the students in a class do not make 70 or higher on a major test, the teacher will reteach and retest the entire class.

Reteach/Retest Grading Policy

The highest grade will be recorded.

EXCEPTION: Teachers have the option of not reteaching or retesting any student who tries to take unfair advantage of the policy by:

- Skipping school or class the day of either test or any day when reteaching is scheduled.
- Failing to attempt and/or turn in assignments designed to prepare the student for either the original test or the retest.
- Creating a disturbance that results in an office referral during reteaching or retesting.
- Habitually failing major tests on the first try and not taking advantage of reteaching opportunities, student/teacher conferences, and/or parent/teacher conferences in order to catch up with class.
- Cheating on either test.

Retaliation

[See Dating Violence, Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation on page 43.]
Safety
Student safety on campus, at school-related events, and in district vehicles is a high priority of the district. The cooperation of students is essential to ensuring school safety. A student is expected to:

- Avoid conduct that is likely to put the student or others at risk.
- Follow all behavioral standards in this handbook and the Student Code of Conduct or set by district employees.
- Remain alert to any safety hazards, such as intruders on campus or threats made by any person toward a student or staff member, and promptly report any incidents to a district employee. A student may make anonymous reports about safety concerns by contacting or speaking with any school official or online.
- Know emergency evacuation routes and signals.
- Follow immediately the instructions of teachers, bus drivers, and other district employees who are overseeing the welfare of students.

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

Preparedness Drills: Evacuation, Severe Weather, and Other Emergencies
Periodically, the school will conduct preparedness drills of emergency procedures. When the command is given or alarm is sounded, students need to follow the direction of teachers or others in charge quickly, quietly, and in an orderly manner.

For more information on the district's adopted Emergency Protocol, please visit: https://iloveuguys.org/srp.html

Preparedness Training: CPR and Stop the Bleed
The district will annually offer instruction in CPR at least once to students enrolled in grades 7–12. The instruction can be provided as part of any course and is not required to result in CPR certification.

The district will annually offer students in grades 7–12 instruction on the use of bleeding control stations to respond to traumatic injury. For more information, see Homeland Security's Stop the Bleed and Stop the Bleed Texas.

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

Emergency School Closing Information
Each year, parents are asked to complete an emergency release form to provide contact information in the event that the district needs to notify parents of early dismissal, delayed
opening, or restricted access to a campus because of severe weather, a security threat, or another emergency cause.

The district will rely on contact information on file with the district to communicate with parents in an emergency situation, which may include real-time or automated messages. It is crucial to notify your child’s school when a phone number changes.

If the campus must close, delay opening, or restrict access to the building because of an emergency, the district will also alert the community in the following ways: KYKX/FM 105.7; KNUE/FM 101.5; KOOL/FM 106.5; KVNE 89.5; KLTV Channel 7; KETK Region 56.

[See Communications-Automated, Emergency on page 39.]

SAT, ACT, and Other Standardized Tests
[See Standardized Testing on page 77.]

Schedule Changes
A student may request a schedule change during the first two weeks of the semester. The forms to request a change is in the front office. The schedule request must be signed by both the current teacher and the teacher whose class you are requesting, and a parent/guardian. The schedule request forms will be turned into the school counselor, Leah Lowery.

School Facilities
Asbestos Management Plan
The district works diligently to maintain compliance with federal and state law governing asbestos in school buildings. A copy of the district’s asbestos management plan is available in the central administrative office. If you have any questions or would like to examine the district’s plan in more detail, please contact Ken Wilson, the district’s designated asbestos coordinator, at 903-984-7036.

Food and Nutrition Services
The district participates in the School Breakfast Program and National School Lunch Program and offers students nutritionally balanced meals daily in accordance with standards set forth in state and federal law.

Some students are eligible for free and reduced-price meals based on financial need. Information about a student’s participation is confidential. The district may share information such as a student’s name and eligibility status to help enroll eligible children in Medicaid or the state children’s health insurance program (CHIP) unless the student’s parent requests the student’s information not be disclosed.

Participating students will be offered the same meal options as their peers and will not be treated differently from their peers.

See www.sabineisd.org to apply for free or reduced-price meal services.

[See policy CO for more information.]

Parents should continually monitor their child’s meal account balance. When a student’s meal account is depleted, the district will notify the parent. The student may continue to purchase meals according to the grace period set by the school board. The district will present the parent
with a schedule of repayment for any outstanding account balance and an application for free or reduced meals.

If the district is unable to work out an agreement with the student’s parent on replenishment of the meal account and payment of any outstanding balance, the student will receive a meal. The district will make every effort to avoid bringing attention to the student.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Regular</th>
<th>Reduced</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Breakfast</td>
<td>$1.25</td>
<td>$0.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult Breakfast</td>
<td>$2.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lunch</td>
<td>$2.85</td>
<td>$0.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extra Milk</td>
<td>$0.50</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult Lunch</td>
<td>$3.60</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visitor’s Lunch</td>
<td>$3.75</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Lunch Money Now* is a software program purchased by SISD to allow parents to access their student’s lunch account on-line. Parents also will be able to make payments on-line using a credit/debit card if they choose. To access *Lunch Money Now* go to www.sabineisd.org, scroll down Quick Links and click on *Lunch Money Now*. In the designated boxes enter your student’s local identification number, home phone number and date of birth to access your student’s account.

Sabine cafeteria will allow students to accumulate no more than three meal charges for the 2020-2021 school year. After the third charge, students will be served an alternate meal consisting of a cheese sandwich, fruit, vegetable and a milk from the line that day. Students are not allowed to charge the last two weeks of school.

**Vending Machines**

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

**Pest Management Plan**

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

All pesticides used are registered for their intended use by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and are applied only by certified pesticide applicators. Except in an emergency, signs will be posted 48 hours before indoor application. All outdoor applications will be posted at the time of treatment, and signs will remain until it is safe to enter the area.

Parents who have questions or who want to be notified of the times and types of applications prior to pesticide application inside their child’s school assignment area may contact Ken Wilson, the district’s IPM coordinator, at 903-984-8564.
Conduct Before and After School
Teachers and administrators have full authority over student conduct at before- or after-school activities. Whether a school activity is on or off district premises, students are subject to the same rules of conduct that apply during the instructional day. Misbehavior will be subject to consequences established by the Student Code of Conduct or any stricter standards of behavior established by the sponsor for extracurricular participants.

Library
The library is open for independent student use during the following times with a teacher permit:

- During regular school hours on school days.

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

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

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

Students must leave campus immediately after dismissal of school in the afternoon, unless the student is involved in an activity under the supervision of a teacher or other authorized employee or adult.

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

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

School-Sponsored Field Trips
The district periodically takes students on field trips for educational purposes.

A parent must provide permission for a student to participate in a field trip.

The district may ask the parent to provide information about a student’s medical provider and insurance coverage and may also ask the parent to sign a waiver allowing for emergency medical treatment in the case of a student accident or illness during the field trip.

The district may require a fee for student participation in a field trip to cover expenses such as transportation, admission, and meals; however, a student will not be denied participation because of financial need.
Searches

Searches in General

In the interest of promoting student safety and drug-free schools, district officials may occasionally conduct searches.

District officials may search students, their belongings, and their vehicles in accordance with law and district policy. Searches of students will be conducted without discrimination, based on, for example, reasonable suspicion or voluntary consent or pursuant to district policy providing for suspicionless security procedures, including the use of metal detectors.

In accordance with the Student Code of Conduct, students are responsible for prohibited items found in their possession, including items in their personal belongings or in vehicles parked on district property.

If there is reasonable suspicion to believe that searching a student’s person, belongings, or vehicle will reveal evidence of a violation of the Student Code of Conduct, a district official may conduct a search in accordance with law and district regulations.

District Property

Desks, lockers, district-provided technology, and similar items are the property of the district and are provided for student use as a matter of convenience. District property is subject to search or inspection at any time without notice. Students have no expectation of privacy in district property.

Students are responsible for any item found in district property provided to the student that is prohibited by law, district policy, or the Student Code of Conduct.

Metal Detectors

To maintain a safe and disciplined learning environment, the district reserves the right to subject students to metal detector searches when entering a district campus and at off-campus, school-sponsored activities.

Telecommunications and Other Electronic Devices

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

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

[See Electronic Devices and Technology Resources on page 49 and policy FNF(LEGAL) for more information.]

Trained Dogs

The district may use trained dogs to screen for concealed, prohibited items, including drugs and alcohol. Screenings conducted by trained dogs will not be announced in advance. The dogs will not be used with students, but students may be asked to leave personal belongings in an area that is going to be screened, such as a classroom, a locker, or a vehicle. If a dog alerts to an item or an area, it may be searched by district officials.
Drug Testing

The District requires the random drug-testing of any student in grades 7-12 who chooses to participate in school-sponsored extracurricular activities or request a permit to park a vehicle on school property.

The Superintendent shall develop regulations for the implementation of the District's random student drug-testing program that address the following:

1. Covered activities and purpose of the program;
2. Written consent and confidentiality of results;
3. Testing procedures and collection process; and
4. Applicable consequences.

A student or parent may appeal a decision made under the random drug-testing program 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.

[See Steroids on page 58.]

Sexual Harassment

[See Dating Violence, Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation on page 43.]

Special Programs

The district provides special programs for gifted and talented students, English learners, students diagnosed with dyslexia, and students with disabilities. The coordinator of each program can answer questions about eligibility requirements, as well as programs and services offered in the district or by other organizations. A student or parent with questions about these programs should contact Stanton Reaves at (903) 984-4767.

The Texas State Library and Archives Commission’s Talking Book Program provides audiobooks free of charge to qualifying Texans, including students with visual, physical, or reading disabilities such as dyslexia.

Standardized Testing

STAAR (State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness)

Grades 3–8

In addition to routine tests and other measures of achievement, students at certain grade levels are required to take the state assessment, called STAAR, in the following subjects:

- Mathematics, annually in grades 3–8
- Reading, annually in grades 3–8
- Writing, including spelling and grammar, in grades 4 and 7
- Science in grades 5 and 8
- Social Studies in grade 8
State law requires successful performance on the reading and math assessments in grades 5 and 8 for a student to be promoted to the next grade level. A student may be exempt from this requirement if:

- The student is enrolled in a reading or math course intended for students above the student’s current grade level; or

- The student is enrolled in a special education program and the admission, review, and dismissal (ARD) committee concludes the student has made sufficient progress in his or her individualized education plan (IEP). [See Promotion and Retention on page 68.]

STAAR Alternate 2 is available for eligible students receiving special education services who meet certain state-established criteria as determined by the student’s ARD committee.

STAAR Spanish is available for eligible students for whom a Spanish version of STAAR is the most appropriate measure of their academic progress.

**High School Courses End-of-Course (EOC) Assessments**

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

- Algebra I
- English I and English II
- Biology
- U.S. History

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

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

STAAR Alternate 2 is available for eligible students receiving special education services who meet certain criteria established by the state as determined by the student’s ARD committee.

An admission, review, and dismissal (ARD) committee for a student receiving special education services will determine whether successful performance on the EOC assessments will be required for graduation within the parameters identified in state rules and the student’s personal graduation plan (PGP).

[See Graduation on page Error! Bookmark not defined.]

**Students in Foster Care**

In an effort to provide educational stability, the district will provide enrollment and registration assistance, as well as other educational services throughout the student’s enrollment, to any student who is currently placed or newly placed in foster care (temporary or permanent custody of the state, sometimes referred to as substitute care).

Please contact Leah Lowery, who has been designated as the district’s foster care liaison, at 903-984-8564 with any questions.

[See Students in the Conservatorship of the State on page 23.]
Students Who are Homeless
A parent is encouraged to inform the district if his or her child is experiencing homelessness. District staff can share resources that may be able to assist families.

For more information on services for students who are homeless, contact the district’s homeless education liaison, Leah Lowery, at 903-984-4767.

[See A Student Who is Homeless on page 24.]

Summer School
Summer school will be provided for 8th grade students who did not meet STAAR standards for Reading and Math. Summer school information will be available once we have the results from the second administration of the STAAR test. Students may also be assigned summer school to make up attendance hours or class credit in order to be promoted.

Tardies
A student who is tardy to class by more than three times will be assigned to lunch detention. Parents will be notified by phone on the student’s fourth tardy. The student will be assigned to ISS on the fifth tardy and all tardies thereafter during that semester. Repeated instances of tardiness will result in more severe disciplinary action, in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct.

If a student is detained in the office or by a teacher, the student must ask for a pass from the school personnel that detained him/her before going to his/her next class.

Textbooks, Electronic Textbooks, Technological Equipment, and Other Instructional Materials
The district provides textbooks and other approved instructional materials to students free of charge for each subject or class. Students must treat any books with care and place covers on them, as directed by the teacher. The district may also provide electronic textbooks and technological equipment to students, depending on course objectives.

If a student needs a graphing calculator for a course and the district does not provide one, the student may use a calculator application with graphing capabilities on a phone, laptop, tablet, or other computing device.

A student who is issued a damaged item should report the damage to the teacher.

Any student who does not return an item or returns an item in an unacceptable condition loses the right to free textbooks and technological equipment until the item is returned or the damage is paid for by the parent. However, the student will be provided the necessary instructional resources and equipment for use at school during the school day.

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

[See Safety Transfers/Assignments on page 23, Bullying on page 34, and Students Who Have Learning Difficulties or Who Need Special Education or Section 504 Services on page 25, for other transfer options.]
Transportation

School-Sponsored Trips

Students who participate in school-sponsored trips are required to use school-provided transportation to and from the event. However, in accordance with campus procedures, a parent may provide written consent for his or her child to ride with or be released after the event to the parent or another adult designated by the parent. [See School-sponsored Field Trips on page 75.]

Buses and Other School Vehicles

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

Bus routes and stops will be designated annually. Any subsequent changes will be posted at the school and on the district’s website. For the safety of the driver and all passengers, students must board district vehicles only at authorized stops and drivers must unload passengers only at authorized stops.

A parent may designate a child-care facility or grandparent’s residence as the regular pickup and drop-off location for his or her child. The designated location must be an approved stop on an approved route. For information on bus routes and stops or to designate an alternate pickup or drop-off location, contact Transportation Office at (903) 984-9236.

Students are expected to assist district staff in ensuring that buses and other district vehicles are clean and safe. When riding in district vehicles, students are held to behavioral standards established in this handbook and the Student Code of Conduct. Students must:

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

Misconduct will be punished in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct, including loss of the privilege to ride in a district vehicle.

[See the Student Code of Conduct for provisions regarding transportation to the DAEP.]
Vandalism
Littering, defacing, or damaging school property is not tolerated. Students will be required to pay for damages they cause and will be subject to criminal proceedings as well as disciplinary consequences in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct.

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

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

In accordance with state law, a parent of a student who receives special education services, a staff member (as this term is defined by law), a principal or assistant principal, or the board may make a written request for the district to place video and audio recording equipment in certain self-contained special education classrooms. The district will provide notice before placing a video camera in a classroom or other setting in which a child receives special education services. For more information or to request the installation and operation of this equipment, speak with the principal or superintendent who the district has designated to coordinate the implementation of and compliance with this law.

[See policy EHBAF(LOCAL) for more information.]

Visitors to the School
General Visitors
Parents and others are welcome to visit district schools. For the safety of those within the school and to avoid disruption of instructional time, all visitors must first report to the main office and comply with all applicable district policies and procedures. All visitors should be prepared to show identification.

Individuals may visit classrooms during instructional time only with approval of the principal and teacher. Visitors may not interfere with instruction or disrupt the normal school environment.

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

Unauthorized Persons
In accordance with Education Code 37.105, a school administrator, school resource officer (SRO), or district police officer has the authority to refuse entry to 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 behaves in a manner that is inappropriate for a school setting and persists in the behavior after being given a verbal warning that the behavior is inappropriate and may result in refusal of entry or ejection.

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

[See the Student Code of Conduct.]
Visitors Participating in Special Programs for Students

Business, Civic, and Youth Groups

The district may invite representatives from patriotic societies listed in Title 36 of the United States Code to present information to interested students about membership in the society.

Volunteers

The district invites and appreciates the efforts of volunteers who are willing to serve our district and students.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Stanton Reaves at (903) 984-4767 for more information and to complete an application.

The district does not require state criminal history background checks for volunteers who are parents, guardians, or grandparents of a child enrolled in the district.

Subject to exceptions in accordance with state law and district procedures, other volunteers will be subject to a state criminal history background check, and the volunteer must pay all costs for the background check.

Withdrawing from School

To withdraw a student under age 18 from school, the parent or guardian must submit a written request to the principal specifying the reasons for withdrawal and the final day the student will be in attendance. Withdrawal forms are available from the principal’s office.

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

Please provide the school at least three days’ notice of withdrawal so that records and documents may be prepared.

Glossary

Accelerated instruction is an intensive supplemental program designed to help an individual student acquire the knowledge and skills required at his or her grade level. It is required when a student does not meet the passing standard on a state-mandated assessment.

ACT, or the American College Test, is one of the two most frequently used college or university admissions examinations. The test may be required for admission to certain colleges or universities.

ACT-Aspire is designed as a preparatory and readiness assessment for the ACT. This is usually taken by students in grade 10.

ARD stands for admission, review, and dismissal. The ARD committee convenes for each student who is identified as needing a full and individual evaluation for special education services. The eligible student and his or her parents are members of the committee.

Attendance review committee is responsible for reviewing a student’s absences when the student’s attendance drops below 90 percent, or in some cases 75 percent, of the days the class is offered. Under guidelines adopted by the board, the committee will determine whether there were extenuating circumstances for the absences and whether the student needs to complete certain conditions to master the course and regain credit or a final grade lost because of absences.
CPS stands for Child Protective Services.

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

DFPS stands for the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services.

DPS stands for the Texas Department of Public Safety.

EOC (end-of-course) assessments are state-mandated and are part of the STAAR program. Successful performance on EOC assessments are required for graduation. These examinations will be given in English I, English II, Algebra I, Biology, and U.S. History.

ESSA is the federal Every Student Succeeds Act.

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

IEP stands for individualized education program and is the written record prepared by the ARD committee for a student with disabilities who is eligible for special education services.

IGC is the individual graduation committee, formed in accordance with state law, to determine a student’s eligibility to graduate when the student has failed to demonstrate satisfactory performance on no more than two of the required state assessments.

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

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

PSAT is the preparatory and readiness assessment for the SAT. It also serves as the basis for the awarding of National Merit Scholarships.

SAT refers to the Scholastic Aptitude Test, one of the two most frequently used college or university admissions examinations. The test may be required for admissions to certain colleges or universities.

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

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

STAAR is the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness, the state’s system of standardized academic achievement assessments.
STAAR Alternate 2 is an alternative state-mandated assessment designed for students with severe cognitive disabilities receiving special education services who meet the participation requirements, as determined by the student’s ARD committee.

STAAR Spanish is an alternative state-mandated assessment administered to eligible students for whom a Spanish version of STAAR is the most appropriate measure of their academic progress.

State-mandated assessments are required of students at certain grade levels and in specified subjects. Except under limited circumstances, students must perform successfully on some state-mandated assessments to be promoted and students must pass the STAAR EOC assessments to graduate. Students have multiple opportunities to take the tests, if necessary, for promotion or graduation.

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

TAC stands for the Texas Administrative Code.

TEA stands for the Texas Education Agency, which oversees primary and secondary public education in Texas.

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

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

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

UIL refers to the University Interscholastic League, the statewide, voluntary nonprofit organization that oversees educational extracurricular academic, athletic, and music contests.
Appendix:
Freedom from Bullying Policy

Note: School board policies may be revised at any time. For legal context and the most current copy of the local policy, visit http://pol.tasb.org/Policy/Code/542?filter=FFI Below is the text of Sabine ISD’s policy FFI(LOCAL) as of the date that this handbook was finalized for this school year.

Note: This policy addresses bullying of District students. For purposes of this policy, the term bullying includes cyberbullying.

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

Student Welfare: Freedom from Bullying
Policy FFI(LOCAL) adopted on 10/10/2017

Bullying Prohibited
The District prohibits bullying, including cyberbullying, as defined by state law. Retaliation against anyone involved in the complaint process is a violation of District policy and is prohibited.

Examples
Bullying of a student could occur by physical contact or through electronic means and may include hazing, threats, taunting, teasing, confinement, assault, demands for money, destruction of property, theft of valued possessions, name calling, rumor spreading, or ostracism.

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

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

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

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

Student Report
To obtain assistance and intervention, any student who believes that he or she has experienced bullying or believes that another student has experienced bullying should immediately report the alleged acts to a teacher, school counselor, principal, or other District employee. The Superintendent shall develop procedures allowing a student to anonymously report an alleged incident of bullying.

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

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

Notice of Report
When an allegation of bullying is reported, the principal or designee shall notify a parent of the alleged victim on or before the third business day after the incident is reported. The principal or designee shall also notify a parent of the student alleged to have engaged in the conduct within a reasonable amount of time after the incident is reported.

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

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

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

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

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

Bullying

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

Discipline

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

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

Corrective Action

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

Transfers

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

Counseling

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

Improper Conduct

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

Confidentiality

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

Appeal

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

Records Retention

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

Access to Policy and Procedures

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