

AGENDA ITEM

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
AGENDA☐

Workshop

☒

Regular

☐

Special

(A)

☒

Report Only

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Recognition

Presenter(s): John Cox, Deputy Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction

Briefly describe the subject of the report or recognition presentation.

Presentation of the 2024-2025 Student/Parent Handbook

(B)

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Action Items

Presenters(s):

Briefly describe the action required.

(C)

Funding source: Identify the source of funds if any are required.


(D)

Clarification: Explain any question or issues that might be raised regarding this item.



EAGLE PASS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT FOR CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION

TO: Samuel Mijares, Superintendent

FROM: John Cox, Deputy Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction 

DATE: June 27, 2024

RE: Student/Parent Handbook Updates

The Student/Parent Handbook is provided to students and parents to communicate essential information for the 2024 -2025 school year. It includes provisions common to Texas schools and is designed to be a resource for development of campus student handbooks. The Student/Parent Handbook is revised on a yearly basis to address policy changes.

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me at extension 80101.

JC/rlv

2024 – 2025 Student/Parent Handbook

Pertinent Update Summary

SECTION ONE: PARENTAL RIGHTS

[SEE PAGE 7]

CONSENT BEFORE HUMAN SEXUALITY INSTRUCTION

Before a student receives human sexuality instruction, the parent must give written consent. Parents will be sent a request for written consent at least 14 days before the instruction will begin.

TEXAS DRIVING WITH DISABILITY PROGRAM

[SEE PAGE 27]

In accordance with state law, the district will provide notification of the Texas Driving with Disability Program to students who have a health condition or disability that may impede effective communication with a peace officer and receive special education or are covered by Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. This notification will be provided annually to an eligible student aged 16 years or older until the student's graduation or 21st birthday and to the student's parents.

The Texas Driving with Disability Program focuses on improving the interaction between law enforcement and drivers with disabilities that have unique communication needs.

SECTION TWO: OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PARENTS AND STUDENTS

CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE, NEGLECT, TRAFFICKING, AND OTHER MALTREATMENT OF CHILDREN (ALL GRADE LEVELS)

[SEE PAGE 38-39]

POSSIBLE WARNING SIGNS OF CHILD ABUSE, NEGLECT, TRAFFICKING, AND OTHER MALTREATMENT OF CHILDREN

PHYSICAL ABUSE

Possible warning signs of physical abuse include:

- Frequent injuries such as bruises, cuts, black eyes, or burns without adequate explanations
- Frequent complaints of pain without apparent injury
- Burns or bruises in unusual patterns that may indicate the use of an instrument or human bite; cigarette burns on any part of the body

- Lack of reaction to pain
- Extreme fear of going home or seeing parents
- Injuries that appear after a child has not been seen for several days
- Unseasonable clothing that may hide injuries to arms or legs

SEXUAL ABUSE

Possible warning signs of sexual abuse include:

- Physical signs of sexually transmitted diseases
- Evidence of injury to the genital area
- Pregnancy in a young girl
- Difficulty in sitting or walking
- Extreme fear of being alone with adults of a certain sex
- Sexual comments, behaviors, or play beyond what is considered age-appropriate behavior
- Knowledge of sexual relations beyond what is expected for a child's age
- Sexual victimization of other children

Children and adolescents who have experienced dating violence may show similar physical, behavioral, and emotional warning signs. [Error! Reference source not found. and Error! Reference source not found..]

EMOTIONAL ABUSE

Possible warning signs of emotional abuse include:

- Over-compliance or low self-esteem caused by scapegoating or verbal abuse by caregivers
- Severe depression, anxiety, or aggression
- Lag in physical, emotional, and intellectual development
- Indicators of a caregiver who belittles the child, withholds love, and seems unconcerned about the child's problems
- Significant changes to behavior, such as withdrawal or over-aggression
- Significant changes to weight, such as substantial weight gain or weight loss

NEGLECT

Possible warning signs of neglect include:

- Obvious malnourishment
- Consistent lack of personal hygiene that poses a health risk
- Stealing or begging for food
- Child unattended for long periods of time
- Unaddressed need for dental care or other medical attention

PREGNANCY OR RELATED CONDITIONS

[SEE PAGE 55]

The district does not discriminate on the basis of pregnancy or a related condition.

Please contact the campus principal/counselor for pregnancy-related accommodations.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES AND TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES (ALL GRADE LEVELS)

[SEE PAGE 59]

SAFE USE OF TECHNOLOGY

The district is committed to ensuring that students use technology safely and will follow all federal and state requirements to protect students from excessive data collection or materials that are considered harmful to minors. The district considers parents as partners in cybersecurity and online safety.

In accordance with state and federal law, the district will:

- Install a filter that blocks and prohibits pornographic or obscene materials or applications, including from unsolicited pop-ups, installations, and downloads, before transferring an electronic device to a student to be used for an educational purpose
- Block or filter students' internet access to pictures that are obscene, contain child pornography, or have been determined to be harmful to minors in accordance with the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA)
- Require direct and informed parental consent for a student's use of software, other than software excluded from the consent requirement by law [See Error! Reference source not found. and Error! Reference source not found..]
- Require direct and informed parental consent for a student's use of software that conducts mental health assessments or other assessments unrelated to education curricula that are intended to collect information about students [See Error! Reference source not found..]

If you want to know more about partnering with the district regarding cybersecurity and online safety, or if you have complaints or concern about student use of electronic devices, please contact the campus principal.

GRADING GUIDELINES (ALL GRADE LEVELS)

[SEE PAGE 64]

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 (for example, letter grades, numerical averages, checklist of required skills, and the like)
- Circumstances under which a student will be allowed to redo an assignment or retake an examination the student originally failed

- Procedures for a student to follow after an absence
- Grading consequences for academic dishonesty, including cheating or copying the work of another student, plagiarism (including the unauthorized use of artificial intelligence (AI) such as ChatGPT), and unauthorized communication between students during an examination

SEIZURES (ALL GRADE LEVELS)

[SEE PAGE 79]

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. A parent who submits a plan must use the [Seizure Management and Treatment Plan Form](https://tea.texas.gov/academics/tea-seizure-management-form.pdf) (<https://tea.texas.gov/academics/tea-seizure-management-form.pdf>) developed by the Texas Education Agency.

[See Error! Reference source not found. and contact the school nurse for more information.]

TOBACCO, E-CIGARETTES, AND NICOTINE PRODUCTS PROHIBITED (ALL GRADE LEVELS)

[SEE PAGE 79]

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. With limited exceptions for medication, [see Error! Reference source not found.] students are also prohibited from possessing or using any type of nicotine product, including nicotine pouches, regardless of whether the product contains tobacco, 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.]

LIBRARY (ALL GRADE LEVELS)

[SEE PAGE 99]

The library is open for independent student use during certain times established by the campus principal.

The district provides a wide range of library materials for students and faculty that support student achievement and present varying levels of difficulty, diversity of appeal, and a variety of points of view. The district follows the Texas State Library and Archive Commission's standards for school library collection development.

Parents are the primary decision makers regarding their student's access to library material. The district encourages parental involvement in library acquisition, maintenance, and campus activities. Parents are encouraged to communicate with the campus librarian and their child's teacher about special considerations regarding library materials self-selected by their student.

A parent who wants to access to the school's library or any available online catalog should submit a request to the principal.

The district welcomes student and parent feedback on library materials and services. Parents may contact campus librarian on questions regarding library materials. A district employee or parent may request the reconsideration of a library material by contacting the campus librarian or a campus administrator. The campus administrator shall explain the district's reconsideration procedures and provide a copy of the form to request a formal reconsideration of the library material. The official form will also be available on the district website at www.eaglepassisd.net.

For more information, see EFB(LOCAL).

SEARCHES AND INVESTIGATIONS

[SEE PAGE 100]

SEARCHES IN GENERAL (ALL GRADE LEVELS)

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

District officials may conduct investigations in accordance with law and district policy and may question students regarding a student's own conduct or the conduct of others. [For questioning of students by law enforcement officials, see Error! Reference source not found..]

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 suspicion less 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.

GLOSSARY

[SEE PAGE 109]

Safe and Supportive School Team is a team established at each campus that is responsible for conducting a threat assessment regarding individuals who make threats of violence or exhibit harmful, threatening, or violent behavior and determining appropriate intervention, and 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.