

# 2025-2026 Student Handbook Changes

## Administration Team

- Updates to position titles and those hired.

## Part I - Information

- Communications
  - Everything in this section starting on page 10 was added.
- E-learning plan
  - Removed: Gives 6-12th grade students the opportunity to practice the kind of online learning that is increasingly part of college and the workplace.
  - Added: Parents/guardians must notify their child's school that they will be absent that day.
- School-Sponsored Student Publication was changed to "School-Sponsored Media"
  - Added:
    - is obscene to minors;
    - is defamatory;
    - is profane, harassing, threatening, or intimidating;
    - constitutes an unwarranted invasion of privacy;
    - violates federal or state law;
    - causes a material and substantial disruption of school activities;
    - is directed to inciting or producing imminent lawless action on school premises or the violation of lawful school policies or rules, including a policy adopted in accordance with Minnesota Statutes, section 121A.03 or 121A.031;
    - advertises or promotes any product or service not permitted for minors by law;
    - expresses or advocates sexual, racial, or religious harassment or violence or prejudice; or
    - is distributed or displayed in violation of time, place, and manner regulations.

## Part II - Academics

- Cheating and Plagiarism was changed to "Academic Dishonesty"
  - Changed "will" to "may be given"
- Homework changed to "Classwork and/or Homework"
  - Removed: Homework assignments are made by the teachers.
  - Added: Classwork and/or homework assignments vary by grade-level.
  - Added: Questions about student homework should be directed to classroom teachers.
- Immersion Language Programs
  - Removed: Lowell Elementary School as contact.

- Added: the Immersion Coordinator for the specific language program. Please see the Misaabekong Immersion website:  
<https://www.isd709.org/academics/k-12-curriculum-and-instruction/misaabekong>  
or the Nueva Vision Language Immersion website:  
<https://www.isd709.org/academics/k-12-curriculum-and-instruction/nueva-vision>.
- Extended School Year Opportunities
  - Removed: is the subject of an IEP
  - Added: qualifies through an IEP
- Field Trips
  - Removed: Field trips may be offered to supplement student learning in which students voluntarily participate and, if so, students who participate may be charged.
  - Added: Supplemental field trips are voluntary and there may be a fee for students to participate.
- Middle School Report Card
  - Added: The middle school follows a 7-period schedule with a modified block schedule 2 days per week.
  - Removed: A full schedule (100 % enrolled) is 6 classes with What I Need (WIN) Advisory, per semester.
  - Added: Skills for Success and Computer classes
- High School Report Card
  - Removed: Final semester grades are calculated as follows: quarter A grade (43%) plus quarter B grade (43%) plus final exam (14%) = Final Semester Grade.
  - Removed: A full schedule is 6 credit bearing courses with a mandatory What I Need (WIN) Advisory.
  - Removed: Students who participate in advanced coursework such as Honors, AP, PSEO, CITS, or other rigorous opportunities may have different grading guidelines as a result of the course requirements.
  - Added: A full schedule for grades 9-11 is six credit bearing courses per semester, for grade 12 is five credit bearing courses
- Postsecondary Enrollment Options (PSEO):
  - This section was completely updated.
- Summer School
  - This section was completely updated

### **Part III - Rules and Discipline**

- Internet Acceptable Use was updated to “Internet, Technology, Cell Phone Acceptable Use” to align with the new policy
- Level 4-Unlawful was changed to Level 4-Critical Incident.
  - The definition was updated to: Poses a significant threat to the safety and well-being of self or others, results in serious harm or chronic. Require immediate intervention and may involve law enforcement.

- Originally said: Unlawfully violates the rights of others. Puts self or others at risk, or are chronic.

#### **Part IV - Health and Safety**

- Crisis Management was updated to change “Crisis Management Policy” to Emergency Operations Plan” and remove all mentions of ALICE.
- Emergency Contact Information
  - Added: Please note that students can only be released to a listed Emergency Contact in the case of a reunification. For more information please see “Reunification” on the Safe & Welcoming web page: [isd709.org/about-us/safe-and-welcoming](https://isd709.org/about-us/safe-and-welcoming).
- First Aid
  - Added: The district has naloxone (Narcan® ) in each building in case of an opioid overdose. Locations of naloxone are known by trained staff. Tampering with naloxone is prohibited and may result in discipline.
- Head Lice
  - Added: Visit [isd709.org/families/health-services](https://isd709.org/families/health-services) for more information about head lice.
- Safety
  - Removed: Duluth Public Schools has adopted and implemented ALICE district-wide and is an official ALICE district. More information about ALICE and how we prepare students visit [isd709.org/about-us/safe-and-welcoming](https://isd709.org/about-us/safe-and-welcoming)..
  - Added: Students are expected to adhere to safety guidelines set by teachers or program staff and comply with course safety protocols.

#### **APPENDIX**

- Updated policies in the back: 515, 503, 413, 419, 504, 504R