

UNITED INDEPENDENT SCHOOLDISTRICT

Outline of the Most Significant Changes 2022-2023

STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT:

Standardized Dress Code Guidelines (Pk-12th): -Please refer to flyer.

LEVEL I -- Minor Offenses:

Disregard for Authority:

#4 Dishonesty to a Staff Member: Attempting to make a person believe as true something false which includes, but is not limited to, failing to disclose information, distorting, hiding/covering up information or evidence regarding oneself or others, or giving a false name or identification, ~~or~~ documentation, or information.

Miscellaneous Offenses:

#16 Distributing, selling or trading, on campus, any item not authorized by the principal. Or service/skill without proper certification/license. (i.e. haircut, nails, etc.)

LEVEL II--Serious Offenses:

Possession of Prohibited Items:

~~#22 Possessing, selling, giving, delivering, accepting, smoking, or using tobacco /nicotine products, including electronic/vapor cigarettes, and any component, part, or accessory for an electronic/vapor cigarette. The District and its staff strictly enforce prohibitions against the use of tobacco products, including electronic/vapor cigarettes, by students and others on school property or at school sponsored or school related activities. [See the Student Code of Conduct and policy GKA.] (MOVED TO LVL 3)~~

Misuse of Computers, Internet, Telecommunications/Electronic Devices:

~~#37 Using a camera cell phone in locker/shower facilities and restroom areas. (MOVED TO LVL 3)~~

LEVEL III—Disciplinary Alternative Education Programs

Mistreatment of Others:

#8 Engages in two or more bullying or hazing offenses including cyberbullying offenses (including but not limited to: slamming, trash talking, threatening, harassing, obscene, “pantsing”, degrading/damaging to another’s reputation, or encouraging self-harm or harm to others). Please note: a student may be placed at the DAEP on the first occurrence regardless if the conduct originated off school property, if the conduct causes a substantial disruption to the educational environment. Incidents may result in a criminal offense(s) as per the Texas Penal Code.

#9 Possesses, records, takes pictures, displays, broadcasts, gives, sells, provides, issues, manufactures, procures, mails, delivers, transfers, distributes, circulates, disseminates, presents, exhibits, advertises, promotes, or transmits visual/audio material of a person’s intimate areas, changing rooms or other areas presumed to be private, sexual conduct (actual or simulated) or otherwise invasive, abusive, offensive, sexually oriented, intimate or provocative, regardless if the material reveals the person’s identity or regardless if the person created or consented to the creation of said material. This applies to conduct which originated off school property, if the conduct causes a substantial disruption to the educational environment. Incidents may result in a criminal offense(s) as per the Texas Penal Code.

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Safety Transgressions:

#11 Engages in conduct leading to or intended to disrupt school, incite a riot, violence, disturbance, or encouraging others to disrupt school program (i.e. walkout, sit out, post/threatening school violence, smoke alarm).

Possession/Use of Prohibited Items:

#17 Possessing, selling, using, giving, abusing, or being under the influence of a look-a-like drug, low-level THC or hemp or attempting to pass item off as drugs or contraband. School-related drug offenses are also addressed in the Mandatory Placement or Expulsion section of the Student Code of Conduct.

##. Possessing, selling, giving, delivering, accepting, smoking, or using tobacco /nicotine products, including electronic/vapor cigarettes, and any component, part, or accessory for an electronic/vapor cigarette. The District and its staff strictly enforce prohibitions against the use of tobacco/nicotine products, CBD, hemp, low-level THC including electronic/vapor cigarettes, by students and others on school property or at school-sponsored or school-related activities. [See the Student Code of Conduct and policy GKA.]

Misuse of Computers, Internet, Telecommunications/Electronic Devices:

##. Using a camera cell phone in locker/shower facilities and restroom areas.

Prescription and Over-the-Counter Drugs:

#20 Distributing/using or placing a prohibited substance - which may cause a mental or physical impairment -in another person's food, drink, and/or other possessions.

Appeals: ...

In accordance with Texas Education Code Section 37.009(a), the decision of the hearing officer is final and may not be appealed. The hearing officer is the only person who shall make a tape recording of the Review Hearing proceedings. All other disciplinary concerns appeals regarding a placement in a DAEP should be addressed in accordance with policy FNG (LOCAL). Disciplinary consequences shall not be deferred pending the outcome of an appeal. The decision to place a student in a DAEP cannot be appealed beyond the Board.

Board/Board's Committee Review of Expulsion

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BUS RIDER HANDBOOK:

At The Bus Stop:

If an eligible student rider is the “only” student rider at a designated pick up location and ceases to utilize for “3” consecutive days the transportation services provided, that bus stop will be temporarily/permanently removed until adequate arrangements have been made with the Transportation Department Office.

Bus Behavior:

Riding the bus is a privilege which may be temporarily suspended or permanently revoked at the discretion of the campus/transportation administrator if the conduct in question jeopardizes the safety of any individual, or generally interferes with the safe operation of the bus, or violates the Student Code of Conduct.

Prior to a suspension or revocation of bus riding privileges for any student, the campus administrator shall ~~may~~ consult with and receive input from the ~~Director of~~ Transportation Department regarding the proposed length of suspension or revocation.

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TECHNOLOGY USE GUIDELINES:

The Use of District Computers, Network, Internet and Electronic Mail:

The District defines harmful to students and minors as any picture, image, graphic image file, or other visual depiction that:

1. Taken as a whole and with respect to students and minors, appeals to a prurient interest in nudity, sex, or excretion;
 2. Depicts, describes, or represents, in a patently offensive way with respect to what is suitable for students and minors, an actual or simulated sexual act or sexual contact, actual or simulated normal or perverted sexual acts, or a lewd exhibition of the genitals; and
 3. Taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value as to students and minors.
- 47 U.S.C. 254(h)(7)(G); 20 U.S.C. 7131(e)(6)*

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STUDENT HANDBOOK:

Requesting Transfers for Your Child:

- Student transfers end at the highest grade level of the campus (5th and 8th). All students will be “rolled over”; that is, sent back to their home campus based on the attendance zone of the child’s physical address. All in-coming 6th and 9th grade students for the following year are required (if parent wishes) to apply for a new student district transfer application.
- Students whose transfer were approved to attend a new school for the following year or the current year will have their transfers automatically denied if the student was a “no show”; that is, did not meet the Texas Compensatory Attendance Requirement of within the first 5 days of attendance. No new requests can be request since parent “self-revoked” the transfer application and shall register at the home campus based on the student’s attendance zone.

SECTION II: INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS AND PARENTS

Age 19 and Older:

Under IDEA, special education and related services must be available to an eligible child or adult student until he or she graduates with a regular high school diploma or exceeds the age eligibility requirements for a free appropriate public education under state law, which is age 21 in Texas or until the student’s 22nd birthday. An adult student receiving special education and related services who is 21 years of age on September 1 of a school year is eligible for services through the end of that school year or until graduation with a regular high school diploma based upon meeting the curriculum standards and credit requirements applicable to students in general education, whichever comes first.

Awards and Honors

High School "A" Honor Roll: To be eligible for this distinction on a nine weeks basis, a student must receive A's in ALL courses. To be eligible for the end of the year award, a student must have all A's during the first three 9-week periods.

High School "A & B" Honor Roll: To be eligible for this distinction on a nine weeks basis, a student must receive A's in 4 out of the 5 courses and a B in one course. To be eligible for the end of the year award, a student must have A's in 4 out of the 5 courses with a B in one course during the first three 9-week periods.

Computer Resources:

Students are responsible for securing their assigned Chromebook and charger at all times at home and on campus. They are to keep them in their person via backpack or sleeve.

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Safe and Supportive School Program:

The Safe and Supportive Program Team conducts behavioral threat assessments by assessing and reporting students who make threats of violence or exhibit harmful, threatening, or violent behavior as defined by TEC 37.115. In addition, the school may gather information to determine the level of risk and assign appropriate intervention(s). The team serves as a community and school safeguard by: 1. Conducting a fact based, systematic, and investigative approach to determining how likely a person is to carry out a threat of violence; 2. Identifying, assessing, and managing appropriate interventions of individuals who are at risk for violence against themselves and others; 3. Providing guidance to students and school employees on recognizing harmful, threatening, or violent behavior that may pose a threat to the community, school, or individual. When conducting this process with fidelity it leads to a positive and safe school climate. This process is not intended to be punitive or adversarial; rather, it is a way to build trust and situational awareness. For more information visit <https://txssc.txstate.edu/tools/tam-toolkit/> or www.uisd.net/keepuisdsafe

Course Credit Recovery and Advancement to Remain on Cohort (*available to Students grades 9-12 who are in their 3rd or 4th year in High School*): The District provides its high school General and Special Education students with access to an online curriculum program to facilitate the **recovery of credit** for a course(s) or to advance a course(s) to remain on the path toward graduation with their cohort.

Eligibility criteria for participating on the Online Credit Recovery or Advancement Program:

A high school student who is at risk of dropping out of school which includes each student who is under 26 years of age and who meets the following criteria (taken from Board Policy EHBC (Legal) and section 29.081 of the Texas Education Code:

- Was not advanced from one grade level to the next for one or more school years;
- Did not perform satisfactorily on a state assessment instrument administered to student under Subchapter B, Chapter 39 of the Texas Education Code, and who has not in previous or current school year subsequently performed on that instrument or another appropriate instrument at a level equal to at least 110 percent of the level of satisfactory performed on that instrument;
- Is pregnant or is a parent;
- Has been placed in an alternative education program under Texas Education Code 37.006 during the preceding or current school year;
- Has been expelled during the preceding or current school year;
- Is currently on parole, probation, deferred prosecution, or other conditional release;
- Was previously reported through the Public Education Information Management System (PEIMS) to have dropped out of school;
- Is a student of limited English proficiency, as defined by section 29.052 of the Texas Education Code;
- Is in the custody or care of the Department of Protective and Regulatory Services or has, during the current school year, been referred to the department by a school official, officer of the juvenile court, or law enforcement official;
- Is homeless, as defined by 42 U.S.C. 11302 and its subsequent amendments

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- Resided in the preceding school year or resides in the current school year in a residential placement facility in the District, including a detention facility, substance abuse treatment facility, emergency shelter, psychiatric hospital, halfway house, or foster group home.

Promotion/Retention:

Students in grades 3, 5, 8 and EOC who do not perform satisfactorily will have opportunities to participate in special instructional programs designed to help them improve their performance. The student will may be required to participate in this instruction before, during, or after normal school hours or outside of the normal school year. HB 4545 establishes new requirements for accelerated instruction for students who do not pass the State of Texas Assessments Readiness (STAAR). For any student who does not pass the STAAR test in grades 3, 5, or 8 in math or reading, the LEA requires the student to participate in accelerated instruction totaling 30 hours per subject before, after, or during the instructional day.

Contact Tracing/Coronavirus:

Since March 2020 all nursing staff have become certified Contact Tracers through John Hopkins University due to the Coronavirus pandemic. This involves that all students testing positive for coronavirus will have the school nurses contacting the parents of the students to find out of any other close contacts, especially those attending school. This is necessary to ensure that those exposed to the coronavirus are excluded from school if they are unvaccinated or showing signs and symptoms. This procedure is being followed as a part of the mitigating factors. Health Services Department is a DSHS provider of the Coronavirus vaccine and offers this vaccine to all students and staff members as well as the community to mitigate this disease. It is very important to have open communication with the school nurses to ensure the health and safety of all students and staff.

Graduation Activities:

Students eligible to give the opening and closing remarks at graduation shall be notified by the campus principal. Notwithstanding any other eligibility requirements, in order to be considered as an eligible student to give the opening or closing remarks, or any other speaking role, a student shall not have engaged in any misconduct in violation of the District's Student Code of Conduct resulting in removal to a DAEP for more than 15 days, or expulsion during any semester of a student's graduating year. The valedictorian and salutatorian may also have speaking roles at graduation. No student shall be eligible to have such a speaking role if he or she engaged in any misconduct in violation of the District's Student Code of Conduct resulting in an Out of School Suspension, removal to a DAEP for more than 15 days, or expulsion during any semester of a student's graduating year.

Safety Drills:

United ISD uses the Standard Response Protocols (SRP) as mandated by Texas Education Code 37.114 and the Texas Education Agency Commissioner of Education. The SRP is based on five call to action items: SECURE, LOCKDOWN, EVACUATE, SHELTER and HOLD. In the event of an emergency, the action will be called out on the school's PA system. Students, teachers and other District employees must participate in emergency procedure drills throughout the school year. When the command is given or alarm

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is sounded, students and staff members need to respond promptly and in an orderly manner to the action. (Visit: <https://txssc.txstate.edu/tools/srp-toolkit> or www.uisd.net/keepuisdsafe for additional information.)

Reunification:

Circumstances may occur at the school that require parents to pick up their students in a formalized, controlled release. This process is called a Reunification and may be necessary due to weather, a power outage, and hazmat or if a crisis occurs at the school. The Standard Reunification Method is a protocol that makes this process more predictable and less chaotic for all involved. Because a reunification is not a typical end of school day event, a reunification may occur at a different location than the school a student attends. If this location is another school, then those students may be subject to a controlled release as well. If a parent or guardian is notified that a reunification is needed, there are some expectations that parents or guardians should be aware of. First, bring identification. That will streamline things during reunification. Second, be patient. Reunification is a process that protects both the safety of the student and provides for an accountable change of custody from the school to a recognized custodial parent or guardian. For students, the school asks that students be orderly and quiet while waiting. Students may be asked to text a message to their parents or guardians. Students are also asked not to send other text messages either in or out of the school or reunification area. Keeping the cellular network usage at a minimum may be important during a reunification. For more information visit <https://txssc.txstate.edu/tools/srm-toolkit/> or www.uisd.net/keepuisdsafe

School Health Advisory Council:

During the preceding school year, the District's School Health Advisory Council (SHAC) held 4 (four) meetings. The duties of the SHAC range from recommending curriculum to developing strategies for integrating curriculum into a coordinated school health program encompassing issues such as health services, counseling services, a safe and healthy school environment, and recess recommendation. The School Health Advisory Council (SHAC) is involved with the selection of course materials for human sexuality instruction; however, UISD students do not receive instruction related to human sexuality. You may also choose to becoming more involved with the development of curriculum used for this purpose by becoming a member of the district's SHAC. Please see the campus principal for additional information.