

**Student & Parent Handbook  
Summary of Changes  
2025 - 2026  
SOUTHWEST INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Department	Topic & Summary	Editor
HR & Pupil Services	Law Enforcement Agencies- wording was included to comply with Safe Schools Protocol that includes review of official government issued identification, process of identification through Navigate 360, securing a confidential location and notifying the SWISD Police and Office of Administration and Human Resources.	Mary Lou Hernandez
HR & Pupil Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pre-Kindergarten &amp; Kindergarten and what can occur if attendance does not improve</li> <li>• Within <b>two (2)</b> days of returning to school after an absence, parents or guardians of students can either fill out the online absence form for their specific campus or submit a note signed by parent to the attendance office</li> <li>• Southwest ISD allows 3 handwritten parent notes per absence per semester for up to 6 absences per school year. Once the 6th absence is accumulated, a healthcare provider's note or administrator-approved documentation is required for the absence to be excused.</li> <li>• Absences without acceptable documentation may be marked unexcused and could result in disciplinary action.</li> <li>• The District shall not limit an eligible student's absences related to participation in extracurricular activities.</li> </ul>	Laura Garza
HR & Pupil Services	<b>Electronic Recording of Communications</b> Students shall not electronically record any conversations or meetings pertaining to District business by audio, video, or other means	Mary Lou Hernandez

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	<p>unless every person present has been notified and provided explicit permission to be electronically recorded. A student making an authorized recording shall ensure that the recording device is located in plain view for the duration of the conversation or meeting. Secret recordings shall be prohibited. This provision does not apply to law enforcement pursuant to protocol or District administration conducting necessary District business as long as notice of the recording is provided to others present.</p> <p>These provisions are not intended to limit or restrict electronic recording of publicly posted Board meetings, grievance hearings, and any other Board sanctioned meeting recorded in accordance with Board policy, or to limit or restrict electronic recordings involving authorized investigations conducted by District personnel.</p>	
C&I: Counseling Dpt.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Bullet #4 under “Class Rank....” - The beginning part of the bullet statement is not needed.</li> <li>● Under “College and University...” - an addition of “or the equivalent” was added to reflect TEA’s Chapter 51, Sec. 51.805.</li> <li>● Under the “Credits Required” Chart, a line was deleted since it was a repeated line (Fine Arts) and under the “Foundation Graduation Program”, the number of credits for Electives has been corrected to 4.5 credits.</li> <li>● The chart, “High School Academic Honor Cords and Stoles” was deleted. This is a document that potentially has updates in the Fall and will be available at the high schools once the committee has made final decisions.</li> </ul>	Luis Gonzalez
Career and Technical Education (CTE)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Updated to reflect the current SWISD Programs of Study and added the CTE Continuous Notification of</li> </ul>	Zelene Aragon

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	Nondiscrimination with SWISD contacts	
Health Services	Illness (All Grade Levels) The paragraph that begins with “State rules require schools... should state “For example, a child with a fever of 100 degrees...” our handbook states “over 100 degrees” and that is incorrect.	Lynda Guerrero
Health Services	<a href="#">2025-2026 Texas Minimum State Requirements for K-12</a>  <a href="#">2025 - 2026 Texas Minimum State Vaccine Requirements for Childcare and Pre-k Facilities</a>	Lynda Guerrero
Health Services	Update to align with FFAC (local) In accordance with policy FFAC, authorized employees may administer: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prescription medication in accordance with legal requirements (current medical order), properly labeled container, provided by the parent along with a written request</li> </ul>	Lynda Guerrero
Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Removed wording and simplified student response to emergency.</li> <li>• Updated with new anonymous reporting system information</li> <li>• Addressed interior locked classroom door expectations</li> <li>• Adoption of I Love You Guys SRP</li> <li>• Updated dates for first days of school update for 25-26 start of school.</li> </ul> <a href="#">Link for Updated document with full wording.</a>	<a href="#">Mark Figueroa</a>
External Funds	Parent and Family Engagement Policy for 2025-2026 school year	Loretta Zavala
Child Nutrition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Food provided by the Child Nutrition Department on campus to students and adults is not allowed to be taken off campus.</li> <li>• All district campuses participate in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP). This program allows campuses with a high percentage of students receiving free or reduced meal benefits to extend</li> </ul>	Winston Gatlin

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	<p>free lunch meal benefits to all students, regardless of their meal application status.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meal applications are not required for students at CEP campuses.</li> <li>• Parent monitoring of meal account balance was deleted</li> <li>• 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. This wording was deleted.</li> </ul>	
Extracurricular Activities	A student enrolled in a private school, including a homeschool, shall not be eligible for concurrent enrollment in the District nor for participation in curricular or extracurricular activities.	Mary Lou Hernandez
Proposed Changes pending Final Legal Updates	Cell Phone Policy: Aligned to new state law; consistent district policy that will be required by new Texas legislation	Mary Lou Hernandez