

## HANDBOOK CHANGES for School year 2009-2010

### **Added- page 22**

Eligibility to tryout will be determined by an evaluation that consists of academic, discipline, attendance records, and clinic participation records.

### **Page 22- Recommend making a change from:**

1. Cheerleader/Mascot candidates will be selected by three impartial judges and academic evaluation.

TO:

2. Cheerleader/Mascot candidates will be selected by three impartial judges.

### **Page 22-**

Change from 8 high school and 6 junior high school cheerleaders to 10 and 8 respectively.

Page 24 Change-

### ACADEMIC EVALUATION

TO:

### ACADEMIC EVALUATION TO DETERMINE ELIGIBILITY TO TRYOUT

### **Page- 23 For clarification purposes only. Does not change what has been practiced.**

#### Class Rank (High School)

1. Class rank will be determined by a numerical average, not GPA.
2. All Band and **P.E. classes that count as state credits** will count in determining numerical average. (If Band is used by the student to meet the Fine Arts credit requirement, the first two semesters of Band taken in grades 9 - 12 will be used as a Fine Arts credit to determine GPA.)
3. VAC classes, CBE credits, correspondence courses, and **local credits** are not counted in the numerical average.
4. Advanced electives, Pre-AP, AP, and dual credit courses shall receive an added weight of 10% of their grade.
5. All high school level credits earned in junior high that will count toward graduation requirements will count in average/class ranking.
6. The class rank list is a confidential document and shall not be published.
7. **No local credits will count in determining numerical average.**
8. **Advanced and dual credit courses not offered at Brackett ISD taken by students transferring in will not receive an additional weight of 10%.**

Page 24- Additions to advanced course list

Pre-AP/AP Courses, Advanced Electives, and Dual Credit Courses

Enrollment is limited to students who have been approved for these classes by the principal.

\*Advanced courses are offered for all high school students in AP Biology, **Scientific Research and Design**, Research/Technical Writing, Creative/Imaginative Writing, **Literary Genres**, Advanced Social Studies/Research Methods/Special Topics, Accounting II, BCIS II, Pre-AP Algebra I, Pre-AP Algebra II, Pre-AP Geometry, Pre-AP Pre Calculus, Pre-Calculus, AP Calculus, Spanish III, **and dual credit classes offered at Brackett High School.**

Page 32- Included in TASB Model- Do we want to add the charges??????

**Telecommunications Devices, Including Mobile Telephones**

For safety purposes, the district permits students to possess telecommunications devices, including mobile telephones; however, these devices must remain turned off during the instructional day (7:55-3:36 excluding lunch time), including during all testing. The use of mobile telephones in hallways, classrooms, locker rooms, or restroom areas **at any time** while at school is strictly prohibited. A student who uses a telecommunications device during the school day shall have the device confiscated. **The student or 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 student's parents will be disposed of after the notice required by law. [See policy FNCE.]

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

**Other Electronic Devices**

Students are not permitted to possess such items as radios, CD players, MP3 players, video or audio recorders, DVD players, cameras, games, or other electronic devices at school, unless prior permission has been obtained from the principal. 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. Any disciplinary action will be in accordance with the *Student Code of Conduct*. The district will not be responsible for any damaged, lost, or stolen electronic device.

## **Retaliation**

### **NEW**

Retaliation against a person who makes a good faith report of discrimination or harassment, including dating violence, is prohibited. Retaliation against a person who is participating in an investigation of alleged discrimination or harassment is also prohibited. A person who makes a false claim or offers false statements or refuses to cooperate with a district investigation, however, may be subject to appropriate discipline. Retaliation against a student might occur when a student receives threats from another student or an employee or when an employee imposes an unjustified punishment or unwarranted grade reduction. Retaliation does not include petty slights and annoyances from other students or negative comments from a teacher that are justified by a student's poor academic performance in the classroom.

### **OLD**

Retaliation of a student occurs when a student receives threats from another student or an employee or when an employee imposes an unjustified punishment or unwarranted grade reduction. Retaliation does not include petty slights and annoyances from other students or negative comments from a teacher that are justified by a student's poor academic performance in the classroom. Retaliation against a person who makes a good faith report of discrimination or harassment, including dating violence, is prohibited. A person who makes a false claim or offers false statements or refuses to cooperate with a district investigation, however, may be subject to appropriate discipline. Retaliation against a person who is participating in an investigation of alleged discrimination or harassment is also prohibited.

## **PAGE 40- ADDED- TEXT INCLUDED IN TASB Model**

### **FEES**

Materials that are part of the basic educational program are provided with state and local funds at no charge to a student. A student, however, is expected to provide his or her own pencils, paper, erasers, and notebooks and may be required to pay certain other fees or deposits, including:

Costs for materials for a class project that the student will keep.

Membership dues in voluntary clubs or student organizations and admission fees to extracurricular activities.

Security deposits.

Personal physical education and athletic equipment and apparel.

Voluntarily purchased pictures, publications, class rings, yearbooks, graduation announcements, etc.

Voluntarily purchased student 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, if offered.

Fees for optional courses offered for credit that requires 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.

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 of Schools. [For further information, see policies at FP.]

**PAGE 43- Updated and additional information included by TASB. Replaces Immunization section in previous handbook.**

## 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 <https://webds.dshs.state.tx.us/immco/affidavit.shtm>. 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, rubeola (measles), rubella (German measles), mumps, tetanus, pertussis, poliomyelitis (polio), hepatitis A, hepatitis B, and varicella (chicken pox). The school nurse can provide information on age-appropriate doses or on an acceptable physician-validated history of illness required by the Department of State Health Services. 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. licensed physician stating that, in the doctor's opinion, the immunization required poses a significant risk to the health and well-being of the student or member of the student's family or household. This certificate must be renewed yearly unless the physician specifies a life-long condition. [For further

information, see policy FFAB(LEGAL) and the Department of State Health Services Web site: <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/immunize/school/default.shtm.>]

## **OLD**

### **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, Immunization Branch, can be honored by the district. The immunizations required are: diphtheria, rubeola (measles), rubella (German measles), mumps, tetanus, pertussis, poliomyelitis, hepatitis A, hepatitis B, and varicella (chicken pox). The school nurse can provide information on age-appropriate doses or on an acceptable physician-validated history of illness required by the Department of State Health Services. 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. licensed physician stating that, in the doctor's opinion, the immunization required poses a significant risk to the health and well-being of the student or member of the student's family or household. This certificate must be renewed yearly unless the physician specifies a life-long condition. [For further information, see policy FFAB(LEGAL) and the Department of State Health Services Web site: <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/immunize/school/default.shtm.>]

**Page 46- Text from TASB Model replaces text in previous handbook.**

## **NEW**

### **Physical Activity for Students in Junior High School**

In accordance with policies at EHAC the district will ensure that students in grades 6-8 engage in moderate or vigorous physical activity for at least 30 minutes per day or 135 minutes per week.

Students in middle or junior high school shall engage in 30 minutes of moderate or vigorous physical activity per day for at least four semesters OR at least 225 minutes of moderate or vigorous physical activity within a two-week period for at least four semesters.

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

## OLD

### Physical Activity for Students in Junior High School

The Board shall adopt a policy that determines the extent to which students enrolled in middle and junior high school settings are allowed to meet physical activity requirements throughout the school year. The District must provide exemptions for:

1. Students in the health classifications specified in 19 TAC 74.31(2) and (3); or
2. Students participating in a TEKS-based physical education class or a TEKS-based structured activity.

The District may provide an exemption for students participating in private or commercially sponsored physical activities including those certified by the Superintendent to be of high quality and well supervised by appropriately trained instructors.

*Education Code 28.002(1); 19 TAC 74.32(b)*

### PAGE 49- Removed references to Flex Days

### **OPTIONAL FLEXIBLE YEAR PROGRAM (FLEX DAYS)**

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:** The Optional Flexible Year Program provides districts with flexibility in designing the instructional program for students who did not or are not likely to perform successfully on state assessments or who would not otherwise be promoted to the next grade level. The instructional calendar for students who fall into these risk categories must provide for no fewer than 180 days. The instructional calendar for students who do not fall into these risk categories may be reduced, but not below 170 days, in order to provide intensive instructional services to those students with greater educational needs. (STATUTORY AUTHORITY: TEC, §29.0821)

**PUBLIC AND STUDENT BENEFIT:** This program will provide districts with the flexibility to reduce instructional days for students who are performing satisfactorily and the opportunity to provide targeted instruction to students who have greater educational needs.

### **OPTIONAL FLEXIBLE YEAR PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS**

(Brackett High School and Brackett Junior High)

Students who meet the criteria established by the district will be eligible for the 170 day school calendar. Students will be notified of the criteria at the beginning of the school year. All other students will be required to attend 180 days:

## **Changes after Post-Legislative TASB Handbook update received 7-7-09**

### **Added on page- 7**

#### **Displaying a Student's Artwork and Projects**

The district will seek parental consent before displaying students' artwork, special projects, photographs taken by students, and the like on the district's Web site, in printed material, by video, or by any other method of mass communication.

### **Deleted from page 7**

#### **Limiting the Display of a Student's Artwork and Projects**

As a parent, if you do not want your child's artwork, special projects, photographs, and the like to be displayed on the district's Web site, in printed material, by video, or by any other method of mass communication, you must notify the principal in writing.

### **Added on page 10-**

#### **Reviewing Instructional Materials**

As a parent, you have a 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 to your child.

[Also see Removing a Student from Human Sexuality Instruction on page 9 for additional information.] Added on page 9

## **Granting Permission to Receive Parenting and Paternity Awareness Instruction**

As a parent, if your child is under the age of 14, you must grant permission for your child to receive instruction in the district's parenting and paternity awareness program or your child will not be allowed to participate in the instruction. This program, developed by the Office of the Texas Attorney General and the Texas State Board of Education, is incorporated into the district's health education classes.

### **Added on Page 9-10**

#### **Removing a Student from Human Sexuality Instruction**

**As a part of the district's curriculum, students receive instruction related to human sexuality. The School Health Advisory Council (SHAC) is involved with the selection of course materials for such instruction.**

**State law requires that any instruction related to human sexuality, sexually transmitted diseases, or human immunodeficiency virus or acquired immune deficiency syndrome must:**

- **Present abstinence from sexual activity as the preferred choice of behavior 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 is the only method that is 100 percent effective in preventing pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases, and the emotional trauma associated with adolescent sexual activity;**
- **Direct adolescents to a standard of behavior in which abstinence from sexual activity before marriage is 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.**

**In accordance with state law, below is a summary of the district's curriculum regarding human sexuality instruction:**

**BIG DECISIONS™, is a new program designed to help young people make healthy and informed decisions about sex. BIG DECISIONS™ uses classroom activities to help students learn about healthy relationships and how bodies work. Students learn how sex has consequences, why abstinence is the best choice for teenagers, and how to resist pressure to have sex. They also learn about ways for sexually active people to reduce their chances of pregnancy and STDs-including information about birth control and condoms.**

**Students in the BIG DECISIONS™ program are expected to attend all the sessions, so they can get the program's full benefit. The lessons will be presented during high school health classes. In order to find out how well the program works to help young people, students will be asked to fill out a questionnaire at the beginning and at the end of the program. The lessons, activities, and questionnaires used in BIG DECISIONS™ are available for you to review in the health**



classroom or in the school counselor's office.

**As a parent, you are entitled to review the curriculum materials. In addition, you may remove your child from any part of this instruction with no academic, disciplinary, or other penalties. You may also choose to become 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.**

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**Does the board want to continue with the Sex Education Program??  
Excerpt from TASB's handbook editorial notes-**

SB 283 requires a school district to provide written notice before each school year of the board's decision regarding whether the district will provide human sexuality instruction. If you choose to use the handbook as this notice, you must also include a summary of the basic content of the instruction, along with a statement of the parent's right to review the material and remove the student without penalty from this instruction, and information describing the opportunity for parental involvement in the development of the human sexuality curriculum.

**Page 11- addition**

**Accommodations for Children of Military Families**

Children of military families will be provided flexibility regarding certain district requirements, including:

- Immunization requirements.
- Grade level, course, or educational program placement.
- Eligibility requirements for participation in extracurricular activities.
- Graduation requirements.

In addition, absences related to a student visiting with his or her parent related to leave or deployment activities may be excused by the district.

**Page 19- addition**

A student in grades 3–8 will be required to attend any assigned accelerated instruction program, which may occur 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 applicable subject area.

**Page- 19 TASB added statement regarding DPS must have parental permission to access students record's....**

### **Driver License Attendance Verification**

For a student between the ages of 16 and 18 to obtain a driver license, the Texas Department of Public Safety must be provided written parental consent to access the student's records for purposes of verifying 90 percent attendance for credit for the semester.

**Added on page- 25**

### **CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE**

The district will establish a plan for addressing child sexual abuse, which will be accessible in the 2009-2010 district improvement plan.

As a parent, it is important for you to be aware of warning signs that could indicate a child may have been or is being sexually abused. 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. Anyone who suspects that a child has been or may be abused or neglected has a legal responsibility, under state law, for reporting the suspected abuse or neglect to law enforcement or to Child Protective Services (CPS). Possible physical warning signs of sexual abuse could be difficulty sitting or walking, pain in the genital areas, and claims of stomachaches and headaches. Behavioral indicators may include 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. Emotional warning signs to be aware of include withdrawal, depression, sleeping and eating disorders, and problems in school. A child who has experienced sexual abuse should be encouraged to seek out a trusted adult. Be aware as a parent or other trusted adult that disclosures of sexual abuse may be more indirect than disclosures of physical abuse, and 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. As a parent, if your child is a victim of sexual abuse, the campus counselor or principal will provide information regarding counseling options for you and your child available in your area. The Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (TDFPS) also manages early intervention counseling programs. To find out what services may be available in your county, see-

[http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Prevention\\_and\\_Early\\_Intervention/Programs\\_Available\\_In\\_Your\\_County/default.asp](http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Prevention_and_Early_Intervention/Programs_Available_In_Your_County/default.asp)

The following Web sites might help you become more aware of child sexual abuse:

<http://www.tea.state.tx.us/index.aspx?id=2820>

<http://savn.nonprofitoffice.com>

<http://www.taasa.org/member/materials2.php>

[http://www.oag.state.tx.us/AG\\_Publications/txts/childabuse1.shtml](http://www.oag.state.tx.us/AG_Publications/txts/childabuse1.shtml)

[http://www.oag.state.tx.us/AG\\_Publications/txts/childabuse2.shtml](http://www.oag.state.tx.us/AG_Publications/txts/childabuse2.shtml)

Reports may be made to:

The Child Protective Services (CPS) division of the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (1 800-252-5400 or on the Web at <http://www.txabusehotline.org>).

**page 26- addition**

The University of Texas at Austin may limit the number of students automatically admitted to 75 percent of the university's enrollment capacity for incoming freshmen.

**Page 35 added-**

Inappropriate Use of Technology

Students are prohibited from sending or posting electronic messages that are abusive, obscene, sexually oriented, threatening, harassing, damaging to another's reputation, or illegal. This prohibition applies to conduct off school property if it results in a substantial disruption to the educational environment. Any person taking, disseminating, transferring, or sharing obscene, sexually oriented, lewd, or otherwise illegal images or photographs will be disciplined according to the *Student Code of Conduct* and may, in certain circumstances, be reported to law enforcement.

Page 45 added-

***GANG-FREE ZONES***

Certain criminal offenses, including those involving organized criminal activity such as gang-related crimes, will be enhanced to the next highest category of offense if they are committed in a gang-free zone. For purposes of the district, a gang-free zone includes a school bus and a location in, on, or within 1000 feet of any district-owned or leased property or campus playground.

**Page 47 under- Graduation Programs**

In order for a student to take courses under the Minimum Program, the student must be at least 16 years of age; have completed at least two credits each in English language arts, math, science, and social studies courses that are required for graduation; or have failed grade 9 one or more times.

**Page 49- added and meningococcal after (chicken pox)**

The immunizations required are: diphtheria, rubeola (measles), rubella (German measles), mumps, tetanus, pertussis, poliomyelitis (polio), hepatitis A, hepatitis B, and varicella (chicken pox) and meningococcal.

### ***TEXTBOOKS, ELECTRONIC TEXTBOOKS, AND TECHNOLOGICAL EQUIPMENT***

State-approved textbooks are provided to students free of charge for each subject or class. Books must be covered by the student, as directed by the teacher, and treated with care. **Electronic textbooks and technological equipment may also be provided to students, depending on the course and course objectives.** A student who is issued a damaged **item** book should report the damage to the teacher. Any student failing to return an **item** book **in acceptable condition** issued by the school loses the right to free textbooks **and technological equipment** until the **item** book is returned or paid for by the parent; however, the student will be provided textbooks **and equipment** for use at school during the school day.

Deleted

### ***TEXTBOOKS***

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