

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

| Department | Topic & Summary | Editor |
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| 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 Raptor, 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"> ● Within two (2) 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 ● Southwest ISD allows 3 parent notes per semester for up to 6 notes per school year. Once the 6th note is accumulated, a healthcare provider's note or administrator-approved documentation is required for the absence to be excused. ● Absences without acceptable documentation may be marked unexcused and could result in disciplinary action. ● The District shall not limit an eligible student's absences related to participation in extracurricular activities. ● Health-care appointments for the student or a child of the student, including absences related to autism services and mental health appointments ● Absences for attendance in a released time course in religious instruction | Laura Garza |
| HR & Pupil Services | Electronic Recording of Communications Students shall not electronically record any conversations or meetings pertaining to District business by audio, video, or other means 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 | Mary Lou Hernandez |

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| | <p>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> | |
| HR & Pupil Services | <p>Districts should ensure that for the 2025-26 school year the district's grievance procedures align with Chapter 26A. The district should make available on their website and include in the district's handbook the district's:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Procedures for resolving grievances ● Standardized forms for filing a grievance, a notice of appeal, or a request for a hearing under this chapter; and ● The method by which a grievance may be filed electronically. <p>The district should attach its policy for resolving student and parental grievances in accordance with SB12 as an appendix to this Handbook.</p> | Mary Lou Hernandez |
| C&I: Counseling Dpt. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Bullet #4 under "Class Rank..." - The beginning part of the bullet statement is not needed. ● Under "College and University..." - an addition of "or the equivalent" was added to reflect TEA's Chapter 51, Sec. 51.805. ● 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. ● 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. | Luis Gonzalez |

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| Career and Technical Education (CTE) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updated to reflect the current SWISD Programs of Study and added the CTE Continuous Notification of Nondiscrimination with SWISD contacts | Zelene Aragon |
| Health Services | <p>Illness (All Grade Levels)</p> <p>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.</p> | Lynda Guerrero |
| Health Services | <p>2025-2026 Texas Minimum State Requirements for K-12</p> <p>2025 - 2026 Texas Minimum State Vaccine Requirements for Childcare and Pre-k Facilities</p> | Lynda Guerrero |
| Health Services | <p>Update to align with FFAC (local) In accordance with policy FFAC, authorized employees may administer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prescription medication in accordance with legal requirements (current medical order), properly labeled container, provided by the parent along with a written request <p>The district is required to provide notice of each health-related service offered at a student’s campus. A parent may withhold consent for or decline a health-related service</p> | Lynda Guerrero |
| Safety | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Removed wording and simplified student response to emergency. Updated with new anonymous reporting system information Addressed interior locked classroom door expectations Adoption of I Love You Guys SRP Updated dates for first days of school update for 25-26 start of school. <p>Link for Updated document with full wording.</p> | Mark Figueroa |
| External Funds | Parent and Family Engagement Policy for 2025-2026 school year | Loretta Zavala |
| Child Nutrition | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Food provided by the Child Nutrition Department on campus to students and adults is not allowed to be taken off campus. All district campuses participate in the | Winston Gatlin |

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| | <p>Community Eligibility Provision (CEP). This program allows campuses with a high percentage of students receiving free or reduced meal benefits to extend free lunch meal benefits to all students, regardless of their meal application status.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meal applications are not required for students at CEP campuses. • Parent monitoring of meal account balance was deleted • 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. | |
| 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 |
| Personal Communication Devices | Cell Phone Policy: Aligned to a new state law and adopted by FNCE (LOCAL); consistent with district policy that will be required by new Texas Education Code 37.082 | Mary Lou Hernandez |
| Instructional Plan or Course Syllabus | SB 12 requires teachers to provide a copy of the teacher's instructional plan or course syllabus for each class to district administration and to the parent of each student enrolled in that class before the beginning of each semester and to provide additional copies to a parent on request. | Bonnie Robinson |
| Distance Learning | SB 569 repeals the Texas School Virtual Network and allows for students to enroll in virtual or hybrid courses offered by the district or another district or school approved in accordance with the new Education Code Chapter 30B | Zelene Aragon |
| Parental Consent | State law requires the district to obtain written parental consent before a student may participate in a student club that is authorized or sponsored by the district. By acknowledging receipt of the handbook, parents are consenting to their child participating in | Mary Lou Hernandez |

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| | student clubs authorized or sponsored by the district. | |
| Parental Rights and Options | <p>State law provides that a parent has the right to direct the moral and religious training of the parent's child, make decisions concerning the child's education, and consent to medical, psychiatric, and psychological treatment of the child without obstruction or interference from a governmental entity of Texas, including a school district. In addition to referring to the rights of parents, including the right to withhold consent for or exempt the parent's child from certain activities and instruction specified throughout this handbook, parents may access additional information regarding parental rights at the district's website at: www.swisd.net</p> | Mary Lou Hernandez |
| Safe Storage of Firearms | <p>A firearm should be stored unloaded in a safe or locked container, with ammunition stored elsewhere. It is unlawful to store, transport, or abandon an unsecured firearm in a place where children are likely to be and can obtain access to the firearm. Under the Penal Code, a person commits the offense of making a firearm accessible to a child if the child gains access to a readily dischargeable firearm, and the person with criminal negligence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Failed to secure the firearm; or • Left the firearm in a place to which the person knew or should have known the child would gain access <p>The penalty for allowing a child access to a firearm can range from a Class C misdemeanor (punishable by a \$500 fine) to a Class A misdemeanor (punishable by a \$4000 fine, a year in jail, or a combination of the two)</p> | Mark Figueroa |
| Library | <p>A parent may submit to the district a list of library materials that their child may not be allowed to check out or otherwise access for use outside of the school library.</p> <p>The district will provide to parents a record of each time the parent's child checks out a library material that includes the title, author, genre, and return date of the library material.</p> | Laura David |