

## *Changes to the Jones Elementary/Intermediate 2013-2014 Student Handbook & Code of Conduct*

In addition to the minor editorial changes based on the TASB Model Student Handbook, the following was added:

### P. 6 – Under – “Accommodations for Children of Military Families”

In addition, absences related to a student visiting with his or her parent including a step parent or legal guardian who has been called to active duty for, is on leave from, or is returning from deployment at least four months will be excused by the district. The district will permit no more than 5 excused absences per year for this purpose. For the absence to be excused, the absence must occur no earlier than the 60th day before deployment or no later than the 30th day after the parent’s return from deployment.

### P. 10 – Under – “Exemptions to Compulsory Attendance”

- For students in the conservatorship (custody) of the state
- Mental health or therapy appointments

As listed in Section I at Accommodations for Children of Military Families, absences of up to five days will be excused for a student to visit with a parent, stepparent, or legal guardian who has been called to duty for, is on leave from, or immediately returned from certain deployments.

### P. 12 & 33 – Under “Doctor’s Note After An Absence for Illness” and “Physical Activity for students in Elementary.....”

A parent may NOT excuse their child from physical education activities/class for more than 3 consecutive days without a doctor’s note.

### P. 21 – Under “Personal Counseling”

As a parent, if you are concerned about your child’s mental or emotional health, please speak with the school counselor for a list of resources that may be of assistance.

### P. 21 – Under “Credit by Exam”

The exams offered by the district have been approved by the School Board of Trustees.

A student in elementary school will be eligible to accelerate to the next grade level if the student scores at least 80 on each exam in the subject areas of language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies, a district administrator recommends that the student be accelerated, and the student's parent gives written approval of the grade advancement.

#### P. 31 – Under “Head Lice”

Head lice, although not an illness or a disease, is very common among children and is spread very easily through head to head contact during play, sports, or nap time and when children share things like brushes, combs, hats, and headphones. Because lice spread so easily, the district will need to exclude any student found to have live lice until after one treatment of an FDA –approved shampoo or cream rinse, which can be purchased from a drug store or grocery store.

If careful observation indicates that a student has head lice, the school nurse will contact the student's parent and inform the parent that the child will need to be picked up from school and will need to stay home until after an initial treatment is applied. After the student has undergone one treatment, the parent should check in with the school nurse to discuss the treatment used. The nurse can also offer additional recommendations, including subsequent treatments and how best to get rid of lice and prevent their return.

More information on head lice can be obtained from the TDSHS Web Site at: <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/schoolhealth/lice.shtm>.

#### P. 42 – Under “Report Cards, Progress Reports and Conferences”

**Progress Reports:** At the end of the third and sixth week of the 9 weeks grading periods, the school will provide notice of progress to the parent or guardian of a student whose grade average in any class is lower than 75. Progress reports must be signed and returned within 5 school days.

**Report Cards:** Grades in all subjects will be reported to parents and students at the end of each 9 weeks grading period. The report shall include the number of times the student has been absent. For students in special programs, **the report card will clearly specify that curriculum is being modified.**

#### **PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES**

A parent conference will be held at the end of the first quarter with every parent and then at the end of the third quarter with at risk students. It is strongly recommended that parent conferences continue to occur during the school year and that teachers strive to keep parents well informed about their child's academic progress.

Teachers follow grading guidelines that have been approved by the principal pursuant to the board adopted policy and are designed to reflect each student's relative mastery of each assignment for the grading period, semester, or course. State law provides that a test or course grade issued by a teacher cannot be changed unless the board determines that the grade was arbitrary or contains an error, or that the teacher did not follow the district's grading policy. [See policy EIA(LOCAL).]

Questions about grade calculation should first be discussed with the teacher; if the question is not resolved, the student or parent may request a conference with the principal in accordance with FNG(LOCAL).

The report card or unsatisfactory progress report will state whether tutorials are required for a student who receives a grade lower than 70 in a class or subject. Report cards and unsatisfactory progress reports must be signed by the parent and should be returned to the school within 5 days.

#### **P. 42 – Under “Pledges of Allegiance and Minute of Silence”**

In addition, state law requires that each campus provide for the observance of one minute of silence at the beginning of the first class period when September 11 falls on a regular school day in remembrance of those who lost their lives on September 11, 2001.

#### **P. 49 – Under “Substance Abuse Prevention and Intervention”**

If you are worried that your child may be using or is in danger of experimenting, using, or abusing illegal drugs or other prohibited substances, please contact the school counselor.

The school counselor can provide you with a list of community resources that may be of assistance to you. The TDSHS maintains information regarding children's mental health and substance abuse intervention services on its Web site: <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/mhsa-child-adolescent-services/>.

#### **P. 50 – Under “Buses and Other School Vehicles”**

For the safety of the operator of the vehicle and all passengers, students must board buses or other vehicles only at authorized stops, and drivers must unload passengers only at authorized stops.

## **Changes to the Code of Conduct:**

No changes as of July 2, 2013 – possible changes after July 8, 2013