



Richardson ISD

A photograph of a smiling graduate in a red cap and gown, holding a diploma, with other graduates in the background. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent red filter.

STUDENT AND PARENT HANDBOOK

2023-2024

RICHARSON ISD Parent and Student Handbook

2023–24 School Year

Accessibility

If you have difficulty accessing the information in this handbook due to a disability, please contact your campus principal or the Richardson ISD 504/ADA Coordinator, Alicia Zornig (alicia.zornig@risd.org)

Contents

<i>RICHARSON ISD Parent and Student Handbook</i>	1
Preface	11
Accessibility	12
Section One: Parental Rights	13
Students	13
Parents	13
Teachers	14
Administrators	14
Consent, Opt-Out, and Refusal Rights.....	15
Consent to Conduct a Psychological Evaluation	15
Consent to Human Sexuality Instruction	15
Consent Before Human Sexuality Instruction	16
Consent Before Instruction on Prevention of Child Abuse, Family Violence, Dating Violence, and Sex Trafficking	16
Consent to Provide a Mental Health Care Service	17
Consent to Display a Student’s Original Works and Personal Information.....	18
Consent to Receive Parenting and Paternity Awareness Instruction if a Student is under Age 14	18
Consent to Video or Audio Record a Student when Not Already Permitted by Law.....	18
Opting Out of Advanced Mathematics in Grades 6-8	19
Corporal Punishment	19
Limiting Electronic Communications between Students and District Employees	19
Objecting to the Release of Directory Information	20
Objecting to the Release of Student Information to Military Recruiters and Institutions of Higher Education (Secondary Grade Levels Only).....	20
Participation in Third-Party Surveys	21
Removing a Student from Instruction or Excusing a Student from a Required Component of Instruction.....	22
Reciting a Portion of the Declaration of Independence in Grades 3–12.....	22
Reciting the Pledges to the U.S. and Texas Flags	22
Religious or Moral Beliefs	23
Student Exemptions	23
Tutoring or Test Preparation	23
Right of Access to Student Records, Curriculum Materials, and District Records/Policies	24
Parent Review of Instructional Materials	24
District Review of Instructional Materials	24

Notices of Certain Student Misconduct to Noncustodial Parent	24
Participation in Federally Required, State-Mandated, and District Assessments	24
Student Records.....	24
Accessing Student Records	24
Authorized Inspection and Use of Student Records	25
Teacher and Staff Professional Qualifications	28
A Student with Exceptionalities or Special Circumstances.....	28
Children of Military Families	28
Parental Role in Certain Classroom and School Assignments.....	29
Multiple-Birth Siblings.....	29
Safety Transfers/Assignments	29
Student Use of a Service/Assistance Animal.....	29
A Student Who Is Homeless	31
Special Education Referrals	32
Section 504 Referrals	33
Section Two: Other Important Information for Parents and Students.....	35
Absences/Attendance.....	35
Compulsory Attendance	35
Prekindergarten and Kindergarten	35
Ages 6–18.....	35
Age 19 and Older.....	36
Compulsory Attendance—Exemptions	36
All Grade Levels.....	36
Secondary Grade Levels.....	37
Compulsory Attendance—Failure to Comply	37
All Grade Levels.....	37
Students with Disabilities	37
Ages 6–18.....	38
Age 19 and Older.....	38
Attendance for Credit or Final Grade (All Grade Levels).....	38
Official Attendance-Taking Time	39
Documentation after an Absence (All Grade Levels).....	39
Doctor’s Note after an Absence for Illness (All Grade Levels)	39
Certification of Absence Due to Severe Illness or Treatment	40
Driver License Attendance Verification (Secondary Grade Levels Only)	40
Extenuating Circumstances	40

Non-extenuating Circumstances	40
Religious Observances	40
Accountability under State and Federal Law (All Grade Levels).....	41
Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery Test (Grades 10–12).....	41
Awards and Honors (All Grade Levels).....	41
Bullying (All Grade Levels)	41
Career and Technical Education (CTE) and Other Work-Based Programs (Secondary Grade Levels Only)	44
Celebrations (All Grade Levels).....	45
Child Sexual Abuse, Trafficking, and Other Maltreatment of Children (All Grade Levels)	45
Warning Signs of Sexual Abuse.....	45
Warning Signs of Trafficking	46
Reporting and Responding to Sexual Abuse, Trafficking, and Other Maltreatment of Children	47
Class Rank/Highest-Ranking Student (Secondary Grade Levels Only)	48
Children Left After School.....	48
Class Schedules (Secondary Grade Levels Only)	48
College and University Admissions and Financial Aid (All Grade Levels)	48
College Credit Courses (Secondary Grade Levels Only).....	49
Communications (All Grade Levels)	50
Parent Contact Information	50
Automated Emergency Communications	50
Automated Non-Emergency Communications.....	51
Complaints and Concerns (All Grade Levels).....	51
Conduct (All Grade Levels).....	51
Counseling	53
Academic Counseling	53
Course Credit (Secondary Grade Levels Only)	54
Credit by Examination—If a Student Has Taken the Course/Subject (Grades 6–12).....	54
Credit by Examination for Advancement/Acceleration—If a Student Has Not Taken the Course/Subject	55
Dating Violence, Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation (All Grade Levels)	56
Dating Violence.....	56
Discrimination	57
Harassment	57
Sexual Harassment and Gender-Based Harassment.....	57
Retaliation.....	58

Reporting Procedures	58
Investigation of Report	59
Discrimination	59
Distance Learning (All Grade Levels).....	59
Texas Virtual School Network (TXVSN) (Secondary Grade Levels)	59
Distribution of Literature, Published Materials, or Other Documents (All Grade Levels).....	60
School Materials	60
Nonschool Materials	60
Dress and Grooming (All Grade Levels)	61
Electronic Devices and Technology Resources (All Grade Levels).....	62
Possession and Use of Personal Telecommunications Devices, Including Cell Phones, and Other Electronic Devices.....	62
Instructional Use of Personal Telecommunications and Other Electronic Devices	62
Acceptable Use of District Technology Resources	62
Unacceptable and Inappropriate Use of Technology Resources.....	62
End-of-Course (EOC) Assessments	63
Emergent Bilingual Students (All Grade Levels)	63
Extracurricular Activities, Clubs, and Organizations (All Grade Levels).....	63
Standards of Behavior.....	64
Fees (All Grade Levels)	65
Fundraising (All Grade Levels).....	65
Gang-Free Zones (All Grade Levels).....	66
Gender-Based Harassment	66
Grade-Level Classification (Grades 9–12 Only).....	66
Grading Guidelines (All Grade Levels).....	66
Graduation (Secondary Grade Levels Only)	66
Requirements for a Diploma.....	66
Testing Requirements for Graduation	67
Foundation Graduation Program.....	67
Credits Required	68
Available Endorsements	69
Financial Aid Application Requirement.....	70
Personal Graduation Plans	70
Available Course Options for All Graduation Programs	71
Certificates of Coursework Completion	71
Students with Disabilities	71
Scholarships and Grants.....	72

Harassment.....	72
Hazing (All Grade Levels).....	72
Health—Physical and Mental.....	72
Illness (All Grade Levels)	72
Immunization (All Grade Levels)	73
Lice (All Grade Levels).....	74
Medicine at School (All Grade Levels)	74
Asthma and Severe Allergic Reactions	75
Steroids (Secondary Grade Levels Only)	75
Mental Health Support (All Grade Levels)	75
Physical Activity Requirements	76
Physical Health Screenings/Examinations	77
Special Health Concerns (All Grade Levels)	78
Health-Related Resources, Policies, and Procedures.....	79
Physical and Mental Health Resources (All Grade Levels).....	79
Policies and Procedures that Promote Student Physical and Mental Health (All Grade Levels).....	79
School Health Advisory Council (SHAC) (All Grade Levels).....	80
Student Wellness Policy/Wellness Plan (All Grade Levels).....	80
Homework (All Grade Levels).....	80
Law Enforcement Agencies (All Grade Levels).....	80
Questioning of Students.....	80
Students Taken into Custody	81
Notification of Law Violations	81
Leaving Campus (All Grade Levels)	82
During Lunch	82
At Any Other Time during the School Day.....	83
Lost and Found (All Grade Levels)	83
Late Work.....	83
Makeup Work	83
Makeup Work Because of Absence (All Grade Levels)	83
DAEP Makeup Work	84
In-School Suspension (ISS) and Out-of-School Suspension (OSS) Makeup Work (All Grade Levels).....	84
Alternative Means to Receive Coursework.....	84
Opportunity to Complete Courses	84
Nondiscrimination Statement (All Grade Levels).....	84

Nontraditional Academic Programs (All Grade Levels)	85
Parent and Family Engagement (All Grade Levels)	86
Working Together	86
Parking and Parking Permits (Secondary Grade Levels Only)	87
Pledges of Allegiance and a Minute of Silence (All Grade Levels)	87
Prayer (All Grade Levels)	88
Promotion and Retention	88
Prekindergarten OR Kindergarten	88
Elementary and Middle/Junior High Grade Levels.....	88
Junior High School Promotion — Grades 7 & 8	89
High School Grade Levels	89
Release of Students from School.....	90
Report Cards/Progress Reports and Conferences (All Grade Levels).....	90
Retaliation.....	90
Required State Assessments	90
STAAR (State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness) for Grades 3-8.....	90
Standardized testing for a Student Enrolled above Grade Level	91
High School Courses End-of-Course (EOC) Assessments	91
Requesting Administration of STAAR/EOC in Paper Format (All Grade Levels) STAAR and EOC assessments are administered electronically.....	91
Standardized Testing for a Student in Special Programs	91
Failure to Perform Satisfactorily on a STAAR or EOC Assessment.....	91
Safety (All Grade Levels).....	92
Accident Insurance	92
Insurance for Career and Technical Education (CTE) Programs.....	92
Preparedness Drills: Evacuation, Severe Weather, and Other Emergencies.....	93
Preparedness Training: CPR and Stop the Bleed	93
Emergency Medical Treatment and Information.....	93
Emergency School Closure Information	93
SAT, ACT, and Other Standardized Tests	94
Schedule Changes (Middle/Junior High and High School Grade Levels).....	94
Determining Criteria for Schedule Changes –	94
Adding and Dropping Courses –	95
Eligibility Requirements Must be Considered	95
School Facilities	95
Asbestos Management Plan (All Grade Levels).....	95
Food and Nutrition Services (All Grade Levels)	96

Vending Machines (All Grade Levels)	97
Pest Management Plan (All Grade Levels).....	97
Conduct Before and After School (All Grade Levels)	97
Library (All Grade Levels)	98
Use of Hallways during Class Time (All Grade Levels)	98
Use by Students Before and After School (All Grade Levels)	98
Meetings of Noncurriculum-Related Groups (Secondary Grade Levels Only).....	98
School-Sponsored Field Trips (All Grade Levels)	98
Searches	99
Searches in General (All Grade Levels)	99
District Property (All Grade Levels)	99
Metal Detectors (All Grade Levels).....	99
Telecommunications and Other Electronic Devices (All Grade Levels)	99
Trained Dogs (All Grade Levels)	100
Vehicles on Campus (Secondary Grade Levels Only).....	100
Special Programs (All Grade Levels).....	100
Standardized Testing.....	101
SAT/ACT (Scholastic Aptitude Test/American College Test).....	101
TSI (Texas Success Initiative) Assessment.....	101
Tardies (All Grade Levels)	101
Elementary Students.....	101
Secondary Students.....	102
Textbooks, Electronic Textbooks, Technological Equipment, and Other Instructional Materials (All Grade Levels).....	102
Transfers (All Grade Levels).....	102
Transportation (All Grade Levels).....	103
School-Sponsored Trips.....	103
Buses and Other School Vehicles	103
Vandalism (All Grade Levels)	104
Video Cameras (All Grade Levels).....	104
Visitors to the School (All Grade Levels).....	105
General Visitors	105
Lunch and Campus Activities	105
Unauthorized Persons.....	105
Visitors Participating in Special Programs for Students	106
Business, Civic, and Youth Groups.....	106
Volunteers (All Grade Levels)	106

Voter Registration (Secondary Grade Levels Only).....	106
Withdrawing from School (All Grade Levels).....	106
Glossary.....	108
APPENDICES.....	111
APPENDIX A.....	111
Options and Requirements	111
APPENDIX B	112
Richardson ISD Extracurricular Code of Conduct 2023-2024	112
Statement of Expectations:	112
Standards for District Extra-Curricular Activities:	112
Automatic student removal from a program:.....	112
RISD District-Wide Guidelines for Extracurricular Students:	113
Alcohol & Illegal Drugs	113
CONSEQUENCES	115
APPENDIX C.....	118
2023-2024 Extracurricular Activity Acknowledgment and Agreement Form.....	118
APPENDIX D.....	119
Responsible Use Guidelines and Agreement for Technology Resources.....	122
Technology Mission Statement.....	122
Purpose	122
Application of Guidelines.....	122
General Expectations.....	122
Digital Citizenship	123
Google Workspace for Education.....	124
District Account Management	124
Single Sign On (SSO)	125
Electronic Media Guidelines for Communication with Students	125
Appropriate Use	125
Inappropriate Use*	126
Acknowledgment and Agreement	127
APPENDIX F	128
IMPORTANT ADDRESSES AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS.....	128
RISD Administration Building (469) 593-0000.....	128
RISD Administration Annex	128
High Schools	128
Nontraditional High School Program.....	128

Alternative Education Program	128
Junior High Schools.....	128
Elementary Schools.....	129
APPENDIX G	133
Intradistrict Transfer Guidelines	133
General Transfer Information	136
Staffing and Class Sizes	137
Transportation.....	137
Appeal of Denial of Transfer Request	137
APPENDIX H.....	139
Guidelines: Freedom from Bullying and Harassment	139
APPENDIX I	147
Notification of Rights Under the Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA)	147
Appendix J	149
Student Cell Phone Guidelines	149
Appendix K.....	151
RISD Guidelines: Elementary Student Dress.....	151
Appendix L	152
RISD Guidelines: Secondary Student Dress	152

Preface

Parents and Students:

Welcome to the new 2023-2024 school year!

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

The Richardson Independent School District (“RISD” or “Richardson ISD”) Student and Parent 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 Parent and Student Handbook is designed to align with state and federal law, board-adopted policies, and the ***RISD Student Code of Conduct***, a board-adopted document intended to promote school safety and an atmosphere for learning. The Parent and Student Handbook is **not** meant to be a complete statement of all policies, procedures, or rules in any given circumstance.

In case of conflict between provisions, the district will resolve any conflict by reviewing documentation in the following order: 1) board policy, 2) the ***Richardson ISD Student Code of Conduct*** and 3) ***the Student and Parent Handbook***.

Therefore, parents and students should also become familiar with the ***Richardson ISD Student Code of Conduct***. To review the ***Richardson ISD Student Code of Conduct***, visit the district’s website at <https://web.risd.org/studentservices/policies/#codeofconduct>. State law requires that the Student Code of Conduct be prominently displayed or made available for review at each campus.

The Student and Parent 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 and Parent Handbook provisions. **Richardson ISD reserves the right to modify the Student and Parent Handbook at any time.** Notice of revisions will be provided as is reasonably practical.

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

A hard copy of either the ***RISD Student Code of Conduct*** or Student and Parent Handbook can be requested at your campus office or can be downloaded online at <https://web.risd.org/studentservices/policies/#codeofconduct>.

Note: References to board policy codes are included for ease of reference. The hard copy of the district’s official policy manual is available for review in 400 S. Greenville, Richardson Texas

75081. Board policies may also be accessed online at:
<https://pol.tasb.org/PolicyOnline?key=370>.

The Board of Trustees is responsible for the development of local policies. The Richardson ISD's policy manual includes:

- LEGAL policies contain provisions from federal and state laws and regulations, case law, and other legal authorities that provide the legal framework for school districts.
- LOCAL policies are Board-adopted and reflect the Board's decisions on district practices within the Board's responsibility and as required by law.

For questions about the material in this handbook, please contact:

Executive Director Student Support Services
kim.sullivan@risd.org
469-593-9138

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:

- Notice Regarding Directory Information and Parent's Response Regarding Release of Student Information,
- For secondary students, 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), and
- Consent/Opt-Out Form for participation in third-party surveys.

[See **Objecting to the Release of Directory Information** on page 20 and **Consent Required Before Student Participation in a Federally Funded Survey** on page 21 for more information.]

Accessibility

If you have difficulty accessing the information in this handbook due to a disability, please contact your campus principal or RISD's 504/ADA Coordinator, Alicia Zornig (alicia.zornig@risd.org)

Section One: Parental Rights

This section of the RISD Parent and Student Handbook describes certain parental rights as specified in state or federal law.

Richardson ISD is committed to providing an exemplary education for all students. Every CHILD. Every TEACHER. Every LEADER. Every DAY. A strong partnership between school and home is essential to realizing RISD's vision and RISD is committed to working with students and their parents to forge that partnership. Whenever this Handbook references a "parent," the term includes a student's biological, adoptive, or foster parent, as well as a legal guardian or any other person who has legal control over a child. Collaboration among these groups fosters effective education and academic success. Some of the roles and responsibilities of each group in this educational partnership are discussed below:

Students

Students are expected to:

- Devote their best efforts to mastering the instructional material taught in class and included in supplemental materials;
- Obey all school rules
- Cooperate with school staff and administrators;
- Notify teachers or school officials of any conflicts with other students;
- Report threats of any kind to teachers and/or school officials;
- Refrain from bringing items to school that are prohibited by the *Student Code of Conduct*;
- Become involved in school activities according to individual interests;
- Show respect to others;
- Model responsible behavior;
- Be prepared for each class with appropriate materials and assignments;
- Attend all classes regularly and on time;
- Dress according to the campus and district dress policy and procedures;
- Be responsible for instructional materials and instructional technology issued to them and return them in good condition; and
- Comply with RISD's cell phone free environment policy.

Parents

Parents can be engaged in the educational partnership by:

- Encouraging students to put a high priority on education and work with students daily to make the most of the educational opportunities at school;
- Ensuring students complete all homework assignments and special projects and come to school each day prepared, rested, and ready to learn;
- Monitoring student dress to ensure it adheres to the school's dress code;
- Encouraging students to eat a good breakfast before school;
- Encouraging and helping students develop good study habits;
- Being aware of the school's ongoing bullying and harassment prevention efforts;

- Sharing with students the importance of observing and obeying school rules;
- Ensuring student's prompt and regular attendance, providing proper documentation for absences and/or tardiness to school;
- Attending scheduled parent-teacher conferences and requesting additional conferences as needed;
- Attending Board meetings to learn more about District operations;
- Discussing school assignments, progress notices and report cards with students;
- Keeping informed of school policies and academic requirements for school-related activities;
- Volunteering and participating in school-related organizations and activities where possible;
- Serving on a committee at your campus or a district-level committee;
- Informing the school of any learning concerns or conditions that may relate to the student's education;
- Contacting school officials if you are concerned with your child's emotional or mental well-being;
- Providing the school with current home, work, and emergency telephone numbers and other pertinent information;
- Cooperating with teachers and school administration;
- Ensuring student attendance when tutoring is required or recommended; and
- Discuss and encourage compliance with the District's cell phone free environment policy.

Teachers

Teachers show their support of the educational partnership by:

- Serving as appropriate role models for students;
- Teaching the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS);
- Complying with District and school policies, rules, regulations, and directives;
- Preparing appropriate assignments and resource materials;
- Establishing rapport and effective working relationships with parents, students, and other staff;
- Promoting good student behavior management;
- Maintaining an orderly classroom atmosphere that is conducive to learning;
- Practicing appropriate preventive methods of discipline;
- Enforcing rules in a fair and consistent/manner; and
- Fostering good work habits to support each student's achievement of personal goals and academic excellence.

Administrators

Administrators will:

- Assume responsibility for instructional leadership;
- Serve as appropriate role models for staff and students;
- Encourage parent communication and involvement with the school;
- Respond to student educational and behavioral concerns expressed by teachers and/or parents;
- Provide leadership in preventive discipline techniques;
- Evaluate disciplinary issues effectively using the District's *Student Code of Conduct*;

- Make reasonable efforts to contact parents regarding *Student Code of Conduct* violations;
- Monitor disciplinary trends and respond to them appropriately; and
- Ensure that safety and security protocols are in place and functioning properly.

Consent, Opt-Out, and Refusal Rights

Consent to Conduct a Psychological Evaluation

Unless required under state or federal law, a district employee will not conduct a psychological 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 rules 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.

Grades 5–6

- In grades 5 – 6 Quaver Online Health (2022 adoption) will be utilized to cover health information emphasizing good decision making, interpersonal skills, and disease concepts.
- Supplement curriculum video, “Always Changing and Growing Up” for boys and “Always Changing and Growing Up” for girls on puberty for fifth grade students (separate presentations). These are “OPT IN” videos. (2023 adoption)
- Supplement curriculum to the video, “Always Changing and Growing Up” for boys and “Always Changing and Growing Up” for girls on puberty for sixth grade students (separate presentations). These are “OPT IN” videos. (2023 adoption)

Grade 7/8

- Use Goodheart-Willcox Publisher “Texas Health Skills” and ancillary materials (2022 adoption).
- Students will participate in “Choosing the Best – Path” health curriculum if participating in a Health class. This is an “OPT IN” curriculum. (2023 adoption)

Health (Grade 9–12)

- Use Goodheart-Willcox Publisher “Texas Health Skills” and ancillary materials (2022 adoption).
- Students will participate in “Choosing the Best – Journey” health curriculum if participating in a Health class. This is an “OPT IN” curriculum. (2023 adoption)

For further information, see the district’s human sexuality instruction website at <https://web.risd.org/healthpe/csh>.

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 his or her 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)** on page 43 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; and
- 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** on page 16]

Consent Before Human Sexuality Instruction

Before a student receives human sexuality instruction, 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 will begin. This will be provided by your school for 5th and 6th graders and for 7-12th graders, the request will come from the Health 1 teacher.

Consent Before 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 will begin.

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.

The instruction and curriculum materials relating to the prevention of child abuse, family violence, dating violence, and sex trafficking can be accessed through this link: [RISD Curriculum Regarding Child Abuse, Human Trafficking, Family Violence, and Dating Violence](#)

For further information, see the district's Prevention Programming website <https://web.risd.org/preventionprogramming/>

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's website at the location indicated above.
- Remove his or her 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)** on page 51 and FNG for information on the grievance and appeals process.

[See **Consent to Human Sexuality Instruction** on page 16 ; **Dating Violence** on page 56; and **Child Sexual Abuse, Trafficking, and Other Maltreatment of Children** on page 45]

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's mental health liaison will notify the student's parent within a reasonable amount of time after the liaison 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 mental health liaison regarding a student who may need intervention.

For concerns, please reach out to the campus counseling office.

The mental health liaison can provide further information regarding 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** on page 75.]

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

Teachers may display a student's work in classrooms or elsewhere on campus as 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, and
- 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 Receive Parenting and Paternity Awareness Instruction if a Student is under Age 14

A student under age 14 must have parental permission to participate in the district's [Parenting and Paternity Awareness Program](https://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/child-support/programs-and-initiatives/parenting-and-paternity-awareness-papa/papa-educators/papa-curriculum) (<https://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/child-support/programs-and-initiatives/parenting-and-paternity-awareness-papa/papa-educators/papa-curriculum>). This program was developed by the Office of the Texas Attorney General and the State Board of Education (SBOE) to be incorporated into health education classes.

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 it:

- Is to be used for school safety,
- Relates to classroom instruction or a co-curricular or extracurricular activity,
- Relates to media coverage of the school, or
- Relates to the 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 40 percent on the grade 5 mathematics STAAR or 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 advanced mathematics courses.

Corporal Punishment

RISD prohibits corporal punishment.

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 by district guidelines.

For example, a teacher may create a social networking page for his or her class to relay information regarding 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.

An employee who communicates electronically with students shall observe and acknowledge the following:

- The employee does not have a right to privacy with respect to communications with students and parents.
- The employee is prohibited from knowingly communicating with students using any form of electronic communications, including mobile and web applications, that are not provided or accessible by the district unless a specific exception is noted below.
- Only a teacher, trainer, or other employee who has an extracurricular duty may use text messaging, and then only to communicate with students who participate in the extracurricular activity over which the employee has responsibility. An employee who communicates with a student using text messaging shall comply with the following protocol:

For each text message addressed to one or more students, the employee shall send a copy of the text message to the employee's district email address.

- The employee shall limit communications to matters within the scope of the employee's professional responsibilities (e.g., for classroom teachers, matters relating to class work, homework, and tests; for an employee with an extracurricular duty, matters relating to the extracurricular activity).

- The employee is prohibited from knowingly communicating with students through a personal social network page; the employee must create a separate social network page (“professional page”) for the purpose of communicating with students. The employee must enable administration and parents to access the employee’s professional page.
- The employee shall not communicate directly with any student between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. An employee may, however, make public posts to a social network site, blog, or similar application at any time.

A parent who does not want his or her 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. A parent or eligible student may object to the release of this information. Any objection must be made in writing to the principal within ten school days of the student’s first day of instruction. See **Notice Regarding Directory Information and Parent’s Response Regarding Release of Student Information**, included in the online enrollment process. 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.

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; address; telephone listing; photograph; date and place of birth; major field of study; degrees, honors, and awards received; dates of attendance; grade level; most recent educational institution attended; participation in officially recognized activities and sports; and weight and height of members of athletic teams. (See Board Policy FL(LOCAL)). If a parent does not object to the use of his or her 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 has identified the following as directory information: student name and enrollment or graduation status. (See Board Policy FL(LOCAL)). If a parent does not object to the use of the student’s information for these purposes, the school **must** release this information when requested by an outside entity or individual.

Note: Also see Authorized Inspection and Use of Student Records on page 25.

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 his or her 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 secondary students:

- Name,
- Address, and
- 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.

Participation in Third-Party Surveys

Consent Required Before Required Student Participation in a Federally Funded Survey

The Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA) provides parents 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; or
- 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 Board 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, or spinal screenings, or any physical examination or screening permitted or required under state law. [See Board 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; and
- Instructional material used as part of the educational curriculum.

The Department of Education 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** on page 10 and **Consent to Instruction on Prevention of Child Abuse, Family Violence, Dating Violence, and Sex Trafficking** on page 16 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; and
- 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 his or her child be excused;
- The district determines that the student has a conscientious objection to the recitation; or
- A parent is a representative of a foreign government to whom the U.S. government extends diplomatic immunity.

[See Board Policy EHBK(LEGAL) for more information.]

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

A parent may request that his or her 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** on page 87 and Board Policy EC(LEGAL) for more information.]

Religious or Moral Beliefs

A parent may remove his or her 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 state law.

Student Exemptions

Exemption From Instruction: A parent may **temporarily** remove his or her child from a class or other school activity that conflicts with the parent's religious or moral beliefs if the parent presents or delivers to the teacher of the parent's child a written statement authorizing the removal of the child from the class or other school activity. All reasonable efforts to accommodate students' religious or moral beliefs will be made before removal from the instructional setting.

Per state law, a parent is not entitled to remove the parent's child from a class or other school activity to avoid a test or to prevent the child from taking a subject for an entire semester. The student must also satisfy grade-level and graduation requirements as determined by the District and by state law.

Students shall be excused without penalty from required participation in a school-sponsored program or event if participation is in conflict with their religious beliefs.

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; or
- 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 ten 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 tutorial services—if the district offers these services.

[For questions about school-provided tutoring programs, contact the student's teacher and see policies EC and EHBC. See **Standardized Testing** on page 90 for information regarding required accelerated instruction after a student fails to perform satisfactorily on certain state-mandated tests.]

Right of Access to Student Records, Curriculum Materials, and District Records/Policies

Parent Review of Instructional Materials

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.

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 he or she be provided, for the remainder of the school year, a copy of any written notice usually provided to a parent related to his or her 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 the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), a parent may request information regarding any federal, state, or district policy related to his or her child's participation in required assessments.

Student Records

Accessing Student Records

A parent may review his or her child's records. These records include but are not limited to:

- 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;
- State assessment instruments that have been administered to the child; and
- 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** on page 20, 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; and
- [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 pertaining to 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:

- Reaches the age of 18;
- Is emancipated by a court; or
- 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; or
- 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; or
- A parent or student assisting a school official in the performance of his or her 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** on page 20 to prohibit this disclosure.]

Release of personally identifiable information to any other person or agency—such as a prospective employer or for 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 designee is the custodian of all records for students who have withdrawn or graduated. The Records Management Office is a custodian of all student records.

A parent or eligible student who wants to inspect the student's records of a currently enrolled student should submit a written request to the custodian of records, at the campus, identifying the records he or she wants to inspect.

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

A parent or eligible student who submits a written request and pays copying costs of ten 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.

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 record 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's grading guidelines.

[See **Report Cards/Progress Reports and Conferences** on page 90, **Complaints and Concerns** on page 51, and Finality of Grades at policy FNG(LEGAL).]

The district's student records policy is found at policy FL(LEGAL) and (LOCAL) and is available at the principal's or superintendent's office.

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 regarding the professional qualifications of his or her 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; and
- Is currently teaching in the field or discipline of his or her 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 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 the Texas Virtual School Network (TXVSN); and
- 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, or
- 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.

Additional information may be found 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 his or her 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. The board will consult with the parent of a child who has engaged in bullying before deciding to transfer the child to another campus.

Transportation is not provided for a transfer to another campus. See the principal for more information.

[See **Bullying** on page 41, and policies FDB and FFI for more information.]

The district will honor a parent's request for the transfer of his or her 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 his or her child to another district campus **OR** 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 on campus. The district will try to accommodate a request as soon as possible but will do so within ten 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 prior to 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 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); and
- 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:

Dr. Summer Martin
Executive Director of Counseling and Prevention Services
summer.martin@risd.org
469-593-7472

[See **Credit by Examination for Advancement/Acceleration** on page 55 and **Course Credit** on page 54.

A Student Who Is Homeless

A parent is encouraged to inform the district if his or her 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; and
- 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:

Lori Shaw
Director of Student Welfare
Lori.shaw@risd.org
469-593-0363

[See **Credit by Examination for Advancement/Acceleration** on page 54, **Course Credit** on page 54, and **Students who are Homeless** on page 31]

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, his or her 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. 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 regarding special education is available from the school district in a companion document titled *Parent's Guide to the Admission, Review, and Dismissal Process*.

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 is:

Katie Barrett
Senior Executive Director
701 W. Beltline RD., Bldg. D, Richardson, TX 75080
469-593-7501

For questions regarding post-secondary transitions, including the transition from education to employment, for students receiving special education services, contact the district's transition and employment designee:

Kara Hayman
Coordinator, Special Student Services
701 W. Beltline Rd.
Richardson TX 75080
Kara.Hayman@risd.org
469-593-7501

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; and
- 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:

Alicia Zornig
Section 504/ADA Coordinator
alicia.zornig@risd.org
469-593-7517

[See **A Student with Physical or Mental Impairments Protected under Section 504** on page 33.]

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

- [Legal Framework for the Child-Centered Special Education Process \(https://fw.esc18.net/display/Webforms/ESC18-FW-LandingPage.aspx?DT=G&LID=en\)](https://fw.esc18.net/display/Webforms/ESC18-FW-LandingPage.aspx?DT=G&LID=en)
- [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/)

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.

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 his or her 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 would be 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 prior to 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 his or her 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 State-Mandated Assessments Accommodations related to classroom instruction, local assessments, and state-mandated assessments.

[See **Emergent Bilingual Students** on page 63 and **Special Programs** on page 100.]

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 the need for a Section 504 evaluation arises or is requested, a committee will be formed to determine whether the student is eligible for the rights and protections of Section 504 and whether the student needs services and supports under Section 504 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** on page 33 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 your campus principal.

Absences/Attendance

Regular school attendance is essential. Absences from class may result in serious disruption of a student's education. The student and parent should 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.

RISD SCHOOL DAY

Pre-K Programs check with home campus

Dobie Pre-K 7:30 a.m. - 2:50 p.m.

Elementary 7:50 a.m. - 3:10 p.m.

Junior High 8:15 a.m. - 3:40 p.m.

High School 9:00 a.m. - 4:20 p.m.

Compulsory Attendance

Prekindergarten and Kindergarten

Students enrolled in prekindergarten or kindergarten 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 his or her 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 for the following activities and events, as long as the student makes up all work:

- 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.
- Absences resulting from a serious or life-threatening illness or related treatment that makes a student's attendance infeasible, with certification by a physician;
- For students in the conservatorship of the state:
 - An activity required under a court-ordered service plan; or
 - 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** on page 28.]

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 wifi 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 **Telecommunication and Other Electronic Devices** on page 88.

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 his or her visit to the driver's license office for each absence and must make up any work missed.

[See **Driver License Attendance Verification** on page 40.]

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; and
- 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 per school year to serve as:

- 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.
- An early voting clerk, provided the district's board has authorized this in policy FEA(LOCAL), the student notifies his or her teachers, and the student receives approval from the principal prior to the absences; or
- 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, 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 ages 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 his or her duty to monitor the student’s attendance and require the student to attend school;
- Request a conference between school administrators and the parent; and
- 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 facilitator for the district is:

Executive Director Student Support Services
1500 International Parkway, Suite 100, Richardson, TX 75081
kim.sullivan@risd.org
469-593-9138

For any questions about student absences, parents should contact their campus principal and/or the facilitator.

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 ten or more unexcused absences within a six-month period in the same school year.

If a student age 12–18 incurs ten 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 he or she completes 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.]

With the exception of 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 mastered the essential knowledge and skills and maintained passing grades in the course or subject.
- 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

The district will take official attendance every day at:

Elementary: 9:00 a.m.

Junior High: 10:15 a.m.

High School: 1:35 p.m.

A student absent for any portion of the day, should follow the procedures below to provide documentation of the absence.

Documentation after an Absence (All Grade Levels)

A parent must provide an explanation for any absence upon the student's arrival or return to school within 3 school days. The student must submit a note signed by the parent. The campus may accept a phone call or an email from the parent but reserves the right to require a written note. Parents of RISD students have the option to upload signed notes into their FOCUS parent portal.

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.

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 three (3) days of returning to school, a student absent for four (4) or more 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.

Should the student develop 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.

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 \(https://www.tdlr.texas.gov/driver/forms/VOE.pdf\)](https://www.tdlr.texas.gov/driver/forms/VOE.pdf) is available online.

Further information may be found 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** on page 30 for information on excused absences for obtaining a learner license or driver's license.

Extenuating Circumstances

Absences for which the District may recognize extenuating circumstances in addition to those designated by law are:

- chronic illness, as established by a medical practitioner's note on file;
- funeral of an immediate family member, including one day of travel to and one day of travel from the funeral, if needed;
- family emergencies or unforeseen or unavoidable instances requiring immediate attention;
- medical or dental appointments; or
- any other unusual cause acceptable to the attendance appeal committee.

Non-extenuating Circumstances

- Absences for which extenuating circumstances normally will not be recognized shall include, but are not limited to, the following:
- baby-sitting siblings
- driver's license tests or personal business;
- job interviews, college visitations (except as excused through compliance with college visitation guidelines), and educational trips not approved by the school;
- off-campus instruction activities that cause the student to miss other classes (excluding approved extracurricular activities or as allowed by law);
- personal or family vacation; business trips; non-school related trips, classes, or activities; work activities other than District or approved work programs; private lessons; and
- truancy.

Religious Observances

The District shall excuse students from class for religious observances. Students shall not be penalized or deprived of reasonable make-up opportunities for such observances.

Parents should submit a written request to the school in advance of the absence to excuse the student for the religious observance. Excused days include travel days to and from an out of town observance site. Excused days for travel to a remote observance site shall be limited to not more than one (1) day for travel to, and one day for travel from the observance site. A student who is not in attendance due to an excused absence under this policy may not be penalized and shall be counted as if the student attended school.

Accountability under State and Federal Law (All Grade Levels)

Richardson ISD 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; and
- Information compiled by TEA for the submission of a federal report card that is required by federal law.

Accountability information can be found on the district's website at <http://www.risd.org>. Hard copies of any reports are available upon request to the district's administration office.

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.

Contact the principal for information about this opportunity.

Awards and Honors (All Grade Levels)

Refer to the [RISD Chart Your Course Website](#) for complete listings of student honor programs, awards, organizations, courses, and the local requirements for them.

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; or
- 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 regarding 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 he or she has experienced bullying or witnesses 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 reporting it to a campus counselor, teacher or administrator. Students may also report anonymously through Crime Stoppers <http://www.ntcc.crimestoppersweb.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 rise to the level 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 Available counseling options will be provided to the affected individuals, including any student who witnessed the bullying behaviors.

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

Available counseling options will be provided to the affected individuals, including any student who witnessed the bullying.

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. In consultation with the student's parent, the board may transfer the student to another campus in the district.

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** on page 29.]

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. <https://web.risd.org/studentservices/policies/#bullying>

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

[See **Safety Transfers/Assignments** on page 29, **Dating Violence, Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation** on page 56, **Hazing** on page 72, policy FFI, the district's Student Code of Conduct, and the district improvement plan, a copy of which can be viewed in the 504 campus office.]

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

- Refer to the [RISD Chart Your Course Website](#) for specific courses and sequences.

Admission to these programs is based on student interest, class availability, and completion of any required prerequisite coursework.

The district offers other work-based programs in the following areas:

- Professional Internship Program.
- Richardson Mayor's Summer Internship Program.
- Practicum courses.

Admission to these programs is open enrollment.

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** on page 84 or 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. 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.

Vending Machines RISD policies and guidelines comply with federal and state requirements for food service, including the guidelines to restrict student access to vending machines.

[See **Food Allergies** on page 78.]

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

The district has established a plan for addressing child sexual abuse, trafficking, and other maltreatment of children, which may be accessed at [<https://web.risd.org/home/tag/district-improvement-plan/Trafficking> includes both sex and labor trafficking.

Warning Signs of Sexual Abuse

Sexual abuse in the Texas Family Code is defined as any sexual conduct harmful to a child's mental, emotional, or physical welfare as well as a failure to make a reasonable effort to prevent sexual conduct with a child. A person who compels or encourages a child to engage in sexual conduct commits abuse. It is illegal to make or possess child pornography or to display such material to a child.

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).

A child who has been or is being sexually abused may exhibit physical, behavioral, or emotional warning signs, including:

- Difficulty sitting or walking, pain in the genital areas, and claims of stomachaches and headaches;

- Verbal references or pretend games of sexual activity between adults and children, fear of being alone with adults of a particular gender, or sexually suggestive behavior; or
- Withdrawal, depression, sleeping and eating disorders, and problems in school.

Be aware that children and adolescents who have experienced dating violence may show similar physical, behavioral, and emotional warning signs. [See **Dating Violence, Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation** on page 56 and **Consent to Instruction on Prevention of Child Abuse, Family Violence, Dating Violence, and Sex Trafficking** on page 16.

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; and
- 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;
- Owning 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 his or her own money;
- Living with an employer or having an employer listed as a student’s caregiver; and
- 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** on page 16.]

Reporting and Responding to Sexual Abuse, Trafficking, and Other Maltreatment of Children

Anyone who suspects that a child has been or may be abused, trafficked, 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).

A child who has experienced sexual abuse or any other type of abuse or neglect should be encouraged to seek out a trusted adult. Children may be more reluctant to disclose sexual abuse than physical abuse and neglect 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 he or she did the right thing by telling you.

If your child is a victim of sexual abuse, trafficking, or other maltreatment, the school counselor or principal will provide information on counseling options for you and your child available in your area. The Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) also manages early intervention counseling programs.

To find out what services may be available in your county, see [Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, Programs Available in Your County](http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Prevention%20and%20Early%20Intervention/Programs%20Available%20In%20Your%20County/default.asp) (<http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Prevention and Early Intervention/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 on the web at [Texas Abuse Hotline Website](http://www.txabusehotline.org) (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 Factsheet](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://taasa.org/product/child-sexual-abuse-parental-guide/) (<https://taasa.org/product/child-sexual-abuse-parental-guide/>)

- [National Center of Safe Supportive Learning Environments: Child Labor Trafficking \(https://safesupportivelearning.ed.gov/human-trafficking-americas-schools/child-labor-trafficking\)](https://safesupportivelearning.ed.gov/human-trafficking-americas-schools/child-labor-trafficking)

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

- For more information on Formal GPA/Class Rank/Highest-Ranking Student, please see Awards and Honors General Eligibility Guidelines located in the [RISD Chart Your Course Website](#).

[See policy EIC for more information.]

Children Left After School

Children cannot be left unattended after school. The regular release time for elementary students is 3:10 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. for junior high students. Parents will be notified in advance of special after-school activities such as tutoring. Parents or other caregivers must pick up students promptly at the end of the school day or scheduled school activity. If all school personnel are leaving the building and a young child is waiting outside, school personnel will attempt to contact the parent and all persons listed on the emergency card. If the school personnel are unable to contact anyone and the parent has not notified the office of his/her inability to pick up the child, the school staff will assume an emergency situation exists. The local police department will be contacted to provide the child with a safe environment until the parent or a designated adult can pick up the child from the local police department.

Class Schedules (Secondary Grade Levels Only)

All students are expected to attend school for the entire school day and maintain a full class schedule. 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** on page 84 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 ten percent of his or her class is eligible for automatic admission into four-year public universities and colleges in Texas if the student:

- Completes the distinguished level of achievement under the foundation graduation program [see **Foundation Graduation Program** on page 67]; or
- 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.

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 2022 term through the spring 2024 term, the University will admit the top six 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 concerning the following:

- Automatic college admission;
- Curriculum requirements for financial aid;
- Benefits of completing the requirements for automatic admission and financial aid; and
- 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** on page 48 for information specifically related to how the district calculates a student's rank in class, and requirements for **Graduation** on page 666 for information associated with the foundation graduation program.]

[See **Students in the Conservatorship of the State (Foster Care)** on page 30 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 Texas Virtual School Network (TXVSN);
- Enrollment in courses taught in conjunction and in partnership with Dallas College, which may be offered on or off campus; and
- Enrollment in courses taught at other colleges or universities.

Enrollment in these programs is based on specific program requirements. Please see your counselor for more information.

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 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)** on page 65 for more information.

A student may also earn college credit for certain Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses. See **Career and Technical Education (CTE) and Other Work-Based Programs (Secondary Grade Levels Only)** on page 44 for information on CTE and other work-based programs.

All these methods have eligibility requirements and must be approved prior to 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 (EOC) 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 emailing the school student data specialist at the student's school. If a family has students enrolled at multiple schools, each campus should be contacted.

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, an emergency protocol, or a security threat. Prompt notification of any change in contact information is critical to the school's ability to maintain timely communication with parents. It is crucial to notify your child's school when a phone number or email address has changed.

[See **Safety** on page 92 for information regarding contact with parents during an emergency situation.]

Automated Non-Emergency Communications

Your child's school, and the school district, periodically send 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, please contact your child's school.

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 Complaints/Grievances policy at FNG(LOCAL). This policy can be viewed in the district's policy manual, available online at <https://pol.tasb.org/PolicyOnline?key=370>. The complaint forms can be accessed at [FNG\(EXHIBIT\)](#).

To file a formal complaint, a parent or student must complete and submit the complaint form. In general, the written complaint form must be completed and submitted to the campus principal in a timely manner.

If the concern is not resolved, a parent or student may request a conference with the superintendent.

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

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. A copy of the Student Code of Conduct can be downloaded online [here](#) or a hard copy may be requested at your campus office.

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 and Parent Guidebook and Student Code of Conduct in place for the school year immediately preceding the summer period shall apply, unless the district amends either or both documents for the purposes of 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 on the district's website at www.risd.org and the coordinator for all RISD campuses is listed on each campuses website.

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; and
- 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 his or her 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; and
- 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 regarding:

- 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; and
- 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** on page 72 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 request to see their school counselor through the campus request protocol. 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 is experiencing an emergency that requires immediate attention, immediately call 911.

If your child has experienced trauma, contact the school counselor for more information.

[See **Mental Health Support** on page 75, **Child Sexual Abuse, Trafficking, and Other Maltreatment of Children** on page 45, and **Dating Violence** on page 56.]

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 course (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 (one 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.

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, <https://s.risd.org/8uVVYS>, 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 and twice per course.

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 prior to the scheduled testing date. [See policy EHDC and <https://s.risd.org/8uVVYS> for more information.]

Kindergarten Acceleration

A student eligible for Kindergarten is eligible to accelerate to the next grade level if:

- The student scores at least an 80 on each examination in the subject areas of language arts and mathematics;
- A district administrator recommends that the student be accelerated; and
- The student's parent gives written approval of the grade advancement.

Students in Grades 1–5

A student in elementary school is eligible to accelerate to the next grade level if:

- 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; and
- 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 with:

- A passing score of at least 80 on an examination approved by the board; or
- A scaled score of 50 or higher on an examination administered through the College Level Examination Program (CLEP); or

- 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. For more information, see board policy FFH(LOCAL).

Dating Violence

Dating violence will not be tolerated at school. To report dating violence the student should notify the campus administrator or school counselor.

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 commit 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; or
- 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>)
- The CDC's [Preventing Teen Dating Violence](https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/intimatepartnerviolence/teendatingviolence/fastfact.html) (<https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/intimatepartnerviolence/teendatingviolence/fastfact.html>).

[See **Consent to Instruction on Prevention of Child Abuse, Family Violence, Dating Violence, and Sex Trafficking** on page 16.]

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; or
- Other kinds of aggressive conduct such as theft or damage to property.

Sexual Harassment and Gender-Based Harassment

Sexual harassment and gender-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; and
- 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.

Gender-based harassment includes physical, verbal, or nonverbal conduct based on a student's gender, the student's expression of characteristics perceived as stereotypical for the student's gender, or the student's failure to conform to stereotypical notions of masculinity or femininity.

Gender-based harassment can occur regardless of the student's or the harasser's actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity. Examples of gender-based harassment directed against a student may include, but are not limited to:

- Offensive jokes, name-calling, slurs, or rumors;
- Physical aggression or assault;
- Threatening or intimidating conduct; or
- Other kinds of aggressive conduct such as theft or damage to property.

Retaliation

Retaliation against a person who makes a good-faith report or participates in an investigation of discrimination, harassment, or dating violence is prohibited. A person who makes a false claim, offers false statements, or refuses to cooperate with a district investigation, however, may be subject to appropriate discipline.

Examples of retaliation may include threats, rumor spreading, ostracism, assault, destruction of property, unjustified punishments, or unwarranted grade reductions. Unlawful retaliation does not include petty slights or annoyances.

Reporting Procedures

Any student who believes that he or she has experienced dating violence, discrimination, harassment, or retaliation should immediately report the problem to a teacher, school counselor, principal, or other district employee. The report may be made by the student's parent. [See policy FFH(LOCAL) and (EXHIBIT) for other appropriate district officials to whom a report may be made.]

Upon receiving a report, the district will determine whether the allegations, if proven, constitute prohibited conduct as defined by policy FFH. 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** on page 41.]

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 policy FFH.

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** on page 56.]

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 [Alternative Credit Guidelines](#).

If a student wishes to enroll in a correspondence course or a distance learning course that is not provided through the Texas Virtual School Network (TXVSN), as described below, to earn credit in a course or subject, the student must receive permission from the principal prior to enrolling in the course or subject. If the student does not receive prior approval, the district may not recognize and apply the course or subject toward graduation requirements or subject mastery.

Texas Virtual School Network (TXVSN) (Secondary Grade Levels)

The Texas Virtual School Network (TXVSN) has been established by the state as one method of distance learning. A student has the option, with certain limitations, to enroll in a course offered through the TXVSN to earn course credit for graduation.

Depending on the TXVSN course in which a student enrolls, the course may be subject to the "no pass, no play" rules. [See **Extracurricular Activities, Clubs, and Organizations** on page 55.] In addition, a student who enrolls in a TXVSN 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 TXVSN course by contacting the school counselor. Unless an exception is made by the Area Superintendent, a student will not be allowed to enroll in a TXVSN course if the school offers the same or a similar course.

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 Dr. Summer Martin, Director of Counseling, at summer.martin@risd.org.

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. RISD does restrict the distribution of non-school materials by students and third parties. 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.

Nonschool Materials

From Students

Students must obtain prior approval from the the campus principal or designee *for prior review* before selling, posting, circulating, or distributing more than ten (10) 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 nonschool material must include the name of the sponsoring person or organization and clearly state that RISD does not sponsor or endorse the activity, organization, or product. As a courtesy, RISD offers a third party e-flyer distribution service (Peachjar) through which approved non-RISD materials may be distributed. Approval will be granted or denied within two school days.

The campus principal is responsible for designating time, place, and manner restrictions for distribution of nonschool literature from students.

A student may appeal a decision in accordance with policy FNG(LOCAL). Any student who sells, posts, circulates, or distributes nonschool 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 are 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 nonschool material must meet the limitations on content established in the policy, include the name of the sponsoring person or organization, and be submitted through and follow the procedures through PeachJar.

The requestor may appeal a rejection in accordance with the appropriate district complaint policy. [See policies DGBA or GF for more information.]

The Chief of Staff *is responsible for designating time, place, and manner of distribution of nonschool literature from community members* and has designated the front office as the location for **approved** non-school materials to be placed for voluntary viewing or collection.

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 nonschool 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:

Students may not wear or display any article of clothing, accessory, or body art that:

- Includes images, language or symbols that depict tobacco products, drugs, drug paraphernalia, alcohol, violence, hate speech, profanity, pornography, gang symbols, or illegal activities.
- Includes images or language that creates a hostile or intimidating environment based on any protected class or group.
- Accessories that could be considered dangerous or could be used as a weapon.
- Secondary students may not wear bandanas of any color.

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 principal will work with the student and parent to obtain an acceptable change of clothing for the student in a way that minimizes loss of instructional time.

Repeated or severe offenses may result in more serious disciplinary action in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct.

Reference Appendix L and M for the RISD specific dress code for elementary and secondary students.

Electronic Devices and Technology Resources (All Grade Levels)

Possession and Use of Personal Telecommunications Devices, Including Cell Phones, and Other Electronic Devices

Please see the district's policy FNCE(LOCAL) for details specific to cell phone possession and use.

Instructional Use of Personal Telecommunications and Other Electronic Devices

Students must obtain prior approval to use personal telecommunications or other personal electronic devices for instructional purposes while on campus. Students must also sign a user agreement, the Responsible Use Guidelines, that contains applicable rules for use (see Appendix F.)

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. Personal devices (BYOD) may be used at the discretion of the classroom teacher. Only district-issued devices may be used for testing (course, district, and state assessments).

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. To use district-owned technology resources, students and parents must agree to the Responsible Use Guidelines. (See Appendix F 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.

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.

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"](#)

[Sexting Prevention 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.

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** on page 66 and **Standardized Testing** on page 91.]

Emergent Bilingual Students (All Grade Levels)

A student who is an Emergent Bilingual student is entitled to receive specialized services from the district. To determine a student's language proficiency, the LPAC will use information from a state-approved language proficiency assessment. A Language Proficiency Assessment Committee (LPAC), consisting of both district personnel and at least one parent representative, will recommend services through either the bilingual or ESL program. 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.

If the student qualifies for services, and once a level of proficiency has been established, the LPAC will designate instructional accommodations that the student will require to acquire language proficiency, based on the program through which the student is receiving services. Annual 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** on page 91, 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 English learners 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.

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** on page 103.]

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 upon 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.

[See [UIL Texas \(https://www.uiltexas.org/\)](https://www.uiltexas.org/) for additional information on all UIL-governed activities.]

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) course, or an 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 shall make no distinction between absences for UIL activities and absences for other extracurricular activities approved by the Board. Absences allowed during a school year for extracurricular activities shall be limited to: ten absences not related to post-district competition, five absences or post-district competition prior to state, and two absences for state competition. See policy FM (LOCAL).
- 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.

Fees (All Grade Levels)

Basic educational program materials are provided at no charge to a student. However, a student is expected to provide his or her 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 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 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 course taken through the Texas Virtual School Network (TXVSN).

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 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. Any outside fundraising organization wishing to work with RISD must contact the Purchasing Department at 469-593-0573 for information on how to become an approved fundraising vendor before any fundraising activities may be conducted at any campus. [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.

Gender-Based Harassment

[See **Dating Violence, Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation** on page 56.]

Grade-Level Classification (Grades 9–12 Only)

After grade 9, students are classified according to the number of credits earned toward graduation.

Credits Earned	Classification
6	Grade 10 (Sophomore)
12	Grade 11 (Junior)
18	Grade 12 (Senior)

Grading Guidelines (All Grade Levels)

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; and
- Procedures for a student to follow after an absence.

[See **Report Cards/Progress Reports and Conferences** on page 90 for additional information on grading guidelines.]

Graduation (Secondary Grade Levels Only)

Requirements for a Diploma

Detailed information regarding the requirements for high school graduation (including graduation honors) can be found in the [RISD Chart Your Course Website](#). This District publication is maintained online and is available to all students and their parents. See www.risd.org.

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); and
- 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, and
- U.S. History.

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.

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.

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.]

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** on page 101.]

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; and
- 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.

A **Personal Graduation Plan** will be completed for each high school student, as described on page 70.

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 his or her 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:

Course Area	Number of Credits: Foundation Graduation Program	Number of Credits: Foundation Graduation Program with an Endorsement
English/Language Arts	4	4
Mathematics	3	4
Science	3	4
Social Studies	3.5	3.5
Free Enterprise Economics	0.5	0.5
Physical Education	1	1
Languages other than English	2	2
Fine Arts	1	1
Health	0.5	0.5
Electives	3.5	5.5
Total	22 credits	26 credits

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. Any 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 upon entering grade 9 which endorsement he or she wishes to pursue.

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).

Please see your College and Career Coordinator for more information.

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; or
- 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 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); or
- 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 his or her rank in class.

The school will review personal graduation plan options with each student entering grade 9 and his or her parent. Before the end of grade 9, a student and his or her 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 amend his or her personal graduation plan after this initial confirmation. The school will send written notice of any such amendment to the student's parent.

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 his or her 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 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 his or her individualized education program (IEP) and in accordance with state rules.

A student who receives special education services may earn 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 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 his or her IEP may participate in graduation ceremonies and receive a certificate of attendance. The student may then remain enrolled to complete the IEP and earn his or her high school diploma but will only be allowed to participate in one graduation ceremony.

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

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)** on page 48 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** on page 56.]

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; and
- 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** on page 41 and policies FFI and FNCC for more information.]

Health—Physical and Mental

Illness (All Grade Levels)

When your child is ill, please contact the school to let us know he or she 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, if a child has a fever over 100 degrees, he or she 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://dshs.texas.gov/immunize/school/exemptions.aspx) (<https://dshs.texas.gov/immunize/school/exemptions.aspx>) 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.

For information on immunization against bacterial meningitis and college enrollment and attendance, see **Bacterial Meningitis** on page 79.

[See the DSHS's [Texas School & Child Care Facility Immunization Requirements](https://www.dshs.state.tx.us/immunize/school/default.shtm) (<https://www.dshs.state.tx.us/immunize/school/default.shtm>) 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 can be obtained from the DSHS website [Managing Head Lice in School Settings and at Home](https://www.dshs.state.tx.us/schoolhealth/lice.shtm) (<https://www.dshs.state.tx.us/schoolhealth/lice.shtm>).

[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. When medication must be administered at school, a *Parent/Healthcare Provider Request for Administration of Medication by School Personnel* form must be completed by the parent for each 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 his or her 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 a 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 he or she has written authorization from his or her parent and a physician or other licensed health-care provider. The student must also demonstrate to his or her 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** on page 78.

Steroids (Secondary Grade Levels Only)

State law prohibits any student from possessing, dispensing, delivering, or administering an anabolic steroid. Anabolic steroids are for physician-prescribed medical use only.

Bodybuilding, 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; and
- Safe, supportive, and positive school climates.

For more information on these programs, visit the [RISD Counseling Services website](#).

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 campus'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 may 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 Evaluation** on page 15 and **Consent to Provide a Mental Health Care Service** on page 17 for the district's procedures for recommending a mental health intervention and the mental health liaison's contact information;
- **Counseling** on page 53 for the district's comprehensive school counseling program;
- **Physical and Mental Health Resources** on page 79 for campus and community mental and physical health resources; and
- **Policies and Procedures that Promote Student Physical and Mental Health** on page 79 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 to 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 at least 225 minutes of moderate or vigorous physical activity within each two-week period for at least four semesters, in accordance with policies at EHAB, EHAC, EHBG, and FFA.

For additional information on the district's junior high and middle school student physical activity programs and requirements, please see the 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 obtain the results of his or her child's physical fitness assessment conducted during the school year by contacting their physical education teacher.

Physical Health Screenings/Examinations

Athletics Participation (Secondary Grade Levels Only)

For certain extracurricular activities, a student must submit certification from an authorized health-care provider. The certification must state that the student has been examined and is physically able to participate in the relevant program, including:

- A district athletics program.
- District marching band.
- Any district extracurricular program identified by the superintendent.

RISD *requires annual physicals for student athletes and marching band*. 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 his or her 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 the district's website [Health Information](#) page 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** on page 73.]

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/schoolhealth/allergiesandanaphylaxis/) website (<https://www.dshs.texas.gov/schoolhealth/allergiesandanaphylaxis/>)

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 through the school nurse.

[See **Celebrations** on page 45 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.

[See **A Student with Physical or Mental Impairments Protected under Section 504** on page 33 and contact the school nurse for more information.]

Tobacco and E-Cigarettes Prohibited (All Grade Levels and All Others on School Property)

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.

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:

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](https://pol.tasb.org/PolicyOnline?key=370), available at <https://pol.tasb.org/PolicyOnline?key=370>.

- 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: FFH
- Freedom from Bullying: FFI

The district has developed administrative procedures as necessary to implement the above policies and plans.

School Health Advisory Council (SHAC) (All Grade Levels)

During the preceding school year, the district's School Health Advisory Council (SHAC) held 5 meetings. Additional information regarding the district's SHAC is available from the district website.

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://web.risd.org/healthpe/shac/>

[See **Consent to Human Sexuality Instruction** on page 15, **Consent to Instruction on Prevention of Child Abuse, Family Violence, Dating Violence, and Sex Trafficking** on page 16, 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. For questions about the content or implementation of the district's wellness policy and plan, please see the Wellness Policy district webpage at <https://web.risd.org/childnutrition/wellness-policy/>

Homework (All Grade Levels)

Each campus shall develop a consistent process for homework guidelines through the leadership of the principal in collaboration with the campus teachers. The process should be in place by the start of each school year and should include time recommendations for assignments, clearly stated purposes for homework, strategies for teachers and parents, and the communication plan to be used with parents and students at the campus and classroom teacher level. The campus homework process must be provided to parents and students at the beginning of the school year and to new parents when enrolling their students.

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 his or her ability, will verify the person's authority to take custody of the student.

The principal will immediately notify the superintendent or her designee 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, a note provided by the parent must be submitted to the main office no later than two hours prior to the student's need 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 his or her 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. A student who is sent home by the school nurse still must submit an excuse note upon return to 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 his or her 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 him- or herself out of school. Documentation regarding the reason for the absence will be required.

During Lunch

RISD schools are closed campuses during the instructional day. Campus principals may, but are not required to, allow adult visitors for lunch or at designated campus activities in accordance with their established campus procedures. Principals also may limit the type of

visitor (e.g., parents/guardians only) or number of visitors, as well as the frequency and duration of visitors.

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.

Late Work

Teachers shall inform students and parents of grading guidelines for assignments/homework that are not turned in at the time designated by the teacher. Specified timelines and point reductions should be communicated at the beginning of each semester. Point reductions for late work should be reasonable, and more severe point reductions should be administered only after the initial specified timeline has not been met.

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.

The student will be responsible for obtaining and completing the makeup work within the time specified by the teacher. A student who does not make up assigned work within the time allotted by the teacher will receive a grade of zero for the assignment.

The student is encouraged to speak with his or her teacher if the student knows of an absence ahead of time so that the teacher and student may plan any makeup work. Please remember the importance of student attendance at school. With limited exceptions, all absences count for the 90 percent threshold set in state law regarding attendance for credit or final grade. [See **Attendance for Credit or Final Grade** on page 38.]

A student involved in an extracurricular activity must notify his or her teachers ahead of time about any absences.

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

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), he or she 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 in its educational programs or activities. The requirement not to discriminate extends employment. Inquiries about the application of Title IX may be referred to the district's Title IX Coordinator (see below), to the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights of the Department of Education, or both.

Other federal laws that prohibit discrimination include Title VI, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, the Age Discrimination Act, the Boy Scouts Act, and Title II.

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 gender-based harassment:

Dr. Matthew Gibbins
Assistant Superintendent

400 S. Greenville Ave., Richardson, TX 75081
matthew.gibbins@risd.org
469-593-0280

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 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 at FFH(LOCAL).

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:

Alicia Zornig
Director, 504
701 W. Beltline Rd., Bldg D., Richardson TX 75080
alica.zornig@risd.org
469-593-7517

- For all other concerns regarding discrimination, see the superintendent:

Tabitha Branum
Superintendent
400 S. Greenville, Richardson, TX 75081
tabitha.branum@risd.org

[See policies FB, FFH, and GKD for more information.]

Nontraditional Academic Programs (All Grade Levels)

RISD is committed to serving the needs of all students, which includes those students who need a nontraditional instructional arrangement.

Memorial Park Academy (MPA) is a program of choice that allows qualifying RISD secondary students to experience a rigorous, self-paced curriculum while working in a small group setting to earn high school credits needed to earn a high school diploma. Students may attend MPA at no cost. MPA offers two (2) sessions each day and students attend for four (4) hours (8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. and 12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.). Students who desire to enroll in the MPA program must complete an application and participate in an interview. The MPA program counselor will evaluate the student's transcript and work with the student to develop a strategy to allow the student to graduate under his/her desired graduation plan. Tutoring is available to struggling students. Students who complete their studies in the MPA program may participate in graduation ceremonies with their home campus and will receive a diploma from their home campus. For more information about this program, contact your campus counselor.

Evening School. RISD secondary students are eligible to enroll in evening school for the purpose of earning credits lost (credit recovery). Evening school is not recommended for advancement purposes in core courses. The setting does not provide for intense academic development needed to prepare students for the EOC assessments that they must pass to graduate in RISD and other Texas public schools. College admissions committees, particularly

in competitive arenas, carefully review all aspects of the student's transcript. In addition to evaluating the rigor of course choices, they often consider the options students choose to earn those course credits. Although necessary as a backup option for credit recovery in a course in which the student has previously been instructed, to enroll in evening school as an initial manner of earning core course credit is not recommended. See your counselor for night school information, applications and related STAAR and EOC requirements.

Parent and Family Engagement (All Grade Levels)

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** on page 53.]
- Attending scheduled conferences and requesting additional conferences as needed. To schedule a telephone or in-person conference with a teacher, school counselor, or principal, please call the school office for an appointment. The teacher will usually return your call or meet with you during his or her conference period or before or after school. [See **Report Cards/Progress Reports and Conferences** on page 90.]
- Becoming a school volunteer. [See **Volunteers** on page 106 and policy GKG for more information.]
- Participating in campus 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:

Dr. Carrie Thomas
Director of Community Engagement
400 S. Greenville, Richardson, TX 75081
carrie.thomas@risd.org
469-593-0307

- 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)** on page 80 and policies BDF, EHAA, FFA for more information.]
- Being aware of the school's ongoing bullying and harassment prevention efforts.
- Contact 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 typically held on the *first Thursday* of each month at 6 p.m. at Administration Building at 400 S. Greenville, Richardson, TX 75081. An agenda for a regular or special meeting is posted no later than 72 hours before each meeting online at www.risd.org. [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 and pay a fee 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** on page 22.]

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.]

Prayer (All Grade Levels)

The following shall apply:

1. The District shall permit private, voluntary prayer or meditation by individuals. Such activity shall not be disruptive or interfere with the rights of others.
2. The District and its employees acting in their official capacities shall not compose, sponsor, lead, encourage or suggest the recitation of prayers in school facilities during school hours or before, during, or after any school-sponsored public athletic or extracurricular event.
3. The District shall not permit the recitation of student-initiated public prayers as part of an organized class, team, or school-sponsored activity. However, nothing prohibits students from engaging in voluntary private individual or group prayer that does not occur under the sponsorship or involvement of the District or its employees. Thus, a student or group of students, for example, may elect to say a private prayer not under school sponsorship before lunch or before an athletic contest. Students may also discuss religious matters with their peers to the extent that a material disruption does not occur, just as they would other topics or nonreligious activities.

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, and
- Any other necessary academic information as determined by the district.

Prekindergarten OR Kindergarten

A parent may request in writing that a student repeat prekindergarten or kindergarten.

Elementary and Middle/Junior High Grade Levels

Grades 1-2

Promotion of students in grades 1 and 2 shall be based on formal and informal assessments of the TEKS.

Grades 3-6

To be promoted from one grade level to the next, a student must attain an overall average of seventy (70) or above for all subject areas and a grade of seventy (70) or above in language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies.

Junior High School Promotion — Grades 7 & 8

To be promoted from one grade level to the next, a student shall attain an overall average of seventy (70) or above for the year in all courses taken. The overall average shall be derived by averaging the final numerical score for all courses taken. In addition, students shall attain an average of seventy (70) or above in all of the following subjects: language arts, mathematics, social studies, and science.

Note:

- Students in grades 3-8 receiving instruction above their enrolled grade level will take the State Assessment that correlates to the instruction they are receiving. If there is not a State Assessment for the above grade level instruction, the student will be given the State Assessment of their enrolled grade to meet federal and state requirements.
- If a student in grade 3-8 is enrolled in a class or course intended for students above his/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/she is enrolled, unless otherwise required to do so by federal law.

See EIE(LOCAL).

Elementary and Middle/Junior High School Level Retention

HB 3803 provides that a parent may elect for their student to repeat the grade in which the student was enrolled in the previous year up to grade 8.

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** on page 66.]

Students will also have multiple opportunities to retake EOC assessments. [See **Graduation** on page 58 and **Standardized Testing** on page 101.]

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 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** on page 82.]

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.

During the fourth week of a nine-week grading period, parents will receive a progress report if their child's performance in English language arts, mathematics, science, or social studies is near or below 70 or is below the expected level of performance. If a student receives a grade lower than 70 in any class or subject at the end of a grading period, the parent will be asked to schedule a conference with the teacher. Contact your child's teacher or principal to schedule a conference.

Teachers follow grading guidelines that have been approved by the principal pursuant to the board-adopted policy. Grading guidelines are designed to reflect each student's relative mastery of each assignment. 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 **Grading Guidelines** on page 66 and policy EIA(LOCAL) for more information.]

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.

Report cards and unsatisfactory progress reports must be signed by the parent and returned to the school. The district may communicate academic information about a student electronically, including for progress reporting purposes. 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** on page 56.]

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 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. 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 prior to 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, English II, Biology, and 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 on page 66.] 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 subsequent school year by:

- 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, or
- Providing supplemental instruction.

A student may be required to attend any assigned supplemental instruction program before or after school or during the summer.

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.

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 by *contacting Crime Stoppers*.
- 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

Generally, the district does not provide accident insurance for students. 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 district purchases accident insurance coverage for students who attend work based learning programs off campus.

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 “Hands-Only” CPR and AED training at least once to students enrolled in grades 7–12 Health 1 class or 7-12 health credit bearing class through Career and Technology. 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:

- [Homeland Security's Stop the Bleed \(https://www.dhs.gov/stopthebleed\)](https://www.dhs.gov/stopthebleed)
- [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:

- The district has received written authorization from a person having the right to consent;
- That person cannot be contacted; and
- 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 Closure Information

Each year, parents are asked to complete an emergency release form to provide contact information in the event that 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 protocol.

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 notify all parents directly through phone, email and SMS (text) information on file, and the RISD Mobile Parent App. In addition, the district may also alert the community in the following ways: the RISD Homepage at <http://risd.org>; campus homepages; district social media accounts (Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/RichardsonISD>; Twitter @RichardsonISD; Instagram *InstaRISD*); and/or through major local media outlets.

[See **Automated Emergency Communications** on page 50.]

SAT, ACT, and Other Standardized Tests

ACT & SAT are entrance exams used by most colleges and universities to make admission decisions. They are multiple-choice tests administered by ACT & College Board (SAT).

The purpose of these tests are to measure a high school student's readiness for college and provide colleges with one common data point that can be used to compare all applicants. College admission officers will review standardized test scores alongside your high school GPA, the classes taken in high school, letters of recommendation from teachers, counselors and mentors, extracurricular activities, admissions interviews, and personal essays. How important your test scores are in the college application process varies from school to school.

While some schools have become "test optional" or removed ACT & College Board (SAT) testing requirements from admission, many schools still require these test scores for financial aid or merit-based scholarships.

Richardson ISD provides all juniors with an opportunity to participate in the ACT test during the school day, at no cost to them or their families. RISD will provide an online ACT test without writing to juniors at their RISD campus in the spring. Students will automatically be enrolled for the ACT School Day Test by their high school campus.

Note: Participation in these assessments may qualify a student to receive a performance acknowledgement on his/her diploma and transcript under the foundation graduation program and may qualify as a substitute for an EOC testing requirement. 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.

[See Standardized Testing on page 90.]

Schedule Changes (Middle/Junior High and High School Grade Levels)

Determining Criteria for Schedule Changes –

Schedule changes are normally made for one or more of the following conditions:

1. A student fails a required course making a schedule adjustment necessary.
2. Change is needed as a result of credit earned in summer school.
3. Change is needed to balance class loads within the master schedule.
4. Change is needed as the result of a student having a schedule which obviously is not educationally defensible, i.e., not having the course required or not having the courses needed for graduation.
5. Change is needed as a result of a student being elected to or administratively

assigned to an activity within the school.

6. Change is needed to enable a student to graduate in the particular year.
7. Any change which, in the judgment of the principal, is in the best interest of a student.

Adding and Dropping Courses –

1. A student may add or drop a course during the first five class days of each semester if conditions essential for a schedule change are met.
2. Students dropping courses will normally be reassigned for the balance of the semester.
3. At the end of week 3 of the first 9-week cycle, students may request a schedule change from an AP/PreAP or OnRamps class to an academic course. The grade the student earned in the first 3 weeks will be transferred to the newly scheduled academic level class. After the end of week four of the first 9-weeks cycle, the next opportunity to drop a Pre-AP/AP or OnRamps course will be at the end of the semester.
4. A student may drop a regular course up to and including the last day of the first nine weeks of each semester (or the 45th school day of the semester) if dropping the course, the student will still have the required number of classes (see Full-Time Attendance Requirements).
5. A student may not drop a one-semester course after the last day of the ninth week of each semester (or the 45th school day of the semester).
6. Written parental permission is required for any secondary student to add or drop a course.

Eligibility Requirements Must be Considered

If a student drops a course with a failing average later than the end of the fourth week of the first grading period, it is considered a failing grade for eligibility purposes except as follows:

Dropping an advanced class, which is exempted for no-pass, no-play does not cause loss of eligibility **unless** full-time status is affected. RISD policy requires that the student be enrolled in **at least 7** state and local credit-bearing courses for full-time status unless the opt-out provision has been granted by the campus administrator. (See Appendix for list of advanced classes).

Contact person: Athletics Director

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 the district's designee:

Senior Executive Director of Operations at 469-593-0170.

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 your campus or apply for meal benefits online at <https://www.schoolcafe.com/RICHARDSONISD>. Online applications are processed more quickly than paper applications.

[See policy CO 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.

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 (including gender identity and sexual orientation), 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

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>), 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 on page 84 for the name and contact information for the Title IX coordinator, ADA/Section 504 coordinator, and superintendent for other concerns about discrimination.

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 regarding 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 designee:

Senior Executive Director of Operations at 469-593-0170.

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 during the following times with a teacher permit:

- Elementary School Libraries: 7:50 a.m. - 3:10 p.m.
- Junior High School Libraries: 8:15 a.m. - 3:40 p.m.
- High School Libraries: 9:00 a.m. - 4:20 a.m.

* Some school libraries might be open before and/or after school. Contact your school's LITE for more information.

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. Contact your campus administrator for additional information.

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 Noncurriculum-Related Groups (Secondary Grade Levels Only)

Student-organized, student-led noncurriculum-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.

School-Sponsored Field Trips (All Grade Levels)

The district periodically takes students on field trips for educational purposes.

A parent must provide written permission for a student to participate in a field trip and shall be approved in advance by the campus principal and connected directly to an instructional program or activity of the district.

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)** on page 65 for more information.

The district is not responsible for refunding fees paid directly to a third-party vendor.

Searches

Searches in General (All Grade Levels)

In the interest of promoting student safety and drug-free schools, district officials may occasionally conduct searches.

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 suspicionless 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. Students are subject to random metal detector searches.

Telecommunications 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** on page 62 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.

[See **Steroids** on page 75]

Vehicles on Campus (Secondary Grade Levels Only)

A student is fully responsible for the security and content of his/her vehicle parked on District property and must make certain that the parked vehicle remains locked and he/she must remain in possession of the keys. Vehicles parked on District property are under the jurisdiction of the District and the student must agree to comply with District rules as a condition of parking on District property. School officials may search any vehicle any time there is reasonable cause to do so, with or without permission of the student. If a vehicle subject to search is locked, the student will be asked to unlock the vehicle. The District will contact the parent if the student refuses to unlock the vehicle. If the parent refuses the search or if the parent cannot be reached, the District will turn the matter over to law enforcement. Where appropriate, the District will contact law enforcement even when permission to search is granted.

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 learners, 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 their school principal for the name and contact information for the appropriate program director.

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/American College Test)

ACT & SAT are entrance exams used by most colleges and universities to make admission decisions. They are multiple-choice tests administered by ACT & College Board (SAT). The purpose of these tests are to measure a high school student's readiness for college and provide colleges with one common data point that can be used to compare all applicants. College admission officers will review standardized test scores alongside your high school GPA, the classes taken in high school, letters of recommendation from teachers, counselors and mentors, extracurricular activities, admissions interviews, and personal essays. How important your test scores are in the college application process varies from school to school. While some schools have become "test optional" or removed ACT & College Board (SAT) testing requirements from admission, many schools still require these test scores for financial aid or merit-based scholarships.

Richardson ISD provides all juniors with an opportunity to participate in the ACT test during the school day, at no cost to them or their families. RISD will provide an online ACT test without writing to juniors at their RISD campus in the spring. Students will automatically be enrolled for the ACT School Day Test by their high school campus.

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 (EOC) 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 (TSIA 2) assessment. The TSIA 2 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 or as a state approved College, Career and Military Readiness (CCMR) measurement.

Tardies (All Grade Levels)

Occasionally, an unavoidable delay will cause a student to be tardy. When a student is tardy, valuable instructional time is missed and causes a disruption in the educational process. Discipline for tardiness will be handled at the campus level.

Elementary Students

A student who is not in his/her assigned classroom when the tardy bell rings is tardy. A student who is more than fifteen (15) minutes late to a class period may be designated as absent for a partial day and the absence may be counted as an unexcused absence on the attendance record.

Secondary Students

A student who is not in his/her assigned classroom when the tardy bell rings is tardy. Students who are tardy must follow the campus Tardy Eliminator process to obtain permission to enter class after the tardy bell. A student who is more than fifteen (15) minutes late for class may be designated as absent for a partial day and the absence may be counted as unexcused.

A student who is more than 15 minutes tardy to class may be assigned to detention hall or given another appropriate consequence.

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)** on page 87. For information on the RISD Print Books Title Select Opt Out Program <https://web.risd.org/libraryit/opt-out-program/>

Transfers (All Grade Levels)

Under state and federal law, a parent may request the transfer of his/her child to:

- another classroom or campus if the board or its designee has determined that the child has been a victim of bullying including cyberbullying (as defined by the Education Code). Transportation is not provided for a transfer to another campus. (Consult your principal if the District determines that your child has engaged in bullying and will be transferred to another campus.)
- attend a safe public school in the District if the child attends school at a campus identified by TEA as persistently dangerous or if the child has been a victim of a violent criminal offense while at school or on school grounds.
- another campus if the child has been the victim of a sexual assault by another student assigned to the same campus, whether the that assault occurred on or off campus, and

that student has been convicted of or placed on deferred adjudication for that assault. (*Note:* Transportation is not provided for transfer to another campus.)

- the same campus where any other student residing in the home who receives special education services if the appropriate grade level for the transferring student is offered at the campus. (*Note:* The District is not required to provide transportation to the other student(s) in the home.)
- the requested campus (subject to availability) upon the request of a parent if the parent is a peace officer (as defined by the section 1701.001 of the Texas Occupations Code) or a servicemember (defined as an active-duty member of the U.S. armed forces or the Texas National Guard).

The campus principal can provide information about specific requirements that may apply to these transfers. 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** on page 29, **Bullying** on page 41, and **A Student Who Has Learning Difficulties or Who Needs Special Education or Section 504 Services** on page 33, 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 his or her 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** on page 98.]

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 subsequent 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.

A parent may designate a child-care facility or grandparent's residence as the regular pickup and drop-off location for his or her 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 469-593-5900 or email student.transportation@risd.org.

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:

- 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.
- Observe all usual classroom and campus rules.
- 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 self-contained 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 Executive Director of Special Student Services (469-593-7500) 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** on page 18 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 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.

Lunch and Campus Activities

RISD schools are closed campuses during the instructional day. Campus principals may, but are not required to, allow adult visitors for lunch or at designated campus activities in accordance with their established campus procedures. Principals also may limit the type of visitor (*e.g.*, parents/guardians only) or number of visitors, as well as the frequency and duration of visitors.

[See **Consent to Video or Audio Record a Student when Not Already Permitted by Law** on page 18 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:

- The person poses a substantial risk of harm to any person; or
- 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).

[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.

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:

Dr. Carrie Thomas
Director of Community Engagement
400 South Greenville, Richardson, TX 75081
carrie.thomas@risd.org
469-593- 0307

RISD uses VOLY, a volunteer management system, to post volunteer opportunities and find volunteers. To volunteer on an RISD campus, you will need to create a VOLY account by visiting the VOLY website at <https://web.risd.org/home/volunteer/>

Richardson ISD requires every volunteer re-register with VOLY annually to be eligible for volunteer opportunities during each school year. RISD also requires each volunteer undergo a background check before working with students. You will be prompted to complete the background check during the VOLY account creation or re-registration process. Volunteers will receive an email with their background check approval, which can take up to two or three weeks.

Once approved, you will be able to sign up directly for volunteer opportunities through the VOLY platform.

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.

A student's continuous, consecutive absences without notification may result in administrative withdrawal from enrollment.

Glossary

The glossary provides legal and locally established definitions and is intended to assist readers in understanding terms related to the *Student and Parent Handbook and the Student Code of Conduct*.

Accelerated instruction, including supplemental instruction, is an intensive educational program designed to help an individual student acquire the knowledge and skills required at his or her 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 his or her 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 he or she begins 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.

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.

TXVSN stands for the Texas Virtual School Network, which provides online courses for Texas students to supplement the instructional programs of public school districts. Courses are taught by qualified instructors and are equivalent in rigor and scope to a course taught in a traditional classroom setting.

UIL refers to the University Interscholastic League, the statewide, voluntary nonprofit organization that oversees educational extracurricular academic, athletic, and music contests.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A

Options and Requirements

Information for providing assistance to students who have learning difficulties or who may require special education services.

If a child is experiencing learning difficulties, the parent may contact the person listed below to learn about the District's overall general education referral or screening system for support services. This system links students to a variety of support options, including referral for a special education evaluation. Students having difficulty in the regular classroom should be considered for tutorial, compensatory, and other support 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.

At any time, a parent is entitled to request an evaluation for special education services. Within a reasonable amount of time, the District must decide if the evaluation is needed. If evaluation is needed, the parent will be notified and asked to provide consent for the evaluation. The District must complete the evaluation and the report within the time prescribed by law once the District receives the written consent for testing. The District must give a copy of the report to the parent.

If the District determines that the evaluation is not needed, the District will provide the parent with a written notice that explains why the child will not be evaluated. This written notice will include a statement that informs the parent of their rights if they disagree with the District. Additionally, the notice must inform the parent how to obtain a copy of the *Notice of Procedural Safeguards - Rights of Parents of Students with Disabilities*. Additional information regarding the IDEA is available from the District in a companion document, *A Guide to the Admission, Review, and Dismissal Process*.

The following websites provide information to those who are seeking information and resources specific to students and their families:

- Texas Project First (<http://www.texasprojectfirst.org>)
- Partners Resource Network (<http://prntexas.org/>)

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

Contact Person: Executive Director Special Student Services
Phone Number: 469-593-7500

APPENDIX B

Richardson ISD Extracurricular Code of Conduct 2023-2024

Statement of Expectations:

The Richardson Independent School District believes that being involved in extracurricular activities is an honor. Participation in one or more of these activities is considered a privilege, not a right. The following are expectations of our students:

- ✓ Obtain a quality education as the primary reason for attending school
- ✓ Compete at the highest level while promoting good sportsmanship and courteous behavior
- ✓ Exhibit positive leadership
- ✓ Develop and maintain high morals and ethical values
- ✓ Exhibit conduct becoming of a young adult
- ✓ Exhibit respect to sponsors, coaches, faculty, officials, opponents and fellow students
- ✓ Develop and show school pride

Standards for District Extra-Curricular Activities:

Richardson ISD students are expected to adhere to the District Student Code of Conduct as it applies to school-related and/or school sponsored activities. Prior to participation in a Richardson ISD Extracurricular activity, students and parents must also agree to abide by all guidelines outlined in the Extracurricular Code of Conduct. Students involved in extracurricular activities are expected to maintain high standards of ethical conduct. Extracurricular participation is a privilege and not a right. Any misconduct that reflects negatively on the Richardson Independent School District will fall under these Codes of Conduct. These guidelines are developed to deal with misconduct that occurs within the school's jurisdiction as well as outside of the school's jurisdiction, regardless of time or location. Disciplinary action or suspension will be mandated to students who are involved in any disciplinary infraction on or off campus including, but not limited to possession or use of drugs, improper use of prescription medicines, alcohol or tobacco, violent behavior, any inappropriate behavior including presence at functions where illegal substances are being consumed and other offenses that result in the violation of the district Student Code of Conduct, which in turn results in a In School Suspension (ISS) (other than tardies or dress code violations), DAEP, Off Campus Suspension or expulsion. In the event that a student is responsible for multiple violations prior to the initial investigation it may be determined that a higher-level consequence be deemed appropriate.

Automatic student removal from a program:

Any inappropriate behavior, including representation on social media, that is disrespectful to the district, school, program, or staff may result in immediate removal.

RISD District-Wide Guidelines for Extracurricular Students:

Alcohol & Illegal Drugs

(Revised March 2023)

RISD expects that all students, including students who participate in any Extracurricular Activities (Extracurricular Students) will conduct themselves at all times in an exemplary manner that brings honor to the District, their school, and themselves. Participation in extracurricular activities is a privilege and is conditioned on the student's compliance with all rules and regulations of the activity and District policies and guidelines, including these guidelines. The use, possession, sale, or furnishing to others of alcohol or drugs of any kind and/or being under the influence of alcohol or illegal substances is strictly prohibited (the Prohibition). Any student who violates the Prohibition is not in compliance with the rules of extracurricular participation and will be subject to disciplinary measures, which could result in removal from the extracurricular activities in which the student participates.

These guidelines and statement of consequences apply to all extracurricular activities sponsored by the Richardson Independent School District and to all Extracurricular Students. The purpose of these guidelines is to deter and eliminate any use, possession, sale, or the furnishing to others of alcohol or other drugs, help students avoid drug and alcohol use, establish consistency in consequences across all activities for students who do not comply with the Prohibition, promote a high quality educational experience in all activities and assist RISD in maintaining order and a safe learning environment and to promote a high level of civic and individual responsibility among students.

Extracurricular students are subject to these guidelines at all times throughout the twelve-month calendar year, whether the extracurricular activity is "in season" or inactive and on weekends and during school holidays. Refer also to Board Policy FO (Local).

To ensure consistency among activities, these guidelines shall be used by all extracurricular groups. However, nothing in these guidelines prohibits an extracurricular activity sponsor from developing activity guidelines and rules to address topics other than alcohol or illegal drug activities.

The following definitions will apply to these guidelines:

- Leadership Position- A position or office an Extracurricular Student holds in an organization or group either by election or appointment. Such positions may include without limitation: captain, officer, squad leader, drum major, section chair, etc.
- In Proximity – To be captured via still picture, video, internet site, social media feed, site, etc., or any other electronic capture where the school determines based on reasonable evidence that the student knows or should know he/she is (i) in a place where alcohol, illegal substances, and/or drug paraphernalia are present, and/or (ii) possessing, using, and/or being under the influence of alcohol, illegal substances, and/or drug paraphernalia. (e.g., social media posts shows student at social event where alcohol is visible and being consumed; social media post shows student posing in front

of cases of unopened alcohol; student captured holding and/or consuming alcohol or illegal substances at a sporting event; Picture of student holding drug paraphernalia).

- Parent- A student's biological or adoptive parent or parents, legal guardian, or other person in lawful control of the student.

- Period of removal- Period of time during which an Extracurricular Student is excluded from any participation in an extracurricular activity due to violation of the Prohibition. During a period of removal, an Extracurricular Student may not wear his/her uniform, travel with the team or organization, or otherwise act as a representative of the team or organization.

- Prescription Drugs- A drug authorized by a licensed physician specifically for that student. A student who uses a prescription drug in a manner prescribed by the student's physician and who has followed school policies in such use shall not be considered to have violated this policy.

- Possession- To have an item in or on one's personal being or property, including without limitation, clothing, purse, backpack, private vehicle, motorcycle or bicycle used for transportation to or from school or school-related events, telecommunication or electronic device, or other property used by the student such as a desk, locker, or storage area.

- Use (Alcohol/Substance) - Voluntarily introducing into one's body, by any means, a prohibited substance. For example, and without limitation, consuming or ingesting alcohol in any manner is "use" of alcohol; smoking or ingesting marijuana, an unlawful derivative or look-alike of marijuana, or other illegal substances is "use" of marijuana or other illegal substance.

- Extracurricular Activities- School sponsored activities including but not limited to Dance & Drill Teams, Bell Guards, Cheerleaders, Spirit Groups, Sports, Fine Arts, Clubs, UIL governed Activities, Mock Trial, ACDEC, and other school sponsored student activities unique to a campus.

An Extracurricular Student violates the Prohibition if he or she:

- Uses, possesses, sells, or furnishes alcohol or illegal substances to another;
- Receives an MIP (Minor in Possession), MIC (Consumption of Alcohol by a Minor), DWI (Driving While Intoxicated), DUI (Driving Under the Influence of an Illegal Substance), or other citation for the illegal use or possession of alcohol/drugs, or furnishing alcohol/drugs to another in a non-school setting; *Note:* An Extracurricular Student who receives an MIP, MIC, DUI, DWI, or other alcohol/drug citation shall promptly notify the activity sponsor. An Extracurricular Student who fails to do so may be subject to further disciplinary action once the activity sponsor or administrator learns of the offense; is observed by a faculty or staff member using, possessing, or furnishing to another student any drugs, including alcohol, on or off school property (observation via internet site, video, still picture, or other media will be considered);
- Receives any citation for or is arrested for illegal alcohol/drug activity or substance on or off school property (*See Note* above);
- Performs or participates in an extracurricular activity while under the influence of alcohol or other drugs.
- Is determined to be In Proximity to alcohol, illegal substance, and/or drug paraphernalia.

Process: When an activity sponsor or campus administrator learns that an Extracurricular Student has violated the Prohibition, the sponsor or administrator will attempt to gather as much information as is available about the suspected violation and shall immediately communicate with the student and his/her parent to review the information. The sponsor or administrator will take reasonable steps to ensure the student and his/her parents are notified of the suspected violation of the Prohibition and to offer the student and his/her parent a meeting with the administrator and/or sponsor and give them an opportunity to provide information about the student's suspected actions. Parents and/or students who refuse to promptly meet with the sponsor or administrator forfeit their opportunity for a conference. The administrator or sponsor will determine the start date for the consequence and will notify the student and his/her parent in writing of the start date and reasons for any consequences imposed.

When a student self-reports a violation of these guidelines that does not result in the issuance of a citation or other penalty from law enforcement before the District otherwise learns of the student's actions, the District may, in its sole discretion, consider the student's self-report as a mitigating factor to support a reduced probationary period for a first offense.

A student or parent who is not satisfied with the outcome of the conference or the principal's decision may appeal the decision through the District's Student and Parent Complaint Policy (FNG (Local)), but the consequence will not be delayed during any appeal. Copies of the policy are available on the District's website or may be obtained from the school.

CONSEQUENCES

All Extracurricular Students are expected to comply with these guidelines. An Extracurricular Student who does not do so is subject to disciplinary action. While some offenses may be so severe that they will result in immediate removal from the extracurricular activity and/or Disciplinary Alternative Education Program (DAEP) placement, where appropriate, the District will consider allowing a student who violates the Prohibition to serve a last chance probationary period if the violation is the first instance in which the student has failed to comply with these guidelines.

First Offense: Probationary Removal. Except where the severity or circumstance of a student's offense is so severe that immediate removal to DAEP or expulsion is required, a student's first violation of the Prohibition will result in the Extracurricular Student's (i) removal for the remainder of the school year from all leadership positions he or she holds, including any such positions that the student might seek or be appointed to later in the school year; and (ii) except where the first violation also results in DAEP placement or expulsion, removal from all extracurricular activities for 20 school days or UIL Competition dates. (*See below.)

- The 20 school days or UIL Competition dates removal period start at the parent / student / principal conference. If the parent/student forfeits the conference, the principal will determine the start date;

- During the 20-day removal period, the student and the parent must attend and successfully complete the RISD alcohol / drug educational program. Students may be required to have follow-up sessions with the Intervention Specialist on campus. The student is responsible for all fees associated with the program. A student and parent must complete the educational program before the student will be reinstated after the removal period.
- If the leadership position from which the student is removed is connected with a credit bearing class, the student may continue to remain enrolled in the class and the sponsor will determine appropriate activities for the student.
- Students must participate in practices for the extracurricular activities while on probation.
- Students may not wear or display identifying team or activity uniforms, attire, or accessories.
- If competition or performance is scheduled during the summer or on a school holiday (excluding weekends), any days on which the student's team or group actually competes or performs will be counted toward completion of the 20-day probation period.
- "UIL Competition Date" means a day on which the individual or group actually competes or performs in a UIL or Non- UIL sponsored activity when the school is represented.
- If the conduct results in the student's placement in a DAEP, the period of removal will be for the duration of the DAEP placement.

If the student violated the Prohibition due to him/her being determined to be In Proximity without possession, use or being under the influence, and the student has not already violated the Prohibition due to being In Proximity, the student may avoid the applicable consequence (Probationary Removal or Removal) for the In Proximity violation provided the student and his/her parent/guardian (i) participate in an administrative conference with the principal, and (ii) successfully complete the alcohol/drug program by the date assigned along with any follow up with the campus intervention specialist as determined by the principal. A second Violation due to the student being In Proximity will be treated as a first or second offense and subject to the applicable consequence (Probationary Removal or Removal).

An Extracurricular Student can receive only one probation period for violating the Prohibition during the students' high school career.

Second Offense: A second offense will result in removal from all extracurricular activities for 60 days and removal from leadership positions for the remainder of the school year.

- If the infraction occurs and/or is discovered 60 or less days prior to the end of the school year, the student will be removed from all extracurricular activities and leadership positions for at least 60 school days or UIL Competition dates. The removal days may extend into the next school year.

- Students may not wear or display identifying team or activity uniforms, attire, or accessories.
- Students may not travel with the team or organization, or otherwise act as a representative of the team or organization.
- At the beginning of a new school year, an Extracurricular Student is eligible to participate in extracurricular activities and to pursue future leadership positions after a second offense if the student has “sat out” of all extracurricular activities for no less than 60 school days or UIL Competition days and has otherwise complied with all conditions of his/her removal for the second offense.

Third Offense: A third offense may result in the student’s removal from all extracurricular activities for the remainder of their school career.

APPENDIX C

2023-2024 Extracurricular Activity Acknowledgment and Agreement Form

Student Statement:

My signature below certifies that I have read and understand the RISD District-Wide Guidelines for Extracurricular Students. I agree to comply with all rules and regulations in these guidelines and any additional rules adopted by my school as a condition of participation as a member of an extracurricular activity. I understand that my failure to comply with these guidelines may result in disciplinary action, including dismissal from all extracurricular activities.

Printed Name of Student

Student Signature-Date Signed

Parent/Legal Guardian Statement (for students under 18 years of age):

My signature below certifies that I have read and understand the RISD District-Wide Guidelines for Extracurricular Students. I understand that my student must comply with all rules and regulations written in these guidelines and any additional rules adopted by my student's school as a condition of participation in an extracurricular activity. I understand that his or her failure to comply may result in disciplinary action, including dismissal from all extracurricular activities.

Printed Name of Parent or Legal Guardian

Signature of Parent or Legal Guardian-Date Signed

APPENDIX D

Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) Notice of Parent and Student Rights

Except for disclosures to school officials, disclosures related to some judicial orders or lawfully issued subpoenas, disclosures of directory information, and disclosures to the parent or eligible student, § 99.32 of the FERPA regulations requires the school to record the disclosure. Parents and eligible students have a right to inspect and review the record of disclosures.

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents and students who are eighteen (18) years of age or older ("eligible students") certain rights with respect to the student's education records. These rights are:

1. The right to inspect and review the student's education records within forty-five (45) days after the Richardson Independent School District (RISD or the District) receives a request for access.

- a. Parents or eligible students should submit to the school principal a written request that identifies the records they wish to inspect. The principal or other school official will make arrangements for access and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.

2. The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the parent or eligible student believes are inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy rights under FERPA.

- a. Parents or eligible students who wish to ask the RISD to amend a record should write the school principal, clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it should be changed. If the school decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the school will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.

3. The right to provide written consent before the school discloses personally identifiable information (PII) from the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent.
4. The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the [School] to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the Office that administers FERPA are:

Family Policy Compliance Office
U.S. Department of
Education 400
Maryland Avenue,
SW Washington, DC
20202

The information below describes the disclosures of student records that RISD may make without consent:

FERPA permits disclosure without consent to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the school as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel) or a person serving on the school board. A school official also may include a volunteer or contractor outside of the school who performs an institutional service of function for which the school would otherwise use its own employees and who is under the direct control of the school with respect to the use and maintenance of PII from education records, such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist; a parent or student volunteering to serve on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee; or a parent, student, or other volunteer assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks. A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility.

In addition, upon request, the District discloses education records without consent to officials of another school district in which a student seeks or intends to enroll or is already enrolled if the disclosure is for purposes of the student's enrollment or transfer.

FERPA also permits the disclosure of PII from students' education records, without consent of the parent or eligible student, if the disclosure meets certain conditions found in the FERPA regulations. RISD may disclose PII from the education records of a student without obtaining prior written consent of the parents or the eligible student –

- To other school officials, including teachers, within the educational agency or institution whom the school has determined to have legitimate educational interests. This category includes contractors, consultants, volunteers, or other parties to whom the school has outsourced institutional services or functions, provided certain conditions are met.
- To officials of another school, school system, or institution of postsecondary education where the student seeks or intends to enroll, or where the student is already enrolled if the disclosure is for purposes related to the student's enrollment or transfer.
- To authorized representatives of the U.S. Comptroller General, the U.S. Attorney General, the U.S. Secretary of Education, or State and local educational authorities, such as the State educational agency in the parent or eligible student's State (SEA). Disclosures under this provision may be made in connection with an audit or evaluation of Federal- or State-supported education programs, or for the enforcement of or compliance with Federal legal requirements that relate to those programs. These entities may make further disclosures of PII to outside entities that are designated by them as their authorized representatives to conduct any audit, evaluation, or enforcement or compliance activity on their behalf.

- In connection with financial aid for which the student has applied or which the student has received, if the information is necessary to determine eligibility for the aid, determine the amount of the aid, determine the conditions of the aid, or enforce the terms and conditions of the aid.
- To State and local officials or authorities to whom information is specifically allowed to be reported or disclosed by a State statute that concerns the juvenile justice system and the system's ability to effectively serve, prior to adjudication, the student whose records were released.
- To organizations conducting studies for, or on behalf of, the school, in order to:
 - (a) develop, validate, or administer predictive tests; (b) administer student aid programs; or (c) improve instruction.
- To accrediting organizations to carry out their accrediting functions.
- To parents of an eligible student if the student is a dependent for IRS tax purposes.
- To comply with a judicial order or lawfully issued subpoena.
- To appropriate officials in connection with a health or safety emergency, subject to § 99.36 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR).
- Information the school has designated as "directory information" under § 99.37 of the CFR. *APPENDIX E*

Responsible Use Guidelines and Agreement for Technology Resources

Technology Mission Statement

The Richardson Independent School District (RISD or the District), in partnership with the greater community, will, through the use of information and communication technologies, engage, nurture, and challenge all learners to achieve academic and future excellence.

Purpose

The Responsible Use Guidelines support the District's technology mission statement and vision, promote a strong sense of digital citizenship, and help ensure effective, safe, productive, and instructionally sound use of the technology resources.

Application of Guidelines

The District's technology resources include (without limitation) Internet and wireless connectivity, network devices, telecommunication devices, and software. These guidelines apply to all users of RISD's computer networks, including the resources made available by them, and all devices connected to those networks. No user may harm others through their access and use of district technology resources.

These guidelines include access to any RISD electronics system while on or near school property, in school vehicles and at school-sponsored activities, and includes the appropriate use of district technology resources via off-campus remote access.

General Expectations

The purpose of an RISD user account is to allow the user to engage in connected learning and shared opportunities via facilitated access to the RISD network.

RISD user accounts are owned by the District. Data in any account that constitutes public information may be subject to disclosure pursuant to the Texas Public Information Act.

RISD may retrieve all digital files associated with any user account any time without prior notice and without the permission of any user. RISD reserves the right to monitor all accounts and any content stored in, created, received, or sent through the RISD computer network to maintain system integrity as well as to ensure responsible use. See Board Policy CQ.

Student privacy controls that control the disclosure of information that could identify a student are necessary to ensure compliance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and state law. Parents/guardians provide the appropriate RISD

permissions concerning disclosure of student directory information via the enrollment card. These permissions must be followed with no exceptions.

RISD has put in place a Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA)-compliant, content filtering solution to prevent access to certain sites that may contain material that is inappropriate or of non-educational value, including gaming sites. RISD is not responsible for content accessed by users who connect to the Internet via their own mobile WiFi-type service or personal data plan (smartphones, air-cards, etc.). Visit <https://goo.gl/GbzgrM> for the complete Federal Communications Commission of the CIPA rule.

The Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA) should be followed when using any district technology resource. Visit <https://goo.gl/v9EQrg> for the complete Federal Trade Commission's COPPA rule.

Student web publishing may occur only under the direct supervision of a classroom teacher or school administrator and shall follow all guidelines established in Board Policy CQ. Supervising teachers and administrators are responsible for all material students post to a District or school sponsored website.

All data and information contained in the RISD technology resource systems remain the property of the District.

Electronic mail transmissions and other use of RISD technology resource systems and cloud-based solutions, including Internet access and data storage shall not be considered a user's personal information or property and may be monitored by authorized individuals at any time to ensure appropriate use for educational purposes.

Digital Citizenship

Users of RISD technology resources should practice appropriate digital citizenship. All information transmitted digitally is public and permanent. Appropriate digital citizenship includes, without limitation:

Respecting Yourself. When applicable, select online names that are appropriate. Use appropriate language/content in all online posts, as users continuously represent RISD whenever and wherever they use online communications.

Protecting Yourself. Users will not publish personally identifiable information or data for themselves or anyone else. Users are the custodians of their accounts and are responsible for all activity initiated by and/or performed under their accounts. It is the responsibility of each user to appropriately secure account credentials (user IDs/passwords) and to maintain and back up all of their data. If a user is uncertain whether a specific computer activity is permitted or appropriate, he/she should ask a teacher/administrator before engaging in the activity.

Users should only use online resources whose terms of service fall within the age requirement of their or their students' age. Many resources specifically state the resource is for students thirteen (13) years and older.

Respecting Others. Users will not use technology resources to bully, harass or tease other people. Users will not make an audio or video recording of any student, teacher, administrator, volunteer, or visitor without prior permission from the subject. No user will pose as someone else or pose as a user other than him or herself when online. Users will not access, download, or modify accounts, files, or data belonging to others.

Protecting Others. Users will help maintain a safe computing environment by notifying appropriate campus officials of inappropriate behavior, vulnerabilities, risks, and breaches involving campus technology. Users will respect the privacy of others throughout the RISD network and on the Internet and not share or access Users' folders, files, or data without authorization.

Respecting and Protecting Intellectual Property. Users will adequately cite any and all websites, books, media, etc. used in creating homework or other school projects. Users will respect all copyrights, requesting permission for the use of software, media, and the intellectual property of others.

Google Workspace for Education

RISD offers Google Workspace for Education and all the tools it provides, including District-wide emails for students in grades 2-12. A parent/guardian signature on the annual Acknowledgement for the *Student and Parent Guidebook* and *Student Code of Conduct* serves as the parent's consent for his/her student(s) to have access to these services under school district supervision.

District Account Management

Students and staff may be required to have accounts in third party systems (SchoolWires, GAFE, Scholastic, Discovery Education, etc.) managed by RISD. These RISD accounts will be used at school for instructional purposes, but also may be accessed outside of school.

These tools are deemed relevant to achieving the District's vision, mission, and goals set forth within the curriculum and instructional objectives. In addition, the use of these accounts will help users master effective and proper online skills as required in the Technology Application Standards. The third parties may collect information that is subject to the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA). A parent's signature on the Acknowledgement authorizes the District to provide consent to those third parties under COPPA. Information provided to third parties for such accounts will be limited to a student's name, unique username, student ID number, district provided email address and birthdate (if required).

Single Sign On (SSO)

RISD maintains a Single Sign-On (SSO) solution to better serve the district's digital sign-on needs. The SSO portal consists of easy to use links to district sites and affiliated programs, tailored for each individual. Authentication to these sites is bypassed in the single sign-on environment. This allows both teachers and students to have faster access to common district tools without the need for multiple passwords.

Students PK through 12 will have access to the SSO portal using their Google credentials. (PK - 2 will have Google credentials to use SSO but will not retain access to Gmail.)

Staff will access SSO using their current Active Directory domains accounts.

Electronic Media Guidelines for Communication with Students

In accordance with the administrative regulations, a certified or licensed employee may use electronic media to communicate with currently enrolled students about matters within the scope of the employee's professional responsibilities. Social media usage must be responsible and follow the terms of use, including age, of the individual social media tool.

Employees may only use district approved resources for communication with students.

As role models for the District's students, staff and faculty are responsible for their public conduct even when they are not acting as District employees. Employees will be held to the same professional standards in their public use of electronic media as they are for any other public content. See Board Policy CQ.

Appropriate Use

Users must only open, view, modify, and delete their own computer files.

Internet use in the district must be directly related to educational responsibilities.

Users will be assigned individual email and network accounts and must use on

those accounts and passwords that they have been granted permission by the district to use. All account activity should be for educational purposes only.

Users must immediately report threatening messages or discomfoting Internet files/sites to an administrator.

Users must at all times use the District's electronic communications system, including email, wireless network access, and online tools/resources to communicate only in ways that are kind and respectful.

Users are responsible at all times for their use of the district's electronic communications system and must assume personal responsibility to behave ethically and responsibly, even when technology provides them freedom to do otherwise.

Inappropriate Use*

The following actions are not permitted and could result in the consequences outlined in the Student Code of Conduct.

- Users may not attempt to disable or bypass the RISD content filter, including the use of wireless internet cards or personal hotspots.
- Users may not install unauthorized network access points, or other connections that may not effectively integrate with existing infrastructure.
- Users may not launch denial of services attacks using personal or work technology, hack or engage in behavior that attacks the network or internet access.
- Users may not illegally access or manipulate the information of a private database/system such as grade books and other student information systems.
- Users may not send, save, view, forward, or create harassing or offensive content/messages.
- The District's policies against harassment, bullying, and discrimination for students and employees apply to the use of technology. *See Board Policy CQ; see also Board Policies DIA, FB, FFH, and FFI.*
- Users may not use their accounts for non-school related activities including but not limited to:
 - Using the Internet for financial gain, personal advertising, promotion, non- government related fundraising, or public relations.
 - Using District technology resources for political advertising, or religious proselytizing.
 - Using RISD email or District-provided/managed services for personal gain, to engage in actions deemed inappropriate to others subject to District policy.
- Users should not allow anyone to use a device specifically issued to them.

*In addition to the behavior described above, the Chief Technology Officer, Campus Administrator, or Executive Director of Network Services, is responsible for determining what

is considered to be inappropriate use of the RISD computer network. They may request to disable a user's account or network access at any time. Student discipline will be referred to campus administration, while staff behavior will be referred to the employee's supervisor and Human Resources.

Acknowledgment and Agreement

I have read and will abide by these Responsible Use Guidelines. I understand that if I fail to comply with these Guidelines, I will be subject to appropriate disciplinary consequences which could include suspension of my user account(s) and network access as well as other disciplinary/legal action including but not limited to: discharge from employment, criminal prosecution and/or penalty under appropriate state and federal laws. My signature on the Acknowledgment in the *Employee Handbook* or *Student and Parent Guidebook and Student Code of Conduct* as appropriate, confirms my receipt of these Guidelines and my agreement to follow them as a condition of access to District Technology Resources.

APPENDIX F
IMPORTANT ADDRESSES AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS

RISD Administration Building (469) 593-0000

400 South Greenville Avenue, Richardson 75081, <http://www.risd.org>

RISD Administration Annex

420 South Greenville Avenue, Richardson 75081

High Schools

Berkner High School and STEM Academy (469) 593-7000

1600 E. Spring Valley Rd., Richardson 75081
FAX (469) 593-7085

Lake Highlands High School (469) 593-1000

9449 Church Rd., Dallas 75238
FAX (469) 593-1030
HOTLINE (469) 593-1001

J.J. Pearce High School (469) 593-5000

1600 N. Coit Rd., Richardson 75080
FAX (469) 593-5169

Richardson High School (469)-593-3000

Arts/Law/Science Magnet (housed at RHS) (469) 593-3038
1250 E. Belt Line Rd., Richardson 75080
FAX (469) 593-3010

Nontraditional High School Program

Memorial Park Academy (469) 593-0450

410 S. Greenville Ave., Richardson 75081

Alternative Education Program

Christa McAuliffe Learning Center (469) 593-5800

900 S. Greenville Ave., Richardson 75081
FAX (469) 593-5805

Junior High Schools

Apollo Junior High (469) 593-7900

1600 Apollo Rd., Richardson 75081
FAX (469) 593-7911

Forest Meadow Junior High (469) 593-1500

9373 Whitehurst Dr., Dallas 75243
FAX (469) 593-1461

Lake Highlands Junior High (469) 593-1600

10301 Walnut Hill Ln., Dallas 75238
FAX (469) 593-1606

Liberty Junior High (469) 593-7888

10330 Lawler Rd., Dallas 75243
FAX (469) 593-7764

Parkhill Junior High (469) 593-5600

16500 Shadybank Dr., Dallas 75248
FAX (469) 593-5500

Richardson North Junior High (469) 593-5400

1820 N. Floyd Rd., Richardson 75080
FAX (469) 593-5434

Richardson West Junior High (Arts and Technology Magnet) (469) 593-3700

1309 Holly Dr., Richardson 75080
FAX (469) 593-3666

Westwood Junior High (Math, Science, & Leadership Magnet) (469) 593-3600

7630 Arapaho Rd., Dallas 75248
FAX (469) 593-3508

Elementary Schools

Aikin Elementary (469) 593-1820

12300 Pleasant Valley Dr., Dallas 75243
FAX (469) 593-1763

Arapaho Classical Magnet (469) 593-6400

1300 Cypress Dr., Richardson 75080
FAX (469) 593-6448

Audelia Creek Elementary (469) 593-2900

12600 Audelia Rd., Dallas 75243
FAX (469) 593-2901

Big Springs Elementary (469) 593-8100

3301 W. Campbell Rd., Garland 75044
FAX (469) 593-8114

Bowie Elementary (469) 593-6000

7643 La Manga Dr., Dallas 75248
FAX (469) 593-6066

Brentfield Elementary (469) 593-5730

6767 Brentfield Dr., Dallas 75248
FAX (469) 593-5710

Canyon Creek Elementary (469) 593-6500

2100 Copper Ridge Dr., Richardson 75080
FAX (469) 593-6511

Carolyn G. Bukhair Elementary (469) 593-4900
13900 Maham Rd., Dallas 75240
FAX (469) 593-4901

Dartmouth Elementary (469) 593-8400
417 Dartmouth Ln., Richardson 75081
FAX (469) 593-8408

Dobie Pre-Kindergarten School (469) 593-4100
14040 Rolling Hills Ln., Dallas 75240
FAX (469) 593-4011

Dover Elementary (469) 593-4200
700 Dover Dr., Richardson 75080
FAX (469) 593-4201

Forest Lane Academy (469) 593-1850
9663 Forest Lane, Dallas 75243
FAX (469) 593-1919

Forestridge Elementary (469) 593-8500
10330 Bunchberry Dr., Dallas 75243
FAX (469) 593-8502

Greenwood Hills Elementary (469) 593-6100
1313 West Shore Dr., Richardson 75080
FAX (469) 593-6111

Hamilton Park Pacesetter Magnet (469) 593-3900
8301 Towns St., Dallas 75243
FAX (469) 593-3950

Jess Harben Elementary (469) 593-8800
600 S. Glenville Dr., Richardson 75081
FAX (469) 593-8801

Lake Highlands Elementary (469) 593-2100
9501 Ferndale Rd., Dallas 75238
FAX (469) 593-2088

Mark Twain Elementary (469) 593-4800
1200 Larkspur Dr., Richardson 75081
FAX (469) 593-4799

Math Science Technology Magnet (469) 593-7300
450 Abrams, Richardson 75081
FAX (469) 593-7301

Merriman Park Elementary (469) 593-2800
7101 Winedale Dr., Dallas 75231

FAX (469) 593-2751

Mohawk Elementary (469) 593-6600

1500 Mimosa Dr., Richardson 75080

FAX (469) 593-6610

Moss Haven Elementary (469) 593-2200

9202 Moss Farm Ln., Dallas 75243

FAX (469) 593-2158

Northlake Elementary (469) 593-2300

10059 Ravensway Dr., Dallas 75238

FAX (469) 593-2309

Northrich Elementary (469) 593-6200

1301 Custer Rd., Richardson 75080

FAX (469) 593-6201

Northwood Hills Elementary (469) 593-4300

14532 Meandering Way, Dallas 75254

FAX (469) 593-4301

O. Henry Elementary (469) 593-8200

4100 Tynes Dr., Garland 75042

FAX (469) 593-8221

Prairie Creek Elementary (469) 593-6300

2120 E. Prairie Creek Dr., Richardson 75080

FAX (469) 593-6308

Prestonwood Elementary (469) 593-6700

6525 La Cosa Dr., Dallas 75248

FAX (469) 593-6712

Richardson Heights Elementary (469) 593-4400

101 N. Floyd Rd., Richardson 75080

FAX (469) 593-4401

Richardson Terrace Elementary (469) 593-8700

300 N. Dorothy Dr., Richardson 75081

FAX (469) 593-8780

Richland Elementary (469) 593-4650

550 Park Bend, Richardson 75081

FAX (469) 593-4654

RISD Academy Elementary (469) 593-3300

13630 Coit Rd., Dallas 75240

FAX (469) 593-3307

Skyview Elementary (469) 593-2400

9229 Meadowknoll Dr., Dallas 75243

FAX (469) 593-2423

Spring Creek Elementary (469) 593-4500

7667 Roundrock Rd., Dallas 75248

FAX (469) 593-4501

Spring Valley Elementary (469) 593-4600

13535 Spring Grove Ave., Dallas 75240

FAX (469) 593-4609

Springridge Elementary (469) 593-8600

1801 E. Spring Valley Rd., Richardson 75081

FAX (469) 593-8603

Stults Road Elementary (469) 593-2500

8700 Stults Rd., Dallas 75243

FAX (469) 593-2521

Thurgood Marshall Elementary (469) 593-6800

7666 Ferris Branch Blvd., Dallas 75243

FAX (469) 593-6801

Wallace Elementary (469) 593-2600

9921 Kirkhaven Dr., Dallas 75238

FAX (469) 593-2610

White Rock Elementary (469) 593-2700

9229 Chiswell Rd., Dallas 75238

FAX (469) 593-2706

Yale Elementary (469) 593-8300

1900 E. Collins Blvd., Richardson 75081

FAX (469) 593-8362

APPENDIX G

Intradistrict Transfer Guidelines

Neighborhood School Concept

The Richardson Independent School District (RISD) is committed to the neighborhood school concept. Where a student resides determines the schools he or she will attend. The District maintains a comprehensive student assignment plan that is designed to support the neighborhood schools concept, promote balanced enrollment and efficient use of facilities, and comply with legal requirements. Any student, kindergarten through 12th grade, who wishes to attend an RISD school outside of his/her neighborhood attendance area (the "home school") must complete an Intradistrict Transfer Request and obtain District approval to change schools. The Board of Trustees delegates to the Superintendent the authority to accept or reject any transfer requests, provided that such an action is without regard to economic status, mobility, language, disabling conditions, race, religion, color, sex, disability, or national origin. Interdistrict transfers are accepted under Exceptions (see guidelines).

Separate processes exist for assignments to magnet schools and for transfers pursuant to special provisions of the Texas Education Code or federal law (e.g., school safety choice transfer, victim of sexual assault transfer, bullying victim transfer, low- performing school transfer, and/or disabled student sibling transfer).

Procedures for Intradistrict Transfer Request

Transfer request forms are available on the District website at <https://web.risd.org/enrollonline/transfer-requests>. Parents desiring an intradistrict transfer must complete the request form and submit it via email for processing. Incomplete forms will be returned for completion. Families should complete online enrollment prior to requesting a transfer. Every effort should be made to provide transfer support in the families' first language. Transfer requests must be approved by the principals of the home and receiving schools and the superintendent's designee before a student may change schools. A condition of every approved transfer is the requirement that the student maintain prompt and regular attendance, that the student maintain good behavior, and that the parent cooperates with the receiving school. See **Rescissions**.

Considerations of Transfer Request

In evaluating each transfer request, RISD will consider:

- individual needs of the student and reason provided on the transfer request;
- student's behavior and attendance history;
- overall effect the transfer will have on the home and receiving school; *See Note
- student's need for special instructional services not provided at the home school;

- medical condition of the student as described in a letter from the student's medical provider (letter must be submitted with the transfer request);
- a family request to have similar age siblings attend the same school;
- building capacity and any planned renovation projects;
- current enrollment, growth projections, and boundary issues;
- a request to allow a student who has moved to another RISD school attendance area to continue to remain in the current school he/she has been attending;
- teacher allocations and class size; and/or
- other factors relevant to a particular transfer request, including student's parents' servicemember or law enforcement status.

Procedures for Transfer Continuance

Students currently on a transfer who are transitioning into a Learning Community that is not within their home school boundaries from elementary to junior or junior to high school may be offered a Continuance Transfer for the Upcoming Fall. This transfer document will be sent home with transfer students in the spring. The document is only available through campus office staff. Students must be in good standing with the current campus to be eligible for a continuance and should complete the Continuance Contract provided on the transfer document.

Procedures for Interdistrict Transfer Request

- 1) Children of full-time District Employees may be allowed to attend District schools in accordance with DEB (Local).
 - a) As a benefit for employees, the RISD Board of Trustees has authorized the District to accept for enrollment school-aged children of employees who reside outside the District while the employee remains in full-time employment by the District. Children of nonresident employees must comply with all other rules applicable to transfer students.
 - b) Full-time professional contract employees, as well as non contract, paraprofessional and classified employees, are eligible for this benefit immediately upon their full-time employment. "Child" means a school aged student who lives with the employee and is the employee's natural or legally adopted offspring or a school-aged child for whom a court or other authority has designated the employee as the legal guardian. "Child" also includes the natural or legally adopted offspring of an employee who does not live with the employee if the employee is a noncustodial conservator of the child and the employee had the legal authority to make educational decisions for the child.
- 2) Resident students who become nonresidents during the course of a semester may be permitted to continue in attendance tuition-free for the remainder of the current grading period, provided academic, disciplinary, and attendance records are satisfactory.
- 3) A senior student who becomes ineligible for tuition-free attendance at the end of his or her junior year may be permitted to continue in attendance

tuition-free throughout the senior year, provided academic, disciplinary, and attendance records are satisfactory.

4) A student residing outside the District may be enrolled at the beginning of a semester if the parent/guardian has purchased a residence in the District that will be completed or occupied within ninety (90) days of enrollment and proof of purchase (e.g., contract, loan document, bill of sale, etc.) is provided.

5) Students seeking an interdistrict transfer must complete a Non-Resident Student Transfer Application form and provide any additional information as may be required by the District. Out-of-District Transfers. Employees may access the form on the RISD Intranet. Any individual that is not an employee should obtain the form at their campus. The District shall assume no responsibility for tuition required of students transferring out of Richardson Independent School District. The District shall accept no responsibility for transportation for transfer students, except as provided by statute or policy.

School Placement: The employee may indicate a school of choice; however, the Superintendent or designee shall determine the school to which the transferee will be assigned. Such determination will be made on the basis of: availability of space at the desired campus and the effect of additional students in the grade levels; the campus nearest or most convenient to the employee's work assignment; and other relevant factors affecting campus assignment. Once assigned to a campus, the student shall be responsible for the student's transportation.

Tuition: The Board of Trustees shall determine, annually and within statutory limits, the amount of tuition, if any, to be charged.

Waivers: The Board of Trustees may waive tuition for a student upon written application by the student or parent or guardian, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent.

Non-Payment: The District may initiate withdrawal of students whose tuition payments are delinquent.

Appeals: Any appeals shall be made in accordance with FNG(LOCAL) and GF(LOCAL), as appropriate.

Renewals: Employees should complete the transfer process each year by checking the renewal box to confirm eligibility.

Rescission of Inter/Intradistrict Transfers

A Transfer request is a privilege. Approved transfers may be rescinded by the principal where the student is enrolled due to the following reasons:

- Student becomes a disruption to school operation and/or a detriment to the learning of other students;
- Student fails to maintain good conduct and behavior;

- Student has excessive tardies and/or absences;
- Lack of parental cooperation;
- Change of the student’s residence;
- Falsification of residency, transfer, or enrollment documents; or
- Other relevant reasons determined by the building principal.

General Transfer Information

The superintendent's designee(s) will attempt to make a decision on a transfer request within sixty (60) days after a completed request is received. However, the District may delay a decision when the District determines a delay is necessary to properly consider relevant information and operational needs. The receiving school principal will notify the parent of approved requests. The home school principal will notify the parent of a denied request.

The Board has delegated to the Superintendent/Designee(s) the authority to accept or reject a transfer request

Timelines

Grade Level	Required Semester	Transfer Requests Accepted
Elementary	Fall 2023	April 15 - August 12
Junior High	Fall 2023	March 1 - August 12
High School	Fall 2023	March 1 - August 1
All Campuses	Spring 2024	October 1 - December 15

*Transfer requests outside this timeline will be considered only under extenuating circumstances.

*Employee renewals may be submitted in the Spring during Upcoming School Year Enrollment

Change of Residence

Transfer forms must be completed when a student moves into a new RISD home school area but wants to remain in the school he or she has been attending. A student is considered a transfer student subject to the transfer rules beginning at the time a request is approved. A new transfer is required when a student wants to change schools.

Athletic and Other Extracurricular Participation

A student may not transfer for the purpose of participation in extracurricular activities.

Athletics—Transfer students are not eligible for varsity athletic participation (per UIL regulations) for one (1) year from the date the student begins in attendance at the new school. Transfer students will be eligible for sub-varsity athletics provided the transfer is not for athletic purposes and the UIL "Previous Athletic Participation Form" is signed by both the sending and receiving schools. Transfers must be completed prior to the start of practices for sports in question. If the transfer takes place after the start of the season, the athlete will be placed in off-season.

Academic/Performing Arts Programs—To be eligible for other extracurricular activities, transfer students must be enrolled and attending the transfer school fifteen calendar days prior to the application deadline for tryouts or election.

Other—Eligibility for activities not regulated by UIL will be determined by RISD guidelines for the specific program and/or any national or state regulations of the activity or organization.

Staffing and Class Sizes

RISD will not increase staffing allocations to accommodate transfer requests. Consideration of the effect of the transfer may differ at elementary and secondary schools:

Elementary—To ensure space is available at a campus for students who reside in the attendance area, RISD generally will deny a request seeking a transfer to campuses where the affected grade level enrollments are projected at ninety (90) percent or greater of class size expectations (grades K-4, twenty-two (22) students per class; grades 5-6, twenty-eight (28) students per class).

Secondary—A variety of factors will be considered to determine whether the transfer would negatively affect the particular campus's ability to maintain reasonable class sizes and any other situations associated with transfer request.

Transportation

RISD does not provide transportation for transfer students unless otherwise required by law. Parents whose transfer requests are approved will be responsible for providing transportation to and from the campus.

Appeal of Denial of Transfer Request

A parent/legal guardian who is not satisfied with a decision regarding a transfer request may appeal the decision by submitting a letter describing the reasons for appeal to the appropriate Assistant Superintendent of Administrative Services. A review committee from the RISD Student Services Department will consider the appeal. Appeals must be submitted to Dr. Matthew Gibbins, Assistant Superintendent of Administrative Services in writing no later than three (3) school days of the initial denial. A parent who is not satisfied

with the decision of the appeal committee must follow Board Policy FNG to seek further review of the administrative decision.

APPENDIX H

Guidelines: Freedom from Bullying and Harassment

Reference: Board Policy FFI

Bullying Prohibited

RISD prohibits the bullying, which includes cyberbullying, of any student, prohibits retaliation against any person who in good faith reports bullying or otherwise is involved in an investigation of a complaint of bullying or harassment, and establishes procedures for responding to reports of bullying. This document is designed to provide guidance to District administrators who implement the Board's policy and to persons who report complaints of bullying and harassment.

Campus principals are expected to implement and monitor school-wide, classroom, and individual practices that teach and support positive student behaviors and to provide appropriate consequences for students who engage in bullying type behaviors.

All staff members will participate in the process of implementing practices for consistently teaching respectful behavior, preventing and stopping bullying on their respective campuses, and encouraging the prompt reporting of such behavior. In addition, principals will train their staff on how to respond to complaints of bullying from parents, students, or third parties.

Questions concerning these guidelines may be directed to the campus principal or the Director of Prevention Programming at 469-593-9119.

Definition of "Bullying"

Texas law defines bullying 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 [which occurs in situations over which the school has jurisdiction] and (i) 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; (ii) is sufficiently severe, persistent or pervasive enough that the action or threat creates an intimidating, threatening, or abusive educational environment for a student; (iii) materially and substantially disrupts the educational process or the orderly operation of a classroom or school; or (iv) infringes on the rights of the victim at school; and includes cyberbullying.

Cyberbullying is 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.

Note: RISD's policies apply to

- bullying that occurs on or is delivered to school property or to the site of a school-sponsored/related activity on or off school property;
- bullying that occurs on a publicly or privately-owned school bus or vehicle being used for student transportation to/from school or a school-sponsored/related activity; and
- cyberbullying that occurs off school property or outside of a school sponsored/related activity if the cyberbullying (i) interferes with a student's educational opportunities, or (ii) substantially disrupts the orderly operation of a classroom, school, or school-sponsored/related activity.

Not all offensive conduct between students rises to the level of bullying. Conduct that may not constitute bullying as defined above still may violate expected standards of conduct and may subject the actor to disciplinary measures.

Reporting Alleged Bullying

RISD takes all reports of bullying and harassment seriously and will conduct an appropriate investigation to address any such reports and will take appropriate actions designed to stop any current incidents of bullying and prevent future incidents.

Student training and campus procedures should emphasize the importance of promptly reporting alleged bullying and harassment to an appropriate adult. Any student who believes that he or she has been bullied or suspects that another student has been bullied should immediately report the conduct to the principal, counselor, or teacher.

Any District employee who receives a report of, witnesses, learns of, or suspects an incident of bullying involving students anywhere on campus, at an off-campus school-related activity, or in a District vehicle shall immediately report the information to the principal. The report may be made orally or in writing. A report also may be made anonymously. The principal shall ensure an oral report is reduced to writing.

Any staff member who witnesses an incident of suspected bullying or other inappropriate behavior should take appropriate steps to stop the inappropriate behavior in addition to reporting the incident.

Notification to Parent/Guardian

The parent/guardian of the alleged victim of an incident of bullying must be notified on or before the third business day after the date the incident is reported.

The parent/guardian of the alleged bully must be notified within a reasonable amount of time after the alleged incident.

Note: These timelines reflect the maximum period for providing parental notification in compliance with the Education Code. In most cases, notification of the parents of both students should occur on the same or next school day of the incident.

Investigating Reports of Bullying

An appropriate District official will conduct an investigation of a report of suspected bullying. The scope and nature of the investigation shall rest within the discretion of the official based on the nature of the allegations.

The District will, to the greatest extent possible, maintain the privacy of the complainant, persons against whom a complaint is filed, and witnesses or other persons who provide information in an investigation. Limited disclosure of information may be necessary to conduct a thorough investigation.

The campus should promptly notify the Director of Prevention Programming (X30800) upon receipt of an allegation of bullying. The Director will assist the campus through the investigation.

Classroom Investigations. These guidelines are not intended to replace the normal classroom management procedures each classroom teacher employs to manage and maintain student behavior. When a teacher observes or otherwise becomes aware of alleged bullying behavior during class time, the teacher should do the following:

1. Separate the alleged victim from the alleged bully.
2. Speak separately with each of the students involved to give them the opportunity to present their stories about what occurred.
3. Speak with any witnesses or bystanders who may have been present or involved to determine what they observed, heard, or know. Encourage them to speak up directly on behalf of the alleged victim if they should witness further incidents or to get help from school personnel.
4. If the teacher believes the conduct meets the definition of bullying (which includes cyberbullying), he/she shall immediately refer the matter to the principal. Otherwise, the teacher should administer logical and appropriate consequences at the classroom level. A teacher who has any question whether alleged conduct constitutes bullying should immediately contact the principal.
5. In accordance with customary campus practices and expectations, contact the parents of the students involved and explain what happened and what was done in response to the incident.
6. The classroom teacher should record the incident in the student's discipline notebook, folder, or other classroom document where classroom discipline information is maintained, and/or otherwise follow campus procedures for reporting student disciplinary concerns (e.g., office referral, principal referral, etc.).

Campus Administrator Investigative Procedures.

1. The principal or other campus administrator who receives a report of bullying should first take any appropriate steps to immediately protect the student from the alleged situation or any retaliation. Remind the complainant that the District takes all complaints of bullying seriously and does not tolerate bullying, harassment, retaliation, or discrimination.

2. Determine the specific allegation of bullying – What is the specific conduct the complainant alleges against the accused student(s)? Talk to the alleged victim separately to determine, who, what, where, and when the complaint of conduct allegedly occurred. Keep an open mind as you gather information. Avoid reaching conclusions before you have all of the evidence.

3. Interview and obtain a written statement from the alleged victim when possible. If the alleged victim is unable or unwilling to provide a written statement, the investigator should carefully document all allegations of bullying behavior. The *Bullying/Harassment/Retaliation: Report Investigation Documentation Form* (the Investigation Form) also should be completed which also requires the investigator to describe the alleged bullying.

4. Consider and investigate the specific allegations in the complaint and take such steps that you, as the investigator, determine are reasonably necessary to thoroughly and carefully investigate the complaint. Investigation steps may include (without limitation):

- Interview the accused student (present all allegations and allow him/her to respond; remind student of prohibition against retaliation)
- Interview student witnesses
- Interview employees who may have relevant knowledge
- Obtain written statements from persons interviewed on an age appropriate basis
- Review pertinent documents (e.g., communications between students, written, oral, and/or electronic, etc.)
- If the allegations involve electronic communications, attempt to obtain hard copies of the evidence (texts, emails, photos, screen shots, etc.)
- Evaluate consistencies and inconsistencies in the statements and other evidence
- If property damage is alleged, inspect damaged property (take photographs of damage if appropriate)
- If physical injury is alleged, review medical records if available. Ensure student is referred to the nurse for examination and further referral, as appropriate
- Gather tangible evidence, if any
- Inspect the scene of the alleged incident if relevant
- Determine whether any alleged incidents were recorded by school video surveillance. If so, document the date/time/camera number and ensure captured image is retained

5. Witnesses should be interviewed separately. Remind witnesses that no person who provides information in an investigation will be subject to any retaliation for his or her participation and to notify the investigator immediately if any retaliation occurs. Further

remind the witnesses that the investigation is confidential and to respect the privacy of his/her fellow students by not discussing the matter with other students.

6. After completing all investigatory activities the investigator believes are reasonably necessary to fairly and thoroughly address the allegations, the investigator should analyze all information obtained and make a determination whether the alleged conduct meets the definition of bullying (policy FFI) or harassment or other prohibited conduct (policy FFH).

7. Determine appropriate school disciplinary consequences for the accused student. Refer to the Student Code of Conduct. School consequences may be appropriate even if bullying did not occur if the conduct violated other school rules.

8. A student who is the victim of bullying based on the investigation and who used **reasonable** self-defense in response to the bullying may not be subject to disciplinary action.

9. If the accused student is a student with a disability and bullying is found, any disciplinary consequences must comply with the student's IEP or § 504 Plan and applicable procedural safeguards.

10. Depending on the alleged conduct, referrals to law enforcement or CPS may be appropriate. If illegal conduct is suspected or alleged, immediate referrals to outside agencies may be appropriate.

11. Identify any other corrective action or interventions that may be necessary and appropriate to address the current situation and eliminate future bullying incidents. Refer to the sample strategies and interventions included below.

12. The parent/guardian of the alleged victim and alleged bully should be notified of the outcome of the investigation.

13. Keep notes and dates of interviews and other investigatory activities. Investigation should be documented via the Investigation Form.

14. Keep the original forms and investigatory materials and bullying documentation on campus and send copies to the appropriate area superintendent for your campus.

Note: Suspected bullying also may include the elements of discrimination, prohibited harassment, sexual harassment, dating violence, and/or retaliation. Officials investigating allegations of inappropriate interactions should refer to policy FFI, Student Welfare Freedom from Bullying, and policy FFH, Student Welfare Freedom from Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation when conducting their investigation.

Available interventions, strategies, and corrective action to address incidents of bullying include but are not limited to the following:

- Conference separately with alleged victim and alleged bully and include parents of each as appropriate
- Monitor situation closely, particularly if specific allegation cannot be corroborated
- Meet periodically with alleged victim
- Meet periodically with alleged bully

- Refer complainant, accused student, and witnesses to campus counselor
- Administer disciplinary consequences as outlined in the Student Code of Conduct
- Administer consequences as outlined in any applicable extracurricular code of conduct
- Loss or limitation of technology privileges at school and limited access to District-provided electronic devices if cyberbullying occurred
- Work with counselor to develop appropriate strategies to minimize interactions between involved students
- Issue administrative directives to students concerning expected conduct
- Refer matter to district police or outside law enforcement agency or Child Protective Services as appropriate
- Change schedule/class for alleged bully
- Change schedule/class for alleged victim
- Change school rules
- Provide additional training to the involved students, class, grade level, and/or entire school
- Provide additional staff training
- Transfer alleged bully or alleged victim to another campus (FDB Legal) (Refer to Transfer section below)

Transfer of Students Involved In Bullying

RISD desires to retain students in their neighborhood schools where possible. However, either a student who has been found to have been subjected to bullying or a student found to have engaged in bullying may transfer to another campus under appropriate circumstances. This transfer option has significant implications, including disruption in the educational process, and may only be considered after a variety of interventions and disciplinary consequences have been applied unsuccessfully.

Transportation. RISD does not provide transportation to a student transferred because of bullying unless such transportation is otherwise required by law.

Transfer of Students Who Engage in Bullying. The campus principal may recommend to the appropriate Executive Director or Assistant Superintendent that a student found to have engaged in bullying be transferred to another campus under the following circumstances:

- The campus administrator's thorough investigations concluded that the student engaged in bullying as defined herein on at least two separate occasions during the last twelve (12) months. A single, egregious instance of bullying (particularly involving multiple students or significant disruption of the school) also may support a recommendation to transfer.
- Campus strategies and interventions, including appropriate discipline under the Student Code of Conduct, have been documented but have been unsuccessful to eliminate the bullying.

- Campus administrator(s) have communicated with the student's parent/guardian on more than two occasions to address the student's inappropriate conduct.

Note: Campus administrators must provide documentation of all strategies and interventions, discipline, campus investigations, and parent contacts along with the request for administrative transfer.

The appropriate assistant superintendent will make the final decision concerning a request to transfer, including the school to which the student may transfer. At the time a student is transferred under this section, a Student Support Plan shall be developed to outline appropriate positive behavioral supports for the student and to identify further disciplinary steps to consider if the bullying behavior persists.

Students Who Are Subjected to Bullying. The parent/legal guardian of a student found to have been subjected to bullying may request that the student be transferred to another campus. A request under this section will only be considered under the following circumstances:

- The campus administrator's thorough investigation concluded that the student was subjected to bullying as defined herein on at least one occasion.
- After a reasonable period of time, the campus-based strategies and interventions have not been effective to stop the bullying conduct as evidenced by campus documentation.
- A parent/guardian who seeks a transfer under this section must complete an Intradistrict Transfer Request Form. The form is available at the campus or on the website at <https://web.risd.org/enrollonline/transfer-requests>

The appropriate assistant superintendent will make the final decision concerning a request to transfer, including the school to which a student may transfer.

Special Circumstances. Notwithstanding the foregoing, some incidents of bullying may be so severe or pervasive that immediate transfer or other interventions may be appropriate.

Bullying Complaint Process

Step 1 - Report of bullying received (complaint form, e-mail, call, conference, letter, student/teacher/parent report, direct observation, anonymous report, etc.).

Step 2 - Take immediate steps to ensure student is safe from the alleged bullying. Step 3 - Investigate allegations in a timely manner (usually within 10 school days).

Step 4 - Notify parent of alleged victim no later than three business days after report of incident and notify parent of alleged bully within a reasonable time after the incident.

Step 5 - Determine whether bullying occurred.

Bullying is:

1. 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 (which occurs in situations over which the school has jurisdiction)

AND

1. (i) 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; (ii) is sufficiently severe, persistent or pervasive enough that the action or threat creates an intimidating, threatening, or abusive educational environment for a student; (iii) materially and substantially disrupts the educational process or the orderly operation of a classroom or school; or (iv) infringes on the rights of the victim at school.

Bullying includes cyberbullying, which is 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.

Step 6 - Determination is made and appropriate action is taken:

Behavior does not meet the definition of bullying: apply consequences and/or action plans as appropriate and notify parents of findings.

Behavior does meet the definition of bullying: apply consequences, implement corrective actions and notify parents of findings.

APPENDIX I

Notification of Rights Under the Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA)

The PPRA affords parents of elementary and secondary students certain rights regarding the conduct of surveys, collection and use of information for marketing purposes, and certain physical exams. These include, but are not limited to, the right to:

Consent before students are required to submit to a survey that concerns one or more of the following protected areas (“protected information survey”) if the survey is funded in whole or in part by a program of the U.S. Department of Education (ED)–

1. Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or student’s parent;
2. Mental or psychological problems of the student or student’s family;
3. Sex behavior or attitudes;
4. Illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior;
5. Critical appraisals of others with whom respondents have close family relationships;
6. Legally recognized privileged relationships, such as with lawyers, doctors, or ministers;
7. Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or student’s parent; or
8. Income, other than as required by law to determine program eligibility.

Receive notice and an opportunity to opt a student out of –

1. Any other protected information survey, regardless of funding;
2. Any non-emergency, invasive physical exam 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 a student, except for hearing, vision, or scoliosis screenings, or any physical exam or screening permitted or required under State law; and
3. Activities involving collection, disclosure, or use of personal information collected from students for marketing or to sell or otherwise distribute the information to others. (This does not apply to the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information collected from students for the exclusive purpose of developing, evaluating, or providing educational products or services for, or to, students or educational institutions.)

Inspect, upon request and before administration or use of –

1. Protected information surveys of students and surveys created by a third party;

2. Instruments used to collect personal information from students for any of the above marketing, sales, or other distribution purposes; and
3. Instructional material used as part of the educational curriculum.

These rights transfer from the parents to a student who is eighteen (18) years old or an emancipated minor under State law.

Richardson Independent School District (RISD or District) maintains policies, developed in consultation with parents, regarding these rights, as well as arrangements to protect student privacy in the administration of protected information surveys and the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information for marketing, sales, or other distribution purposes. RISD will directly notify parents of these policies at least annually at the start of each school year and after any substantive changes. RISD also will notify directly, such as through U.S. Mail or email, parents of students who are scheduled to participate in the specific activities or surveys noted below and will provide an opportunity for the parent to opt his or her child out of participation of the specific activity or survey. RISD will make this notification to parents at the beginning of the school year if the District has identified the specific or approximate dates of the activities or surveys at that time. For surveys and activities scheduled after the school year starts, parents will be provided reasonable notification of the planned activities and surveys listed below and be provided an opportunity to opt their child out of such activities and surveys. Parents also will be provided an opportunity to review any pertinent surveys. Following is a list of the specific activities and surveys covered under this direct notification requirement:

- Collection, disclosure, or use of personal information collected from students for marketing, sales, or other distribution.
- Administration of any protected information survey not funded in whole or in part by ED.
- Any non-emergency, invasive physical examination or screening as described above.

Parents who believe their rights have been violated may file a complaint with:

Student Privacy Policy Office (formerly Family Policy Compliance Office)

U.S. Department
of Education 400
Maryland Avenue,
SW Washington,
D.C. 20202

Appendix J

Student Cell Phone Guidelines

To promote the best possible learning and social environment in Richardson ISD (RISD or District), students will not use their cellphones during the school day, unless provided permission from an authorized district employee during the instructional day. The intent of the cell phone policy is to establish a cell phone-free environment and avoid cell phones distracting from learning as well as causing a loss of instructional time.

Statement of Expectations

Campus administrators will state expectations clearly and reinforce the importance of maintaining a cell phone-free environment at the beginning of the year.

Administrators will monitor cell phone violations to inform the need for reinforcement and support. Also, any headphone usage will occur based on the approval and expectations set by individual classroom teachers. RISD's continued focus will be on the mitigation of educational distractions precipitated by the use of cellphones during instructional time.

Consequences

If a student uses their phone during the school instructional day without the explicit permission of an authorized District employee, it will result in the confiscation of the cell phone and adherence to the following graduated offenses stated below.

Authorized district employees who will be responsible for cell phone confiscation will include administrators and teachers.

1st Offense

- Phone will be kept in the assistant principal's office for the day, parent is contacted.
- Student or parent can retrieve cellphone at the end of the day.
- Offense noted on Focus with cellphone violation action code chosen.

2nd Offense

- Phone will be kept in the assistant principal's office for the day, parent is contacted.
- Student or parent can retrieve cellphone at the end of the day.
- Offense noted on Focus with cell phone violation action code chosen.

3rd Offense

- Phone will be kept in the assistant principal's office for the day, parent is contacted.
- Warning to student and parent about additional consequences that will happen for non-compliance of cellphone-free environment.
- Offense noted on Focus with cell phone violation action code chosen.
- Student assigned school detention.

4th Offense

- Phone will be kept in the assistant principal's office for the day.
- In-person meeting scheduled with parent.
- Offense noted on Focus with cellphone violation action code chosen.
- Student assigned lunch detention.

5th Offense

- Phone will be kept in the assistant principal's office for the day, parent is contacted.
- Offense noted on Focus with cellphone violation action code chosen.
- Three (3) days of ISS.

6th Offense and beyond

- Violations of the cellphone policy beyond the fifth (5th) offense may result in the assignment of out-of-school suspension.

Appendix K

RISD Guidelines: Elementary Student Dress

Clothes must be worn in a way that private areas are all fully covered. Undergarments, except straps and waistbands, should not be visible. All items listed in the “must wear” and may wear” categories below must meet this basic principle.

Student must wear (while following the basic principle above):

- A top (opaque) with a sleeve/strap and must cover the stomach, back, and chest area
- A bottom (opaque), such as pants/jeans or the equivalent of a skirt, sweatpants, joggers, leggings, dress, or shorts
- Closed toe shoes

Students may wear, as long as these items do not violate basic principle above:

- Fitted pants, including leggings, yoga pants, and skinny jeans
- Ripped jeans as long as underwear and private body parts are not exposed
- Athletic shorts & athletic skirts
- Religious headwear

Students cannot wear:

- Images, language or symbols that depict tobacco products, drugs, drug paraphernalia, alcohol, violence, hate speech, profanity, pornography, gang symbols, or other illegal activities.
- Images or language that creates a hostile or intimidating environment based on a protected class or group.
- Accessories that could be considered dangerous or could be used as a weapon.

Appendix L

RISD Guidelines: Secondary Student Dress

Clothes must be worn in a way that private areas are all fully covered. Undergarments, except straps and waistbands, should not be visible. All items listed in the “must wear” and “may wear” categories below must meet this basic principle.

Student must wear (while following the basic principle above):

- A top (opaque) with a sleeve/strap and must cover the stomach, back, and chest area
- A bottom (opaque), such as pants/jeans or the equivalent of a skirt, sweatpants, joggers, leggings, dress, or shorts
- Shoes or sandals
- School ID badge must be visible

Students may wear, as long as these items do not violate basic principle above:

- Fitted pants, including leggings, yoga pants, and skinny jeans
- Ripped jeans as long as underwear and private body parts are not exposed
- Athletic shorts & athletic skirts
- Religious headwear
- Hoodies (hood must not cover head)
- Pajama pants

Students cannot wear:

- Images, language or symbols that depict tobacco products, drugs, drug paraphernalia, alcohol, violence, hate speech, profanity, pornography, gang symbols, or other illegal activities.
- Images or language that creates a hostile or intimidating environment based on any protected class or group.
- Accessories that could be considered dangerous or could be used as a weapon.
- Bandanas of any color