

**Agenda of Special Called**  
**The Board of Trustees**  
**Florence Independent School District**

A Special Called of the Board of Trustees of Florence Independent School District will be held July 24, 2025, beginning at 6:30 PM in the Florence High School Library, 401 FM-970, Florence, TX 76527.

Videoconference Notice: A quorum of the Board of Trustees will be physically present at the Florence High School Library, 401 FM 970, Florence, Texas 76527, and it is the intent to have a quorum of the Board present at that location. Pursuant to Texas Government Code 551.127 if a quorum of the Board is physically present at the designated location, other Trustees may attend and participate in this meeting via videoconference.

In accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act, the board may enter into closed session at any time during deliberations pursuant to TOMA Governance Code Sections.

- 551.071 (consultation with attorney):
- 551.072 (deliberation regarding real property):
- 551.073 (deliberation regarding prospective gift):
- 551.074 (personnel matters):
- 551.076 (deliberation regarding security devices):
- 551.082 (discipline of student or complaints against employees):
- 551.083 (consultation with representative of employee group): and
- 551.084 (excluding witnesses from board investigation):

When appropriate the board may provide a brief clarification of board actions (not exceeding five minutes) immediately prior to closed session and/or prior to adjournment.

The subjects to be discussed or considered or upon which any formal action may be taken are listed below. Items do not have to be taken in the same order as shown on this meeting notice.

- I. **Call To Order**
- II. **Regular Business: Consideration, Discussion and Appropriate Action**
  - II.A. Consideration and Possible Action to Approve the Florence ISD Student Code of Conduct for the 2025-2026 School Year  
**Presenter:** Rick Kirkpatrick/Sandy Slade
- III. **Reports (No Board Action Required)**
  - III.A. Florence ISD Student Handbook for the 2025-2026 School Year
- IV. **Adjournment**

**FLORENCE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT  
2025-2026**



Student Code of Conduct

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# Student Code of Conduct

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## Student Code of Conduct

### Accessibility

If you have difficulty accessing the information in this document because of disability, please contact your student's campus principal.

### Purpose

The Student Code of Conduct ("Code of Conduct"), as required by [Chapter 37](#) of the Texas Education Code, provides methods and options for managing student behavior, preventing and intervening in student discipline problems, and imposing discipline.

The law requires the district to define misconduct that may—or must—result in a range of specific disciplinary consequences, including removal from a regular classroom or campus, out-of-school suspension, placement in a disciplinary alternative education program (DAEP), placement in a juvenile justice alternative education program (JJAEP), or expulsion from school.

This Code of Conduct has been adopted by the Florence ISD board of trustees and developed with the advice of the district-level planning and decision-making committee. It provides information to parents and students regarding standards of conduct, consequences of misconduct, and procedures for administering discipline. This Code of Conduct remains in effect during summer school and at all school-related events and activities outside the school year until the board adopts an updated version for the next school year.

In accordance with state law, the Code of Conduct shall be posted at each school campus or shall be available for review at the campus principal's office. Additionally, the Code of Conduct shall be available at the campus behavior coordinator's office and [https://www.florenceisd.net/92057\\_2](https://www.florenceisd.net/92057_2). Parents shall be notified of any conduct violation that may result in a student being suspended, placed in a DAEP or JJAEP, expelled, or taken into custody by a law enforcement officer under [Chapter 37](#) of the Education Code.

Not later than the first day of the 2025-2026 school year, the Texas Education Agency (TEA) shall prepare and provide to each school district a report identifying each law relating to school discipline that was amended or added by the 89th Legislature, Regular Session, 2025. A school district shall provide to each student and the parent of or person standing in parental relation to the student the prepared report.

Because the Code of Conduct is adopted by the district's board of trustees, it has the force of policy. In the event of a conflict between the Code of Conduct and the Student Handbook, the Code of Conduct shall prevail.

Please note: The discipline of students with disabilities who are eligible for services under federal law ([Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973](#)) is subject to the provisions of those laws.

# School District Authority and Jurisdiction

## School District Authority and Jurisdiction

School rules and the district's authority to administer discipline apply whenever the interest of the district is involved, on or off school grounds, in conjunction with or independent of classes and school-sponsored activities.

The district has disciplinary authority over a student:

1. During the regular school day;
2. While the student is traveling on district transportation;
3. During lunch periods in which a student is allowed to leave campus;
4. At any school-related activity, regardless of time or location;
5. For any school-related misconduct, regardless of time or location;
6. When retaliation against a school employee, board member, or volunteer occurs or is threatened, regardless of time or location;
7. When a student engages in cyberbullying, as defined by [Education Code 37.0832](#);
8. When criminal mischief is committed on or off school property or at a school-related event;
9. For certain offenses committed within 300 feet of school property as measured from any point on the school's real property boundary line;
10. For certain offenses committed while on school property or while attending a school-sponsored or school-related activity of another district in Texas;
11. When the student commits a felony, as provided by [Education Code 37.006, 37.007, or 37.0081](#); and
12. When the student is required to register as a sex offender.

## Campus Behavior Coordinator

As required by law, a **single** person at each campus must be designated to serve as the campus behavior coordinator (CBC). The designated person may be the principal, or any other campus administrator selected by the principal. Additional staff members may assist the CBC in the performance of the CBC's duties, provided that the CBC personally verifies that all aspects of [Chapter 37, Subchapter A](#) are appropriately implemented. The CBC is primarily responsible for maintaining student discipline. The CBC shall monitor disciplinary referrals and report the following behavior to the campus's threat assessment and safe and supportive school team:

- Conduct that contains the elements of the offense of terroristic threat under [Penal Code 22.07](#);
- Conduct that contains the elements of the offense of unlawfully carrying weapons under [Penal Code 46.02](#);

## School District Authority and Jurisdiction

- Conduct that contains the elements of the offense of exhibiting, using, or threatening to exhibit or use a firearm under [Education Code 37.125](#); and
- Any concerning student behaviors or behavioral trends that may pose a serious risk of violence to the student or others.

The district shall post on its website and in the Student Handbook, for each campus, the email address and telephone number of the person serving as CBC. Contact information may be found at each campus webpage and at [https://www.florenceisd.net/92057\\_2](https://www.florenceisd.net/92057_2).

### Threat Assessment and Safe and Supportive School Team

The CBC or other appropriate administrator will work closely with the campus threat assessment and safe and supportive school team to implement the district's threat assessment policy and procedures, as required by law, and shall take appropriate disciplinary action in accordance with the Code of Conduct.

### Searches

District officials may conduct searches of students, their belongings, and their vehicles in accordance with state and federal law and district policy. Searches of students shall be conducted in a reasonable and nondiscriminatory manner. Refer to the district's policies at FNF(LEGAL) and FNF(LOCAL) for more information regarding investigations and searches.

The district has the right to search a vehicle driven to school by a student and parked on school property whenever there is reasonable suspicion to believe it contains articles or materials prohibited by the district.

Desks, lockers, district-provided technology, and similar items are the property of the district and are provided for student use as a matter of convenience. District property is subject to search or inspection at any time without notice.

### Reporting Crimes

The principal or CBC and other school administrators as appropriate shall report crimes as required by law and shall call local law enforcement when an administrator suspects that a crime has been committed on campus.

### Security Personnel

The board utilizes police officers, school resource officers (SROs), and school guardians to ensure the security and protection of students, staff, and property. In accordance with law, the board has coordinated with the CBC and other district employees to ensure appropriate law enforcement duties are assigned to these persons. Provisions addressing the various types of security personnel can be found in the CKE policy series.

The law enforcement duties of school resource officers (SROs) are in addition to, and not in lieu of, and in no way relieve the Florence PD of its obligation to provide, routine patrol services on the same basis as are provided to other School campuses or other properties within the City of Florence, Texas. The duties are as follows:

## **School District Authority and Jurisdiction**

1. Enforcement duties and responsibilities of the Police and School Cooperation Program (PSCP) Officer:
  - a. Protection of the lives and property of the students, teachers, staff members and visitors of the Florence High School Campus Florence Middle School Campus, and other Florence school campuses as directed.
  - b. Enforcement of Federal, State and Local criminal laws and ordinances.
  - c. Investigations of criminal activity and accidents occurring at assigned campuses.
  - d. Provision of traffic control during the arrival and departure of students on an as needed basis, based upon law enforcement and school district determination of need.
  - e. Provision of assistance to other law enforcement officers, provided such assistance does not interfere with the officer's assigned duties on his or her campus.
  - f. The PSCP Officer shall not act as a school disciplinarian. However, if the principal believes and incident is a violation of the law, the principal may contact the PSCP Officer and the PSCP Officer shall then determine whether law enforcement action is appropriate.
  - g. Prompt notification to the Florence ISD Administration of any law enforcement action taken.
  - h. Enforcement of District rules and removal of violators at the request of a Florence ISD Administrator, to the extent permitted by law.
  - i. Notification to the campus principal prior to requesting additional police assistance, when practicable.
  - j. Coordination of activities with the campus principal and staff members concerned.
  - k. Coordination with and request for permission from Florence ISD Administration prior to enacting any program with Florence ISD.
  - l. Participation in individual and small group discussions with students, in order to further establish rapport with the students.
  - m. Accessibility for conferencing with students, parents, and faculty members in order to assist with law enforcement or crime prevention issues.
  - n. Maintaining familiarity with all community agencies offering assistance to youths and their families, such as mental health clinics, drug treatment centers, etc., such that the PSCP Officer can make referrals to such agencies when necessary and act as a resource person to the students, faculty, and staff of Florence ISD.
  - o. Assistance to the campus principal with identifying situations or school protocol, on campus or during school sponsored events, that have potential to become a

## **School District Authority and Jurisdiction**

dangerous situation and development of action plan(s) that help prevent or minimize negative impacts.

- p. Maintenance of detailed and accurate records of the operation of the Police and School Cooperation Program.
  - q. Maintaining a presence and visibility on all school campuses at all times when students are present.
  - r. Provision of assistance if problems arise in common areas of the campuses, inside and outside, except that PSCP Officers shall not perform routine administrative duties such as lunchroom duty, acting as a hall monitor, bus duty, or other administrative monitoring duties.
2. Instructional responsibility of the PSCP Officer at secondary campuses:
- a. Guest speaking roles on a non-full-time basis, to provide instruction relevant to district needs as listed below.
  - b. Provision of a variety of specialized, short-term law-related presentations available to the high school faculty and students.
  - c. Development of expertise in various subjects that can be presented to students, including basic understanding of law, the role of the police officer and the police force mission, and other topics that relate to student or school safety.
3. Duties and Responsibilities of Supervisor:
- a. Program development and administration.
  - b. Approval of reports, oversight of problem-solving efforts, provision of leadership, training, direction, and evaluations,
  - c. Establishment of rapport with Florence ISD campus principals.
  - d. Performance of scheduled and non-scheduled visits to Florence ISD campuses.
  - e. Acting as a liaison with Florence ISD principals.

### **AND**

The duty of school guardians is to respond and assist, as needed, to a threat of or in the event of an active shooter.

### **“Parent” Defined**

Throughout the Code of Conduct and related discipline policies, the term “parent” includes a parent, legal guardian, or other person having lawful control of the child.

### **Participating in Graduation Activities**

The district has the right to limit a student’s participation in graduation activities for violating the district’s Code of Conduct.

Participation might include a speaking role, as established by district policy and procedures.

## School District Authority and Jurisdiction

Students eligible to give the opening and closing remarks at graduation shall be notified by the campus principal. Notwithstanding any other eligibility requirements, in order to be considered eligible, a student shall not have engaged in any misconduct that resulted in an out-of-school suspension, removal to a DAEP, or expulsion during the semester immediately preceding graduation.

The valedictorian and salutatorian may also have speaking roles at graduation. No student shall be eligible to have such a speaking role if he or she engaged in any misconduct that resulted in an out-of-school suspension, removal to a DAEP, or expulsion during the semester immediately preceding graduation.

### Unauthorized Persons

In accordance with [Education Code 37.105](#), a school administrator or SRO shall have the authority to refuse entry to or eject a person from district property if the person refuses to leave peaceably on request and:

1. The person poses a substantial risk of harm to any person; or
2. The person behaves in a manner that is inappropriate for a school setting and persists in the behavior after being given a verbal warning that the behavior is inappropriate and may result in refusal of entry or ejection.

Appeals regarding refusal of entry or ejection from district property may be filed in accordance with policies FNG(LOCAL) or GF(LOCAL), as appropriate. However, the timelines for the district's grievance procedures shall be adjusted as necessary to permit the person to address the board in person within 90 calendar days, unless the complaint is resolved before a board hearing.

[See Restrictions During Placement for information regarding a student assigned to DAEP at the time of graduation.]

# Standards for Student Conduct

## Standards for Student Conduct

Each student is expected to:

- Demonstrate courtesy, even when others do not.
- Behave in a responsible manner.
- Exercise self-discipline.
- Attend all classes regularly and on time.
- Bring appropriate materials and assignments to class.
- Meet district and campus standards of grooming and dress.
- Obey all campus and classroom rules.
- Respect the rights and privileges of students, teachers, and other district staff and volunteers.
- Respect the property of others, including district property and facilities.
- Cooperate with and assist the school staff in maintaining safety, order, and discipline.
- Adhere to the requirements of the Code of Conduct.

# General Conduct Violations

## General Conduct Violations

The categories of conduct below are prohibited at school, in vehicles owned or operated by the district, and at all school-related activities, but the list does not include the most severe offenses. In the subsequent sections on In-School Suspension, Out-of-School Suspension, Disciplinary Alternative Education Program (DAEP) Placement, Placement and/or Expulsion for Certain Offenses, and Expulsion, those offenses that require or permit specific consequences are listed. Any offense, however, may be severe enough to result in Removal from the Regular Educational Setting.

### Disregard for Authority

Students shall not:

- Fail to comply with directives given by school personnel.
- Leave school grounds or school-sponsored events without permission.
- Disobey rules for conduct in district vehicles.
- Refuse to accept discipline or consequence assigned by a teacher or principal.

### Mistreatment of Others

Students shall not:

- Use profanity or vulgar language or make obscene gestures.
- Fight or scuffle. [See Placement and/or Expulsion for Certain Offenses for assault.]
- Threaten a district student, employee, or volunteer, including off school property if the conduct causes a substantial disruption to the educational environment.
- Engage in any behavior that violates the Student Code of Conduct and is motivated by antisemitism. [See Glossary]
- Engage in bullying, cyberbullying, harassment, or making hit lists. (See Glossary for all four terms.)
- Release or threaten to release intimate visual material of a minor or a student who is 18 years of age or older without the student's consent.
- Engage in sexual or gender-based harassment or sexual abuse, whether by word, gesture, or any other conduct directed toward another person, including a district student, employee, board member, or volunteer.
- Engage in conduct that constitutes dating violence. [See Glossary]
- Engage in inappropriate or indecent exposure of private body parts.
- Participate in hazing. [See Glossary]
- Coerce an individual to act through the use or threat of force.

## General Conduct Violations

- Commit extortion or blackmail.
- Engage in inappropriate verbal, physical, or sexual conduct directed toward another person, including a district student, employee, or volunteer.
- Record the voice or image of another without the prior consent of the individual being recorded or in any way that disrupts the educational environment or invades the privacy of others.

### Property Offenses

Students shall not:

- Damage or vandalize property owned by others. [See Placement and/or Expulsion for Certain Offenses for felony criminal mischief.]
- Deface or damage school property, including textbooks, technology and electronic resources, lockers, furniture, and other equipment, with graffiti or by other means.
- Steal from students, staff, or the school.
- Commit or assist in a robbery or theft, even if it does not constitute a felony according to the Penal Code. [See Placement and/or Expulsion for Certain Offenses for felony robbery, aggravated robbery, and theft.]
- Enter, without authorization, district facilities that are not open for operations.

### Possession of Prohibited Items

Students shall not possess or use:

- Air pods
- Fireworks of any kind, smoke or stink bombs, or any other pyrotechnic device;
- A razor, box cutter, chain, or any other object used in a way that threatens or inflicts bodily injury to another person;
- A “look-alike” weapon that is intended to be used as a weapon or could reasonably be perceived as a weapon;
- An air gun or BB gun;
- A short barrel firearm;
- Ammunition;
- A hand instrument designed to cut or stab another by being thrown;
- A firearm silencer or suppressor;
- \*A location-restricted knife;
- \*A club;
- \*A firearm;

## General Conduct Violations

- A stun gun;
- Knuckles;
- A pocketknife or any other small knife;
- Mace or pepper spray;
- Pornographic material;
- Tobacco products (including nicotine pouches), cigarettes, e-cigarettes, and any component, part, or accessory for an e-cigarette device;
- Matches or a lighter;
- A laser pointer, unless it is for an approved use; or
- Any articles not generally considered to be weapons, including school supplies, when the principal or designee determines that a danger exists.

\*See Placement and/or Expulsion for Certain Offenses for weapons and firearms. In many circumstances, possession of these items is punishable by mandatory expulsion under federal or state law.

### Possession of Personal Communication Devices

Students shall not:

- Florence Elementary School: Bring or use a personal communication device, including a cell phone, or other electronic device on school property during the school day.
- Florence Middle and High Schools: Use a personal communication device, including a cell phone, or other electronic device on school property during the school day and shall store the device in accordance with the method of storage established by the district. [See Glossary]
- The district may authorize the use of a personal communication device for the following reasons:
  - To implement an individualized education program (IEP) or for a plan created under [Section 504, Rehabilitation Act of 1973 \(29 U.S.C Section 794\)](#) or a similar program or plan;
  - With documented need based on a directive from a qualified physician; or
  - To comply with a health or safety requirement imposed by law or as part of the district's safety protocols.

Inappropriate use of a personal communication device during the school day will result in disciplinary action in accordance with this Code of Conduct.

## General Conduct Violations

### Illegal, Prescription, and Over-the-Counter Drugs

Students shall not:

- Possess, use, give, or sell alcohol or an illegal drug. [See Disciplinary Alternative Education Program (DAEP) Placement and Expulsion for mandatory and permissive consequences under state law.]
- Possess or sell seeds or pieces of marijuana in less than a usable amount.
- Possess, use, give, or sell paraphernalia related to any prohibited substance. [See Glossary for “paraphernalia.”]
- Possess, use, abuse, or sell look-alike drugs or attempt to pass items off as drugs or contraband.
- Abuse the student’s own prescription drug, give a prescription drug to another student, or possess or be under the influence of another person’s prescription drug on school property or at a school-related event. [See Glossary for “abuse.”]
- Abuse over-the-counter drugs. [See Glossary for “abuse.”]
- Be under the influence of prescription or over-the-counter drugs that cause impairment to body or mind. [See Glossary for “under the influence.”]
- Have or take prescription drugs or over-the-counter drugs at school other than as provided by district policy.

### Misuse of Technology Resources and the Internet

Students shall not:

- Violate policies, rules, or agreements signed by the student or the student’s parent regarding the use of technology resources.
- Attempt to access or circumvent passwords or other security-related information of the district, students, or employees or upload or create computer viruses, including off school property if the conduct causes a substantial disruption to the educational environment.
- Attempt to alter, destroy, or disable district technology resources including, but not limited to, computers and related equipment, district data, the data of others, or other networks connected to the district’s system, including off school property if the conduct causes a substantial disruption to the educational environment.
- Use the internet or other electronic communications to threaten or harass district students, employees, board members, or volunteers, including off school property if the conduct causes a substantial disruption to the educational environment or infringes on the rights of another student at school.
- Send, post, deliver, or possess electronic messages that are abusive, obscene, sexually oriented, threatening, harassing, damaging to another’s reputation, or illegal, including cyberbullying and “sexting,” either on or off school property, if the conduct causes a

## **General Conduct Violations**

substantial disruption to the educational environment or infringes on the rights of another student at school.

- Use the internet or other electronic communication to engage in or encourage illegal behavior or threaten school safety, including off school property if the conduct causes a substantial disruption to the educational environment or infringes on the rights of another student at school.
- Utilize artificial intelligence in a way that would constitute academic dishonesty or as a means of engaging in any other prohibited conduct.

## **Safety Transgressions**

Students shall not:

- Possess published or electronic material that is designed to promote or encourage illegal behavior or that could threaten school safety.
- Engage in verbal (oral or written) exchanges that threaten the safety of another student, a school employee, or school property.
- Make false accusations or perpetrate hoaxes regarding school safety.
- Engage in any conduct that school officials might reasonably believe will substantially disrupt the school program or incite violence.
- Throw objects that can cause bodily injury or property damage.
- Discharge a fire extinguisher without valid cause.

## **Miscellaneous Offenses**

Students shall not:

- Violate dress and grooming standards as communicated in the Student Handbook.
- Engage in academic dishonesty, which includes cheating or copying the work of another student, unauthorized use of artificial intelligence, plagiarism, and unauthorized communication between students during an examination.
- Gamble.
- Falsify records, passes, or other school-related documents.
- Engage in actions or demonstrations that substantially disrupt or materially interfere with school activities.
- Repeatedly violate other communicated campus or classroom standards of conduct.

The district may impose campus or classroom rules in addition to those found in the Code of Conduct. These rules may be posted in classrooms or given to the student and may or may not constitute violations of the Code of Conduct.

# Discipline Management Techniques

## Discipline Management Techniques

Discipline shall be designed to improve conduct and encourage students to be responsible members of the school community. Disciplinary action shall draw on the professional judgment of teachers and administrators and on a range of discipline management techniques, including restorative practices. Discipline shall be based on the seriousness of the offense, the student's age and grade level, the frequency of misbehavior, the student's attitude, the effect of the misconduct on the school environment, and statutory requirements.

### First-Time Offense of Possession or Use of Nicotine Delivery Product or E-Cigarette

An appropriate administrator may place a student in a disciplinary alternative education program for the first-time offense of possession or use of a nicotine delivery product or e-cigarette, as defined by [Section 161.081, Health and Safety Code](#).

If a student who possesses or uses an e-cigarette is not placed in a disciplinary alternative education program for the first-time offense under [Education Code 37.008](#), the student shall be placed in in-school suspension for a period of at least 10 school days.

### Students with Disabilities

The discipline of students with disabilities is subject to applicable state and federal law in addition to the Code of Conduct. In the event of any conflict, the district shall comply with federal law. For more information regarding discipline of students with disabilities, see policy FOF(LEGAL).

In accordance with the [Education Code](#), a student who receives special education services may not be disciplined in a manner that results in a change to the student's educational placement for conduct meeting the definition of bullying, cyberbullying, harassment, or making hit lists [see Glossary] until an Admission, Review, and Dismissal (ARD) committee meeting has been held to review the conduct.

In deciding whether to order suspension, DAEP placement, or expulsion, regardless of whether the action is mandatory or discretionary, the district shall take into consideration a disability that substantially impairs the student's capacity to appreciate the wrongfulness of the student's conduct.

### Techniques

The following discipline management techniques may be used alone, in combination, or as part of progressive interventions for behavior prohibited by the Code of Conduct or by campus or classroom rules:

- Verbal correction, oral or written.
- Cooling-off time or a brief "time-out" period, in accordance with law.
- Seating changes within the classroom or vehicles owned or operated by the district.
- Temporary confiscation of items that disrupt the educational process.
- Rewards or demerits.

## Discipline Management Techniques

- Behavioral contracts.
- Counseling by teachers, school counselors, or administrative personnel.
- Parent-teacher conferences.
- Behavior coaching.
- Anger management classes.
- Mediation (victim-offender).
- Classroom circles.
- Family group conferencing.
- Grade reductions for cheating, plagiarism, and as otherwise permitted by policy.
- Detention, including outside regular school hours.
- Sending the student to the office, another assigned area, or to in-school suspension (ISS).
- Assignment of school duties, such as cleaning or picking up litter.
- Withdrawal of privileges, such as participation in extracurricular activities, eligibility for seeking and holding honorary offices, or membership in school-sponsored clubs and organizations.
- Penalties identified in student organizations' extracurricular standards of behavior.
- Restriction or revocation of district transportation privileges.
- School-assessed and school-administered probation.
- In-school suspension, as specified in In-School Suspension.
- Out-of-school suspension, as specified in Out-of-School Suspension.
- Placement in a DAEP, as specified in Disciplinary Alternative Education Program (DAEP) Placement.
- Expulsion and/or placement in an alternative educational setting, as specified in Placement and/or Expulsion for Certain Offenses.
- Expulsion, as specified in Expulsion.
- Referral to an outside agency or legal authority for criminal prosecution in addition to disciplinary measures imposed by the district.
- Other strategies and consequences as determined by school officials.

### Prohibited Aversive Techniques

Aversive techniques are prohibited for use with students and are defined as techniques or interventions intended to reduce the reoccurrence of a behavior by intentionally inflicting significant physical or emotional discomfort or pain. Aversive techniques include:

## Discipline Management Techniques

- Using techniques designed or likely to cause physical pain, other than corporal punishment as permitted by district policy. [See policy FO(LOCAL)]
- Using techniques designed or likely to cause physical pain by electric shock or any procedure involving pressure points or joint locks.
- Directed release of noxious, toxic, or unpleasant spray, mist, or substance near a student's face.
- Denying adequate sleep, air, food, water, shelter, bedding, physical comfort, supervision, or access to a restroom facility.
- Ridiculing or demeaning a student in a manner that adversely affects or endangers the learning or mental health of the student or constitutes verbal abuse.
- Employing a device, material, or object that immobilizes all four of a student's extremities, including prone or supine floor restraint.
- Impairing the student's breathing, including applying pressure to the student's torso or neck or placing something in, on, or over the student's mouth or nose or covering the student's face.
- Restricting the student's circulation.
- Securing the student to a stationary object while the student is standing or sitting.
- Inhibiting, reducing, or hindering the student's ability to communicate.
- Using chemical restraints.
- Using time-out in a manner that prevents the student from being able to be involved in and progress appropriately in the required curriculum or any applicable individualized education program (IEP) goals, including isolating the student using physical barriers.
- Depriving the student of one or more of the student's senses, unless the technique does not cause the student discomfort or complies with the student's IEP or behavior intervention plan (BIP).

### Notification

The CBC shall promptly notify a student's parent by phone or in person of any violation that may result in in-school or out-of-school suspension, placement in a DAEP, placement in a JJAEP, or expulsion. The CBC shall also notify a student's parent if the student is taken into custody by a law enforcement officer under the disciplinary provisions of [Education Code 37.0012\(d\)](#).

A good-faith effort shall be made to provide written notice of the disciplinary action to the student, on the day the action was taken, for delivery to the student's parent. If the parent has not been reached by telephone or in person by 5:00 p.m. of the first business day after the day the disciplinary action was taken, the CBC shall send written notification by U.S. Mail. If the CBC is not able to provide notice to the parent, the principal or designee shall provide the notice.

## **Discipline Management Techniques**

Before the principal or appropriate administrator assigns a student under age 18 to detention outside regular school hours, notice shall be given to the student's parent to inform him or her of the reason for the detention and permit arrangements for necessary transportation.

### **Parental Involvement**

The district has not adopted a policy for parental involvement in school disciplinary placements under [Education Code 37.0014](#).

### **Appeals**

Questions from parents regarding disciplinary measures should be addressed to the teacher, campus administration, or CBC, as appropriate. Appeals or complaints regarding the use of specific discipline management techniques should be addressed in accordance with policy FNG(LOCAL). A copy of this policy may be obtained from the central administration office or online at

<https://pol.tasb.org/PolicyOnline/PolicyDetails?key=1239&code=FNG#legalTabContent>.

The district shall not delay a disciplinary consequence while a student or parent pursues a grievance. In the instance of a student who is accused of conduct that meets the definition of sexual harassment as defined by Title IX, the district will comply with applicable federal law, including the Title IX formal complaint process. [See policies FFH(LEGAL) and (LOCAL)]

## **Removal from the School Bus**

### **Removal from the School Bus**

A bus driver may refer a student to the principal's office or the CBC's office to maintain effective discipline on the bus. The principal or CBC must employ additional discipline management techniques, as appropriate, which can include restricting or revoking a student's bus riding privileges.

To transport students safely, the vehicle operator must focus on driving and not be distracted by student misbehavior. Therefore, when appropriate disciplinary management techniques fail to improve student behavior or when specific misconduct warrants immediate removal, the principal or the CBC may restrict or revoke a student's transportation privileges, in accordance with law.

# Removal from the Regular Educational Setting

## Removal from the Regular Educational Setting

In addition to other discipline management techniques, misconduct may result in removal from the regular educational setting in the form of a routine referral or a formal removal.

### Routine Referral

A routine referral occurs when a teacher sends a student to the CBC's office as a discipline management technique. The CBC shall employ alternative discipline management techniques, including progressive interventions. A teacher or administrator may remove a student from class for behavior that violates this Code of Conduct to maintain effective discipline in the classroom.

### Formal Teacher Removal

A teacher may initiate a formal removal from class if:

1. A student's behavior repeatedly interferes with the teacher's ability to teach the class or with other students' ability to learn.
2. A student demonstrates behavior that is unruly, disruptive, or abusive toward the teacher, another adult, or another student in the classroom.
3. A student engages in conduct that constitutes bullying, as defined by [Education Code 37.0832.0](#).

A teacher, CBC, or other appropriate administrator must notify a parent or person standing in parental relation to the student of the formal removal. A teacher may remove a student from class based on a single incident of behavior.

Within three school days of the formal removal, the CBC or appropriate administrator shall schedule a conference with the student's parent, the student, the teacher who removed the student from class, and any other appropriate administrator.

At the conference, the CBC or appropriate administrator shall inform the student of the alleged misconduct and the proposed consequences. The student shall have an opportunity to respond to the allegations.

When a student is removed from the regular classroom by a teacher and a conference is pending, the CBC or other administrator may place the student in:

- Another appropriate classroom.
- ISS.
- Out-of-school suspension.
- DAEP.

A teacher or administrator must remove a student from class if the student engages in behavior that under the [Education Code](#) requires or permits the student to be placed in a DAEP or expelled. When removing for those reasons, the procedures in the subsequent sections on DAEP or expulsion shall be followed.

## **Removal from the Regular Educational Setting**

### **Returning a Student to the Classroom**

A student who has been formally removed from class by a teacher for conduct against the teacher containing the elements of assault, aggravated assault, sexual assault, or aggravated sexual assault may not be returned to the teacher's class without the teacher's written consent.

A student who has been formally removed by a teacher for any other conduct may not be returned to the teacher's class without the teacher's written consent unless the placement review committee determines that the teacher's class is the best or only alternative, and not later than the third-class day after the day the student was removed from class, a conference in which the teacher was provided an opportunity to participate has been held. The student may not be returned to the teacher's class unless the teacher provides written consent for the student's return or a return to class plan has been prepared for that student.

### **Appeals of Formal Teacher Removals**

A student may appeal the teacher's removal of the student from class to the school's placement review committee or the campus's threat assessment and safe and supportive school team, in accordance with a district policy providing for such an appeal to be made to this team.

# In-School Suspension

## In-School Suspension

An in-school suspension is not subject to any time limit.

A school's principal or other appropriate administrator shall review the in-school suspension of a student at least once every 10 school days after the date of the suspension begins to evaluate the educational progress of the student and to determine if continued in-school suspension is appropriate.

During in-school suspension, a student shall receive appropriate behavioral support services and comparable educational services as the student would receive in the classroom. If the student receives special education services, the student must continue to receive special education and related services specified in the student's individualized education program (IEP) and continue to have an opportunity to progress in the general curriculum.

[See First-Time Offense of Possession or Use of Nicotine Delivery Product or E-Cigarette for limitations to the general rule.]

## Process

Before being suspended, a student shall have an informal conference with the CBC or appropriate administrator, who shall inform the student of the alleged misconduct and give the student an opportunity to respond to the allegation before the administrator makes a decision.

The CBC shall determine the number of days of a student's suspension.

In deciding whether to order in-school suspension, the CBC shall take into consideration:

1. Self-defense [see Glossary];
2. Intent or lack of intent at the time the student engaged in the conduct;
3. The student's disciplinary history;
4. A disability that substantially impairs the student's capacity to appreciate the wrongfulness of the student's conduct;
5. A student's status in the conservatorship of the Department of Family and Protective Services (foster care); or
6. A student's status as homeless.

The appropriate administrator shall determine any restrictions on participation in school-sponsored or school-related extracurricular and cocurricular activities.

# Out-of-School Suspension

## Out-of-School Suspension

### Misconduct

Students may be suspended for behavior listed in the Code of Conduct as a general conduct violation, DAEP offense, or expellable offense.

The district shall not use out-of-school suspension for students below grade 3 unless the conduct meets the requirements established in law.

A student below grade 3 or a student who is homeless shall not be placed in out-of-school suspension unless, while on school property or while attending a school-sponsored or school-related activity on or off school property, the student engages in:

- Conduct that contains the elements of a weapons offense, as provided in [Penal Code sections 46.02 or 46.05](#);
- Conduct that threatens the immediate health and safety of other students in the classroom;
- Documented conduct that results in repeated or significant disruption to the classroom; or
- Selling, giving, or delivering to another person or possessing, using, or being under the influence of any amount of marijuana, an alcoholic beverage, or a controlled substance or dangerous drug as defined by federal or state law.

The district shall use a positive behavior program as a disciplinary alternative for students below grade 3 who commit general conduct violations instead of suspension or placement in a DAEP. The program shall meet the requirements of law.

### Process

State law allows a student to be assigned to out-of-school suspension for no more than three school days per behavior violation, with no limit on the number of times a student may be suspended in a semester or school year.

Before being suspended a student shall have an informal conference with the CBC or appropriate administrator, who shall inform the student of the alleged misconduct and give the student an opportunity to respond to the allegation before the administrator makes a decision.

The CBC shall determine the number of days of a student's suspension, not to exceed three school days.

In deciding whether to order out-of-school suspension, the CBC shall take into consideration:

1. Self-defense [see Glossary];
2. Intent or lack of intent at the time the student engaged in the conduct;
3. The student's disciplinary history;

## **Out-of-School Suspension**

4. A disability that substantially impairs the student's capacity to appreciate the wrongfulness of the student's conduct;
5. A student's status in the conservatorship of the Department of Family and Protective Services (foster care); or
6. A student's status as homeless.

The appropriate administrator shall determine any restrictions on participation in school-sponsored or school-related extracurricular and cocurricular activities.

### **Alternative Assignment**

A parent or person standing in parental relation to the student may submit a written request to the principal or other appropriate administrator to reassign a student placed in out-of-school suspension. The parent or person standing in parental relation to the student must provide information and documentation that they are unable to provide suitable supervision for the student during school hours during the period of the suspension. It is the sole discretion of the principal or other appropriate administrator to reassign the student placed in out-of-school suspension.

### **Coursework During Suspension**

The district shall ensure a student receives access to coursework for foundation curriculum courses while the student is placed in in-school or out-of-school suspension, including at least one method of receiving this coursework that doesn't require the use of the internet.

A student removed from the regular classroom to ISS or another setting, other than a DAEP, will have an opportunity before the beginning of the next school year to complete each course the student was enrolled in at the time of removal. The district may provide the opportunity by any method available, including a correspondence course, another distance learning option, or summer school. The district will not charge the student for any method of completion provided by the district.

# Disciplinary Alternative Education Program (DAEP) Placement

## Disciplinary Alternative Education Program (DAEP) Placement

The DAEP shall be provided in a setting other than the student's regular classroom. An elementary school student may not be placed in a DAEP with a student who is not an elementary school student.

For purposes of DAEP, elementary classification shall be kindergarten-grade 5 and secondary classification shall be grades 6-12.

Summer programs provided by the district shall serve students assigned to a DAEP in conjunction with other students.

A student who is expelled for an offense that otherwise would have resulted in a DAEP placement does not have to be placed in a DAEP in addition to the expulsion.

In deciding whether to place a student in a DAEP, regardless of whether the action is mandatory or discretionary, the CBC shall take into consideration:

1. Self-defense [see Glossary];
2. Intent or lack of intent at the time the student engaged in the conduct;
3. The student's disciplinary history;
4. A disability that substantially impairs the student's capacity to appreciate the wrongfulness of the student's conduct;
5. A student's status in the conservatorship of the Department of Family and Protective Services (foster care); or
6. A student's status as homeless.

## Discretionary Placement: Misconduct That May Result in DAEP Placement

A student may be placed in a DAEP for the following conduct violations:

### Misconduct Identified in State Law

In accordance with state law, a student **may** be placed in a DAEP for any of the following offenses:

- Engaging in bullying that encourages a student to die by suicide.
- Inciting violence against a student through group bullying.
- Releasing or threatening to release intimate visual material of a minor or of a student who is 18 years of age or older without the student's consent.
- Involvement in a public-school fraternity, sorority, or secret society, or gang including participating as a member or pledge, or soliciting another person to become a pledge or member of a public-school fraternity, sorority, secret society, or gang. [see Glossary]
- Involvement in criminal street gang activity. [see Glossary]
- Any criminal mischief, including a felony.
- Assault (no bodily injury) with threat of imminent bodily injury.

## Disciplinary Alternative Education Program (DAEP) Placement

- Assault by offensive or provocative physical contact.
- Engages in conduct that contains the elements of the offense of disruptive activities under [Education Code 37.123](#).
- Engages in conduct that contains the elements of the offense of disruption of classes under [Education Code 37.124](#).
- Possesses or uses an e-cigarette, as defined by [Section 161.081, Health and Safety Code](#), except that if a student who possesses or uses an e-cigarette is not placed in a disciplinary alternative education program for the first-time offense under [Education Code 37.008](#), the student shall be placed in in-school suspension for a period of at least 10 school days. See First-Time Offense of Possession or Use of Nicotine Delivery Product or E-Cigarette for additional information.

In accordance with state law, a student **may** be placed in a DAEP if the superintendent or the superintendent's designee has reasonable belief [see Glossary] that the student engaged in conduct punishable as a felony that occurs off school property and not at a school-sponsored or school-related event, if the student's presence in the regular classroom threatens the safety of other students or teachers or will be detrimental to the educational process. Aggravated robbery or felonies listed as offenses in Title 5 [see Glossary] of the Penal Code are punishable as mandatory expulsions.

The CBC **may** place a student in a DAEP for off-campus conduct for which DAEP placement is required by state law if the administrator does not have knowledge of the conduct before the first anniversary of the date the conduct occurred.

### Mandatory Placement: Misconduct That Requires DAEP Placement

A student **must** be placed in a DAEP if the student:

- Engages in conduct relating to a false alarm or report (including a bomb threat) or a terroristic threat involving a public school. [see Glossary]
- Commits the following offenses on school property, within 300 feet of school property as measured from any point on the school's real property boundary line, or while attending a school-sponsored or school-related activity on or off school property:
  - Engages in conduct punishable as a felony.
  - Commits an assault [see Glossary] under [Penal Code 22.01\(a\)\(1\)](#).
  - Except as provided by [Education Code 37.007\(a\)\(3\)](#), sells, gives, or delivers to another person or possesses, uses, or is under the influence of a controlled substance or dangerous drug in an amount not constituting a felony offense. [School-related felony drug offenses are addressed in Expulsion.] [See Glossary for "under the influence," "controlled substance," and "dangerous drug."]
  - Sells, gives, or delivers to another person or possesses, uses, or is under the influence of marijuana or THC. A student with a valid prescription for low-THC

## Disciplinary Alternative Education Program (DAEP) Placement

cannabis as authorized by [Chapter 487 of the Health and Safety Code](#) does not violate this provision.

- Sells, gives, or delivers to another person an alcoholic beverage; commits a serious act or offense while under the influence of alcohol; or possesses, uses, or is under the influence of alcohol.
- Behaves in a manner that contains the elements of an offense relating to abusable volatile chemicals.
- Sells, gives, or delivers to another person an e-cigarette, as defined by [Section 161.081, Health and Safety Code](#).
- Behaves in a manner that contains the elements of the offense of public lewdness or indecent exposure. [see Glossary]
- Engages in conduct that contains the elements of an offense of harassment against an employee under [Penal Code sections 42.07\(a\)\(1\), \(2\), \(3\), or \(7\)](#).
- Engages in expellable conduct and is six to nine years of age.
- Commits a federal firearms violation and is younger than six years of age.
- Engages in conduct that contains the elements of the offense of retaliation under [Penal Code 36.06](#) against any school employee or volunteer on or off school property.
- Engages in conduct that contains the elements of harassment under [Penal Code 42.07](#) against any school employee or volunteer on or off of school property.

The student receives deferred prosecution [see Glossary], or a court or jury finds that the student has engaged in delinquent conduct [see Glossary], or the superintendent or designee has a reasonable belief [see Glossary] under [Section 53.03, Family Code](#), for conduct defined as any of the following offenses under the Penal Code:

1. A felony offense under [Title 5](#);
2. The offense of deadly conduct under [Section 22.05](#);
3. The felony offense of aggravated robbery under [Section 29.03](#);
4. The offense of disorderly conduct involving a firearm under [Section 42.01\(a\)\(7\) or \(8\)](#); or
5. The offense of unlawfully carrying weapons under [Section 46.02](#), except for an offense punishable as a Class C misdemeanor under that section.

### Sexual Assault and Campus Assignments

A student shall be transferred to another campus if:

- The student has been convicted of continuous sexual abuse of a young child or disabled individual or convicted of or placed on deferred adjudication for sexual assault or aggravated sexual assault against another student on the same campus; and

## **Disciplinary Alternative Education Program (DAEP) Placement**

- The victim's parent or another person with the authority to act on behalf of the victim requests that the board transfer the offending student to another campus.

If there is no other campus in the district serving the grade level of the offending student, the offending student shall be transferred to a DAEP.

### **Process**

Removals to a DAEP shall be made by the CBC.

### **Conference**

When a student is removed from class for a DAEP offense, the CBC or appropriate administrator shall schedule a conference within three school days with the student's parent, the student, and, in the case of a teacher removal, the teacher.

At the conference, the CBC or appropriate administrator shall provide the student:

- Information, orally or in writing, of the reasons for the removal;
- An explanation of the basis for the removal; and
- An opportunity to respond to the reasons for the removal.

Following valid attempts to require attendance, the district may hold the conference and make a placement decision regardless of whether the student or the student's parents attend the conference.

### **Consideration of Mitigating Factors**

In deciding whether to place a student in a DAEP, regardless of whether the action is mandatory or discretionary, the CBC shall take into consideration:

1. Self-defense [see Glossary];
2. Intent or lack of intent at the time the student engaged in the conduct;
3. The student's disciplinary history;
4. A disability that substantially impairs the student's capacity to appreciate the wrongfulness of the student's conduct;
5. A student's status in the conservatorship of the Department of Family and Protective Services (foster care); or
6. A student's status as homeless.

### **Placement Order**

After the conference, if the student is placed in a DAEP, the CBC shall write a placement order. A copy of the DAEP placement order and information for the parent or person standing in parental relation to the student regarding the process for requesting a full individual and initial evaluation of the student for purposes of special education services shall be sent to the student and the student's parent.

## **Disciplinary Alternative Education Program (DAEP) Placement**

Not later than the second business day after the conference, the board's designee shall deliver to the juvenile court a copy of the placement order and all information required by [Section 52.04 of the Family Code](#).

If the student is placed in a DAEP and the length of placement is inconsistent with the guidelines included in this Code of Conduct, the placement order shall give notice of the inconsistency.

### **DAEP at Capacity**

If a DAEP is at capacity at the time the CBC is deciding placement for conduct related to marijuana, THC, an e-cigarette, alcohol, or an abusable volatile chemical, the student shall be placed in ISS then transferred to a DAEP for the remainder of the period if space becomes available before the expiration of the period of the placement.

If a DAEP is at capacity at the time the CBC is deciding placement for a student who engaged in violent conduct, a student placed in a DAEP for conduct related to marijuana, THC, an e-cigarette, alcohol, or an abusable volatile chemical may be placed in ISS to make a position in the DAEP available for the student who engaged in violent conduct. If a position becomes available in a DAEP before the expiration of the period of the placement for the student removed, the student shall be returned to a DAEP for the remainder of the period.

### **Coursework Notice**

The parent or guardian of a student placed in DAEP shall be given written notice of the student's opportunity to complete, at no cost to the student, a foundation curriculum course in which the student was enrolled at the time of removal, and which is required for graduation. The notice shall include information regarding all methods available for completing the coursework.

### **Length of Placement**

The CBC shall determine the duration of a student's placement in a DAEP.

The duration of a student's placement shall be determined case by case based on the seriousness of the offense, the student's age and grade level, the frequency of misconduct, the student's attitude, and statutory requirements.

The maximum period of DAEP placement shall be one calendar year, except as provided below.

Unless otherwise specified in the placement order, days absent from a DAEP shall not count toward fulfilling the total number of days required in a student's DAEP placement order.

The district shall administer the required pre- and post-assessments for students assigned to DAEP for a period of 90 days or longer in accordance with established district administrative procedures for administering other diagnostic or benchmark assessments.

### **Exceeds One Year**

Placement in a DAEP may exceed one year when a review by the district determines that the student is a threat to the safety of other students or to district employees.

## **Disciplinary Alternative Education Program (DAEP) Placement**

The statutory limitations on the length of a DAEP placement do not apply to a placement resulting from the board's decision to place a student who engaged in the sexual assault of another student so that the students are not assigned to the same campus.

### **Exceeds School Year**

Students who are in a DAEP placement at the end of one school year may be required to continue that placement at the start of the next school year to complete the assigned term of placement.

For placement in a DAEP to extend beyond the end of the school year, the CBC or the board's designee must determine that:

1. The student's presence in the regular classroom or campus presents a danger of physical harm to the student or others; or
2. The student has engaged in serious or persistent misbehavior [see Glossary] that violates the district's Code of Conduct.

### **Exceeds 60 Days**

For placement in a DAEP to extend beyond 60 days or the end of the next grading period, whichever is sooner, a student's parent shall be given notice and the opportunity to participate in a proceeding before the board or the board's designee.

### **Appeals**

Questions from parents regarding disciplinary measures should be addressed to the campus administration.

Student or parent appeals regarding a student's placement in a DAEP should be addressed in accordance with policy FNG(LOCAL). A copy of this policy may be obtained from the central administration office or online at

<https://pol.tasb.org/PolicyOnline/PolicyDetails?key=1239&code=FNG#legalTabContent>.

Appeals shall begin at Level One with the principal.

The district shall not delay disciplinary consequences pending the outcome of an appeal. The decision to place a student in a DAEP cannot be appealed beyond the board.

### **Restrictions During Placement**

State law prohibits a student placed in a DAEP for reasons specified in state law from attending or participating in school-sponsored or school-related extracurricular activities.

A student placed in a DAEP shall not be provided transportation unless he or she is a student with a disability who is entitled to transportation in accordance with the student's IEP or Section 504 plan.

For seniors who are eligible to graduate and are assigned to a DAEP at the time of graduation, the placement in the program shall continue through graduation, and the student shall not be allowed to participate in the graduation ceremony and related graduation activities.

# **Disciplinary Alternative Education Program (DAEP) Placement**

## **Placement Review**

A student placed in a DAEP shall be provided a review of his or her status, including academic status, by the CBC or the board's designee at intervals not to exceed 120 days. In the case of a high school student, the student's progress toward graduation and the student's graduation plan shall also be reviewed. At the review, the student or the student's parent shall be given the opportunity to present arguments for the student's return to the regular classroom or campus. The student may not be returned to the classroom of a teacher who removed the student without that teacher's consent.

## **Additional Misconduct**

If during the term of placement in a DAEP the student engages in additional misconduct for which placement in a DAEP or expulsion is required or permitted, additional proceedings may be conducted, and the CBC may enter an additional disciplinary order as a result of those proceedings.

## **Notice of Criminal Proceedings**

When a student is placed in a DAEP for certain offenses, the office of the prosecuting attorney shall notify the district if:

1. Prosecution of a student's case was refused for lack of prosecutorial merit or insufficient evidence, and no formal proceedings, deferred adjudication [see Glossary], or deferred prosecution will be initiated; or
2. The court or jury found a student not guilty or made a finding that the student did not engage in delinquent conduct or conduct indicating a need for supervision, and the case was dismissed with prejudice.

If a student was placed in a DAEP for such conduct, on receiving the notice from the prosecutor, the superintendent or designee shall review the student's placement and schedule a review with the student's parent not later than the third day after the superintendent or designee receives notice from the prosecutor. The student may not be returned to the regular classroom pending the review.

After reviewing the notice and receiving information from the student's parent, the superintendent or designee may continue the student's placement if there is reason to believe that the presence of the student in the regular classroom threatens the safety of other students or teachers.

The student or the student's parent may appeal the superintendent's decision to the board. The student may not be returned to the regular classroom pending the appeal. In the case of an appeal, the board shall, at the next scheduled meeting, review the notice from the prosecutor and receive information from the student, the student's parent, and the superintendent or designee, and confirm or reverse the decision of the superintendent or designee. The board shall make a record of the proceedings.

## **Disciplinary Alternative Education Program (DAEP) Placement**

If the board confirms the decision of the superintendent or designee, the student and the student's parent may appeal to the Commissioner of Education. The student may not be returned to the regular classroom pending the appeal.

### **Withdrawal During Process**

When a student violates the district's Code of Conduct in a way that requires or permits the student to be placed in a DAEP and the student withdraws from the district before a placement order is completed, the CBC may complete the proceedings and issue a placement order. If the student then re-enrolls in the district during the same or a subsequent school year, the district may enforce the order at that time, less any period of the placement that has been served by the student during enrollment in another district. If the CBC or the board fails to issue a placement order after the student withdraws, the next district in which the student enrolls may complete the proceedings and issue a placement order.

### **Newly Enrolled Students**

The district shall decide on a case-by-case basis whether to continue the placement of a student who enrolls in the district and was assigned to a DAEP in an open-enrollment charter school or another district including a district in another state. The district may place the student in the district's DAEP or a regular classroom setting.

When a student enrolls in the district with a DAEP placement from a district in another state, the district has the right to place the student in DAEP to the same extent as any other newly enrolled student if the behavior committed is a reason for DAEP placement in the receiving district.

State law requires the district to reduce a placement imposed by a district in another state that exceeds one year so that the total placement does not exceed one year. After a review, however, the placement may be extended beyond a year if the district determines that the student is a threat to the safety of other students or employees, or if the extended placement is in the best interest of the student.

### **Emergency Placement Procedure**

When an emergency placement is necessary because the student's behavior is so unruly, disruptive, or abusive that it seriously interferes with classroom or school operations, the student shall be given oral notice of the reason for the action. Not later than the tenth day after the date of the placement, the student shall be given the appropriate conference required for assignment to a DAEP.

### **Transition Services**

In accordance with law and district procedures, campus staff shall provide transition services to a student returning to the regular classroom from an alternative education program, including a DAEP. [See policy FOCA(LEGAL) for more information.]

# Placement and/or Expulsion for Certain Offenses

## Placement and/or Expulsion for Certain Offenses

This section includes two categories of offenses for which the [Education Code](#) provides unique procedures and specific consequences.

### Registered Sex Offenders

Upon receiving notification in accordance with state law that a student is currently required to register as a sex offender, the district must remove the student from the regular classroom and determine appropriate placement unless the court orders JJAEP placement.

If the student is under any form of court supervision, including probation, community supervision, or parole, the student shall be placed in either DAEP or JJAEP for at least one semester.

If the student is not under any form of court supervision, the student may be placed in DAEP or JJAEP for one semester or placed in a regular classroom. The student may not be placed in the regular classroom if the board or its designee determines that the student's presence:

1. Threatens the safety of other students or teachers;
2. Will be detrimental to the educational process; or
3. Is not in the best interests of the district's students.

### Review Committee

At the end of the first semester of a student's placement in an alternative educational setting and before the beginning of each school year for which the student remains in an alternative placement, the district shall convene a committee, in accordance with state law, to review the student's placement. The committee shall recommend whether the student should return to the regular classroom or remain in the placement. Absent a special finding, the board or its designee must follow the committee's recommendation.

The placement review of a student with a disability who receives special education services must be made by the ARD committee.

### Newly Enrolled Students

If a student enrolls in the district during a mandatory placement as a registered sex offender, the district may count any time already spent by the student in a placement or may require an additional semester in an alternative placement without conducting a review of the placement.

### Appeal

A student or the student's parent may appeal the placement by requesting a conference between the board or its designee, the student, and the student's parent. The conference is limited to the factual question of whether the student is required to register as a sex offender. Any decision of the board or its designee under this section is final and may not be appealed.

# Expulsion

## Expulsion

In deciding whether to order expulsion, regardless of whether the action is mandatory or discretionary, the CBC shall take into consideration:

1. Self-defense [see Glossary];
2. Intent or lack of intent at the time the student engaged in the conduct;
3. The student's disciplinary history;
4. A disability that substantially impairs the student's capacity to appreciate the wrongfulness of the student's conduct;
5. A student's status in the conservatorship of the Department of Family and Protective Services (foster care); or
6. A student's status as homeless.

## Discretionary Expulsion: Misconduct That May Result in Expulsion

Some of the following types of misconduct may result in mandatory placement in a DAEP, whether or not a student is expelled. [see Disciplinary Alternative Education Program (DAEP) Placement]

### Any Location

A student **may** be expelled for:

- Engaging in bullying that encourages a student to die by suicide.
- Inciting violence against a student through group bullying.
- Releasing or threatening to release intimate visual material of a minor or of a student who is 18 years of age or older without the student's consent.
- Criminal mischief, if punishable as a felony.
- Breach of computer security. [see Glossary]

### At School, Within 300 Feet, or at a School Event

A student **may** be expelled for committing any of the following offenses on or within 300 feet of school property, as measured from any point on the school's real property boundary line, or while attending a school-sponsored or school-related activity on or off school property:

- Selling, giving, or delivering to another person, or possessing, using, or being under the influence of any amount of marijuana, a controlled substance, or a dangerous drug, unless the conduct is punishable as a felony. A student with a valid prescription for low-THC cannabis as authorized by [Chapter 487 of the Health and Safety Code](#) does not violate this provision. [See Glossary for "under the influence."]

## Expulsion

- Selling, giving, or delivering to another person, or possessing, using, or being under the influence of alcohol; or committing a serious act or offense while under the influence of alcohol.
- Engaging in conduct that contains the elements of an offense relating to abusable volatile chemicals.
- Engaging in deadly conduct. [see Glossary]

### Within 300 Feet of School

A student may be expelled for possession of a firearm, as defined by federal law, while within 300 feet of school property, as measured from any point on the school's real property boundary line.

### Property of Another District

A student may be expelled for committing any offense that is a state-mandated expellable offense if the offense is committed on the property of another district in Texas or while the student is attending a school-sponsored or school-related activity of a school in another district in Texas.

### While in a DAEP

A student may be expelled for engaging in documented serious misbehavior that violates the district's Code of Conduct, despite documented behavioral interventions while placed in a DAEP. For purposes of discretionary expulsion from a DAEP, serious misbehavior means:

1. Deliberate violent behavior that poses a direct threat to the health or safety of others;
2. Extortion, meaning the gaining of money or other property by force or threat;
3. Conduct that constitutes coercion, as defined by [Penal Code 1.07](#); or
4. Conduct that constitutes the offense of:
  - a. Public lewdness under [Penal Code 21.07](#);
  - b. Indecent exposure under [Penal Code 21.08](#);
  - c. Criminal mischief under [Penal Code 28.03](#);
  - d. Hazing under [Education Code 37.152](#); or
  - e. Harassment under [Penal Code 42.07\(a\)\(1\)](#) of a student or district employee.

### Mandatory Expulsion: Misconduct That Requires Expulsion

A student **must** be expelled under federal or state law for any of the following offenses that occur on or off school property.

# Expulsion

## Under Federal Law

Bringing to school or possessing at school, including any setting that is under the district's control or supervision for the purpose of a school activity, a firearm, as defined by federal law. [see Glossary]

**Note:** Mandatory expulsion under the [federal Gun Free Schools Act](#) does not apply to a firearm that is lawfully stored inside a locked vehicle or to firearms used in activities approved and authorized by the district when the district has adopted appropriate safeguards to ensure student safety.

## Under the Penal Code

- Unlawfully carrying on or about the student's person the following, in the manner prohibited by [Penal Code 46.02](#):
  - A handgun, defined by state law as any firearm designed, made, or adapted to be used with one hand. [see Glossary] Note: A student may not be expelled solely on the basis of the student's use, exhibition, or possession of a firearm that occurs at an approved target range facility that is not located on a school campus; while participating in or preparing for a school-sponsored, shooting sports competition or a shooting sports educational activity that is sponsored or supported by the Parks and Wildlife Department; or a shooting sports sanctioning organization working with the department. [See policy FNCG(LEGAL).]
- A location-restricted knife, as defined by state law. [see Glossary]
- Possessing, manufacturing, transporting, repairing, or selling a prohibited weapon, as defined in state law. [see Glossary]
- Engages in conduct that contains the elements of the offense of exhibiting, using, or threatening to exhibit or use a firearm under Education Code 37.125.
- Behaving in a manner that contains elements of the following offenses under the Penal Code:
  - Aggravated assault, sexual assault, or aggravated sexual assault.
  - Arson. [see Glossary]
  - Murder, capital murder, or criminal attempt to commit murder or capital murder.
  - Indecency with a child.
  - Kidnapping or aggravated kidnapping.
  - Burglary, robbery or aggravated robbery.
  - Manslaughter.
  - Criminally negligent homicide.
  - Continuous sexual abuse of a young child or disabled individual.

## Expulsion

- Behavior punishable as a felony that involves selling, giving, or delivering to another person or possessing, using, or being under the influence of a controlled substance or a dangerous drug.
- Engaging in conduct that contains elements of assault against a school employee or volunteer.

### Under Age 10

When a student under the age of 10 engages in behavior that is expellable behavior, the student shall not be expelled but shall be placed in a DAEP. A student under age six shall not be placed in a DAEP unless the student commits a federal firearm offense.

### Virtual Expulsion Program

In some circumstances, a student may be placed in a virtual expulsion program.

- The school must ensure students in the program have the necessary technology and internet and must provide it if needed.
- The virtual program must, as much as possible, meet the same requirements as an in-person disciplinary alternative education program (DAEP).
- The student's placement must be reviewed every 45 school days.
- If an in-person spot becomes available, the school should plan the student's return to in-person learning.
- If continued virtual placement is appropriate, the school must document the decision.

### Consideration of Virtual Education as Alternative to Expulsion

Before a school district may expel a student, the district must consider the appropriateness and feasibility of, as an alternative to expulsion, enrolling the student in a full-time hybrid program, full-time virtual program, full-time hybrid campus, or full-time virtual campus. This requirement does not apply to a student expelled under [Education Code 37.0081 or 37.007\(a\), \(d\), or\(e\)](#).

### Process

If a student is believed to have committed an expellable offense, the CBC or other appropriate administrator shall schedule a hearing within a reasonable time. The student's parent shall be invited in writing to attend the hearing.

Until a hearing can be held, the CBC or other administrator may place the student in:

- Another appropriate classroom.
- ISS.
- Out-of-school suspension.
- DAEP.

# Expulsion

## Hearing

A student facing expulsion shall be given a hearing with appropriate due process. The student is entitled to:

1. Representation by the student's parent or another adult who can provide guidance to the student and who is not an employee of the district;
2. An opportunity to testify and to present evidence and witnesses in the student's defense; and
3. An opportunity to question the witnesses called by the district at the hearing.

After providing notice to the student and parent of the hearing, the district may hold the hearing regardless of whether the student or the student's parent attends.

The board of trustees delegates to the Assistant Superintendent or Human Resources Coordinator, the authority to conduct hearings and expel students.

## Board Review of Expulsion

After the due process hearing, the expelled student may request that the board review the expulsion decisions. The student or parent must submit a written request to the superintendent within seven days after receipt of the written decision. The superintendent must provide the student or parent written notice of the date, time, and place of the meeting at which the board will review the decision.

The board shall review the record of the expulsion hearing in a closed meeting unless the parent requests in writing that the matter be held in an open meeting. The board may also hear a statement from the student or parent and from the board's designee.

The board shall consider and 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. Consequences shall not be deferred pending the outcome of the hearing.

## Expulsion Order

Before ordering the expulsion, the board or CBC shall take into consideration:

1. Self-defense [see Glossary];
2. Intent or lack of intent at the time the student engaged in the conduct;
3. The student's disciplinary history;
4. A disability that substantially impairs the student's capacity to appreciate the wrongfulness of the student's conduct;
5. A student's status in the conservatorship of the Department of Family and Protective Services (foster care); or
6. A student's status as homeless.

## Expulsion

If the student is expelled, the board or its designee shall deliver to the student and the student's parent a copy of the order expelling the student.

Not later than the second business day after the hearing, the District Hearing Officer shall deliver to the juvenile court a copy of the expulsion order and the information required by [Section 52.04 of the Family Code](#).

If the length of the expulsion is inconsistent with the guidelines included in the Code of Conduct, the expulsion order shall give notice of the inconsistency.

### Length of Expulsion

The length of an expulsion shall be based on the seriousness of the offense, the student's age and grade level, the frequency of misbehavior, the student's attitude, and statutory requirements.

The duration of a student's expulsion shall be determined on a case-by-case basis. The maximum period of expulsion is one calendar year, except as provided below.

An expulsion may not exceed one year unless, after review, the district determines that:

1. The student is a threat to the safety of other students or to district employees; or
2. Extended expulsion is in the best interest of the student.

State and federal law require a student to be expelled from the regular classroom for a period of at least one calendar year for bringing a firearm, as defined by federal law, to school. However, the superintendent may modify the length of the expulsion on a case-by-case basis.

Students who commit offenses that require expulsion at the end of one school year may be expelled into the next school year to complete the term of expulsion.

### Withdrawal During Process

When a student's conduct requires or permits expulsion from the district and the student withdraws from the district before the expulsion hearing takes place, the district may conduct the hearing after sending written notice to the parent and student.

If the student then re-enrolls in the district during the same or subsequent school year, the district may enforce the expulsion order at that time, less any expulsion period that has been served by the student during enrollment in another district.

If the CBC or the board fails to issue an expulsion order after the student withdraws, the next district in which the student enrolls may complete the proceedings.

### Additional Misconduct

If during the expulsion, the student engages in additional conduct for which placement in a DAEP or expulsion is required or permitted, additional proceedings may be conducted, and the CBC or the board may issue an additional disciplinary order as a result of those proceedings.

# Expulsion

## Restrictions During Expulsion

Expelled students are prohibited from being on school grounds or attending school-sponsored or school-related activities during the period of expulsion.

No district academic credit shall be earned for work missed during the period of expulsion unless the student is enrolled in a JJAEP or another district-approved program.

## Newly Enrolled Students

The district shall decide on a case-by-case basis the placement of a student who is subject to an expulsion order from another district or an open-enrollment charter school upon enrollment in the district.

If a student expelled in another state enrolls in the district, the district may continue the expulsion under the terms of the expulsion order, may place the student in a DAEP for the period specified in the order, or may allow the student to attend regular classes if:

1. The out-of-state district provides the district with a copy of the expulsion order; and
2. The offense resulting in the expulsion is also an expellable offense in the district in which the student is enrolling.

If a student is expelled by a district in another state for a period that exceeds one year and the district continues the expulsion or places the student in a DAEP, the district shall reduce the period of the expulsion or DAEP placement so that the entire period does not exceed one year, unless after a review it is determined that:

1. The student is a threat to the safety of other students or district employees; or
2. Extended placement is in the best interest of the student.

## Emergency Expulsion Procedures

When an emergency expulsion is necessary to protect persons or property from imminent harm, the student shall be given verbal notice of the reason for the action. Emergency expulsion may be ordered based on a single incident of behavior by the student. Within 10 days after the date of the emergency expulsion, the student shall be given appropriate due process required for a student facing expulsion.

## DAEP Placement of Expelled Students

The district may provide educational services to any expelled student in a DAEP; however, educational services in the DAEP must be provided if the student is less than 10 years of age.

## Transition Services

In accordance with law and district procedures, campus staff shall provide transition services for a student returning to the regular classroom from placement in an alternative education program, including a DAEP or JJAEP. See policies FOCA(LLEGAL) and FODA(LLEGAL) for more information.

# Expulsion

## Certain Felonies

Regardless of whether DAEP placement or expulsion is required or permitted by one of the reasons in the DAEP Placement or Expulsion sections, in accordance with [Education Code 37.0081](#), a student may be expelled and placed in either DAEP or JJAEP if the board or CBC makes certain findings and the following circumstances exist in relation to aggravated robbery or a felony offense under Title 5 [see Glossary] of the Penal Code. The student must have:

- Received deferred prosecution for conduct defined as aggravated robbery or a [Title 5 felony](#) offense;
- Been found by a court or jury to have engaged in delinquent conduct for conduct defined as aggravated robbery or a [Title 5 felony](#) offense;
- Been charged with engaging in conduct defined as aggravated robbery or a [Title 5 felony](#) offense;
- Been referred to a juvenile court for allegedly engaging in delinquent conduct for conduct defined as aggravated robbery or a [Title 5 felony](#) offense; or
- Received probation or deferred adjudication or have been arrested for, charged with, or convicted of aggravated robbery or a Title 5 felony offense.

The district may expel the student and order placement under these circumstances regardless of:

1. The date on which the student's conduct occurred;
2. The location at which the conduct occurred;
3. Whether the conduct occurred while the student was enrolled in the district; or
4. Whether the student has successfully completed any court disposition requirements imposed in connection with the conduct.

## Hearing and Required Findings

The student must first have a hearing before the board or its designee, who must determine that in addition to the circumstances above that allow for the expulsion, the student's presence in the regular classroom:

1. Threatens the safety of other students or teachers;
2. Will be detrimental to the educational process; or
3. Is not in the best interest of the district's students.

Any decision of the board or the board's designee under this section is final and may not be appealed.

## Length of Placement

The student is subject to the placement until:

1. The student graduates from high school;

## **Expulsion**

2. The charges are dismissed or reduced to a misdemeanor offense; or
3. The student completes the term of the placement or is assigned to another program.

### **Placement Review**

A student placed in a DAEP or JJAEP under this section is entitled to a review of his or her status, including academic status, by the CBC or board's designee at intervals not to exceed 120 days. In the case of a high school student, the student's progress toward graduation and the student's graduation plan shall also be reviewed. At the review, the student or the student's parent shall have the opportunity to present arguments for the student's return to the regular classroom or campus.

### **Newly Enrolled Students**

A student who enrolls in the district before completing a placement under this section from another school district must complete the term of the placement.

### Glossary

**Abuse** is improper or excessive use.

**Aggravated robbery** is defined in part by [Penal Code 29.03\(a\)](#) as when a person commits robbery and:

1. Causes serious bodily injury to another;
2. Uses or exhibits a deadly weapon; or
3. Causes bodily injury to another person or threatens or places another person in fear of imminent bodily injury or death, if the other person is:
  - a. 65 years of age or older; or
  - b. A disabled person.

**Antisemitism** is defined by [Government Code section 448.001](#) as a certain perception of Jews that may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. The term includes rhetorical and physical acts of antisemitism directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals or their property or toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities. Examples of antisemitism are included with the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's "Working Definition of Antisemitism" adopted on May 26, 2016.

**Armor-piercing ammunition** is defined by [Penal Code 46.01](#) as handgun ammunition used in pistols and revolvers and designed primarily for the purpose of penetrating metal or body armor.

**Arson** is defined in part by [Penal Code 28.02](#) as a crime that involves:

1. Starting a fire or causing an explosion with intent to destroy or damage:
  - a. Any vegetation, fence, or structure on open-space land; or
  - b. Any building, habitation, or vehicle:
    - (1) Knowing that it is within the limits of an incorporated city or town;
    - (2) Knowing that it is insured against damage or destruction;
    - (3) Knowing that it is subject to a mortgage or other security interest;
    - (4) Knowing that it is located on property belonging to another;
    - (5) Knowing that it has located within its property belonging to another; or
    - (6) When the person starting the fire is reckless about whether the burning or explosion will endanger the life of some individual or the safety of the property of another.
2. Recklessly starting a fire or causing an explosion while manufacturing or attempting to manufacture a controlled substance if the fire or explosion damages any building, habitation, or vehicle; or
3. Intentionally starting a fire or causing an explosion and in so doing:

## Glossary

- a. Recklessly damaging or destroying a building belonging to another; or
- b. Recklessly causing another person to suffer bodily injury or death.

**Assault** is defined in part by [Penal Code 22.01](#) as intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly causing bodily injury to another; intentionally or knowingly threatening another with imminent bodily injury; or intentionally or knowingly causing physical contact with another that can reasonably be regarded as offensive or provocative.

**Breach of computer security** includes knowingly accessing a computer, computer network, or computer system without the effective consent of the owner as defined in [Penal Code 33.02](#), if the conduct involves accessing a computer, computer network, or computer system owned by or operated on behalf of a school district and the student knowingly alters, damages, or deletes school district property or information or commits a breach of any other computer, computer network, or computer system.

**Bullying** is defined as a single significant act or a pattern of acts by one or more students directed at another student that exploits an imbalance of power and involves engaging in written or verbal expression, expression through electronic means, or physical conduct that:

1. Has the effect or will have the effect of physically harming a student, damaging a student's property, or placing a student in reasonable fear of harm to the student's person or damage to the student's property;
2. Is sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive enough that the action or threat creates an intimidating, threatening, or abusive educational environment for a student;
3. Materially and substantially disrupts the educational process or the orderly operation of a classroom or school; or
4. Infringes on the rights of the victim at school.

Bullying includes cyberbullying. (See below.) This state law on bullying prevention applies to:

1. Bullying that occurs on or is delivered to school property or to the site of a school-sponsored or school-related activity on or off school property;
2. Bullying that occurs on a publicly or privately owned school bus or vehicle being used for transportation of students to or from school or a school-sponsored or school-related activity; and
3. Cyberbullying that occurs off school property or outside of a school-sponsored or school-related activity if the cyberbullying interferes with a student's educational opportunities or substantially disrupts the orderly operation of a classroom, school, or school-sponsored or school-related activity.

**Chemical dispensing device** is defined by [Penal Code 46.01](#) as a device designed, made, or adapted for the purpose of dispensing a substance capable of causing an adverse psychological or physiological effect on a human being. A small chemical dispenser sold commercially for personal protection is not in this category.

## Glossary

**Club** is defined by [Penal Code 46.01](#) as an instrument, specially designed, made, or adapted for the purpose of inflicting serious bodily injury or death by striking a person with the instrument, and includes but is not limited to a blackjack, nightstick, mace, and tomahawk.

**Controlled substance** means a substance, including a drug, an adulterant, and a dilutant, listed in [Schedules I through V or Penalty Group 1, 1-A, 1-B, 2, 2-A, 3, or 4 of the Texas Controlled Substances Act](#). The term includes the aggregate weight of any mixture, solution, or other substance containing a controlled substance. The term does not include hemp, as defined by [Agriculture Code 121.001](#), or the tetrahydrocannabinols (THC) in hemp.

**Criminal street gang** is defined by [Penal Code 71.01](#) as three or more persons having a common identifying sign or symbol or an identifiable leadership who continuously or regularly associate in the commission of criminal activities.

**Cyberbullying** is defined by [Education Code 37.0832](#) as bullying that is done through the use of any electronic communication device, including through the use of a cellular or other type of telephone, a computer, a camera, electronic mail, instant messaging, text messaging, a social media application, an internet website, or any other internet-based communication tool.

**Dangerous drug** is defined by [Health and Safety Code 483.001](#) as a device or a drug that is unsafe for self-medication and that is not included in [Schedules I through V or Penalty Groups 1 through 4 of the Texas Controlled Substances Act](#). The term includes a device or drug that federal law prohibits dispensing without prescription or restricts to use by or on the order of a licensed veterinarian.

**Dating violence** occurs when a person in a current or past dating relationship uses physical, sexual, verbal, or emotional abuse to harm, threaten, intimidate, or control another person in the relationship. Dating violence also occurs when a person commits these acts against a person in a marriage or dating relationship with the individual who is or was once in a marriage or dating relationship with the person committing the offense, as defined by [Section 71.0021 of the Family Code](#).

**Deadly conduct** under [Penal Code 22.05](#) occurs when a person recklessly engages in conduct that places another in imminent danger of serious bodily injury, such as knowingly discharging a firearm in the direction of an individual, habitation, building, or vehicle.

**Deferred adjudication** is an alternative to seeking a conviction in court that may be offered to a juvenile for delinquent conduct or conduct indicating a need for supervision.

**Deferred prosecution** may be offered to a juvenile as an alternative to seeking a conviction in court for delinquent conduct or conduct indicating a need for supervision.

**Delinquent conduct** is conduct that violates either state or federal law and is punishable by imprisonment or confinement in jail. It includes conduct that violates certain juvenile court orders, including probation orders, but does not include violations of traffic laws.

**Discretionary** means that something is left to or regulated by a local decision maker.

**E-cigarette** means an electronic cigarette or any other device that simulates smoking by using a mechanical heating element, battery, or electronic circuit to deliver nicotine or other substances

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to the individual inhaling from the device or a consumable liquid solution or other material aerosolized or vaporized during the use of an electronic cigarette or other device described by this provision. The term includes any device that is manufactured, distributed, or sold as an e-cigarette, e-cigar, or e-pipe or under another product name or description and a component, part, or accessory for the device, regardless of whether the component, part, or accessory is sold separately from the device.

**Explosive weapon** is defined by [Penal Code 46.01](#) as any explosive or incendiary bomb, grenade, rocket, or mine and its delivery mechanism that is designed, made, or adapted for the purpose of inflicting serious bodily injury, death, or substantial property damage, or for the principal purpose of causing such a loud report as to cause undue public alarm or terror.

**False alarm or report** under [Penal Code 42.06](#) occurs when a person knowingly initiates, communicates, or circulates a report of a present, past, or future bombing, fire, offense, or other emergency that he or she knows is false or baseless and that would ordinarily:

1. Cause action by an official or volunteer agency organized to deal with emergencies;
2. Place a person in fear of imminent serious bodily injury; or
3. Prevent or interrupt the occupation of a building, room, or place of assembly.

**Firearm** is defined by [federal law \(18 U.S.C. 921\(a\)\)](#) as:

1. Any weapon (including a starter gun) that will, is designed to, or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive;
2. The frame or receiver of any such weapon;
3. Any firearm muffler or firearm silencer, defined as any device for silencing, muffling, or diminishing the report of a portable firearm; or
4. Any destructive device, such as any explosive, incendiary or poison gas bomb, or grenade.

Such term does not include an antique firearm.

**Graffiti** includes markings with paint, an indelible pen or marker, or an etching or engraving device on tangible property without the effective consent of the owner. The markings may include inscriptions, slogans, drawings, or paintings.

**Handgun** is defined by [Penal Code 46.01](#) as any firearm that is designed, made, or adapted to be fired with one hand.

**Harassment** includes:

1. Conduct that meets the definition established in district policies DIA(LOCAL) and FFH(LOCAL);
2. Conduct that threatens to cause harm or bodily injury to another person, including a district student, employee, board member, or volunteer; is sexually intimidating; causes physical damage to the property of another student; subjects another student to physical confinement or restraint; or maliciously and substantially harms another student's physical or emotional health or safety, as defined in [Education Code 37.001\(b\)\(2\)](#); or

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3. Conduct that is punishable as a crime under [Penal Code 42.07](#), including the following types of conduct if carried out with the intent to harass, annoy, alarm, abuse, torment, or embarrass another:
  - a. Initiating communication and, in the course of the communication, making a comment, request, suggestion, or proposal that is obscene, as defined by law;
  - b. Threatening, in a manner reasonably likely to alarm the person receiving the threat, to inflict bodily injury on the person or to commit a felony against the person, a member of the person's family or household, or the person's property;
  - c. Conveying, in a manner reasonably likely to alarm the person receiving the report, a false report, which is known by the conveyor to be false, that another person has suffered death or serious bodily injury;
  - d. Causing the telephone of another to ring repeatedly or making repeated telephone communications anonymously or in a manner reasonably likely to harass, annoy, alarm, abuse, torment, embarrass, or offend another;
  - e. Making a telephone call and intentionally failing to hang up or disengage the connection;
  - f. Knowingly permitting a telephone under the person's control to be used by another to commit an offense under this section;
  - g. Sending repeated electronic communications in a manner reasonably likely to harass, annoy, alarm, abuse, torment, embarrass, or offend another;
  - h. Publishing on an internet website, including a social media platform, repeated electronic communications in a manner reasonably likely to cause emotional distress, abuse, or torment to another person, unless the communications are made in connection with a matter of public concern, as defined by law; or
  - i. Making obscene, intimidating, or threatening telephone calls or other electronic communications from a temporary or disposable telephone number provided by an internet application or other technological means.

**Hazing** is defined by [Education Code 37.151](#) as an intentional, knowing, or reckless act, on or off campus, by one person alone or acting with others, directed against a student for the purpose of pledging, initiation into, affiliation with, holding office in, or maintaining membership in a student organization if the act meets the elements in [Education Code 37.151](#), including:

1. Any type of physical brutality;
2. An activity that subjects the student to an unreasonable risk of harm or that adversely affects the student's mental or physical health, such as sleep deprivation, exposure to the elements, confinement to small spaces, calisthenics, or consumption of food, liquids, drugs, or other substances;
3. An activity that induces, causes, or requires the student to perform a duty or task that violates the Penal Code; or

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4. Coercing a student to consume a drug or alcoholic beverage in an amount that would lead a reasonable person to believe the student is intoxicated.

**Hit list** is defined in [Education Code 37.001\(b\)\(3\)](#) as a list of people targeted to be harmed, using a firearm, a knife, or any other object to be used with intent to cause bodily harm.

**Improvised explosive device** is defined by [Penal Code 46.01](#) as a completed and operational bomb designed to cause serious bodily injury, death, or substantial property damage that is fabricated in an improvised manner using nonmilitary components.

**Indecent exposure** is defined by [Penal Code 21.08](#) as an offense that occurs when a person exposes the person's anus or any part of the person's genitals with intent to arouse or gratify the sexual desire of any person, and is reckless about whether another is present who will be offended or alarmed by the act.

**Intimate visual material** is defined by [Civil Practices and Remedies Code 98B.001](#) and [Penal Code 21.16](#) as visual material that depicts a person with the person's intimate parts exposed or engaged in sexual conduct. "Visual material" means any film, photograph, video tape, negative, or slide of any photographic reproduction or any other physical medium that allows an image to be displayed on a computer or other video screen and any image transmitted to a computer or other video screen.

**Location-restricted knife** is defined by [Penal Code 46.01](#) as a knife with a blade over five and one-half inches.

**Knuckles** means any instrument consisting of finger rings or guards made of a hard substance and designed or adapted for inflicting serious bodily injury or death by striking a person with a fist enclosed in the knuckles.

**Look-alike weapon** means an item that resembles a weapon but is not intended to be used to cause serious bodily injury.

**Machine gun** as defined by [Penal Code 46.01](#) is any firearm that is capable of shooting more than two shots automatically, without manual reloading, by a single function of the trigger.

**Mandatory** means that something is obligatory or required because of an authority.

**Paraphernalia** are devices that can be used for inhaling, ingesting, injecting, or otherwise introducing a controlled substance into a human body.

**Personal Communication Device** means a telephone, cell phone such as a smartphone or flip phone, tablet, smartwatch, radio device, paging device, or any other electronic device capable of telecommunication or digital communication.

**Possession** means to have an item on one's person or in one's personal property, including, but not limited to:

1. Clothing, purse, or backpack;
2. A private vehicle used for transportation to or from school or school-related activities, including, but not limited to, an automobile, truck, motorcycle, or bicycle;
3. Personal communication devices or electronic devices; or

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4. Any school property used by the student, including, but not limited to, a locker or desk.

**Prohibited weapon** under [Penal Code 46.05\(a\)](#) means:

1. The following items, unless registered with the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives or otherwise not subject to that registration requirement or unless the item is classified as a curio or relic by the U.S. Department of Justice:
  - a. An explosive weapon; or
  - b. A machine gun.
2. Armor-piercing ammunition;
3. A chemical dispensing device;
4. A zip gun;
5. A tire deflation device; or
6. An improvised explosive device.

**Public Lewdness** is defined by [Penal Code 21.07](#) as an offense that occurs when a person knowingly engages in an act of sexual intercourse, deviate sexual intercourse, or sexual contact in a public place or, if not in a public place, when the person is reckless about whether another is present who will be offended or alarmed by the act.

**Public school fraternity, sorority, secret society, or gang** means an organization composed wholly or in part of students that seeks to perpetuate itself by taking additional members from the students enrolled in school based on a decision of its membership rather than on the free choice of a qualified student. Educational organizations listed in [Education Code 37.121\(d\)](#) are excepted from this definition.

**Reasonable belief** is that which an ordinary person of average intelligence and sound mind would believe. Chapter 37 requires certain disciplinary decisions when the superintendent or designee has a reasonable belief that a student engaged in conduct punishable as a felony offense. In forming such a reasonable belief, the superintendent or designee may use all available information and must consider the information furnished in the notice of a student's arrest under [Code of Criminal Procedure Article 15.27](#).

**Self-defense** is the use of force against another to the degree a person reasonably believes is immediately necessary to protect himself or herself.

**Serious misbehavior** means:

1. Deliberate violent behavior that poses a direct threat to the health or safety of others;
2. Extortion, meaning the gaining of money or other property by force or threat;
3. Conduct that constitutes coercion, as defined by [Penal Code Section 1.07](#); or
4. Conduct that constitutes the offense of:
  - a. Public lewdness under [Penal Code 21.07](#);
  - b. Indecent exposure under [Penal Code 21.08](#);

## Glossary

- c. Criminal mischief under [Penal Code 28.03](#);
- d. Hazing under [Education Code 37.152](#); or
- e. Harassment under [Penal Code 42.07\(a\)\(1\)](#) of a student or district employee.

**Serious or persistent misbehavior** includes, but is not limited to:

- Behavior that is grounds for permissible expulsion or mandatory DAEP placement.
- Behavior identified by the district as grounds for discretionary DAEP placement.
- Actions or demonstrations that substantially disrupt or materially interfere with school activities.
- Refusal to attempt or complete schoolwork as assigned.
- Insubordination.
- Profanity, vulgar language, or obscene gestures.
- Leaving school grounds without permission.
- Falsification of records, passes, or other school-related documents.
- Refusal to accept discipline assigned by the teacher or principal.

**Short-barrel firearm** is defined by [Penal Code 46.01](#) as a rifle with a barrel length of less than 16 inches or a shotgun with a barrel length of less than 18 inches, or any weapon made from a rifle or shotgun that, as altered, has an overall length of less than 26 inches.

**Terroristic threat** is defined by [Penal Code 22.07](#) as a threat of violence to any person or property with intent to:

1. Cause a reaction of any type by an official or volunteer agency organized to deal with emergencies;
2. Place any person in fear of imminent serious bodily injury;
3. Prevent or interrupt the occupation or use of a building; room, place of assembly, or place to which the public has access; place of employment or occupation; aircraft, automobile, or other form of conveyance; or another public place;
4. Cause impairment or interruption of public communications; public transportation; public water, gas, or power supply; or other public service;
5. Place the public or a substantial group of the public in fear of serious bodily injury; or
6. Influence the conduct or activities of a branch or agency of the federal government, the state, or a political subdivision of the state (including the district).

**Tire deflation device** is defined in part by [Penal Code 46.01](#) as a device, including a caltrop or spike strip, that, when driven over, impedes or stops the movement of a wheeled vehicle by puncturing one or more of the vehicle's tires.

## Glossary

**Title 5 felonies** are those crimes listed in [Title 5 of the Penal Code](#) that typically involve injury to a person and may include:

- Murder, manslaughter, or homicide under [Sections 19.02–.05](#);
- Kidnapping under [Section 20.03](#);
- Trafficking of persons under [Section 20A.02](#);
- Smuggling or continuous smuggling of persons under [Sections 20.05–.06](#);
- Assault under [Section 22.01](#);
- Aggravated assault under [Section 22.02](#);
- Sexual assault under [Section 22.011](#);
- Aggravated sexual assault under [Section 22.021](#);
- Unlawful restraint under [Section 20.02](#);
- Continuous sexual abuse of a young child or disabled individual under [Section 21.02](#);
- Bestiality under [Section 21.09](#);
- Improper relationship between educator and student under [Section 21.12](#);
- Voyeurism under [Section 21.17](#);
- Indecency with a child under [Section 21.11](#);
- Invasive visual recording under [Section 21.15](#);
- Disclosure or promotion of intimate visual material under [Section 21.16](#);
- Sexual coercion under [Section 21.18](#);
- Injury to a child, an elderly person, or a disabled person of any age under [Section 22.04](#);
- Abandoning or endangering a child under [Section 22.041](#);
- Deadly conduct under [Section 22.05](#);
- Terroristic threat under [Section 22.07](#);
- Aiding a person to die by suicide under [Section 22.08](#); and
- Tampering with a consumer product under [Section 22.09](#).

**Under the influence** means lacking the normal use of mental or physical faculties. Impairment of a person’s physical or mental faculties may be evidenced by a pattern of abnormal or erratic behavior, the presence of physical symptoms of drug or alcohol use, or by admission. A student “under the in-fluence” need not be legally intoxicated to trigger disciplinary action.

**Use** means voluntarily introducing into one’s body, by any means, a prohibited substance.

## Glossary

**Zip gun** is defined by [Penal Code 46.01](#) as a device or combination of devices that was not originally a firearm and is adapted to expel a projectile through a smooth-bore or rifled-bore barrel by using the energy generated by an explosion or burning substance.



To: Rick Kirkpatrick, Superintendent  
From: Sandy Slade, Human Resources Coordinator  
Re: **FISD SCOC - Summary of Changes**  
Date: July 24, 2025

---

Below is a listed of the most significant changes to the 2025-2026 Student Code of Conduct for Board approval at the July 24, 2025, Board of Trustees meeting.

1. No longer allows the district to opt out of providing Campus Behavior Coordinators through the district's District of Innovation plan.
2. Required to include the duties of the SROs and School Guardians.
3. Mandates that personal communication devices, once referred to as Telecommunications, are no longer allowed to be used at school, except in a rare instance as outlined in the student code of conduct.
4. Allows teachers to remove disruptive students based on a single incident of behavior.
5. Changes grievance procedures and mandates that forms to be posted online and in student handbook, and reporting to TEA regarding the number of complaints received each year.
6. States that utilizing artificial intelligence (AI) in a way that would constitute academic dishonesty is prohibited.
7. Allows campus to choose to place a student in DAEP for first-time offense of possession or use of a nicotine delivery product or e-cigarette, if not, then in-school suspension for at least 10 school days.
8. Adds Title 5 listed felonies in Penal Code as punishable through mandatory expulsion.
9. Expands the definition of harassment to include on or within 300 feet of school property or while attending a school-sponsored or school-related activity on or off school property.
10. Assault against a school employee or volunteer is now a mandatory expulsion. Many other infractions have now changed to mandatory expulsions, per HB 6, including aggravated assault, sexual assault, arson, murder, criminal attempted murder, manslaughter, aggravated robbery and more.
11. Mandates that schools use the definition of antisemitism found in the Government Code section 448.001, when determining whether the student's conduct that violated the code of conduct was motivated by antisemitism.

**Florence Independent School District**

# **Student Handbook**

**2025-26 School Year**



If you have difficulty accessing the information in this document because of disability, please contact the district at (254) 793-2850.

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The Florence Independent School District Student Handbook can be found online at the Fisd website, [https://www.florenceisd.net/92057\\_2](https://www.florenceisd.net/92057_2). Please read the handbook in correlation with the Fisd Student Code of Conduct, and the Acceptable Use Policy carefully. This document may change at any time to force compliance with directives brought forth by the State of Texas, the Texas Education Agency, and any other agency that regulates the policies and procedures of public school districts in Texas. As further direction and clear guidance is given regarding these regulations and procedures set by the 89<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature, this document will be updated. Stakeholders will be notified when applicable. Please sign the Fisd acknowledgement forms indicating that you have received and read these documents. Once complete, please return to your student's teacher.

**The information contained below is in general reference to the district.**

FISD 2025-2026 Board of Trustees:

Ed Navarette, Board President  
Joshua Atkinson, Board Vice-President  
Jason Earp, Board Secretary  
Jeff Stone, Board member  
Charles Giddens, Board member  
Anthony DeAugustineo, Board member  
Pete Burson, Board member

Regular board meetings are generally held on the third Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the high school library at 401 FM 970, Florence. Regular meeting dates are subject to change due to the circumstances such as school holidays. All meeting notices are posted in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act. For more information visit the following link, <https://meetings.boardbook.org/Public/Organization/677>.

District Vision, Mission, and Goals:

**Vision**

Florence ISD inspires excellence and empowers each student to achieve their highest potential.

**Mission**

Florence ISD is a collaborative partnership of dedicated students, staff, families, and community members. We provide a safe, engaging learning environment with equitable support, high expectations, and diversified instruction. We build a strong foundation for life-long learning, preparing all students for a successful future.

**Goals**

1. Highly Effective Instruction – By 2028, 100% of instruction in all Florence ISD classrooms will be highly effective.

2. High-Quality Curriculum & Instructional Materials – By 2028, 100% of Florence ISD students will have equitable access to high-quality curriculum, instructional materials, and assessments to accomplish their post-secondary goals.
3. Human Capital Systems – By 2028, 100% of Florence ISD staff will be highly effective, well-supported, and invested.
4. Positive Culture – By 2028, 100% of Florence ISD students, staff, families, and community members will be supported and included.

## **Preface Parents and Students:**

Welcome to the new school year!

Education is a team effort. Students, parents, teachers, and other staff members working together will make this a successful year.

The Florence Independent School District Student Handbook is a general reference guide that is divided into two sections:

**Section One: Parental Rights** describes certain parental rights as specified in state or federal law.

**Section Two: Other Important Information for Parents and Students** is organized alphabetically by topic. Where applicable, the topics are further organized by grade level.

**Note:** Unless otherwise noted, the term “parent” refers to the parent, legal guardian, any person granted some other type of lawful control of a student, or any other person who has agreed to assume school-related responsibility for a student.

The Student Handbook is designed to align with law, board-adopted policy, and the Student Code of Conduct, a board-adopted document intended to promote school safety and an atmosphere for learning. The Student Handbook is not meant to be a complete statement of all policies, procedures, or rules in any given circumstance.

In case of conflicts between board policy (including the Student Code of Conduct) and any Student Handbook provision, the district will follow board policy and the Student Code of Conduct.

Therefore, parents and students should become familiar with the Florence Independent School District’s Student Code of Conduct. To review the Code of Conduct, visit the district’s website at [https://www.florenceisd.net/92057\\_2](https://www.florenceisd.net/92057_2). State law requires that the Code of Conduct be prominently displayed or made available for review at each campus.

The Student Handbook is updated annually. However, policy adoption and revisions may occur throughout the year. The district encourages parents to stay informed of proposed policy changes by attending board meetings and reviewing communications explaining changes in policy or other rules that affect Student Handbook provisions. The district reserves the right to modify the Student Handbook at any time. Notice of revisions will be provided as it is reasonably practical.

Although the Student Handbook may refer to rights established through law or district policy, it does not create additional rights for parents and students. It does not, nor is it intended to represent a contract between any parent or student and the district.

A hard copy of either the Student Code of Conduct or Student Handbook can be requested at each campus principal or assistant principal's office.

**Note:** References to board policy codes are included for ease of reference. A hard copy of the district's official policy manual is available for review in the district administration office, and an unofficial electronic copy is available at <https://pol.tasb.org/PolicyOnline?key=1239>.

The policy manual includes:

- Legally referenced legal policies that contain provisions from federal and state laws and regulations, case law, and other legal authorities that provide the legal framework for school districts
- Board-adopted local policies that articulate the board's choices and values regarding district practices

For questions about the material in this handbook, please contact the campus principal. Please complete and return to the student's campus the following forms (provided in the forms packet distributed at the beginning of the year or upon enrollment):

- Acknowledgment of Electronic Distribution of Student Handbook
- Notice Regarding Directory Information and Parent's Response Regarding Release of Student Information
- Parent's Objection to the Release of Student Information to Military Recruiters and Institutions of Higher Education (if you choose to restrict the release of information to these entities)
- Consent/Opt-Out Form for participation in third-party surveys

[See Objecting to the Release of Directory Information and Consent Required Before Student Participation in a Federally Funded Survey for more information.]

### **Accessibility**

If you have difficulty accessing this handbook because of a disability, please contact the district's Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum & Instruction's office at (254) 793-2850, Ext. 2221.

## **Section One: Parental Rights**

This section describes certain parental rights as specified in state or federal law.

### **Consent, Opt-Out, and Refusal Rights**

#### **Consent to Conduct a Psychological or Psychiatric Evaluation**

Unless required under state or federal law, a district employee or contractor of the district will not conduct a psychological or psychiatric examination, test, or treatment without obtaining prior written parental consent.

**Note:** An evaluation may be legally required under special education rules or by the Texas Education Agency for child abuse investigations and reports.

#### **Consent to Human Sexuality Instruction**

##### ***Annual Notification***

As a part of the district's curriculum, students receive instruction related to human sexuality. The School Health Advisory Council (SHAC) makes recommendations for curriculum materials, and the school board adopts the materials and determines the specific content of the instruction.

Per state law, here is a summary of the district's curriculum regarding human sexuality instruction:

Florescent secondary campuses utilize the Living WELL Aware Adolescent Health Program. Patricia J. Sulak, MD, is the director of the program. The program includes a data-driven curriculum founded on medical, legal, psychological, and socioeconomic information regarding adolescent health risk behaviors. Based on the probable consequences of adolescent risk behaviors, the safest and healthiest choice for teens is to promote risk avoidance by establishing healthy habits and relationships. The Living WELL Aware Adolescent Health Program offers 4 levels of curriculum: 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and high school, along with teacher training and parent presentations upon requests.

For more information, see the district's human sexuality instruction website at

<https://www.livingwellaware.com/curricula-table-of-contents>

In accordance with state law, a parent may:

- Review, receive a copy of, or purchase a copy of curriculum materials depending on the copyright of the materials.
- Remove their child from any part of the human sexuality instruction without academic, disciplinary, or other penalties.
- Become involved in the development of this curriculum by becoming a member of the district's SHAC or attending SHAC meetings. See the campus principal for details.
- Use the district's grievance procedure concerning a complaint. [See Complaints and Concerns (All Grade Levels) and FNG(LOCAL).]

State law also requires that instruction related to human sexuality, sexually transmitted diseases, or human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) or acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS):

- Present abstinence from sexual activity as the preferred choice in relationship to all sexual activity for unmarried persons of school age
- Devote more attention to abstinence from sexual activity than to any other behavior
- Emphasize that abstinence, if used consistently and correctly, is the only method that is 100 percent effective in preventing pregnancy, sexually transmitted infections, and the emotional trauma associated with adolescent sexual activity
- Direct adolescents to abstain from sexual activity before marriage as the most effective way to prevent pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases
- If included in the content of the curriculum, teach contraception and condom use in terms of human use reality rates instead of theoretical laboratory rates

[See Consent to Instruction on Prevention of Child Abuse, Family Violence, Dating Violence, and Sex Trafficking]

#### ***Consent Before Human Sexuality Instruction***

Before a student receives human sexuality instruction, the parent must give written consent. Parents will be sent a request for written consent at least 14 days before the instruction begins.

#### **Consent to Instruction on Prevention of Child Abuse, Family Violence, Dating Violence, and Sex Trafficking**

Before a student receives instruction on the prevention of child abuse, family violence, dating violence, and sex trafficking, the district must obtain written consent from the student's parent. Parents will be sent a request for written consent at least 14 days before the instruction begins.

#### ***Annual Notification***

Students receive instruction related to the prevention of child abuse, family violence, dating violence, and sex trafficking. The School Health Advisory Council (SHAC) makes recommendations for curriculum materials, and the school board adopts the materials and determines the specific content of the instruction.

Students in junior high school and high school receive instruction related to the prevention of child abuse, family violence, dating violence, and sex trafficking.

The curriculum focuses on the signs of abuse and violence, prevention, and how to report if abuse is occurring. For more information, see the district's abuse prevention instruction website at [https://www.florenceisd.net/324617\\_2](https://www.florenceisd.net/324617_2)

In accordance with state law, a parent may:

- Review, receive a copy of, or purchase a copy of curriculum materials depending on the copyright of the materials. As required by law, any curriculum materials in the public

domain used in this instruction will be posted on the district website at the location indicated above.

- Remove their child from any part of this instruction without academic, disciplinary, or other penalties.
- Become involved in the development of this curriculum by becoming a member of the district's SHAC or attending SHAC meetings. See the campus principal for details.
- Use the district's grievance procedure concerning a complaint. [See Complaints and Concerns (All Grade Levels) and policy FNG for information on the grievance and appeals process.]

[See Consent Before Human Sexuality Instruction, Dating Violence, and Child Sexual Abuse, Neglect, Trafficking, and Other Maltreatment of Children (All Grade Levels)]

### **Consent to Provide a Mental Health Care Service**

The district will not provide a mental health care service to a student or conduct a medical screening of a student as part of the district's intervention procedures except as permitted by law.

The district has established procedures for recommending to a parent an intervention for a student with early warning signs of mental health concerns, substance abuse, or suicide risk. The campus counselor will notify the student's parent within a reasonable amount of time after the counselor learns that a student has displayed early warning signs and provide information about available counseling options.

The district has also established procedures for staff to notify the campus counselor regarding a student who may need intervention.

The campus counselor can provide further information about these procedures as well as curriculum materials on identifying risk factors, accessing resources for treatment or support on and off campus, and accessing available student accommodations provided on campus.

[See Mental Health Support (All Grade Levels)]

### **Consent to Display a Student's Original Works and Personal Information**

Teachers may display a student's work in classrooms or elsewhere on campus in recognition of student achievement without seeking prior parental consent. These displays may include personally identifiable student information. Student work includes:

- Artwork
- Special projects
- Photographs
- Original videos or voice recordings
- Other original works

However, the district will seek parental consent before displaying a student's work on the district's website, a website affiliated or sponsored by the district (such as a campus or

classroom website), or in district publications, which may include printed materials, videos, or other methods of mass communication.

### **Consent to Video or Audio Record a Student When Not Already Permitted by Law**

State law permits the school to make a video or voice recording without parental permission when the recording is to be used for:

- School safety
- Classroom instruction or a cocurricular or extracurricular activity
- Media coverage of the school
- Promotion of student safety, as provided by law for a student receiving special education services in certain settings

In other circumstances, the district will seek written parental consent before making a video or voice recording of a student.

Please note that parents and visitors to a classroom, both virtual and in-person, may not record video or audio or take photographs or other still images without permission from the teacher or other school official.

### **Opting Out of Advanced Mathematics in Grades 6-8**

The district will automatically enroll a student in grade 6 in an advanced mathematics course if the student performed in the top 60 percent on the grade 5 mathematics STAAR or in the top 40 percent on a local measure that demonstrates proficiency in the student's grade 5 mathematics course work.

Enrollment in an advanced mathematics course in grade 6 will enable students to enroll in Algebra I in grade 8 and advanced mathematics in grades 9-12.

The student's parent may opt the student out of automatic enrollment in an advanced mathematics course.

### **Limiting Electronic Communications between Students and District Employees**

The district permits teachers and other approved employees to use electronic communications with students within the scope of professional responsibilities, as described in district guidelines.

For example, a teacher may create a social networking page for the class to relay information about class work, homework, and tests. A parent is welcome to access such a page.

However, text messages sent to an individual student are only allowed if a district employee with responsibility for an extracurricular activity must communicate with a student participating in that activity. Messages should be sent using Remind and, generally, will not be sent from 9:00 pm until 6:00 am.

The employee is required to include their immediate supervisor and the student's parent as recipients of all text messages.

A parent who does not want their child to receive one-to-one electronic communications from a district employee should contact the campus principal.

### **Objecting to the Release of Directory Information**

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, or FERPA, permits the district to disclose appropriately designated “directory information” from a student’s education records without written consent.

“Directory information” is information that, if released, is generally not considered harmful or an invasion of privacy. Examples include:

- A student’s photograph (for publication in the school yearbook)
- A student’s name and grade level (for communicating class and teacher assignments)
- The name, weight, and height of an athlete (for publication in a school athletic program)
- A list of student birthdays (for generating schoolwide or classroom recognition)
- A student’s name and photograph (posted on a district-approved and-managed social media platform)
- The names and grade levels of students submitted by the district to a local newspaper or other community publication (to recognize the A/B honor roll for a specific grading period)

Directory information will be released to anyone who follows procedures for requesting it.

However, a parent or eligible student may object to the release of this information. Any objection must be made in writing to the principal within 10 school days of the student’s first day of instruction for this school year. [See Notice Regarding Directory Information and Parent’s Response Regarding Release of Student Information, included in the forms packet.]

The district requests that families living in a shelter for survivors of family violence or trafficking notify district personnel that the student currently resides in such a shelter. Families may want to opt out of the release of directory information so that the district does not release any information that might reveal the location of such a shelter.

As allowed by state law, the district has identified two directory information lists — one for school-sponsored purposes and a second for all other requests. For district publications and announcements, the district has designated the following as directory information: student name, photograph, honors and awards, grade level, enrollment status, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, and weight and height of members of athletic teams. If a parent does not object to the use of their child’s information for these school-sponsored purposes, the school will not ask permission each time the district wants to use the information for these purposes.

For all other purposes, the district will not release any directory information without written consent. FL(LOCAL).

**Note:** Also see Authorized Inspection and Use of Student Records.

## **Objecting to the Release of Student Information to Military Recruiters and Institutions of Higher Education (Secondary Grade Levels Only)**

Unless a parent has advised the district not to release their student's information, Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) requires the district to comply with requests from military recruiters or institutions of higher education to provide the following information about students:

- Name
- Address
- Telephone listing

Military recruiters may also have access to a student's district-provided email address, unless a parent has advised the district not to release this information.

[See Parent's Objection to the Release of Student Information to Military Recruiters and Institutions of Higher Education, included in the forms packet.]

## **Participation in Third-Party Surveys**

### ***Consent Required Before Student Participation in a Federally Funded Survey***

The Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA) provides parents with certain rights regarding participation in surveys, the collection and use of information for marketing purposes, and certain physical exams.

A parent has the right to consent before a student is required to submit to a survey funded by the U.S. Department of Education that concerns any of the following protected areas:

- Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or the student's parent
- Mental or psychological problems of the student or the student's family
- Sex behavior or attitudes
- Illegal, antisocial, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior
- Critical appraisals of individuals with whom the student has a close family relationship
- Legally recognized privileged relationships, such as with lawyers, doctors, and ministers
- Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or parent
- Income, except when the information is required by law and will be used to determine the student's eligibility for a program

A parent may inspect the survey or other instrument, and any corresponding instructional materials used in connection with such a survey. [See policy EF(LEGAL) for more information.]

### ***"Opting Out" of Participation in Other Types of Surveys or Screenings and the Disclosure of Personal Information***

The PPRA gives parents the right to receive notice and an opportunity to opt a student out of:

- Activities involving the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information gathered from the child for the purpose of marketing, selling, or otherwise disclosing that information to others

- Any nonemergency, invasive physical examination or screening required as a condition of attendance, administered by the school or its agent, and not necessary to protect the immediate health and safety of the student

Exceptions are hearing, vision, spinal screenings, or any physical examination or screening permitted or required under state law. [See policies EF and FFAA for more information.]

A parent may inspect:

- Protected information surveys of students and surveys created by a third party
- Instruments used to collect personal information from students for any of the above marketing, sales, or other distribution purposes
- Instructional material used as part of the educational curriculum

The ED provides extensive information about the [Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment](https://studentprivacy.ed.gov/resources/protection-pupil-rights-amendment-ppra-general-guidance) (<https://studentprivacy.ed.gov/resources/protection-pupil-rights-amendment-ppra-general-guidance>), including a [PPRA Complaint Form](https://studentprivacy.ed.gov/file-a-complaint) (<https://studentprivacy.ed.gov/file-a-complaint>).

### **Removing a Student from Instruction or Excusing a Student from a Required Component of Instruction**

See Consent to Human Sexuality Instruction and Consent to Instruction on Prevention of Child Abuse, Family Violence, Dating Violence, and Sex Trafficking for information on a parent’s right to remove a student from such instruction.

### **Reciting a Portion of the Declaration of Independence in Grades 3-12**

State law designates the week of September 17 as Celebrate Freedom Week and requires all social studies classes to provide the following:

- Instruction concerning the intent, meaning, and importance of the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution
- A specific recitation from the Declaration of Independence for students in grades 3-12

Per state law, a student may be excused from recitation of a portion of the Declaration of Independence if any of the following apply:

- A parent provides a written statement requesting that their child be excused
- The district determines that the student has a conscientious objection to the recitation
- A parent is a representative of a foreign government to whom the U.S. government extends diplomatic immunity

[See policy EHBK(LEGAL) for more information.]

### **Reciting the Pledges to the U.S. and Texas Flags**

A parent may request that their child be excused from participation in the daily recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. flag and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Texas flag. The request must be made in writing.

State law, however, requires that all students participate in one minute of silence following recitation of the pledges.

[See Pledges of Allegiance and a Minute of Silence (All Grade Levels) and policy EC(LEGAL) for more information.]

### **Religious or Moral Beliefs**

A parent may remove their child temporarily from the classroom if a scheduled instructional activity conflicts with the parent's religious or moral beliefs.

The removal may not be used to avoid a test and may not extend for an entire semester. The student must also satisfy grade-level and graduation requirements as determined by the school and by state law.

### **Tutoring or Test Preparation**

A teacher may determine that a student needs additional targeted assistance for the student to achieve mastery in state-developed essential knowledge and skills based on:

- Informal observations
- Evaluative data such as grades earned on assignments or tests
- Results from diagnostic assessments

The school will always attempt to provide tutoring and strategies for test-taking in ways that prevent removal from other instruction as much as possible.

In accordance with state law and policy EC, districts must obtain parental permission before removing a student from a regularly scheduled class for remedial tutoring or test preparation for more than 10 percent of the days the class is offered.

If a district offers tutorial services to students, state law requires a student with a grade below 70 for a reporting period to attend.

[For questions about school-provided tutoring programs, contact the student's teacher and see policy EC and EHBC. See Standardized Testing for information regarding required accelerated instruction after a student fails to perform satisfactorily on certain state-mandated tests.]

## **Right of Access to Student Records, Instructional Materials, and District Records/Policies**

### **Parent Review of Instructional Materials and Plan**

A parent has the right to review teaching materials, textbooks, and other teaching aids and instructional materials used in the curriculum, and to examine tests that have been administered, whether instruction is delivered in-person, virtually, or remotely.

The district will make instructional materials available for parent review no later than 30 days before the school year begins and for at least 30 days after the school year ends. However, tests that have not yet been administered will not be made available for parent examination.

The district will provide login credentials to each student's parent for any learning management system or online learning portal used in instruction to facilitate parent access and review.

A parent is also entitled to request that the school allow the student to take home instructional materials the student uses. The school may ask the student to return the materials at the beginning of the next school day.

A school must provide printed versions of electronic instructional materials to a student if the student does not have reliable access to technology at home.

Teachers are required to provide a copy of the teacher's instructional plan or course syllabus for each class to the parent of each student enrolled in that class before the beginning of each semester. A parent may obtain additional copies of a plan or syllabus upon request. The primary way for parents to access an instructional plan is through Canvas. Information on how to access it will be provided to parents at the beginning of the year.

[For information about parental access to any online library catalog and library materials, including records of their child's checked out library materials, see Library (All Grade Levels).]

### **District Review of Instructional Materials**

A parent may request that the district conduct an instructional material review in a math, English Language Arts, science, or social studies class in which the parent's student is enrolled to determine alignment with state standards and the level of rigor for the grade level.

The district is not required to conduct an instructional material review for a specific subject area or grade level at a specific campus more than once per school year.

For more information about requesting an instructional material review, contact the campus principal.

### **Notices of Certain Student Misconduct to Noncustodial Parent**

A noncustodial parent may request in writing that the district provide for the remainder of the school year a copy of any written notice usually provided to a parent related to the child's misconduct that may involve placement in a disciplinary alternative education program (DAEP) or expulsion. [See the Student Code of Conduct and policy FO(LEGAL) for more information.]

### **Participation in Federally Required, State-Mandated, and District Assessments**

In accordance with Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), a parent may request information regarding any federal, state, or district policy related to their child's participation in required assessments.

### **Student Records**

#### ***Accessing Student Records***

A parent may review their child's records, including:

- Attendance records

- Test scores
- Grades
- Disciplinary records
- Counseling records
- Psychological records
- Applications for admission
- Health and immunization information
- Other medical records
- Teacher and school counselor evaluations
- Reports of behavioral patterns
- Records relating to assistance provided for learning difficulties, including information collected regarding any intervention strategies used with the child, as the term “intervention strategy” is defined by law
- Records relating to school library materials the child obtains from a school library [See Library (All Grade Levels) for more information.]
- State assessment instruments that have been administered to the child
- Teaching materials and tests used in the child’s classroom

***Authorized Inspection and Use of Student Records***

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents and eligible students certain rights regarding student education records.

For purposes of student records, an “eligible” student is anyone age 18 or older or who attends a postsecondary educational institution. These rights, as discussed here and at Objecting to the Release of Directory Information, are the right to:

- Inspect and review student records within 45 days after the day the school receives a request for access
- Request an amendment to a student record the parent or eligible student believes is inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of FERPA
- Provide written consent before the school discloses personally identifiable information from the student’s records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent
- [File a complaint](https://studentprivacy.ed.gov/file-a-complaint) (<https://studentprivacy.ed.gov/file-a-complaint>) with the U.S. Department of Education concerning failures by the school to comply with FERPA requirements

Both FERPA and state laws safeguard student records from unauthorized inspection or use and provide parents and eligible students certain rights of privacy.

Before disclosing personally identifiable information from a student’s records, the district must verify the identity of the person, including a parent or the student, requesting the information.

Virtually all information about student performance, including grades, test results, and disciplinary records, is considered confidential educational records.

Inspection and release of student records is restricted to an eligible student or a student's parent unless the school receives a copy of a court order terminating parental rights or the right to access a student's education records. A parent's rights regarding access to student records are not affected by the parent's marital status.

Federal law requires that control of the records goes to the student as soon as the student meets at least one of the following criteria:

- Reaches the age of 18
- Is emancipated by a court
- Enrolls in a postsecondary educational institution

However, the parent may continue to have access to the records if the student is a dependent for tax purposes and, under limited circumstances, when there is a threat to the health and safety of the student or other individuals.

FERPA permits the disclosure of personally identifiable information from a student's education records without written consent of the parent or eligible student when school officials have what federal law refers to as a "legitimate educational interest" in a student's records.

Legitimate educational interest may include:

- Working with the student
- Considering disciplinary or academic actions, the student's case, or an individualized education program for a student with disabilities
- Compiling statistical data
- Reviewing an educational record to fulfill the official's professional responsibility
- Investigating or evaluating programs

School officials may include:

- Board members and employees, such as the superintendent, administrators, and principals
- Teachers, school counselors, diagnosticians, and support staff (including district health or medical staff)
- A person or company with whom the district has contracted or allowed to provide a specific institutional service or function (such as an attorney, consultant, third-party vendor that offers online programs or software, auditor, medical consultant, therapist, school resource officer, or volunteer)
- A person appointed to serve on a team to support the district's safe and supportive school program
- A parent or student serving on a school committee
- A parent or student assisting a school official perform their duties

FERPA also permits the disclosure of personally identifiable information without written consent:

- To authorized representatives of various governmental agencies, including juvenile service providers, the U.S. Comptroller General’s office, the U.S. Attorney General’s office, the U.S. Secretary of Education, the Texas Education Agency, the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture’s office, and Child Protective Services (CPS) caseworkers or, in certain cases, other child welfare representatives
- To individuals or entities granted access in response to a subpoena or court order
- To another school, district/system, or postsecondary educational institution to which a student seeks or intends to enroll or in which the student already is enrolled
- In connection with financial aid for which a student has applied or has received
- To accrediting organizations to carry out accrediting functions
- To organizations conducting studies for, or on behalf of, the school to develop, validate, or administer predictive tests; administer student aid programs; or improve instruction
- To appropriate officials in connection with a health or safety emergency
- When the district discloses directory information-designated details. [See Objecting to the Release of Directory Information to prohibit this disclosure.]

Release of personally identifiable information to any other person or agency — such as a prospective employer or a scholarship application — will occur only with parental or student permission as appropriate.

The campus principal is custodian of all records for currently enrolled students at the assigned school. The superintendent or superintendent’s designee is the custodian of all records for students who have withdrawn or graduated.

A parent or eligible student who wants to inspect the student’s records should submit a written request to the custodian of records identifying the records they want to inspect.

Records may be reviewed in person during regular school hours. The custodian of records or designee will be available to explain the record and answer questions.

A parent or eligible student who submits a written request and pays copying costs of 10 cents per page may obtain copies. If circumstances prevent inspection during regular school hours and the student qualifies for free or reduced-price meals, the district will either provide a copy of the records requested or make other arrangements for the parent or student to review the records.

You may contact the custodian of records for currently enrolled students at:

Elementary:	304 College Avenue, Florence, TX 76527 (254-793-2497)
Middle School:	718 S. Patterson, Florence, TX 76527 (254-793-2504)
High School:	401 FM 970, Florence, TX 76527 (254-793-2495)

You may contact the custodian of records for students who have withdrawn or graduated at the superintendent’s office at 306 College Avenue, Florence, TX 76527 (254-793-2850).

A parent or eligible student may inspect the student's records and request a correction or amendment if the records are considered inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy rights.

A request to correct a student's records should be submitted to the appropriate custodian of records. The request must clearly identify the part of the record that should be corrected and include an explanation of how the information is inaccurate. If the district denies the request to amend the records, the parent or eligible student has the right to request a hearing. If after the hearing the records are not amended, the parent or eligible student has 30 school days to place a statement in the student's record.

Although improperly recorded grades may be challenged, contesting a student's grade in a course or on an examination is handled through the complaint process found in policy FNG(LOCAL). A grade issued by a teacher can be changed only if the board of trustees determines that the grade is arbitrary, erroneous, or inconsistent with the district grading guidelines.

[See Report Cards/Progress Reports and Conferences (All Grade Levels), Complaints and Concerns (All Grade Levels), and Finality of Grades at policy FNG(LEGAL)]

The district's student records policy is found at policy FL(LEGAL) and FL(LOCAL) and is available at the principal's or superintendent's office or on the district's website at <https://pol.tasb.org/PolicyOnline?key=1239>.

**Note:** The parent's or eligible 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 a teacher's personal notes about a student shared only with a substitute teacher — do not have to be made available.

### **Teacher and Staff Professional Qualifications**

A parent may request information about the professional qualifications of their child's teachers, including whether the teacher:

- Has met state qualification and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction
- Has an emergency permit or other provisional status for which state requirements have been waived
- Is currently teaching in the field or discipline of their certification

The parent also has the right to request information about the qualifications of any paraprofessional who may provide services to the child.

### **A Student with Exceptionalities or Special Circumstances**

#### **Children of Military Families**

[The Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunities for Military Children](https://www.dodea.edu/education/partnership-and-resources/military-interstate-compact)  
(<https://www.dodea.edu/education/partnership-and-resources/military-interstate-compact>)

entitles children of military families to flexibility regarding certain district and state requirements, including:

- Immunization requirements
- Grade level, course, or educational program placement
- Eligibility requirements for participation in extracurricular activities
- Enrollment in virtual or hybrid courses offered by the district or another district or school
- Graduation requirements

The district will excuse absences related to a student visiting a parent, including a stepparent or legal guardian, who is:

- Called to active duty
- On leave
- Returning from a deployment of at least four months

The district will permit no more than five 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.

More information is available at [Military Family Resources at the Texas Education Agency \(https://tea.texas.gov/about-tea/other-services/military-family-resources\)](https://tea.texas.gov/about-tea/other-services/military-family-resources).

## **Parental Role in Certain Classroom and School Assignments**

### ***Multiple-Birth Siblings***

State law permits a parent of multiple-birth siblings (for example, twins, triplets) assigned to the same grade and campus to request in writing that the children be placed in either the same classroom or separate classrooms.

Written requests must be submitted by the 14th day after the students' enrollment. [See policy FDB(LEGAL) for more information.]

### ***Safety Transfers/Assignments***

The board or its designee will honor a parent's request to transfer their child to another classroom or campus if the district has determined that the child has been a victim of bullying, including cyberbullying, as defined by Education Code 37.0832.

The board may transfer a student who has engaged in bullying to another classroom.

[See Bullying (All Grade Levels), and policies FDB and FFI for more information.]

The district will honor a parent's request for the transfer of their child to a safe public school in the district if the child attends a school identified by the Texas Education Agency as persistently dangerous or if the child has been a victim of a violent criminal offense while at school or on school grounds.

[See policy FDE for more information.]

The board will honor a parent's request for the transfer of their child to a neighboring district if the child has been the victim of sexual assault by another student assigned to the same campus, whether the assault occurred on or off campus, and that student has been convicted of or placed on deferred adjudication for the assault. In accordance with policy FDE, if the victim does not wish to transfer, the board will transfer the assailant.

### **Student Use of a Service/Assistance Animal**

A parent of a student who uses a service/assistance animal because of the student's disability must submit a written request to the principal before bringing the service/assistance animal to campus. The district will try to accommodate a request as soon as possible but will do so within 10 district business days.

### **A Student in the Conservatorship of the State (Foster Care)**

In an effort to provide educational stability, the district will provide enrollment and registration assistance, as well as other educational services throughout the student's enrollment, to any student who is currently placed or newly placed in foster care (temporary or permanent custody of the state, sometimes referred to as substitute care).

A student in the conservatorship (custody) of the state who enrolls in the district after the beginning of the school year will be allowed credit-by-examination opportunities at any point during the year.

The district will assess the student's available records to determine transfer of credit for subjects and courses taken before the student's enrollment in the district.

The district will award partial course credit when the student only passes one half of a two-half course. [For provisions on partial course credit for students who are not in the conservatorship of the state, see EI(LOCAL).]

A student in the conservatorship of the state who is moved outside the district's or school's attendance boundaries — or who is initially placed in the conservatorship of the state and moved outside the district's or school's boundaries — is entitled to remain at the school the student was attending before the placement or move until the student reaches the highest grade level at that particular school.

If a student in grade 11 or 12 transfers to another district but does not meet the graduation requirements of the receiving district, the student can request a diploma from the previous district if the student meets its graduation criteria.

For a student in the conservatorship of the state who is eligible for a tuition and fee exemption under state law and likely to be in care on the day preceding the student's 18th birthday, the district will:

- Assist the student with the completion of applications for admission or financial aid
- Arrange for and accompany the student on campus visits

- Assist in researching and applying for private or institution-sponsored scholarships
- Identify whether the student is a candidate for appointment to a military academy
- Assist the student in registering and preparing for college entrance examinations, including (subject to the availability of funds) arranging for the payment of examination fees by the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS)
- Coordinate contact between the student and a liaison officer for students formerly in the conservatorship of the state

If you have questions, please contact the district’s foster care liaison,

Rachael Hull  
 Director of Special Education & Federal Programs  
 306 College Avenue, Florence, TX 76527  
[rhull@florenceisd.net](mailto:rhull@florenceisd.net)  
 (254) 793-2850, Ext. 2238

[See Credit by Examination for Advancement/Acceleration — If a Student Has Not Taken the Course/Subject and Course Credit (Secondary Grade Levels Only)]

### **A Student Who Is Homeless**

A parent is encouraged to inform the district if their child is experiencing homelessness. District staff can share resources that may be able to assist families.

A student who is homeless will be provided flexibility regarding certain district provisions, including:

- Proof of residency requirements
- Immunization requirements
- Educational program placement (if the student is unable to provide previous academic records or misses an application deadline during a period of homelessness)
- Credit-by-examination opportunities at any point during the year (if the student enrolled in the district after the beginning of the school year), per State Board of Education (SBOE) rules
- Assessment of the student’s available records to determine transfer of credit for subjects and courses taken before the student’s enrollment in the district
- Awarding partial credit when a student passes only one half of a two-half course
- Eligibility requirements for participation in extracurricular activities
- Graduation requirements

Federal law allows a student who is homeless to remain enrolled in the “school of origin” or to enroll in a new school in the attendance area where the student is currently residing.

If a student who is homeless in grade 11 or 12 transfers to another district but does not meet the graduation requirements of the receiving district, state law allows the student to request a diploma from the previous district if the student meets the criteria to graduate from the previous district.

A student or parent who is dissatisfied by the district's eligibility, school selection, or enrollment decision may appeal through policy FNG(LOCAL). The district will expedite local timelines, when possible, for prompt dispute resolution.

For more information on services for students who are homeless, contact the district's homeless education liaison:

Dr. Kelly Avritt  
Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum & Instruction  
306 College Avenue, Florence, TX 76542  
[kavritt@florenceisd.net](mailto:kavritt@florenceisd.net)  
(254) 793-2850, Ext. 2221

[See Credit by Examination for Advancement/Acceleration — If a Student Has Not Taken the Course/Subject and Course Credit (Secondary Grade Levels Only)]

### **A Student Who Has Learning Difficulties or Who Needs Special Education or Section 504 Services**

For those students who are having difficulty in the regular classroom, all school districts must consider tutorial, compensatory, and other academic or behavior support services that are available to all students, including a process based on Response to Intervention (RtI). The implementation of RtI has the potential to have a positive impact on the ability of districts to meet the needs of all struggling students.

If a student is experiencing learning difficulties, their parent may contact the individuals listed below to learn about the school's overall general education referral or screening system for support services.

This system links students to a variety of support options, including making a referral for a special education evaluation or for a Section 504 evaluation to determine whether the student needs specific aids, accommodations, or services. A parent may request an evaluation for special education or Section 504 services at any time.

#### ***Special Education Referrals***

If a parent makes a written request for an initial evaluation for special education services to the director of special education services or to a district administrative employee of the school district, the district must respond no later than 15 school days after receiving the request. At that time, the district must give the parent prior written notice of whether it agrees or refuses to evaluate the student, along with a copy of the [Notice of Procedural Safeguards](https://fw.escapps.net/Display_Portal/publications) ([https://fw.escapps.net/Display\\_Portal/publications](https://fw.escapps.net/Display_Portal/publications)). If the district agrees to evaluate the student, it must also give the parent the opportunity to give written consent for the evaluation.

**Note:** A request for a special education evaluation may be made verbally; it does not need to be made in writing. Districts must still comply with all federal prior-written notices and procedural safeguard requirements as well as the requirements for identifying, locating, and

evaluating children who are suspected of having a disability and in need of special education. However, a verbal request does not require the district to respond within the 15 school-day timeline.

If the district decides to evaluate the student, it must complete the student's initial evaluation and evaluation report no later than 45 school days from the day it receives a parent's written consent. However, if the student is absent from school during the evaluation period for three or more school days, the evaluation period will be extended by the number of school days equal to the number of school days that the student is absent.

There is an exception to the 45-school-day timeline. If the district receives a parent's consent for the initial evaluation at least 35 but less than 45 school days before the last instructional day of the school year, it must complete the written report and provide a copy of the report to the parent by June 30 of that year. However, if the student is absent from school for three or more days during the evaluation period, the June 30 due date no longer applies. Instead, the general timeline of 45 school days plus extensions for absences of three or more days will apply.

Upon completing the evaluation, the district must give the parent a copy of the evaluation report at no cost.

Additional information about special education is available from the school district in a companion document titled [Parent's Guide to the Admission, Review, and Dismissal Process](https://fw.escapps.net/Display_Portal/publications) ([https://fw.escapps.net/Display\\_Portal/publications](https://fw.escapps.net/Display_Portal/publications)).

#### **Contact Person for Special Education Referrals**

The designated contact person regarding options for a student experiencing learning difficulties or regarding a referral for evaluation for special education services: as well as questions about post-secondary transitions, including the transition from education to employment, for students receiving special education services, contact the district's transition and employment designee:

Rachael Hull  
Director of Special Education & Federal Programs  
304 College Avenue, Florence, TX 76527  
rhull@florenceisd.net  
(254) 793-2850, Ext. 2238

#### **Section 504 Referrals**

Each school district must have standards and procedures in place for the evaluation and placement of students in the district's Section 504 program. Districts must also implement a system of procedural safeguards that includes:

- Notice
- An opportunity for a parent or guardian to examine relevant records
- An impartial hearing with an opportunity for participation by the parent or guardian and representation by counsel

- A review procedure

### **Contact Person for Section 504 Referrals**

The designated person to contact regarding options for a student experiencing learning difficulties or regarding a referral for evaluation for Section 504 services is:

Rachael Hull  
Director of Special Education & Federal Programs  
304 College Avenue, Florence, TX 76527  
rhull@florenceisd.net  
(254) 793-2850, Ext. 2238

[See A Student with Physical or Mental Impairments Protected under Section 504]

Visit these websites for information regarding students with disabilities and the family:

- [Legal Framework for the Child-Centered Special Education Process](https://fw.escapps.net/Display_Portal?destination=/) ([https://fw.escapps.net/Display\\_Portal?destination=/](https://fw.escapps.net/Display_Portal?destination=/))
- [Partner Resource Network](http://prntexas.org/) (<http://prntexas.org/>)
- [SPEDTEX: Special Education Information Center](https://www.spedtex.org/) (<https://www.spedtex.org/>)
- [Texas First Project](http://www.texasprojectfirst.org/) (<http://www.texasprojectfirst.org/>)
- [TEA Special Education Parent and Family Resources](https://tea.texas.gov/academics/special-student-populations/special-education/parent-and-family-resources) (<https://tea.texas.gov/academics/special-student-populations/special-education/parent-and-family-resources>)

### **Notification to Parents of Intervention Strategies for Learning Difficulties Provided to Students in General Education**

In accordance with state law, the district will annually notify parents if their child receives assistance for learning difficulties. Details of such assistance can include intervention strategies. This notice is not intended for those students already enrolled in a special education program.

### **Texas Driving with Disability Program**

In accordance with state law, the district will provide notification of the Texas Driving with Disability Program to students who have a health condition or disability that may impede effective communication with a peace officer and receive special education or are covered by Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. This notification will be provided annually to an eligible student aged 16 years or older until the student's graduation or 21st birthday and to the student's parents.

The Texas Driving with Disability Program focuses on improving the interaction between law enforcement and drivers with disabilities that have unique communication needs.

### **A Student Who Receives Special Education Services with Other School-Aged Children in the Home**

If a student is receiving special education services at a campus outside their attendance zone, state law permits the parent or guardian to request that other students residing in the

household be transferred to the same campus if the grade level for the transferring student is offered on that campus.

The student receiving special education services is entitled to transportation; however, the district is not required to provide transportation to other children in the household.

The parent or guardian should contact the school principal regarding transportation needs before requesting a transfer for other children in the home. [See policy FDB(LOCAL) for more information.]

### **A Student Who Speaks a Primary Language Other than English**

A student may be eligible to receive specialized support if their primary language is not English and the student has difficulty performing ordinary class work in English.

If the student qualifies for these services, the Language Proficiency Assessment Committee (LPAC) will determine the types of services the student needs, including accommodations or modifications related to classroom instruction, local assessments, and state-mandated assessments.

[See Emergent Bilingual Students (All Grade Levels) and Special Programs (All Grade Levels)]

### **A Student with Physical or Mental Impairments Protected under Section 504**

A student with a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits a major life activity, as defined by law — and who does not otherwise qualify for special education services — may qualify for protections under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act.

Section 504 is a federal law designed to prohibit discrimination against individuals with disabilities.

When an evaluation is requested, a committee will be formed to determine whether the student needs services and supports under Section 504 in order to receive a free appropriate public education (FAPE), as defined in federal law.

[See A Student Who Has Learning Difficulties or Who Needs Special Education or Section 504 Services and policy FB for more information.]

## **Section Two: Other Important Information for Parents and Students**

This section contains important information on academics, school activities, and school operations and requirements.

It is organized alphabetically to serve as a quick reference guide. Where applicable, the topics are further organized by grade level.

Parents and children should take a moment together to become familiar with the issues addressed in this section. For guidance on a particular topic, please contact:

Ercilia Paredes, Elementary Principal  
810 N. Patterson Avenue, Florence, TX 76527  
Phone (254) 793-2497  
Email: [eparedes@florenceisd.net](mailto:eparedes@florenceisd.net)

Lauren Neil, Middle School Principal  
718 S. Patterson, Florence, TX 76527  
Phone: (254) 793-2504  
Email: [lnail@florenceisd.net](mailto:lnail@florenceisd.net)

Dr. Russell Porterfield, High School Principal  
401 FM 970, Florence, TX 76527  
Phone: (254) 793-2495  
Email: [rporterfield@florenceisd.net](mailto:rporterfield@florenceisd.net)

### **Absences/Attendance**

Regular school attendance is essential for a student to make the most of their education and to benefit from teacher-led and school activities while building each day's learning on the previous day and to grow as an individual. Absences from class may result in serious disruption of a student's mastery of the instructional materials; therefore, the student and parent should make every effort to avoid unnecessary absences.

Two important state laws are discussed below — one dealing with compulsory attendance and the other with how attendance affects the award of a student's final grade or course credit.

### **Compulsory Attendance**

#### ***Prekindergarten and Kindergarten***

Students enrolled in prekindergarten are required to attend school and are subject to the compulsory attendance requirements as long as they remain enrolled.

#### ***Ages 6-18***

State law requires that a student who is at least six years of age, or who is younger than six years of age and has previously been enrolled in first grade, and who has not yet reached their 19th birthday, shall attend school, as well as any applicable accelerated instruction program,

extended-year program, or tutorial session, unless the student is otherwise excused from attendance or legally exempt.

State law requires a student in kindergarten-grade 2 to attend any assigned accelerated reading instruction program. Parents will be notified in writing if their child is assigned to an accelerated reading instruction program based on a diagnostic reading instrument.

A student will be required to attend any assigned accelerated instruction program before or after school or during the summer if the student does not meet the passing standards on an applicable subject area state assessment.

### ***Age 19 and Older***

A student who voluntarily attends or enrolls after their 19th birthday is required to attend each school day until the end of the school year. If the student incurs more than five unexcused absences in a semester, the district may revoke the student's enrollment. The student's presence on school property thereafter would be unauthorized and may be considered trespassing. [See policy FEA for more information.]

## **Compulsory Attendance — Exemptions**

### ***All Grade Levels***

State law allows exemptions to the compulsory attendance requirements, as long as the student makes up all work, for the following activities and events:

- Religious holy days
- Required court appearances
- Appearing at a governmental office to obtain U.S. citizenship
- Taking part in a US naturalization oath ceremony
- Serving as an election clerk
- Health-care appointments for the student or a child of the student, including absences related to autism services and mental health appointments
- Absences resulting from a serious or life-threatening illness or related treatment that makes a student's attendance infeasible, with certification by a physician on the district's form
- Absences for attendance in a released time course in religious instruction
- For students in the conservatorship of the state:
  - An activity required under a court-ordered service plan
  - Any other court-ordered activity, provided it is not practicable to schedule the student's participation in the activity outside of school hours

For children of military families, absences of up to five days will be excused for a student to visit a parent, stepparent, or legal guardian going to, on leave from, or returning from certain deployments. [See Children of Military Families]

Note that documented health-care appointments may include telehealth appointments. Students who are physically on campus will not be allowed to participate in telehealth or other

online appointments without specific authorization from an appropriate administrator. Students should not use district-issued technology, including Wi-Fi or internet, for telehealth appointments because use of district-owned equipment and its network systems is not private and may be monitored by the district. For more information, see Personal Communications and Other Electronic Devices (All Grade Levels).

### ***Secondary Grade Levels***

The district will allow a student who is 15 years of age or older to be absent for one day to obtain a learner license and one day to obtain a driver's license, provided that the board has authorized such excused absences under policy FEA(LOCAL). The student will be required to provide documentation of the visit to the driver's license office for each absence and must make up any work missed.

[See Driver License Attendance Verification (Secondary Grade Levels Only)]

The district will allow junior and senior students to be absent for up to two days per year to visit a college or university if the following conditions are met:

- The board has authorized such excused absences under policy FEA(LOCAL)
- The principal has approved the student's absence
- The student follows campus procedures to verify the visit and makes up any work missed

The district will allow a student 17 years old or older to be absent for up to four days during the period the student is enrolled in high school to pursue enlistment in the U.S. armed services or Texas National Guard, provided the student verifies these activities to the district.

The district will allow a student to be absent for up to two days during the student's junior year and two days during the student's senior year for a career investigation day to visit a professional at that individual's workplace to determine the student's interest in pursuing a career in the professional's field, provided the student verifies these activities to the district.

The district will allow a student to be absent for up to two days per school year to serve as:

- An early voting clerk, if the district's board has authorized this in policy FEA(LOCAL), the student notifies their teachers, and the student receives approval from the principal prior to the absences
- An election clerk, if the student makes up any work missed

The district will allow a student in grades 6-12 to be absent for the purpose of sounding "Taps" at a military honors funeral for a deceased veteran.

## **Compulsory Attendance — Failure to Comply**

### ***All Grade Levels***

School employees must investigate and report violations of the compulsory attendance law.

A student who is absent without permission from school, any class, any required special program, such as additional special instruction, termed “accelerated instruction” by the state, or any required tutorial will be considered in violation of the compulsory attendance law and subject to disciplinary action.

***Students with Disabilities***

If a student with a disability is experiencing attendance issues, the student’s ARD or Section 504 committee will determine whether the attendance issues warrant an evaluation, a reevaluation, and/or modifications to the student's individualized education program or Section 504 plan, as appropriate.

***Ages 6-18***

When a student age 6-18 incurs three or more unexcused absences within a four-week period, the law requires the school to send notice to the parent.

The notice will:

- Remind the parent of their duty to monitor the student’s attendance and require the student to attend school
- Request a conference between school administrators and the parent
- Inform the parent that the district will initiate truancy prevention measures, including a behavior improvement plan, school-based community service, referrals to counseling or other social services, or other appropriate measures

The truancy prevention facilitators for the district are the campus principals. For any questions about student absences, parents should contact the campus principals.

A court of law may impose penalties against the parent if a school-aged student is deliberately not attending school. The district may file a complaint against the parent if the student incurs 10 or more unexcused absences, or parts of days within a six-month period in the same school year.

If a student age 12-18 incurs 10 or more unexcused absences within a six-month period in the same school year, the district, in most circumstances, will refer the student to truancy court.

[See policies FEA(LEGAL) and FED(LEGAL) for more information.]

***Age 19 and Older***

After a student age 19 or older incurs a third unexcused absence, the district is required by law to send the student a letter explaining that the district may revoke the student’s enrollment for the remainder of the school year if the student has more than five unexcused absences in a semester. As an alternative to revoking a student’s enrollment, the district may implement a behavior improvement plan.

### **Attendance for Credit or Final Grade (All Grade Levels)**

To receive credit or a final grade in a class, a student must attend the class at least 90 percent of the days it is offered. A student who attends at least 75 percent but fewer than 90 percent of the days may receive credit or a final grade if they complete a plan, approved by the principal, that allows the student to fulfill the class's instructional requirements. If a student is involved in a criminal or juvenile court proceeding, the judge presiding over the case must also approve the plan before the student receives credit or a final grade.

If a student attends fewer than 75 percent of the class days or does not complete the principal-approved plan, then the attendance review committee will determine whether there are extenuating circumstances for the absences and how the student can regain credit or a final grade. [See policy FEC for more information.]

Except for absences due to serious or life-threatening illness or related treatment, all absences, excused or unexcused, may be held against a student's attendance requirement. To determine whether there were extenuating circumstances for any absences, the attendance committee will consider:

- Whether the student has completed all assignments, mastered the essential knowledge and skills and maintained passing grades in the course or subject.
- Whether the student has completed makeup work satisfactorily. If the student completes makeup work, absences listed under Compulsory Attendance — Exemptions and absences for board-approved extracurricular activities will be considered extenuating circumstances for credit or the award of a final grade.
- A transfer migrant student incurs absences only after he or she has enrolled in the district.
- Acceptable and authentic documented reasons for the student's absences. Whether the student or the student's parent had any control over the absences.
- Any information presented by the student or parent to the committee about the absences.

The student or parent may appeal the committee's decision to the board by following policy FNG(LOCAL).

### **Official Attendance-Taking Time (All Grade Levels)**

The district will take official attendance every day at:

10:10 a.m. at the elementary school campus

9:50 a.m. at the middle school campus

9:30 a.m. at the high school campus

A student absent for any portion of the day, including at the official attendance-taking time, should follow the procedures below to provide documentation of the absence.

### **Documentation After an Absence (All Grade Levels)**

Within two days of returning to school, a parent must provide an explanation for any absence upon the student's arrival or return to school. The student must submit a note signed by the parent. The campus may accept a phone call from the parent but reserves the right to require a written note.

A note signed by the student will not be accepted unless the student is age 18 or older or is an emancipated minor under state law.

The campus will document in its attendance records whether the absence is excused or unexcused. The district will accept three parent notes within a semester. The notes may be submitted by the following emails:

[fhs-attendance@florenceisd.net](mailto:fhs-attendance@florenceisd.net) (high school)

[fms-attendance@florenceisd.net](mailto:fms-attendance@florenceisd.net) (middle school)

[fes-attendance@florenceisd.net](mailto:fes-attendance@florenceisd.net) (elementary school)

**Note:** The district is not required to excuse any absence, even if the parent provides a note explaining the absence, unless the absence is an exemption under compulsory attendance laws.

### **Doctor's Note After an Absence for Illness (All Grade Levels)**

Within two days of returning to school, a student who is absent for more than three consecutive days because of a personal illness must bring a statement from a doctor or health clinic verifying the illness or condition that caused the absence. Otherwise, the absence may be considered unexcused and in violation of compulsory attendance laws.

If the student develops a questionable pattern of absences, the principal or attendance committee may require a statement from a doctor or health clinic verifying the illness or condition that caused the absence to determine whether an absence will be excused or unexcused.

### ***Certification of Absence Due to Severe Illness or Treatment***

If a student is absent because of a serious or life-threatening illness or related treatment that makes a student's attendance infeasible, a parent must provide certification from a physician licensed to practice in Texas specifying the student's illness and the anticipated period of absence related to the illness or treatment on the district's form. A parent may access the required form by contacting the campus registrar.

### **Driver License Attendance Verification (Secondary Grade Levels Only)**

A currently enrolled student seeking a driver's license shall submit the Texas Department of Public Safety Verification of Enrollment and Attendance Form (VOE), signed by the parent, to the campus central office at least 10 days before it is needed. The district will issue a VOE only if the student meets class credit or attendance requirements. The VOE form (<https://www.tdlr.texas.gov/driver/forms/VOE.pdf>) is available online.

More information is available on the [Texas Department of Public Safety website \(https://www.dps.texas.gov/section/driver-license/how-apply-texas-driver-license-teen\)](https://www.dps.texas.gov/section/driver-license/how-apply-texas-driver-license-teen).

[See Compulsory Attendance — Exemptions for Secondary Grade Levels for information on excused absences for obtaining a learner license or driver’s license.]

### **Accountability under State and Federal Law (All Grade Levels)**

Florence Independent School District and each of its campuses are held to certain standards of accountability under state and federal law. A key component of accountability is the dissemination and publication of certain reports and information, including:

- The Texas Academic Performance Report (TAPR) for the district, compiled by the Texas Education Agency (TEA), based on academic factors and ratings
- A School Report Card (SRC) for each campus in the district, compiled by TEA
- The district’s financial management report, which includes the financial accountability rating assigned to the district by TEA
- Information compiled by TEA for the submission of a federal report card that is required by federal law

TEA maintains additional accountability and accreditation information at [TEA Performance Reporting Division \(https://tea.texas.gov/texas-schools/accountability/academic-accountability/performance-reporting\)](https://tea.texas.gov/texas-schools/accountability/academic-accountability/performance-reporting).

### **Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery Test (Grades 10-12)**

A student in grades 10-12 will be offered an opportunity to take the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery test and consult with a military recruiter.

The date, time, and location of the ASVAB test will be provided by the high school testing coordinator

Contact the counselor for information about this opportunity.

### **Awards and Honors (All Grade Levels)**

Refer to the campus for information related to awards and honors.

### **Bullying (All Grade Levels)**

The district strives to prevent bullying, in accordance with the district’s policies, by promoting a positive school culture; building healthy relationships between students and staff; encouraging reporting of bullying incidents, including anonymous reporting; and investigating and addressing reported bullying incidents.

Bullying is defined in state law as a single significant act or a pattern of acts by one or more students directed at another student that exploits an imbalance of power and involves engaging in written or verbal expression, expression through electronic means, or physical conduct that:

- Has the effect or will have the effect of physically harming a student, damaging a student's property, or placing a student in reasonable fear of harm to the student's person or of damage to the student's property
- Is sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive enough that the action or threat creates an intimidating, threatening, or abusive educational environment for a student
- Materially and substantially disrupts the educational process or the orderly operation of a classroom or school
- Infringes on the rights of the victim at school

Bullying includes cyberbullying. Cyberbullying is defined in state law as bullying that is done using any electronic communication device, including:

- A cellular or other type of telephone
- A computer
- A camera
- Electronic mail
- Instant messaging
- Text messaging
- A social media application
- An internet website
- Any other internet-based communication tool

Bullying is prohibited by the district and could include:

- Hazing
- Threats
- Taunting
- Teasing
- Confinement
- Assault
- Demands for money
- Destruction of property
- Theft of valued possessions
- Name-calling
- Rumor-spreading
- Ostracism

The district will integrate into instruction research-based content designed to reduce bullying that is appropriate for students' age groups.

Students in elementary grades will participate in:

- Instruction designed so that students can recognize bullying behaviors and how to report them
- Age-appropriate discussions that encourage peers to intervene when they observe bullying occur

- Instruction that characterizes bullying as a behavior that results from the student's need to acquire more mature social or coping skills, not an unchangeable trait

Students in secondary grades will participate in:

- Instruction on the brain's ability to change and grow so the student recognizes bullying behavior can come from a developmental need to acquire more social skills, can change when the brain matures and learns better ways of coping, and is not an unchangeable trait
- Discussions that portray bullying as undesirable behavior and a means for attaining or maintaining social status at school, and that discourage students from using bullying as a tool for social status
- Instruction designed so that students recognize the role that reporting bullying behaviors plays in promoting a safe school community

The district will use an age-appropriate survey about school culture that includes relevant questions on bullying to identify and address student concerns.

Each campus has a committee that addresses bullying by focusing on prevention efforts and health and wellness initiatives. The committee will include parents and secondary students. For more information on this committee, including interest in serving on the committee, contact the campus principal.

If a student believes that they have experienced bullying or witnessed the bullying of another student, the student or parent should notify a teacher, school counselor, principal, or another district employee as soon as possible. Any district employee aware of a report of a bullying incident will relay the report to an appropriate administrator. Procedures for reporting allegations of bullying may be found on the district's website.

A student may anonymously report an alleged incident of bullying by visiting the following link: [STOPit \(stopitsolutions.com\)](https://stopit.stopitsolutions.com).

The administration will investigate any allegations of bullying and related misconduct. The district will also provide notice to the parent of the alleged victim and the parent of the student alleged to have engaged in bullying.

If an investigation determines that bullying occurred, the administration will take appropriate disciplinary action and may, in certain circumstances, notify law enforcement. Disciplinary or other action may be taken even if the conduct did not meet the definition of bullying.

The district will provide research-based interventions, which may include counseling options, for students who engage in bullying behaviors, students who are targeted by bullying behaviors, and any student who witnessed bullying behaviors.

Any action taken in response to bullying will comply with state and federal law regarding students with disabilities.

Any retaliation against a student who reports an incident of bullying is prohibited.

Upon recommendation of the administration, the board may transfer a student found to have engaged in bullying to another classroom at the campus.

The parent of a student who has been determined to be a victim of bullying may request that the student be transferred to another classroom or campus within the district. [See Safety Transfers/Assignments]

A copy of the district's bullying policy is available in the principal's office, superintendent's office, and on the district's website, and is included at the end of this handbook as an [appendix](#).

A student or parent who is dissatisfied with the outcome of an investigation may appeal through policy FNG(LOCAL).

[See Safety Transfers/Assignments, Dating Violence, Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation (All Grade Levels), Hazing (All Grade Levels), policy FFI, the district's Student Code of Conduct, and the district improvement plan, a copy of which can be viewed in the campus office.]

### **Career and Technical Education (CTE) and Other Work-Based Programs (Secondary Grade Levels Only)**

The district offers career and technical education programs in the following areas:

- Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources
- Business, Marketing, and Finance
- Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics
- Health Science

Admission to these programs is based on student's Four-Year College Readiness Plan and Coherent Sequence Requirements.

District policy prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, or handicap in its vocational programs, services, or activities, and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.

District policy also prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, handicap, or age in its employment practices as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended; and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.

The district will take steps to assure that lack of English language skills will not be a barrier to admission or participation in all educational and vocational programs.

For information about your rights or grievance procedures, contact the Title IX coordinator and the ADA/Section 504 coordinator.

[See Nondiscrimination Statement (All Grade Levels) for the name and contact information for the Title IX coordinator and ADA/Section 504 coordinator.]

### **Celebrations (All Grade Levels)**

Although a parent or grandparent may provide food to share for a school-designated function or for a student's birthday, please be aware that children in the school may have severe allergies to certain food products. It is imperative to discuss any classroom allergies with the teacher before bringing food to share.

Occasionally, the school or a class may host functions or celebrations tied to the curriculum that involve food. The school or teacher will notify students and parents of any known food allergies when soliciting potential volunteers to provide food.

[See Food Allergies (All Grade Levels)]

### **Child Sexual Abuse, Neglect, Trafficking, and Other Maltreatment of Children (All Grade Levels)**

The district has established a plan for addressing child abuse, neglect, trafficking, and other maltreatment of children. The plan is available at [https://www.florenceisd.net/324617\\_2](https://www.florenceisd.net/324617_2). Abuse includes physical abuse, including sexual abuse, and mental and emotional abuse. Trafficking includes both sex and labor trafficking.

#### **Duty to Report**

Anyone who suspects that a child has been or may be abused or neglected has a legal responsibility, under state law, to report the suspected abuse or neglect to law enforcement or to Child Protective Services (CPS). See below for information about how to report and respond to allegations of child abuse or neglect.

#### **Possible Warning Signs of Child Abuse, Neglect, Trafficking, and Other Maltreatment of Children**

##### ***Physical abuse***

Possible warning signs of physical abuse include:

- Frequent injuries such as bruises, cuts, black eyes, or burns without adequate explanations
- Frequent complaints of pain without apparent injury
- Burns or bruises in unusual patterns that may indicate the use of an instrument or human bite; cigarette burns on any part of the body
- Lack of reaction to pain
- Extreme fear of going home or seeing parents
- Injuries that appear after a child has not been seen for several days
- Unseasonable clothing that may hide injuries to arms or legs

### ***Sexual Abuse***

Possible warning signs of sexual abuse include:

- Physical signs of sexually transmitted diseases
- Evidence of injury to the genital area
- Pregnancy in a young girl
- Difficulty in sitting or walking
- Extreme fear of being alone with adults of a certain sex
- Sexual comments, behaviors, or play beyond what is considered age-appropriate behavior
- Knowledge of sexual relations beyond what is expected for a child's age
- Sexual victimization of other children

Children and adolescents who have experienced dating violence may show similar physical, behavioral, and emotional warning signs. [See Dating Violence, Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation (All Grade Levels) and Consent to Instruction on Prevention of Child Abuse, Family Violence, Dating Violence, and Sex Trafficking]

### ***Emotional Abuse***

Possible warning signs of emotional abuse include:

- Over-compliance or low self-esteem caused by scapegoating or verbal abuse by caregivers
- Severe depression, anxiety, or aggression
- Lag in physical, emotional, and intellectual development
- Indicators of a caregiver who belittles the child, withholds love, and seems unconcerned about the child's problems
- Significant changes to behavior, such as withdrawal or over-aggression
- Significant changes to weight, such as substantial weight gain or weight loss

### ***Neglect***

Possible warning signs of neglect include:

- Obvious malnourishment
- Consistent lack of personal hygiene that poses a health risk
- Stealing or begging for food
- Child unattended for long periods of time
- Unaddressed need for dental care or other medical attention

### **Description and Warning Signs of Trafficking**

Child trafficking of any sort is prohibited by the Penal Code. Sex trafficking involves forcing a person, including a child, into sexual abuse, assault, indecency, prostitution, or pornography. Labor trafficking involves forcing a person, including a child, to engage in forced labor or services.

Traffickers are often trusted members of a child's community, such as friends, romantic partners, family members, mentors, and coaches. Some traffickers contact victims online.

Possible warning signs of sexual trafficking in children include:

- Changes in school attendance, habits, friend groups, vocabulary, demeanor, and attitude
- Sudden appearance of expensive items (for example, manicures, designer clothes, purses, technology)
- Tattoos or branding
- Refillable gift cards
- Frequent runaway episodes
- Multiple phones or social media accounts
- Provocative pictures posted online or stored on the phone
- Unexplained injuries
- Isolation from family, friends, and community
- Older romantic partners

Additional warning signs of labor trafficking in children include:

- Being unpaid, paid very little, or paid only through tips
- Being employed but not having a school-authorized work permit
- Being employed and having a work permit but clearly working outside the permitted hours for students
- Owing a large debt and being unable to pay it off
- Not being allowed breaks at work or being subjected to excessively long work hours
- Being overly concerned with pleasing an employer and/or deferring personal or educational decisions to a boss
- Not being in control of their own money
- Living with an employer or having an employer listed as a student's caregiver
- A desire to quit a job but not being allowed to do so

[See Consent to Instruction on Prevention of Child Abuse, Family Violence, Dating Violence, and Sex Trafficking]

### **Reporting and Responding to Child Abuse, Neglect, Trafficking, and Other Maltreatment of Children**

A child who has experienced any type of abuse or neglect should be encouraged to seek out a parent or trusted adult. Children may be reluctant to disclose abuse and may only disclose sexual abuse indirectly. As a parent or trusted adult, it is important to be calm and comforting if your child or another child confides in you. Reassure the child that they did the right thing by telling you.

If your child is a victim of abuse, neglect, trafficking, or other maltreatment, the school counselor or principal will provide information on counseling options for you and your child

available in your area. Texas Health and Human Services also manages early intervention counseling programs.

To find out what services may be available in your county, see Texas Health and Human Services' [Family Support Services Program Locator](https://fss.hhs.texas.gov/Programs%20Available%20In%20Your%20County/default.asp) (<https://fss.hhs.texas.gov/Programs Available In Your County/default.asp>).

Reports of abuse, trafficking, or neglect may be made to the CPS division of the DFPS at 1 800-252-5400 or online at [Texas Abuse Hotline Website](http://www.txabusehotline.org) ([www.txabusehotline.org](http://www.txabusehotline.org)).

### **Further Resources on Sexual Abuse, Trafficking, and Other Maltreatment of Children**

The following websites include resources to help increase awareness of child abuse and neglect, sexual abuse, trafficking, and other maltreatment of children:

- [Child Welfare Information Gateway](https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubPDFs/whatiscan.pdf) (<https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubPDFs/whatiscan.pdf>)
- [KidsHealth, For Parents, Child Abuse](https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/child-abuse.html) (<https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/child-abuse.html>)
- [Office of the Texas Governor's Child Sex Trafficking Team](https://gov.texas.gov/organization/cjd/childsextrafficking) (<https://gov.texas.gov/organization/cjd/childsextrafficking>)
- [Human Trafficking of School-aged Children](https://tea.texas.gov/about-tea/other-services/human-trafficking-of-school-aged-children) (<https://tea.texas.gov/about-tea/other-services/human-trafficking-of-school-aged-children>)
- [Child Sexual Abuse: A Parental Guide from the Texas Association Against Sexual Assault](https://www.nsvrc.org/publications/booklets/child-sexual-abuse-parental-guide) (<https://www.nsvrc.org/publications/booklets/child-sexual-abuse-parental-guide>)
- [National Center of Safe Supportive Learning Environments: Human Trafficking in America's Schools](https://safesupportivelearning.ed.gov/human-trafficking-american-schools) (<https://safesupportivelearning.ed.gov/human-trafficking-american-schools>)

### **Class Rank/Highest-Ranking Student (Secondary Grade Levels Only)**

For information about class rankings procedures, see the Florence High School Handbook Supplement and policy EIC located at <https://pol.tasb.org/PolicyOnline/PolicyDetails?key=1239&code=EIC#localTabContent>.

### **Class Schedules (Secondary Grade Levels Only)**

All students are expected to attend school for the entire school day and maintain a full class schedule to fulfill each period of the day. Exceptions may be made occasionally by the campus principal for students in grades 9-12 who meet specific criteria and receive parental consent to enroll in less than a full-day schedule.

[See Schedule Changes (Middle/Junior High and High School Grade Levels) for information related to student requests to revise their course schedule.]

## **College and University Admissions and Financial Aid (All Grade Levels)**

For two school years following graduation, a district student who graduates as valedictorian or in the top 10 percent of their class is eligible for automatic admission into four-year public universities and colleges in Texas\* if the student meets one of the following requirements:

- Completes the distinguished level of achievement under the foundation graduation program (a student must graduate with at least one endorsement and must have taken Algebra II as one of the four required match courses) [see Foundation Graduation Program]
- Satisfies the ACT College Readiness Benchmarks or earns at least a 1500 out of 2400 on the SAT

The student is ultimately responsible for meeting the admission requirements of the university or college, including timely submission of a completed application.

If a college or university adopts an admissions policy that automatically accepts the top 25 percent of a graduating class, the provisions above will also apply to a student ranked in the top 25 percent of their class.

\*The University of Texas at Austin may limit the number of automatically admitted students to 75 percent of the University's enrollment capacity for incoming resident freshmen. From the summer/fall 2026 term through the spring 2027 term, the University will admit the top five percent of a high school's graduating class who meet the above requirements. Additional applicants will be considered by the University through a holistic review process.

As required by law, the district will provide written notice about the following:

- Automatic college admission
- Curriculum requirements for financial aid
- Benefits of completing the requirements for automatic admission and financial aid
- The Texas First Early High School Completion Program, which requires a student to provide an official copy of assessment results and transcripts, as applicable, to receive credit for the assessments and credits required for early graduation under the program
- The Texas First Scholarship Program
- The Future Texas Teachers Scholarship Program

Parents and students will be asked to sign an acknowledgment that they received this information.

Students and parents should contact the school counselor for further information about automatic admissions, the application process, and deadlines.

[See Class Rank/Highest-Ranking Student (Secondary Grade Levels Only) for information specifically related to how the district calculates a student's rank in class, and requirements for Graduation (Secondary Grade Levels Only) for information associated with the foundation graduation program.]

[See A Student in the Conservatorship of the State (Foster Care) for information on assistance in transitioning to higher education for students in foster care.]

### **College Credit Courses (Secondary Grade Levels Only)**

Students in grades 9-12 may earn college credit through the following opportunities:

- Certain courses taught at the high school campus, which may include courses termed dual credit, Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), or college preparatory
- Enrollment in AP or dual credit courses through the virtual or hybrid courses offered by the district or another district or school
- Enrollment in courses taught in conjunction and in partnership with Central Texas College, University of Texas On Ramps, and Tarleton State University, which may be offered on or off campus
- Enrollment in courses taught at other colleges or universities
- Certain Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses
- Dual Credit courses are open to any 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> grade student who qualifies by taking the TSIA or meeting the college's external measure for enrollment.

Under the Financial Aid for Swift Transfer (FAST) program, a student may be eligible to enroll at no cost to the student in dual credit courses at a participating institution of higher education. The FAST program allows students who are or have been educationally disadvantaged at any time during the four years preceding the student's enrollment in a dual credit course to enroll at no cost to the student. The district will determine eligibility upon the student's enrollment in the dual credit course. See the high school campus counselor for more information.

A student may be eligible for subsidies based on financial need for AP or IB exam fees. [See Fees (All Grade Levels) for more information.]

A student may also earn college credit for certain Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses. Career and Technical Education (CTE) and Other Work-Based Programs (Secondary Grade Levels Only) for information on CTE and other work-based programs.

For dual credit purposes, all these methods have eligibility requirements and must be approved before enrollment in the course. Please see the school counselor for more information. Depending on the student's grade level and the course, a state-mandated end-of-course assessment may be required for graduation.

Not all colleges and universities accept credit earned in all dual credit or AP courses taken in high school for college credit. Students and parents should check with the prospective college or university to determine if a particular course will count toward the student's desired degree plan.

## **Communications (All Grade Levels)**

### **Parent Contact Information**

A parent is legally required to provide in writing the parent's contact information, including address, phone number, and email address.

A parent must provide the contact information to the district upon enrollment and again within two weeks after the beginning of each following school year while the student is enrolled in the district.

If the parent's contact information changes during the school year, the parent must update the information in writing no more than two weeks after the date the information changes.

A parent may update contact information by contacting the registrar at the campus or online using Skyward Family Access Proof of residency is required for changes of address.

### **Automated Emergency Communications**

The district will rely on contact information on file with the district to communicate with parents in an emergency situation, which may include real-time or automated messages. An emergency situation may include early dismissal, delayed opening, or restricted access to the campus due to severe weather, another emergency, or a security threat. It is crucial to notify your child's school when a phone number changes.

[See Safety (All Grade Levels) for information about contact with parents during an emergency situation.]

### **Automated Nonemergency Communications**

Your child's school periodically sends information by automated or pre-recorded messages, text messages, or real-time phone or email communications that are closely related to the school's mission and specific to your child, your child's school, or the district.

### **Standard messaging rates of your wireless phone carrier may apply.**

If you do not wish to receive such communications or have specific needs related to how the district contacts you, please contact your child's principal. [See Safety (All Grade Levels) for information about contact with parents during an emergency.]

## **Complaints and Concerns (All Grade Levels)**

Usually, student or parent complaints or concerns can be addressed informally by a phone call or a conference with the teacher or principal.

For those complaints and concerns that cannot be resolved informally, the board has adopted a student and parent grievance policy at FNG(LOCAL) in accordance with Education Code Chapter 26A. This policy describing the grievance process in detail is available in the district's online policy manual at

<https://pol.tasb.org/PolicyOnline/PolicyDetails?key=1239&code=FNG#localTabContent> and is

attached to this handbook as an appendix. A parent may file a grievance by submitting the district grievance form to the campus principal. The district's grievance forms are available on the district's website at [https://files.gabbart.com/819/student\\_parent\\_grievance\\_info\\_1.pdf](https://files.gabbart.com/819/student_parent_grievance_info_1.pdf) and at the principal's or superintendent's office. A parent may also submit a grievance electronically by emailing the campus principal or Assistant Superintendent directly.

In general, the written grievance form should be completed and submitted to the campus principal in a timely manner.

If the concern is not resolved, a parent or student may appeal to the superintendent or superintendent's designee.

If the concern is still unresolved, the district provides a process for parents and students to appeal to the board of trustees.

Hearings at each level will be conducted in accordance with the timelines established by law described in the district's policy at FNG(LOCAL).

## **Conduct (All Grade Levels)**

### **Applicability of School Rules**

The board has adopted a Student Code of Conduct that defines standards of acceptable behavior — on and off campus, during remote and in-person instruction, and on district vehicles — and outlines consequences for violation of these standards. The district has disciplinary authority over a student in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct. Students and parents should be familiar with the standards set out in the Student Code of Conduct, as well as campus and classroom rules.

During summer instruction, the Student Handbook and Student Code of Conduct in place for the school year immediately before the summer period apply, unless the district amends either or both documents for summer instruction.

### **Campus Behavior Coordinator**

Each campus has a campus behavior coordinator to apply discipline management techniques and administer consequences for certain student misconduct, as well as provide a point of contact for student misconduct. The contact information for each campus behavior coordinator is available is listed below:

Denise Berg  
High School Assistant Principal  
401 FM 970, Florence, TX 76527  
[dberg@florenceisd.net](mailto:dberg@florenceisd.net)  
(254) 793-2495

Dr. Brittany Barlow  
Middle School Assistant Principal

718 S. Patterson Avenue, Florence, TX 76527  
[bbarlow@florenceisd.net](mailto:bbarlow@florenceisd.net)  
(254) 793-2504

Angela Gower  
Elementary School Assistant Principal  
810 N. Patterson Avenue, Florence, TX 76527  
[agower@florenceisd.net](mailto:agower@florenceisd.net)  
(254) 793-2497

### **Deliveries**

Except in emergencies, delivery of messages or packages to students will not be allowed during instructional time. A parent may leave a message or a package, such as a forgotten lunch, for the student to pick up from the front office during a passing period or lunch.

### **Disruption of School Operations**

Disruption of school operations is not tolerated and may constitute a misdemeanor offense. As identified by state law, disruptions include the following:

- Interference with the movement of people at an exit, entrance, or hallway of a district building without authorization from an administrator
- Interference with an authorized activity by seizing control of all or part of a building
- Use of force, violence, or threats in an attempt to prevent participation in an authorized assembly
- Use of force, violence, or threats to cause disruption during an assembly
- Interference with the movement of people at an exit or an entrance to district property
- Use of force, violence, or threats in an attempt to prevent people from entering or leaving district property without authorization from an administrator

Disruption of classes or other school activities while on or within 500 feet of district property includes:

- Making loud noises
- Trying to entice a student away from, or to prevent a student from attending, a required class or activity
- Entering a classroom without authorization and disrupting the activity with loud or profane language or any misconduct

Interference with the transportation of students in vehicles owned or operated by the district is also considered a disruption.

### **Social Events**

School rules apply to all school social events. Guests attending these events are expected to observe the same rules as students, and a student inviting a guest will share responsibility for the conduct of the guest.

A student attending a social event will be asked to sign out when leaving before the end of the event and will not be readmitted.

A parent interested in serving as a chaperone for any school social events should contact the campus principal.

## **Counseling**

The district has a comprehensive school counseling program that includes:

- A guidance curriculum to help students develop their full educational potential, including the student's interests and career objectives
- A responsive services component to intervene on behalf of any student whose immediate personal concerns or problems put the student's continued educational, career, personal, or social development at risk
- An individual planning system to guide a student as the student plans, monitors, and manages the student's own educational, career, personal, and social development
- Systems to support the efforts of teachers, staff, parents, and other members of the community in promoting the educational, career, personal, and social development of students

The district will make a preview of the program, including all materials and curriculum, available to parents to review during school hours.

## **Academic Counseling**

### ***Elementary and Middle/Junior High School Grade Levels***

The school counselor will provide information to students and parents about college and university admissions and the importance of planning for postsecondary education, including appropriate coursework and financial aid availability and requirements.

In either grade 7 or 8, each student will receive instruction on how best to prepare for high school, college, and a career.

### ***High School Grade Levels***

High school students and their parents are encouraged to talk with a school counselor, teacher, or principal to learn more about course offerings, graduation requirements, and early graduation procedures.

Each year, high school students will be provided information on anticipated course offerings for the next school year, how to make the most of academic and career and technical education (CTE) opportunities, and the importance of postsecondary education.

The school counselor will also provide information each year a student is enrolled in high school about:

- The importance of postsecondary education

- The advantages of earning an endorsement and completing the foundation program with the distinguished level of achievement
- The disadvantages of pursuing a high school equivalency exam (GED) as opposed to earning a high school diploma
- Financial aid eligibility and how to apply for financial aid
- Automatic admission to state-funded Texas colleges and universities
- Eligibility requirements for the TEXAS Grant
- Availability of district programs that allow students to earn college credit
- Availability of tuition and fee assistance for postsecondary education for students in foster care
- Availability of college credit awarded by institutions of higher education to veterans and military service members for military experience, education, and training

Additionally, the school counselor can provide information about workforce opportunities after graduation or technical and trade school opportunities, including opportunities to earn industry-recognized certificates and licenses.

[See Scholarships and Grants for more information.]

### **Personal Counseling (All Grade Levels)**

The school counselor is available to assist students with a wide range of personal, social, and family concerns, including emotional or mental health issues and substance abuse. A student who wishes to meet with the school counselor should follow the campus plan for securing an appointment. 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.

If your child has experienced trauma, contact the school counselor for more information.

[See Mental Health Support (All Grade Levels), Child Sexual Abuse, Neglect, Trafficking, and Other Maltreatment of Children (All Grade Levels), and Dating Violence]

### **Course Credit (Secondary Grade Levels Only)**

A student at any grade level enrolled in a high school course will earn credit for the course only if the final grade is 70 or above. For a two-part (two-semester, 1-credit course), the student's grades from both halves (semesters) will be averaged and credit will be awarded if the combined average is 70 or above. If the student's combined average is less than 70, the student will be awarded credit only for the half (semester) with the passing grade.

### **Credit by Examination — If a Student Has Taken the Course/Subject (Grades 6-12)**

A student who has previously taken a course or subject but did not receive credit or a final grade for it may, in circumstances determined by the principal or attendance committee, be permitted to earn credit or a final grade by passing an examination approved by the district's board of trustees on the essential knowledge and skills defined for that course or subject.

Examples of prior instruction include incomplete coursework due to a failed course or excessive absences, homeschooling, or coursework by a student transferring from a nonaccredited school. The opportunity to earn credit by examination after the student has had prior instruction is sometimes referred to as “credit recovery.”

The attendance review committee may also offer a student with excessive absences an opportunity to earn credit for a course by passing an examination. [See Attendance for Credit or Final Grade (All Grade Levels)]

If a student is granted approval to take an examination for credit, the student must score at least 70 on the examination to receive credit for the course or subject.

[See the school counselor and policy EHDB(LOCAL) for more information.]

### **Credit by Examination for Advancement/Acceleration — If a Student Has Not Taken the Course/Subject**

A student will be permitted to earn credit by examination for an academic course or subject area for which the student had no prior instruction for advancement or to accelerate to the next grade level.

The examinations offered by the district are approved by the district’s board of trustees. Testing windows for these examinations will be published in district publications and on the district’s website. A student may take a specific examination only once per testing window.

The only exceptions to the published testing windows will be for examinations administered by another entity or to accommodate a student experiencing homelessness or a student involved in the foster care system.

When another entity administers an examination, the student and the district must comply with the testing schedule of the other entity.

If a student plans to take an examination, the student or parent must register with the school counselor no later than 30 days before the scheduled testing date. [See policy EHDC for more information.]

### **Kindergarten Acceleration**

In accordance with State Board rules, the board shall approve procedures developed by the superintendent or designee to allow a child who is five years old at the beginning of the school year to be assigned initially to grade 1 rather than kindergarten.

Criteria for acceleration may include:

- Scores on readiness tests or achievement tests that may be administered by appropriate district personnel.
- Recommendation of the kindergarten or preschool the student has attended.
- Chronological age and observed social and emotional development of the student.
- Other criteria deemed appropriate by the principal and superintendent.

### **Students in Grades 1-5**

A student in elementary school is eligible to accelerate to the next grade level if the student meets all of the following requirements:

- The student scores at least an 80 on each examination in the subject areas of language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies
- A district administrator recommends that the student be accelerated
- The student's parent gives written approval of the grade advancement

### **Students in Grades 6-12**

A student in grade 6 or above is eligible to earn course credit if the student meets one of the following requirements:

- A passing score of at least 80 on an examination approved by the board
- A scaled score of 50 or higher on an examination administered through the College Level Examination Program (CLEP)
- A score of 3 or higher on an AP examination, as applicable

A student may take an examination to earn high school course credit no more than twice. If a student fails to achieve the designated score on the applicable exam before the beginning of the school year in which the student would need to enroll in the course according to the school's high school course sequence, the student must complete the course.

### **Dating Violence, Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation (All Grade Levels)**

Students learn best, and their welfare is best served, in a school environment that is free from dating violence, discrimination, harassment, and retaliation.

Students are expected to treat peers and district employees with courtesy and respect, avoid offensive behaviors, and stop those behaviors as directed. District employees are likewise expected to treat students with courtesy and respect.

The board has established policies and procedures to prohibit and promptly address inappropriate and offensive behaviors that are based on a person's race, color, religion, sex, gender, national origin, age, disability, or any other basis prohibited by law. A copy of the district's policy is available in the principal's office and in the superintendent's office or on the district's website at

<https://pol.tasb.org/PolicyOnline/PolicyDetails?key=1239&code=FFH#localTabContent>.

[See the FFH series of policies for more information.]

### **Dating Violence**

Dating violence will not be tolerated at school. To report dating violence, see Reporting Procedures.

Dating violence occurs when a person in a current or past dating relationship uses physical, sexual, verbal, or emotional abuse to harm, threaten, intimidate, or control the other person in the relationship or any of the person's past or subsequent partners. This type of conduct is considered harassment if it is so severe, persistent, or pervasive that it affects a student's ability to participate in or benefit from an educational program or activity; creates an intimidating, threatening, hostile, or offensive educational environment; or substantially interferes with the student's academic performance.

Examples of dating violence against a student may include, but are not limited to:

- Physical or sexual assaults
- Name-calling
- Put-downs
- Threats to hurt the student, the student's family members, or members of the student's household
- Destroying property belonging to the student
- Threats to die by suicide or homicide if the student ends the relationship
- Threats to harm a student's past or current dating partner
- Attempts to isolate the student from friends and family
- Stalking
- Encouraging others to engage in these behaviors

In accordance with law, when the district receives a report of dating violence, a district official will immediately notify the parent of the alleged victim and alleged perpetrator.

The counselor's office has information about the dangers of dating violence and resources for seeking help.

For more information on dating violence, see:

- Texas Attorney General's office [recognizing and responding to dating violence flier](https://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/sites/default/files/files/child-support/papa/session%2010/recognizing-relationship-violence-en.pdf) (<https://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/sites/default/files/files/child-support/papa/session%2010/recognizing-relationship-violence-en.pdf>)
- [Preventing Teen Dating Violence](https://www.cdc.gov/intimate-partner-violence/about/about-teen-dating-violence.html) (<https://www.cdc.gov/intimate-partner-violence/about/about-teen-dating-violence.html>)

[See Consent to Instruction on Prevention of Child Abuse, Family Violence, Dating Violence, and Sex Trafficking]

### **Discrimination**

Discrimination is defined as any conduct directed at a student on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, gender, national origin, age, disability, or any other basis prohibited by law that negatively affects the student.

## **Harassment**

Harassment, in general terms, is conduct so severe, persistent, or pervasive that it affects a student's ability to participate in or benefit from an educational program or activity; creates an intimidating, threatening, hostile, or offensive educational environment; or substantially interferes with the student's academic performance.

Examples of harassment may include, but are not limited to:

- Offensive or derogatory language directed at a person's religious beliefs or practices, accent, skin color, or need for accommodation
- Threatening, intimidating, or humiliating conduct
- Offensive jokes, name-calling, slurs, or rumors
- Physical aggression or assault
- Graffiti or printed material promoting racial, ethnic, or other negative stereotypes
- Other kinds of aggressive conduct such as theft or damage to property

## **Sexual Harassment and Sex-Based Harassment**

Sexual harassment and sex-based harassment of a student by an employee, volunteer, or another student are prohibited.

Examples of sexual harassment may include, but are not limited to:

- Touching private body parts or coercing physical contact that is sexual in nature
- Sexual advances
- Jokes or conversations of a sexual nature
- Other sexually motivated conduct, communications, or contact

Sexual harassment of a student by an employee or volunteer does not include necessary or permissible physical contact that a reasonable person would not construe as sexual in nature, such as comforting a child with a hug or taking the child's hand. However, romantic, sexual, and other inappropriate social relationships between students and district employees are prohibited, even if consensual.

## **Pregnancy or Related Conditions**

The district does not discriminate on the basis of pregnancy or a related condition.

Please contact the Director for Information Technology and Safety, Jimmy Birch at [jbirch@florenceisd.net](mailto:jbirch@florenceisd.net), or (254) 793-2850, Ext. 2248 for pregnancy-related accommodations.

## **Retaliation**

Retaliation against a person who makes a report or participates in an investigation of discrimination, harassment, or dating violence is prohibited.

## **Reporting Procedures**

Any student who believes that they have experienced dating violence, discrimination, harassment, or retaliation should immediately report the problem to a teacher, school

counselor, principal, or other district employee. The report can be made anonymously using STOPit located on the homepage of the Florence ISD website or via the STOPit app. The report may be made by the student's parent. [See the FFH series of policies and FFH(EXHIBIT) for other appropriate district officials to whom to make a report.]

Upon receiving a report, the district will determine whether the allegations, if proven, constitute prohibited conduct as defined by the FFH series of policies. If not, the district will refer to policy FFI to determine whether the allegations, if proven, constitute bullying, as defined by law and policy FFI. If the alleged prohibited conduct also meets the statutory and policy definitions for bullying, an investigation of bullying will also be conducted. [See Bullying (All Grade Levels)]

The district will promptly notify the parent of any student alleged to have experienced prohibited conduct involving an adult associated with the district. In the event alleged prohibited conduct involves another student, the district will notify the parent of the student alleged to have experienced the prohibited conduct when the allegations, if proven, would constitute a violation as defined by the FFH series of policies.

### **Investigation of Report**

Allegations of prohibited conduct, which includes dating violence, discrimination, harassment, and retaliation, will be promptly investigated.

To the extent possible, the district will respect the privacy of the student. However, limited disclosures may be necessary to conduct a thorough investigation and comply with law.

If a law enforcement or other regulatory agency notifies the district that it is investigating the matter and requests that the district delay its investigation, the district will resume its investigation at the conclusion of the agency's investigation.

During an investigation and when appropriate, the district will take interim action to address the alleged prohibited conduct.

If the district's investigation indicates that prohibited conduct occurred, appropriate disciplinary action and, in some cases, corrective action will be taken to address the conduct. The district may take disciplinary and corrective action even if the conduct was not unlawful.

All involved parties will be notified of the outcome of the district investigation within the parameters and limits allowed under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

A student or parent who is dissatisfied with the outcome of the investigation may appeal in accordance with policy FNG(LOCAL).

### **Discrimination**

[See Dating Violence, Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation (All Grade Levels)]

## **Distance Learning (All Grade Levels)**

Distance learning and correspondence courses include courses that encompass the state-required essential knowledge and skills but are taught through multiple technologies and alternative methodologies such as mail, satellite, internet, video-conferencing, and instructional television.

The distance learning opportunities that the district makes available to district students are available at the counselor's office.

[See Remote Instruction]

## **Virtual and Hybrid Instruction**

A student has the option, with certain limitations, to enroll in virtual or hybrid instruction through virtual or hybrid courses offered by the district or by another district or school to earn course credit for graduation.

Depending on the virtual or hybrid course in which a student enrolls, the course may be subject to the "no pass, no play" rules. [See Extracurricular Activities, Clubs, and Organizations (All Grade Levels)] In addition, a student who enrolls in a virtual or hybrid course for which an end-of-course (EOC) assessment is required must still take the corresponding EOC assessment.

A parent may ask questions or request that their child be enrolled in a virtual or hybrid course offered by the district by contacting the school counselor.

A copy of policy EHDE addressing distance learning will be distributed to parents of middle and high school students at least once each year. If you do not receive a copy or have questions about this policy, please contact the campus principal.

## **Distribution of Literature, Published Materials, or Other Documents (All Grade Levels)**

### **School Materials**

Publications prepared by and for the school may be posted or distributed, with the prior approval of the principal, sponsor, or teacher. Such items may include school posters, newspapers, yearbooks, brochures, flyers, and the like.

All school publications are under the supervision of a teacher, sponsor, and the principal.

### **Non-school Materials**

#### ***From Students***

Students must obtain prior approval from principal before selling, posting, circulating, or distributing more than ten copies of written or printed materials, handbills, photographs, pictures, films, tapes, or other visual or auditory materials that were not developed under the oversight of the school. To be considered, any non-school material must include the name of

the sponsoring person or organization. Approval will be granted or denied within two school days.

The campus principal shall designate time(s), location(s), and means for distribution of approved non-school materials to be placed for voluntary viewing or collection by students. [See policy FNAA for more information.]

A student may appeal a decision in accordance with policy FNG(LOCAL). Any student who sells, posts, circulates, or distributes non-school material without prior approval will be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct. Materials displayed without approval will be removed.

[See policy FNG(LOCAL) for student complaint procedures.]

### ***From Others***

No person or group will sell, circulate, distribute, or post on any district premises written or printed materials, handbills, photographs, pictures, films, tapes, or other visual or auditory materials that is not sponsored by the district or by a district-affiliated school-support organization, except as permitted by policy GKDA.

To be considered for distribution, any non-school material must meet the limitations on content established in the policy, include the name of the sponsoring person or organization, and be submitted to the campus principal for prior review. The principal will approve or reject the materials within two school days of the time the materials are received. The requestor may appeal a rejection in accordance with the appropriate district complaint policy. [See policies DGBA or GF for more information.]

Prior review will not be required for:

- Distribution of materials by an attendee to other attendees of a school-sponsored meeting intended for adults and held after school hours
- Distribution of materials by an attendee to other attendees of a community group meeting held after school hours in accordance with policy GKD(LOCAL) or a non-curriculum-related student group meeting held in accordance with policy FNAB(LOCAL)
- Distribution for electioneering purposes during the time a school facility is being used as a polling place, in accordance with state law

All non-school materials distributed under these circumstances must be removed from district property immediately following the event at which the materials are distributed.

### **Dress and Grooming (All Grade Levels)**

The district's dress code teaches grooming and hygiene, prevents disruption, and minimizes safety hazards. Students and parents may determine a student's personal dress and grooming standards, provided that they comply with the following:

- All students are to wear clean and appropriate clothing to school and to school-sponsored events

- Clothing must be modest, worn with proper undergarments
- Students shall not wear any item that is distracting, disruptive, gang-related, drug-related (includes alcohol and tobacco products), or suggestive (wording, and/or symbols, implied or otherwise)

The following **are not** permissible:

- Visible undergarments or lingerie (or swim suit tops visible as lingerie);
- See-through or revealing clothes of any type to include exposed midriffs and cleavage
- Sleepwear/loungewear (or any facsimile thereof), except for designated days established by the campus principal;
- Excessively revealing or tight-fitting garments;
- Hats, caps, or other headgear including hoods (worn in building);
- Dog collars, wallet chains, or any style of chain hooked to garments;
- Trench coats, overcoats, or dusters (worn in building);
- Pants having holes above the mid- thigh unless leggings are worn underneath the pants;
- Shorts, skirts, slits in skirts and dresses shorter than one inch below the student's fingertips, unless leggings, "jeggings" or spandex are worn;
- Makeup in grades prekindergarten through 5;
- Shoulder straps less than one-inch wide (such as spaghetti straps);
- Strapless tops backless tops, halter tops, tube tops, tops with large armholes, body suits or off the shoulder tops are prohibited unless worn over a t-shirt with sleeves;

If the principal determines that a student's grooming or clothing violates the school's dress code, the student will be given an opportunity to correct the problem at school and return to the classroom. If the problem cannot be corrected at school, the student may be assigned to in-school suspension for the remainder of the day, until the problem is corrected or until a parent or designee brings an acceptable change of clothing for the student as to minimizes loss of instructional time. Repeated or severe offenses may result in more serious disciplinary action in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct.

## **Electronic Devices and Technology Resources (All Grade Levels)**

### **Safe Use of Technology**

The district is committed to ensuring that students use technology safely and will follow all federal and state requirements to protect students from excessive data collection or materials that are considered harmful to minors. The district considers parents as partners in cybersecurity and online safety.

In accordance with state and federal law, the district will:

- Install a filter that blocks and prohibits pornographic or obscene materials or applications, including from unsolicited pop-ups, installations, and downloads, before transferring an electronic device to a student to be used for an educational purpose

- Block or filter students' internet access to pictures that are obscene, contain child pornography, or have been determined to be harmful to minors in accordance with the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA)
- Require direct and informed parental consent for a student's use of software, other than software excluded from the consent requirement by law [See Required State Assessments and Standardized Testing]
- Require direct and informed parental consent for a student's use of software that conducts mental health assessments or other assessments unrelated to education curricula that are intended to collect information about students [See Consent to Conduct a Psychological or Psychiatric Evaluation]

If you want to know more about partnering with the district regarding cybersecurity and online safety, or if you have complaints or concern about student use of electronic devices, please contact:

Jimmy Birch  
 Director of Information Technology & Safety  
 306 College Avenue, Florence, TX 76527  
[jbirch@florenceisd.net](mailto:jbirch@florenceisd.net)  
 (254) 793-2850, Ext. 2248

[See Textbooks, Electronic Textbooks, Technological Equipment, and Other Instructional Materials (All Grade Levels)]

### **Possession and Use of Personal Communications Devices, Including Cell Phones and Other Electronic Devices**

In accordance with state law, the district prohibits the use of a personal communication device (such as cell phones, tablets, and smartwatches) while on school property during the school day. For more information about permitted use in certain circumstances and disciplinary measures that apply to this prohibition, see the Student Code of Conduct and policy FNCE(LOCAL).

If a student uses a personal communications device without authorization during the school day, the student will be disciplined in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct.

The student or parent may pick up the confiscated communications device from the principal's office.

Confiscated communications devices that are not retrieved by the student or the student's parent will be disposed of after the notice required by law. [See policy FNCE for more information.]

In limited circumstances and in accordance with law, a student's personal communications device may be searched by authorized personnel. [See Searches and Investigations and policy FNF for more information.]

The district is not responsible for damaged, lost, or stolen communications devices.

### **Instructional Use of Personal Electronic Devices**

Students must obtain prior approval to use personal electronic devices allowed by law for instructional purposes while on campus. The district may not permit use of a prohibited personal communication device except as required by law. [See Possession and Use of Personal Communications Devices, Including Cell Phones and Other Electronic Devices] Students must also sign a user agreement that contains applicable rules for use (separate from this handbook).

All personal devices must be turned off during the instructional day when not in use for approved instructional purposes. Violations of the user agreement may result in withdrawal of privileges and other disciplinary action.

### **Acceptable Use of District Technology Resources**

District-owned technology resources may be issued to individual students for instructional purposes. Use of the district's network systems and equipment is restricted to approved purposes only. Students and parents will be asked to sign a user agreement (separate from this handbook) regarding use of these district resources. Violations of the user agreement may result in withdrawal of privileges and other disciplinary action.

### **Unacceptable and Inappropriate Use of Technology Resources**

Students are prohibited from possessing, sending, forwarding, posting, accessing, or displaying electronic messages that are abusive, obscene, sexually oriented, threatening, harassing, damaging to another's reputation, or illegal. This prohibition also applies to conduct off school property, whether on district-owned or personally owned equipment, if it results in a substantial disruption to the educational environment.

Any person taking, disseminating, transferring, possessing, or sharing obscene, sexually oriented, lewd, or otherwise illegal images or other content — commonly referred to as “sexting” — will be disciplined in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct, may be required to complete an educational program related to the dangers of this type of behavior, and, in certain circumstances, may be reported to law enforcement.

This type of behavior may constitute bullying or harassment, as well as impede future endeavors of a student. We encourage parents to review with their child the ["Before You Text" Bullying and Sexting Course](https://txssc.txstate.edu/tools/courses/before-you-text/) (<https://txssc.txstate.edu/tools/courses/before-you-text/>), a state-developed program that addresses the consequences of sexting.

In accordance with state law, the district prohibits the installation or use of TikTok (or any successor application or service) on a district device, along with any other social media application or service determined by the governor.

Any student who engages in conduct that results in a breach of the district's computer security will be disciplined in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct. In some cases, the consequence may be expulsion.

### **End-of-Course (EOC) Assessments**

[See Graduation (Secondary Grade Levels Only) and Standardized Testing]

### **Emergent Bilingual Students (All Grade Levels)**

A student who is an emergent bilingual student is entitled to receive specialized services from the district. A Language Proficiency Assessment Committee (LPAC), consisting of both district personnel and at least one parent representative, will determine whether the student qualifies for services. The student's parent must consent to any services recommended by the LPAC. However, pending the receipt of parental consent or denial of services, an eligible student will receive the services to which the student is entitled and eligible.

To determine a student's level of proficiency in English, the LPAC will use information from a variety of assessments. If the student qualifies for services, and once a level of proficiency has been established, the LPAC will designate instructional accommodations or additional special programs that the student will require to eventually become proficient at grade level work in English. Ongoing assessments will be conducted to determine a student's continued eligibility for the program.

The LPAC will also determine whether certain accommodations are necessary for any state-mandated assessments. The STAAR Spanish, as mentioned at Standardized Testing, may be administered to an emergent bilingual student up to grade 5. In limited circumstances, a student's LPAC may exempt the student from an otherwise required state-mandated assessment or may waive certain graduation requirements related to the English I end-of-course (EOC) assessment. The Texas English Language Proficiency Assessment System (TELPAS) will also be administered to emergent bilingual students who qualify for services.

If a student is considered an emergent bilingual student and receives special education services because of a qualifying disability, the student's ARD committee will make instructional and assessment decisions in conjunction with the LPAC.

### **Extracurricular Activities, Clubs, and Organizations (All Grade Levels)**

Participation in school-sponsored activities is an excellent way for a student to develop talents, receive individual recognition, and build strong friendships.

#### **Parental Consent**

State law requires the district to obtain written parental consent before a student may participate in a student club that is authorized or sponsored by the district. A parent may obtain consent forms for student clubs . Consent forms will be made available on campus websites.

Some extracurricular activities may include off-campus events. Students are required to use transportation provided by the district to and from the events. Exceptions may only be made with the approval of the activity's coach or sponsor. [See Transportation (All Grade Levels)]

Eligibility for many of these activities is governed by state law and the rules of the University Interscholastic League (UIL), a statewide association overseeing interdistrict competition. If a student is involved in an academic, athletic, or music activity governed by UIL, the student and parent are expected to know and follow all rules of the UIL organization. Students and parents

can access the [UIL Parent Information Manual \(https://www.uiltexas.org/athletics/manuals\)](https://www.uiltexas.org/athletics/manuals) online. A hard copy can be provided by the coach or sponsor of the activity on request.

To report alleged noncompliance with required safety training or an alleged violation of safety rules required by law and the UIL, please contact the curriculum division of TEA at (512) 463-9581 or [curriculum@tea.texas.gov](mailto:curriculum@tea.texas.gov).

[See [UIL Texas \(https://www.uiltexas.org/\)](https://www.uiltexas.org/) for additional information on all UIL-governed activities.]

Student safety in extracurricular activities is a priority of the district. Parents are entitled to review the district's records regarding the age of each football helmet used by the campus, including when a helmet has been reconditioned.

Generally, a student who receives a grade below 70 at the end of a grading period in any academic class may not participate in extracurricular activities for at least three school weeks.

However, if a student receives a grade below 70 at the end of a grading period in an Advanced Placement (AP) or International Baccalaureate (IB), honors, or dual credit course in English language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, economics, or languages other than English, the student remains eligible for participation in all extracurricular activities.

If a student is enrolled in a state-approved course that requires demonstration of the mastery of an essential knowledge and skills in public performance and the student receives a grade below 70 in any course at the end of the grading period, the student may participate in a performance so long as the general public is invited.

If a student is enrolled in a state-approved music course that participates in UIL Concert and Sight-Reading Evaluation, and the student receives a grade below 70 in any course at the end of a grading period, the student may perform with the ensemble during the UIL evaluation performance but is ineligible for other extracurricular activities for at least three weeks.

In addition, the following applies to all extracurricular activities:

- A student who receives special education services and who fails to meet the standards in the individualized education program (IEP) may not participate for at least three school weeks.
- An ineligible student may practice or rehearse but may not participate in any competitive activity.
- The district has no limitation on extra-curricular absences. All extracurricular activities and public performances, whether UIL activities or other activities approved by the board, are subject to these restrictions.
- An absence for participation in an activity that has not been approved will be considered an unexcused absence.

### **Standards of Behavior**

Sponsors of student clubs and performing groups such as the band, choir, and drill and athletic teams may establish standards of behavior — including consequences for misbehavior — that

are stricter than those for students in general. If a violation is also a violation of school rules, the consequences specified by the Student Code of Conduct or by board policy will apply in addition to any consequences specified by the organization's standards of behavior.

### **Offices and Elections**

Certain clubs, organizations, and performing groups will hold elections for student officers.

### **Fees (All Grade Levels)**

Basic educational program materials are provided at no charge to a student. However, a student is expected to provide their own supplies, such as pencils, paper, erasers, and notebooks. A student may also be required to pay certain other costs, fees, or deposits, including:

- Materials for a class project that the student will keep.
- Membership dues in voluntary clubs or student organizations.
- Admission fees to extracurricular activities.
- Security deposits.
- Personal physical education and athletic equipment and apparel.
- Voluntarily purchased pictures, publications, class rings, yearbooks, graduation announcements, and the like.
- Voluntarily purchased student health and accident insurance.
- Musical instrument rental and uniform maintenance when uniforms are provided by the district.
- Personal apparel used in extracurricular activities that becomes the property of the student.
- Parking fees and student identification cards.
- Fees for lost, damaged, or overdue library books.
- Fees for lost Smart Tags.
- Fees for driver training courses.
- Fees for optional courses offered for credit that require use of facilities not available on district premises.
- Summer school for courses that are offered tuition-free during the regular school year.
- A reasonable fee for providing transportation to a student who lives within two miles of the school. [See Buses and Other School Vehicles]
- A maximum fee of \$50 for an educational program outside of regular school hours for a student who has lost credit or has not been awarded a final grade because of absences and whose parent chooses the program for the student to meet the 90 percent attendance requirements. The fee will be charged only if the parent or guardian signs a district-provided request form.
- In some cases, a fee for a virtual or hybrid course.

Any required fee or deposit may be waived if the student and parent are unable to pay. Application for such a waiver may be made to the campus principal. [See policy FP for more information.]

### **Fundraising (All Grade Levels)**

Student groups or classes and/or parent groups may be permitted to conduct fundraising drives for approved school purposes in accordance with administrative regulations. [See policies FJ and GE for more information.]

### **Gang-Free Zones (All Grade Levels)**

Certain criminal offenses, including gang-related crimes, will be enhanced to the next-highest category of offense if they are committed in a gang-free zone. Gang-free zones include a school bus and any location in, on, or within 1,000 feet of any district-owned or leased property or campus playground.

### **Grade-Level Classification (Grades 9-12 Only)**

After grade 9, students are classified according to the number of credits earned toward graduation.

<b>Credits Earned</b>	<b>Classification</b>
<b>7.0-13.5</b>	Grade 10 (Sophomore)
<b>14.0-19.5</b>	Grade 11 (Junior)
<b>20+</b>	Grade 12 (Senior)

### **Grading Guidelines (All Grade Levels)**

Students receive report cards at each nine-week grading period. Assignments, tests, projects, classroom activities, and other instructional activities shall be designed so that the student's performance indicates the level of mastery of the designated Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) objectives. The student's mastery level shall be a major factor in determining the grade for a subject or course. The Florence ISD grading procedure provides guidelines in determining grades for students. These procedures ensure that grading reflects student achievement and that a sufficient number of grades are taken to support the grade average assigned.

### **Minimum Number of Grades for Students Prekindergarten-Grade 5:**

Grades should reflect a student's mastery of the skills/content taught. Grades will be taken on a minimum of 10 different assignments. Two of those grades must be major tests/ project grades. In all subjects, tests and daily work will have equal value in the grade book; assignments will not be weighted.

In grades prekindergarten and kindergarten, achievement is reported to parents as indicating mastery of skills. The standard's-based reporting used in kindergarten utilizes a number system letters and slash marks to indicate a student's progress. A student's progress is reported using the following:

1. Needs Support
2. Approaching Standards
3. Met Standards
4. Exceeds (Standards) Expectations

### **Grades 1-5**

Numerical grades are earned for the nine weeks. A grade of 100 is the highest that can be recorded. The lowest passing grade is a 70. The grading scale is:

- A = 90-100
- B = 80-89
- C = 70-79
- F = Failing (Below 70)

### **Minimum Number of Grades for Students in Grades 6-12:**

Each teacher should record a minimum of twelve grades in the gradebook during a nine-week grading period. At least three of these grades should be summative assessments, such as tests or special projects. The remaining grades will be formative assessments, such as homework, daily work, or quizzes. Grades should be updated weekly. **Note:** In dual credit courses taught by college personnel, the number of grades per grading period does not adhere to local policy.

Grades should be spread evenly over the grading period. The 9-week average is weighted, with summative assessments counting 60 percent, quizzes and classwork counting 40 percent. Semester exam grades will count 15 percent of the semester grade average.

Generally, semester exams are not given in grades 6 and 7. For grade 8, a semester exam, if given, counts 15 percent of the semester grade.

### **Opportunities to Redo**

Consistent with FISD Policy EIA (LOCAL), students who earn a failing grade on a test or assignment will receive a reasonable opportunity to redo the assignment. The test or assignment must be over the same standards but may be in a different format from the original assignment or test. In order to be eligible for a retest, the student must attend at least one tutorial session with the teacher prior to retesting.

Consistent with FISD policy and focus on standards mastery, the better of the average of the two grades is recorded in the grade book when a student takes advantage of the redo opportunity. Due to grade submission deadlines, the opportunity to redo an assignment or retest is not permitted beyond the end of the nine-week grading period. Semester and final exams are not eligible for a retest. Students will not receive an opportunity to redo the assignment if the failing grade is due to late submission or failure to complete the assignment.

Should a student realize they are unable to make a deadline for turning in an assignment, the student must notify the teacher prior to missing the deadline to make arrangements. The process for accepting late work is at the discretion of the teacher.

Approved grading guidelines for each grade level or course will be communicated to students and their parents by the classroom teacher. These guidelines establish:

- The minimum number of assignments, projects, and examinations required for each grading period
- How the student's mastery of concepts and achievement will be communicated (for example, letter grades, numerical averages, checklist of required skills, and the like)
- Circumstances under which a student will be allowed to redo an assignment or retake an examination the student originally failed
- Procedures for a student to follow after an absence
- Grading consequences for academic dishonesty, including cheating or copying the work of another student, plagiarism (including the unauthorized use of artificial intelligence (AI) such as ChatGPT), and unauthorized communication between students during an examination

[See Report Cards/Progress Reports and Conferences (All Grade Levels) for additional information on grading guidelines.]

## **Graduation (Secondary Grade Levels Only)**

### **Requirements for a Diploma**

A student must meet the following requirements to receive a high school diploma from the district:

- Achieve passing scores on certain end-of-course (EOC) assessments or approved substitute assessments, unless specifically waived as permitted by state law
- Complete the required number of credits established by the state and any additional credits required by the district
- Complete any locally required courses in addition to the courses mandated by the state
- Demonstrate proficiency, as determined by the district, in the specific communication skills required by the State Board of Education (SBOE)
- Complete and submit a free application for federal student aid (FAFSA) or a Texas application for state financial aid (TASFA)

### **Testing Requirements for Graduation**

Students are required, with limited exceptions and regardless of graduation program, to perform satisfactorily on the following EOC assessments:

- English I
- English II
- Algebra I

- Biology
- U.S. History

A student who does not achieve a sufficient score will have opportunities to retake an assessment.

State law allows a student to meet EOC requirements by substituting satisfactory performance on approved national standardized assessments or on the state-developed assessment used for entrance into Texas public universities. [See the school counselor for more information on the state testing requirements for graduation.]

If a student fails to perform satisfactorily on an EOC assessment, the district will provide remediation in the applicable content area. This may require the student's participation outside normal school operating times.

In limited circumstances, a student who fails to demonstrate proficiency on up to two of the required assessments may still be eligible to graduate if an individual graduation committee, formed in accordance with state law, unanimously determines that the student is eligible to graduate.

[See Standardized Testing]

#### ***Foundation Graduation Program***

Every Texas public school student will graduate under the foundation graduation program. The foundation graduation program features endorsements, which are paths of interest that include:

- Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM)
- Business and Industry
- Public Service
- Arts and Humanities
- Multidisciplinary Studies

Endorsements earned by a student will be noted on the student's transcript.

A student can complete the foundation graduation program with a "distinguished level of achievement," which reflects the completion of at least one endorsement and Algebra II as one of the required advanced mathematics credits.

Personal Graduation Plans will be completed for each high school student.

State law generally prohibits a student from graduating solely under the foundation graduation program without an endorsement. However, after the student's sophomore year, the student and student's parent may request that the student graduate without an endorsement. The district will advise the student and the student's parent of the specific benefits of graduating with an endorsement. The student and the student's parent must then submit written permission to the school counselor for the student to graduate without an endorsement.

A student who wishes to attend a four-year university or college after graduation must carefully consider whether graduation under the foundation program without an endorsement will satisfy the admission requirements of the student’s desired college or university.

A student graduating under the foundation graduation program can also earn performance acknowledgments on their transcript. Performance acknowledgments are available for outstanding performance in bilingualism and biliteracy, in a dual credit course, on an AP or IB examination, on certain national college preparatory and readiness or college entrance examinations, or for earning a license or certificate recognized at the state, national, or international level. The school counselor can provide more information about these acknowledgments.

A student is not required to complete an Algebra II course to graduate under the foundation graduation program, and the district will annually notify a student’s parent of this fact. However, not taking Algebra II will make a student ineligible for automatic admission to four-year public universities and colleges in Texas and for certain financial aid and grants while attending those institutions.

A school district will permit a student to satisfy the curriculum requirements for graduation under the foundation program with the distinguished level of achievement, including an endorsement, by successfully completing courses in the core curriculum of a public Texas institution of higher education. Please see your counselor for more information.

***Credits Required***

The foundation graduation program requires completion of the following credits:

<b>Course Area</b>	<b>Number of Credits: Foundation Graduation Program</b>	<b>Number of Credits: Foundation Graduation Program with an Endorsement</b>
English/Language Arts	4	4
Mathematics	4	4*
Science	4	4
Social Studies	4	4
Physical Education	1	1
Languages other than English	2	2
Fine Arts	1	1
Electives Related to Program(s) of Study/Endorsement	6	6

<b>Total</b>	<b>26 credits</b>	<b>26 credits</b>

Additional considerations apply in some course areas, including:

- **Mathematics:** To obtain the distinguished level of achievement under the foundation graduation program, a student must complete an endorsement and take Algebra II as one of the 4 mathematics credits. A student’s completion of the distinguished level of achievement is a requirement to be considered for automatic admission to a Texas four-year college or university and will be included on a student’s transcript.
- **Physical education:** A student who is unable to participate in physical activity due to a disability or illness may be able to substitute a course in English language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, or another locally determined credit-bearing course for the required credit of physical education. This determination will be made by the student’s ARD committee, Section 504 committee, or other campus committee, as applicable.
- **Languages other than English:** Students are required to earn 2 credits in the same language other than English to graduate.
  - A student may substitute computer programming languages for these credits.
  - A student may satisfy one of the 2 required credits by successfully completing in elementary school a dual language immersion program or a course in American Sign Language.
  - In limited circumstances, a student may be able to substitute this requirement with other courses, as determined by a district committee authorized by law to make these decisions for the student.

***Available Endorsements***

A student must specify which endorsement to pursue upon entering grade 9.

***Financial Aid Application Requirement***

Before graduating from high school, each student must complete and submit an application for financial aid for post-secondary education. Students must complete and submit either a free application for federal student aid (FAFSA) or a Texas application for state financial aid (TASFA).

See counselor for available resources to help students complete and submit the FAFSA or TASFA.

A student is not required to complete and submit a FAFSA or TASFA if:

- The student’s parent submits a form provided by the district indicating that the parent authorizes the student to opt out
- A student who is 18 years of age or older or a legally independent minor submits a form provided by the district indicating that the student opts out
- A school counselor authorizes the student to opt out for good cause

Please contact the school counselor for more information.

To confirm that a student has completed and submitted a FAFSA or TASFA, the student must submit one of the following:

- A screenshot that includes the processed date field of the FAFSA Apply Texas Counselor Suite
- Notification, such as a copy of an email, from the United States Department of Education verifying completion of the FAFSA
- A copy or screenshot of the FAFSA acknowledgment page
- A screenshot of the TASFA submission acknowledgment page (from those institutions that offer an electronic form)
- An acknowledgment receipt from an institution of higher education (IHE)
- A copy of a financial aid award letter from an IHE

### ***Personal Graduation Plans***

A personal graduation plan will be developed for each high school student.

The district encourages all students to pursue a personal graduation plan that includes the completion of at least one endorsement and to graduate with the distinguished level of achievement. Attainment of the distinguished level of achievement is a requirement for a student to be considered for automatic admission to a public four-year college or university in Texas, depending on their rank in class.

The school will review personal graduation plan options with each student entering grade 9 and the student's parent. Before the end of grade 9, a student and their parent will be required to sign off on a personal graduation plan that promotes college and workforce readiness, promotes career placement and advancement, and facilitates the transition from secondary to postsecondary education.

The student's personal graduation plan will outline an appropriate course sequence based on the student's choice of endorsement.

Please review [TEA's Graduation Toolkit](https://tea.texas.gov/about-tea/news-and-multimedia/brochures/tea-brochures) (<https://tea.texas.gov/about-tea/news-and-multimedia/brochures/tea-brochures>).

A student may, with parental permission, amend their personal graduation plan after the initial confirmation.

### **Available Course Options for All Graduation Programs**

Each spring, the district will update students on the courses required or offered in each curriculum area so students can enroll for the upcoming school year.

**Note:** The district may require the completion of certain courses for graduation even if these courses are not required by the state for graduation.

Not all courses are offered at every secondary campus in the district. A student who wants to take a course not offered at their regular campus should contact the school counselor about a transfer or other alternatives. If the parents of at least 22 students request a transfer for a

course in the required curriculum other than fine arts or career and technical education (CTE), the district will offer the course the following year either by teleconference or at the school from which the transfers were requested.

### **Certificates of Coursework Completion**

A certificate of coursework completion will not be issued to a student who has successfully completed state and local credit requirements for graduation but has not yet demonstrated satisfactory performance on the state-mandated tests required for graduation.

### **Students with Disabilities**

Admission, review, and dismissal (ARD) committees will make instructional and assessment decisions for students with disabilities who receive special education services in accordance with state law.

Upon the recommendation of the ARD committee, a student with a disability who receives special education services may be permitted to graduate under the provisions of their individualized education program (IEP) and in accordance with state rules.

A student who receives special education services may earn the distinguished level of achievement or an endorsement under the foundation program. If the student's curriculum requirements for the endorsement were modified, the student's ARD committee will determine whether the modified curriculum is sufficiently rigorous to earn the distinguished level of achievement or endorsement. The ARD committee must also determine whether the student must perform satisfactorily on any end-of-course assessment to earn an endorsement.

A student who receives special education services and has completed four years of high school but has not met the requirements of their IEP may participate in graduation ceremonies and receive a certificate of attendance. The student may then remain enrolled to complete the IEP and earn a high school diploma but will only be allowed to participate in one graduation ceremony.

[See policy FMH(LEGAL) for more information.]

### **Graduation Activities**

Students who are eligible to graduate but are assigned to a disciplinary alternative education program at the end of the school year will not be allowed to participate in the graduation ceremony and related graduation activities.

### **Graduation Speakers**

Certain graduating students will be given an opportunity to speak at graduation ceremonies.

A student must meet local eligibility criteria, which may include requirements related to student conduct, to have a speaking role. Students eligible for speaking roles will be notified by the principal and given an opportunity to volunteer.

[See the Student Code of Conduct and policy FNA(LOCAL) for more information.]

[See Student Speakers (All Grade Levels) for student speakers at other school events.]

### **Graduation Expenses**

Because students and parents will incur expenses to participate in the traditions of graduation — such as the purchase of invitations, senior ring, cap and gown, and senior picture — both the student and parent should monitor progress toward completion of all requirements for graduation. The expenses often are incurred in the junior year or first semester of the senior year. [See Fees (All Grade Levels)]

### **Scholarships and Grants**

Students who have a financial need according to federal criteria and who complete the foundation graduation program may be eligible under the TEXAS Grant Program, Teach for Texas Grant Program, and Future Texas Teachers Scholarship Program for scholarships and grants toward tuition and fees to Texas public universities, community colleges, and technical schools, as well as to private institutions. Certain students who graduate early may also be eligible for the Texas First Scholarship Program.

[See College and University Admissions and Financial Aid (All Grade Levels) for more information.]

Contact the school counselor for information about other scholarships and grants available to students.

### **Harassment**

[See Dating Violence, Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation (All Grade Levels)]

### **Hazing (All Grade Levels)**

Hazing is defined as an intentional, knowing, or reckless act, on or off campus, by one person alone or acting with others, directed against a student for the purpose of pledging, initiation into, affiliation with, holding office in, or maintaining membership in a student organization if the act meets the elements in Education Code 37.151, including:

- Any type of physical brutality
- An activity that subjects the student to an unreasonable risk of harm or that adversely affects the student’s mental or physical health, such as sleep deprivation, exposure to the elements, confinement to small spaces, calisthenics, or consumption of food, liquids, drugs, or other substances
- An activity that induces, causes, or requires the student to perform a duty or task that violates the Penal Code
- Coercing a student to consume a drug or alcoholic beverage in an amount that would lead a reasonable person to believe the student is intoxicated

The district will not tolerate hazing. Disciplinary consequences for hazing will be in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct. It is a criminal offense if a person engages in hazing; solicits, encourages, directs, aids, or attempts to aid another in hazing; or has firsthand knowledge of an

incident of hazing being planned or having occurred and fails to report this to the principal, superintendent, or law enforcement official.

[See Bullying (All Grade Levels) and policies FFI and FNCC for more information.]

## **Health — Physical and Mental**

### **Health-Related Services**

The district is required to provide notice of each health-related service offered at a student's campus. A parent may withhold consent for or decline a health-related service.

### **Illness (All Grade Levels)**

When your child is ill, please contact the school to let us know they will not be attending that day.

State rules require schools to exclude students with certain illnesses from school for certain periods of time. For example, a child with a fever over 100 degrees must stay out of school until fever-free for 24 hours without use of fever-reducing medications. Students with diarrheal illnesses must stay home until they are diarrhea-free without use of diarrhea-suppressing medications for 24 hours.

A full list of conditions for which the school must exclude children can be obtained from the school nurse.

If a student becomes ill during the school day and the school nurse determines that the child should go home, the nurse will contact the parent.

The district is required to report certain contagious (communicable) diseases or illnesses to the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) or our local/regional health authority. The school nurse can provide information from DSHS on these notifiable conditions.

The school nurse is available to answer any questions for parents who are concerned about whether or not their child should stay home.

### **Immunization (All Grade Levels)**

A student must be fully immunized against certain diseases or must present a certificate or statement that, for medical reasons or reasons of conscience, including a religious belief, the student will not be immunized.

For exemptions based on reasons of conscience, only official forms issued by the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS), Immunization Branch, can be honored by the district. You may access the [DSHS exemption form \(https://www.dshs.texas.gov/immunization-unit/texas-school-child-care-facility-immunization/texas-immunization-exemptions\)](https://www.dshs.texas.gov/immunization-unit/texas-school-child-care-facility-immunization/texas-immunization-exemptions) online or by writing to this address:

Texas Department of State Health Services  
Immunization Section, Mail Code 1946

P.O. Box 149347  
Austin, Texas 78714-9347

The form must be notarized and submitted to the principal or school nurse within 90 days of notarization. If the parent is seeking an exemption for more than one student in the family, a separate form must be provided for each student.

The immunizations required are:

- Diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis
- Polio
- Measles, mumps, and rubella
- Hepatitis B
- Varicella (chicken pox)
- Meningococcal
- Hepatitis A

The school nurse can provide information on immunization requirements. Proof of immunization may be established by personal records from 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 certificate signed by a U.S. registered and licensed physician stating that, in the doctor's opinion, the immunization required is medically contraindicated or poses a significant risk to the health and well-being of the student or a member of the student's family or household. This certificate must be renewed yearly unless the physician specifies a lifelong condition.

Entering college students must, with limited exception, furnish evidence of having received a bacterial meningitis vaccination within the five years prior to enrolling in and attending classes at an institution of higher education. A student wanting to enroll in a dual credit course taken off campus may be subject to this or other vaccination requirements.

For information on immunization against bacterial meningitis and college enrollment and attendance, see Bacterial Meningitis (All Grade Levels).

[See the DSHS's [School and Childcare Vaccine Requirements](https://www.dshs.texas.gov/immunizations/school) (<https://www.dshs.texas.gov/immunizations/school>) and policy FFAB(LEGAL) for more information.]

### **Lice (All Grade Levels)**

Head lice is very common among children. Although not an illness or a disease, head lice spread through head-to-head contact during play, sports, nap time, and when children share things like brushes, combs, hats, and headphones.

The district does not require or recommend that students be removed from school because of lice or nits.

If careful observation indicates that a student has head lice, the school nurse will contact the student's parent to discuss a treatment plan using an FDA-approved medicated shampoo or cream rinse that may be purchased from any drug or grocery store. After the student undergoes one treatment, the parent should contact the school nurse to discuss the treatment used. The nurse can also offer additional recommendations, including subsequent treatments, how best to get rid of lice, and how to prevent lice from returning.

The district will provide notice to parents of elementary school students in an affected classroom without identifying the student with lice.

More information on head lice is available on the DSHS website [Managing Head Lice in School Settings and at Home](https://www.dshs.texas.gov/texas-school-health/skilled-procedures-texas-school-health/managing-head-lice-school) (<https://www.dshs.texas.gov/texas-school-health/skilled-procedures-texas-school-health/managing-head-lice-school>) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's website [About Head Lice](https://www.cdc.gov/lice/about/head-lice.html) (<https://www.cdc.gov/lice/about/head-lice.html>).

[See policy FFAA for more information.]

### **Medicine at School (All Grade Levels)**

If a student must take medication during school hours, the student's parent must provide the medication. All medication, whether prescription or nonprescription, must be kept in the nurse's office and be administered by the nurse or another authorized district employee. A student may be authorized to possess their own medication because of asthma or a severe allergy as described below or as otherwise allowed by law.

The district will not purchase nonprescription medication to give to a student.

In accordance with policy FFAC, authorized employees may administer:

- Prescription medication in the original, properly labeled container, provided by the parent along with a written request.
- Prescription medication from a properly labeled unit dosage container filled by a registered nurse or another qualified district employee from the original, properly labeled container provided by the parent along with a written request.
- Nonprescription medication in the original, properly labeled container, provided by the parent along with a written request. **Note:** Insect repellent is considered nonprescription medication.
- Herbal or dietary supplements provided by the parent only if required by the student's individualized education program (IEP) or Section 504 plan for a student with disabilities.

An elementary or secondary student may possess and self-apply sunscreen to avoid overexposure to the sun. An elementary student's teacher or other district personnel will apply sunscreen to the student's exposed skin if the student brings the sunscreen to school and asks for help applying it. If a secondary student needs assistance with sunscreen application, please address the need with the school nurse.

Whether a student is at the elementary or secondary level, if sunscreen needs to be administered to treat any type of medical condition, this should be handled through communication with the school nurse so that the district is made aware of any safety and medical issues.

### **Asthma and Severe Allergic Reactions**

A student with asthma or severe allergic reaction (anaphylaxis) may possess and use prescribed asthma or anaphylaxis medication at school or school-related events only if they have written authorization from a parent and a physician or other licensed health-care provider. The student must also demonstrate to their health-care provider and the school nurse the ability to use the prescribed medication, including any device required to administer the medication.

If the student has been prescribed asthma or anaphylaxis medication for use during the school day, the student and parents should discuss this with the school nurse or principal.

[See also Food Allergies (All Grade Levels)]

### **Unassigned Epinephrine Delivery Systems**

In accordance with Chapter 38, Subchapter E of the Education Code, the board has adopted a policy to allow authorized who have been adequately trained to administer an unassigned epinephrine delivery system to a person who is reasonably believed to be experiencing a severe allergic reaction (anaphylaxis).

An “unassigned epinephrine delivery system” is an epinephrine delivery system, including an auto-injector or nasal spray, prescribed by an authorized health-care provider in the name of the school issued with a non-patient-specific standing delegation order for the administration of an epinephrine delivery system.

Epinephrine delivery systems include brand-name devices such as EpiPens® and Neffy®.

Authorized and trained individuals may administer an epinephrine delivery system at any time to a person experiencing anaphylaxis on a school campus.

The district will ensure that at each campus a sufficient number of school personnel are trained to administer epinephrine so that at least one trained individual is present on campus during regular on-campus school hours and when school personnel are physically on site for school-sponsored activities.

Authorized and trained individuals may administer an unassigned epinephrine delivery system to a person experiencing anaphylaxis at an off-campus school event or while in transit to or from a school event when an unassigned epinephrine delivery system is available.

For additional information, see FFAC(LOCAL).

### **Unassigned Medication for Respiratory Distress**

In accordance with Chapter 38, Subchapter E of the Education Code, the board has adopted a policy to allow authorized and trained to administer a medication for respiratory distress on a

school campus or at a school-related activity to a person reasonably believed to be experiencing symptoms of respiratory distress.

The district will provide at each campus who are trained to administer prescription medication for respiratory distress during regular school hours.

“Unassigned medication for respiratory distress” means albuterol, levalbuterol, or another medication designated by the executive commission of the Health and Human Services Commission for treatment of respiratory distress, prescribed by an authorized health-care provider in the name of the district with a non-patient-specific standing delegation order for the administration of a medication for respiratory distress, and issued by an authorized health-care provider.

For additional information, see FFAC(LOCAL).

### **Unassigned Opioid Antagonists (All Grades)**

In accordance with Chapter 38, Subchapter E of the Education Code, the board has adopted a policy to allow authorized and trained *[align with policy at FFAC: school personnel and/or school volunteers]* at each campus to administer an opioid antagonist, such as Narcan or Naloxone, to an individual who is reasonably believed to be experiencing an opioid-related drug overdose.

One or more authorized and trained individuals will be present on each campus subject to this policy during regular school hours.

### **Steroids (Secondary Grade Levels Only)**

State law prohibits students from possessing, dispensing, delivering, or administering an anabolic steroid. Anabolic steroids are for physician-prescribed medical use only.

Body building, muscle enhancement, or the increase of muscle bulk or strength through the use of an anabolic steroid or human growth hormone by a healthy student is not a valid medical use and is a criminal offense.

### **Mental Health Support (All Grade Levels)**

The district has implemented programs to address the following mental health, behavioral health, and substance abuse concerns:

- Mental health promotion and early intervention
- Building skills to manage emotions, establish and maintain positive relationships, and engage in responsible decision-making
- Substance abuse prevention and intervention
- Suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention (interventions after a suicide in a community)
- Grief, trauma, and trauma-informed care
- Positive behavior interventions and supports
- Positive youth development

- Safe, supportive, and positive school climates

The district has partnered with community-based agencies to provide on demand school based mental health services through telehealth and face-to-face support, such as Bluebonnet Trails and Texas Child Health Access Through Telemedicine (TCHAT).

If a student has been hospitalized or placed in residential treatment for a mental health condition or substance abuse, the district has procedures to support the student's return to school. Please contact the district's mental health liaison for further information.

Teachers and other district employees may discuss a student's academic progress or behavior with the student's parents or another employee as appropriate; however, they are not permitted to recommend use of psychotropic drugs. A psychotropic drug is a substance used in the diagnosis, treatment, or prevention of a disease or as a component of a medication that is intended to alter perception, emotion, mood, or behavior.

A district employee who is a registered nurse, an advanced nurse practitioner, a physician, or a certified or credentialed mental health professional can recommend that a student be evaluated by an appropriate medical practitioner, if appropriate. [See policy FFEB for more information.]

For related information, see:

- Consent to Conduct a Psychological or Psychiatric Evaluation and Consent to Provide a Mental Health Care Service for the district's procedures for recommending a mental health intervention and the mental health liaison's contact information
- Counseling for the district's comprehensive school counseling program
- Physical and Mental Health Resources (All Grade Levels) for campus and community mental and physical health resources
- Policies and Procedures that Promote Student Physical and Mental Health (All Grade Levels) for board-adopted policies and administrative procedures that promote student health
- **Florence Elementary Counselor:** Kendra Vaughan, (254) 793-2497, Ext. 1251
- **Florence Middle School Counselor:** Shirley Camacho (254) 793-2504, Ext. 3127
- **Florence High School Counselor:** Amy Uranga (254) 793-2495, Ext. 5308
- **Florence ISD District Nurse:** Chuck Ryan, (254) 793-2850, Ext. 1242
- Error! Reference source not found. for board-adopted policies and administrative procedures that promote student health

## **Physical Activity Requirements**

### ***Elementary School***

The district will ensure that students in full-day prekindergarten-grade 5 engage in moderate or vigorous physical activity for at least 30 minutes per day or 135 minutes per week, in accordance with policies at EHAB, EHAC, EHBG, and FFA.

For additional information on the district's elementary school student physical activity programs and requirements, please see the principal.

### ***Junior High/Middle School***

The district will ensure that students in middle or junior high school will engage in 30 minutes of moderate or vigorous physical activity per day for at least four semesters in accordance with policies at EHAB, EHAC, EHBG, and FFA.

For additional information on the district's middle school student physical activity programs and requirements, please see the campus principal.

### ***Temporary Restriction from Participation in Physical Education***

Students who are temporarily restricted from participation in physical education will not actively participate in skill demonstration but will remain in class to learn the concepts of the lessons.

### **Physical Fitness Assessment (Grades 3-12)**

Annually, the district will conduct a physical fitness assessment of students in grades 3-12 who are enrolled in a physical education course or a course for which physical education credit is awarded. At the end of the school year, a parent may submit a written request to the campus principal to obtain the results of their child's physical fitness assessment conducted during the school year.

### **Physical Health Screenings/Examinations**

#### ***Athletics Participation (Secondary Grade Levels Only)***

A student who wishes to participate in, or continue participation in, the district's athletics program or district marching band governed by the UIL or any district extracurricular program identified by the superintendent must submit certification from a health-care provider authorized under UIL rules that the student has been examined and is physically able to participate in the athletic program, including:

- A district athletics program
- District marching band
- Any district extracurricular program identified by the superintendent

This examination is required to be submitted annually to the district.

Students should be aware of the rare possibility of sudden cardiac arrest, which in athletes is usually caused by a previously unsuspected heart disease or disorder. A student may request an electrocardiogram (ECG or EKG) to screen for such disorders, in addition to the required physical examination.

See the UIL's explanation of [sudden cardiac arrest](https://www.uilTEXAS.org/health/info/sudden-cardiac-death) (<https://www.uilTEXAS.org/health/info/sudden-cardiac-death>) for more information.

### ***Spinal Screening Program***

School-based spinal screening helps identify adolescents with abnormal spinal curvature at an early stage when the curve is mild and may go unnoticed. Early detection is key to controlling spinal deformities. Spinal screening is non-invasive and conducted in accordance with the most recent nationally accepted and peer-reviewed standards.

All students who meet the Texas Department of State Health Services criteria will be screened for abnormal spinal curvature before the end of the school year. As appropriate, students will be referred for follow-up with their physician.

For information on spinal screening by an outside professional or exemption from spinal screening based on religious beliefs, contact the superintendent or see policy FFAA(LEGAL).

### ***Other Examinations and Screenings (All Grade Levels)***

Students are required to undergo a risk assessment for Type 2 diabetes at the same time the district screens students for hearing and vision issues or for abnormal spinal curvatures.

[See policy FFAA for more information.]

### ***Special Health Concerns (All Grade Levels)***

#### ***Bacterial Meningitis (All Grade Levels)***

Please see DSHS the website <https://www.dshs.texas.gov/immunizations/school/requirements> for more information for information regarding meningitis.

**Note:** Entering college students must show, with limited exception, evidence of receiving a bacterial meningitis vaccination within the five-year period prior to enrolling in and taking courses at an institution of higher education. Please see the school nurse for more information, as this may affect a student who wishes to enroll in a dual credit course taken off campus.

[See Immunization (All Grade Levels)]

#### ***Diabetes***

In accordance with a student's individual health plan for management of diabetes, a student with diabetes will be permitted to possess and use monitoring and treatment supplies and equipment while at school or at a school-related activity. See the school nurse or principal for information. [See policy FFAF(LEGAL) for more information.]

#### ***Food Allergies (All Grade Levels)***

Parents should notify the district when a student has been diagnosed with a food allergy, especially an allergy that could result in dangerous or life-threatening reactions either by breathing, eating, or touching the particular food. It is important to disclose the food to which the student is allergic as well as the nature of the allergic reaction. Please contact the school nurse or campus principal if your child has a known food allergy or as soon as possible after any diagnosis of a food allergy.

The district has developed and annually reviews a food allergy management plan, based on the Texas Department of State Health Services' (DSHS) *Guidelines for the Care of Students with Food Allergies at Risk for Anaphylaxis* found on the DSHS [Allergies and Anaphylaxis](https://www.dshs.texas.gov/texas-school-health/allergies-anaphylaxis) website (<https://www.dshs.texas.gov/texas-school-health/allergies-anaphylaxis>). The district's management plan addresses employee training, dealing with common food allergens, and specific strategies for dealing with students diagnosed with severe food allergies.

When the district receives information that a student has a food allergy that puts the student at risk for anaphylaxis, an individual care plan will be developed to assist the student in safely accessing the school environment. The district's food allergy management plan can be accessed [https://www.florenceisd.net/164261\\_2](https://www.florenceisd.net/164261_2).

[See Celebrations (All Grade Levels) and policy FFAF for more information.]

### ***Seizures (All Grade Levels)***

To address the care of a student with a seizure disorder while at school or participating in a school activity, a parent may submit a seizure management and treatment plan to the district before the beginning of the school year, upon enrollment of the student, or as soon as practicable following diagnosis of a seizure disorder. A parent who submits a plan must use the [Seizure Management and Treatment Plan Form](https://tea.texas.gov/academics/tea-seizure-management-form.pdf) (<https://tea.texas.gov/academics/tea-seizure-management-form.pdf>) developed by the Texas Education Agency.

[See A Student with Physical or Mental Impairments Protected under Section 504 and contact the school nurse for more information.]

### **Tobacco, E-Cigarettes, and Nicotine Products Prohibited (All Grade Levels)**

Students are prohibited from possessing or using any type of tobacco product, electronic cigarette (e-cigarette), or any other electronic vaporizing device while on school property or while attending an off-campus school-related activity. With limited exceptions for medication, [see Medicine at School (All Grade Levels)] students are also prohibited from possessing or using any type of nicotine product, including nicotine pouches, regardless of whether the product contains tobacco, while on school property or while attending an off-campus school-related activity.

The district and its staff strictly enforce prohibitions against the use of all tobacco products, e-cigarettes, or any other electronic vaporizing device by students and all others on school property and at school-sponsored and school-related activities. [See the Student Code of Conduct and policies FNCD and GKA for more information.]

## **Health-Related Resources, Policies, and Procedures**

### **Physical and Mental Health Resources (All Grade Levels)**

Parents and students in need of assistance with physical and mental health concerns may contact the following campus and community resources:

- Florence Elementary Counselor: Kendra Vaughan, (254) 793-2497, Ext. 1251

- Florence Middle School Counselor: Shirley Camacho (254) 793-2504, Ext. 3127
- Florence High School Counselor: Amy Uranga (254) 793-2495, Ext. 5308
- Florence ISD District Nurse: Chuck Ryan, (254) 793-2850, Ext. 1242
- The local public health authorities:

Williamson County Cities and Health District, which may be contacted at <http://www.wcchd.org/>

Bell County Public Health District which may be contacted at <https://www.bellcountyhealth.org/>.

### **Policies and Procedures that Promote Student Physical and Mental Health (All Grade Levels)**

The district has adopted board policies that promote student physical and mental health. Local policies on the topics below can be found in the district’s policy manual, available at the central administration office and online at <https://pol.tasb.org/PolicyOnline?key=1239>.

- Food and nutrition management: CO, COA, COB
- Wellness and Health Services: FFA
- Physical Examinations: FFAA
- Immunizations: FFAB
- Medical Treatment: FFAC
- Communicable Diseases: FFAD
- School-Based Health Centers: FFAE
- Care Plans: FFAF
- Crisis Intervention: FFB
- Trauma-informed Care: FFBA
- Student Support Services: FFC
- Student Safety: FFF
- Child Abuse and Neglect: FFG
- Freedom from Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation: the FFH series of policies
- Freedom from Bullying: FFI

In addition, the District Improvement Plan details the district’s strategies to improve student performance through evidence-based practices that address physical and mental health.

The district has developed administrative procedures as necessary to implement the above policies and plans.

For more information about these procedures and access to the District Improvement Plan, please contact the campus principal.

### **School Health Advisory Council (SHAC) (All Grade Levels)**

During the preceding school year, the district's School Health Advisory Council (SHAC) held four meetings. Additional information about the district's SHAC is available from the district office at 254-793-2850, and on the Florence ISD website located [here](#).

Notification of upcoming SHAC meetings will be posted at each campus administrative office at least 72 hours before the meeting. Notification of upcoming SHAC meetings, meeting minutes, and a recording of each meeting will be posted on the district website at <https://www.florenceisd.net/133816> 2.

[See Consent to Human Sexuality Instruction, Consent to Instruction on Prevention of Child Abuse, Family Violence, Dating Violence, and Sex Trafficking, and policies BDF and EHAA for more information.]

### **Student Wellness Policy/Wellness Plan (All Grade Levels)**

To encourage healthy habits in our students, the district has developed a board-adopted wellness policy at FFA(LOCAL) and corresponding plans and procedures to implement it. The FISD Wellness Plan is posted on the FISD webpage at <https://www.florenceisd.net/133816> 2.

### **Homework (All Grade Levels)**

See campus handbook supplements.

### **Law Enforcement Agencies (All Grade Levels)**

#### **Questioning of Students**

When law enforcement officers or other lawful authorities wish to question or interview a student at school, the principal will cooperate fully regarding the conditions of the interview, including without parental consent, if necessary, if it is part of a child abuse investigation. In other circumstances, the principal will:

- Verify and record the identity of the officer or other authority and ask for an explanation of the need to question the student at school
- Ordinarily make reasonable efforts to notify the parents, unless the interviewer raises what the principal considers to be a valid objection
- Ordinarily be present for the questioning or interview, unless the interviewer raises what the principal considers to be a valid objection

#### **Students Taken into Custody**

State law requires the district to permit a student to be taken into legal custody:

- To comply with an order of the juvenile court
- To comply with the laws of arrest
- By a law enforcement officer if there is probable cause to believe the student has engaged in delinquent conduct or conduct in need of supervision

- By a law enforcement officer to obtain fingerprints or photographs for comparison in an investigation
- By a law enforcement officer to obtain fingerprints or photographs to establish a student's identity where the child may have engaged in conduct indicating a need for supervision, such as running away
- By a probation officer if there is probable cause to believe the student has violated a condition of probation imposed by the juvenile court
- By an authorized representative of Child Protective Services (CPS), Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS), a law enforcement officer, or a juvenile probation officer, without a court order, under the conditions set out in the Family Code relating to the student's physical health or safety
- To comply with a properly issued directive from a juvenile court to take a student into custody

Before a student is released to a legally authorized person, the principal will verify the person's identity and, to the best of their ability, will verify the person's authority to take custody of the student.

The principal will immediately notify the superintendent and will attempt to notify the parent, unless the legally authorized person raises what the principal considers to be a valid objection to notifying the parents. Because the principal does not have the authority to prevent or delay a student's release to a legally authorized person, any notification will most likely be after the fact.

### **Notification of Law Violations**

The district is required by state law to notify:

- All instructional and support personnel who have responsibility for supervising a student who has been taken into custody, arrested, or referred to the juvenile court for any felony offense or for certain misdemeanors.
- All instructional and support personnel who have regular contact with a student who has been convicted, received deferred prosecution, received deferred adjudication, or was adjudicated for delinquent conduct for any felony offense or certain misdemeanors that occur in school, on school property, or at a school-sponsored or school-related activity on or off school property. These personnel will also be notified if the principal has reasonable grounds to believe the student has engaged in certain conduct.
- All appropriate district personnel regarding a student who is required to register as a sex offender.

[See policy GRAA(LEGAL) for more information.]

### **Leaving Campus (All Grade Levels)**

Student attendance is crucial. Appointments should be scheduled outside of school hours if possible. Except for extenuating circumstances, students will not regularly be released before the end of the school day.

Parental consent is required before any student leaves campus for any part of the school day.

For students in elementary and middle school, a parent or authorized adult must come to the office and show identification to sign the student out. A campus representative will ask the student to report to the office. For safety purposes and stability of the learning environment, we cannot allow any unescorted adult to go to the classroom or other area to pick up the student. If the student returns to campus the same day, the parent or authorized adult must sign the student back in through the main office upon the student's return. Documentation regarding the reason for the absence will also be required.

The same process applies to students in high school if a parent picks the student up from campus. If the student's parent authorizes the student to leave campus unaccompanied, the parent must submit a note to the main office at least two hours before the student needs to leave campus. A phone call from the parent may be accepted, but the school may ultimately require a note for documentation purposes. The student must sign out through the main office and sign in upon return if the student returns the same day.

If a student becomes ill during the school day and the school nurse or other district personnel determines that the student should go home, the nurse will contact the student's parent and document the parent's wishes regarding release from school.

Unless the parent directs district personnel to release the student unaccompanied, the parent or other authorized adult must follow the sign-out procedures listed above. If a student is permitted by their parent to leave campus unaccompanied, the nurse will document the time of day the student was released. Under no circumstances will a student in elementary or middle school be released unaccompanied.

If a student is 18 years of age or is an emancipated minor, the student may sign out of school. Documentation regarding the reason for the absence will be required.

### **During Lunch**

Florence ISD campuses are closed campuses. Students are not permitted to leave campus for lunch. Students may bring their own lunch or have lunch brought to them. Parents are welcome to each lunch with their child in the cafeteria.

### **At Any Other Time During the School Day**

Students are not authorized to leave campus during regular school hours for any other reason, except with the permission of the principal.

Students who leave campus in violation of these rules will be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct.

### **Lost and Found (All Grade Levels)**

A lost and found collection box is located in the campus office. A student who loses an item should check the lost and found box. The district discourages bringing personal items of high

monetary value to school, as the district is not responsible for lost or stolen items. The campus will dispose of lost and found items at the end of each semester.

## **Makeup Work**

### **Makeup Work Because of Absence (All Grade Levels)**

A teacher may assign makeup work to a student who misses class based on instructional objectives and the needs of the student in mastering the essential knowledge and skills or meeting subject or course requirements.

Students will be given one (1) day for each absence to complete and turn in make-up work. For school-related and extracurricular absences at the secondary level, students should access the online Learning Management System (Canvas) to access and submit assignments. If students need assignments before returning to school, the teacher will make a reasonable effort to have assignments available within 24 hours of the request. A student who does not make up assigned work within the time allotted by the teacher may receive a grade of zero for the assignment.

[See **Attendance for Credit or Final Grade.**] Make-up work for a scheduled absence should be requested from the classroom teacher before the absence. A student will be permitted to make up tests and turn in projects due in any class missed because of absence. Teachers may assign a late penalty to any long-term project in accordance with timelines approved by the principal and previously communicated to students.

### **DAEP Makeup Work**

#### ***Elementary and Middle/Junior High School Grade Levels***

Class work will be provided to students during their placement in the DAEP.

#### ***Grades 9-12***

If a high school student is enrolled in a foundation curriculum course at the time of removal to a disciplinary alternative education program (DAEP), the student will have an opportunity to complete the course before the beginning of the next school year. The district may provide the opportunity to complete the course through an alternative method, including a correspondence course, another distance learning option, or summer school. The district will not charge the student for any method of completion provided by the district. [See policy FOCA(LEGAL) for more information.]

### **In-School Suspension (ISS) and Out-of-School Suspension (OSS) Makeup Work (All Grade Levels)**

#### ***Alternative Means to Receive Coursework***

While a student is in ISS or OSS, the district will provide the student with all course work for the student's foundation curriculum classes that the student misses as a result of the suspension.

### ***Opportunity to Complete Courses***

A student removed from the regular classroom to ISS or another setting, other than a DAEP, will have an opportunity to complete before the beginning of the next school year each course the student was enrolled in at the time of removal from the regular classroom. The district may provide the opportunity by any method available, including a correspondence course, another distance learning option, or summer school. The district will not charge the student for any method of completion provided by the district. [See policy FO(LEGAL) for more information.]

### **Nondiscrimination Statement (All Grade Levels)**

In its efforts to promote nondiscrimination and as required by law, the district does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, gender, sex, age, disability, or any other basis prohibited by law in providing education services, activities, and programs, including Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs. The district provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups.

In accordance with Title IX, the district does not and is required not to discriminate on the basis of sex and prohibits sex discrimination in its educational programs or activities. The requirement not to discriminate extends to employment. Inquiries about the application of Title IX may be referred to the district's Title IX Coordinator (see below), to the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights, or both.

Other federal laws that prohibit discrimination include Title VI, Section 504, the Age Discrimination Act, the Boy Scouts Act, and Title II.

The district's nondiscrimination policy and grievance procedures are in the FFH series of policies in the district's policy manual, available at

<https://pol.tasb.org/PolicyOnline/SearchResults/?key=1239&query=ffh>.

The district has designated and authorized the following employee as the Title IX Coordinator to address concerns or inquiries regarding discrimination on the basis of sex, including sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, stalking, or sex-based harassment:

Dr. Kelly Avritt  
Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum & Instruction  
306 College Avenue, Florence, TX 76527  
Kavritt@florenceisd.net  
(254) 793-2850

Reports can be made at any time and by any person, including during non-business hours, by mail, phone, or email. During district business hours, reports may also be made in person. Upon the district receiving notice or an allegation of sex-based harassment, the Title IX Coordinator will promptly respond in accordance with the process described in the FFH series of policies.

The following district representatives have been designated to address concerns or inquiries about other kinds of discrimination:

- For concerns regarding discrimination on the basis of disability, see the ADA/Section 504 Coordinator:

Rachael Hull  
Director of Special Education & Federal Programs  
306 College Avenue, Florence, TX 76527  
[rhull@florenceisd.net](mailto:rhull@florenceisd.net)  
(254) 793-2850, Ext. 2238

For all other concerns regarding discrimination, contact the Superintendent, Rick Kirkpatrick, [rkirkpatrick@florenceisd.net](mailto:rkirkpatrick@florenceisd.net), (254) 793-2850, Ext. 2221.

[See policies at FB, the FFH series, and GKD for more information.]

### **Nontraditional Academic Programs (All Grade Levels)**

See campus handbook supplementals.

### **Parent and Family Engagement (All Grade Levels)**

#### **Parental Rights and Options**

State law provides that a parent has the right to direct the moral and religious training of the parent's child, make decisions concerning the child's education, and consent to medical, psychiatric, and psychological treatment of the child without obstruction or interference from a governmental entity of Texas, including a school district.

In addition to referring to the rights of parents, including the right to withhold consent for or exempt the parent's child from certain activities and instruction specified throughout this handbook, parents may access additional information regarding parental rights at the district's website and throughout the district student handbook and campus supplemental handbooks.

#### **Working Together**

Experience and research tell us that a child succeeds in education with good communication and a strong partnership between home and school. A parent's involvement and engagement in this partnership may include:

- Encouraging your child to put a high priority on education and working with your child every day to make the most of the educational opportunities the school provides.
- Ensuring that your child completes all homework assignments and special projects and comes to school each day prepared, rested, and ready to learn.
- Becoming familiar with all your child's school activities and with the academic programs, including special programs, offered in the district.
- Discussing with the school counselor or principal any questions you may have about the options and opportunities available to your child.
- Reviewing the requirements and options for graduation with your child in middle school and again while your child is enrolled in high school.

- Monitoring your child’s academic progress and contacting teachers as needed. [See Academic Counseling]
- Attending scheduled conferences and requesting additional conferences as needed. The district will provide at least two opportunities for in-person conferences during each school year for each parent of a child enrolled in the district with the child’s teachers. To schedule a telephone or in-person conference with a teacher, school counselor, or principal, please call the campus main office phone number for an appointment. The teacher will usually return your call or meet with you during their conference period or before or after school. [See Report Cards/Progress Reports and Conferences (All Grade Levels)]
- Becoming a school volunteer. [See Volunteers (All Grade Levels) and policy GKG for more information.]
- Participating in campus parent organizations. Contact the campus principal for specific information about parent organizations. Serving as a parent representative on the district-level or campus-level planning committees that develop educational goals and plans to improve student achievement. For more information, see policies BQA and BQB and contact the campus principal.
- Serving on the School Health Advisory Council (SHAC) and assisting the district in aligning local community values with health education instruction, human sexuality instruction, instruction on prevention of child abuse, family violence, dating violence, and sex trafficking, and other wellness issues. [See School Health Advisory Council (SHAC) (All Grade Levels) and policies BDF, EHAA, FFA for more information.]
- Being aware of the school’s ongoing bullying and harassment prevention efforts.
- Contacting school officials if you are concerned with your child’s emotional or mental well-being.
- Attending board meetings to learn more about district operations. Regular board meetings are held on third Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the Florence High School Library, 401 FM 970, Florence, TX 76527, of each month at 7:00 p.m. An agenda for a regular or special meeting is posted no later than 3 business days before each meeting at Florence ISD Administration Building, 306 College Avenue, Florence, TX 76527 and online at <https://meetings.boardbook.org/Public/Organization/677>. [See policies BE and BED for more information.]

### **Parking and Parking Permits (Secondary Grade Levels Only)**

A student must present a valid driver’s license and proof of insurance to be eligible for a parking permit.

Students must request a parking permit (fee of \$10.00) to park in a school parking lot. So long as space is available, parking permits may be issued throughout the year.

Students will not be permitted to:

- Speed
- Double-park
- Park across a white or yellow line

- Park in a fire lane
- Sit in parked cars during school hours

Students may be subject to disciplinary action for violation of these rules. The district may tow cars that are parked in violation of these rules.

### **Pledges of Allegiance and a Minute of Silence (All Grade Levels)**

Each school day, students will recite the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. flag and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Texas flag. Parents may submit a written request to the principal to excuse their child from reciting a pledge. [See Reciting the Pledges to the U.S. and Texas Flags]

State law requires that one minute of silence follow recitation of the pledges. Each student may choose to reflect, pray, meditate, or engage in any other silent activity during that minute so long as the silent activity does not interfere with or distract others.

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

[See policy EC for more information.]

### **Promotion and Retention**

A student will be promoted only on the basis of academic achievement or proficiency. In making promotion decisions, the district will consider the following:

- Teacher recommendation
- Grades
- Scores on criterion-referenced or state-mandated assessments
- Any other necessary academic information as determined by the district

### **Elementary and Middle/Junior High Grade Levels**

In grades 1-8, promotion to the next grade level shall be based on an overall average of 70 on a scale of 100 based on course-level, grade-level standards (essential knowledge and skills) for all subject areas and a grade of 70 or above in three of the following areas: language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies. [See policy EIE (LOCAL).]

### **Repeating Prekindergarten - Grade 8 at Parent Request**

A parent may request in writing that a student repeat prekindergarten, kindergarten, or any grade in grade 1-8. Before granting the request, the district may convene a retention committee to meet and discuss the request and will invite the parent to participate.

If a student in grades 3–8 is enrolled in a class or course intended for students above his or her current grade level in which the student will be administered a state-mandated assessment, the student will be required to take an applicable state-mandated assessment only for the course in which he or she is enrolled, unless otherwise required to do so by federal law.

For information related to the development of personal graduation plans for high school students, contact the high school counselor.

### **High School Grade Levels**

To earn credit in a course, a student must receive a grade of at least 70 based on course-level standards.

A student in grades 9-12 will be advanced a grade level based on the number of course credits earned. [See Grade-Level Classification (Grades 9-12 Only)]

### **Students will also have multiple opportunities to retake EOC assessments. [See Graduation and Standardized Testing] Repeating a High-School Credit Course**

A parent may request in writing that a student repeat a high-school credit course in which the student was enrolled during the previous school year unless the district determines that the student has met all requirements for graduation.

Before granting the request, the district may convene a retention committee to meet and discuss the request and will invite the parent to participate.

Only the student's first passing grade will be included in the calculation of class ranking.

### **Release of Students from School**

[See Leaving Campus (All Grade Levels)]

### **Report Cards/Progress Reports and Conferences (All Grade Levels)**

Report cards with each student's performance and absences in each class or subject are issued at least once every *nine* weeks.

At the end of the first three weeks and the second three weeks of a grading period, parents will receive a progress report if their child's performance in any course/subject area is below 75, or is below the expected level of performance. If the student receives a grade lower than 70 in any class or subject at the end of a grading period, the parent will be requested to schedule a conference with the teacher of that class or subject.

Teachers follow grading guidelines that have been approved by the superintendent 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) and **Grading Guidelines.**]

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.

The district may communicate academic information about a student electronically, including for progress reporting purposes. Parents can access their students' grades using Family Access in Skyward Qmlative. An electronic signature will be accepted by the district, but parents are entitled to request a handwritten signature of acknowledgment instead.

## **Retaliation**

[See Dating Violence, Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation (All Grade Levels)]

## **Required State Assessments**

### **STAAR (State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness) for Grades 3-8**

In addition to routine tests and other measures of achievement, students at certain grade levels are required to take the state assessment, called STAAR, in the following subjects:

- Mathematics, annually in grades 3-8
- Reading, annually in grades 3-8
- Science in grades 5 and 8
- Social Studies in grade 8

### **Standardized Testing for a Student Enrolled Above Grade Level**

If a student in grades 3-8 is enrolled in a class or course intended for students above the current grade level in which the student will be administered a state-mandated assessment, the student will be required to take an applicable state-mandated assessment only for the course in which they are enrolled, unless otherwise required to do so by federal law.

A student in grades 3-8 shall be assessed at least once in high school with the ACT or the SAT if the student completes the high school end-of-course assessments in mathematics, reading/language arts, or science before high school.

### **High School Courses End-of-Course (EOC) Assessments**

STAAR end-of-course (EOC) assessments are administered for the following courses:

- Algebra I
- English I and English II
- Biology
- U.S. History

Satisfactory performance on the applicable assessments is required for graduation, unless waived or substituted as allowed by state law and rules.

There are three testing windows during the year in which a student may take an EOC assessment. The windows occur in the fall, spring, and summer months. If a student does not meet satisfactory performance, the student will have opportunities to retake the assessment.

### **Requesting Administration of STAAR/EOC in Paper Format (All Grade Levels)**

STAAR and EOC assessments are administered electronically.

A parent or teacher may request that a STAAR or EOC be administered to a student in paper format. The district may grant this request for any single administration for up to three percent of the number of students enrolled in the district. Requests will be granted in the order in which they are received.

Requests for paper format for a fall administration of a STAAR or EOC must be submitted no later than September 15 each school year.

Requests for paper format for a spring administration of a STAAR or EOC must be submitted no later than December 1 each school year.

### **Standardized Testing for a Student in Special Programs**

Certain students — some with disabilities and some classified as emergent bilingual students — may be eligible for exemptions, accommodations, or deferred testing.

STAAR Alternate 2 is available for eligible students receiving special education services who meet certain state-established criteria as determined by the student's ARD committee.

An admission, review, and dismissal (ARD) committee for a student in grades 9-12 receiving special education services will determine whether successful performance on the EOC assessments will be required for graduation within the parameters identified in state rules and the student's personal graduation plan (PGP). [See Graduation (Secondary Grade Levels Only)]

STAAR Spanish is available for eligible students for whom a Spanish version of STAAR is the most appropriate measure of their academic progress.

For more information, see the principal, school counselor, or special education director.

### **Failure to Perform Satisfactorily on a STAAR or EOC Assessment**

If a student does not perform satisfactorily on a required state assessment in any subject, the district will provide accelerated instruction for the student in the next school year through one of the following:

- Assigning the student to a teacher who is certified as a master, exemplary, or recognized teacher if one is available in the grade and subject matter of the state assessment on which the student did not perform satisfactorily
- Providing supplemental instruction

A student may be required to attend any assigned supplemental instruction program before or after school or during the summer.

The district will provide transportation for supplemental instruction.

When a student fails to perform satisfactorily on a required state assessment in the same subject area for two or more years, the district shall develop an accelerated education plan. Parents are encouraged to participate in developing this plan.

### **Personal Graduation Plan — Middle School Students**

For a middle-school student who does not perform satisfactorily on a state-mandated examination, a school official will prepare a personal graduation plan (PGP).

School officials will also develop a PGP for a middle-school student who is determined by the district to be unlikely to earn a high school diploma within five years of high school enrollment.

The plan will, among other items:

- Identify the student’s educational goals
- Address the parent’s educational expectations for the student
- Outline an intensive instruction program for the student

[See the school counselor and policy EIF(LEGAL) for more information.]

For a student receiving special education services, the student’s IEP may serve as the student’s PGP and would therefore be developed by the student’s ARD committee.

[See Personal Graduation Plans for information related to the development of personal graduation plans for high school students.]

### **Safe Storage of Firearms**

A firearm should be stored unloaded in a safe or locked container, with ammunition stored elsewhere.

It is unlawful to store, transport, or abandon an unsecured firearm in a place where children are likely to be and can obtain access to the firearm. Under the Penal Code, a person commits the offense of making a firearm accessible to a child if the child gains access to a readily dischargeable firearm, and the person with criminal negligence:

- Failed to secure the firearm; or
- Left the firearm in a place to which the person knew or should have known the child would gain access

The penalty for allowing a child access to a firearm can range from a Class C misdemeanor (punishable by a \$500 fine) to a Class A misdemeanor (punishable by a \$4000 fine, a year in jail, or a combination of the two).

### **Safety (All Grade Levels)**

Student safety on campus, at school-related events, and in district vehicles is a high priority of the district. The cooperation of students is essential to ensuring school safety. A student is expected to:

- Avoid conduct that is likely to put the student or others at risk.

- Follow all behavioral standards in this handbook and the Student Code of Conduct or set by district employees.
- Help secure the campus by keeping all exterior doors closed, latched, and locked unless the door is actively monitored by a district employee.
- Follow instructions from teachers and other district employees regarding classroom doors.
- Remain alert to any safety hazards, such as intruders on campus or threats made by any person toward a student or staff member, and promptly report any incidents to a district employee. A student may make anonymous reports about safety concerns through STOPit. STOPit can be accessed from the [FISD Homepage](#) or through Classlink.
- 
- Know emergency evacuation routes and signals.
- Follow immediately the instructions of teachers, bus drivers, and other district employees who are overseeing the welfare of students.

### **Accident Insurance**

Soon after the school year begins, parents will have the opportunity to purchase low-cost accident insurance that would help meet medical expenses in the event of injury to their child.

### **Insurance for Career and Technical Education (CTE) Programs**

The board purchases accident insurance coverage for student activities, which includes coverage for the district's CTE programs. The district will notify the affected students and parents. Students and parents should remember that accident insurance is a secondary insurance designed to help with those costs not covered under the student's primary insurance. If a student does not have primary insurance, accident insurance can pay as primary, according to a schedule of benefits, but will not pay all costs.

### **Preparedness Drills: Evacuation, Severe Weather, and Other Emergencies**

Periodically, the school will conduct preparedness drills of emergency procedures. When the command is given or alarm is sounded, students need to follow the direction of teachers or others in charge quickly, quietly, and in an orderly manner.

### **Preparedness Training: CPR and Stop the Bleed**

The district will offer instruction in CPR and the use of an automated external defibrillator (AED) at least once to students enrolled in in grades 7-12. The instruction can be provided as part of any course and is not required to result in CPR or AED certification.

The district will annually offer students in grades 7-12 instruction on the use of bleeding control stations to respond to traumatic injury. For more information, see [Stop the Bleed Texas \(https://stopthebleedtexas.org/\)](https://stopthebleedtexas.org/).

## **Emergency Medical Treatment and Information**

All parents are asked each year to complete a medical care authorization form, providing written parental consent to obtain emergency treatment and information about allergies to medications or drugs. Parents should contact the school nurse to update emergency care information (name of doctor, emergency phone numbers, allergies, and the like).

The district may consent to medical treatment, including dental treatment, if necessary, for a student if all of the following requirements are met:

- The district has received written authorization from a person having the right to consent
- That person cannot be contacted
- That person has not given the district actual notice to the contrary

The emergency care authorization form will be used by the district when a student's parent or authorized designee cannot be contacted. A student may provide consent if authorized by law or court order.

Regardless of parental authorization for the district to consent to medical treatment, district employees will contact emergency medical services to provide emergency care when required by law or when deemed necessary, such as to avoid a life-threatening situation.

## **Emergency School Closing Information**

Each year, parents are asked to complete an emergency release form to provide contact information if the district needs to notify parents of early dismissal, delayed opening, or restricted access to a campus because of severe weather, a security threat, or another emergency cause.

The district will rely on contact information on file with the district to communicate with parents in an emergency situation, which may include real-time or automated messages. It is crucial to notify your child's school when a phone number changes. State law requires parents to update contact information within two weeks after the date the information changes.

If the campus must close, delay opening, or restrict access to the building because of an emergency, the district will also alert the community in the following ways:

- School Messenger, Raptor, Messages through Skyward Family Access
- [Florence ISD Website](#)
- [Florence ISD Facebook Page](#)
- News Stations-KEYE 42, KASE 100.7, KVUE 24, KTBC FOX 7, KCEN Channel 9, KWTX Channel 10, KXAN 36, and KXXV Channel 25.

[See Parent Contact Information and Automated Emergency Communications]

## **SAT, ACT, and Other Standardized Tests**

[See Standardized Testing]

## **Schedule Changes (Middle/Junior High and High School Grade Levels)**

Requests for schedule changes are made through the campus counselor.

Students may not make schedule changes without a parent signature on the schedule change request form. Changes will be made only if (1) the student is a senior and does not have a course required for graduation; (2) the student does not have the prerequisites for a course; (3) course credit was previously received; (4) a data entry error was made by the school; (5) student has been dismissed from a program that requires approval for placement; (6) any requests to change a schedule for reasons other than those listed will be considered only for a compelling educational circumstance.

## **School Facilities**

### **Asbestos Management Plan (All Grade Levels)**

The district works diligently to maintain compliance with federal and state law governing asbestos in school buildings. A copy of the district's asbestos management plan is available in the central administrative office. If you have any questions or would like to examine the district's plan in more detail, please contact Russell Ellis, Director of Maintenance & Custodial and the district's designated asbestos coordinator at (254) 793-4540.

### **Facilities Usage by the Public**

FISD allows limited use of district facilities by outside organizations/groups. However, such use of district facilities shall not be permitted when it interferes with the educational program of any scheduled campus or district activities, including facility maintenance and/or repair projects. District facilities include, but are not limited to, campuses and athletic facilities. All requests must be submitted in writing with contact information, dates and area(s) requested on the *Facility Use Request* form. The form can be found on the FISD webpage [https://www.florenceisd.net/91792\\_2](https://www.florenceisd.net/91792_2).

All requests will be considered according to the guidelines. The administration reserves the right to deviate when necessary to achieve the overall purpose of the guidelines.

### **Food and Nutrition Services (All Grade Levels)**

The district participates in the School Breakfast Program and National School Lunch Program and offers students nutritionally balanced meals daily in accordance with standards set forth in state and federal law.

Some students are eligible for free and reduced-price meals based on financial need. Information about a student's participation is confidential. The district may share information such as a student's name and eligibility status to help enroll eligible children in Medicaid or the state children's health insurance program (CHIP) unless the student's parent requests the student's information not be disclosed.

Participating students will be offered the same meal options as their peers and will not be treated differently from their peers.

To apply for free or reduced-price meal services, contact:

Lillian Barnett  
Director of Child Nutrition  
[lbarnett@florenceisd.net](mailto:lbarnett@florenceisd.net)  
(254) 793-2850

[See policy COB for more information.]

Parents should continually monitor their child's meal account balance. When a student's meal account is depleted, the district will notify the parent. The student may continue to purchase meals according to the grace period set by the school board. The district will present the parent with a schedule of repayment for any outstanding account balance and an application for free or reduced meals. [See policy CO for more information.]

If the district is unable to work out an agreement with the student's parent on replenishment of the meal account and payment of any outstanding balance, the student will receive a meal. The district will make every effort to avoid bringing attention to the student.

The following information is published as required by the USDA for participation in the National School Lunch Program:

"In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity.

"Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

"To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at: <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/ad-3027.pdf>, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by:

**1. mail:**

U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or

**2. fax:**

(833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or

**3. email:**

[Program.Intake@usda.gov](mailto:Program.Intake@usda.gov)

“This institution is an equal opportunity provider.”

The responsible state agency that administers the program is the [Texas Department of Agriculture](https://www.texasagriculture.gov/Home/Contact-Us) (<https://www.texasagriculture.gov/Home/Contact-Us>), which can be reached at (800) TELL-TDA (835-5832) or (800) 735-2989 (TTY).

The local agency that administers the program is the district. [See Nondiscrimination Statement (All Grade Levels) for the name and contact information for the Title IX coordinator, ADA/Section 504 coordinator, and superintendent for other concerns about discrimination.]

[See policy COB for more information.]

***Vending Machines (All Grade Levels)***

The district has adopted and implemented the state and federal policies for food service, including guidelines to restrict student access to vending machines. For more information about these policies and guidelines, see the campus principal. [See policy FFA for more information.]

***Pest Management Plan (All Grade Levels)***

The district is required to follow integrated pest management (IPM) procedures to control pests on school grounds. Although the district strives to use the safest and most effective methods to manage pests, including a variety of non-chemical control measures, periodic indoor and outdoor pesticide use is sometimes necessary to ensure a safe, pest-free school environment.

All pesticides used are registered for their intended use by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and are applied only by certified pesticide applicators. Except in an emergency, signs will be posted 48 hours before indoor application. All outdoor applications will be posted at the time of treatment, and signs will remain until it is safe to enter the area.

**Parents who have questions or who want to be notified of the times and types of applications prior to pesticide application inside their child’s school assignment area may contact the district’s IPM coordinator, Russell Ellis, Director of Maintenance & Custodial, [ruellis@florenceisd.net](mailto:ruellis@florenceisd.net), (254) 793-4540. Conduct Before and After School (All Grade Levels)**

Teachers and administrators have full authority over student conduct at before- or after-school activities. Whether a school activity is on or off district premises, students must follow the same rules of conduct that apply during the instructional day. Misbehavior will be subject to consequences established by the Student Code of Conduct or any stricter standards of behavior established by the sponsor for extracurricular participants.

***Library (All Grade Levels)***

The library is open for independent student use with a teacher permit.

The district provides a wide range of library materials for students and faculty that support student achievement and present varying levels of difficulty, diversity of appeal, and a variety of points of view. The district follows the Texas State Library and Archive Commission's standards for school library collection development.

Parents are the primary decision makers regarding their student's access to library material. The district encourages parental involvement in library acquisition, maintenance, and campus activities. Parents are encouraged to communicate with the district librarian and their child's teacher about special considerations regarding library materials self-selected by their student. A parent may submit to the district a list of library materials that their child may not be allowed to check out or otherwise access for use outside of the school library by submitting the list to the district librarian or the campus principal.

A parent may access to the school's library or any available online catalog by accessing each campus library services <https://www.florenceisd.net/204465> 3. The district welcomes student and parent feedback on library materials and services. Parents may contact the district librarian with questions or comments about their child's campus library. A district employee, parent, or person residing in the district may submit a written challenge to the inclusion of any library material in the catalog of the school library by submitting the form available on the district's website.

#### **Use of Hallways during Class Time (All Grade Levels)**

During class times, loitering or standing in the halls is not permitted, and a student must have a hall pass to be outside the classroom for any purpose. Failure to obtain a pass will result in disciplinary action in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct.

#### **Use by Students Before and After School (All Grade Levels)**

Certain areas of the school will be accessible to students before and after school for specific purposes. Students are required to remain in the area where their activity is scheduled to take place.

Unless the teacher or sponsor overseeing an activity gives permission, a student will not be permitted to go to another area of the building or campus.

Students must leave campus immediately after dismissal of school in the afternoon, unless the student is involved in an activity under the supervision of a teacher or other authorized employee or adult.

#### **Meetings of Non-curriculum-Related Groups (Secondary Grade Levels Only)**

Student-organized, student-led non-curriculum-related groups are permitted to meet during the hours designated by the principal before and after school. These groups must comply with the requirements of policy FNAB(LOCAL). A list of these groups is available in the principal's office.

Parental consent is required before a student may participate in a student club that is authorized or sponsored by the district. [See Extracurricular Activities, Clubs, and Organizations (All Grade Levels)]

### **School-Sponsored Field Trips (All Grade Levels)**

The district periodically takes students on field trips for educational purposes.

A parent must provide permission for a student to participate in a field trip.

The district may ask the parent to provide information about a student's medical provider and insurance coverage and may also ask the parent to sign a waiver allowing for emergency medical treatment in the case of a student accident or illness during the field trip.

The district may require a fee for student participation in a field trip that is not required as part of a basic educational program or course to cover expenses such as transportation, admission, and meals; however, a student will not be denied participation because of financial need. [See Fees (All Grade Levels) for more information.]

The district is not responsible for refunding fees paid directly to a third-party vendor.

### **Searches and Investigations**

#### **Searches in General (All Grade Levels)**

In the interest of promoting student safety and drug-free schools, district officials may occasionally conduct searches and investigations.

District officials may conduct investigations in accordance with law and district policy and may question students regarding a student's own conduct or the conduct of others. [For questioning of students by law enforcement officials, see Law Enforcement Agencies (All Grade Levels).]

District officials may search students, their belongings, and their vehicles in accordance with law and district policy. Searches of students will be conducted without discrimination, based on, for example, reasonable suspicion or voluntary consent or pursuant to district policy providing for suspicion-less security procedures, including the use of metal detectors.

In accordance with the Student Code of Conduct, students are responsible for prohibited items found in their possession, including items in their personal belongings or in vehicles parked on district property.

If there is reasonable suspicion to believe that searching a student's person, belongings, or vehicle will reveal evidence of a violation of the Student Code of Conduct, a district official may conduct a search in accordance with law and district regulations.

#### **District Property (All Grade Levels)**

Desks, lockers, district-provided technology, and similar items are the property of the district and are provided for student use as a matter of convenience. District property is subject to

search or inspection at any time without notice. Students have no expectation of privacy in district property.

Students are responsible for any item found in district property provided to the student that is prohibited by law, district policy, or the Student Code of Conduct.

### **Metal Detectors (All Grade Levels)**

To maintain a safe and disciplined learning environment, the district reserves the right to subject students to metal detector searches when entering a district campus and at off-campus, school-sponsored activities.

### **Personal Communications and Other Electronic Devices (All Grade Levels)**

Use of district-owned equipment and its network systems is not private and will be monitored by the district. [See policy CQ for more information.]

Any searches of personal electronic devices will be conducted in accordance with law, and the device may be confiscated to perform a lawful search. A confiscated device may be turned over to law enforcement to determine whether a crime has been committed.

[See Electronic Devices and Technology Resources (All Grade Levels) and policy FNF(LEGAL) for more information.]

### **Trained Dogs (All Grade Levels)**

The district may use trained dogs to screen for concealed, prohibited items, including drugs and alcohol. Screenings conducted by trained dogs will not be announced in advance. The dogs will not be used with students, but students may be asked to leave personal belongings in an area that is going to be screened, such as a classroom, a locker, or a vehicle. If a dog alerts to an item or an area, it may be searched by district officials.

### **Drug Testing (Secondary Grade Levels Only)**

The district's policy FNF(LOCAL) addresses board authorization for drug testing of students as described in the policy, but specifics of the drug-testing program should be addressed in administrative regulations, such as this handbook or your extracurricular conduct guide.

[See Steroids (Secondary Grade Levels Only)]

### **Vehicles on Campus (Secondary Grade Levels Only)**

If a vehicle subject to search is locked, the student will be asked to unlock the vehicle. If the student refuses, the district will contact the student's parents. If the parents also refuse to permit the vehicle to be searched, the district may turn the matter over to law enforcement. The district may contact law enforcement even if permission to search is granted.

### **Sexual Harassment**

[See Dating Violence, Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation (All Grade Levels)]

## **Special Programs (All Grade Levels)**

The district provides special programs for gifted and talented students, students who are homeless, students in foster care, bilingual students, migrant students, emergent bilingual students, students diagnosed with dyslexia, and students with disabilities. The coordinator of each program can answer questions about eligibility requirements, as well as programs and services offered in the district or by other organizations. A student or parent with questions about these programs should contact:

Rachael Hull, Director of Special Education & Federal Programs at [rhull@florenceisd.net](mailto:rhull@florenceisd.net) or (254) 793-2850, Ext. 2238.

The Texas State Library and Archives Commission's [Talking Book Program](https://www.tsl.texas.gov/tbp/index.html) (<https://www.tsl.texas.gov/tbp/index.html>) provides audiobooks free of charge to qualifying Texans, including students with visual, physical, or reading disabilities such as dyslexia.

## **Standardized Testing**

### **SAT/ACT (Scholastic Aptitude Test and American College Test)**

Many colleges require either the American College Test (ACT) or the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) for admission. These assessments are usually taken at the end of the junior year. Students are encouraged to talk with the school counselor early during their junior year to learn about these assessments and determine the appropriate examination to take. The Preliminary SAT (PSAT) and ACT-Aspire are the corresponding preparatory and readiness assessments for the SAT and ACT.

**Note:** These assessments may qualify a student to receive a performance acknowledgment on the student's transcript under the foundation graduation program and may qualify as a substitute for an end-of-course testing requirement in certain circumstances. A student's performance at a certain level on the SAT or ACT also makes the student eligible for automatic admission to a Texas public institution of higher education.

### **TSI (Texas Success Initiative) Assessment**

Prior to enrollment in a Texas public college or university, most students must take a standardized test called the Texas Success Initiative (TSI) assessment. The TSI assesses the reading, mathematics, and writing skills that first-year students need to perform effectively as undergraduates in Texas public colleges and universities. This assessment may also be required before a student enrolls in a dual credit course offered through the district. Achieving certain benchmark scores on this assessment may also waive certain end-of-course assessment requirements in limited circumstances.

### **Student Speakers (All Grade Levels)**

The district provides students the opportunity to introduce the following school events. If a student meets the eligibility criteria, the principal may enlist the student for an event..

[See Graduation (Secondary Grade Levels Only) for information related to student speakers at graduation ceremonies and policy FNA(LOCAL) regarding other speaking opportunities.]

### **Summer School (All Grade Levels)**

The district provides summer school to meet accelerated instruction requirements for students who fail to meet passing standards on STAAR or requires summer school for those who do not meet local promotion standards in kindergarten-grade 8 or credit for some courses in grades 9-12.

### **Tardies (All Grade Levels)**

A student is tardy if not in the classroom when the bell rings. Repeated instances of tardiness will result in disciplinary action, in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct.

### **Textbooks, Electronic Textbooks, Technological Equipment, and Other Instructional Materials (All Grade Levels)**

Instructional materials are any resources used in classroom instruction as part of the required curriculum, such as textbooks, workbooks, computer software, or online services.

The district selects instructional materials in accordance with state law and policy EFA.

The district provides approved instructional materials to students free of charge for each subject or class. Students must treat instructional materials with care, as directed by the teacher.

If a student needs a graphing calculator for a course and the district does not provide one, the student may use a calculator application with graphing capabilities on a phone, laptop, tablet, or other computing device.

A student who is issued a damaged item should report the damage to the teacher.

Any student who does not return an item or returns an item in an unacceptable condition loses the right to free textbooks and technological equipment until the item is returned or the damage is paid for by the parent. However, the student will be provided the necessary instructional resources and equipment for use at school during the school day.

For information on library books and other resources students may access voluntarily, see Library (All Grade Levels).

### **Transfers (All Grade Levels)**

The principal is authorized to transfer a student from one classroom to another.

The superintendent is authorized to investigate and approve transfers between schools.

[See Safety Transfers/Assignments, Bullying (All Grade Levels), and A Student with Physical or Mental Impairments Protected under Section 504, for other transfer options.]

## **Transportation (All Grade Levels)**

### **School-Sponsored Trips**

Students who participate in school-sponsored trips are required to use school-provided transportation to and from the event. However, in accordance with campus procedures, a parent may provide **written consent** for their child to ride with or be released after the event to the parent or another adult designated by the parent. [See School-Sponsored Field Trips (All Grade Levels)]

### **Buses and Other School Vehicles**

The district makes school bus transportation available to all students living two or more miles from school and to any students who are experiencing homelessness. This service is provided at no cost to students.

Bus routes and stops will be designated annually. Any changes will be posted at the school and on the district's website. For the safety of the driver and all passengers, students must board district vehicles only at authorized stops and drivers must unload passengers only at authorized stops.

The district has identified hazardous traffic conditions and/or a high risk of violence exist for students who live within two miles of the campus

Because students in these areas might encounter hazardous traffic conditions or be subject to a high risk of violence when walking to and from school, the district will provide transportation to these students. For additional information, please contact:

***Rick Kirkpatrick***  
***Superintendent***  
***306 College Avenue, Florence, TX 76527***  
***rkirkpatrick@florenceisd.net***  
***(254) 793-2850, Ext. 2221***

A parent may designate a child-care facility or grandparent's residence as the regular pickup and drop-off location for their child. The designated location must be an approved stop on an approved route. For information on bus routes and stops or to designate an alternate pickup or drop-off location, contact the Transportation Department at (254) 793-4539.

Students are expected to assist district staff in ensuring that buses and other district vehicles are clean and safe. When riding in district vehicles, students are held to behavioral standards established in this handbook and the Student Code of Conduct. Students must:

- Observe all usual classroom rules
- Follow the driver's directions at all times
- Enter and leave the vehicle in an orderly manner at the designated stop
- Keep feet, books, instrument cases, and other objects out of the aisle
- Not deface the vehicle or its equipment

- Not put head, hands, arms, or legs out of the window, hold any object out of the window, or throw objects within or out of the vehicle
- Not possess or use any form of tobacco or e-cigarettes in any district vehicle
- Be seated while the vehicle is moving
- Fasten their seat belts, if available
- Wait for the driver's signal upon leaving the vehicle and before crossing in front of the vehicle
- Follow any other rules established by the operator of the vehicle

Misconduct will be punished in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct, including loss of the privilege to ride in a district vehicle.

[See the Student Code of Conduct for provisions regarding transportation to the DAEP.]

### **Vandalism (All Grade Levels)**

Littering, defacing, or damaging school property is not tolerated. Students will be required to pay for damages they cause and will be subject to criminal proceedings as well as disciplinary consequences in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct.

### **Video Cameras (All Grade Levels)**

For safety purposes, the district uses video and audio recording equipment to monitor student behavior, including on buses and in common areas on campus. Students will not be told when the equipment is being used.

The principal will review the video and audio recordings as needed and document student misconduct. Discipline will be in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct.

In accordance with state law, a parent of a student who receives special education services, a staff member (as this term is defined by law), a principal or assistant principal, or the board may make a written request for the district to place video and audio recording equipment in certain special education classrooms. The district will provide notice before placing a video camera in a classroom or other setting in which a child receives special education services. For more information or to request the installation and operation of this equipment, contact the principal or the Director of Information Technology and Safety, Jimmy Birch at (254) 793-2850, Ext. 2248, that the district has designated to coordinate the implementation of and compliance with this law.

[See policy EHBAF(LOCAL) for more information.]

[See Consent to Video or Audio Record a Student When Not Already Permitted by Law for video and other recording by parents or visitors to virtual or in-person classrooms.]

## **Visitors to the School (All Grade Levels)**

### **General Visitors**

Parents and others are welcome to visit district schools. For the safety of those within the school and to avoid disruption of instructional time, all visitors must:

- Request entry to the school at the primary entrance unless otherwise directed by a district employee
- Report to the main office
- Be prepared to show identification
- Exit the school at the primary entrance and leave all exterior doors closed, latched, and locked unless actively monitored by a district employee
- Comply with all applicable district policies and procedures

If requested by a district employee, a visitor must provide identification such as a driver's license, other picture identification issued by a government entity, or employee or student identification issued by the district. A person who refuses to provide identification and who reasonably appears to have no legitimate reason to be on district property may be ejected from district property.

Individuals may visit classrooms or observe virtual instruction during instructional time only with approval of the principal and teacher. Visitors may not interfere with instruction or disrupt the normal school environment.

All visitors are expected to demonstrate the highest standards of courtesy and conduct. Disruptive behavior or violations of student privacy will not be permitted.

[See Consent to Video or Audio Record a Student When Not Already Permitted by Law for video and other recording by parents or visitors to virtual or in-person classrooms.]

### **Unauthorized Persons**

In accordance with Education Code 37.105, a school administrator, school resource officer (SRO), or district police officer has the authority to refuse entry to or eject a person from district property if the person refuses to leave peaceably on request and either of the following applies:

- The person poses a substantial risk of harm to any person
- The person behaves in a manner that is inappropriate for a school setting and persists in the behavior after being given a verbal warning that the behavior is inappropriate and may result in refusal of entry or ejection

Appeals regarding refusal of entry or ejection from district property may be filed in accordance with policies FNG(LOCAL) or GF(LOCAL).

The City of Florence passed Ordinance NO [06072022-02](#) establishing Child Safety Zones. All Fisd property falls in a Child Safety Zone. Therefore, all registered sex offenders are prohibited from

being within 500 feet of any Fisd campus. Parents of Fisd students who are also registered sex offenders are allowed to pick-up or drop-off their child under the following conditions:

- Contact the campus principal and schedule the time to pick-up or drop-off prior to coming to campus.
- Call upon arrival and remain in vehicle
- School personnel will take the student to the parent in the waiting vehicle.

Parents who are registered sex offenders are prohibited from participating in conferences, 504 or ARD meetings in person. The school will offer an opportunity for the parent to participate via ZOOM or conference call.

[See the Student Code of Conduct.]

### **Visitors Participating in Special Programs for Students**

#### ***Business, Civic, and Youth Groups***

The district may invite representatives from patriotic societies listed in Title 36 of the United States Code to present information to interested students about membership in the society.

#### ***Career Day***

The district invites representatives from colleges and universities and other higher education institutions, prospective employers, and military recruiters to present information to interested students. Check with the high school or middle school counselor for more information about this event.

### **Volunteers (All Grade Levels)**

The district invites and appreciates the efforts of volunteers who are willing to serve our district and students.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the campus main office of each campus.

Subject to exceptions in accordance with state law and district procedures, the district requires a state criminal history background check for each volunteer, including parents, guardians, or grandparents of a child enrolled in the district. The volunteer must pay all costs for the background check.

### **Voter Registration (Secondary Grade Levels Only)**

A student who is eligible to vote in any local, state, or federal election may obtain a voter registration application at the main campus office.

### **Withdrawing from School (All Grade Levels)**

To withdraw a student under age 18 from school, the parent or guardian must submit a written request to the principal specifying the reasons for withdrawal and the final day the student will be in attendance. Withdrawal forms are available from the principal's office.

A student who is age 18 or older, who is married, or who has been declared by a court to be an emancipated minor may withdraw without parental signature.

Please provide the school at least three days' notice of withdrawal so that records and documents may be prepared.

## Glossary

**Accelerated instruction, including supplemental instruction**, is an intensive educational program designed to help an individual student acquire the knowledge and skills required at their grade level. It is required when a student does not meet the passing standard on a state-mandated assessment. Accelerated instruction may be provided by assigning a student to a classroom teacher who is certified as a master, exemplary, or recognized teacher or by providing supplemental instruction in addition to regular instruction.

**ACT, or the American College Test**, is one of the two most frequently used college or university admissions examinations. The test may be required for admission to certain colleges or universities.

**ACT-Aspire** is designed as a preparatory and readiness assessment for the ACT. This is usually taken by students in grade 10.

**ARD** stands for admission, review, and dismissal. The ARD committee convenes for each student who is identified as needing a full and individual evaluation for special education services. The eligible student and their parents are members of the committee.

**Attendance review committee** is responsible for reviewing a student's absences when the student's attendance drops below 90 percent, or in some cases 75 percent, of the days the class is offered. Under guidelines adopted by the board, the committee will determine whether there were extenuating circumstances for the absences and whether the student needs to complete certain conditions to master the course and regain credit or a final grade lost because of absences.

**CPS** stands for Child Protective Services.

**DAEP** stands for disciplinary alternative education program, a placement for students who have violated certain provisions of the Student Code of Conduct.

**DFPS** stands for the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services.

**DPS** stands for the Texas Department of Public Safety.

**DSHS** stands for the Texas Department of State Health Services.

**ED** stands for the U.S. Department of Education.

**Emergent bilingual student** refers to a student of limited English proficiency. Other related terms include English learner, English language learner, and limited English proficient student.

**EOC (end-of-course) assessments** are state-mandated and are part of the STAAR program. Successful performance on EOC assessments is required for graduation. These examinations will be given in English I, English II, Algebra I, Biology, and U.S. History.

**ESSA** is the federal Every Student Succeeds Act.

**FERPA** refers to the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, which grants specific privacy protections to student records. The law contains certain exceptions, such as for

directory information, unless a student's parent or a student 18 years of age or older directs the school not to release directory information.

**IEP** stands for individualized education program and is the written record prepared by the ARD committee for a student with disabilities who is eligible for special education services.

**IGC** is the individual graduation committee, formed in accordance with state law, to determine a student's eligibility to graduate when the student has failed to demonstrate satisfactory performance on no more than two of the required state assessments.

**ISS** refers to in-school suspension, a disciplinary technique for misconduct found in the Student Code of Conduct. Although different from out-of-school suspension and placement in a DAEP, ISS removes the student from the regular classroom.

**PGP** stands for personal graduation plan, which is required for high school students and for any student in middle school who fails a section on a state-mandated test or is identified by the district as not likely to earn a high school diploma before the fifth school year after beginning grade 9.

**PSAT** is the preparatory and readiness assessment for the SAT. It also serves as the basis for the awarding of National Merit Scholarships.

**Safe and Supportive School Team** is a team established at each campus that is responsible for conducting a threat assessment regarding individuals who make threats of violence or exhibit harmful, threatening, or violent behavior and determining appropriate intervention, and providing guidance to students and school employees on recognizing harmful, threatening, or violent behavior that may pose a threat to the community, school, or individual.

**SAT** refers to the Scholastic Aptitude Test, one of the two most frequently used college or university admissions examinations. The test may be required for admissions to certain colleges or universities.

**SHAC** stands for School Health Advisory Council, a group of at least five members, a majority of whom must be parents, appointed by the school board to help ensure that local community values and health issues are reflected in the district's health education instruction, as well as assist with other student and employee wellness issues.

**Section 504** is the federal law that prohibits discrimination against a student with a disability, requiring schools to provide opportunities for equal services, programs, and participation in activities. Unless the student is determined to be eligible for special education services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), general education with appropriate instructional accommodations will be provided.

**STAAR** is the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness, the state's system of standardized academic achievement assessments.

**STAAR Alternate 2** is an alternative state-mandated assessment designed for students with severe cognitive disabilities receiving special education services who meet the participation requirements, as determined by the student's ARD committee.

**STAAR Spanish** is an alternative state-mandated assessment administered to eligible students for whom a Spanish version of STAAR is the most appropriate measure of their academic progress.

**State-mandated assessments** are required of students at certain grade levels and in specified subjects. Except under limited circumstances, students must pass the STAAR EOC assessments to graduate. Students have multiple opportunities to take the tests, if necessary, for graduation.

**Student Code of Conduct** is developed with the advice of the district-level committee and adopted by the board and identifies the circumstances, consistent with law, when a student may be removed from a classroom, campus, or district vehicle; sets out the conditions that authorize or require the principal or another administrator to place the student in a DAEP; and outlines conditions for out-of-school suspension and for expulsion. The Student Code of Conduct also addresses notice to the parent regarding a student's violation of one of its provisions.

**TAC** stands for the Texas Administrative Code.

**TEA** stands for the Texas Education Agency, which oversees primary and secondary public education in Texas.

**TELPAS** stands for the Texas English Language Proficiency Assessment System, which assesses the progress that emergent bilingual students make in learning the English language and is administered for those who meet the participation requirements in kindergarten-grade 12.

**TSI** stands for the Texas Success Initiative, an assessment designed to measure the reading, mathematics, and writing skills that entering college-level freshmen students should have if they are to be successful in undergraduate programs in Texas public colleges and universities.

**UIL** refers to the University Interscholastic League, the statewide, voluntary nonprofit organization that oversees educational extracurricular academic, athletic, and music contests.

## Appendix: Freedom from Bullying Policy

**Note to Student Handbook developer:** State law requires that the district’s policy on bullying be distributed in its Student Handbook(s).

On April 6, 2023, TEA publicized minimum standards for bullying prevention policies and procedures in accordance with state law. TASB Policy Service included recommended revisions to FFI(LOCAL) in Update 121 in June 2023. TASB recommends that districts adopt revisions to this policy prior to the beginning of the 2023-24 school year. Districts should update the appendix to the student handbook containing FFI(LOCAL) as soon as the board adopts revisions to the policy.

The following has been formatted for the district to more easily insert its FFI(LOCAL) policy here rather than in the body of the handbook.

**Note:** School board policies may be revised at any time. For legal context and the most current copy of the local policy, visit <https://pol.tasb.org/PolicyOnline/PolicyDetails?key=1239&code=FFI#legalTabContent>. Below is the text of Florence Independent School District’s policy FFI(LOCAL) as of the date this handbook was finalized for this school year.

### Student Welfare: Freedom from Bullying

Policy [FFI\(LOCAL\)](#) adopted on 5/13/2023

## Appendix: Student Rights and Responsibilities Policy

**Note to Student Handbook developer:** State law requires that the district's policy on student rights and responsibilities be distributed in its Student Handbook(s).

SB12 added Education Code Chapter 26A, which requires a board-adopted policy for addressing a grievance to meet specific requirements. Include the text of your current FNG(LOCAL) below. TASB Policy Service will recommend revisions to FNG(LOCAL) in Update 126 later this year. After board action on recommended revisions, changes to this section may be required to align with policy.

The following has been formatted for the district to more easily insert its FNG(LOCAL) policy here rather than in the body of the handbook.

**Note:** School board policies may be revised at any time. For legal context and the most current copy of the local policy, visit

<https://pol.tasb.org/PolicyOnline/PolicyDetails?key=1239&code=FNG#legalTabContent>.



To: Rick Kirkpatrick, Superintendent  
From: Sandy Slade, Human Resources Coordinator  
Re: **FISD Handbook - Summary of Changes**  
Date: July 24, 2025

---

The district received the model student handbook from TASB on Wednesday of last week. It was late in its delivery due to the number of bills passed by the 89<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session. The vast amount and complexity of many of the changes will require the district to seek further clarification from TEA, board adoption of some items, and further development of policies and procedures that do not currently exist within the district. While the district has made great progress in a very short amount of time leading up to the start of this school year, we are aware that this document will need to be continually updated as we finalize any outstanding items, including some information that TEA was required to have in place prior to the start of the school year and has not yet been made available at the time of publishing.

Some language has been added to the beginning of the student handbook to inform our parents that there will be further updates and the district will share those as applicable. It reads as follows:

*“Please read the handbook in correlation with the FISD Student Code of Conduct, and the Acceptable Use Policy carefully. This document may change at any time to force compliance with directives brought forth by the State of Texas, the Texas Education Agency, and any other agency that regulates the policies and procedures of public school districts in Texas. As further direction and clear guidance is given regarding these regulations and procedures set by the 89<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature, this document will be updated. Stakeholders will be notified when applicable. Please sign the FISD acknowledgement forms indicating that you have received and read these documents. Once complete, please return to your student’s teacher.”*

Below is a list of significant changes to the 2025-2026 Student Handbook for your review.

1. Parents must “opt in” to Human Sexuality instruction this year.
2. Teachers are required to provide a copy of the teacher’s instructional plan or course syllabus for each class to the parent before the beginning of each semester.
3. Parent may request records relating to school library materials child obtains.
4. Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunities for Military Children entitles children of military families to flexibility regarding certain district and state requirements, including now an opportunity to enroll in virtual or hybrid courses offered by the district or another district or school.



5. Regarding absences, district is required to adopt a form for student's absences due to severe or life-threatening illness, adopt a policy for excusing a student to attend a released time course in religious instruction, and clarifies that mental health appointments qualify as excused absences.
6. Expands direction on what the district is to include in age-appropriate research-based instruction content designed to reduce bullying.
7. Requires TEA to develop a standard method of computing a student's high school grade point average (not available at the time of publication).
8. Significantly changes the grievance process which will be reflected in Board Policy Update 126 for FNG(LEGAL) and (LOCAL). Also requires prominent placement on the website and in the handbook.
9. Includes naming a Campus Behavior Coordinator at each campus and no longer allow the district to opt out through the District of Innovation plan.
10. Changes to Sexual Harassment section to reflect compliance with Title IX rules currently in effect.
11. Repeals the Texas School Virtual Network and allows students to enroll in virtual or hybrid courses offered by the district or another district or school.
12. Prohibits the use of personal communication devices by students while on school property during the school day. Requires written notification to parent 90 days prior to notice of disposing of device.
13. Requires district to obtain written parental consent before a student may participate in a student club that is authorized or sponsored by the district.
14. Allows students receiving special education services to earn the distinguished level of achievement if specific requirements are met.
15. Requires district to provide prior to the first day of school, written notice of each health-related service offered at the campus, allowing parent to withhold consent or decline a service.
16. Permits the authorization and administration of epinephrine delivery systems.
17. Provides that a parent has the right to direct the moral and religious training of the parent's child, make decisions concerning the child's education, and consent to medical,



psychiatric, and psychological treatment of the child without obstruction or interference from a governmental entity of Texas, including a school district.

18. Requires boards to adopt a policy providing at least opportunities for in-person conferences during each school year.
19. Changes the posting requirements for board meetings from 72 hours before the scheduled time of a meeting to three business days before the scheduled date of the meeting.
20. Requires the Texas School Safety Center, in collaboration with the Department of Public Safety, to provide information about safe storage of firearms, at least three times each school year.
21. Requires districts to allow parents to submit a list of library materials that their child may not access. Allows parents to access the library catalog and mandates that the district provides notification to the parent each time the parent's child checks out a library material through the online learning portal.
22. District must obtain written parental consent before a student may participate in any student club authorized or sponsored by the district.

**Florence High School**  
**2025-2026**  
**Student Handbook Supplement**



If you have difficulty accessing the information in this document because of disability, please contact the Florence High School at 254-793-2495.

# FLORENCE HIGH SCHOOL HANDBOOK SUPPLEMENT

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# FLORENCE HIGH SCHOOL HANDBOOK SUPPLEMENT

## INTRODUCTION

The entire Florence ISD Handbook may be found on the website: [www.florenceisd.net](http://www.florenceisd.net). It informs parents and their children about school rules and procedures that have been developed to provide the best learning environment for all students. The information included in this supplement is only additional information specific to Florence High School. Please read the FISD Handbook, the FISD Student Code of Conduct, and the Acceptable Use of Computers Policy carefully.

## STUDENT INFORMATION

### Change of Address, Telephone Numbers

Please notify the school promptly of any changes in a student's physical address, as well as home, work, or emergency phone numbers. Proof of residency will be required with all changes of address.

### Lunch Period

Florence High School is a closed campus. **Students may not leave campus to buy lunch.** They may, however, bring their own lunch or have lunch brought to them by a parent. Food delivery services such as Uber Eats may not deliver food to students. Failure to adhere to the restrictions associated with the closed campus lunch period may result disciplinary action concerning the violations.

### Attendance

When a student is absent from school, the student—upon arrival or return to school—must bring a note signed by the parent that describes the reason for the absence. A phone call from the parent may be accepted, but the district reserves the right to require a written note. After three (3) excused absences per semester, based on parent notification, additional absences will be excused only when accompanied by a medical provider's note or under extenuating circumstances granted by the campus principal.

### Attendance Definitions

**Unexcused Absence** – All or part of day with no note to excuse. (Counts against exemption and credit).

**Excused Absence** – All or part of day with a parent call or a written note to excuse. **Notes must be turned in within 48 hours of absence (Counts against exemption and credit).**

- May come into school late on an admit with a note or parent call in. May leave on a blue-slip from Nurse ill or blue-slip by parent request. (Counts against exemption and credit).

**Certified Absence** – All day medical absence with a doctor's note or any absence with proper letterhead documentation that includes the student's name and date of the absence. (Does not count against exemption and credit).

- Court Absence all or part of the day - with proper documentation - (Does not count against exemption and credit).
- Funeral absence all or part of the day – with proper documentation (Does not count against exemption and credit).

## FLORENCE HIGH SCHOOL HANDBOOK SUPPLEMENT

**Medically Excused Absence** – *Partial day* absence - requires a doctor’s note reflecting same day appointment and a “Blue Slip” or “Admit Slip” within 48 hours of the absence. (Does not count against credit or exemption).

**Military Deployment** – to visit with a parent, stepparent, or legal guardian who is an active-duty member of the uniformed services and has been called to duty for, is on leave from, or is immediately returned from continuous deployment of at least four months outside the locality where the parent, stepparent, or guardian regularly resides. Students will be excused up to five days for this purpose in a school year. An excused absence for this purpose must be taken no earlier than 60 days before the date of deployment or no later than 30 days after the date of return from deployment. (Does not count against credit or exemption.).

**College or Career Day** – Students may take no more than two college days in their junior year and two college days during their senior year for the purpose of visiting an institution of higher education that is accredited by a generally recognized accrediting organization for the purpose of determining the student’s interest in attending the institution of higher education. A letter from the college, on college letterhead is required for documentation of the visit and must include the student’s name and date of visit. Students who follow the school’s procedure and makes up missed work will receive attendance credit (for ADA purposes credit and local exemption). If a student takes more than 2 college days each year during their Junior/Senior years, the additional days will be excused and those days will count against exemption and credit.

**Extra-Curricular** – UIL Competition or 4-H (Does not count against credit or exemption)

**Co-Curricular** – school-related trip (Does not count against credit or exemption)

**Enlistment in Armed Services** - During a student’s junior and senior year they may miss up to four days to pursue enlistment in the armed services. Students must be 17 years of age and provide documentation on letterhead including the student’s name and date of visit. Students who follow the school’s procedure and make up missed work will receive attendance credit (for ADA purposes credit and local exemption). If a student takes more than 4 days during their Junior/Senior years, the additional days will be excused and those days will count against exemption and credit.

**Driver’s License** - misses school for the purpose of visiting a driver’s license office to obtain a driver’s license or learner permit. The student must be 15 years of age or older. Students will be excused for one day of school during the period the student is enrolled in high school for each purpose (obtaining a driver’s license and obtaining a learner license). Students must submit official documentation from the visit within 48 hours of their visit.

**Perfect Attendance** - Students may not have any absences except those defined as medical, college day, or court to be considered for perfect attendance. All notes must be turned in within the 48-hour window to receive these exceptions.

### Hall Passes

Instructional time in the classroom is critical to student academic success. Therefore, it is the policy of Florence High School to limit the number of halls passes allowed for student use during each nine-week grading period. Loitering in the hallways or failure to present a pass may result in disciplinary consequences.

### Fees

- Fees for optional courses offered for credit may apply.
- In some cases, a fee for a course taken through virtual and hybrid instruction.

## FLORENCE HIGH SCHOOL HANDBOOK SUPPLEMENT

- Parking fee (\$10.00 initial and \$10.00 replacement fee).

### **Good Standing**

A student in “Good Standing” must:

1. Satisfy the attendance requirement for credit (both 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> semester).
2. Owe NO financial, material or service debt to FHS or FSD (this includes class dues).
3. Have completed all discipline requirements.
4. Not currently be assigned to DAEP or JJAEP.
5. Must be passing all courses.

### **Prom**

Prom is a privilege, not a right, and school rules apply for FHS students and guests/dates. All FHS students attending must be in “Good Standing” (See above). Juniors and seniors receive a copy of all prom rules and a contract that requires the student signature, parent signature, guest signature, and the signature of the guest’s school administrator verifying good standing.

Each qualifying FHS student may receive a ticket to a dance or to the prom for themselves and one additional guest.

Outside Guests Must Meet the Following Qualifications:

- A student’s guest that is an FHS graduate must be no older than 20 years old.
- All other guests must be attending high school, have prior approval of the principal and be no older than 19 years old.

### **Social Events**

School rules apply to all school social events. Guests attending these events are expected to observe the same rules as students, and a student inviting a guest will share responsibility for the conduct of his or her guest.

A student attending a social event will be asked to sign out when leaving before the end of the event; anyone leaving before the official end of the event will not be readmitted.

### **Career and Technical Education (CTE) Programs**

The district offers career and technical education programs in the following areas: Agriculture Food and Natural Resources; Business Management and Administration; Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics; and Health Science. In order to complete a program of study students must take three or more courses for four or more credits within one program of study.

It is the policy of the district not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, or handicap in its vocational programs, services, or activities as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.

# FLORENCE HIGH SCHOOL HANDBOOK SUPPLEMENT

## CELL PHONES

**Phones are not to be used during school.** Every student will be assigned a personal Yondr Pouch. While the Yondr Pouch is considered school property, it is each student's responsibility to bring their Pouch with them to school every day and keep it in good working condition.

## DAILY PROCESS

As students **arrive at school**, they will:

1. Turn their phone off, turn smart watch off.
2. Place their phone, smart watch, air pods inside their pouch and secure it in the presence of school staff.
3. Store their pouch in their backpack for the day.

At the end of the day, students will unlock their pouch, remove their phone and put their pouch in their backpack. Students must bring their pouch to school with them each day.

## VIOLATIONS

### Pouch Damage

- If a student damages their pouch, Administration will collect the phone/Pouch and call home.
- **Consequence:** Parent pickup of phone in front office between 7:30 am and 4:00 pm and \$20 replacement fee for new pouch.
- **Repeat Offenses:** Parent pickup of phone in front office between 7:30 am and 4:00 pm and \$20 replacement fee for new pouch. Will be handled in the same manner as a phone that is out during the school day.
- 

Examples of damage:



Deep scratches on the globe and on the green ring around it  
Intentional pen marks on the inside of the Pouch  
Bent pins  
Pin and button not fully recessing, due to pin damage



### Forgotten/Lost Pouch

- If a student forgets their Pouch, **they must turn in their phone to the front office.** The phone will be returned to the student at the end of the day.
- If a student consistently forgets their Pouch, it is considered Lost. Parent pickup

## FLORENCE HIGH SCHOOL HANDBOOK SUPPLEMENT

of phone in front office between 7:30 am and 4:00 pm and \$20 replacement fee for new pouch **OR** signed statement that student will not bring a phone to school.

### **Using Phone or Personal Electronic Device During School**

- If a student is found in possession of a phone or device such as a personal computer, iPad, or smartwatch, administration will collect the phone/device and call home.

### **Consequence:**

- First incident, parent pick up of phone between 7:30 am and 4:00 pm.
- Second incident, parent pick up of phone between 7:30 am and 4:00 pm and Saturday detention.
- Third incident, parent pick up of phone between 7:30 am and 4:00 pm and student receives 1 day of ISS.

## **PARKING / STUDENT VEHICLES**

### **Parking Lot**

Students are not permitted in any parking lot during the school day without permission from the office. Students found in the parking lot during the instructional day without an office approved parking lot pass will be in violation of a truancy infraction.

### **Vehicles on Campus**

A student has full responsibility for the security and content of his or her vehicle parked on district property and must make certain that it is locked and that the keys are not given to others. [See also the Student Code of Conduct.]

Vehicles parked on district property are under the jurisdiction of the district. If there is reasonable suspicion to believe that searching a student's vehicle will reveal evidence of a violation of the Student Code of Conduct, a district official may conduct a search in accordance with law and district regulations. If a vehicle subject to search is locked, the student will be asked to unlock the vehicle. If the student refuses, the student's parent will be contacted. If a search is also refused by the student's parent, the district may contact law enforcement officials and turn the matter over to them. If a search is refused the student will lose the privilege of parking on campus. The district may, in certain circumstances, contact law enforcement even if permission to search is granted.

### **Student Driving & Parking Expectations**

The operation of a motor vehicle on the campus is a privilege. Students must park in an assigned, numbered parking spot in the designated student parking lot. The parking lot between the football field and the high school building is allotted for student parking. Vehicles, under jurisdiction of the school, are subject to tow and/or permanent removal from campus parking. A student should be sure his/her vehicle is locked and that the keys are not given to others. A student will be held responsible for any prohibited objects or substances found in his/her car. The student will be subject to disciplinary action, as well as referral for criminal prosecution. Here are the requirements for vehicle parking:

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Expectations for drivers:

- Park between the lines.
- Do not park in the first row which is reserved for faculty.
- Upon arrival, lock the vehicle and go to assigned area in the school building. **Do not loiter in the parking lot.**
- Take all school related materials with you as you leave the parking lot. If you must return to your vehicle for a forgotten item, obtain a pass from an adult in the office, then return the pass as you return with the forgotten item.
- If you drive more than one vehicle to school, notify the office.
- If you change/trade/sell your vehicle, notify the office immediately (prior to parking on school property).
- **Do not travel through the Middle School parking lot or bus parking area.** When entering or leaving High School, use FM 970.
- Do not drive over 10 mph on campus.
- Do not overload a vehicle with excessive passengers.
- Do not allow students to ride in the back of pickups.

Failure to adhere to these expectations could result in the loss of parking privileges on campus.

### **Parking Permit**

Students must meet the following requirements to park on campus. Failure to display accurate permit information and other parking permit-related violations may result in loss of parking privileges and/or the vehicle being towed.

- Complete a parking permit form
- Show proof of a valid driver's license
- Show proof of liability insurance and compliance with House Bill 197
- Purchase a parking permit in the high school office (\$10.00 each initial; \$10.00 replacement fee)

## **DISCIPLINARY ISSUES**

### **Discipline Procedures**

Conduct and discipline are based on the precepts of common sense and courtesy. It is important that the students form positive attitudes toward discipline. For school to be an effective place to learn, a teacher cannot spend a large part of his/her time handling discipline problems. No student will be allowed to disrupt the learning of others. Each teacher has a classroom management plan to ensure classrooms are orderly. The primary goal of discipline is to teach the child the proper way to behave in a school setting. Please read the Student Code of Conduct that outlines the behavior expectations and consequences for disciplinary infractions. Florence I.S.D. takes a position of zero tolerance on certain activities including taunting, teasing, bullying, and harassment, whether verbal, physical, or emotional. Such behavior may constitute interference

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with an educational institution, and is strictly prohibited. Parents are responsible for reading and explaining the expected behaviors to their students.

### **Driver License Attendance Verification**

A currently enrolled student seeking a driver's license shall submit the Texas Department of Public Safety Verification of Enrollment and Attendance Form (VOE), signed by the parent, to the campus office at least 10 days before it is needed. The district will issue a VOE only if the student meets class credit or attendance requirements. The VOE form is available at: <https://www.tdlr.texas.gov/driver/forms/VOE.pdf>.

Further information may be found on the Texas Department of Public Safety website: <https://www.dps.texas.gov/driverlicense/teendriver.htm>.

## SCHEDULING

### **Class Schedules**

All students are expected to attend school for the entire school day and maintain a full class/course schedule each day. Exceptions for seniors to have an office aide or release period may occur.

Seniors must meet the following criteria in order to qualify.

- 1) Student has met all state assessment (EOC) requirements for their graduating class.
- 2) Student is a fourth-year senior with at least 21 credits.
- 3) Student is on the Foundation with Endorsement Graduation Plan.
- 4) Student has met a CCMR indicator, (One Period).
- 5) Student is TSI Complete, (2<sup>nd</sup> Period).
- 6) Student is TSI Complete, has earned an industry-based certification, and is on track to be completer of their program of study, (3<sup>rd</sup> Period).
- 7) Student has obtained parent/guardian consent for a reduced class load.

Students not engaged in supervised academic work must leave the campus. Students found in violation of this rule will receive a warning on the first offense. On the second offense, students will be enrolled in a course(s) in replacement of the off period(s).

### **Schedule Changes**

Students may not make schedule changes without a parent signature on the schedule change request form. Changes will be made only if:

- (1) the student is a senior and does not have a course required for graduation
- (2) the student does not have the prerequisites for a course
- (3) course credit was previously received
- (4) a data entry error was made by the school
- (5) the student has been dismissed from a program that requires approval for placement

## FLORENCE HIGH SCHOOL HANDBOOK SUPPLEMENT

(6) any requests to change a schedule for reasons other than those listed will be considered only for a compelling educational circumstance

### Exemption from Semester Exams

Students may be exempt from course semester exams if they meet the requirements listed below. **All students must be present at school on each exam day for ADA purposes (per state requirements).** The following guidelines will be used in determining exemptions for semester exams.

- All absence **notes must be turned in within 2 school days** of return from the absence to be considered.
- If an exempted student decides to take a semester exam, the semester exam score can only raise the average grade. If the score from the exam is lower than the semester average, the exam score will not be counted.
- Dual credit classes will not be eligible for any exemption offered by the high school.
- It is the student's responsibility to monitor absences. Any absence that has been recorded on a report card will not be changed. The principal, on a case-by-case basis, may review extenuating circumstances.
- The student must have no more than 3 excused absences counted per day, not per class.
- Students can have no unexcused absences.
- The student must maintain an average of 85 or above in the class they wish to exempt.
- College days, Certified, Medical, Military Deployment, Extra-Curricular and Co-Curricular absences do not count against student exemptions
- Students cannot exempt the same exam twice in a year
- Students may exempt elective classes if they meet attendance and grade requirements.

### Grade Level Exemptions

Freshmen – 4 Core and Language other than English

Sophomores – 3 Core and Language other than English

Juniors – 2 Core and Language other than English

Seniors – 1 Core and Language other than English

**\*\* If EOC scores are available, students that score Meets Grade Level or higher may exempt their exam regardless of attendance and grade criteria.**

**\*\* Students who are TSI Complete may be exempt from Math and ELA exams in addition to their one semester exam. To be TSI complete a student must meet the "college ready" benchmark on the SAT, ACT, or TSIA2 in both English and math, or a combination of any of the exams.**

### 1<sup>st</sup> Semester Exemption Timeline

- 12/9 students notified of exams eligible for exemption
- 12/9 students indicate which exams they are exempting

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### 2<sup>nd</sup> Semester Exemption Timeline

- 5/12 students are notified of the exams eligible for exemption
- 5/12 students indicate which exams they are exempting

***Students assigned to DAEP lose the privilege to exemptions during a semester.***

### **Performance Acknowledgments**

Graduating under the foundation graduation program will also provide opportunities to earn “performance acknowledgments” that will be acknowledged on a student’s transcript. Performance acknowledgments are available for outstanding performance in bilingualism and biliteracy; in a dual credit course; on an AP or IB examination; on certain national college preparatory and readiness or college entrance examinations; or for earning a state recognized or nationally or internationally recognized license or certificate. The criteria for earning these performance acknowledgments are prescribed by state rules, and the school counselor can provide more information about these acknowledgments.

### Dual Credit

A student may earn a performance acknowledgment on the student's diploma and transcript for outstanding performance in a dual credit course by successfully completing:

- At least 12 hours of college academic courses with a grade of the equivalent of 3.0 or higher on a scale of 4.0 or
- An associate degree while in high school.

### Bilingualism and Biliteracy

A student may earn a performance acknowledgement in bilingualism and biliteracy by demonstrating proficiency in accordance with local school district grading policy in two or more languages by:

- Completing all English language arts requirements and maintaining a minimum GPA of an 80 on a scale of 100; and
- Satisfying one of the following:
  - Completion of a minimum of three credits in the same language in a language other than English with a minimum GPA of the equivalent of 80 on a scale of 100; or
  - Demonstrated proficiency in the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Level IV or higher in a language other than English with a minimum GPA of the equivalent of 80 on a scale of 100; or
  - Completion of at least three credits in foundation subject area courses in a language other than English with a minimum GPA of 80 on a scale of 100; or
  - Demonstrated proficiency in one or more languages other than English through one of the following methods:

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- A score of 3 or higher on a College Board AP exam for a language other than English; or
- A score of 4 or higher on an IB exam for a higher-level-languages other than English course; or
- Performance on a national assessment of language proficiency in a language other than English of at least Intermediate High or its equivalent.

In addition to meeting the requirements to earn a performance acknowledgement in bilingualism and biliteracy, an English language learner must also have:

- A. Participated in and met the exit criteria for a bilingual or English as a second language (ESL) program; and
- B. Scored at the Advanced High level on the Texas English Language Proficiency Assessment System (TELPAS).

### AP Test or IB Exam

A student may earn a performance acknowledgment by earning a score of:

- 3 or above on a College Board advanced placement examination; or
- A score of 4 or above on an International Baccalaureate examination.

### The PSAT, the ACT-Plan, the SAT, or the ACT

A student may earn a performance acknowledgment by:

- earning a score on the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT®) that qualifies the student for recognition as a commended scholar or higher by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation or as an awardee of the National Recognition Programs of the College Board;
- earning a composite score of 442 on the ACT Aspire™ examination;
- earning a composite score of 29 on the ACT PreACT® examination;
- earning a total score of at least 1350 on the SAT®; or earning a composite score on the ACT® examination of 29 (excluding the writing subscore). Earning a Nationally or internationally recognized business or industry certification or license

A student may earn a performance acknowledgment for:

- Performance on an examination or series of examinations sufficient to obtain a nationally or internationally recognized business or industry certification; or
- Performance on an examination sufficient to obtain a government-required credential to practice a profession.

Nationally or internationally recognized business or industry certification shall be defined as an industry validated credential that complies with knowledge and skills standards promulgated by a nationally or internationally recognized business, industry, professional, or government entity

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representing a particular profession or occupation that is issued by or endorsed by:

- A national or international business, industry, or professional organization
- A state agency or other government entity or
- A state-based industry association

Certifications or licensures for performance acknowledgements shall:

- Be age appropriate for high school students;
- Represent a student's substantial course of study and/or end-of-program knowledge and skills;
- Include an industry recognized examination or series of examinations, and industry validated skill test, or demonstrated proficiency through documented, supervised field experience; and
- Represent substantial knowledge and multiple skills needed for successful entry into a high-skill occupation.

### **Class Rank / Highest Ranking Student**

Class rank shall be based on a weighted grade point average using semester grades earned in eligible courses in grades 9–12 for state graduation credit. These semester grades shall be converted to grade points according to the district's weighted grade point scale described in FISD Board policy EIC(LOCAL).

The grade point average (GPA) shall be rounded to the nearest thousandth. The final grade point average of a graduating senior is computed by averaging grades beginning with grade nine and ending after the third 9 weeks grading period of the second semester.

The calculation of class rank shall exclude grades earned in summer school taken outside the district; courses taken in non-accredited schools (including homeschool); courses taken in a school outside the United States, other than an international baccalaureate (IB) school or a school accredited by an accrediting agency in the United States recognized by the Texas Education Agency; a distance learning course, unless the course is taken through virtual or hybrid instruction or otherwise approved by the district; an assigned remediation or tutoring course;; any local credit course; or through credit by examination, with or without prior instruction. (See FISD Board Policy EIC(LOCAL).)

For class rank, the grade point average for seniors will be determined after the 3<sup>rd</sup> 9 weeks grading period of the semester prior to graduation. Grades earned by students while attending other accredited schools will be included in the grade point average. Weighted points will be assigned based on the level of the classes (i.e., AP classes, Dual Credit, Honors classes, etc.).

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For the Graduating Class of 2024, 2025, & 2026, the following GPA table applies

<b>Actual Grade</b>	<b>8.00 AP/Dual Credit</b>	<b>7.00 Pre- AP/ Honors</b>	<b>6.00 General Education</b>
100	8.00	7.00	6.00
99	7.90	6.90	5.90
98	7.80	6.80	5.80
97	7.70	6.70	5.70
96	7.60	6.60	5.60
95	7.50	6.50	5.50
94	7.40	6.40	5.40
93	7.30	6.30	5.30
92	7.20	6.20	5.20
91	7.10	6.10	5.10
90	7.00	6.00	5.00
89	6.90	5.90	4.90
88	6.80	5.80	4.80
87	6.70	5.70	4.70
86	6.60	5.60	4.60
85	6.50	5.50	4.50
84	6.40	5.40	4.40
83	6.30	5.30	4.30
82	6.20	5.20	4.20
81	6.10	5.10	4.10
80	6.00	5.00	4.00
79	5.90	4.90	3.90
78	5.80	4.80	3.80
77	5.70	4.70	3.70
76	5.60	4.60	3.60
75	5.50	4.50	3.50
74	5.40	4.40	3.40
73	5.30	4.30	3.30
72	5.20	4.20	3.20
71	5.10	4.10	3.10
70	5.00	4.00	3.00
69	4.90	3.90	2.90
68	4.80	3.80	2.80
67	4.70	3.70	2.70

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66	4.60	3.60	2.60
65	4.50	3.50	2.50
64	4.40	3.40	2.40
63	4.30	3.30	2.30
62	4.20	3.20	2.20
61	4.10	3.10	2.10
60	4.00	3.00	2.00
59	3.90	2.90	1.90
58	3.80	2.80	1.80
57	3.70	2.70	1.70
56	3.60	2.60	1.60
55	3.50	2.50	1.50
54	3.40	2.40	1.40
53	3.30	2.30	1.30
52	3.20	2.20	1.20
51	3.10	2.10	1.10
50	3.00	2.00	1.00
49	2.90	1.90	0.90
48	2.80	1.80	0.80
47	2.70	1.70	0.70
46	2.60	1.60	0.60
45	2.50	1.50	0.50
44	2.40	1.40	0.40
43	2.30	1.30	0.30
42	2.20	1.20	0.20
41	2.10	1.10	0.10
40	2.00	1.00	0.00
39	1.90	0.90	
38	1.80	0.80	
37	1.70	0.70	
36	1.60	0.60	
35	1.50	0.50	
34	1.40	0.40	
33	1.30	0.30	
32	1.20	0.20	
31	1.10	0.10	
30	1.00	0.00	
29	0.90		
28	0.80		

## FLORENCE HIGH SCHOOL HANDBOOK SUPPLEMENT

27	0.70		
26	0.60		
25	0.50		
24	0.40		
23	0.30		
22	0.20		
21	0.10		
Below 21	0.00		

Beginning with the graduating class of 2027, the district shall include in the calculation of class rank semester grades earned in high school credit courses taken in grades 9-12, unless excluded below, and only in the following subject areas: English, mathematics, science, social studies, and languages other than English (LOTE).

The calculation shall include failing grades.

For the graduating class of 2027 and beyond, the following GPA table applies:

Grade	AP/Dual Credit	Honors	General Education
100	5.0	4.5	4.0
99	4.9	4.4	3.9
98	4.8	4.3	3.8
97	4.7	4.2	3.7
96	4.6	4.1	3.6
95	4.5	4.0	3.5
94	4.4	3.9	3.4
93	4.3	3.8	3.3
92	4.2	3.7	3.2
91	4.1	3.6	3.1
90	4.0	3.5	3.0
89	3.9	3.4	2.9
88	3.8	3.3	2.8
87	3.7	3.2	2.7
86	3.6	3.1	2.6
85	3.5	3.0	2.5
84	3.4	2.9	2.4
83	3.3	2.8	2.3
82	3.2	2.7	2.2

## FLORENCE HIGH SCHOOL HANDBOOK SUPPLEMENT

Grade	AP/Dual Credit	Honors	General Education
81	3.1	2.6	2.1
80	3.0	2.5	2.0
79	2.9	2.4	1.9
78	2.8	2.3	1.8
77	2.7	2.2	1.7
76	2.6	2.1	1.6
75	2.5	2.0	1.5
74	2.4	1.9	1.4
73	2.3	1.8	1.3
72	2.2	1.7	1.2
71	2.1	1.6	1.1
70	2.0	1.5	1.0
Below 70	0	0	0

When a student transfers semester grades for courses that would be eligible under the General Education category and the District has accepted the credit, the District shall include the grades in the calculation of class rank.

When a student transfers semester grades for courses that would be eligible to receive additional weight under the District’s weighted grade system, the District shall assign additional weight to the grades based on the categories and grade weight system used by the District only if the same course is offered to the same class of students in the District.

The valedictorian and salutatorian shall be the eligible students with the highest and second highest weighted grade point averages, respectively. To be eligible for this local graduation honor, a student must:

- Have been continuously enrolled in the District for the two years preceding graduation;
- Be graduating after exactly eight semesters of enrollment in high school; and
- Have completed the foundation program with the distinguished level of achievement.

Class rank, for the purpose of identifying the valedictorian and salutatorian, shall be assessed by calculating all applicable grades through the third nine weeks of the semester prior to graduation.

In case of a tie in weighted GPAs after calculation to the fourth decimal place, the District shall apply the following methods, in this order, to determine recognition as valedictorian or salutatorian:

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- Calculate a weighted numerical grade average fusing eligible grades in English, mathematics, Science, and Social Studies taken by each student involved in the tie.

If the tie is not broken after applying these methods, the District shall recognize all students involved in the tie as sharing the honor and title.

The student meeting the local eligibility criteria for recognition as the valedictorian shall also be considered the highest-ranking graduate for purposes of receiving the honor graduate certificate from the state of Texas.

Students and parents should contact the counselor regarding questions about class rank [For further information, see policies at EIC.]

### **Graduation Speakers**

To qualify to give a speech at graduation, the top eight ranking graduates shall not have engaged in any serious misconduct violation of the Student Code of Conduct during his or her last two semesters. Serious misconduct shall be classified as behavior resulting in removal to a DAEP, out-of-school suspension, or expulsion. If a student loses the eligibility to speak at graduation, the next top-ranking student will be given the opportunity to speak during graduation. Students will be notified by the principal and given an opportunity to volunteer.

**Florence Middle School  
2025-2026  
Student Handbook Supplement**



If you have difficulty accessing the information in this document because of disability, please contact Florence Middle School at 254-793-2504.

## Florence Middle School Handbook Supplement

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## Florence Middle School Handbook Supplement

### INTRODUCTION

The Florence Middle School Handbook Supplement may be found on the website: [https://www.florenceisd.net/92057\\_2](https://www.florenceisd.net/92057_2). It informs parents and their children about school rules and procedures that have been developed to provide the best learning environment for all students. The information included in this supplement is only part of the Florence Middle School Student Handbook. Please read the Fisd Handbook, the Fisd Student Code of Conduct, and the Acceptable Use of Computers Policy carefully. Then sign the Fisd forms acknowledging that you have received these documents and return the forms to your child's teacher.

### SCHOOL DAY

The school day begins at 8:00 a.m. and runs through 3:40 p.m. Office hours are from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Florence Middle School doors are opened at 7:30 a.m. Students and/or parents are not allowed in the building prior to this time unless they have a scheduled appointment. All visitors must enter through the front office entrance. Visitors must be prepared to show proper identification in the front office. Students will need to wait outside of the building until the doors open at 7:30 a.m.

<b>Period</b>	<b>Time</b>
1 <sup>ST</sup> PERIOD	8:00-8:53 (53)
2 <sup>ND</sup> PERIOD	8:56-9:49 (53)
3 <sup>rd</sup> PERIOD OFFICIAL ATTENDANCE 10:05am	9:52-10:45 (53)
4 <sup>TH</sup> PERIOD	10:48-11:41 (53)
<b>5A</b>	<b>5B</b>
5A Lunch- 11:44-12:14 (30)	5B Class- 11:44-12:37 (53)
5A Class- 12:17-1:10 (53)	5B Lunch-12:40-1:10 (30)
6 <sup>TH</sup> PERIOD	1:13-2:06 (53)
7 <sup>TH</sup> /HERD Homeroom	2:09-2:44 (35)
8 <sup>TH</sup> PERIOD	2:47-3:40 (53)

## **SCHOOL PROCEDURES**

### **Visitors (Parents/Guardians and/or Other Visitors)**

The Florence ISD *Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan* provides guidance on whether or not visitors are allowed in FISD schools. That plan can be accessed on the Florence ISD webpage.

If/when visitors are permitted on campuses, the parameters outlined here will be followed:

1. All visitors (including parents and volunteers) must first report to the main office, sign in, present their driver's license or appropriate identification, and wear a visitor's badge while in the building. Parents, visitors, and volunteers are not to go directly to the classroom.
2. Students' friends are not allowed to visit on campus.
3. Unauthorized persons and visitors who cause disturbances or interfere with learning will be subject to prosecution.
4. Parents are welcome on campus for school related business (pre-approved volunteering, parent-teacher conferences, ARDs, 504 meetings, and special events scheduled by the campus).
5. Visitors must remain in the area that pertains to the purpose of their visit.
6. Classroom parent visits to observe instruction require principal approval. You may reach the front office at 254-793-2504.
7. Classroom visitors must not disrupt the learning environment.

### **Telephone Usage**

School telephones are for school business. Students' telephone access will be limited to illness and emergency usage only.

### **Students Leaving Campus**

A student must be signed out at the office to leave campus for any reason. A student will not be released from the classroom until his/her parent/guardian has signed him/ her out of school.

### **Closed Campus**

Students are not permitted to leave campus for lunch. Parents are welcome to eat lunch with their child in the cafeteria. The Texas Department of Agriculture prohibits the sale or give away of any foods or beverages during lunch periods or during the After-School Snack program. This policy does not restrict what parents provide for their own child's lunch or snack but does restrict items to other children at school. For example, a parent cannot provide pizza or soda to any student other than his or her own child. **ONLY** parents/legal guardians may bring lunch for their own child/children. Students and adults may not bring in or give away food to other students during lunch times. You will be asked to dispose of items brought for other students.

### **Food and Drink on Campus**

Students may bring lunch from home, and parents may bring food FOR THEIR CHILD ONLY. Only water is permitted in the classroom and hallways. Birthday cakes for friends in the cafeteria are

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not allowed. Any birthday cake or other desserts delivered or dropped off will be left in the front office.

### Food Deliveries

Food deliveries are not permitted to campus. Any food ordered and delivered to a student will be left in the front office and disposed of.

### Morning Arrival Procedures

- School begins at 8:00 a.m. Campus doors open at 7:30am. At this time, staff will be available to monitor students in the FMS cafeteria.
- Students must not arrive at school before 7:30 a.m. since no official supervision is scheduled. Students will be released to class at 7:55 a.m. to go to their 1<sup>st</sup> period class. Students should not enter the classroom before 7:55 a.m. without prior permission from the teacher.
- Students have the opportunity to purchase breakfast and eat in the cafeteria prior to being released to class.
- Tardiness will be documented.
- Parents who need to speak to a teacher should call during the teacher's conference time to make an appointment or email the teacher for a conference request

### Car Riders

- FMS campus doors open at 7:30am.
- Parent drop off is in the car line loop in the front of the school.
- Please do not drop your student off in the parking lot as this is not safe.
- No parking in the car line drop-off line.
- If you need to escort your student in, please park in the parking lot and use the crosswalk to walk your student into the building.

If arriving after 8 am, you should escort your student to the front office to sign them in. They will receive a tardy slip and proceed to their classroom.

### Afternoon/Dismissal Procedures

The instructional day ends at 3:40 p.m. If picking up your child on time becomes a problem, please make arrangements for someone else who is authorized to pick up your child. Some key information about dismissal is as follows:

- All students will be dismissed at 3:40 p.m.
- If parent or guardian changes the way his or her child is going home, contact the office prior to 3pm. This gives a respectable amount of time to contact the office to ensure the safest dismissal of your child.
- If a parent/guardian is checking a student out early, checkout must be complete by 3:20 to allow time for staff to organize for the end of the school day. Please do not check your student out after 3:20.

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- Staff will be on duty to assist car riders and parents during the pick-up process.
- **Texas school zone law HB 347: Please remember for the safety of our staff and students that using cell phones while your car is in motion is prohibited.** This includes streets and school property within the school zone.

### Car Riders

- Please wait for your child in your car in the car rider line located in the loop at the front of the school. Do not park cars in the parking lot to wait for your student, or park in the bus lane on the north side of the building. Unattended cars create unnecessary delays in pickup and delivery of students and present safety hazards.

### Buses

Students who use school transportation are expected to follow the bus rules outlined in the Student Code of Conduct. The Florence ISD Transportation Department is committed to ensuring the safety of each student. Riding in a Fisd transportation vehicle is a privilege offered to students who reside within the district. All students being transported are under the authority of the bus driver and must obey his or her requests. Procedures and safety rules help ensure the safety and protection of each student. Failure to meet these standards or follow these safety rules and procedures may result in student conflicts or injuries and may also cause delays or distractions to the driver. Any student failing to follow the rules and procedures will receive a Bus Conduct Report that will be turned in by the bus driver to the Director of Transportation. For a student with severe or repeated violations, the campus administrator will determine the appropriate disciplinary measures that may include temporary or permanent removal of transportation privileges.

### Walkers/Bike Riders

Students may ride bicycles to school or walk to school. Bicycles must be parked in the designated area at the front of the school upon arrival and until school is dismissed. The bicycle should be locked for security. The school assumes no liability for bicycles brought to school.

### Drills -Fire, Tornado and Other Emergencies

Per TEA guidance, staff and students, will participate in drills of emergency procedures. When emergency procedures are conducted, students should follow the directions of teachers or others in charge quickly, quietly, and in an orderly manner. Each campus has a Crisis Management Plan that explains all emergency procedures.

## DISCIPLINE PROCEDURES

Conduct and discipline are based on the precepts of common sense and courtesy. It is important that the students form positive attitudes toward discipline. For school to be an effective place to learn, a teacher cannot spend a large part of his/her time handling discipline problems. No student will be allowed to disrupt the learning of others. Each teacher has a classroom management plan to ensure classrooms are orderly. The primary goal of discipline is to teach the child the proper way to behave in a school setting. Please read the Student Code of Conduct that outlines the behavior expectations and consequences for disciplinary infractions.

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Florence I.S.D. takes a position of zero tolerance on certain activities including taunting, teasing, bullying, and harassment, whether verbal, physical, or emotional. Such behavior may constitute interference with an educational institution, and is strictly prohibited. Parents are responsible for reading and explaining the expected behaviors to their child(ren).

### **COMMUNICATION BETWEEN SCHOOL AND HOME**

#### **Notification of Child's Transportation Home**

For any change in the way your child will get home, please send a note or call the office as early in the day as possible. Bus changes must be reported through a note to the office. Please include a phone number where a parent can be reached if clarification is needed.

Transportation changes must be made by 3pm, the office does not receive official notification of change either by note or phone, the student will go home as usual.

#### **Notification of Change of Address or Telephone Number**

Parents or Guardians must notify the school's registrar for any updates to parent/guardian contact information: address, phone number, and email address, as well as any updates to emergency contact information.

#### **Parent Involvement, Responsibilities, and Rights**

Education succeeds best when there is a strong partnership between home and school. All parents are encouraged to be involved in their child's education through parent organizations, volunteering, and regular communication with school. In order to ensure the safety of our students, Florence Independent School District requires all volunteers and mentors to pass criminal history background checks. FISD is authorized by state law to obtain criminal history record information on individuals who intend to serve as volunteers for the district (Texas Education Code 22.083).

#### **Parent-Teacher Conferences**

FISD encourages conferences between parents and teachers. In many cases, the teacher will request these conferences. If a parent desires a conference, the parent should send a note, e-mail, or call the teacher for an appointment. Conferences will be held during the teacher's conference period or before or after school. While the teacher is holding class, it is not an appropriate time for a conference. Conferences will be scheduled in accordance with the FISD student handbook.

#### **Questions/Concerns/Complaints**

Complaints should be directed to the proper individuals at the campus level. The question, concern, or complaint should first be addressed to the teacher or individual involved. If the matter is not resolved, the campus principal may then be contacted. If necessary, matters may then be referred to the Superintendent or designee and then to the Board of Trustees. Policies FNG (LEGAL) and FNG (LOCAL) outline the district's complaint procedures and are available in any school office and on the district website.

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### **Inclement Weather**

On occasions of possible hazardous road conditions, the Superintendent will make a decision whether to delay school starting time, to cancel school, to dismiss classes, or to proceed as usual with school. Parents and students are asked to tune in to local radio or television stations for information should school be canceled, delayed, or dismissed. The district website will post information as soon as decisions are made for any changes in the school day.

### **ATTENDANCE**

#### **Official Attendance – Taking Time**

By state law, students must attend school 90% of the days of the school year in order to receive credit for the year. If a student will miss more than 10% of instructional days, a committee composed of administrators and teachers will make the final promotion decision. Parents must make sure their child attends school. Parents are held responsible by law for such attendance. The district must submit attendance of its students to Texas Education Agency (TEA) reflecting attendance at a specific time each day. The official ADA attendance time for Florence Middle School will be at 10:05 am. A student is absent for any portion of the day, including at the official attendance-taking time, should follow the procedures to provide documentation of the absence.

#### **Documentation after an Absence**

Refer to the FISD student handbook.

#### **Tardiness**

Parents are expected to ensure that their child arrives on time to school. A student is tardy if he/she is not in the classroom when the bell rings at 8:00 a.m. Students must report to the office when tardy to receive a tardy slip. Parents will be notified when tardiness is excessive. Perfect attendance awards may be impacted by tardiness. Excessive tardiness is subject to disciplinary consequences outlined in the Student Code of Conduct.

#### **Field Trips**

Students who attend field trips are expected to follow all school-wide expectations. In addition, students are expected to stay with their designated group and staff member at all times.

#### **Withdrawal from School**

Parents should notify the school, within three days of expected withdrawal or as soon as it becomes certain a student will be withdrawn and should report to the office with the student on the day withdrawal is to be completed. The student will be required to clear all accounts and records, including library, cafeteria, and textbook accounts. At the time of withdrawal, the necessary records will be given to the parent to carry to the next school.

## **ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS**

### **Curriculum**

Florence Independent School District's curriculum standards meet or exceed the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) standards established by Texas Education Agency (TEA). The TEKS specify what skills and concepts students should know and be able to meet at each grade level. Teachers use the TEKS Resource System to plan and deliver a TEKS-based curriculum that is 100% aligned to the state assessment system. The state-mandated STAAR tests are administered to students in grades 6 through 8 for middle school-aged students.

### **Grading**

#### **Report Cards and Progress Reports**

Report cards will be issued once every nine weeks. The report card is one form of communication between parents and teachers. Evaluation of student work on the report card is an indication of progress. Parents are encouraged to schedule appointments with teachers to discuss student progress. Progress reports are issued every three weeks.

### **Awards and Honors**

#### **Honor Roll**

Honor roll represents outstanding performance in the classroom academically. To be eligible for the "All A" honor roll, a student must have a 90-or-above average in all subjects in which the student is currently enrolled. The "A-B" honor roll includes students with all "A's" and all "B's".

#### **National Junior Honor Society**

6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade students who have an 85-or-above average for the fall semester are academically eligible for consideration for admission to the campus chapter of the National Junior Honor Society. Membership is not solely determined by grade but also by leadership, character, service and citizenship. Membership is both an honor and a commitment. Members must maintain the standards by which they were selected.

### **State Assessments**

STAAR Examinations administered to Florence Middle School students are as follows:

6<sup>th</sup> Grade-Reading and Math

7<sup>th</sup> Grade-Reading and Math

8<sup>th</sup> Grade-Reading, Math, Science and Social Studies

### **Textbooks**

Textbooks are provided free of charge for each subject or class; students are required to use these books carefully. Students and parents are responsible to keep textbooks covered at all times as required by TEC 31.104 and State Textbook guidelines. Students who are issued a damaged book should report that fact to the teacher. Fines will be assessed for textbook damages such as torn pages. A parent or guardian must pay for replacement of any damaged or lost textbooks.

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### Library Books

Students check out books on a regular basis during their classes. Reference books may be checked out for overnight use at home. Students who lose library materials will not be allowed to check out other library materials until the lost material is recovered or payment is made for lost materials.

### Lockers

Lockers will be limited to athletic and music lockers. These lockers remain under the control and jurisdiction of the school at all times. The student has full responsibility for the security of the assigned locker. Students who have not been issued lockers are responsible for acquiring a locker to secure their belongings. **The school is not responsible for the loss of any items taken from a student's locker.** Students should never leave money or items of value in their locker.

## STUDENT SERVICES

### Gifted and Talented

FISD provides services for Gifted and Talented students in grades K-12. The district believes that highly able students exist at all age levels and in all ethnic and socioeconomic groups. The purpose of the FISD Services for the Gifted and Talented is to provide learning experiences that meet the educational needs of those students whom academic and/or intellectual abilities and thinking processes are significantly advanced for their ages. Students requiring these services will have teachers who are trained in methods for gifted students and will give opportunities for identified gifted students to demonstrate their abilities. For more information about these services and how to refer a child for evaluation, please contact the school counselor.

## HEALTH SERVICES AND REQUIREMENTS

### Immunization Record

The State of Texas requires immunizations for children enrolled in the school system. All required immunizations should be completed and verified by the School Nurse prior to the start of school and/or at time of enrollment. The school nurse can assist students who do not have required vaccinations. Signature or validation of personal records by a physician or a public health clinic is required in school files. Records must show month, day, and year that immunizations were received. Contact the school nurse for any questions regarding the required immunizations and/or visit the DSHS site: [www.immunizeTexas.org](http://www.immunizeTexas.org).

### Immunizations

A student must be fully immunized against certain diseases or must present a certificate or statement that, for medical reasons or reasons of conscience, including a religious belief, the student will not be immunized. For exemptions based on reasons of conscience, only official forms issued by the Texas Department of State Health Services (TDSHS), Immunization Branch, can be honored by the district. This form may be obtained by writing the TDSHS Immunization Branch (MC 1946), P.O. Box 149347, Austin, Texas 78714-9347; or online at [Affidavit Request for Exemption from Immunization](#). The form must be notarized and submitted to the principal

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or school nurse within 90 days of notarization. If the parent is seeking an exemption for more than one student in the family, a separate form must be provided for each student. [See **Florence ISD Student Handbook** for more information]

### **Food Allergies**

The district requests to be notified when a student has been diagnosed with a food allergy, especially those allergies that could result in dangerous or possibly life-threatening reactions either by inhalation, ingestion, or skin contact with the particular food. It is important to disclose the food to which the student is allergic, as well as the nature of the allergic reaction. Please contact the school nurse or campus principal if your child has a known food allergy or as soon as possible after any diagnosis of a food allergy.

The district has developed and annually reviews a food allergy management plan, which addresses employee training, dealing with common food allergens, and specific strategies for dealing with students diagnosed with severe food allergies. When the district receives information that a student has a food allergy that puts the student at risk for anaphylaxis, individual care plans will be developed to assist the student in safely accessing the school environment. The district's food allergy management plan can be accessed at the school nurse's office.

### **Head Lice**

Refer to Lice information in FISD Student Handbook.

### **Medicine at School**

Refer to the information under Medication at School and Asthma and Severe Allergic Reactions in the FISD Student Handbook. See the [school nurse or] principal for information. [See policy FFAF(LEGAL).]

## **NUTRITION SERVICES**

The purpose of Nutrition Services is to serve nutritious meals to students and staff. FISD Nutrition Services will actively work to ensure that meals served in the school cafeteria meet or exceed health guidelines for all students. FISD follows federal and state guidelines for nutritional value of foods served. FISD will not serve or provide access for students to Foods of Minimal Nutritional Value (FMNV) and all other forms of candy at anytime, anywhere on school premises until the end of the last scheduled class. More information can be obtained by contacting Nutrition Services at 254-793-2497.

### **Cafeteria**

[See **Florence ISD Student Handbook** for more information or the [Food Services Department website](#) for the most up to date information.]

## FMS STUDENT EXPECTATIONS

### VIOLATIONS

#### Pouch Damage

- If a student damages their pouch, Administration will collect the phone/Pouch and call home.
- **Consequence:** Parent pickup of phone in front office between 7:30 am and 4:00 pm and \$20 replacement fee for new pouch.
- **Repeat Offenses:** Parent pickup of phone in front office between 7:30 am and 4:00 pm and \$20 replacement fee for new pouch. Will be handled in the same manner as a phone that is out during the school day.

Examples of damage:



Deep scratches on the globe and on the green ring around it  
Intentional pen marks on the inside of the Pouch  
Bent pins  
Pin and button not fully recessing, due to pin damage



#### Forgotten/Lost Pouch

- If a student forgets their Pouch, **they must turn in their phone to the front office.** The phone will be returned to the student at the end of the day.
- If a student consistently forgets their Pouch, it is considered Lost. Parent pickup of phone in front office between 7:30 am and 4:00 pm and \$20 replacement fee for new pouch **OR** signed statement that student will not bring a phone to school.

#### Using Phone or Personal Electronic Device During School

- If a student is found in possession of a phone or device such as a personal computer, iPad, or smartwatch, administration will collect the phone/device and call home.

#### Consequence:

- First incident, parent pick up of phone between 7:30 am and 4:00 pm.

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- Second incident, parent pick up of phone between 7:30 am and 4:00 pm and Saturday detention.
- Third incident, parent pick up of phone between 7:30 am and 4:00 pm and student receives 1 day of ISS.

### **Water Bottles**

Students are permitted to have sealed water bottles with them in the classroom.

### **Candy and Drinks**

Please leave all candy and carbonated drinks at home.

### **Extra Money**

Students are urged not to bring extra money to school. Money that is kept in desks, backpacks, and pockets is often lost. Teachers will not keep money for students. Students buying lunch or extra milk may deposit money in their lunch accounts in the mornings before school.

### **Blankets**

Students are not permitted to bring blankets/pillows to school.

### **Live Animals**

Students are not permitted to bring live animals to school.

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Student Handbook Supplement**



If you have difficulty accessing the information in this document because of your disability, please contact Florence Elementary School at 254-793-2497.

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## INTRODUCTION

The entire Florence ELEMENTARY Handbook supplement may be found on the [Florence ISD Website](#). It informs parents and their children about school rules and procedures developed to provide the best learning environment for all students. The information included in this supplement is only part of the Florence Elementary Student Handbook. Please read the Florence ISD Student Handbook, the FISD Student Code of Conduct, and the Acceptable Use Policy carefully. Then sign the FISD forms acknowledging that you have received these documents and return the forms to your child's teacher.

## SCHOOL PROCEDURES

### **Visitors (Parents/Guardians and/or Other Visitors)**

1. All visitors (including parents and volunteers) must first report to the main office, sign in, present their driver's license, or appropriate identification, and wear a visitor badge while in the building. Parents, visitors, and volunteers are to report to and remain in the school area that pertains to their visit purpose. Administrators and Office Staff will approve of and monitor this. Before leaving campus, all visitors will check out through the main office and leave their visitor badge with office staff upon leaving.
2. Students' friends are not allowed to visit campus.
3. Unauthorized persons and visitors who cause disturbances (in the office or on campus) or interfere with learning will be subject to prosecution.
4. Parents are welcome on campus for school related business (pre-approved volunteering, parent-teacher conferences, ARDs, 504 meetings, and special events scheduled by the campus).
5. Parents who join their student(s) for their birthday lunch need to check in through the main office and follow all campus procedures for visitors, including remaining in the cafeteria or designated lunch area. Accompanying students to recess, classrooms, or other areas of campus is not permitted. Due to limited space in the cafeteria and continued growth of our student population, lunch visits will be for designated and pre-scheduled special days such as:
  - Field Day (May)
  - Student's Birthday Lunch (once a year, ON student's actual birthday, OR a "birthday celebration lunch day of choice" if the student's actual birthday falls on a non-school day, such as the weekend, school break, or during the summer. This special lunch is designated for families only. It is not permissible for other students to join and be provided outside food (see Leaving Campus for Lunch).
6. Visitors must remain in the area that pertains to the purpose of their visit.
7. Visitors must not disrupt the learning environment.

## **Cellphones & Telephone Usage**

***Students are not allowed to have cellphones on the Elementary School campus.***

School telephones are for school business. Students' telephone access will be limited to illness and emergency usage only.

## **Students Leaving Campus**

A student **MUST BE SIGNED OUT IN THE OFFICE** by a parent/guardian listed in Skyward to leave campus for any reason. Valid identification must be presented to the front office before taking a student out of school. A student will not be released from the classroom until his/her parent/guardian has signed him/her out of school. If a student leaves for a medical appointment, parents are asked to send a note from the provider with the student upon their return to school. If a student is not present at attendance time, they will receive credit for that day's attendance only if they return to school that same day and provide a note from the medical provider.

## **Before School/Arrival to School**

*Children must not arrive at school before 7:05 a.m., since adult supervision is not available until this time. Prior to 7:20 a.m., teachers arrive on campus and prepare for class. Parents who need to speak to a teacher in person should always call or email in advance of the requested meeting time to schedule a mutually agreeable time to confer with the teacher.*

## **Morning Arrival**

- School personnel will be available to welcome students to campus daily, starting at 7:05.
- Buses will drop students off behind the campus starting at 7:15 a.m.
- PK - 5th children will report to their classroom starting at 7:20 a.m.
- All children will be offered a free breakfast from 7:05-7:35
- The school day begins at 7:40 a.m. with announcements. Tardies will be documented.
- Please make sure your student arrives at school on time each day, ready to learn.

\*\*\*What if I want to walk my child to class?

- We are excited to introduce a new initiative at our school – the **Hug Zone!** Starting this year, you may walk, **HUG**, and release your student at a designated area near the gates of the cafeteria entrance where you can share a final hug with your child before they start their school day. This space is designed to provide a comforting and supportive environment for those last morning goodbyes, helping children transition smoothly from home to the classroom. PK and Kinder students will all transition to the cafeteria and not their classrooms for breakfast.
- We believe that this Hug Zone will offer emotional comfort and a positive start to the day for both children and parents. We appreciate your support and cooperation in making this a joyful and beneficial experience for everyone. We ask that you let your child know the name of his/her teacher prior to the beginning of the school year. This information can be obtained in Skyward.

- On Thursday, August 14th, staff and students are invited to dress in red/white/blue for **“Independence” Day** as students find their way to class independently. Parents will no longer walk their children to the hug zone but utilize the car drop off line..

## After School/Dismissal

*Student safety is our priority, and we ask for your cooperation and partnership during dismissal so we may release students in a safe and orderly fashion.*

The instructional day ends at 3:20 p.m. Although the car pick-up line can be long, it becomes a faster process after the first week of school. Parents should wait for their “car rider” in their car in the FES car rider pick up line.

- “Car Rider Tags” need to be displayed/presented to FES Staff at the car pick up line so we can ensure students are being released to the appropriate parent or provider.
- If a parent/provider is walking from home to pick up their student, they will be asked to show an orange “walker” pass, so FES Staff knows who they are releasing the student to.
- All students that walk or ride bicycles home are to leave the school grounds immediately after being released.
- *Area businesses are not designated by the school as “student pick-up areas” for car riders or students not walking to their home. We ask for your cooperation with student transportation and help us in ensuring all students, including pedestrians, have a safe way to get home. Out-of-District Transfer Students: Transportation to and from the FES campus is the parent's responsibility.*
- Cars waiting (to drop off (a.m.) or pick up students (p.m.) in the FES Parking Lot) should not be occupying the parking lot (sitting in line) in advance of drop off or pick up times. Blocking or occupying fire lanes or bus lanes is not permitted. In the event of an emergency, these lanes need to be kept clear of parked traffic. If picking up your child on time becomes a problem, please arrange for childcare after school or for someone else authorized to pick them up. Some key information about dismissal is as follows:
  - Students will be dismissed at 3:20 p.m.
  - Only “bus riders” (students issued a bus pass through FESD Transportation- based on their home address) will be allowed to ride a bus home from campus.
  - **Since SAFETY is our number one priority, we will only make changes to how your child goes home in case of an emergency. Please notify the office to ensure your child gets home safely.**
  - All students will receive car tags at Meet-the-Teacher night. Please use these tags beginning on the first day of school. This will also speed up the check-out process during special events on campus such as awards ceremony days.

## **Bicycles**

Students may ride bicycles to school. Bicycles must be parked in the designated area upon arrival and until school is dismissed. The bicycle should be locked for security. The school assumes no liability for bicycles brought to school.

## **Buses**

Students who use school transportation are expected to follow the bus rules outlined in the Student Code of Conduct. The Florence ISD Transportation Department is committed to ensuring the safety of each student. Riding a district transportation vehicle is a privilege offered to students who reside within the district. All students being transported are under the authority of the bus driver and must obey his/ her requests. Procedures and safety rules help ensure the safety and protection of each student. Failure to meet these standards or follow these safety rules and procedures may result in student conflicts or injuries and may also cause delays or distractions to the driver. Any student failing to follow the rules and procedures will receive a Bus Conduct Report that will be turned in by the bus driver to the Director of Transportation. For a student with severe or repeated violations, the campus administrator will determine the appropriate disciplinary measures that may include temporary or permanent removal of transportation privileges.

## **Drills - Fire, Tornado and Other Emergencies**

FES staff and students will participate regularly in drills of emergency procedures. Lockdown Drills will be conducted twice per year, and parents will be notified in advance of these scheduled drills. When emergency procedures are conducted, students should follow the directions of teachers or others in charge quickly, quietly, and in an orderly manner. After Action Reviews feedback are provided to the staff and students after each drill.

## **Leaving Campus for Lunch**

Students are not permitted to leave for lunch. The Texas Department of Agriculture prohibits the sale or give away of any food or beverages during lunch periods or during the After School Snack program. This policy does not restrict what parents provide for their own child's lunch or snack but does restrict items to other children at school. For example, a parent cannot provide pizza or soda to any student other than his or her own. Only parents/legal guardians may bring lunch for their own child. Students and adults may not bring in or give away food to other students during lunchtime. You will be asked to dispose of items brought for other students. Non-compliance with these regulations can cost FISD state and federal funding.

## **DISCIPLINE PROCEDURES**

Each teacher has a classroom management plan to ensure classrooms are environments where students can learn. Please read the Student Code of Conduct that outlines the behavior expectations and consequences for disciplinary infractions. Florence ISD takes a position of zero tolerance on

certain activities including taunting, teasing, bullying and harassment, whether verbal, physical, or emotional. Such behavior may constitute interference with an educational institution and is prohibited. Parents are responsible for reading and explaining the expected behaviors to their child(ren).

## COMMUNICATION BETWEEN SCHOOL AND HOME

### **Notification of Child's Transportation Home**

For any changes in the way your child will get home, please call the office at (254)793-2497 as early in the day as possible. Bus changes must be reported in a note to the office. Please include a phone number where a parent can be reached if clarification is needed. Changes called in after 2:00 p.m. are difficult to make. If the office does not receive official notification of change either by note or phone, the student will go home as usual.

### **Notification of Change of Address or Telephone Number**

Parents must notify the school regarding any change of address or telephone number. Parents should also notify the school of changes in the phone numbers of alternative emergency contact people. Should an emergency arise, the school needs to be able to contact the parent or other persons listed as emergency contacts immediately.

### **Parent Involvement, Responsibilities, and Rights**

Education succeeds best when there is a strong partnership between home and school. All parents are encouraged to be involved in their child's education through PTO, volunteerism, and regular communication with the school. To ensure the safety of our students, Florence Independent School District requires all volunteers, PTO volunteers, and mentors to pass criminal history background checks. FISD is authorized by state law to obtain criminal history record information on individuals who intend to serve as volunteers for the district (Texas Education Code 22.083).

### **Parent-Teacher Conferences**

FISD encourages conferences between parents and teachers. Teachers will reach out to schedule a conference. If a parent desires an earlier or additional conference, the parent should contact the teacher to set up a mutually agreeable time to meet. Conferences will be held during the teacher's conference period or before or after school. As a Title 1 school, our goal is to hold conferences with 100% of our students' families. Teachers will be reaching out for conference times. Parents may contact the teacher at any time for a conference; however, conferences will be scheduled in accordance with the FISD student handbook

### **Questions & Concerns**

Questions and concerns should be directed to the proper individuals at the campus level. The question, concern, or complaint should first be addressed to the teacher or individual involved. If the matter is not resolved, the campus Assistant Principal may then be contacted. If the concern is still not resolved, you may request a meeting with the Campus Principal. If necessary, matters may then

be referred to the Superintendent or designee and then to the Board of Trustees. Policies FNG (LEGAL) and FNG (LOCAL) outline the district's complaint procedure and are available in any school office and on the district website.

### **Inclement Weather**

On occasions of possible hazardous road conditions, the Superintendent will decide whether to delay school starting time, cancel school, dismiss classes, or proceed as usual with school. Parents and students are asked to tune in to local radio or television stations for information should school be canceled, delayed, or dismissed. The district website and district Facebook page will post information as soon as decisions are made for any changes in the school day.

## **ATTENDANCE**

### **Official Attendance – Taking Time**

By state law, students must attend school 90% of the day of the school year to receive credit for the year. If a student misses more than 10% of the days, a committee will make the final promotion decision. Parents must make sure their child attends school. Parents are held responsible by law for such attendance. The district must submit attendance of its students to the Texas Education Agency (TEA) reflecting attendance at a specific time each day. Official ADA attendance for Florence Elementary School will be at 10:10 a.m. A student that is absent for any portion of the day, including at the official attendance-taking time, should follow the procedures to provide documentation of the absence.

### **Documentation after an Absence**

Refer to attendance procedures in the FISS student handbook.

Unexcused absences include but are not limited to family trips and vacations during school days and non-school sponsored activities and events. Family trips, vacations, and non-school sponsored activities should not be scheduled when school is in session.

### **Tardiness**

Parents are expected to ensure that their child arrives at school on time. A student is tardy if he/she is not in the classroom when the bell rings at 7:40 a.m. Students must report to the office with parent to sign in their child when tardy. Parents will be notified when excessive tardiness occurs. Perfect attendance awards may be impacted by excessive tardiness. Excessive tardiness is subject to disciplinary consequences outlined in the Student Code of Conduct.

### **Withdrawal from School**

Parents should notify the school within three days of the expected withdrawal or as soon as it becomes certain a student will be withdrawn and should report to the office with the student on the day of withdrawal is to be completed. The student must clear all accounts and records, including the

library, cafeteria, and textbook accounts. At the time of withdrawal, the necessary records will be given to the parents to carry to the next school.

## ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

### **Curriculum**

Florence Independent School District's curriculum standards meet or exceed the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) standards established by Texas Education Agency (TEA). The TEKS specify what skills and concepts students should know and be able to meet at each grade level. Teachers use a Scope and Sequence to plan and deliver a TEKS-based curriculum that is 100% aligned to the state assessment system. The state-mandated STAAR tests are administered to students in grades 3 through 5 for elementary school-aged students.

### **Make-up Work**

To be successful in school, students are expected to turn work in on time. If a student is absent, every effort will be made to help him/her make up for missed work. Students will be helped by following these guidelines:

1. When a child returns to school, it is his/her responsibility to ask the teachers what assignments were missed. The student will have one day of make-up time for each day of absence. (Example: One (1) day absent - one (1) day to make up work.)
2. If a child would like assignments before returning to school, parents are asked to call the office before 9:00 a.m. to request make-up work. Assignments will then be ready to be picked up in the school office between 3:20 and 3:45 p.m. Makeup work that is for a grade will be completed at school.
3. Make-up work for prearranged absences should be requested from the classroom teacher.

### **Homework**

When a teacher assigns homework, it helps students prepare for the next day's lessons and build good study habits. Students should always complete homework assignments to the absolute best of their ability. The purposes of homework are (1) to help students improve achievement; (2) to nurture the development of good study habits; (3) to familiarize parents with their children's work and give them a chance for involvement; and (4) to provide more time for in-class instruction.

### **Late Assignments/Late Work**

Late work is classified as work not turned in on time, not due to an excused or unexcused absence. The Late Assignment/Late Work penalties do not apply to excused absences, unexcused absences, and/or truancy, but apply to students who are in attendance but fail to turn in work on time. If the assignment has not been turned in on the fourth day, the student may receive a zero.

### **Textbooks & Chromebooks**

Textbooks and Chromebooks are provided free of charge. Students are required to use these books and devices carefully. Fines will be assessed for textbook damage such as torn pages. Fines will also be assessed for Chromebook damage such as broken keys or cracked screens. A parent or guardian must pay for the replacement of any damaged items.

### **Library Books**

Students check out books regularly during class. Reference books may be checked out for overnight use at home. Students who lose library materials will not be allowed to check out other library materials until the lost material is recovered, or payment is made for lost materials.

## **STUDENT EXPECTATIONS**

### **Extra Money and Toys**

Students are urged not to bring extra money to school. Money that is kept in desks, backpacks, and pockets is often lost. Teachers will not keep money for students. Toys and trading cards are not to be brought to school, including "Show and Tell." This includes playing equipment. Recess equipment will be provided by the school.

### **Parties and Celebrations**

Grades PK-5 may have up to three (3) official school parties per year for each class as designated by each campus. Although a parent or grandparent is not prohibited from providing food for a school-designated function or for children in the child's or grandchild's classroom for his or her birthday, please be aware that children in the school may have severe allergies to certain food products. Therefore, it is imperative to discuss this with the child's teacher prior to bringing any food in this circumstance.

Birthday cupcakes are permitted, as long as one for each student in the class is provided, and they are store bought. The teacher will pass cupcakes out at the end of the school day. (Cake and Ice Cream and goodie bags are not permitted).

Because learning is our most important job, parents do not bring balloons, flowers and other birthday or special event celebration items to school. The school does not accept special deliveries of these items for students. Out of respect and concern for others, invitations to private parties will only be distributed if one is provided for each student in the class.