

Executive Summary

Board of Trustees

Meeting June 7, 2022

Student and Parent Handbook Report

Board Goal

Domain 1 – **Teaching & Learning**

- establish high expectations with a curriculum fostering inquiry, critical thinking, civic responsibility and exemplary citizenship

Domain 2 – **Culture & Climate**

- foster a positive, welcoming environment encouraging parent and community partnerships
- promote health, wellness and emotional well-being

Domain 3 – **Growth & Management**

- remain committed to providing equitable and outstanding opportunities for every student on every campus

Domain 4 – **Opportunities for Students**

- develop academic skills and interpersonal relationships necessary for student success in college, the workplace, and for life.

Purpose of Report:

The purpose of this report is to provide Denton ISD's response to the requirements for Chapter 37 of the Texas Education Code. This report will also provide Denton ISD's plan for a unified, district-wide set of rules and regulations that will ensure the best learning environment for our students.

Objective:

The objective is to provide Denton ISD students and their parents with a resource that will guide their understanding of general rules and guidelines for attending and receiving an education in our district. It will also communicate behavioral expectations that reflect our community's values and standards. Finally, this handbook will be a review of basic information available to administration, faculty and staff to assist them with related board policies and administrative procedures.

Operational Impact:

When provided with accurate information, all students and parents can make sound judgements related to the interests of themselves, others and the district. In addition, students and parents will be encouraged to assume responsibility for maintaining an environment where they can get the most out of their education and will play a key role in maintaining Denton ISD's high standards for expectations.

Results:

Using recommendations provided in the *Model Student Handbook* developed by the Texas Association of School Boards, and in collaboration with district leaders and teachers, the changes listed below were made to Denton ISD's 2022–2023 Student and Parent Handbook.

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The following information was **ADDED** to the Denton ISD Student and Parent Handbook:

<p>CONSENT TO INSTRUCTION ON PREVENTION OF CHILD ABUSE, FAMILY VIOLENCE, DATING VIOLENCE, AND SEX TRAFFICKING</p>	<p>Before a student receives instruction on the prevention of child abuse, family violence, dating violence and sex trafficking, the district must obtain written consent from the student's parent. Parents will be sent a request for written consent at least 14 days before the instruction will begin.</p> <p>Students in middle school and high school receive instruction related to the prevention of child abuse, family violence, dating violence, and sex trafficking. The School Health Advisory Council (SHAC) makes recommendations for curriculum materials, and the school board adopts the materials and determines the specific content of the instruction.</p> <p>In accordance with state law, a parent may:</p> <p>Review, receive a copy of, or purchase a copy of curriculum materials depending on the copyright of the materials. As required by law, any curriculum materials in the public domain used in this instruction will be posted on the district's website at the location indicated above.</p> <p>Remove his or her child from any part of this instruction without academic, disciplinary, or other penalties.</p> <p>Become involved in the development of this curriculum by becoming a member of the district's SHAC or attending SHAC meetings. (See the campus principal for details.)</p> <p>Use the district's grievance procedure concerning a complaint. See Complaints and Concerns (All Grade Levels) and FNG for information on the grievance and appeals process.</p> <p>See Consent to Human Sexuality Instruction, Dating Violence, and Child Sexual Abuse, Trafficking, and other Maltreatment of Children.</p>
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The following information was **DELETED** from the Denton ISD Student and Parent Handbook:

<p>PROMOTION & RETENTION ELEMENTARY & MIDDLE GRADE LEVELS</p>	<p>A student will be promoted only on the basis of academic achievement or demonstrated proficiency in the subject matter of the course or grade level, the recommendation of the student’s teacher, the score received on any criterion-referenced or state-mandated assessment, and any other necessary academic information as determined by the district.</p> <p>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</p> <p>In grades 6-8, mastery of course standards shall be determined as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Course assignments and unit evaluation shall be given to determine student grades in a subject. An average of 70 or higher shall be considered a passing grade.• Mastery of the skills necessary for success at the next level shall be validated by assessments that may either be incorporated into unit, grading period, and final exams, or may be administered separately. Mastery of at least 70 percent of the objectives shall be required. <p>Students in grades 6-8 must have an overall average of 70 or above and have grades of 70 or above in three of the four core subjects of English language arts, math, science, and social studies in order to be promoted to the next grade.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>If a student in grade 5 or 8 is enrolled in a course that earns high school credit and for which an end-of-course (EOC) assessment will be administered, 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.</p> <p>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.</p>
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	<p>A student in grades 3–8 shall be assessed at least once in high school with the ACT or the SAT if the student completes the high school end-of-course assessments in mathematics, reading/language arts, or science prior to high school.</p> <p>A student in grade 5 or 8 will have two additional opportunities to take 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.</p> <p>In order 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.]</p> <p>Certain students—some with disabilities and some with limited English proficiency—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.</p>
<p>STANDARDIZED TESTING STAAR (STATE OF TEXAS ASSESSMENTS OF ACADEMIC READINESS) (GRADES 3–8)</p>	<p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mathematics, annually in grades 3–8• Reading, annually in grades 3–8• Science in grades 5 and 8• Social Studies in grade 8 <p>Successful performance on the reading and math assessments in grades 5 and 8 is required by law for the student to be promoted to the next grade level, unless the student is enrolled in a reading or math course intended for students above the student’s current grade level. Exceptions may apply for students enrolled in a special education program if the admission, review, and dismissal (ARD) committee concludes the student has made sufficient progress in the student’s individualized education plan (IEP). [See</p>

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	Promotion and Retention for additional information.]
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The following information was UPDATED from the Denton ISD Student and Parent Handbook:

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BACTERIAL MENINGITIS	State law requires the district to provide information about bacterial meningitis: https://www.dentonisd.org/Page/1006
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CLASS RANK / HIGHEST RANKING STUDENT	<p>All of the eligible students with a 5.0 GPA shall be recognized as valedictorians. All of the eligible students with the next highest GPA shall be recognized as salutatorians. To be eligible for such recognition, a student must:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Have been continuously enrolled in the same high school in the District for his or her entire senior year immediately preceding graduation;2. Have completed the Advanced/Distinguished Achievement Program or the distinguished level of achievement under the foundation program with endorsements;3. Be graduating after exactly eight semesters of enrollment in high school; however, students who will not be classified as seniors during both the fall and spring semesters of the graduating and awarding year may become eligible for the honor by filing a written declaration of intent to graduate with the building principal on or before the tenth day of school; and4. Have carried at least six classes each semester; however, exceptions must be approved by the administration, (e.g., students on homebound instruction or students concurrently enrolled in a university). <p>The local eligibility criteria for recognition as the valedictorian shall not affect recognition of the highest ranking graduate for purposes of receiving the scholarship certificate from the state of Texas.</p> <p>In case of a tie for the highest ranking student, the District shall compute the weighted numerical grade average to a sufficient number of decimal places until the tie is broken</p>
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CLASS RANK/ADDITIONAL TOPICS	Additional policies, practices, and guidelines related to class rank, GPA calculation, the grade points system are found in the Denton ISD Course Planning Guide which is updated annually and approved by the Board of Trustees to align with the course planning timeline: https://www.dentonisd.org/Page/46084 .
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COLLEGE CREDIT COURSES	Policies, practices, and guidelines related earning college credit courses while in high school are found in the Denton ISD Course Planning Guide which is updated annually and approved by the Board of Trustees to align with the course planning timeline: https://www.dentonisd.org/Page/46084 .
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GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS FOR A DIPLOMA	Policies, practices, and guidelines related earning college credit courses while in high school are found in the Denton ISD Course Planning Guide which is updated annually and approved by the Board of Trustees to align with the course planning timeline: https://www.dentonisd.org/Page/46084 .
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SUMMER SCHOOL	<p>The district offers several summer learning opportunities for students.</p> <p>The Jump Start program is offered for elementary students, middle school students, and 9th graders enrolling in Algebra I as an opportunity to pre-learn concepts important for success in the coming school year.</p> <p>Other programs available include a bilingual/ESL PreK/K program, a high school credit recovery program, and ESL credit recovery program, an extended school year program, and an AP Boost program.</p> <p>High school students wishing to earn original credit have options including TWU Dual Credit, TTU ISD, UT High School, and TxVSN. A special course offering is available for seniors who still need to earn their state-required world language credits for graduation.</p> <p>Please call the school for more information.</p>
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<p>POSSESSION AND USE OF PERSONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS DEVICES, INCLUDING MOBILE TELEPHONES</p>	<p>For instructional and safety purposes, the district permits students to possess personal mobile telephones; however, these devices must remain turned off during the instructional day, including during all testing, unless they are being used for approved instructional purposes.</p> <p>A student must have administrative or teacher approval to possess personal telecommunications devices on campus such as laptops, tablets, or other portable computers.</p> <p>The use of mobile telephones 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.</p> <p>Except when being used for principal or teacher approved purposes, telecommunication and electronic devices shall not be visible, audible, or used during school hours as determined by the principal.</p> <p>If a student uses a telecommunications device without authorization during the school day, a district employee may confiscate the device. The parent may pick up the confiscated telecommunications device from the principal's office for a fee of \$15.</p> <p>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.]</p> <p>In limited circumstances and in accordance with law, a student's personal telecommunications device may be searched by authorized personnel. [See Searches and policy FNF.]</p> <p>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.</p>
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