

Waskom Public  
Schools  
Student Handbook  
&  
Code of Conduct



2016-2017

"I have received and reviewed a copy of the Waskom ISD Student Handbook for 2016/2017. I understand that the handbook contains information that my child and I may need during the school year.

Regarding student records, I understand that certain information about my child is considered directory information. Directory information includes: student name, address, telephone number, date and place of birth, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, weight and height of members of athletic teams, dates of attendance, awards received in school, and most recent previous school attended. Directory information on my child will be released by the District to anyone who requests it unless I object in writing to the release of any or all of this information within ten school days of the time this handbook was issued to my child. I have marked through the items of directory information listed above that I wish the District to withhold about my child."

Student \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Parent or Guardian

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

If this form is lost or misplaced, you may obtain another form from the principal's office.

The Waskom Independent School District does not discriminate against any person on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, sex, or handicap in providing education services or in employment policies (except where age, sex, or handicap constitutes a bona fide occupational qualification necessary to proper and efficient administration). The district superintendent has been designated to coordinate compliance with the nondiscrimination requirements of Title IX and has been designated to coordinate compliance with nondiscrimination requirements of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. Waskom Independent School District does not discriminate on the basis of disability by denying access to the benefits of District services, programs, or activities. To request information about the applicability of Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), interested persons should contact the District Superintendent.

Should anyone have knowledge of any person in the Waskom Independent School District who is visually or hearing impaired or with limited English language skill, please refer that person to:

Supt. of Schools  
Waskom I.S.D.  
P.O. Box 748 Waskom, TX 75692  
Telephone (903) 687-3361 ext. 1000

Waskom ISD will not provide human sexuality instruction to our students. This serves as notice as required by SB283, TEC 28.004

## SCHOOL BOARD

Dane Loyd -President

Stan Boyd -Vice-President

Christy Gentry -Secretary

Linda Bond - Member

Shanta Bates Chatman –Member

Jacob Speight –Member

Jimmy Whorton -Member

## ADMINISTRATION

Superintendent: Jimmy E. Cox 687-3361 ext.1000

## CAMPUS PRINCIPALS:

Kassie Watson  
Waskom High School  
P.O. Box 748  
Waskom, TX 75692  
687-3361 ext. 1300

Bonita Cherry  
Waskom Middle School  
P.O. Box 748  
Waskom, TX 75692  
687-3361 ext. 1200

Wade Youngblood  
Waskom Elementary School  
P.O. Box 748  
Waskom, TX 75692  
687-3361 ext. 1100

## **PREFACE**

This booklet contains a great deal of required and useful information for a large number of students and parents. Because it cannot be as personal a communication as we would like, we address student, not directly as "you" but rather as "the student", "students", or "children". Likewise, the term "the student's parent" may refer to the parent, legal guardian, or other person who has agreed to assume responsibility for the student.

## **PLEDGE TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA FLAG**

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and to the republic for which it stands; one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

## **PLEDGE TO THE TEXAS FLAG**

Honor the Texas flag; I pledge allegiance to thee, Texas, one state under God, one and indivisible.

## **NATIONAL ANTHEM THE STAR SPANGLED BANNER**

Oh, say, can you see, by the dawn's early light what so proudly we hailed at the twilights last gleaming?

Whose broad stripes and bright stars, thro' the perilous fight.

O'er the ramparts we watched, were so gallantly streaming.

And the rockets' red glare, the bombs bursting in air,

Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there.

Oh, say, does that star spangled banner yet wave O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.

## **SCHOOL SONG**

Go, Wildcats, play the game;

We will sing your praises.

Fighting ever, tiring never,

We're the best of all.

When the victory's won at last,

We will shout your name.

Maroon and White, we'll proudly wave  
for Waskom High.(W-I-I-D-C-A-T-S)

School Mascot: Wildcats

School Colors: Maroon and White

## **PHILOSOPHY OF EDUCATION**

The Waskom Independent School District believes that the function of education is to provide the opportunity for the individual student to improve and develop to the fullest extent of their capabilities.

As an educational agency of the community, the school is committed to the continuation, maintenance, and strengthening of the American democratic society.

The school is directed to the goal of providing a safe healthy learning environment, while encouraging every student to become an efficient and productive member supportive of that society.

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

"Waskom ISD will build a collaborative network of families, educators and community members that promotes excellence. We are dedicated to honoring diversity, cultivating responsible citizens, developing leaders, and establishing pathways for students to have a positive impact on our community and world."

## **VISION STATEMENT**

"Waskom ISD is empowering students to become successful, productive citizens by engaging every student every day in every classroom."

\*\*\*\*\*

This handbook is intended to assist you and your parents during your school year.

Most of the questions that may arise regarding curriculum, schedule, credits, and regulations are answered within the cover of this handbook.

Keep it in a safe place at home and refer to it often. As revisions in policy occur, this handbook will be updated.

**THIS HANDBOOK BELONGS TO**

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## School Calendar



### **ADMISSION**

A student (or the student's parent) seeking enrollment in the District for the first time or following attendance in another Texas district, out-of-state attendance, private school attendance, or admission through a bona fide foreign exchange program should contact the principal.

Additionally, a minor student residing in the Waskom School District whose parent or guardian does not reside in the District shall present a Power of Attorney assigning responsibility for the student in all school related matters to an adult resident of the District.

### **ASBESTOS**

A copy of the asbestos management plan for all the campuses is available for viewing in the office of the Superintendent.

### **ATTENDANCE**

Texas Education Code requires attendance in order to receive credit in the respective area of study during a school term. A child between the ages of 6 and 18 -depending on the child's birthday is required to attend school each day during the instructional year unless otherwise exempted by law. School employees must investigate and report violations of the state compulsory attendance law. These attendance requirements also apply to any District-required tutorial sessions.

To receive credit in a class, a student must attend at least 90 percent of the days the class is offered. A student who attends fewer than 90 percent of the days the class is offered cannot receive credit for the class unless the attendance committee finds that the absences are the result of extenuating circumstances. The number of days that may be missed before credit is lost is nine (9) per semester. Excused and Unexcused will count toward the 90 percent attendance rule. Students who lose credit for a course due to excessive absence must participate in alternative options to regain credit regardless of the reasons for absence(s). Participation in alternative options is required only for absence in excess of allowable number. [High School and Middle School students must attend a four hour Saturday Alternative Attendance Option class for each absence in excess of the allowable number. Elementary School students must attend a four hour summer school Alternative Attendance Option Class for each absence in excess of the allowable number.]

Each semester the Elementary Campus will offer the following incentives for students in regards to daily attendance:

All students who have perfect attendance for one six weeks period will receive an attendance award pencil.

All students who have a perfect attendance for two six weeks periods will be allowed to choose a prize from the office "Treasure Chest".

All students who have perfect attendance for three six weeks periods will attend an ice cream social.

\*All students who have perfect attendance for the entire school year will be treated to pizza at Dunns Pizza..

When returning to school after an absence, a student must bring a note, signed by the parent that describes the reason for the absence. Beyond nine (9) days absence per

semester, all absences must have a physician-signed document for the complete period of absence. The doctor's/health care provider's document is required the day of the student's return to school. A student absent from school for any portion of a school day shall, within two days of returning to school, provide a note that describes the reason for the absence.

Students who have been absent will be allowed the number of days missed plus 1 day to make-up academic work assigned during the absence period.

Truancy: A student who is absent without permission is truant. Truancy includes: student leaves school without signing out, student leaves campus without permission, student is absent without parental permission, student fails to report to a place for which they received a pass from class, student comes to school but does not attend assigned class.

### **AWARDS AND HONORS**

It is the policy of Waskom I.S.D. that medals and jackets/blankets will be awarded to students achieving certain levels of academic excellence in specific subjects.

Scholastic achievement will be recognized at Waskom High School in the form of an academic letter jacket/blanket. Any senior student who has a minimum Grade Point Average (GPA) of 85 and has successfully completed three years of mathematics and science and is scheduled in a fourth year of each jackets/blankets will be ordered at the end of the Junior academic year and will be distributed upon audit of schedules and grades after the first six weeks of a students' senior year. Students who have passed required courses through their Junior academic year and are registered for classes to fulfill requirements their senior year will be awarded the jackets/blankets.

**HONOR ROLL (Grades 1 -12)**

The following shall apply:

1 Maroon/White Honor Roll: Students shall have a grade point average of 95 or above in all courses in a grading period which count in determining the honor roll with no grade below 90.

2 Maroon Honor Roll: Students shall have a grade point average of 90 or above in all courses in a grading period which count in determining the honor roll with no grade below 85.

3 White Honor Roll: Students shall have a grade point average of 85 or above in all courses in a grading period which count in determining the honor roll with no grade below 80.

The following will not be used in determining the honor roll:

Physical education, Band, Athletics, Choir or Student Aides.

**HIGH SCHOOL & MIDDLE SCHOOL:**

Academic awards will be presented to the students achieving the highest academic average in specific subjects at an awards ceremony in May.

**ELEMENTARY:**

In grades 1-4, eligibility for the honor roll shall be determined on the basis of grades earned in reading, language, spelling, math, science, and social studies. Grades earned in physical education, art, health, music, band, penmanship, and drama shall not be included in determining honor roll.

### **CLASS RANKING:**

In order to be eligible for valedictorian or salutatorian honors, a student shall have been enrolled at the District high school no later than the end of the first grading period of the third semester. A nominee for valedictorian and salutatorian honors shall be currently enrolled, a full-time student, completing his or her eighth semester. Class rank shall be made available at the beginning of each school year. This information may be obtained from the principal or counselor. Class rank shall be based on an average of the total points of courses completed through the end of the student's previous year. Points for two-hour courses shall be doubled.

All courses shall be included in determining class rank. The final senior ranking shall be calculated at the end of the fifth six-week grading period. If there is a tie for first in class ranking, covaldictorians shall be named.

The District shall use a weighted grading system. In this system, the decimal point shall be carried out to the thousandths place. Any whole number greater than four in the ten thousandths place shall round off the number in the thousandths place to the next whole number.

### **MIDDLE SCHOOL AWARDS CEREMONY**

The **Middle School** Valedictorian (highest ranking student) and Salutatorian (second highest ranking student) are determined by averaging all semester grades earned in 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grades. The 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Six Weeks of the 8<sup>th</sup> grade year will comprise the final semester grade. Athletics, P.E., Band, and Choir are excluded in computing class rankings.

A student must have been in attendance at Waskom Middle School prior to the close of the first six weeks of his/her 8<sup>th</sup> grade year to be eligible for Valedictorian or Salutatorian.

### **CAFETERIA SERVICES**

The District participates in the National School Lunch Program and offers free and reduced-price meals based on a student's financial need. Information can be obtained from the respective school office or superintendent's office.

### **CHECK ACCEPTANCE POLICY**

Our school district has established the following policy for accepting checks and collecting bad checks: For a check to be an acceptable form of payment it must include your current, full and accurate name, address, telephone number, driver's license number and state. In the event your check is returned for non-payment, the face value may be recovered electronically along with a state allowed recovery fee. In the event your check is returned for non-payment, checks will no longer be an acceptable form of payment for the remainder of the school year.

### **CLOSED CAMPUS/PARKING VEHICLES**

Waskom ISD has a closed campus. Students may not leave during the day without permission from the principal. Once students enter the parking lot they should immediately leave their cars and should not return to cars until departure time. Students need to register their vehicle for parking. They must have drivers license and liability insurance in order to obtain parking permits. Vehicles parked on school property are under school jurisdiction and the school reserves the right to search any vehicle if there is reasonable cause to do so with or without presence of the student. Students will be held responsible for prohibited items or substances that may be found in vehicles. Students are fully responsible for the security of their vehicles and contents. Vehicle operating/parking privileges may be suspended as a result of driving or parking violations.

### **CLUBS -STUDENT ACTIVITIES**

Student clubs and performing groups such as the band, cheerleader, drill and athletic teams may establish rules of conduct -and consequences for misbehavior -that are more strict than those for students in general. If a violation is also a violation of school rules, the consequences specified by the school shall apply in addition to any consequences specified by the organization.

### **COMMUNICABLE DISEASES**

Parents of students with a communicable or contagious disease are asked to telephone the school nurse (687-3361 ext. 1128) or the principal so that other students who have been exposed to the disease can be alerted. Students with certain diseases are not allowed to come to school when their disease is contagious. These diseases include -chicken pox, fever 100.4 or greater, gastroenteritis, head lice (pediculosis), influenza, measles, German measles, mumps, pink eye, scabies, strep throat, scarlet fever, diphtheria, hepatitis, impetigo, influenza, meningitis, polio, ringworm of the scalp, salmonellosis, shigellosis, tuberculosis, and whooping cough.

### **COMPUTER ACCESS -Acceptable Use and Code of Conduct**

Only students who have been authorized by the District and who are under direct supervision of designated District employees are permitted to use a District computer or to access any local network or outside telecommunications resources such as TENET or the Internet. Prior to such authorization, the student and the student's parent must sign and return the District Student Agreement Form acknowledging their responsibilities and the consequences of violation. Students are expected to observe network etiquette by being polite and using appropriate language. Students are prohibited from pretending to be someone else; transmitting obscene messages or pictures, revealing personal addresses or telephone numbers-either their own or another person's, or using the network in a way that would disrupt use by others.

### **CONFERENCES**

Students and parents may expect teachers to request a conference 1) if the student is not maintaining passing grades or achieving the expected level of performance (See REPORT CARDS) 2) if the student presents any other problem to the teacher, or 3) in any other case the teacher considers necessary.

The District encourages a student who wants information or wants to raise a question or concern to confer with the appropriate teacher, counselor, or principal. A parent who wishes to confer with a teacher may call the office for an appointment during the teacher's conference period or request that the teacher call the parent during a conference period or at another mutually convenient time.

### **CONTACTING TEACHERS**

Never interrupt teachers while they are conducting class.

Parents may contact the teacher by calling the campus office.

Parent-teacher conferences may be arranged by calling the campus office a day in advance, if possible. This procedure will eliminate interruption of classroom and other planned activities.

## **CORRESPONDENCE COURSES**

The District shall allow resident students, students temporarily residing abroad, or out-of-school youths and adults to earn units of credit by taking correspondence courses from another educational institution. Credit toward state graduation requirements shall be granted only under the following conditions:

1 The institution offering the course is the University of Texas at Austin, Texas Tech University, or other public institution of higher education approved by the commissioner of education.

2 The correspondence course includes the state-required TEKS.essential knowledge

3 The specified course has been approved by the commissioner of education.

Resident students may earn a maximum of two of the total units required by the state through correspondence courses. Students temporarily living abroad and out-of-school youth and adults shall earn a maximum of 12 state-required units in residence. All high school students shall be eligible to take correspondence courses and earn credit toward graduation. Prior to enrollment in correspondence courses, students shall make a written request to the principal or designee for approval to enroll in the course. Students shall not be awarded credit toward graduation if approval was not granted prior to enrollment. The counselor shall supervise the correspondence program. Students may be enrolled in only one correspondence course at a time. Grades earned in correspondence courses shall not be used in computing class rankings. Correspondence courses shall not be pursued to achieve early graduation. Students who are enrolled in correspondence courses to earn units required for graduation shall complete the course and submit the grade for recording at least ten days prior to the graduation date in order to be eligible for graduation at the end of the term. The Superintendent or designee may exercise discretion in approving correspondence course credit or waiving provisions stated above for hardship cases on an individual basis.

## **COUNSELING**

**Academic Counseling:** Students are encouraged to talk with the school counselor, teachers, and the principal in order to learn about the curriculum, course offerings, graduation requirements and differences between graduation requirement for the regular high school program and the advanced program. Students who are interested in attending a college, university, training school or some other advanced education should work closely with the district's counselor so that they may take the high school courses that will best prepare them for further work. The counselor can also provide information about entrance examinations required by many colleges and universities, as well as information about financial aid and housing. **Personal Counseling:** The school counselor is also available to help students with a wide range of personal concerns, including such areas as social, family, emotional, academic or chemical dependency needs. The counselor is familiar with community resources and may direct students to other sources of information and assistance. Students who wish to discuss academic or personal concerns with the counselor should present this request at the office. A school counselor is available for all campuses.

## **CREDIT BY EXAMINATION/EXAMINATIONS FOR ACCELERATION**

### **No Prior Formal Instruction**

A student in any grade (1 -12) may use examinations in lieu of coursework for

acceleration to advance one grade level or to earn credit in an academic subject. Questions regarding these examinations and procedures for kindergarten acceleration may be discussed with the school counselor or principal.

**Prior Formal Instruction**

A student who has had sufficient prior formal instruction as determined by the District on the basis of a review of the student's educational records (and who has failed a course with a grade of no less than 60) may gain credit for the course by passing a proficiency examination on the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills of the course. However, a student may not use this examination to regain eligibility to participate in extracurricular activities. The attendance committee may allow a student with excessive absences to receive credit for a course by passing an examination.

**DISTRIBUTION OF MATERIAL**

School Materials: School publications distributed to students include: school newsletters and school yearbooks. All school publications are under the supervision of the teacher, sponsor, and principal.

Nonschool Materials: Written materials, handbills, photographs, pictures, petitions, films, tapes, or other visual or auditory materials may not be sold, circulated, or distributed on any school campus by a student or other person without the approval of the principal and must be in accordance with campus regulations.

Approval Required: All material intended for distribution to students that is not under the District's editorial control must be submitted to the principal for review and approval. If the material is not approved within 24 hours of the time it was submitted, it must be considered disapproved. Disapprovals may be appealed by submitting the disapproved material to the Superintendent; material not approved by the Superintendent within three days is considered disapproved. This disapproval may be appealed to the Board at its next regular meeting when the student will have a reasonable period of time to present his or her viewpoint.

**DRILLS – SHELTER-IN-PLACE, BUILDING EVACUATION AND SITE EVACUATION**

**STUDENTS, TEACHERS, AND OTHER DISTRICT EMPLOYEES SHALL PARTICIPATE IN FREQUENT DRILLS OF EMERGENCY PROCEDURES. WHEN THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF AN EMERGENCY DRILL IS GIVEN ON THE CAMPUS INTERCOM SYSTEM, STUDENTS MUST FOLLOW THE DIRECTIONS OF TEACHERS OR ADMINISTRATORS QUICKLY AND IN AN ORDERLY MANNER.**

Plans for each of the emergency drills are posted in each classroom of the respective campuses.

A campus administrator will use the campus intercom system to activate any of the emergency drills.

**Shelter-in-Place**-Students will move to designated locations inside the building. This emergency drill is used in the event of a tornado or severe weather.

**Building Evacuation-**Students will exit the building and move to designated locations that are a short distance from the building. This emergency drill is used for fires or Crisis rerealted emergencies.

**Site Evacuation-**Students will exit the building and move to designated locations that are a considerable distance from the buildings. This drill is used for emergency evacuations that would require the faculty and students to move farther away from the buildings to be in a safe and secure environment.

### **EMERGENCY CLOSING INFORMATION**

In case of inclement weather or damage due from a fire, listen to channel 3 T.V., 6 T.V. or 12 T.V. stations, or radio stations: KWKH -94.5 FM/1130 AM, KMJJ-99.7 FM, KRUF-FM 94.5, or KTUX -FM 99.

### **EMERGENCY MEDICAL TREATMENT**

Parents shall complete an emergency care form each year that includes a place for parental consent for school officials to request medical treatment for the student, as provided by law. Parents shall also be asked to supply other information that could be required in case of an emergency; parents should update this information as often as necessary.

### **EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

Students shall be permitted to participate in extracurricular activities, subject to the following restrictions:

#### **Eligibility**

During the initial six-week period of the school year, students shall have been promoted to the next grade level or shall have accumulated the required number of units toward graduation.

#### **GRADE:**

8th to 9th	Promoted	9th to 10th	5 Credits
10th to 11th	10 Credits	11th to 12th	15 Credits
<b>Credits for Graduation</b>		<b>26 CREDITS</b>	

**During subsequent six-week periods, students who receive a six-week grade below 70 may not participate in extracurricular competition** during the following three week period. The suspension from extracurricular activities goes into effect seven days after the last day of the six-week period during which the grade lower than 70 was earned. Students shall be allowed to participate at the end of the three week period in which the student elevates grade averages to 70 or more.

**Extra Curricular Absences**

Students are permitted up to 17 cumulative excused extra-curricular absences yearly in order to participate in school-related or school sanctioned activities on or off campus at the district level or below. In addition, a student shall be allowed a maximum of five absences for post-district competition prior to state, and a maximum of two absences for state competition. All UIL activities come under this provision as do board approved extracurricular activities. Students are permitted 5 additional days for competition above district level. Any absence resulting from a student's participation in an organization not on the approved list shall be considered unexcused. A student receiving an incomplete in a course is considered ineligible until the incomplete is replaced with a passing grade for the grading period within the UIL 7 day grace period. An ineligible student's project or show animal may be taken to a show by another person such as a family member or a teacher if the local show's rules permit this. This would not be considered a violation of state board rules.

**FEEES**

Materials that are part of the basic educational program are provided without charge to students. Students are expected to provide their own supplies of pencils, paper, erasers, and notebooks; and may be required to pay certain other fees or deposits, including:

- 1 Club dues.
- 2 Security deposits.
- 3 The materials for a class project the student will keep.
- 4 Personal physical education and athletic equipment and apparel.
- 5 Voluntary purchases of pictures, publications, class rings, etc.
- 6 Student accident insurance and insurance on school-owned instruments.
- 7 Instrument rental and uniform maintenance.
- 8 Parking fees and student identification cards.
- 9 Fees for damaged or lost library books, textbooks, and school-owned equipment and property.

Any required fee or deposit may be waived if the student or parent is unable to pay. Applications for such a waiver may be made to the principal.

**FUND RAISING**

Occasionally student clubs, classes, and organizations and parent groups will be permitted to conduct fund-raising drives. All fund raising projects must be approved by the Campus Principal. Except as approved by the Campus Principal, fund raising shall not take place on school property.

**GRADE CLASSIFICATION**

After the 9th grade, students are classified according to the number of units earned toward graduation, as specified in the Texas Education Code.

<u>Units of Credit Earned</u>	<u>Grade Placement</u>
6	10 (Sophomore)
12	11 (Junior)
18	12 (Senior)



## **GRADING POLICY**

STATUTORY CITATION TEXAS EDUCATION CODE SECTION 21.721:

### **Grade requirement for advancement or course credit.**

- 1 A district may not grant social promotions. Students may be promoted only on the basis of academic achievement.
- 2 A student who has not maintained a grade average for a school year equivalent to at least 70 on a scale of 100 may not be advanced from one grade level to the next.
- 3 A student who has not maintained a grade average for a course equivalent to at least 70 on a scale of 100 may not be given credit for the course.

## **GRADUATION ACTIVITIES**

*Tentative Graduation Activity's Dates are as follows:*

W. H. S. Commencement Exercises  
Friday, May 19, 2017  
7:00 p.m.  
Marshall Convention Center

Middle School Awards Ceremony  
To Be Announced

Side-by-Side Comparison: Graduation Program Options to be Implemented Beginning in 2014-2015

Discipline	Foundation HSP	*MHSP	*RHSP	*DAP
English Language Arts	<b>Four credits:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>English I</li> <li>English II</li> <li>English III</li> <li>An advanced English course</li> </ul>	<b>Four credits:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>English I</li> <li>English II</li> <li>English III</li> <li>English IV or approved alternate course</li> </ul>	<b>Four credits:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>English I</li> <li>English II</li> <li>English III</li> <li>English IV</li> </ul>	<b>Four credits:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>English I</li> <li>English II</li> <li>English III</li> <li>English IV</li> </ul>
Mathematics	<b>Three credits:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Algebra I</li> <li>Geometry</li> <li>An advanced math course</li> </ul>	<b>Three credits:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Algebra I</li> <li>Geometry</li> <li>SBOE approved math course</li> </ul>	<b>Four credits:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Algebra I</li> <li>Algebra II</li> <li>Geometry</li> <li>An additional math credit</li> </ul>	<b>Four credits:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Algebra I</li> <li>Algebra II</li> <li>Geometry</li> <li>An additional math credit</li> </ul>
Science	<b>Three credits:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Biology</li> <li>IPC or an advanced science course</li> <li>An advanced science course</li> </ul>	<b>Two credits:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Biology</li> <li>IPC or Chemistry and Physics (one of the two series as an academic elective)</li> </ul>	<b>Four credits:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Biology</li> <li>Chemistry</li> <li>Physics</li> <li>An additional science credit</li> </ul>	<b>Four credits:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Biology</li> <li>Chemistry</li> <li>Physics</li> <li>An additional science credit</li> </ul>
Social Studies	<b>Three credits:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>U.S. History</li> <li>U.S. Government (one-half credit)</li> <li>Economics (one-half credit)</li> <li>World History or World Geography</li> </ul>	<b>Three credits:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>U.S. History (one credit)</li> <li>U.S. Government (one-half credit)</li> <li>Economics (one-half credit)</li> <li>World History (one credit) or World Geography (one credit)</li> </ul>	<b>Four credits:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>U.S. History (one credit)</li> <li>U.S. Government (one-half credit)</li> <li>Economics (one-half credit)</li> <li>World History (one credit)</li> <li>World Geography (one credit)</li> </ul>	<b>Four credits:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>U.S. History (one credit)</li> <li>U.S. Government (one-half credit)</li> <li>Economics (one-half credit)</li> <li>World History (one credit)</li> <li>World Geography (one credit)</li> </ul>
Physical Education	One credit	One credit	One credit	One credit
Languages Other Than English	<b>Two credits in the same language</b> Two credits from Computer Science I, II, and III (other substitutions)	None	Two credits in the same language	Three credits in the same language
Fine Arts	One credit	One credit	One credit	One credit
Speech	Demonstrated proficiency in speech skills	<b>One-half credit from either of the following:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Communication Applications</li> <li>Professional Communications (CTE)</li> </ul>	<b>One-half credit from either of the following:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Communication Applications</li> <li>Professional Communications (CTE)</li> </ul>	<b>One-half credit from either of the following:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Communication Applications</li> <li>Professional Communications (CTE)</li> </ul>
Electives	Five credits	Seven and one half credits (one must be an academic elective)	Five and one-half credits	Four and one-half credits
<b>Total Credits</b>	22	22	26	26

Side-by-Side Comparison: Graduation Program Options to be Implemented Beginning in 2014-2015

<b>Endorsements</b>	<p>A student may earn an endorsement by successfully completing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• curriculum requirements for the endorsement</li> <li>• a total of four credits in mathematics</li> <li>• a total of four credits in science</li> <li>• two additional elective credits</li> </ul>
<b>STEM</b>	<p>A coherent sequence or series of courses selected from one of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- CTE courses with a final course from the STEM career cluster</li> <li>- Computer science</li> <li>- Mathematics</li> <li>- Science</li> <li>- A combination of no more than two of the categories listed above</li> </ul>
<b>Business and Industry</b>	<p>A coherent sequence or series of courses selected from one of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- CTE courses with a final course from the Agriculture, Food, &amp; Natural Resources; Architecture &amp; Construction; Arts, Audio/Video, Technology &amp; Communications; Business Management &amp; Administration; Finance; Hospitality &amp; Tourism; Information Technology; Manufacturing, Marketing; Transportation, or Distribution &amp; Logistics CTE career cluster</li> <li>- The following English electives: public speaking, debate, advanced broadcast journalism including newspaper and yearbook</li> <li>- Technology applications</li> <li>- A combination of credits from the categories listed above</li> </ul>
<b>Public Services</b>	<p>A coherent sequence or series of courses selected from one of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- CTE courses with a final course from the Education &amp; Training; Government &amp; Public Administration; Health Science, Human Services; or Law, Public Safety, Corrections, and Security career cluster</li> <li>- JROTC</li> </ul>
<b>Arts and Humanities</b>	<p>A coherent sequence or series of courses selected from one of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social studies</li> <li>• The same language in Languages Other Than English</li> <li>• Two levels in each of two language in Languages Other Than English</li> <li>• American Sign Language (ASL)</li> <li>• Courses from one or two categories (art, dance, music, and theater) in fine arts</li> <li>• English electives that are not part of Business and Industry</li> </ul>
<b>Multidisciplinary Studies</b>	<p>A coherent sequence or series of courses selected from one of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Four advanced courses that prepare a student to enter the workforce successfully or postsecondary education without remediation from within one endorsement area or among endorsement areas that are not in a coherent sequence</li> <li>• Four credits in each of the four foundation subject areas to include English IV and chemistry and/or physics</li> <li>• Four credits in AP, IB, or dual credit selected from English, mathematics, science, social studies, economics, languages other than English, or fine arts</li> </ul>
<b>Total Credits w/endorsement - 26</b>	
<b>Distinguished Level of Achievement</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A total of four credits in math, including credit in Algebra II</li> <li>• A total of four credits in science</li> <li>• Completion of curriculum requirements for at least one endorsement</li> </ul>
<b>Performance Acknowledgments</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For outstanding performance             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• in a dual credit course</li> <li>• in bilingualism and biliteracy</li> <li>• on an AP test or IB exam</li> <li>• on the PSAT, the ACT-Plan, the SAT, or the ACT</li> </ul> </li> <li>• For earning a nationally or internationally recognized business or industry certification or license</li> </ul>

## **EARLY GRADUATION**

A parent is entitled to request, with the expectation that the request will not be unreasonably denied, the parent's child be permitted to graduate from high school earlier than the child would normally graduate, if the child completes each course required for graduation. Education Code 26.003 (a) (3) (C) [See EIF, EIG, FNG (LEGAL)]

## **STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

Students with disabilities may be permitted to graduate under the provisions of their IEP and with the consent of the ARD committee and their parents.

## **HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT FOR COLLEGE COURSES**

Students who are classified as junior or seniors may be awarded concurrent credit toward high school graduation for completing college-level courses.

The course for which credit is awarded shall provide advanced academic instruction beyond or in greater depth than the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS).

The student who wishes to obtain high school credit for a college course will need to enroll in an approved college in the summer between his/her sophomore and junior year or concurrently during his/her senior year.

College credit earned will be held in escrow until the student furnishes an official transcript from the high school after graduation. Students must be approved for early graduation by Waskom High School.

## **IMMUNIZATON**

All students must be immunized against certain diseases or must present a certificate or statement that, for medical or religious reasons, the student should not be immunized. Their immunizations required are diphtheria/tetanus, polio, measles (rubeola), mumps and rubella; the school nurse can provide information on the required doses of these vaccines. Proof of immunization may be personal records by 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 document, signed by a U. S. licensed physician that states that, in the doctor's opinion, the immunization required would be harmful to the health and well-being of the student or any member of the student's family or household. This certificate must be renewed yearly.

If a student's religious beliefs conflict with the requirement that the student be immunized, the student must present a statement signed by the student (or by the parent if the student is a minor) that states the immunization conflicts with the beliefs and practices of a recognized church or religious denomination of which the student is an adherent or member. This statement must be renewed yearly.

## **INSURANCE**

At the beginning of the school year, the district will make available to students and parents a low-cost student accident insurance program. Parents are responsible for paying premiums (if coverage is desired) and for submitting claims through the principal's office. The district shall not be responsible for costs of treating injuries or assume liability for any other costs associated with an injury. Before participating in a

school-sponsored trip outside the district or in a school-sponsored athletics, students and parents must have (1) purchased the student accident insurance, (2) shown proof of insurance, or (3) signed a form rejecting the insurance offer.

#### **LIBRARY**

- 1 Enter the library quietly.
- 2 Choose your book promptly.
- 3 Return book when due. Books are loaned for 2 weeks. A fine of 5 cents per day is assessed for each day the book is overdue.
- 4 Lost or severely damaged books will be paid for by the student.
- 5 Check out all books with the librarian before you take the books from the library.
- 6 Reference books and encyclopedias will not be taken from the library.

#### **LOCKERS**

Waskom High School and Middle School have removed all student lockers from the hallway. Each student will be issued a textbook to use to complete class assignments at home. A classroom set of textbooks will be provided for assignments that need to be completed during class time.

#### **MEDICINE AT SCHOOL**

A student who must take a prescription (or nonprescription) medicine during the school day must have their parent/guardian bring the medicine, in its properly labeled bottle, to the school nurse or campus administrator. The school nurse or campus administrator will either give the medicine at the proper times or give the student permission to take the medication as directed.

#### **MISCELLANEOUS**

Bring toys to school only with your teacher's permission. They must not interfere with classroom activities. Radios, tape recorders, etc., will not be brought to school. NOTE: Teachers are not responsible for toys, etc. at school.

#### **CAMPUS PARENT INVOLVEMENT POLICY**

Acknowledging that parents/guardians are a student's first teachers and that this continuing support is essential for academic success, Waskom ISD is committed to the following parent involvement policy:

\*\* Title I, Part A parent will annually receive information concerning the implementation of the Title I, Part A program and will be encouraged to offer suggestions for improving/strengthening the program.

\*\* Parents will be given timely information concerning overall student performance standards and expectations (TEKS).

\*\* Parents will be given timely information concerning campus/state assessment instruments: local assessment measures, TPRI, RPTE, TAKS, STAAR/EOC.

\*\* Parents will be offered opportunities for learning how to foster improved academic performance for their child(ren).

\*\* Parent representatives (including parents of Title I, Part A students) will be involved in the development, review and evaluation of the campus improvement plan.

\*\* Title I, Part A parents will be involved annually in the review/revision of the School/Parent Compact.

\*\* Title I, Part A parents will be asked to complete surveys seeking evaluation of the Title I, Part A program and parent involvement.

**\*\* Parents will annually review/revise this policy.**

Waskom Independent School District agrees to implement the following policy standards:

- Waskom ISD will jointly develop with parents and distribute to parents of participating children, a Parental Involvement Policy that the school and parents of participating children agree on.
- Waskom ISD will notify parents about the Parental Involvement Policy in an understandable and uniform format and, to the extent practicable, will distribute this policy to parents in a language the parents can understand.
- Waskom ISD will make the Parental Involvement Policy available to the local community.
- Waskom ISD will periodically update the Parental Involvement Policy to meet the changing needs of parents and the school.
- Waskom ISD will adopt the school-parent compact as a component of its Parental Involvement Policy.
- Waskom ISD agrees to be governed by the following statutory definition of parental involvement, and will carry out programs, activities and procedures in accordance with this definition:

*Parental involvement means the participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, ensuring that:*

- (A) parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning;*
- (B) parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school;*
- (C) parents are full partners in their child's education and are included, as appropriate, in decision-making and on advisory committees to assist in the education of their child;*
- (D) the carrying out of other activities, such as those described in section 1118 of the ESEA.*

**Waskom ISD will implement required school parental involvement policy components as follows:**

1. Waskom ISD will take the following actions to involve parents in the joint development and joint agreement of its Parental Involvement Policy and its school wide plan, if applicable, in an organized, ongoing, and timely way under section 1118(b) of the ESEA:  
*Gather and disseminate to parents for review the following materials: District wide Parental Involvement Policy, the School's Parental Involvement Policy, the school-parent compact, and Parent Notices from the Table on page 45 of the Title I, Part A Non-Regulatory Guidance. These materials will be disseminated to parents at regular Title I parent meetings, School Site Council meetings, and parent/teacher conferences. Written and oral input from parents will be solicited through Title I parent meetings, School Site Council meetings, parent/teacher conferences, school newsletters, school web site, and other regular written communications with parents.*
2. Waskom ISD will take the following actions to distribute to parents of participating children and the local community the Parental Involvement Policy:  
*The School Parental Involvement Policy will be distributed to parents at Title I parent meetings.*
  - *The policy will be posted on the school web site.*
  - *The policy will be included in the Student Handbook.*

3. Waskom ISD will periodically update its Parental Involvement Policy to meet the changing needs of parents and the school through:
  - *Regularly scheduled Site Based Decision Making (SBDM) Team meetings*
  - *Annual Title I meetings*
  - *General School meetings*
4. Waskom ISD will convene an annual meeting to inform parents of the following:
  - *That Waskom ISD participates in Title I,*
  - *The requirements of Title I*
  - *Of their rights to be involved as outlined in Table B of Title I, Part A Parental Involvement Non-Regulatory Guidance (page 45), Section 1118; the school-parent compact, Appendix C, page 51 of the Title I, Part A Parental Involvement Non-Regulatory Guidance, the district wide parental involvement policy, and the school's parental involvement policy and*
  - *Meetings will be held at various and convenient times to encourage parents to attend. Parents will be notified about meetings through school memos, newsletters, and the web page.*
5. Waskom ISD will hold a flexible number of meetings at varying times, and may provide child care, and/or home visits, paid for with Title I funding as long as these services relate to parental involvement:
  - *To encourage parents to attend these meetings, the school will offer training to parents to improve student success and achievement. In situations that prevent parents from coming to the school for meetings, school personnel may make home visits or arrange to meet the parents at a mutually convenient time off campus.*
6. Waskom ISD will provide information about Title I programs to parents of participating children in a timely manner through the use of memos, newsletters, and the web page.
7. Waskom ISD will provide parents of participating children with a description and explanation of the curriculum in use at the school, the forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress, and the proficiency levels students are expected to meet through:
  - *Annual Title I parent meetings*
  - *Regular parent/teacher conferences*
  - *Title I meetings and Family Nights throughout the year*
  - (a) If requested by parents, Waskom ISD will provide parents of participating children opportunities for regular meetings to formulate suggestions and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children, and respond to any such suggestions as soon as practicably possible:
    - *through meetings with the student's teacher which may include the Title I Coordinator, the principal, and other staff as appropriate*
  - (b) Waskom ISD will submit to the district any parent comments if the school wide plan under section (1114)(b)(2) is not satisfactory to parents of participating children:
    - *Parents may submit comments in writing regarding the school wide plan to their child's teacher, the Title I Coordinator, the principal, or the appropriate department within Waskom Independent School District.*

### **RESPONSIBILITIES FOR STUDENT ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT**

1. Waskom ISD will build the schools' and parent's capacity for strong parental involvement in order to ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a

partnership between the school, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement through the following activities described below:

- *Parent training and/or educational opportunities*
- *Parental access to the available Teacher/Parent Resources and other resources such as web sites, parent organizations, etc.*
- *Parent Portal*

2. Waskom ISD will incorporate the School-Parent-Student Compact as a component of its School Parental Involvement Policy:
  - *The School-Parent-Student Compact will be a part of the School Parental Involvement Policy on the school's web page.*
  - *During regular parent/teacher/student conferences, the school-parent compact may be completed and signed by the teacher, the parent(s), and the student.*
  - *As needed, the School-Parent-Student Compact will be included in school newsletters along with the School Parental Involvement Policy.*
3. Waskom ISD will, with the assistance of the district, provide assistance to parents of children served by the school in understanding topics such as the following:
  - *the State's academic content standards,*
  - *the State's student academic achievement standards,*
  - *the State and local academic assessments including alternate assessments,*
  - *the requirements of Title I, and*
  - *how to monitor their child's progress.*

Parents may receive training and necessary information on the topics above through:

- *School-Parent-Student Intervention Compact, highlights of the standards, list of web sites, school sponsored trainings and workshops.*
4. As appropriate, Waskom ISD will, with the assistance of the district, provide materials and training such as literacy training and using technology to help parents work with their children to improve their children's academic achievement and to foster parental involvement, by:
    - *Holding Annual Title I meetings, Family Nights, and encouraging parental participation in the Parent Portal.*
  5. Waskom ISD will, with the assistance of the district and parents, educate its teachers, student services personnel, principals and other staff, in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners, in the value and utility of contributions of parents, and in how to implement and coordinate parent programs and build ties between parents and schools, by:
    - *Encouraging staff to attend parental involvement workshops, conferences and staff development, web-based learning, and on-site staff development.*
  6. Waskom ISD will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, take the following actions to ensure that information related to the school and parent- programs,



meetings, and other activities, is sent to the parents of participating children in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats upon request, and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand:

- *Upon identification of parental need for information in another language or in another format, the school will take steps to ensure that the parent request is fulfilled.*

### **SCHOOL-PARENT-STUDENT COMPACT FOR WASKOM ISD**

Waskom ISD and the parents of the students participating in activities, services, and programs funded by Title I, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) (participating children), agree that this compact outlines how the parents, the entire school staff, and the students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement and the means by which the school and parents will build and develop a partnership that will help students achieve the high standards as set forth by the state of Texas.

This school-parent-student compact is in effect during the 2016-2017 school year.

### **REQUIRED SCHOOL-PARENT-STUDENT COMPACT PROVISIONS**

**Provisions bolded in this section are required to be in the Title I, Part A school-parent compact.**

#### **School Responsibilities**

The entire staff of Waskom ISD will:

- 1. Provide high-quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment that enables the participating students to meet the State’s student academic achievement standards as follows:**  
*[Describe how the school will provide high-quality curriculum and instruction, and do so in a supportive and effective learning environment.]*
- 2. Hold parent-teacher conferences during which this compact will be discussed as it relates to the individual student’s achievement. Specifically, those conferences will be held:**  
*[Describe when the parent-teacher conferences will be held.]*
- 3. Provide parents with frequent reports on their student’s progress. Specifically, the school will provide reports as follows:**  
*[Describe when and how the school will provide reports to parents.]*
- 4. Provide parents reasonable access to staff. Specifically, staff will be available for consultation with parents as follows:**  
*[Describe when, where, and how staff will be available for consultation with parents.]*
- 5. Provide parents opportunities to volunteer and participate in their student’s class and to observe classroom activities, as follows:**  
*[Describe when and how parents may volunteer, participate, and observe classroom activities.]*

**[Add additional items as needed and agreed upon]**

#### **Additional School Responsibilities**

**Waskom ISD will:**

1. Involve parents in the planning, review, and improvement of the school's parental involvement policy, in an organized, ongoing, and timely way.
2. Involve parents in the joint development of any school wide program plan, in an organized, ongoing, and timely way.
3. Hold an annual meeting to inform parents of the school's participation in Title I, Part A programs, and to explain the Title I, Part A requirements, and the right of parents to be involved in Title I, Part A programs. The school will convene the meeting at a convenient time to parents, and will offer a flexible number of additional parental involvement meetings, such as in the morning or evening, so that as many parents as possible are able to attend. The school will invite to this meeting all parents of children participating in Title I, Part A programs (participating students), and will encourage them to attend.
4. Provide information to parents of participating students in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats upon the request of parents with disabilities, and, to the extent practicable, in a language that parents can understand.
5. Provide to parents of participating children information in a timely manner about Title I, Part A programs that includes a description and explanation of the school's curriculum, the forms of academic assessment used to measure children's progress, and the proficiency levels students are expected to meet.
6. On the request of parents, provide opportunities for regular meetings for parents to formulate suggestions, and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions about the education of their children. The school will respond to any such suggestions as soon as practicably possible.
7. Provide to each parent an individual student report about the performance of their child on the State assessment in at least math, language arts and reading.
8. Provide each parent timely notice when their child has been assigned or has been taught for four (4) or more consecutive weeks by a teacher who is not highly qualified within the meaning of the term in section 200.56 of the Title I Final Regulations (67 Fed. Reg. 71710, December 2, 2002).

### **Parent Responsibilities**

**We, as parents, will support our child's learning in the following ways:**

**Describe the ways in which parents will support their children's learning, such as:**

- Monitoring attendance.
- Ensuring that homework is completed.
- Monitoring amount of television children watch.
- Volunteering in child's classroom.
- Participating, as appropriate, in decisions relating to my child's education.
- Promoting positive use of my child's extracurricular time.
- Staying informed about my child's education and communicating with the school by promptly reading all notices from the school or the school district either received by my child or by mail and responding, as appropriate.
- Serving, to the extent possible, on policy advisory groups, such as being the Title I, Part A parent representative on the school's School Improvement Team, the Title I Policy Advisory Committee, the District-wide Policy Advisory Council, the State's Committee of Practitioners, the School Support Team or other school advisory or policy groups.

### Student Responsibilities

We, as students, will share the responsibility to improve our academic achievement and achieve the state's high standards. Specifically, we will:

Describe the ways in which students will support their academic achievement, such as:

- Do my homework every day and ask for help when I need it.
- Read at least 30 minutes every day outside of school time.
- Give my parents or the adult who is responsible for my welfare all notices and information received by me from my school every day.

### **WASKOM HIGH SCHOOL**

#### Mission Statement

*Our mission at Waskom High School is to provide a safe and supportive learning environment where each student may excel academically and socially in order to become a responsible, successful citizen.*

#### Vision Statement

*Our vision is a supportive and productive community of stakeholders including students, teachers, staff, parents, and community members who through involvement, respect, and inspiration, create an environment of teamwork to help all members become successful.*

Supportive

Productive

Involvement

Respect

Inspiration

Teamwork

**SPIRIT = SUCCESS!!!**

#### Belief Statements

At Waskom High School, we believe...

- *that every person deserves the opportunity to achieve his/her potential.*
- *that all students have unique talents, gifts, and abilities that can flourish if given the right opportunities.*
- *that staff development should be effective and impact both the instructional and learning processes.*
- *that all students learn in a variety of ways and that differentiated instruction is vital to meet their needs.*
- *that involvement from all stakeholders is essential for student success.*
- *that a safe, orderly, and comfortable environment promotes student learning.*
- *that a culturally diverse education enables the student to become a positive influence on society.*

## WASKOM MIDDLE SCHOOL

### Mission Statement

*The mission of Waskom Middle School is to provide our diverse student population with a meaningful and extensive education in a safe, supportive environment that promotes self-discipline, motivation, and excellence in learning and life.*

## WASKOM MIDDLE SCHOOL

### Vision Statement

*The vision of Waskom Middle School is to inspire in all the desire to learn and succeed. By celebrating achievements and actively partnering with families and the community, we will empower students to embrace the challenges and opportunities of their future.*

## WASKOM MIDDLE SCHOOL

### Belief Statements

- *We believe. . . that education is a responsibility shared by parents, students, the school, and the community.*
- *We believe. . . that each student is an unique individual with special talents, strengths, and needs.*
- *We believe. . . that ongoing staff development is essential enhancement of the learning process.*
- *We believe. . . that the best learning process occurs when students and staff are motivated to strive for excellence.*
- *We believe. . . that each student can be a successful learner and every student should strive to reach his or her full potential.*
- *We believe. . . that consistent rules and discipline, positive values, and social skills are necessary for all individuals to reach their full potential.*
- *We believe. . . that the best interests of students should be first and foremost when decisions are being made.*
- *We believe. . . in a commitment to excellence in all aspects of education.*

## Waskom Elementary School

### Mission Statement

**The mission of Waskom Elementary School is to provide a safe learning environment that will establish a foundation for all students to be successful in education as well as life circumstances.**

## **PARTIES AND SOCIALS**

The rules of good conduct and grooming shall be observed for school social events. Guests will be expected to observe the same rules as students attending the event; the person inviting the guest will share responsibility for the conduct of the guest. Students attending a party or social may be asked to sign out when leaving before the end of the party; anyone leaving before the official end of the party may not be readmitted.

## **PESTICIDES**

The district applies only pest control products that comply with state and federal guidelines. All persons performing Pest management at this district are required to receive special training in current pest management practices and pesticide application. Except in an emergency, signs will be posted 48 hours before application. Parents who want to be notified prior to pesticide application inside their child's school assignment area or who have further questions about pesticide use, including the types and timing of treatments, may contact their IPM Coordinator at (903) 687-3361.

## **PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS**

Students enrolled in Waskom Public Schools will be screened periodically according to state requirements for vision, hearing and spinal problems. Parents or guardians will be notified in the event an abnormality is suspected.

A student may be exempted from screening requirements if the tests conflict with the beliefs of a recognized church or religious denomination. The parent or guardian should submit to the principal an affidavit stating the objections to the screening.

Students participating in UIL athletic competition must submit annually a statement from a Texas licensed physician, indicating that they are physically able to participate in athletics. Physical forms may be obtained from the coaches of the respective sports.

## **POSTERS**

Signs and posters that students wish to display must first be approved by the principal. Posters displayed without authorization will be removed. Any student who posts printed material without approval shall be subject to disciplinary action.

## **PROMOTION, RETENTION AND PLACEMENT**

Students shall be promoted from one grade to the next on the basis of academic achievement. Waskom ISD students shall be placed in a remedial or compensatory course based on the following criteria:

- 1 Student has failed to demonstrate mastery on one or more areas of the most recent STAAR test/EOC test.
- 2 Student has been recommended, based on prior performance in academic courses, by the teacher, principal, or counselor.

**Middle School** students must have an overall average of 70 or above, as well as an average of 70 or above in at least three of the following subjects: language arts, mathematics, social studies, and science. Students in grades 5-8 who are not promoted shall be retained in the same grade or placed in an alternative program. No student shall be retained more than once in grades 5-8 unless the parents, teacher, and school administrators agree that the student should be retained a second time.

STAAR requirements for promotion-5<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade must pass the Mathematics and Reading sections of the TAKS Exam.

**Elementary.** To be promoted from one grade level to the next in grade 1 and above, a student shall attain for the year an overall average of 70 or above. The overall average shall be derived by averaging the final numerical score for language arts, mathematics, social studies, and science. In addition, a student shall attain an average of 70 or above in language arts and in mathematics. Below grade 1, promotion may be granted using assessment methods other than numerical grades. Students in pre-kindergarten and kindergarten shall not be retained without parental consent. With parental consent, six-year-old students determined by the school not to be developmentally ready for first grade may be assigned to a grade as deemed appropriate by the school. No student shall be retained more than one time in grades pre-kindergarten through 2 nor more than one time in grades 3-4 unless a committee of the student's teacher(s) and two administrators approve and the parent(s) agree because of some special circumstance.

STAAR requirements for promotion-3<sup>rd</sup> Grade must pass the Reading section of the STAAR Exam.

**RELEASE OF STUDENTS FROM SCHOOL**

A student shall not be released from school at times other than regular dismissal hours except with the principal's permission. The teacher will determine that permission has been granted before allowing the student to leave.

**REPORT CARDS**

Written reports of student's grades and absences shall be issued to parents at least once every six weeks. At the end of the first three weeks of a grading period, parents will be notified if the student's grade average is near or below 70 or the expected level of performance.

A -90-100

B -80-89

C -70-79

D -70-74


F -69 and below

Semester exams shall be at the end of each semester.

**Semester Exam Exemption Policy Waskom High School**

Waskom High School students may be exempted from semester examinations in individual classes. Exemptions will be based on academic performance, attendance, tardiness and discipline referrals. To qualify for exam exemptions students must meet the following requirements:

Student Absences	Grade Average
0	85
1	90
2-3	95

 *Any unexcused absence will nullify exemption opportunities for any student.*

Exemptions will be determined on a class by class basis. For attendance purposes 4 tardies to class will constitute an absence for exemption purposes. Major discipline problems, (3 discipline referrals) or as determined by the Campus Principal, will disqualify students from exemption eligibility.

**Conduct grades are given as follows:**

E/A -Excellent; S/B -Good; N/C -Needs Improvement;

U/D -Failure to behave in an acceptable manner

Progress reports will be developed for grades pre-kindergarten and kindergarten to determine six weeks evaluation.

For grades 1-4, numerical scores shall be established for language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies. Six weeks grades will be an average of all grades recorded. Semester grades will be an average of the three six weeks averages. Final grade will be an average of the two semester grades.

**SCHOOL BUSES**

Students being transported in school-owned vehicles shall comply with the Student Code of Conduct.

**SCHOOL SAFETY TRANSFERS**

Waskom ISD has a local policy to address School Safety Transfers. (Policy FDE Local) Contact the School Supt. at the Central Administration Office with any questions about school safety transfers.

**SPECIAL PROGRAMS**

The district provides special programs for gifted and talented, Dyslexia, English as a Second Language (ESL) and for those with disabilities. A student or parents with questions about these programs should contact the campus principal; the coordinator of each program can answer questions about eligibility requirements and programs and services offered in the district or by other organizations. Students may be nominated for the gifted & talented program at any time by teachers, counselors, parents, or other interested persons. Conferences shall be held with nominated students and their parents to determine if the students are interested in the program. Criteria to identify gifted & talented students shall be established in the Board-approved program for the gifted & talented. The criteria shall be specific to the state definition of gifted and talented and shall ensure the fair assessment of students with special needs, such as the culturally different, the economically disadvantaged, and students with disabilities.

**STUDENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS**

The district shall provide a structured program of assistance to students experiencing physical, emotional, social, medical, family, or chemical use problems to the extent that their academic or extracurricular performance is being adversely affected. To meet these students' needs, the district shall establish a student assistance program to systematically and professionally respond to their problems as they are manifested in school.

**Options and Requirements For Providing Assistance to Students Who Have Learning Difficulties or Who Need or May Need Special Education**

If a child is experiencing learning difficulties, the parent may contact the person listed below to learn about the district overall general education referral or screening system for support services. This system links student to a variety of support options, including referral for a special education evaluation. Students having difficulty in the regular classroom should be considered for tutorial, compensatory, and other support service that are available to all students including a process based on Response to Intervention (Rtl). The implementation of Rtl has the potential to have a positive impact on the ability of local education agencies to meet the needs of all struggling students.

At any time, a parent is entitled to request an evaluation for special education services. Within a reasonable amount of time, the district must decide if the evaluation is needed. If evaluation is needed, the parent will be notified and asked to provide consent for the evaluation. The district must complete the evaluation and the report within 60 calendar days of the date the district receives the written consent. The district must give a copy of the report to the parent.

If the district determines that the evaluation is not needed, the district will provide the parent with a written notice that explains why the child will not be evaluated. This written notice will include a statement that informs the parent of their rights if they disagree with the district. Additionally, the notice must inform the parent how to obtain a copy of the *Notice of Procedural Safeguards-Rights of Parents of Students with Disabilities*.

The designated person to contact regarding options for a child experiencing learning difficulties or a referral for evaluation for special education is:

Contact:           Elementary School, Wade Youngblood, 687-3361 ext. 1100  
                  Middle School, Bonita Cherry, 687-3361 ext. 1200  
                  High School, Kassie Watson, 687-3361 ext. 1300

### **STUDENT COMPLAINTS**

A student or parent who has a complaint should first bring the matter to the appropriate teacher. If the outcome is not satisfactory, a conference with the principal can be requested within 5 calendar days of the event or events causing the complaint. If the outcome of the conference with the principal is not satisfactory, a conference with the superintendent or designee can be requested within 5 calendar days following the conference with the principal. If the outcome of this conference is not satisfactory, the student or parent may appear before the board of trustees, in accordance with board policy. A student and/or parent with a complaint regarding possible discrimination on the basis of sex should contact the district superintendent. A complaint or concern regarding the placement of a student with disabilities who is not eligible for special education or about the district's programs and services available to the student should be brought to the district superintendent.

### **STUDENT HARASSMENT**

The district believes that every student has the right to attend District schools and school-related activities free from all forms of discrimination on the basis of sex, race, or handicapping condition. Students must not engage in unwanted and unwelcome verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature directed toward another student or a District employee. This prohibition applies whether the conduct is by word, gesture, or any other sexual conduct, including requests for sexual favors. All students are expected to treat other students and District employees with courtesy and respect; to avoid any behaviors known to be offensive; and to stop these behaviors when asked or told to stop. A substantiated complaint against a student will result in appropriate disciplinary action, according to the nature of the offense. See the Student Code of Conduct for information regarding disciplinary sanctions. The District will notify the parents of all students involved in sexual harassment by student(s) when the allegations are not minor, and will notify parents of all incidents of sexual harassment or sexual abuse by an employee. The District encourages parental and student support in its efforts to address and prevent sexual harassment and sexual abuse in the public schools. To the greatest extent possible, complaints will be treated as confidential. Limited disclosure may be necessary to complete a thorough investigation. Students and/or parents are encouraged to discuss their questions or concerns about the expectations in this area with the teacher, the counselor, or the principal. A complaint alleging sexual harassment by another student, or sexual harassment or sexual abuse by a staff member may be presented by a student and/or parent in a conference with the principal. The first conference with the student ordinarily will be held by a person who is the same gender as the student. The conference will be scheduled and held as soon as possible within five days of the request. The principal will coordinate an appropriate investigation, which ordinarily will be completed within ten days. The student or parent will be informed if extenuating



circumstances delay completion of the investigation. The student will not be required to present a complaint to a person who is the subject of the complaint. If the resolution of the complaint is not satisfactory to the student or parent, the student or parent within ten days may request a conference with the Superintendent by following the procedure set out in Board policy FNCJ (LOCAL). If the resolution by the Superintendent is not satisfactory, the student or parent may present the complaint to the Board as provided by policy.

### **STUDENT RECORDS**

A student's school records are private and are protected from unauthorized inspection or use. A cumulative record is maintained for each student from the time the student enters the district until the student withdraws or graduates. This record moves with the student from school to school. By law, both parents, whether married, separated, or divorced, have access to the records of a student who is a minor or a dependent for tax purposes, as do students who are 18 years of age or older. A parent whose rights have been legally terminated will be denied access to the records if the school is given a copy of the court order terminating these rights. The principal is custodian of all records for currently enrolled students at the assigned school. The superintendent is the custodian of all records of students who have withdrawn or graduated. Records may be reviewed during regular school hours. The records custodian or designee will respond to reasonable requests for explanation and interpretation of the records. The phone numbers and addresses of the superintendent and principals are listed on page II of this handbook. Parents of a minor or of a student who is a dependent for tax purposes, the student (if 18 or older), and school officials with legitimate educational interests are the only persons who have general access to a student's records. "School officials with legitimate educational interests" include any employees, agents, or trustees of the district, of cooperatives of which the district is a member or facilities with which the district contracts for the placement of handicapped students, as well as their attorneys and consultants, who are:

1. Working with the student;
2. Considering disciplinary or academic actions, the student's case, an Individual Education Plan (IEP) for a student with disabilities under IDEA or an individually designed program for a student with disabilities under Section 504;
3. Compiling statistical data; or
4. Investigating or evaluating programs.

Certain other officials from various governmental agencies may have limited access to the records. The district forwards a student's records without prior consent on request to a school in which a student seeks or intends to enroll. Parental consent is required to release the records to anyone else. When the student reaches 18 years of age, only the student has the right to consent to release of records. The parent's or student's right of access to, and copies of, student records does not extend to all records. Materials that are not considered educational records, such as teachers' personal notes on a student that are shared only with a substitute teacher and records pertaining to former students after they are no longer students in the District, do not have to be made available to the parents or student. Students over 18 and parents of minor students may inspect the student's records and request a correction if the records are inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy or other rights. If the District refuses the request to amend the records, the requester has the right to a hearing. If the records are not amended as a result of the hearing, the requester has 30 school days to exercise the right to place a statement commenting on the information in the student's record. Although improperly recorded grades may be challenged, parents and students are not

allowed to contest a student's grade in a course through this process. Parents or students have the right to file a complaint with the U. S. Department of Education if they feel that the District is not in compliance with the law regarding student records. Copies of student records are available at a cost of 10 cents per page, payable in advance. Parents may be denied copies of a student's records: (1) after the student reaches age 18 and is no longer a dependent for tax purposes; (2) when the student is attending an institution of post-secondary education or (3) if the parent fails to follow proper procedures and pay the copying charge. If the student qualifies for free or reduced-price lunches and the parents are unable to view the records during regular school hours, upon written request of the parent, one copy of the record will be provided at no charge. Certain information about District students is considered directory information and will be released to anyone who follows procedures for requesting it, unless the parent objects to the release of any or all directory information about the child. This objection must be made in writing to the principal within ten school days after issuance of this handbook. Directory information includes, a student's name, address, telephone number, date and place of birth, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, weight and height of members of athletic teams, dates of attendance, awards received in school and most recent previous school attended.

### **SUMMER SCHOOL**

Summer school may be provided by the district as part of the Compensatory Education Program or as an Alternative Educational Arrangement. Details pertaining to the summer program may be obtained from the office of the principal, curriculum director, or Superintendent.

### **TELEPHONE POLICY**

Students will not ordinarily be called to the telephone, as this disrupts the usual classroom procedure. Messages will be taken by the office staff and delivered at an appropriate time. Students will be allowed to use the phone when a real need exists as determined by the principal or school secretary.

### **TESTING**

Texas state law has mandated that students must pass all portions of the STARR EOC test by the end of their 12th grade year in order to receive their diploma. Registration forms and information regarding college entrance exams (ACT, SAT, TASP) may be obtained from the counselor. For additional information contact the high school principal, counselor, or the curriculum director. Testing is a vital part of the educational process of Waskom ISD. Testing is conducted according to the following schedule;

#### **TEST SCHEDULES (2016 – 2017)**

##### **2016/2017 Testing Dates**

Oct.17 Exit Level ELA-TAKS  
Oct.18 Exit Level Math-TAKS  
Oct. 19 Exit Level Science-TAKS  
Oct. 20 Exit Level Social Studies-TAKS  
Dec. 5 English I -STAAR  
Dec. 7 English II -STAAR  
Dec. 9 All make-up sessions for  
STAAR English assessments scheduled  
to be administered from Dec.5-7,2016,  
must be completed by the end of this day.

- Dec. 5-9 Algebra I, Biology, U.S. History-STAAR
- Mar.6 Exit Level ELA-TAKS
- Mar.7 Exit Level Mathematics-TAKS
- Mar.8 Exit Level Science-TAKS
- Mar.9 Exit Level Social Studies-TAKS
- Mar. 6 -Apr. 5 Grades K-12 TELPAS Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing
- Mar.28 Grade 4 Writing Day 1-STAAR  
Grade 7 Writing Day 1-STAAR  
Grade 5 Mathematics-STAAR  
Grade 8 Mathematics-STAAR  
English I-STAAR
- Mar.29 Grade 5 Reading  
Grade 8 Reading
- Mar. 30 English II-STAAR
- Mar.31 All make-up sessions for STAAR assessments scheduled to be administered from Mar. 30-Apr. 1, 2015 must be completed by the end of this day.
- Apr. 21 Grades 3-4 Mathematics-STAAR  
Grades 6-7 Mathematics-STAAR  
Grade 8 Social Studies-STAAR
- Apr. 22 Grades 3-4 Reading-STAAR  
Grades 6-7 Reading STAAR  
Grade 5 Science-STAAR  
Grade 8 Science-STAAR
- Apr. 24 All make-up sessions for STAAR assessments scheduled to be administered from Apr 21-22, 2015, must be completed by the end of this day.
- May 1-5 Algebra I-STAAR  
Biology-STAAR  
U.S. History-STAAR
- May 8 Grades 3-4 & 6-7 Math-STAAR  
Grades 6-7 Math. Grade 5 & 8 Math
- May 9 Grade 3-4 6-7 Reading  
Englis III
- May 10 Grade 5 & 8 Science , Algebra II
- May 11 Grade Social Studies
- June 19 English I
- June 20 Grade 5 Reading & Mathematics -STAAR Retest  
Grade 8 Reading & Mathematics -STAAR Retest
- June 23 All make-up sessions for STAAR assessments scheduled to be administered on June 23, 2015 must be completed by the end of this day.
- \*Testing procedures are coordinated through the district's guidance and counseling services.

## **TEXTBOOKS**

State approved textbooks are provided free of charge for each subject or class; students are required to use these books carefully. Books must be covered by the student; as directed by the teacher; students who are issued damaged books should report that fact to the teacher. Any student failing to return a book issued by the school shall lose the right to free textbooks until the book is returned or paid for by the parent or guardian. Students who lose, damage, or deface textbooks will be charged a fine according to the following schedule:

Damaged cover or pages	\$ 5.00
Writing in ink	\$ 2.00 per page
Broken Spine	\$ 5.00
Book unusable for any reason	Cost of book

### **VEHICLES ON CAMPUS**

In order to park on campus, students must present a valid drivers license and insurance papers on any vehicle they will be driving to school. A Waskom ISD parking permit and a parking area will be assigned to those authorized to park. Vehicles parked on school property are under the jurisdiction of the school. The school reserves the right to search any vehicle if reasonable cause exists to do so. Students have full responsibility for the security of their vehicles and must make certain they are locked and that the keys are not given to others. Students will be held responsible for any prohibited objects or substances, such as alcohol, drugs, and weapons, that are found in their cars and will be subject to disciplinary action. Searches of vehicles may be conducted at any time there is reasonable cause to do so, with or without the presence of the student.

### **VISITORS**

Parents and other visitors are welcome to visit district schools. All visitors must report to the principal's office. Visits to individual classrooms during instruction time shall be permitted only with the principal's approval, and such visits shall not be permitted if their duration or frequency interferes with the delivery of instruction or disrupts the normal school environment. Visitors may be asked to wear an appropriate badge or sticker obtained from the campus principal. Each campus principal has the right to refuse entry to persons during class time or those who have no legitimate business or to request unauthorized persons to leave the school. Charges may be filed for noncompliance.

### **WITHDRAWALS**

Students under eighteen years of age must have parents or guardian notify the principal's office before they can withdraw from school. Parents or guardians must accompany a student to school during withdrawal procedures. When permission has been granted, a withdrawal slip will be issued to the student. Each teacher will assign a current grade, clear the textbooks, and sign in the appropriate place on the slip. The counselor and librarian must also clear the student. When the withdrawal slip has been completed, the principal will sign it, and give the student his or her book card, withdrawal slip and health card for presentation and admittance to the new school.

Student  
Code  
Of  
Conduct

## **Student Code of Conduct**

The Waskom ISD Code of Conduct was developed through involvement and commitment of the district's administrators, teachers, parents and students. The Code describes district expectations of student conduct and consequences for violations. The district objective is to provide students with a quality educational program that encourages the acquisition, sharing and application of ideas. This objective can only be attained in a cooperative environment that is free from disruptions of the educational process. The district is committed to honoring student rights recognized and protected by state and federal legislation while students are expected to behave in a manner that is positive and supportive of rights of others and the instructional process. A balance between rights and responsibilities is essential if the district is to provide an education that allows the student to develop to their fullest potential.

Disciplinary consequences for a student shall be appropriate to correct individual misconduct, to promote student respect for the rights of others, and to gain compliance with policies of the district. Disciplinary action shall be predicated upon the seriousness of the offense, the effect of the offense on others, the facts of the offense, and the resolve of the Board of Trustees to provide a safe educational environment conducive to carry out the education mission.

### **PARENT VERIFICATION**

Parents will be provided a copy of the Code of Conduct. Student, teacher, administration and parent responsibilities are outlined. A statement will be provided to be signed by parents and returned to school that verifies parental understanding and consent to respective responsibilities and Code of Conduct provisions. The verification statement will be maintained in the student's campus file.

### **JURISDICTION**

Waskom ISD has jurisdiction over students or any related misconduct when going to and from school, on district transportation, or within 300 feet of school property while attending a school sponsored or school-related activity on or off of school property at any time. (TEC §37.006 (2))

### **STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES**

Each student is expected to respect the rights and privileges of other students, teachers, and district staff. District personnel are expected to respect rights and privileges of students. Student responsibilities for attaining a positive, safe learning environment at school or school related activities include:

- 1 Attendance of all classes daily and punctually
- 2 Preparation for class with appropriate materials and assignments
- 3 Compliance with WISD dress code
- 4 Exhibition of respect for others and the rights of others
- 5 Compliance with the Student Code of Conduct, school, and staff rules

## **PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITIES**

**Education** succeeds best when there is a strong partnership between home and school, a partnership that thrives on communication. Parents are partners with teachers, administrators, and the Board and are encouraged to:

- Encourage your child to put a high priority on education and commit to making the most of the educational opportunities the school provides.
- Attend Board meetings to learn more about District operations, including the procedure for addressing the Board when appropriate.
- Review the information in the Student Handbook (including the attached Student Code of Conduct) with your child; and sign and return the acknowledgment form(s). Parents with questions are encouraged to contact the campus principal.
- Become familiar with all of your child's school activities and with the academic programs offered in the District. Discuss with the principal any questions, such as concerns about placement, assignment, or early graduation, and the options available to your child. Monitor your child's academic progress and contact teachers as needed. Exercise your right to review teaching materials, textbooks, and other aids, and to examine tests that have been administered to your child.
- Review your child's student records when needed. You may review (1) attendance records, (2) test scores, (3) grades, (4) disciplinary records, (5) psychological records, (6) applications for admission, (7) health and immunization information, (8) teacher and counselor evaluations, (9) reports of behavioral patterns, and (10) state assessment instruments administered to your child.
- Become a school volunteer. For further information, contact the campus principal.
- Participate in campus parent organizations. The activities are varied, ranging from band boosters to the District and campus planning committees formulating District and campus plans to improve educational opportunities for all students. For further information, contact campus principals.

A parent has the responsibility to:

1. provide for the physical needs of the child
2. train child to obey rules and school personnel
3. insure prompt and regular attendance
4. foster attention, responsibility and study habits of child
5. participate in parent-teacher conferences to discuss welfare and progress of child
6. become informed of school policy, programs, and academic requirements
7. insure appropriate dress and conduct
8. contribute any information on learning disability or condition that may affect the child
9. insure that child attends academic or attendance tutorials or makeup
10. submit signature of understanding and consent of student code
11. cooperate with school officials to bring about clear and open communication and education

## **TEACHER RESPONSIBILITIES**

Teachers have the responsibility to:

1. devise discipline management techniques and orient students to expectations
2. insure appropriate preparation, direction, assignments and instructional materials
3. comply with WISD policy, rules and directives
4. maintain an orderly and controlled environment conducive to all students
5. learn how to teach to standards of performance and meet the expectations required by WISD
6. establish effective rapport with students, parents, and other staff members
7. teach students self-discipline, personal responsibility, and respect for others
8. encourage and set examples of work habits that lead to attaining personal goals
9. serve as moral and ethical role model examples for students
10. cooperate with parents, administrators, and peers

## **ADMINISTRATOR RESPONSIBILITIES**

Administrators have the responsibility to:

1. investigate and/or respond to disciplinary referrals of teachers and staff
2. promote effective training and discipline to students
3. comply with WISD policy, rules and directives
4. encourage parent/teacher communication and participate in parent/teacher conferences
5. assume responsibility and instructional leadership for discipline and evaluation of the District Code of Conduct
6. serve as appropriate role model for students and teachers
7. cooperate with parents and teachers
8. insure equal educational opportunities are availed to all students regardless of student's race, religion, color, sex, national origin or handicapping condition
9. insure equal access of all students to vocational programs regardless of students race, religion, sex, language, color, national origin or handicapping condition

## **RIGHT TO PRAY**

Public school students have an absolute right to individually, voluntarily, silently pray or meditate in school in a manner that does not disrupt instructional or other activities of the school. A person may not require or coerce a student to engage in or refrain from such prayer or meditation during a school activity.

## **STUDENT RIGHTS**

Parents have the right to inspect all instructional materials to be used in connection with a survey, analysis, or evaluation of information in any of the areas listed below. In order to ensure that parent and student rights are protected, the school will ask for written parental consent before allowing a student to participate when an educational program requires any of the following information:

- Political affiliations
- Mental and psychological problems, potentially embarrassing to the student or family
- Sexual behavior and attitudes Illegal, antisocial, self-incriminating, and demeaning behavior
- Critical appraisals of other individuals with whom the student or the student's family has close family relationship.
- Relationship privileged under law, such as relationships with lawyers, physicians,



ministers and income, except when the information will be used to determine the student's eligibility to participate in a special program or to receive financial assistance under such a program

All students are entitled to enjoy the basic rights of citizenship recognized and protected by law. District schools shall foster a climate of mutual respect for the rights of others in order to attain the educational purpose of WISD.

Students shall exercise their rights responsibly and in compliance with policy established by the Board for the orderly conduct of the district's academic mission. Students who violate the rights of others or who otherwise violate district policy or rules shall be subject to disciplinary measures designed to correct misconduct and promote collective compliance of students with responsibilities as citizens of the school community.

#### **SUSPENSION (TEC§37.005)**

The principal or other appropriate administrator may suspend a student who engages in conduct identified in the student code of conduct, as adopted.

Students may be suspended from school to home for a period not to exceed three (3) school days [for each incident]. Students may also be removed or suspended to an on-campus alternative program designated at the Student Assignment Center for up to five (5) days per incident.

A student may be suspended pending investigation, before they are removed and placed into an alternative educational program.

Parents of students who have been suspended to home shall be advised that it is their responsibility to provide adequate supervision for the student during the period of suspension.

#### **Parent Conference:**

When an administrator suspends or removes a student to SAC for three (3) or more consecutive days in a semester, parents will be notified and offered an opportunity to attend a conference to discuss the disciplinary action and/or other student's misbehavior.

#### **ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION PROGRAM (TEC§37.008)**

Students may be removed and placed into an alternative education setting if the administrator determines either:

- 1 That the student's presence in the regular classroom or home campus presents a danger of physical harm to the student or others, or
- 2 That the student has engaged in serious or persistent misbehavior that violates the previously communicated Student Code of Conduct

**Before** removing a student from class and placing them into an alternative education program, the administration shall consider reasonable alternatives, including appropriate disciplinary management techniques, which may include removal to an alternative education setting. If the administration determines a removal is the most appropriate alternative, no other disciplinary action need precede the placement. Transportation to and from AEP will be the responsibility of the parent. Students will be ineligible to attend any regular school campus extra-curricular activities on any day they have been assigned to the AEP.

**Removal** to an alternative education setting shall not extend beyond the end of the semester in which the conduct that directly led to the removal occurred and the period will be not less than 5 days, unless determined appropriate, based on circumstances, by an administrator. If the conduct occurred during the last grading period of a semester, the removal may extend to the end of the next semester. The board may permit the student to remain in the alternative setting for an additional period of time if it is agreed on by the student, the parents, the supervisor of the alternative setting, and the student's principal to best serve the students educational interest.

**A student** must be placed in a disciplinary AEP if the student commits any of the following offenses on school property or while attending a school-sponsored or school-related activity on or off school property (TEC § 37.006). The student may be suspended pending a hearing:

1. Committing an assault.
2. Making a terrorist threat, or false alarm or report.
3. Selling, giving, delivering, possessing, using, or being under the influence of marijuana, a controlled substance, or a dangerous drug if such conduct is not punishable as a felony offense.
4. Selling, giving, or delivering an alcoholic beverage; committing a serious act or offense while under the influence of alcohol, if such conduct is not punishable as a felony offense.
5. Possessing, using, or being under the influence of an alcoholic beverage, if conduct is not punishable as a felony offense.
6. Behaving in a manner that contains the elements of an offense relating to abusing glue or aerosol paint or relating to volatile chemicals,
7. Behaving in a manner that contains the elements of the offense of public lewdness.
8. Behaving in a manner that contains the elements of the offense of indecent exposure.
9. Student is under Court supervision under Chapter 62 of Criminal Code for a sexual offense. (if it occurred after 9/1/07)

**A student must be placed** in a disciplinary AEP and may be suspended pending a hearing if the student:

1. Engages in conduct punishable as a felony regardless of where or when the conduct occurs.
2. Engages in conduct that contains the elements of the offense of retaliation against any school employee, regardless of where or when the conduct occurs.

**In an emergency**, the principal or the principal's designee may order the immediate placement of a student who is so unruly, disruptive, or abusive that the student's presence seriously interferes with a teacher's ability to communicate effectively with students in a class, with the ability of the student's classmates to learn, or with the operation of school or a school-sponsored activity.

**Notice:**

Before removing a student from school premises for any of the foregoing reasons, the student shall be informed of the reason for the removal and have an opportunity to state any objections to such action. The district shall take reasonable effort to notify the parent prior to removing a child from school premises. If the parent cannot be notified prior to removal, the parent shall be notified as soon as possible of the reasons for removal.

**Board Appeal:**

The administration decision to remove a student to an alternative setting may be appealed first to the superintendent and second to the board. The parent shall have an opportunity to participate in the proceeding before the board. The student may be placed in an alternative education setting pending the appeal to the board.

A request to address the board to appeal a decision to remove a student shall be made in writing to the superintendent within two (2) school days after notice of suspension or removal to AEP. The superintendent shall inform the parent that the matter will be placed on the agenda of the next board meeting. The board shall hear both sides of the issue and base its decision on the evidence. The board's decision on a removal shall be final and may not be appealed.

**STUDENT ASSIGNMENT CENTER**

An On-campus alternative program located on each WISD Campus, designated as the Student Assignment Center (SAC), is designed to allow a student to remain on campus while completing a disciplinary placement. Students will be ineligible to participate in any regular school campus extracurricular activities on any days they have been assigned to SAC.

A student may be placed in the SAC program for a period of up to five (5) days. A student's release from the SAC program is determined by his conduct, cooperation, work and study habits, and conformity with the SAC rules.

During the time in the SAC program, the student receives his regular class assignments and is expected to complete all work. Students may seek permission to attend tutorials and may seek assistance from teachers before and after school.

Students violating school rules and/or failing to obey administrative directives (not adhering to the Student Code of Conduct) will be subject to placement in the center. Only the campus principal and/or the assistant principal have the authority to assign a student to the center. Students may be detained in the student assignment center (SAC) either during or outside school hours for one or more days if a student violates school rules of conduct. Assignment to SAC shall not begin until the student's parents have been notified, except in emergency placement.

Misbehavior in the SAC will result in additional days of assignment or other disciplinary action.

**DISCIPLINE**

Students who violate the District's Student Code of Conduct shall be subject to disciplinary action. The District's Disciplinary options include, but are not limited to, use of one or more discipline management techniques: student assignment center (SAC), removal to an alternative education program (AEP), corporal punishment, suspension, and expulsion. When students commit drug and alcohol related offenses or fighting, they may be referred to legal authorities for prosecution in addition to school imposed discipline, which may also include completion of an appropriate rehabilitation program or community service. Disciplinary measures are applied depending on the nature of the offense. Consideration will be given for each decision to remove a student by suspension, expulsion, or placement into a disciplinary or juvenile justice alternative education program to factors of self-defense, intent or lack of intent when student engaged in the conduct, student's disciplinary history; or a disability that substantially impairs student's capacity to appreciate the wrongfulness of their conduct. The principal or superintendent can give more information about the district's Code of Conduct.

## **DISCIPLINE MANAGEMENT TECHNIQUES**

The following discipline management techniques may be used alone or in combination for Student Code of Conduct and non-Student Code of Conduct violations:

- 1 Oral correction.
- 2 Cooling-off time or "time-out".
- 3 Seating changes in the classroom.
- 4 Counseling by teachers, counselors or administrative personnel.
- 5 Parent-teacher conferences.
- 6 Temporary confiscation of items that disrupt the educational process.
- 7 Grade penalties for unexcused absences, copying or failing to do assignments.
- 8 Rewards or demerits.
- 9 Behavioral contracts.
- 10 Sending the student to the office or other assigned area.
- 11 Detention outside school hours.
- 12 Assigned school duties other than class tasks.
- 13 Withdrawal of privileges, such as participation in extracurricular activities and honorary positions.
- 14 Withdrawing or restricting bus privileges.
- 15 Probation.
- 16 Corporal punishment.
- 17 Referral to outside agency or authority.
- 18 Removal from classroom.
- 19 Suspension or AEP Placement.

## **STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

Disciplinary sanctions and changes in transportation for a student with disabilities shall be made in accordance with the provisions of the student's Individualized Education Program (IEP). Removal of a student with a disability for emergency reasons shall be used only in emergency situations and shall not exceed five (5) school days. Consecutive five day removals are prohibited. Students with disabilities may not be removed in violation of specific IEP provisions or for more than ten (10) days without ARD committee approval. Removals in accordance with the student's IEP are not subject to these procedures. If student with a disability is removed from school premises for a total of ten (10) school days in a school year, the ARD committee shall review the student's IEP, unless the IEP specifies otherwise.

## **REMOVAL BY TEACHER**

- A. A teacher after employment of effective disciplinary management techniques, may send a student to the principal's office in order to maintain an effective classroom instructional environment. The principal shall respond by employing appropriate discipline management procedures consistent with the student code of conduct (**TEC § 37.002**).
- B. A teacher may remove from class any student:
  1. who has been documented by the teacher to repeatedly interfere with the teacher's ability to communicate effectively with the students in the class or with the ability of the student's class peers to learn; or
  2. whose behavior the teacher determines is sufficiently unruly, disruptive, or abusive that it seriously impairs the ability of the teacher to communicate effectively with students in the class or with the ability of the students class peers to learn.
- C. Should a teacher remove a student under Section B, the principal may place the student into another appropriate classroom, Student Assignment Center (SAC), suspend

from school, or to the Alternative Education Program (AEP). The principal may not return the student to that teacher's class without the consent of the teacher unless a committee established under (TEC§37.003) has determined that such placement is the best or only alternative available. Terms of removal may prohibit the student from attending or participating in school-related events.

D. A teacher shall remove from class and send to the principal for placement in Alternative Education Program or expulsion a student who engages in conduct described under Section 37.006 or Section 37.007. The student may not be returned to that teacher's class without consent of that teacher unless a committee established under Section 37.003 determines that such placement is the best or only alternative available.

### **REMOVAL OR EXPULSION**

A. **Authority:** The Board delegates the authority to expel students to an Administrative Committee whose members are appointed by the Superintendent. A decision by the committee to expel a student must be unanimous. (TEC § 37.007)

B. **Causes:** At the discretion of the **District, a student may be expelled** for:

- 1 assault of a teacher or individual;
- 2 retaliation against a school employee;
- 3 murder, capital murder or criminal attempt to commit murder;
- 4 indecency with a child;
- 5 kidnapping;
- 6 arson;
- 7 possession of a firearm;
- 8 possession of prohibited weapon;
- 9 possession of prohibited knife;
- 10 possession of a club;
- 11 use, transfer, sale, delivery, possession or being under the influence of alcohol, marijuana, other controlled substances, dangerous drugs, or abusable glue or chemicals;
- 12 engaging in conduct that constitutes criminal mischief,
- 13 vandalism;
- 14 robbery or theft;
- 15 extortion, coercion, or blackmail;
- 16 hazing;
- 17 aggressive, disruptive action or group demonstration that substantially disrupts or interferes with school activities;
- 18 insubordination;
- 19 profanity, vulgar language, or obscene/threatening gestures directed toward teachers or school employees;
- 20 fighting, committing physical abuse, or threatening physical abuse;
- 21 sexual harassment or assault of a student or school employee;
- 22 possession of, or conspiring to possess, any explosive or explosive device;
- 23 falsification of records, passes, or other school-related documents;
- 24 possession or distribution of pornographic materials
- 25 leaving school grounds without permission;
- 26 making threats or assisting in making threats including threats against individuals or bomb threats; and
- 27 refusal to accept discipline management techniques proposed by a teacher or principal

C. **Automatic Expulsion Causes (TEC §37.007):** A student must be expelled for any of following offenses if committed on school property or while attending a school-sponsored or school-related activity on or off school property:

1. a firearm violation, as defined by federal law:
  - a. a firearm under federal law includes:
    - 1) any weapon designed to expel a projectile by explosive action;
    - 2) the frame or receiver of any such weapon;
    - 3) any firearm muffler or firearm weapon;
    - 4) and any destructive device as explosive, incendiaries, gas, bomb, or grenade.

- b. includes the use, exhibition or possession of the following under Texas Penal Code
  - 1) a firearm;
  - 2) an illegal knife (blade over 5 1/2" long); instrument designed to stab by being thrown; dagger, stiletto, or bowie knife; sword; or spear.
  - 3) a club; and
  - 4) a prohibited weapon, as explosive weapon; machine gun; handgun; silencer; switchblade; knuckles, chemical dispensing device; or zip gun
- c. includes behavior containing elements of the following Texas Penal Code:
  - 1) aggravated assault, sexual assault, or aggravated sexual assault;
  - 2) arson;
  - 3) murder, capital murder, or criminal attempt to commit murder;
  - 4) indecency with a child;
  - 5) aggravated kidnapping;
  - 6) aggravated robbery
  - 7) Manslaughter
  - 8) Criminall negligent homicide
  - 9) Continuous sexual abuse of young child or children uner Penal Code 21.02
  - 10) behavior related to an alcohol or drug offense punishable as a felony;
  - 11) and retaliation against a school employee combined with one of the above offenses on or off school property or at a school related activity.

2. **Emergency Placement or Expulsion (TEC §37.019):** In an emergency, the principal or the principal's designee may order the immediate removal of a student for the following reasons:

- a. the student's behavior is so unruly, disruptive, or abusive that it seriously interferes with a teacher's ability to communicate effectively with the students in a class, with the ability of the student's classmates to learn, or with the operation of school or a school-sponsored activity.
- b. when people or property are in imminent harm,

**Students with disabilities under Section 504:** A student with a disability under Section 504 shall not be expelled unless the District first determines that the misbehavior is not a manifestation of the student's disability. That determination may be made by the same group of people who make decisions. The group must have available to it evaluation data that is recent enough to afford an understanding of the students current behavior. At a minimum, the group shall include persons knowledgeable about the student and the meaning of the evaluation data.

**Students with disabilities under "IDEA":** A student with a disability may be expelled for engaging in conduct that would warrant such action for a student without a disability only if the Admission, Review and Dismissal (ARD) committee determines the misconduct is not related to the disability or inappropriate placement.

In determining whether a student's disruptive behavior is related to a student's disability, the ARD committee shall base its decision on currently effective evaluation and assessment data and on review of the current IEP documentation rather than on established eligibility or previous committee decisions. The committee shall consider whether the student's behavior indicates the need for new assessment or evaluation data. Unless the parents agree otherwise, the student must be returned to his current placement after ten (10) days while additional assessments are being conducted.

The ARD committee shall determine the instructional and related services to be provided during the time of expulsion. The student's IEP shall include goals and objectives designed to assist in returning the student to school and preventing significant regression. If the ARD committee determines that the student's disruptive behavior is related to the disability or inappropriate placement, the student shall not be expelled. When the disruptive behavior on the part of the student indicates an inappropriate placement, the ARD committee shall review the placement and recommend alternatives. If the ARD committee determines that the behavior was related to the disability, it shall either rewrite the IEP to address the student's behavioral and emotional needs or, when appropriate, consider the extension of an emergency removal.

**Notification of expulsion:** Not later than the second business day after the hearing, the Board's designee will mail the parent a copy of the order expelling the student and information required by Section 52.04 of the Family Code.

**Appeals:** Request for a Board review of a decision to expel a student shall be made in writing to the Superintendent within three (3) school days after receipt of the written decision. The Superintendent shall provide the parent(s) and/or guardian(s) written notice of the date, time and place of the review within five (5) days of the receipt of the appeal request.

The Board shall review the record of the due process hearing on the expulsion in closed meeting unless the parent(s) or guardians requests in writing that the matter be heard in open meeting. The Board may also hear a statement from the student or parent(s) or guardian(s) and from the administrative committee.

The Board shall base its decision on evidence reflected in the record and any statements made by the parties at the review. The Board shall make and communicate its decision orally at the conclusion of the presentation. If the decision is for expulsion, the Board shall direct the Superintendent to issue the expulsion order within three (3) days.

**Notice of expulsion order:** The Board or its designee shall deliver a copy of the order expelling the student to the student and the student's parent(s) or guardian(s). The order shall advise parent(s) or guardian(s) that it is the parents' or guardians' responsibility to provide adequate supervision for the student during the period of expulsion. The Board or its designee shall also deliver a copy of the order to the authorized office of the juvenile court of the county in which the student resides. If the student enrolls in another school district before the expiration of the period of expulsion, the Board or its designee shall provide a copy of the order to that district at the same time other student records are provided. Education Code §21.3011 (g)(m), §21.301 (n).

## **VIOLATIONS OF STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT**

Violations of the following offenses are considered serious and will be referred to the campus principal for investigation:

- 1 Cheating or copying work of another student's with an intent to cheat.
- 2 Throwing objects that can cause a disturbance, bodily injury or property damage.
- 3 Leaving school grounds or events without permission.

- 4 Directing profanity, vulgar language or obscene/threatening gestures toward others.
- 5 Fighting.
- 6 Insubordination, including failure to comply with lawful directives from school personnel or school policies, rules and regulations.
- 7 Stealing from students, staff or the school.
- 8 Damaging or vandalizing property owned by others.
- 9 Hazing.
- 10 Disobeying school rules about conduct on school buses.
- 11 Committing extortion, coercion or blackmail, or forcing an individual to act through the use of force or threat of force.
- 12 Name-calling, ethnic or racial slurs or derogatory statements that school officials have reason to believe will substantially disrupt the school program or incite violence.
- 13 Engaging in any conduct that disrupts the school environment or educational process.
- 14 Engaging in inappropriate sexual physical contact including excessive display of affection in any form.
- 15 Engaging in conduct that constitutes sexual harassment or sexual abuse whether the conduct is by word, gesture, or any other sexual conduct, including, requests for sexual favors.
- 16 Forging signatures for any reason.
- 17 Possessing, smoking or using tobacco products.
- 18 Possessing a paging device or cellular telephone. (see FNCE (Local))
- 19 Violating safety rules.
- 20 Violating dress and grooming standards.
- 21 Repeatedly violating other communicated campus or classroom standards of behavior.

Minor Offenses:

Most violations of the Code of Conduct that are not listed above as a serious offense are considered a minor offense but not without consequences.

Persistent Offenses:

The district defines persistent to be two or more violations of the code in general or repeated occurrences of the same violation.

**COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE (TEC §25.093)**

Any parent of a child required to attend school who fails to require such shall be warned in writing that attendance is immediately required. If after warning, the parent, with criminal negligence, commits an offense, who fails to require the child to attend school and the child has unexcused absences as specified under section 5103(b)(2) of the family code. The attendance officer shall file a complaint against the parent in the county court of the parent's residence. If a complaint is not made the attendance officer may refer the child to county juvenile probation department for engaging in conduct indicating a need for supervision (TEC 4.25). An offense under this section is a Class C misdemeanor punishable by fine and/or community service.

**DELINQUENT CONDUCT/CONDUCT INDICATING A NEED FOR SUPERVISION**

Education Code 4.25/Family Code 51.03

a) Conduct indicating a need for supervision is:

the unexcused voluntary absence of a child on 10 or more days or parts of days within a six-month period without the consent of his/her parents.

b) For the purpose of Subsection (b) (2) of this section an absence is excused when the



absence results from:

- illness of the child
- illness or death in the family of the child
- quarantine of the child and family
- weather or road conditions making travel dangerous
- an absence approved by a teacher, principal, or superintendent of the school in which the child is enrolled
- circumstances found reasonable and proper

c) For the purposes of Subdivisions (2) and (3) of Subsection (b) of this section, "child" does not include a person who is married, divorced, or widowed.

### **CORPORAL PUNISHMENT**

**Corporal punishment** is limited to spanking or paddling the student, and is governed by the following guidelines:

1. The student is told the reason for the corporal punishment.
2. Corporal punishment may be given by the principal, or a designee of the principal.
3. The instrument to be used shall be approved by the principal.
4. Corporal punishment shall be administered in the presence of one other district professional employee and out of view of other students.

A record shall be maintained of each instance of corporal punishment.

### **ASSEMBLIES**

Students are required to conduct themselves in assemblies as they do in class. Students who do not abide by District rules of conduct shall be subject to disciplinary action.

### **CHEATING/PLAGIARISM AND ACADEMIC DISHONESTY**

Plagiarism is the use of another person's original ideas or writing as one's own without giving credit to the true author. Plagiarism will be considered cheating and the student will be subject to academic disciplinary action that may include loss of credit for the work in question. Teachers who have reason to believe a student has engaged in cheating or other academic dishonesty will determine the academic penalty to be assessed. The use of academic penalties is not governed by the policies pertaining to student discipline, but students and parents may appeal the teacher's decision, using the student complaint policy.

### **DISRUPTIONS**

The district may pursue criminal charges against and/or discipline any person inciting, promoting, or participating in a protest demonstration, disruption, riot, sit-in, walkout, blocking of entrances, etc. Written materials, handbills, photographs, pictures, petitions, films, tapes, or other visual or auditory materials may not be sold, circulated, or distributed on any school campus without the approval of the principal. Violators shall be subject to disciplinary action.

### **DRESS AND GROOMING**

The district dress code is established to teach grooming and hygiene, instill discipline, prevent disruption, avoid safety hazards, and teach respect for authority. Students shall be dressed and groomed in a manner that is clean and neat and that will not be a health or safety hazard to themselves or others. The district prohibits any clothing or grooming that, in the principal's judgment, may reasonably be expected to cause disruption of or interference with normal school operations.

**The District prohibits pictures, emblems, or writings on clothing that:**

1. Are lewd, offensive, vulgar, or obscene
2. Advertise or depict tobacco products, alcoholic beverages, drugs, or any other substance prohibited under WISD policy FNCF (L).
3. Advertise or depict themes considered to be culturally or racially sensitive.

Specific dress and grooming guidelines are as follows:

1 . Hair shall be clean and neatly groomed with the following restrictions on length:

Male Students:

A. The back of the hair shall not be below the bottom of a regular collar.

B. The hair on the sides shall not be below the bottom of the ear.

C. A neatly trimmed mustache, not to extend below the corner of the mouth, shall be allowed; other facial hair shall not be allowed. The length of sideburns shall not exceed the bottom of the ear.

D. The front of the hair shall not be below the eyebrows.

E. Student hair color should be a natural color, i.e., black, blonde, brown, red, etc.

Unnatural colors such as green, purple, blue, etc. are unacceptable.

2 Hair styles, trademarks, clothing, or symbols that identify a student with a particular gang, clan, or movement shall not be permitted. No bandanas will be permitted. Styles such as forms of mohawks, knobs, designs on the head (words or pictures) or any style that is in defiance of authority shall not be permitted. These are examples that, in the principals judgment, may reasonably be expected to cause disruption of or interference with normal school operation.

3 Students must wear full-fitting clothing, appropriate in length as determined by the campus principal. All clothing shall be hemmed.

4 Pants shall fit at the waist. Undergarments may not be visible at any time. No pajama style pants shall be worn.

5 Males may not wear earrings at school during the normal school day. (7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.)

6 Students may have no visible body piercing including tongue.

7 Students may not wear wallet chains or heavy chain necklaces.

8 Students shall not wear tank tops or tops resembling tank tops, bare midriff tops, low neckline or low backline tops. No mesh shirts shall be worn without a full under shirt. All students shall wear appropriate underclothing.

9 Clothing with slits, or tears shall not be worn. (Except clothing with fringes)

10 Students shall not wear cutoff, biker, slider, short-shorts, running, or plastic shorts of all types.

11 Transparent items of clothing may not be worn.

12 Neither caps, hats, nor sunglasses shall be worn at school during the normal school day. (7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.)

13 Skirts, shorts, dresses, and similar attire must be of a length necessary to avoid comment. The length of such garments should be no shorter than approximately three inches above the knee. Appropriateness of attire determined at principals discretion.

14 Lined-rounded tail shirts worn as jackets may be worn outside the pants. All shirts and blouses with rounded tails should be worn inside the pants or skirts at all times.

15 All tattoos must be covered at school and school related events.

16 Swim shoes and house shoes may not be worn during the normal school day. (7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.) The student and parent may determine the student's personal dress and grooming standards, provided that they comply with the general guidelines set out above in the student discipline management plan.

If the principal determines that a student's grooming and/or dress violates the dress code, the student shall be given an opportunity to correct the problem at school. If not corrected, the student shall be assigned to in-school suspension for the remainder of the day or until the problem is corrected. Repeated offenses may result in more serious disciplinary action. Appropriate discipline procedures shall be followed in all cases. (See FO, FOA, FOD)

The principal, in cooperation with the sponsor, coach, or other person in charge of an

extracurricular activity, may regulate the dress and grooming of students who participate in the activity. Students who violate these standards may be removed or excluded from the activity for a period determined by the principal or sponsor and may be subject to other disciplinary action. (See FO, FOA, FOD.)

### **PAGING DEVICES, DIGITAL/CELLULAR TELEPHONES & AUDIO EQUIPMENT PROHIBITED**

Possession of the paging devices/cellular phones are considered a serious offense. All paging devices/cellular phones used on school property during the instructional day of 8:00 a.m. to 3:20 p.m. will be confiscated. For the first offense, paging devices/cellular phones will be held in the principal's office until the student secures the paging device/cell phone at the end of the day. No administrative fees for the first offense. For the second offense, paging devices/cellular phones will be held in the principal's office for the rest of the school day. Parents may obtain the release of the paging devices/cellular phones for an administrative fee of \$15.00 following the end of the school day schedule SIM Cards will only be released after the \$15.00 administrative fee has been paid. FNCE (LOCAL)

Third Ofense Phone will be held in the principal's office for 30 days at which time the phone will be released to the parent.guardian of the parent/guardian of the student for a fee of \$30.00 Radios, tape players, cellular/digital telephones, headphones, compact disc players, or any other audio equipment are not to be brought to school or any school activity without the permission of the campus principal. Audio equipment brought to school in violation of this regulation will be confiscated.

### **SCHOOL BUSES**

Any student who fails to comply with that code or established rules of conduct while on school transportation may be denied transportation services and shall be subject to disciplinary action. The following rules shall apply to student conduct on school transportation:

- 1 Passengers shall follow the driver's directions at all times.
- 2 Passengers shall board and leave the bus in an orderly manner at the designated bus stop nearest their home.
- 3 Passengers shall not stand if there is a seat available. If a passenger must ride standing, the passenger shall face the front and hold on to the seat rails.
- 4 Passengers shall keep books, band instrument cases, feet, and other objects out of the aisle of the bus.
- 5 Passengers shall not deface the bus and/or its equipment.
- 6 Passengers shall not extend head, hands, arms, or legs out of the window nor hold any object out of the window nor throw objects within or out of the bus.
- 7 Passengers shall not smoke, or use any form of tobacco.
- 8 Usual classroom conduct shall be observed. Unruly conduct, including the use of obscene language, will subject the passenger to disciplinary action.
- 9 Upon leaving the bus, the passenger will wait for the driver's signal before crossing in front of the bus.
- 10 Drivers may assign seats to passengers.
- 11 Students may not exit the bus at any place other than their regular stop without a written permission slip from a parent/guardian.

The following procedures shall be followed when a discipline concern arises on a bus serving a regular route or an extracurricular activity:

1. A conference involving the appropriate administrator, the student passenger, the driver, and parent(s) may be required.
2. The appropriate administrator may suspend the student's bus-riding privileges. If such a

suspension occurs, the parents will be notified prior to the time the suspension takes effect.

3. In the case of serious misconduct that endangers the safety of other passengers or the driver, the driver shall have the authority to put the student off the bus or to call law enforcement assistance; the principal and parents shall be notified of the situation as soon as possible. The student shall not be provided bus service again until a conference involving all persons listed above has been held.

4. Because the driver's primary responsibility is for safe driving, it is recognized that direct visual supervision cannot and should not be constant. Thus, the burden of proof of student misconduct for the drivers to assign students to specified seats is not required.

Disciplinary sanctions and changes in transportation for a student with a disability shall be made in accordance with the provisions of the student's Individual Education Plan (IEP) for students considered disabled under IDEA or the individually designed program for students considered disabled under Section 504. Video cameras may be used in district vehicles to promote compliance with rules of conduct.

#### **SMOKING AND TOBACCO**

Senate Bill I made the use of all tobacco products illegal on or off school property where there are school sanctioned activities. Any student in violation of this policy shall be subject to disciplinary action.

Additionally, the Texas Legislature, changed the Texas Health and Safety Code, Chapter 161 (Public Health Provisions) Subchapter N (Tobacco use by Minors), section 161.252, effective January 1, 1998; made possession, purchase, consumption, or receipt of cigarettes or tobacco products by minors a crime, punishable through the court system. Appropriate discipline sanctions will be determined at the discretion of the campus principal.

#### **ZERO TOLERANCE**

Waskom Secondary Schools (grades 5-12) have adopted a program of "Zero Tolerance" toward drugs, weapons and violence. It is important that all students and their parents understand that should they choose to become involved in any of these activities on school property or school activities they will face serious consequences.

During the school year, if students choose to fight on school property including school buses, the student, involved could be arrested by the Waskom ISD Police Department, be assigned to Alternative school and charges of disorderly conduct will be filed by a campus principal. This charge carries a maximum penalty of a \$500.00 fine and 80 hours of community service work, for the first offense. Appropriate discipline sanctions will be determined at the discretion of the campus principal.

