

Executive Summary

Board of Trustees Meeting June 22, 2021

Student and Parent Handbook Report

Board Goals:

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, the changes listed below were made to Denton ISD’s 2021–2022 Student and Parent Handbook.

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

<p>CONSENT TO PROVIDE A MENTAL HEALTH CARE SERVICE</p>	<p>The district will not provide a mental health care service to a student or conduct a medical screening of a student as part of the district’s intervention procedures except as permitted by law.</p> <p>The district has established procedures for recommending to a parent an intervention for a student with early warning signs of mental health concerns, substance abuse, or suicide risk. The district’s mental health liaison will notify the student’s parent within a reasonable amount of time after the liaison learns that a student has displayed early warning signs and provide information about available counseling options.</p> <p>Annually, campus staff are trained on the Denton Multi-Tiered System of Supports (DMTSS) referral process. Through the DMTSS process students struggling with mental health conditions are identified. The DMTSS committee works collaboratively with parents and staff to develop appropriate interventions to remove barriers to academic and social/emotional success.</p> <p>The district has also established procedures for staff to notify the mental health liaison regarding a student who may need intervention. The mental health liaison (Coordinator of Social and Emotional Learning) can be reached at: rdepeochristner@dentonisd.org or 940-369-0610. The mental health liaison can provide further information regarding these procedures as well as educational materials on identifying risk factors, accessing resources for treatment or support on and off campus, and accessing available student accommodations provided on campus. For further information, see Mental Health Support.</p>
<p>CONSENT TO RECORD A STUDENT WHEN NOT OTHERWISE PERMITTED BY LAW</p>	<p>Please note that parents and visitors to a classroom, both virtual and in person, may not record video or audio or take photographs or other still images without permission from the teacher or other school official.</p>
<p>SPECIAL EDUCATION REFERRALS</p>	<p>For questions regarding post-secondary transitions, including the transition from education to employment, for students receiving special education services, contact the district’s special education Transition and Employment designee at 940-369-0560.</p>
<p>GRADUATION FAFSA OR TASFA</p>	<p>Before graduating from high school, each student must complete and submit a free application for federal student aid (FAFSA) or a Texas application for state financial aid (TASFA).</p>

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	<p>Denton ISD counselors will help students and families understand the basics of federal student aid by providing tips, hosting events, workshops, group presentations and communicating through social media and email.</p> <p>Counselors will engage with students and parents across all grade levels to provide direct and indirect support as it relates to the college planning process and completing the FAFSA or TASFA.</p> <p>A student is not required to complete and submit a FAFSA or TASFA if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The student’s parent submits a form provided by the district indicating that the parent authorizes the student to opt out; • A student who is 18 years of age or older or a legally independent minor submits a form provided by the district indicating that the student opts out; or • A school counselor authorizes the student to opt out for good cause. <p>Please contact the school counselor for more information.</p>
<p>PROMOTION & RETENTION ELEMENTARY & MIDDLE GRADE LEVELS</p>	<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>REMOTE INSTRUCTION</p>	<p>The district may offer remote instruction when authorized by TEA. To ensure a positive and productive learning environment, students and guardians must adhere to the virtual learning expectations that include behaviors for students and privacy guidelines for guardians. Students shall not video record, audio record, photograph, live stream, or transmit any part of a virtual session, including posting on any social media platform. Confidential or identifiable information related to students during virtual sessions should not be collected, discussed or shared.</p> <p>For students in Kindergarten through 8th grade, Denton ISD offers remote instruction through the Denton ISD K-8 Virtual Academy. The fully remote option will provide an opportunity for students who thrive in the online environment to learn virtually. Students may enroll in the K-8 Virtual Academy in the spring for the upcoming school year.</p> <p>All district policies, procedures, guidelines, rules, and other expectations of student behavior will be enforced as applicable in a remote or virtual learning environment.</p>
<p>STUDENT ILLNESS</p>	<p>A parent should contact the school nurse if a student has been diagnosed with COVID-19 or may have COVID-19.</p>

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VIDEO CAMERAS	<p>Video recordings obtained from surveillance cameras that contain images of students may be student records, which are protected under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). Requests for such video records shall be processed with respect to FERPA requirements. [See FL(LLEGAL)]</p> <p>Videos that contain images of multiple students shall be released only with written consent from the parents of all students whose images are included. If the District determines that it is unable to release a video record to a parent/guardian requestor, the District shall provide an oral or written summary of the students' behavior or actions recorded in the video. [See FL(LLEGAL), and <u>2017 Letter to Wachter</u>]</p>
CAFETERIA SERVICES	<p>Due to a waiver provided by the USDA, all students may eat a breakfast meal and a lunch meal at no charge daily for the 2021-2022 school year. Second meals and ala carte items are not included in this free benefit but are available for purchase. Meal benefit applications will not be accepted this school year. Questions regarding program benefits can be directed to the Child Nutrition Office at 1303 N. Elm Street, or by calling 940-369-0270.</p>

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The following information was **DELETED** from the Denton ISD Student and Parent Handbook:

<p>STANDARDIZED TESTING</p> <p>STAAR (STATE OF TEXAS ASSESSMENTS OF ACADEMIC READINESS)</p> <p>(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 • Writing, including spelling and grammar, in grades 4 and 7 • Science in grades 5 and 8 • Social Studies in grade 8
<p>OFFICIAL ATTENDANCE TAKING TIME</p>	<p>For the 2020-2021 school year, the district will deliver instruction through several methods:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traditional instruction, with students in any grade and teachers physically present in a school classroom; • Remote synchronous instruction, where students in grades 3-12 and teachers are not on campus, but are engaged in two-way, real-time virtual instruction at prescheduled times during the school day; and • Remote asynchronous instruction, where students in any grade engage in learning on their own time, interacting with the teacher through activities such as prerecorded video lessons or preassigned work made available to students on paper. <p>To be considered present, a student participating in remote asynchronous instruction must show engagement in learning each day through at least one of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progress demonstrated through interactions with the district’s Learning Management Systems; • Progress based on interactions between the student and the teacher; or • Completing or turning in assignments to the teacher through methods such as email, online submission, or mail.
<p>TRANSPORTATION BUSES AND OTHER SCHOOL VEHICLES</p>	<p>During the Fall of the 2010-2011 school year, Denton ISD Transportation implemented a Bus Student Access Card Program. Students who have registered for bus services will be assigned a Bus Student Access Card. This program allows the DISD Transportation Department to promote student safety and security through the daily monitoring of fleet operations and ridership. The program will provide accurate information as to the location of all school buses & where and what time a student gets-on or off the bus at a bus stop. Students</p>

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	will be required to carry their “ <i>Bus Student Access Card</i> ” every time they ride a Denton ISD bus.
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