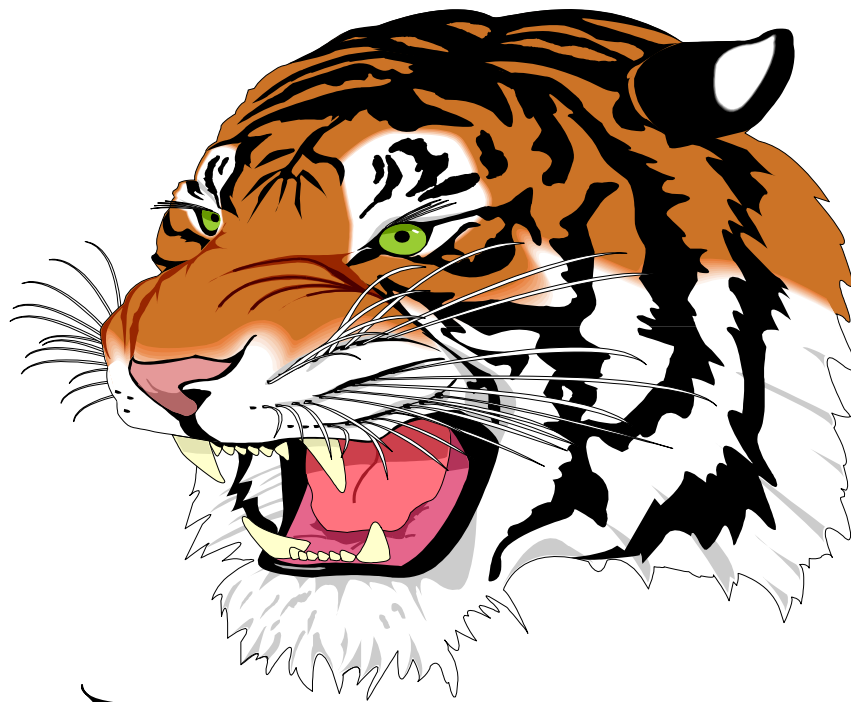


# Valley View Independent School District

## *Student*



## Handbook

2012-2013

**"Dream, Believe, Succeed!"**

## **SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION**

|  |                       |
|--|-----------------------|
| Valley View High School Principal              | Mrs. Monica Luna      |
| Athletic Director                              | Mr. Christian Navarro |
| Phoenix Academy Principal / LPAC Coordinator   | Ms. Tammie Garcia     |
| Assistant Principal / Academy Principal / CATE | Mr. Jorge Flores      |
| Assistant Principal / Testing Coordinator      | Mr. Jesus Garza       |
| Curriculum Specialist / GT/AP Coordinator      | Mrs. Ana Cepeda       |
| TSTEM Coordinator                              | Mrs. Sylvia Escobar   |

## **SCHOOL COUNSELORS**

|  |                        |
|--|------------------------|
| Senior Counselor / Junior (M-Z) Counselor    | Mrs. Norma Ramirez     |
| Sophomore Counselor / Junior (A-L) Counselor | Mrs. Marisela Cavazos  |
| Dual Enrollment / College Liaison            | Mr. Jerry Robledo      |
| TSTEM Counselor                              | Mrs. Claudia Arredondo |

## **DEPARTMENT HEADS**

|                   |                      |
|-------------------|----------------------|
| Math              | Mr. Jose Franklin    |
| Science           | Ms. Julie Carrazco   |
| Social Studies    | Mr. Jim Brewster     |
| English           | Mrs. Gilda Cantu     |
| Electives         | Ms. Norma Garcia     |
| Foreign Language  | Mr. David De Leon    |
| Fine Arts         | Mr. Manuel Rodriguez |
| Special Education | Mrs. Gloria Delgado  |

## **DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION**

|  |                       |
|--|-----------------------|
| Early College Campus Principal         | Mr. Miguel Castillo   |
| Valley View Junior High Principal      | Mr. Fred Barroso      |
| Fifth Grade Campus Principal           | Mr. Sergio Coronado   |
| Valley View Elementary Principal       | Mr. Jesus Cerda       |
| Valley View North Elementary Principal | Mrs. Marina Leal      |
| Wilbur E. Lucas Elementary Principal   | Dr. Rosemarie Gomez   |
| Valley View South Elementary Principal | Mrs. Nancy Montemayor |

## **CENTRAL OFFICE ADMINISTRATION**

|                                      |                       |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Superintendent                       | Mr. Leonel Galaviz    |
| Assistant Superintendent             | Mr. Rolando Ramirez   |
| Director of Human Resources          | Mr. Julio C. Pimentel |
| Director of Finance                  | Mr. George D. Flores  |
| Director of Federal Programs         | Mr. Camilo Martinez   |
| Director of Special Education        | Mrs. Debra Salinas    |
| Director of Bilingual/ESL Education  | Dr. Matthew Meyers    |
| Director of Student Support Services | Mr. Jonathan Larraga  |
| Director of Child Nutrition          | Ms. Karla Rodriguez   |
| Director of PEIMS                    | Ms. Sandra Rodriguez  |
| Director of Athletics                | Mr. Christian Navarro |

## **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

|                     |                         |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| President           | Mr. Juan Pimentel       |
| Vice President      | Mr. Antonio Rosillo     |
| Secretary           | Mr. Noe Reyes           |
| Assistant Secretary | Mr. Francisco Jimenez   |
| Member              | Mr. Efrain Perez        |
| Member              | Mr. Prisciliano Trevino |
| Member              | Mr. Lucio Villagomez    |

## Directory

| Campus                                      | Address                                      | Telephone    | Fax          |
|---|--|--------------|--------------|
| Valley View High School                     | 600 N. Jackson Road<br>Hidalgo, Texas 78557  | 956-843-9222 | 956-843-8195 |
| Valley View Early College<br>Campus         | 3000 E. Dicker Road<br>Hidalgo, Texas, 78557 | 956-213-8430 | 956-213-8437 |
| Valley View Junior High                     | 9701 S. Jackson Road<br>Pharr, Texas 78577   | 956-843-2452 | 956-843-3031 |
| Valley View 5 <sup>th</sup> Grade<br>Campus | 9701 S. Jackson Road<br>Pharr, Texas 78577   | 956-843-3752 | 956-843-3756 |
| Valley View Elementary                      | 3000 W. Olmos Road                           | 956-843-2731 | 956-843-8526 |
| Valley View North<br>Elementary             | 1000 W. Anaya Road<br>Pharr, Texas 78577     | 956-783-1134 | 956-783-1163 |
| Wilbur E. Lucas Elementary                  | 1300 N. McColl Road<br>Hidalgo, Texas 78557  | 956-843-3036 | 956-843-3039 |
| Valley View South<br>Elementary             | 900 S. McColl Road<br>Hidalgo, Texas 78557   | 956-843-7742 | 956-843-7787 |

| Administration Offices   | Telephone    | Fax          |
|--------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Superintendent           | 956-843-3025 | 956-843-8688 |
| Curriculum & Instruction | 956-843-5261 | 956-843-5002 |
| Human Resources          | 956-843-2689 | 956-843-7501 |
| Finance Office           | 956-843-8825 | 956-843-2109 |
| Special Funds Office     | 956-843-3004 | 956-843-3021 |
| Special Education        | 956-843-2665 | 956-843-8213 |
| Bilingual/ESL Education  | 956-843-3004 | 956-843-3021 |
| Student Support Services | 956-223-2619 | 956-787-9441 |
| Child Nutrition          | 956-787-1400 | 956-787-4255 |
| PEIMS                    | 956-843-3006 | 956-843-9995 |
| Athletic Office          | 956-843-3029 | 956-843-3035 |

# **VALLEY VIEW ISD**

## **Mission Statement**

**THE MISSION OF VALLEY VIEW I.S.D. IS TO PRODUCE RESPONSIBLE AND PRODUCTIVE CITIZENS WHO ARE CAPABLE OF THINKING CRITICALLY TO SOLVE PROBLEMS IN AN EVER CHANGING WORLD. OUR COMMITMENT TO ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE WILL BE ACHIEVED BY PROVIDING A SYSTEM OF QUALITY EDUCATION, BASED ON APPROPRIATE CURRICULUM, EFFECTIVE INSTRUCTION AND COMMUNITY AND FAMILY SUPPORT.**

## District Academic Goals

**Valley View teachers and administrators will continue to strive for academic excellence and reach the District Academic Goals.**

- A. ALL CAMPUSES WILL MEET OR EXCEED THE STATE ASSESSMENTS AVERAGE AT EVERY GRADE LEVEL.**
- B. ALL CAMPUSES WILL CONSISTENTLY IMPROVE ON STUDENT PERFORMANCE AT EVERY GRADE LEVEL ON REQUIRED STATE EXAMS.**
- C. ALL CAMPUSES WILL STRIVE TO EARN “EXEMPLARY STATUS.**
- D. ALL CAMPUSES WILL STRIVE TO EXCEED THE STUDENT ATTENDANCE PERCENTAGE FOR “EXEMPLARY CAMPUS STATUS.**
- E. ALL CAMPUSES WILL IMPLEMENT A CAMPUS IMPROVEMENT PLAN THAT CREATES A VISION OF EXCELLENCE, ADDRESSES STUDENT ACADEMIC STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES, DEVELOPS AND IMPLEMENTS STRATEGIES TO EXCEED GOALS, AND CONTINUOUSLY AND CONSISTENTLY MONITORS AND EVALUATES STUDENT PROGRESS.**
- F. ALL CAMPUSES WILL WORK TOGETHER HARMONIOUSLY TO MEET OR EXCEED OUR GOALS IN IMPROVING STUDENT LEARNING AND ACHIEVEMENT.**
- G. ALL CAMPUSES WILL STRIVE TO INCREASE PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT.**

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## PREFACE

To Students and Parents:

Welcome to school year 2012–2013! Education is a team effort, and we know that students, parents, teachers, and other staff members all working together can make this a wonderfully successful year for our students.

The **Valley View Independent School District** Student Handbook is designed to provide a resource for some of the basic information that you and your child will need during the school year. In an effort to make it easier to use, the handbook is divided into two sections:

**Section I—PARENTAL RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES**—with information to assist you in responding to school-related issues. We encourage you to take some time to closely review this section of the handbook.

**Section II—OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS AND PARENTS**—organized alphabetically by topic for quick access when searching for information on a specific issue.

Please be aware that the term “the student’s parent” is used to refer to the parent, legal guardian, or any other person who has agreed to assume school-related responsibility for a student.

Both students and parents should become familiar with the **Valley View Independent School District** Student Code of Conduct, which is a document adopted by the board and intended to promote school safety and an atmosphere for learning. That document **is an attachment to this handbook and is posted at [www.vviewisd.net](http://www.vviewisd.net) and available in the principal’s office.**

The Student Handbook is designed to be in harmony with board policy and the Student Code of Conduct. Please be aware that the handbook is updated yearly, while policy adoption and revision may occur throughout the year. Changes in policy or other rules that affect Student Handbook provisions will be made available to students and parents through newsletters or other communications.

In case of conflict between board policy (including the Student Code of Conduct) and any provisions of the Student Handbook, the current provisions of board policy and the Student Code of Conduct are to be followed.

After reading through the entire handbook with your child, keep it as a reference during this school year. If you or your child has questions about any of the material in this handbook, please contact **the school’s principal.**

Also, please complete and return to your child’s campus the following required forms **included in this handbook:**

1. Parental Acknowledgment Form;
2. Student Directory Information and Release of Student Information Form;
3. Release of Information to Military Recruiters and Institutions of Higher Education Form; and
4. Consent/Opt-Out Form.

[See **Obtaining Information and Protecting Student Rights** on page 4 and **Directory Information** on page 12 for more information.]

Please note that references to policy codes are included so that parents can refer to current board policy. A copy of the district's policy manual is available for review in the school's office and online at [www.vvewisd.net](http://www.vvewisd.net).

## SECTION I: PARENTAL RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

This section of the **Valley View Independent School** Student Handbook includes information on topics of particular interest to you as a parent.

### PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

#### Working Together

Both experience and research tell us that a child's education succeeds best when there is good communication and a strong partnership between home and school. Your involvement in this partnership may include:

- Encouraging your child to put a high priority on education and working with your child on a daily basis 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 of your child's school activities and with the academic programs, including special programs, offered in the district.
- Discussing with the counselor or principal any questions you may have about the options and opportunities available to your child.
- Reviewing the requirements of the graduation programs with your child once your child begins enrolling in courses that earn high school credit.
- Monitoring your child's academic progress and contacting teachers as needed. [See **Academic Counseling** on page **24** and **Academic Programs** on page **15**.]
- Attending scheduled conferences and requesting additional conferences as needed. To schedule a telephone or in-person conference with a teacher, 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 **53**.]
- Becoming a school volunteer. [For further information, see policies at GKG and contact the Human Resources Department at 956-843-2689.
- Participating in campus parent organizations. Parent organizations include:
  - Parent Teacher Association
  - Serving as a parent representative on the district-level or campus-level planning committees, assisting in the development of educational goals and plans to improve student achievement. For further information, see policies at BQA and BQB, and contact the school's principal.
  - Serving on the School Health Advisory Council (SHAC), assisting the district in ensuring local community values are reflected in health education instruction. [See policies at BDF, EHAA, FFA, and information in this handbook at **School Health Advisory Council** on page **44**.]
  - Attending board meetings to learn more about district operations. [See policies at BE and BED for more information.]

## **PARENTAL RIGHTS**

### **Obtaining Information and Protecting Student Rights**

Your child will not be required to participate without parental consent in any survey, analysis, or evaluation—funded in whole or in part by the U.S. Department of Education—that concerns:

- Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or the student’s parent.
- Mental or psychological problems of the student or the student’s family.
- Sexual behavior or attitudes.
- Illegal, antisocial, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior.
- Critical appraisals of individuals with whom the student has a close family relationship.
- Relationships privileged under law, such as relationships with lawyers, physicians, and ministers.
- Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or parents.
- Income, except when the information is required by law and will be used to determine the student’s eligibility to participate in a special program or to receive financial assistance under such a program.

You will be able to inspect the survey or other instrument and any instructional materials used in connection with such a survey, analysis, or evaluation. [For further information, see policy EF(LEGAL).]

### **“Opting Out” of Surveys and Activities**

As a parent, you have a right to receive notice of and deny permission for your child’s participation in:

- Any survey concerning the private information listed above, regardless of funding.
- School activities involving the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information gathered from your child for the purpose of marketing or selling that information.
- Any non-emergency, invasive physical examination or screening required as a condition of attendance, administered and scheduled by the school in advance and not necessary to protect the immediate health and safety of the student. Exceptions are hearing, vision, or scoliosis screenings, or any physical exam or screening permitted or required under state law. [See policies EF and FFAA.]

### **Inspecting Surveys**

As a parent, you may inspect a survey created by a third party before the survey is administered or distributed to your child.

### **Requesting Professional Qualifications of Teachers and Staff**

You may request information regarding the professional qualifications of your child’s teachers, including whether a teacher has met state qualification and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction; whether the teacher has an emergency permit or other provisional status for which state requirements have been waived; and



undergraduate and graduate degree majors, graduate certifications, and the field of study of the certification or degree. You also have the right to request information about the qualifications of any paraprofessional who may provide services to your child.

### **Reviewing Instructional Materials**

As a parent, you have a 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 to your child.

[Also see **Removing a Student from Human Sexuality Instruction** on page 6 for additional information.]

### **Displaying a Student's Artwork and Projects**

Teachers may display students' work in classrooms or elsewhere on campus as recognition of student achievement. However, the district will seek parental consent before displaying students' artwork, special projects, photographs taken by students, and the like on the district's Web site, in printed material, by video, or by any other method of mass communication.

### **Accessing Student Records**

You may review your child's student records. These records include:

- Attendance records,
- Test scores,
- Grades,
- Disciplinary records,
- Counseling records,
- Psychological records,
- Applications for admission,
- Health and immunization information,
- Other medical records,
- Teacher and counselor evaluations,
- Reports of behavioral patterns, and
- State assessment instruments that have been administered to your child.

[See **Student Records** on page 9.]

## **Granting Permission to Video or Audio Record a Student**

As a parent, you may grant or deny any written request from the district to make a video or voice recording of your child. State law, however, permits the school to make a video or voice recording without parental permission for the following circumstances:

- When it is to be used for school safety;
- When it relates to classroom instruction or a co-curricular or extracurricular activity; or
- When it relates to media coverage of the school.

## **Granting Permission to Receive Parenting and Paternity Awareness Instruction**

As a parent, if your child is under the age of 14, you must grant permission for your child to receive instruction in the district's parenting and paternity awareness program or your child will not be allowed to participate in the instruction. This program, developed by the Office of the Texas Attorney General and the State Board of Education (SBOE), is incorporated into the district's health education classes.

## **Removing a Student Temporarily from the Classroom**

You may remove your child temporarily from the classroom if an instructional activity in which your child is scheduled to participate conflicts with your religious or moral beliefs. The removal cannot be for the purpose of avoiding a test and may not extend for an entire semester. Further, your child must satisfy grade-level and graduation requirements as determined by the school and by the Texas Education Agency.

## **Removing a Student from Human Sexuality Instruction**

As a part of the district's curriculum, students receive instruction related to human sexuality. The School Health Advisory Council (SHAC) is involved with the selection of course materials for such instruction.

State law requires that any instruction related to human sexuality, sexually transmitted diseases, or human immunodeficiency virus or acquired immune deficiency syndrome must:

- Present abstinence from sexual activity as the preferred choice of behavior 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 is the only method that is 100 percent effective in preventing pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases, and the emotional trauma associated with adolescent sexual activity;
- Direct adolescents to a standard of behavior in which abstinence from sexual activity before marriage is 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.

In accordance with state law, below is a summary of the district's curriculum regarding human sexuality instruction:

The Board shall select any instruction relating to human sexuality, sexually transmitted diseases, or human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) or acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) with the advice of the local school health advisory council. The instruction must present abstinence as the preferred choice of behavior for unmarried persons of school age; devote more attention to abstinence than to any other behavior; emphasize that abstinence is the only method that is 100 percent effective in preventing pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases, infection with HIV or AIDS, and the emotional trauma associated with adolescent sexual activity. The instruction must direct adolescents to a standard of behavior in which abstinence before marriage is the most effective way to prevent pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases and infection with HIV or AIDS; and, teach contraception and condom use in terms of human use reality rates instead of theoretical laboratory rates, if instruction on contraception and condoms is included in the curriculum. [EHAA Legal]

As a parent, you are entitled to review the curriculum materials. In addition, you may remove your child from any part of this instruction with no academic, disciplinary, or other penalties. You may also choose to become more involved with the development of curriculum used for this purpose by becoming a member of the district's SHAC. Please see the campus principal for additional information.

### **Excusing a Student from Reciting the Pledges to the U.S. and Texas Flags**

As a parent, you may request that your child be excused from participation in the daily recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States flag and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Texas flag. The request must be in writing. State law does not allow your child to be excused from participation in the required minute of silence or silent activity that follows. [See **Pledges of Allegiance and a Minute of Silence** on page 50 and policy EC(LEGAL).]

### **Excusing a Student from Reciting a Portion of the Declaration of Independence**

You may request that your child be excused from recitation of a portion of the Declaration of Independence. State law requires students in social studies classes in grades 3–12 to recite a portion of the text of the Declaration of Independence during Celebrate Freedom Week unless (1) you provide a written statement requesting that your child be excused, (2) the district determines that your child has a conscientious objection to the recitation, or (3) you are a representative of a foreign government to whom the United States government extends diplomatic immunity. [See policy EHBK(LEGAL).]

### **Requesting Limited or No Contact with a Student through Electronic Media**

Teachers and other approved employees are permitted by the district to communicate with students through the use of electronic media within the scope of the individual's professional responsibilities. For example, a teacher may set up a social networking page for his or her class that has information related to class work, homework, and tests. As a parent, you are welcome to join or become a member of such a page.

An employee described above may also contact a student individually through electronic media to communicate about items such as homework or upcoming tests.

If you prefer that your child not receive any one-to-one electronic communications from a district employee, please submit a written request to the campus principal stating this preference.

## **Requesting Notices of Certain Student Misconduct**

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 policy FO(LEGAL) and the Student Code of Conduct.]

## **School Safety Transfers**

As a parent, you have a right:

- To request the transfer of your child to another classroom or campus if your child has been determined by the **Board or its designee** to have been a victim of bullying as the term is defined by Education Code 25.0341. Transportation is not provided for a transfer to another campus. See the **Superintendent or designee** for information. [See policy FDB.]

[See **Bullying** on page **16**, and policy FFI(LOCAL).]

- To request the transfer of your child to attend a safe public school in the district if your child attends school at a campus identified by TEA as persistently dangerous or if your child has been a victim of a violent criminal offense while at school or on school grounds. [See policy FDE(LOCAL).]
- To request the transfer of your child to another campus if your child has been the victim of a 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 that assault. [See policy FDE.]

## **Requesting Classroom Assignment for Multiple Birth Siblings**

As a parent, if your children are multiple birth siblings (e.g., twins, triplets, etc.) assigned to the same grade and campus, you may request that they be placed either in the same classroom or in separate classrooms. Your written request must be submitted no later than the 14th day after the enrollment of your children. [See policy FDB(LEGAL).]

## **Parents of Students with Disabilities**

If a student is receiving special education services at a campus outside his or her attendance zone, the parent or guardian may request that any other student residing in the household be transferred to the same campus, if the appropriate grade level for the transferring student is offered on that campus. [See policy FDB(LOCAL).]

## ***Request for the Use of a Service Animal***

A parent of a student who uses a service animal because of the student's disability must submit a request in writing to the principal at least ten district business days before bringing the service animal on campus.

## ***Options and Requirements for Providing Assistance to Students Who Have Learning Difficulties or Who Need or May Need 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 academic or behavior support services that are available to all students including a process based on Response to Intervention. The implementation of Response to Intervention has the potential to have a positive impact on the ability of school 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 the evaluation is needed, the parent will be notified and asked to provide informed written consent for the evaluation. The district must complete the evaluation and the report within 60 calendar days of the date the district receives the written consent. The district must give a copy of the report to the parent.

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

The designated person to contact regarding options for a child experiencing learning difficulties or a referral for evaluation for special education services is **Debra Salinas at 956-843-2665**.

### **Parents of Students who speak 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 extra services, the Language Proficiency Assessment Committee (LPAC) will determine the types of services the student needs, including accommodations or modifications related to classroom instruction, local assessments, and state-mandated assessments.

### **Accommodations for Children of Military Families**

Children of military families will be provided flexibility regarding certain district requirements, including:

- Immunization requirements.
- Grade level, course, or educational program placement.
- Eligibility requirements for participation in extracurricular activities.
- Graduation requirements.

In addition, absences related to a student visiting with his or her parent related to leave or deployment activities may be excused by the district. The district will permit excused absences per year for this **purpose at the discretion of the Superintendent [FEA Legal]**.

Additional information may be found at <http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/mil/>.

### **Student Records**

Both federal and state laws safeguard student records from unauthorized inspection or use and provide parents and eligible students certain rights of privacy. Before disclosing any 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. For purposes of student

records, an “eligible” student is one who is 18 or older OR who is attending an institution of postsecondary education.

Virtually all information pertaining to student performance, including grades, test results, and disciplinary records, is considered confidential educational records. Release is restricted to:

- The parents—whether married, separated, or divorced—unless the school is given a copy of a court order terminating parental rights or the right to access a student’s education records.

Federal law requires that, as soon as a student becomes 18, is emancipated by a court, or enrolls in a postsecondary institution, control of the records goes to the student. The parents may continue to have access to the records, however, 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.

- District school officials who have what federal law refers to as a “legitimate educational interest” in a student’s records. School officials would include trustees and employees, such as the superintendent, administrators, and principals; teachers, counselors, diagnosticians, and support staff; a person or company with whom the district has contracted or allowed to provide a particular service or function (such as an attorney, consultant, auditor, medical consultant, therapist, or volunteer); 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. “Legitimate educational interest” in a student’s records includes 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.
- Various governmental agencies.
- Individuals granted access in response to a subpoena or court order.
- A school or institution of postsecondary education to which a student seeks or intends to enroll or in which he or she is already enrolled.

Release 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 **Principal** is custodian of all records for currently enrolled students at the assigned school. The **PEIMS Director** is the custodian of all records for students who have withdrawn or graduated.

Records may be inspected by a parent or eligible student during regular school hours. The records custodian or designee will respond to reasonable requests for explanation and interpretation of the records.

A parent or eligible student who provides 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 these records.

The address of the superintendent’s office is **9701 S. Jackson Rd. Pharr, TX. 78577**.

The address of the principals’ offices is **on the front cover of this handbook**.

A parent (or eligible student) may inspect the student's records and request a correction 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 Principal. The request must clearly identify the part of the record that should be corrected and include an explanation of how the information in the record 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 the records are not amended as a result of the hearing, the parent or eligible student has 30 school days to exercise the right to place a statement commenting on the information in the student's record. Although improperly recorded grades may be challenged, contesting a student's grade in a course is handled through the general complaint process found in policy FNG(LOCAL). A grade issued by a classroom teacher can be changed only if, as determined by the board of trustees, the grade is arbitrary, erroneous, or inconsistent with the district's grading policy. [See FINALITY OF GRADES at FNG(LEGAL), **Report Cards/Progress Reports and Conferences** on page 53, and **Student or Parent Complaints and Concerns** on page 11 for an overview of the process.]

The district's policy regarding student records found at FL(LEGAL) and (LOCAL) is available from the principal's or superintendent's office and on the district's Web site at [www.vvewisd.net](http://www.vvewisd.net)

The parent's or eligible student's right of access to and copies of student records do not extend to all records. Materials that are not considered educational records—such as a teacher's personal notes about a student that are shared only with a substitute teacher—do not have to be made available to the parents or student.

**Please note:**

Parents or eligible students have the right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education if they believe the district is not in compliance with federal law regarding student records. The complaint may be mailed to:

Family Policy Compliance Office  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20202-5901

**STUDENT OR PARENT COMPLAINTS AND CONCERNS**

Usually student or parent complaints or concerns can be addressed simply—by a phone call or a conference with the teacher. For those complaints and concerns that cannot be handled so easily, the District has adopted a standard complaint policy at FNG(LOCAL) in the District's policy manual. A copy of this policy may be obtained in the principal's or Superintendent's office or on the District's Web site at [www.vvewisd.net](http://www.vvewisd.net)

In general, the student or parent should first discuss the complaint with the campus principal. If unresolved, a written complaint and a request for a conference should be sent to the Superintendent. If still unresolved, the District provides for the complaint to be presented to the Board of Trustees.

### ***Directory Information***

The law permits the district to designate certain personal information about students as “directory information.” This “directory information” will be released to anyone who follows procedures for requesting it.

However, release of a student’s directory information may be prevented by the parent or an eligible student. This objection must be made in writing to the principal within **ten school days of your child’s first day of instruction** for this school year. [See the “Notice Regarding Directory Information and Parent’s Response Regarding Release of Student Information” **included in this handbook.**

### ***Directory Information for School-Sponsored Purposes***

The district often needs to use student information for the following school-sponsored purposes: **student’s name; photograph; honors and awards received; dates of attendance; grade level; enrollment status; participation in officially recognized activities and sports; and weight and height, if a member of an athletic team. [FL Local].**

For these specific school-sponsored purposes, the district would like to use your child’s **name; honors and awards received; grade level; enrollment status; participation in officially recognized sports; and weight and height, if a member of an athletic team [FL Local].** This information will not be used for other purposes without the consent of the parent or eligible student, except as described above at **Directory Information.**

Unless you object to the use of your child’s information for these limited purposes, the school will not need to ask your permission each time the district wishes to use this information for the school-sponsored purposes listed above.

### ***Release of Student Information to Military Recruiters and Institutions of Higher Education***

The district is required by federal law to comply with a request by a military recruiter or an institution of higher education for students’ names, addresses, and telephone listings, unless parents have advised the district not to release their child’s information without prior written consent. A form has been attached for you to complete if you do not want the district to provide this information to military recruiters or institutions of higher education.

## **SECTION II: OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS AND PARENTS**

Topics in this section of the handbook contain important information on academics, school activities, and school operations and requirements. Take a moment with your child to become familiar with the various issues addressed in this section. It is organized in alphabetical order to serve as a quick-reference when you or your child has a question about a specific school-related



issue. Should you be unable to find the information on a particular topic, please contact [the school principal the telephone number located on page iv.](#)

## **ABSENCES/ATTENDANCE**

Regular school attendance is essential for a student to make the most of his or her education—to benefit from teacher-led and school activities, to build each day’s learning on the previous day’s, and to grow as an individual. Absences from class may result in serious disruption of a student’s mastery of the instructional materials; therefore, the student and parent should make every effort to avoid unnecessary absences. Two state laws—one dealing with compulsory attendance, the other with attendance for course credit—are of special interest to students and parents. They are discussed below.

### **Compulsory Attendance**

State law requires that a student between the ages of six and 18 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.

A student who voluntarily attends or enrolls after his or her 18th birthday is required to attend each school day until the end of the school year and is subject to compulsory attendance laws, if the student is under 21 years old. In addition, if a student 18 or older has 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.]

Students enrolled in pre-kindergarten or kindergarten are required to attend school.

State law requires attendance in an accelerated reading instruction program when kindergarten, first grade, or second grade students are assigned to such a program. Parents will be notified in writing if their child is assigned to an accelerated reading instruction program as a result of a diagnostic reading instrument.

A student in grades 3–8 will be required to attend any assigned accelerated instruction program, which may occur before or after school or during the summer, if the student does not meet the passing standards on the state assessment for his or her grade level and applicable subject area.

### **Exemptions to Compulsory Attendance**

State law allows exemptions to the compulsory attendance requirements for several types of absences if the student makes up all work. These include the following activities and events:

- Religious holy days;
- Required court appearances;
- Activities related to obtaining United States citizenship;
- Service as an election clerk; and
- Documented health-care appointments, including absences for recognized services for students diagnosed with autism spectrum disorders. A note from the health-care provider must be submitted upon the student’s return to campus.

In addition, a junior or senior student's absence of up to two days related to visiting a college or university will be considered an exemption, provided the student receives approval from the campus principal, follows the campus procedures to verify such a visit, and makes up any work missed.

### **Failure to Comply with Compulsory Attendance**

School employees must investigate and report violations of the state compulsory attendance law. A student absent without permission from school; from any class; from required special programs, such as additional special instruction, termed "accelerated instruction" by the state; or from required tutorials will be considered in violation of the compulsory attendance law and subject to disciplinary action.

A court of law may also impose penalties against both the student and his or her parents if a school-aged student is deliberately not attending school. A complaint against the parent may be filed in court if the student:

- Is absent from school on ten or more days or parts of days within a six-month period in the same school year, or
- Is absent on three or more days or parts of days within a four-week period.

If the student is age 18 or older, the student's parents will not be subject to penalties as a result of their child's violation of state compulsory attendance law. [See policy FEA(LEGAL).]

### **Attendance for Credit**

To receive credit in a class, a student must attend at least 90 percent of the days the class is offered. A student who attends at least 75 percent but fewer than 90 percent of the days the class is offered may receive credit for the class if he or she completes a plan, approved by the principal, that allows the student to fulfill the instructional requirements for the class. If a student is involved in a criminal or juvenile court proceeding, the approval of the judge presiding over the case will also be required before the student receives credit for the class.

If a student attends less than 75 percent of the days a class is offered or has not completed a plan approved by the principal, then the student will be referred to the attendance review committee to determine whether there are extenuating circumstances for the absences and how the student can regain credit, if appropriate. [See policies at FEC.]

In determining whether there were extenuating circumstances for the absences, the attendance committee will use the following guidelines:

- All absences will be considered in determining whether a student has attended the required percentage of days. If makeup work is completed, absences for the reasons listed above at **Exemptions to Compulsory Attendance** will be considered days of attendance for this purpose.
- A transfer or migrant student begins to accumulate absences only after he or she has enrolled in the district.
- In reaching a decision about a student's absences, the committee will attempt to ensure that it is in the best interest of the student.

- The committee will consider the acceptability and authenticity of documented reasons for the student’s absences.
- The committee will consider whether the absences were for reasons over which the student or the student’s parent could exercise any control.
- The committee will consider the extent to which the student has completed all assignments, mastered the essential knowledge and skills, and maintained passing grades in the course or subject.
- The student or parent will be given an opportunity to present any information to the committee about the absences and to talk about ways to earn or regain credit.

The student or parent may appeal the committee’s decision to the board of trustees by filing a written request with the superintendent in accordance with policy FNG(LOCAL).

The actual number of days a student must be in attendance in order to receive credit will depend on whether the class is for a full semester or for a full year.

### **Parent’s Note after an Absence**

When a student must be absent from school, the student—upon returning to school—must bring a note signed by the parent that describes the reason for the absence. A note signed by the student, even with the parent’s permission, will not be accepted unless the student is 18 or older.

### **Doctor’s Note after an Absence for Illness**

Upon return to school, a student absent for more than **three (3)** 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 student’s extended absence from school.

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 student’s absence from school.

[See policy FEC(LOCAL).]

### **Driver License Attendance Verification**

For a student between the ages of 16 and 18 to obtain a driver’s license, the Texas Department of Public Safety must be provided written parental consent to access the student’s records for purposes of verifying 90 percent attendance for credit for the semester.

## **ACADEMIC PROGRAMS**

The school counselor provides students and parents information regarding academic programs to prepare for higher education and career choices. [For more information, see **Academic Counseling** on page **24** of this handbook and policies at EIF.]

## **AWARDS AND HONORS**

## BACKPACKS

The use of clear or mesh backpacks that can be seen through is permissible; other backpacks are not allowed. Athletic or duffel bags for extracurricular activities should be left in the athletic/gym locker room during school hours. Students should not be allowed to take out these bags during the school day.

## BULLYING

Bullying occurs when a student or group of students directs written or verbal expressions or physical conduct against another student and the behavior results in harm to the student or the student's property, places a student in fear of physical harm or of damage to the student's property, or is so severe, persistent, or pervasive that it creates an intimidating, threatening, or abusive educational environment.

Bullying could include hazing, threats, taunting, teasing, assault, demands for money, confinement, destruction of property, theft of valued possessions, name-calling, rumor-spreading, and ostracism. In some cases, bullying can occur through electronic methods, called "cyberbullying."

If a student believes that he or she has experienced bullying, it is important for the student or parent to notify a teacher, counselor, principal, or another district employee. The administration will investigate any allegations of bullying and will take appropriate disciplinary action if an investigation indicates that bullying has occurred.

[Also see **School Safety Transfers** on page [8](#), **Hazing** on page [42](#), and policy FFI(LOCAL).]

## CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION (CTE) PROGRAMS

The district offers career and technical education programs in [Technology, Business Education, Health Science Technology, Family and Consumer Sciences Education, Technology Education, Marketing Education, and Trade and Industrial Education](#). Admission to these programs is based on [interest, aptitude, age appropriateness and class space availability](#). It is the policy of the [Valley View Independent School District](#) not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex or handicap in its career and technology education programs, services or activities as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.

[Valley View ISD](#) will take steps to ensure that lack of English language skills will not be a barrier to admission and participation in all educational and CTE programs. [Also see **Nondiscrimination Statement** on page [49](#) for additional information regarding the district's efforts regarding participation in these programs.]

## CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

The district has established a plan for addressing child sexual abuse, which may be accessed at [www.vviewisd.net](http://www.vviewisd.net). As a parent, it is important for you to be aware of warning signs that could indicate a child may have been or is being sexually abused. 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.

Anyone who suspects that a child has been or may be abused or neglected has a legal responsibility, under state law, for reporting the suspected abuse or neglect to law enforcement or to Child Protective Services (CPS).

Possible physical warning signs of sexual abuse could be difficulty sitting or walking, pain in the genital areas, and claims of stomachaches and headaches. Behavioral indicators may include 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. Emotional warning signs to be aware of include withdrawal, depression, sleeping and eating disorders, and problems in school.

A child who has experienced sexual abuse should be encouraged to seek out a trusted adult. Be aware as a parent or other trusted adult that disclosures of sexual abuse may be more indirect than disclosures of physical abuse, and 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.

As a parent, if your child is a victim of sexual abuse, the campus counselor or principal will provide information regarding counseling options for you and your child available in your area. The Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (TDFPS) also manage early intervention counseling programs. To find out what services may be available in your county, see

[http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Prevention\\_and\\_Early\\_Intervention/Programs\\_Available\\_In\\_Your\\_County/default.asp](http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Prevention_and_Early_Intervention/Programs_Available_In_Your_County/default.asp).

The following Web sites might help you become more aware of child sexual abuse:

<http://www.tea.state.tx.us/index.aspx?id=2820>

<http://sapn.nonprofitoffice.com/>

<http://www.taasa.org/member/materials2.php>

[http://www.oag.state.tx.us/AG\\_Publications/txts/childabuse1.shtml](http://www.oag.state.tx.us/AG_Publications/txts/childabuse1.shtml)

[http://www.oag.state.tx.us/AG\\_Publications/txts/childabuse2.shtml](http://www.oag.state.tx.us/AG_Publications/txts/childabuse2.shtml)

Reports may be made to:

The Child Protective Services (CPS) division of the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (1-800-252-5400 or on the Web at <http://www.txabusehotline.org>).

## **CLASS RANK / HIGHEST RANKING STUDENT**

The valedictorian and salutatorian shall be the eligible students with the highest and second highest ranking as determined by the District's class ranking procedure described in this policy and who complete the Advanced/Distinguished Achievement Program. The valedictorian shall receive the Honor Certificate granted under Education Code 54.201. To be eligible for valedictorian or salutatorian honors, a student must have been continuously enrolled in the District high school for the four semesters preceding graduation; completed the Advanced/Distinguished Achievement Program for graduation; earned a minimum of six credit courses designated as G/T, Pre-AP, AP, or college course; and be a four-year graduate.

To qualify to give the valedictorian or salutatorian speech, a student shall not have engaged in any serious misconduct violation of the Student Code of Conduct, including removal to a DAEP, a three day suspension, or expulsion during his or her last two semesters. In case of a tie, the ranking student shall be chosen according to the following criteria:

1. The student with the most AP and/or dual credit courses shall be considered first.
2. However, if a tie still remains, the student with the highest numerical grade average of all AP courses taken shall be the valedictorian.
3. If a tie still remains for valedictorian, co-valedictorians shall be named with no salutatorian named.
4. If a tie exists for salutatorian, the same procedures shall be used and no third-ranking student would be named.

All students whose weighted grade point averages (GPA) make up the top ten percent of the graduating class and qualify for automatic admission under Education Code 51.803 shall be recognized as honor graduates. Eligibility requirements for determining valedictorian and salutatorian or other local honor positions, such as time in the District, shall not apply to the procedure for determining the top ten percent. The GPA shall be reported on the student's transcript and made available in accordance with the application deadline for the college or university when requested by the student. [See EIC(LEGAL)] [For further information, see policies at EIC.]

A student's class ranking shall be determined within the graduation class of the school year in which the student completes all requirements for a diploma, regardless of the number of years the student is enrolled in high school. For ranking purposes, a school year begins on the first day of summer school and ends on the last day of the spring semester. Early graduates shall not be eligible for valedictorian or salutatorian honors but shall be eligible for top ten percent recognition.

## **CLASS SCHEDULES**

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

## **COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY ADMISSIONS**

For two school years following his or her graduation, a district student who graduates in the top ten percent and, in some cases, the top 25 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 Recommended or Advanced/Distinguished Achievement Program; or
- Satisfies the ACT College Readiness Benchmarks or earns at least a 1500 out of 2400 on the SAT.

In addition, the student must submit a completed application for admission in accordance with the deadline established by the college or university.

The University of Texas at Austin may limit the number of students automatically admitted to 75 percent of the University’s enrollment capacity for incoming resident freshmen. For students who are eligible to enroll in the University of Texas at Austin during the summer or fall 2013 term, the University will be admitting the top nine percent of the high school’s graduating class who meet the above requirements. Additional applicants will be considered by the University through an independent review process.

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

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

[See also **Class Rank/Highest Ranking Student** on page 17 for information specifically related to how the district calculates a student’s rank in class].

Grades will be assigned to all students according to their performance on each lesson/activity. Valley View I.S.D. uses Gradebook to record grades. At least every three weeks, the campus principal will verify your online Gradebook.

Parents of our students have web access to their child’s grades and assignments. Therefore, grades must be posted at the end of each week. A gradebook template has been placed in this section so that you can manually record grades and attendance for the first two weeks of school as some changes may occur during this time.

## **GRADING POLICY**

Each six weeks will be averaged using a composite weighting system with the scale below:

- Homework.....10%
- Projects/Essays/Lab/Interactive Notebook .....20%
- Daily Assignments/Quizzes/Class Participation....35%
- Unit Tests/Six Weeks Test/Benchmarks.....35%

1. All grades will be averaged according to the approved grading policy. Teachers are required to have two grades per week and a minimum of twelve each six weeks.
2. All grades will be recorded onto the Gradebook system each week.
3. All tests, daily work, quizzes, and homework must be clearly identified with a description and date on the Gradebook system.
4. A grade of 70 will be the highest grade a student can earn for make-up work as a result of an unexcused absence or being in In-School Suspension.
5. A grade no less than a 50 may be recorded as a six weeks average on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> Six Wks.
6. Student may receive a grade lower than a 50 on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Six Weeks average.
7. All teachers will post student grades by student ID number on a weekly basis in plastic sleeves on the walls of your classroom.
8. There will be no retesting on six weeks tests except under extenuating circumstances as determined by campus principal.

The semester grade will be the average of the three six weeks marking periods.

For example:

$$1^{\text{st}} \text{ Six Weeks} + 2^{\text{nd}} \text{ Six Weeks} + 3^{\text{rd}} \text{ Six Weeks} = 1^{\text{st}} \text{ Semester Average}$$

$$4^{\text{th}} \text{ Six Weeks} + 5^{\text{th}} \text{ Six Weeks} + 6^{\text{th}} \text{ Six Weeks} = 2^{\text{nd}} \text{ Semester Average}$$

For all students who entered high school on or before 2010-2011:

The final grade will be the average of the two semesters.

$$1^{\text{st}} \text{ Semester Average} + 2^{\text{nd}} \text{ Semester Average} = \text{Final Average}$$



## **END OF COURSE EXAMS**

For all Freshmen entering high school 2012-2013 or after:

Yearly Average:

Semester 1 (42.5%) + Semester 2 (42.5%) + EOC (15%) = Yearly Average

Students participating in the Recommended/Distinguished Graduation Programs will have to take an EOC exam in the areas of Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, World Geography, World History, US History, English I, English II, English III, Biology, Chemistry, Physics. The rules shall require that students under the Minimal High School Program only test for the subjects the student is enrolled and that the End of Course is administered.

A student is required to achieve in a subject area a cumulative score that is at least equal to the product of the number of EOC instruments administered to the student in that subject and a scale score that indicates satisfactory performance as determined by the Commissioner of Education. A student must achieve a minimum score as determined by Commissioner to be within a reasonable range of the scale score on the EOC exam for the score to count towards the cumulative score.

## **EOC RETESTING**

Students will be allowed to retake an EOC exam and will count towards the students yearly average only if the exam assists the student in passing the class. If the student already has an average of 70 or higher, the retake score will not change the final average. The initial score on the EOC will be used for ranking purposes. Retest EOC scores will not be taken into account when deriving the students class ranking.

## **COLLEGE CREDIT COURSES**

Students in grades 9–12 have opportunities to earn college credit through the following methods:

- Certain courses taught at the high school campus, which may include courses termed dual credit, Advanced Placement (AP), or International Baccalaureate (IB);
- Enrollment in an AP or dual credit course through the Texas Virtual School Network;
- Enrollment in courses taught in conjunction and in partnership with South Texas College, Texas State Technical College, and University of Texas-Pan American;

- Enrollment in courses taught at the following institutions in the district **South Texas College, Texas State Technical College, and University of Texas-Pan American;** and
- Certain CTE courses.

All of these methods have eligibility requirements and must be approved prior to enrollment in the course. Please see the counselor for more information.

It is important to keep in mind that 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.

## **CLASS RANKING**

Only the following courses shall be used to determine class rank for graduating classes of 2009 and thereafter:

- English 1, 2, 3, 4, (or equivalent courses)
- Mathematics (all)
- Science (all)
- Social Studies (All), Government, Economics
- Foreign Language

For ranking purposes, a student’s grade shall be weighted before averaging according to the following scale adopted for each level of course designation. Classes shall be designated as **Dual Enrollment, Advanced Placement, Pre-Advanced Placement, Gifted/Talented, TSTEM,** and Regular.

Points shall be added to the total of the grade earned as follows:

- |  |         |
|--|---------|
| ○ Dual Enrollment Courses                                | 13 pts. |
| ○ Advanced Placement                                     | 9 pts.  |
| ○ Pre-Advanced Placement/Gifted & Talented/ <b>TSTEM</b> | 5 pts.  |

Points shall not be added to courses designated as “Regular” in the VVHS Curriculum Bulletin.

College Course Grades will be the equivalent of the following:

- A = 99
- B = 89
- C = 79
- D = 69
- F = 59

## **COMPLAINTS AND CONCERNS**

Usually student or parent complaints or concerns can be addressed by a phone call or a conference with the teacher or principal. For those complaints and concerns that cannot be

handled so easily, the district has adopted a standard complaint policy at FNG(LOCAL) in the district's policy manual. A copy of this policy may be obtained in the principal's or superintendent's office **or on the district's Web site at [www.vvviewisd.net](http://www.vvviewisd.net)**.

In general, the student or parent should submit a written complaint and request a conference with the campus principal. If the concern is not resolved, a request for a conference should be sent to the superintendent. If still unresolved, the district provides for the complaint to be presented to the board of trustees.

## **CONDUCT**

### **Applicability of School Rules**

As required by law, the board has adopted a Student Code of Conduct that prohibits certain behaviors and defines standards of acceptable behavior—both on and off campus—and consequences for violation of these standards. The district has disciplinary authority over a student in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct and will enforce a zero tolerance policy. Students and parents should be familiar with the standards set out in the Student Code of Conduct, as well as campus and classroom rules.

### **Corporal Punishment**

Corporal punishment—spanking or paddling the student—may be used as a discipline management technique in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct and policy FO(LOCAL) in the district's policy manual.

### **Disruptions of School Operations**

Disruptions of school operations are not tolerated and may constitute a misdemeanor offense. As identified by 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 district property or on public property that is within 500 feet of district property. Class disruption 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.

## **Social Events**

School rules apply to all school social events. Guests attending these events are expected to observe the same rules as students, and a student inviting a guest will share responsibility for the conduct of his or her guest.

A student attending a social event will be asked to sign out when leaving before the end of the event; anyone leaving before the official end of the event will not be readmitted.

## **CONTAGIOUS DISEASES / CONDITIONS**

To protect other students from contagious illnesses, students infected with certain diseases are not allowed to come to school while contagious. If a parent suspects that his or her child has a contagious disease, the parent should contact the school nurse or principal so that other students who might have been exposed to the disease can be alerted.

The school nurse or the principal's office can provide information from the Department of State Health Services regarding these diseases.

## **COUNSELING**

### **Academic Counseling**

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 spring, students in grades 5-12 will be provided information on anticipated course offerings for the next school year and other information that will help them make the most of academic and CTE opportunities.

To plan for the future, each student should work closely with the counselor in order to enroll in the high school courses that best prepare him or her for attendance at a college, university, or training school, or for pursuit of some other type of advanced education. The counselor can also provide information about entrance exams and application deadlines, as well as information about automatic admission to state colleges and universities, financial aid, housing, and scholarships.

### **Personal Counseling**

The school counselor is available to assist students with a wide range of personal concerns, including such areas as social, family, or emotional issues, or substance abuse. The counselor may also make available information about community resources to address these concerns. A student who wishes to meet with the counselor should schedule a conference for a specific time and date.

### **Psychological Exams, Tests, or Treatment**

The school will not conduct a psychological examination, test, or treatment without first obtaining the parent's written consent. Parental consent is not necessary when a psychological examination, test, or treatment is required by state or federal law for special education purposes or by the Texas Education Agency for child abuse investigations and reports.

[For more information, refer to policies EHBAA(LEGAL), FFE(LEGAL), and FFG(EXHIBIT).]

## **COURSE CREDIT**

A student in grades 9–12 will earn credit for a course only if the final grade is 70 or above. For a two-semester (1 credit) course, the student’s grades from both semesters will be averaged and credit will be awarded if the combined average is 70 or above. Should the student’s combined average be less than 70, the student will be required to retake the semester in which he or she failed.

### **CREDIT BY EXAM—If a Student Has Taken the Course**

A student who has previously taken a course or subject—but did not receive credit for it—may, in circumstances determined by the principal or attendance committee, be permitted to earn credit by passing an exam on the essential knowledge and skills defined for that course or subject. Prior instruction may include, for example, incomplete coursework due to a failed course or excessive absences, home schooling, or coursework by a student transferring from a non-accredited school. A student needs to attend 3 consecutive after-school tutorial sessions with a teacher of the subject area the exam is being taken. Time and days will be set by a teacher. The student will complete all tasks previously mentioned above.

The counselor or principal would determine if the student could take an exam for this purpose. If approval is granted, the student must score at least 70 on the exam to receive credit for the course or subject. The attendance review committee may also offer a student with excessive absences an opportunity to earn credit for a course by passing an exam.

[For further information, see the counselor and policy EHDB(LOCAL).]

### **CREDIT BY EXAM—If a Student Has Not Taken the Course**

A student will be permitted to take an exam to earn credit for an academic course for which the student has had no prior instruction or to accelerate to the next grade level. A student needs to attend 5 consecutive after-school tutorial sessions with a teacher of the subject area the exam is being taken. Time and days will be set by a teacher of the content area for exam being administered.

The dates on which exams are scheduled during the 2012–2013 school year include:

Dates Scheduled:

| <b>Registration Dates</b> | <b>Testing Dates</b>    |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| Fall 2012                 | Monday, October 8, 2012 |
| Spring 2013               | Monday, May 20, 2013    |

A student will earn course credit with a passing score of at least 90 on the exam. A student in elementary school will be eligible to accelerate to the next grade level if the student scores at

least 90 on each exam in the subject areas of language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies.

If a student plans to take an exam, the student (or parent) must register with the principal no later than 30 days prior to the scheduled testing date. The district will honor a request by a parent to administer a test on a date other than the published dates. If the district agrees to administer a test other than the one chosen by the district, the student's parent will be responsible for the cost of the exam. [For further information, see policy EHDC(LOCAL).]

## **DATING VIOLENCE, DISCRIMINATION, HARASSMENT, AND RETALIATION**

The district believes that all students learn best in an environment free from dating violence, discrimination, harassment, and retaliation and that their welfare is best served when they are free from this prohibited conduct while attending school. Students are expected to treat other students and district employees with courtesy and respect, to avoid behaviors known to be offensive, and to stop those behaviors when asked or told to stop. District employees are expected to treat students with courtesy and respect.

The board has established policies and procedures to prohibit and promptly respond to inappropriate and offensive behaviors that are based on a person's race, color, religion, gender, national origin, disability, or any other basis prohibited by law. [See policy FFH.]

### **Dating Violence**

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. This type of conduct is considered harassment if the conduct is so severe, persistent, or pervasive that it affects the 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 or 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, attempts to isolate the student from friends and family, stalking, or encouraging others to engage in these behaviors.

### **Discrimination**

Discrimination is defined as any conduct directed at a student on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, national origin, 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 the 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. A copy of the district's policy is available in the principal's office, in the superintendent's office and the district website at [www.vvewisd.net](http://www.vvewisd.net).

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 or intimidating 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**

Sexual harassment of a student by an employee, volunteer, or another student is prohibited.

Sexual harassment of a student by an employee or volunteer does not include necessary or permissible physical contact not reasonably construed as sexual in nature. However, romantic and other inappropriate social relationships, as well as all sexual relationships, between students and district employees are prohibited, even if consensual.

Examples of prohibited sexual harassment may include, but not be 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.

### **Retaliation**

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

Retaliation against a student might occur when a student receives threats from another student or an employee or when an employee imposes an unjustified punishment or unwarranted grade reduction. Retaliation does not include petty slights and annoyances from other students or negative comments from a teacher that are justified by a student's poor academic performance in the classroom.

### **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, counselor, principal, or other district employee. The report may be made by the student's parent. See policy FFH(LOCAL) for the appropriate district officials to whom to make a report.

### **Investigation of Report**

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 to comply with law. Allegations of prohibited conduct, which includes dating violence, discrimination, harassment, and retaliation, will be promptly investigated. The district will notify the parents of any student alleged to have experienced prohibited conduct involving an adult associated with the district.

In the event prohibited conduct involves another student, the district will notify the parents of the student alleged to have experienced the prohibited conduct when the allegations, if proven, would constitute a violation as defined by policy.

If the district’s investigation indicates that prohibited conduct occurred, appropriate disciplinary or corrective action will be taken to address the conduct. The district may take disciplinary action even if the conduct that is the subject of the complaint was not unlawful.

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 26.]

## **DISTANCE LEARNING**

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 Texas Virtual School Network (TxVSN) has been established 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. In limited circumstances, a student in grade 8 may also be eligible to enroll in a course through the TxVSN.

Depending on the TxVSN course in which a student enrolls, the course may be subject to the “no pass, no play” rules. [Also see **Extracurricular Activities, Clubs, and Organizations** on page 34.]

If you have questions or wish to make a request that your child be enrolled in a TxVSN course, please contact the counselor.

The additional distance learning opportunities available to district students are correspondence courses, as a means of earning credit in a subject or course. The Superintendent or designee shall establish procedures governing the use of other distance learning courses, including correspondence courses, as a means of earning credit in a subject or course. In order to receive credit, a student shall obtain approval from the principal prior to enrollment in the course obtain approval from the principal or designee prior to enrollment in the course. [EHDE Local]

If a student wishes to enroll in a correspondence course or a distance learning course that is not provided through the TxVSN in order 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 will not recognize and apply the course or subject toward graduation requirements or subject mastery.

## **DISTRIBUTION OF PUBLISHED MATERIALS OR DOCUMENTS**

### **School Materials**

Publications prepared by and for the school may be posted or distributed, with the prior approval of the principal, sponsor, or teacher. Such items may include school posters, brochures, flyers, etc.

All school publications are under the supervision of a teacher, sponsor, and the principal.

[See **Directory Information for School-Sponsored Purposes** on page 12.]



### **Nonschool Materials...from students**

Students must obtain prior approval from the Principal before posting, circulating, or distributing more than ten copies of written materials, handbills, photographs, pictures, petitions, films, tapes, posters, 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. The decision regarding approval will be made within two school days.

The principal has designated the cafeteria as the location for approved nonschool materials to be placed for voluntary viewing by students. [See policies at FNAA.]

A student may appeal a principal's decision in accordance with policy FNG (LOCAL). Any student who posts nonschool material without prior approval will be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct. Materials displayed without the principal's approval will be removed.

### **Nonschool Materials...from others**

Written or printed materials, handbills, photographs, pictures, films, tapes, or other visual or auditory materials not sponsored by the district or by a district-affiliated school-support organization will not be sold, circulated, distributed, or posted on any district premises by any district employee or by persons or groups not associated with the district, 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 to the Principal for prior review. The Principal will approve or reject the materials within two school days of the time the materials are received. The requestor may appeal a rejection in accordance with the appropriate district complaint policy. [See policies at DGBA, FNG, or GF.]

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 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**

The district's dress code is established to teach 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:

#### ***Girls and Boys***

1. The school uniform is required at all times. Student dress shall be neat, clean, properly fitting and reasonably simple. **No writing or airbrushing on uniforms is allowed.**
2. Footwear is required and must be safe and appropriate for indoor or outdoor physical activity. Footwear shall be worn to school (boots, or shoes); sandals or thongs shall not be worn to school. Shoe heels with metal or other loud sounding devices are forbidden.
3. Patches or writing with obscene connotations shall not be permitted. Clothing or accessories may not display offensive, vulgar language or images and must not advertise products which students may not legally purchase. Pictures, emblems, or writings on clothing that are lewd, offensive, vulgar, or obscene, or that advertise violence, heavy metal groups, devil worship, or gangs or depict tobacco products, alcoholic beverages, drugs, or any other substance prohibited under policy FNCF(Legal) are not permitted.
4. Shorts and warm-ups are not permitted in regular classes except physical education classes. Shorts when allowed should not be more than 6" above the knee.
5. Hair must be clean and neatly combed and styled in such a manner that is not distracting. Grooming is not permitted in the classroom or in the cafeteria.
6. Caps and/or hats, headbands, hoods or bandanas are not allowed during school and/or school sponsored activities.
7. Shorts, Skort, and Skirts, when allowed, should not be more than two (2) inches above the knee.
8. Overalls with suspenders must be worn properly. Suspenders must not be allowed to dangle.
9. Trousers may not be worn below the waist at any time
10. Excessively baggy trousers may not be worn.
11. Any inappropriate pictures, drawings, inappropriate writing on shirts are not allowed during school or school related activities.
12. Student are required to wear the school uniform at all time during the school year. It must be tucked in at all times and worn outside any other clothing.
13. Club/Athletic shirts may be worn only on Fridays. There are no exceptions.
14. No body piercing except for pierced ears on girls.

15. Leggings, non-school sweat pants, sleepwear and tight stretch pants are not permitted.
16. All pants must not be torn, shredded, and must be neat clean and well fitted.
17. Hair color or hair designs that is unnatural or that may create a disturbance in the educational environment is not allowed.

**All students are required to wear the school uniform which is the school T-shirt and pants, blue jeans, skirts or skorts.**

The policy governing campus dress and grooming shall be determined uniformly and fairly by the faculty and administration. The professional staff shall determine the appropriateness for all school occasions.

When dress becomes disruptive to the educational process, a student may be counseled, asked to remove an article of clothing, change into suitable attire, or returned home to change. Repeat offenders may be subject to disciplinary action.

**These rules apply at all times of the school day and on field trips.**

### ***Girls***

General provisions of dress and grooming shall be as follows:

1. Rat tails, beaded, punk rock cuts, Mohawks, spikes, unnatural colorization are not allowed. Determination of hairstyle violations are at the discretion of the administrator.
2. Guidelines for dress/skirt length shall be no shorter than two inches above the knee.
3. Nose studs, or jewelry in body piercing are not permitted during school or school related activities. This includes string, plastic studs, etc.

### ***BOYS***

1. Boys may wear mustaches as long as they are neatly groomed, no beards shall be permitted. Goatees are not permitted. Boys must be clean-shaven.
2. Hair should not extend below the collar of a dress shirt. Pony-tails, Rat-tails, braided or beaded, punk rock cuts, Mohawks, spikes, unnatural colorization, razor lines, or white walls with long hair in the back are not allowed. Determination of hairstyle violations are at the discretion of the administrator. Sideburns must not extend below the ear.

3. Earrings, nose studs, or jewelry in body piercing are not permitted to be worn during school or school related activities. This includes string, plastic studs, etc. which are meant to keep the pierced hole open.

4. Socks will be worn at all times with proper footwear attire.

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. If not corrected, the student will be assigned to in-school suspension for the remainder of the day, until the problem is corrected, or until a parent or designee brings an acceptable change of clothing to the school. Repeated offenses may result in more serious disciplinary action in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct.

### CONSEQUENCES

- 1<sup>st</sup> violation- Warning given to student, dress code violation must be remedied at that time when possible
- 2<sup>nd</sup> violation- Parent contact, dress code violation must be remedied at that time when possible, student removal from regular school setting & place in ISS for 1 day.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> violation- Parent meeting, dress code violation must be remedied at that time when possible, and student is placed in ISS for 2 days.
- 4<sup>th</sup> violation- parent meeting and student is placed in AEP for 15 days

### ELECTRONIC DEVICES AND TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES

#### Possession and Use of Personal Telecommunications Devices, Including Mobile Telephones

For safety purposes, the district permits students to possess personal mobile telephones; however, these devices must remain turned off during the instructional day, including during all testing, unless they are being used for approved instructional purposes. A student must have approval to possess other telecommunications devices such as netbooks, laptops, tablets, or other portable computers.

The use of mobile telephones or any device capable of capturing images is strictly prohibited in locker rooms or restroom areas while at school or at a school-related or school-sponsored event.

If a student uses a telecommunications device without authorization during the school day, the device will be confiscated. The parent may pick up the confiscated telecommunications device from the principal's office for a fee of \$15.

Confiscated telecommunications devices that are not retrieved by the student or the student's parents will be disposed of after the notice required by law. [See policy FNCE.]

In limited circumstances and in accordance with law, a student's personal telecommunications device may be searched by authorized personnel. [See **Searches** on page 56 and policy FNF.]

**During time of testing, any confiscated electronic device will not only constitute payment of 15 dollars, but will also result with student being place in AEP for 15 days.**

Any disciplinary action will be in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct. The district will not be responsible for damaged, lost, or stolen telecommunications devices.

### **Possession and Use of Other Personal Electronic Devices**

Except as described below, students are not permitted to possess or use personal electronic devices such as MP3 players, video or audio recorders, DVD players, cameras, games, e-readers, or other electronic devices at school, unless prior permission has been obtained. Without such permission, teachers will collect the items and turn them in to the principal's office. The principal will determine whether to return items to students at the end of the day or to contact parents to pick up the items.

In limited circumstances and in accordance with law, a student's personal electronic device may be searched by authorized personnel. [See **Searches** on page **56** and policy FNF.]

Any disciplinary action will be in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct. The district will not be responsible for any damaged, lost, or stolen electronic device.

### **Instructional Use of Personal Telecommunications and Other Electronic Devices**

In some cases, students may find it beneficial or might be encouraged to use personal telecommunications or other personal electronic devices for instructional purposes while on campus. Students must obtain prior approval before using personal telecommunications or other personal electronic devices for instructional use. Students must also sign a user agreement that contains applicable rules for use (separate from this handbook). When students are not using the devices for approved instructional purposes, all devices must be turned off during the instructional day. Violations of the user agreement may result in withdrawal of privileges and other disciplinary action.

### **Acceptable Use of District Technology Resources**

To prepare students for an increasingly technological society, the district has made an investment in the use of district-owned technology resources for instructional purposes; specific resources may be issued individually to students. Use of these technological resources, which include the district's network systems and use of district equipment, is restricted to approved purposes only. Students and parents will be asked to sign a user agreement 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 sending, posting, accessing, or displaying electronic messages that are abusive, obscene, sexually oriented, threatening, harassing, damaging to another's reputation, or illegal. This prohibition applies to conduct off school property, whether the equipment used to send such messages is district-owned or personally owned, if it results in a substantial disruption to the educational environment. Any person taking, disseminating, transferring, or sharing obscene, sexually oriented, lewd, or otherwise illegal images or other content, commonly referred to as "sexting," will be disciplined according to the Student Code of Conduct and may, in certain circumstances, be reported to law enforcement.

## END-OF-COURSE (EOC) ASSESSMENTS

See **Course Credit** on page [25](#), **Grading Guidelines** on page [37](#), **Graduation** on page [37](#), and **Standardized Testing** on page [57](#).

## EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES, CLUBS, AND ORGANIZATIONS

Participation in school-sponsored activities is an excellent way for a student to develop talents, receive individual recognition, and build strong friendships with other students; participation, however, is a privilege, not a right.

Eligibility for initial and continuing participation in 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. [See <http://www.uil texas.org> for additional information.]

The following requirements apply to all extracurricular activities:

- A student who receives at the end of a grading period a grade below 70 in any academic class—other than an Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate course; or an honors or dual credit course in English language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, economics, or language other than English—may not participate in extracurricular activities for at least three school weeks.
- A student with disabilities 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.
- A student is allowed in a school year up to 10 absences not related to post-district competition, a maximum of 3 absences for post-district competition prior to state, and a maximum of 3 absences for state competition. All extracurricular activities and public performances, whether UIL activities or other activities approved by the board, are subject to these restrictions.
- An absence for participation in an activity that has not been approved will receive 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 local policy will apply in addition to any consequences specified by the organization's standards of behavior.

[For further information, see policies at FM and FO. For student-organized, student-led groups, see **Meetings of Non-curriculum-Related Groups** on page [56](#).]

## Offices and Elections

Certain clubs, organizations, and performing groups will hold elections for student officers. These groups include:

|                          |                            |                                  |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Master Minds             | Art Club                   | U.I.L. Academics                 |
| National Honor Society   | Athletics (boys and girls) | Yearbook                         |
| Freshmen Class Officers  | Spanish Club (PASF)        | Folklorico                       |
| Sophomore Class Officers | Folklorico                 | Cheerleading                     |
| Junior Class Officers    | FCCLA                      | Mariachi Band                    |
| Senior Class Officers    | JROTC                      | FBLA                             |
| Band                     | Student Council            | Criminal Justice or VICA         |
| PASF                     | E- Club                    | National Technical Honor Society |
| Drill Team               | Color Guard                | Dance Team                       |

## FEES

Materials that are part of the basic educational program are provided with state and local funds at no charge to a student. A student, however, is expected to provide his or her own pencils, paper, erasers, and notebooks and may be required to pay certain other fees or deposits, including:

- Costs for materials for a class project that the student will keep.
- Membership dues in voluntary clubs or student organizations and admission fees to extracurricular activities.
- Security deposits.
- Personal physical education and athletic equipment and apparel.
- Voluntarily purchased pictures, publications, class rings, yearbooks, graduation announcements, etc.
- Voluntarily purchased student 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, if offered.
- Fees for optional courses offered for credit that require use of facilities not available on district premises.
- Summer school for courses that are offered tuition-free during the regular school year.
- A reasonable fee for providing transportation to a student who lives within two miles of the school. [See **Buses and Other School Vehicles** on page 61.]

- A fee not to exceed \$50 for costs of providing an educational program outside of regular school hours for a student who has lost credit because of absences and whose parent chooses the program in order for the student to meet the 90 percent attendance requirement. 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. [For further information, see policies at FP.]

## **FUND-RAISING**

Student groups or classes and/or parent groups may be permitted to conduct fund-raising drives for approved school purposes. An application for permission must be made to the Principal at least 10 days before the event. [For further information, see policies at FJ and GE.]

## **GANG-FREE ZONES**

Certain criminal offenses, including those involving organized criminal activity such as gang-related crimes, will be enhanced to the next highest category of offense if they are committed in a gang-free zone. For purposes of the district, a gang-free zone includes a school bus and a location in, on, or within 1,000 feet of any district-owned or leased property or campus playground.



## GRADE CLASSIFICATION

After the ninth grade, 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

Grading guidelines for each grade level or course will be communicated and distributed to students and their parents by the classroom teacher. These guidelines have been reviewed by each applicable curriculum department and have been approved by the campus principal. These guidelines establish the minimum number of assignments, projects, and examinations required for each grading period. In addition, these guidelines establish how the student's mastery of concepts and achievement will be communicated (i.e., letter grades, numerical averages, checklist of required skills, etc.). Grading guidelines also outline in what circumstances a student will be allowed to redo an assignment or retake an examination for which the student originally made a failing grade.

State law requires a student's score on an end-of-course (EOC) assessment to count as 15 percent of the student's final grade for the course.

Also see **Report Cards/Progress Reports and Conferences** on page 53 for additional information on grading guidelines. See **Graduation** below, **Course Credit** on page 25, and **Standardized Testing** on page 57 for additional information regarding EOC assessments.

## GRADUATION

### Requirements for a Diploma

To receive a high school diploma from the district, a student must successfully:

- Complete the required number of credits;
- Complete any locally required courses in addition to the courses mandated by the state; and
- Depending on the year in which the student is scheduled to graduate, pass a statewide exit-level exam or achieve the required cumulative scores on end-of-course (EOC) assessments.

The exit-level test, currently required for students in grade 11, covers English language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies and requires knowledge of Algebra I and Geometry; Biology and Integrated Chemistry and Physics; English III; and early American and United States History, World History, and World Geography. Students in grades 10 and 11 during the 2012–2013 school year must pass the exit-level test to graduate. A student in grade 12 who has not passed the exit-level test will have opportunities to retake it.

Also see **Standardized Testing** on page 57 for more information.

**Beginning with students who enter grade 9 in the 2011–2012 school year**, EOC assessments will be administered for the following courses and will replace the exit-level test as mentioned above: English I, English II, English III, Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, World Geography, World History, and United States History. Students graduating under the Minimum Program must take EOC assessments only for courses in which they are enrolled and for which there is an EOC assessment. Each student will be required to achieve certain scores on the applicable EOC assessments to graduate, depending on the graduation program in which the student is enrolled. A student who has not achieved sufficient scores on the EOC assessments to graduate will have opportunities to retake the assessments.

If a student fails to perform satisfactorily on an EOC assessment, the district will provide remediation to the student in the content area for which the performance standard was not met.

Also see **Grading Guidelines** above and **Standardized Testing** on page **57** for more information.

### **Graduation Programs**

The district offers the graduation programs listed below. All students entering grade 9 are required to enroll in the Recommended Program or Advanced/Distinguished Achievement Program. Permission to enroll in the Minimum Program will be granted only if a written agreement is reached among the student, the student's parent or person standing in parental relation, and the counselor or appropriate administrator. In order for a student to take courses under the Minimum Program, the student must be at least 16 years of age; have completed at least two credits each in English language arts, math, science, and social studies courses that are required for graduation; or have failed grade 9 one or more times. [See policy EIF(LEGAL).]

**Effective with ninth graders in the 2011–2012 school year, in addition to the credit and course requirements for each program**, performance on EOC assessments will be linked to a student's eligible graduation program. To graduate, a student must meet a minimum cumulative score set by the Texas Education Agency (TEA) for each content area: English, mathematics, science, and social studies. To determine whether the student meets the cumulative score, the student's EOC assessment scores in each content area will be added together. If the student's total score on the assessments within the content area is not equal to or greater than the cumulative score set by TEA, the student may retake any of the assessments in that content area until the student achieves the cumulative score. A student who does not make the minimum required score on any individual assessment will be required to retake that assessment.

To graduate on the Recommended Program, a student must perform satisfactorily on the Algebra II and English III EOC assessments, in addition to meeting the cumulative score requirements described above. To graduate on the Advanced/Distinguished Achievement Program, a student must demonstrate advanced academic performance on the Algebra II and English III EOC assessments, commonly referred to as college and career readiness standards, in addition to successfully meeting performance standards on the other EOC assessments. If this standard is not met, the student will graduate under the Recommended Program, regardless of whether the student has met all other requirements for graduation under the Advanced/Distinguished Achievement Program.

All students must meet the following credit and course requirements for graduation under the programs listed:

| <b>Courses</b>              | <b>Number of credits<br/>Minimum Program</b>   | <b>Number of credits<br/>Recommended<br/>Program</b> | <b>Number of credits<br/>Advanced/<br/>Distinguished<br/>Achievement<br/>Program</b> |
|-----------------------------|--|--|--|
| English/Language Arts       | 4  | 4  | 4  |
| Mathematics                 | 3  | 4  | 4  |
| Science                     | 2<br>Biology<br>IPC<br>May substitute Chemistry<br>of Physics                                  | 4  | 4  |
| Social Studies              | 2.5  | 3.5  | 3.5  |
| Economics                   | 0.5  | 0.5  | 0.5  |
| Physical Education          | 1  | 1  | 1  |
| Speech                      | 0.5  | 0.5  | 0.5  |
| Language other than English | None   | 2  | 3  |
| Academic Elective           | 1<br>World History<br>World Geography  | 0  | 0  |
| Fine Arts                   | 1  | 1  | 1  |
| Electives                   | 6.5 credits  | 5.5 credits  | 4.5 credits  |
| Miscellaneous               | This plan will<br>requirement<br>agreement of student,<br>parent, counselor &<br>administrator |  | Completion of 4<br>Advanced Measures*  |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                | <b>22 credits</b>  | <b>26 credits</b>                                    | <b>26 credits</b>  |

\*A student graduating under the Advanced/Distinguished Achievement Program must also achieve a combination of four of the following advanced measures:

1. An original research project or other project that is related to the required curriculum. These projects must be judged by a panel of professionals or conducted under the direction of a mentor and reported to an appropriate audience. Please note that no more than two of the four advanced measures may be received from this option.
2. Test data where a student receives:
  - a. A score of three or above on an Advanced Placement (AP) exam;
  - b. A score of four or above on an International Baccalaureate (IB) exam; or
  - c. A score on the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) that qualifies the student for recognition as a commended scholar or higher by the College Board and National Merit Scholarship Corporation, as part of the National Hispanic Recognition Program (NHRP) of the College Board, or as part of the National Achievement Scholarship Program of the National Merit Scholarship Corporation. The PSAT/NMSQT score will count as only one advanced measure regardless of the number of honors received by the student.
3. College academic courses, including those taken for dual credit, and advanced technical courses, including locally articulated courses, provided the student scores the equivalent of a 3.0 or higher.

Information regarding specific courses required or offered in each curriculum area, along with a description of advanced measures available to students in the Advanced/Distinguished Achievement Program from the options listed above, will be distributed to students each spring in order to enroll in courses for the upcoming school year.

Please be aware that 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 counselor about a transfer or other alternatives. If the parents of at least 22 students request a transfer for those students to take a course in the required curriculum other than fine arts or CTE, the district will offer the course for the following year either by teleconference or at the school from which the transfers were requested.

### **Certificates of Coursework Completion**

A **transcript 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**

Upon the recommendation of the admission, review, and dismissal (ARD) committee, a student with disabilities may be permitted to graduate under the provisions of his or her IEP.

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. Even if the student participates in graduation ceremonies to

receive the certificate of attendance, he or she may remain enrolled to complete the IEP and earn his or her high school diploma; however, the student will only be allowed to participate in one graduation ceremony.

[See policy FMH(LEGAL).]

Please also be aware that if an ARD committee places a student with a disability on a modified curriculum in a subject area, the student will be automatically placed in the Minimum Program, in accordance with state rules.

If a student receiving special education services is scheduled to graduate under the Minimum Program or in accordance with the provisions of his or her IEP, the student's ARD committee will determine whether the general EOC assessment is an accurate measure of the student's achievement and progress or whether an alternative assessment is more appropriate. STAAR Modified and STAAR Alternate are the alternative assessments currently allowed by the state. [See **STANDARDIZED TESTING** for additional information.] If a student takes the STAAR Modified or STAAR Alternate assessment, the student's ARD committee will determine whether the score on an EOC assessment will count as 15 percent of a student's final grade, as well as whether successful performance and a cumulative score on the EOC assessments will be required for graduation.

### **Graduation Activities**

Graduation activities will include:

- Commencement Exercises
- Baccalaureate
- Project Celebration

Students who have met coursework requirements for graduation but have not yet demonstrated satisfactory performance on exit-level tests or end-of-course assessments will be allowed to participate in **graduation activities except for Commencement Exercises**. However, please keep in mind that participating in the activities and ceremonies is not synonymous with graduating. Ultimately, the final awarding of a diploma will be contingent upon the student's completion of all applicable requirements for graduation.

### **Graduation Speakers**

Graduating students will be given an opportunity to provide opening and closing remarks during the graduation ceremony. Only Valedictorian and Salutatorian will be eligible to give these remarks; however, if the student was assigned to disciplinary placement at any time during the spring semester, he or she will not be eligible to speak at graduation.

Students eligible to give the opening and closing remarks will be notified by the principal and given an opportunity to volunteer. In the event there are more eligible students volunteering than there are speaking roles at the graduation ceremony, the names of all eligible students who volunteered will be randomly drawn. The student whose name is drawn first will give the opening remarks and the student whose name is drawn second will give the closing remarks.

In addition to the opening and closing remarks, the top 10% may also have speaking roles at the graduation ceremony.

[For student speakers at other school events, see **Student Speakers** on page 59.]

[See FNA(LOCAL).]

## **Graduation Expenses**

Because students and parents will incur expenses in order to participate in the traditions of graduation—such as the purchase of invitations, senior ring, cap and gown, and senior picture—both the student and parent should monitor progress toward completion of all requirements for graduation. The expenses often are incurred in the junior year or first semester of the senior year. [See **Student Fees** on page 35.]

## **State Scholarships and Grants**

- Under the Texas Early High School Graduation Scholarship Program, students who complete the Recommended or Advanced/Distinguished Achievement Program may earn financial credits in varying amounts to apply toward college tuition. The amounts depend on the number of consecutive months in which the student completed graduation requirements and the number of early college credits earned and may be used at public or private higher education institutions within the state. The counselor can provide additional information about meeting the program's eligibility requirements.
- Students who have a financial need according to federal criteria and who complete the Recommended Program or Advanced/Distinguished Achievement Program may be eligible under the T.E.X.A.S. Grant Program for tuition and fees to Texas public universities, community colleges, and technical schools, as well as to private institutions. [For further information, see the principal or counselor and policy EJ(LEGAL).]

## **HARASSMENT**

[See **Dating Violence, Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation** on page 26.]

## **HAZING**

Hazing is defined as any intentional, knowing, or reckless act occurring on or off campus directed against a student that endangers the mental or physical health or the safety of a student for the purpose of pledging, being initiated to, affiliating with, holding office in, or maintaining membership in any organization whose members are or include other students.

Hazing will not be tolerated by the district. If an incident of hazing occurs, disciplinary consequences will be handled 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 or superintendent.

[Also see Bullying on page 16 and policies FFI and FNCC.]

## **HEALTH-RELATED MATTERS**

### **Bacterial Meningitis**

State law specifically requires the district to provide the following information:

- What is meningitis?

Meningitis is an inflammation of the covering of the brain and spinal cord. It can be caused by viruses, parasites, fungi, and bacteria. Viral meningitis is most common and the least serious. Bacterial meningitis is the most common form of serious bacterial infection with the potential for serious, long-term complications. It is an uncommon disease, but requires urgent treatment with antibiotics to prevent permanent damage or death.

- What are the symptoms?

Someone with meningitis will become very ill. The illness may develop over one or two days, but it can also rapidly progress in a matter of hours. Not everyone with meningitis will have the same symptoms.

Children (over 1 year old) and adults with meningitis may have a severe headache, high temperature, vomiting, sensitivity to bright lights, neck stiffness or joint pains, and drowsiness or confusion. In both children and adults, there may be a rash of tiny, red-purple spots. These can occur anywhere on the body.

The diagnosis of bacterial meningitis is based on a combination of symptoms and laboratory results.

- How serious is bacterial meningitis?

If it is diagnosed early and treated promptly, the majority of people make a complete recovery. In some cases it can be fatal or a person may be left with a permanent disability.

- How is bacterial meningitis spread?

Fortunately, none of the bacteria that cause meningitis are as contagious as diseases like the common cold or the flu, and they are not spread by casual contact or by simply breathing the air where a person with meningitis has been. The germs live naturally in the back of our noses and throats, but they do not live for long outside the body. They are spread when people exchange saliva (such as by kissing, sharing drinking containers, utensils, or cigarettes).

The germ does not cause meningitis in most people. Instead, most people become carriers of the germ for days, weeks, or even months. The bacteria rarely overcome the body's immune system and cause meningitis or another serious illness.

- How can bacterial meningitis be prevented?

Do not share food, drinks, utensils, toothbrushes, or cigarettes. Limit the number of persons you kiss.

While there are vaccines for some other strains of bacterial meningitis, they are used only in special circumstances. These include when there is a disease outbreak in a community or for people traveling to a country where there is a high risk of getting the disease. Also, a vaccine is recommended by some groups for college students, particularly freshmen living in dorms or residence halls. The vaccine is safe and effective (85–90 percent). It can cause mild side effects, such as redness and pain at the injection site lasting up to two days. Immunity develops within seven to ten days after the vaccine is given and lasts for up to five years.

- What should you do if you think you or a friend might have bacterial meningitis?

You should seek prompt medical attention.

- Where can you get more information?

Your school nurse, family doctor, and the staff at your local or regional health department office are excellent sources for information on all communicable diseases. You may also call your local health department or Regional Department of State Health Services office to ask about a meningococcal vaccine. Additional information may also be found at the Web sites for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, <http://www.cdc.gov>, and the Department of State Health Services, <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/>.

### **Physical Activity for Students in Elementary and Middle School**

In accordance with policies at EHAB, EHAC, EHBG and FFA, the district will ensure that students in full-day pre-kindergarten through grade 5 engage in moderate or vigorous physical activity for at least 30 minutes per day or 135 minutes per week.

Students in middle or junior high school will engage in 30 minutes of moderate or vigorous physical activity per day for at least four semesters.

For additional information on the district's requirements and programs regarding elementary, middle, and junior high school student physical activity requirements, please see the principal.

### **School Health Advisory Council (SHAC)**

During the preceding school year, the district's School Health Advisory Council held 4 meetings. Additional information regarding the district's School Health Advisory Council is available from the School Nurse. [See also policies at BDF and EHAA.]

The duties of the SHAC range from recommending curriculum to developing strategies for integrating curriculum into a coordinated school health program encompassing school health services, counseling services, a safe and healthy school environment, recess recommendations, and employee wellness. See policies at BDF and EHAA.

[See **Removing a Student from Human Sexuality Instruction** on page 6 for additional information.]

### **Other Health-Related Matters**

#### ***Physical Fitness Assessment***

Annually, the district will conduct a physical fitness assessment of students in grades 3–12. At the end of the school year, a parent may submit a written request to Principal to obtain the results of his or her child's physical fitness assessment conducted during the school year.

#### ***Vending Machines***

The district has adopted policies and implemented procedures to comply with state and federal food service guidelines for restricting student access to vending machines. For more information regarding these policies and guidelines see the Principal. [See policies at CO and FFA.]

#### ***Tobacco Prohibited***

The district and its staff strictly enforce prohibitions against the use of tobacco products by students and others on school property and at school-sponsored and school-related activities. [See the Student Code of Conduct and policies at FNCD and GKA.]



### ***Asbestos Management Plan***

The district's Asbestos Management Plan, designed to be in compliance with state and federal regulations, is available in the Support Services office. If you have any questions, please contact Support Services Director at 956-223-2619.

### ***Pest Management Plan***

The district applies only pest control products that comply with state and federal guidelines. Except in an emergency, signs will be posted 48 hours before application. Parents who want to be notified prior to pesticide application inside their child's school assignment area may contact Support Services Director at 223-2619.

### **HOMELESS STUDENTS**

For more information on services for homeless students, contact the district's Liaison for Homeless Children and Youths at 956-843-3004.

### **HOMEWORK**

Homework is an out-of-class assignment given to students during the independent phase of a lesson. Homework helps students to "cement" the learning.

Homework will be assigned for one or more of the following purposes:

- a. Enrichment
- b. Reinforcement
- c. Diagnostic assessment
- d. Maintenance of skills/processes
- e. Lesson preview

### **IMMUNIZATION**

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. This form may be obtained by writing the DSHS Immunization Branch (MC 1946), P.O. Box 149347, Austin, Texas 78714-9347; or online at <https://webds.dshs.state.tx.us/immco/affidavit.shtm>. 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, rubeola (measles), rubella (German measles), mumps, tetanus, pertussis, poliomyelitis (polio), hepatitis A, hepatitis B, varicella (chicken pox), and meningococcal. The school nurse can provide information on age-appropriate doses or on

an acceptable physician-validated history of illness required by the Department of State Health Services. 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. licensed physician stating that, in the doctor's opinion, the immunization required 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 life-long condition. [For further information, see policy FFAB(LEGAL) and the Department of State Health Services Web site:

<http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/immunize/school/default.shtm>.]

## **LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES**

### **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, if the questioning or interview 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 or interview the student at school.
- The principal ordinarily will make reasonable efforts to notify the parents unless the interviewer raises what the principal considers to be a valid objection.
- The principal ordinarily will be present 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 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, Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, 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 to take a student into custody.

Before a student is released to a law enforcement officer or other legally authorized person, the principal will verify the officer's identity and, to the best of his or her ability, will verify the official's authority to take custody of the student.

The principal will immediately notify the superintendent and will ordinarily attempt to notify the parent unless the officer or other 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 law enforcement officer, 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 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 is required to register as a sex offender or who has been convicted, received deferred prosecution, received deferred adjudication, or was adjudicated for delinquent conduct for any felony offense or certain misdemeanors.

[For further information, see policies FL(LEGAL) and GRA(LEGAL).]

### **LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENT STUDENTS**

A student with limited English proficiency (LEP) is entitled to receive specialized services from the district. To determine whether the student qualifies for services, a Language Proficiency Assessment Committee (LPAC) will be formed, which will consist of both district personnel and at least one parent representative. The student's parent must consent to any services recommended by the LPAC for a LEP student.

In order to determine a student's level of proficiency in English, the LPAC will use information from a variety of assessments. If the student qualifies for services and once a level of proficiency has been established, the LPAC will then designate instructional accommodations or additional special programs the student will require to eventually become proficient at grade level work in English. Ongoing assessments will be conducted to determine a student's continued eligibility for the program.

The LPAC will also determine whether certain accommodations are necessary for any state-mandated assessments. The STAAR-L, as mentioned at Standardized Testing, below, may be administered to a LEP student. The Texas English Language Proficiency Assessment System (TELPAS) will also be administered to LEP students who qualify for services.

If a student is considered LEP and receives special education services because of a qualifying disability, the student's ARD committee will make these decisions.

### **MAKEUP WORK**

#### **Makeup Work Because of Absence**

For any class missed, the teacher may assign the student makeup work based on the instructional objectives for the subject or course and the needs of the individual student in mastering the essential knowledge and skills or in meeting subject or course requirements.

A student will be responsible for obtaining and completing the makeup work in a satisfactory manner and within the time specified by the teacher. [For further information, see policy EIAB(LOCAL).]

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.

A student will be permitted to make up tests and to 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 time lines approved by the principal and previously communicated to students.

### **DAEP Makeup Work**

A student removed to a disciplinary alternative education program (DAEP) during the school year will have an opportunity to complete, before the beginning of the next school year, a foundation curriculum course in which the student was enrolled at the time of removal. 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).]

### **In-school Suspension (ISS) Makeup Work**

A student removed from the regular classroom to in-school suspension 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).]

## **MEDICINE AT SCHOOL**

District employees will not give a student prescription medication, nonprescription medication, herbal substances, anabolic steroids, or dietary supplements, with the following exceptions:

- Only authorized employees, in accordance with policies at FFAC, 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.
  - Nonprescription medication, in the original, properly labeled container, provided by the parent along with a written request.
  - 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.
- In certain emergency situations, the district will maintain and administer to a student nonprescription medication, but only:

- In accordance with the guidelines developed with the district’s medical advisor; and
- When the parent has previously provided written consent to emergency treatment on the district’s form.

A student with asthma or severe allergic reaction (anaphylaxis) may be permitted to 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 physician or health-care provider **and to 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.

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).]

### **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. It is intended to have an altering effect on perception, emotion, or behavior and is commonly described as a mood- or behavior-altering substance.

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 district employee who is a registered nurse, an advanced nurse practitioner, a physician, or a certified or credentialed mental health professional can recommend that a student be evaluated by an appropriate medical practitioner, if appropriate. [For further information, see policies at FFAC.]

### **NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT**

In its efforts to promote nondiscrimination, Valley View ISD does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, gender, or disability in providing education services, activities, and programs, including CTE programs, in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972; and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), as amended, which incorporates and expands upon the requirements of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.

The following district representatives have been designated to coordinate compliance with these legal requirements:

- Title IX Coordinator, for concerns regarding discrimination on the basis of gender: **Federico Barroso, Junior High Principal, 9701 S. Jackson Rd. Pharr, TX. 78577.**
- ADA/Section 504 Coordinator, for concerns regarding discrimination on the basis of disability: **Dr. Rosemarie Gomez, Wilbur E. Lucas Elementary Principal, 1300 N. McColl Rd. Hidalgo, TX. 78557.**

- All other concerns regarding discrimination: See the superintendent, Leonel Galaviz at 956-843-3025.

## **NONTRADITIONAL ACADEMIC PROGRAMS**

[See **Requirements for a Diploma** on page 37.]

## **PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS / HEALTH SCREENINGS**

All students entering District schools for the first time in any grade shall provide evidence of having received tuberculosis screening in accordance with regional and county health department guidelines. A student desiring to participate in the UIL athletic program shall submit a statement from a health care provider authorized under UIL rules indicating that the student has been examined and is physically able to participate in the athletic program. This examination is required in the first year of middle school competition and the first and third years of high school competition. In other years, the student shall complete a medical appraisal form. A student may be required to have a physical examination based on answers to the appraisal form. The District may provide additional screening as District and community resources permit. Parents of students identified through any screening programs as needing treatment or further examination shall be advised of the need and referred to appropriate health agencies.  
FFAA [Local]

## **PLEDGES OF ALLEGIANCE AND A MINUTE OF SILENCE**

Each school day, students will recite the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States 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 **Excusing a Student from Reciting the Pledges to the U.S. and Texas Flags** on page 7.]

One minute of silence will 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. [See policy EC(LEGAL) for more information.]

## **PRAYER**

Each student has a right to individually, voluntarily, and silently pray or meditate in school in a manner that does not disrupt instructional or other activities of the school. The school will not encourage, require, or coerce a student to engage in or to refrain from such prayer or meditation during any school activity.

## **PROMOTION AND RETENTION**

A student will be promoted only on the basis of academic achievement or demonstrated proficiency in the subject matter of the course or grade level, the recommendation of the student's teacher, the score received on any criterion-referenced or state-mandated assessment, and any other necessary academic information as determined by the district. To earn credit in a

course, a student must receive a grade of at least 70 based on course-level or grade-level standards.

In grades PK - 12, promotion is based on the basis of academic achievement or demonstrated proficiency of the subject matter of the course or grade level. *Education Code 28.021(a)* EIE [Legal]

In determining promotion, the District shall consider:

1. The recommendation of the student's teacher;
2. The student's grade in each subject or course;
3. The student's score on an assessment instrument administered under Education Code 39.023(a), (b), or (l); and
4. Any other necessary academic information, as determined by the District. *Education Code 28.021(c)*

In addition to local policy relating to grade advancement, students in grades 5 and 8 must demonstrate proficiency by meeting the passing standard on the appropriate assessment instrument listed at GRADE ADVANCEMENT TESTING or on a state-approved alternate assessment. A student who does not demonstrate proficiency may advance to the next grade only if:

1. The student has completed the required accelerated instruction under 19 Administrative Code 101.2006; 2. The student's GPC determines by unanimous decision, in accordance with the standards for promotion established by the Board, that the student is likely to perform at grade level at the end of the next year given additional accelerated instruction. In accordance with Education Code 28.021, to determine grade promotion, the District is required to consider:
  - a. The recommendation of the student's teacher,
  - b. The student's grades,
  - c. The student's assessment scores, and

The student has completed the required accelerated instruction under 19 Administrative Code 101.2006;

2. The student's GPC determines by unanimous decision, in accordance with the standards for promotion established by the Board, that the student is likely to perform at grade level at the end of the next year given additional accelerated instruction. In accordance with Education Code 28.021, to determine grade promotion, the District is required to consider:

- a. The recommendation of the student's teacher,
- b. The student's grades,
- c. The student's assessment scores, and
- d. Any other necessary academic information; and -Hidalgo County 108916

3. In accordance with Education Code 28.0211(n), the District will ensure that a student who is promoted by a GPC under 19 Administrative Code 101.2007 shall be assigned in each subject in which the student failed to perform satisfactorily on an assessment instrument specified under Education Code 28.0211(a), to a teacher who meets all state and federal qualifications to teach that subject and grade. EIE [Legal]

A student does not have a property interest in promotion. *Education Code 28.0211(e)*

By the start of the school year, the District shall make public the requirements for student advancement under Education Code 28.021. *Education Code 28.021(e) EIE [Legal]*

In addition, at certain grade levels a student—with limited exceptions—will be required to pass the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR), if the student is enrolled in a public Texas school on any day between January 1 and the date of the first administration of the STAAR.\*

- In order to be promoted to grade 6, students enrolled in grade 5 must perform satisfactorily on the mathematics and reading sections of the grade 5 assessment in English or Spanish.
- In order to be promoted to grade 9, students enrolled in grade 8 must perform satisfactorily on the mathematics and reading sections of the grade 8 assessment in English.

**\* Because the 2011–2012 school year is the first year of implementation of the STAAR, students will not be required by state law to perform satisfactorily on the grade 5 or 8 STAARs for this one year only in order to be promoted to the next grade level.**

Parents of a student in grades 3–8 who does not perform satisfactorily on his or her exams will be notified that their child will participate in special instructional programs designed to improve performance. The student may be required to participate in this instruction before or after normal school hours or outside of the normal school year.

**With the exception of the 2011–2012** school year, a student in grade 5 or 8 will have two additional opportunities to take a failed assessment. If a student fails a second time, a grade placement committee, consisting of the principal or designee, the teacher, and the student’s parent, will determine the additional special instruction the student will receive. After a third failed attempt, the student will be retained; however, the parent can appeal this decision to the committee. In order for the student to be promoted, based on standards previously established by the district, the decision of the committee must be unanimous and the student must complete additional special instruction before beginning the next grade level. Whether the student is retained or promoted, an educational plan for the student will be designed to enable the student to perform at grade level by the end of the next school year. [See policies at EIE.]

Certain students—some with disabilities and some with limited English proficiency—may be eligible for exemptions, accommodations, or deferred testing. For more information, see the principal, counselor, or special education director.

A Personal Graduation Plan (PGP) will be prepared for any student in a middle school or beyond who did not perform satisfactorily on a state-mandated assessment or is determined by the district as not likely to earn a high school diploma before the fifth school year following enrollment in grade 9. The PGP will be designed and implemented by a guidance counselor, teacher, or other staff member designated by the principal. The plan will, among other items, identify the student’s educational goals, address the parent’s educational expectations for the student, and outline an intensive instruction program for the student. [For additional information, see the **counselor or principal** and policy EIF(LEGAL).] For a student receiving special education services, the student’s IEP may serve as the student’s PGP and would therefore be developed by the student’s ARD committee.



## RELEASE OF STUDENTS FROM SCHOOL

Because class time is important, doctor's appointments should be scheduled, if possible, at times when the student will not miss instructional time.

A student who will need to leave school during the day must bring a note from his or her parent that morning and follow the campus sign-out procedures before leaving the campus. Otherwise, a student will not be released from school at times other than at the end of the school day.

Unless the **principal** has granted approval because of extenuating circumstances, a student will not regularly be released before the end of the instructional day.

If a student becomes ill during the school day, the student should receive permission from the teacher before reporting to the school nurse. The nurse will decide whether or not the student should be sent home and will notify the student's parent.

## REPORT CARDS / PROGRESS REPORTS AND CONFERENCES

Report cards with each student's grades or performance and absences in each class or subject are issued to parents at least once every 3 weeks.

At the end of the first three weeks of a grading period, parents will be given a written progress report if their child's performance **in any course** that is near or below 70, or is below the expected level of performance. If the student receives a grade lower than 70 in any class or subject at the end of a grading period, the parent will be requested to schedule a conference with the teacher of that class or subject. [See **Working Together** on page **3** for how to schedule a conference.]

Teachers follow grading guidelines that have been approved by the **District** pursuant to the board-adopted policy and are designed to reflect each student's relative mastery of each assignment for the grading period, semester, or course. State law provides that a test or course grade issued by a teacher cannot be changed unless the board determines that the grade was arbitrary or contains an error, or that the teacher did not follow the district's grading policy. [See policy EIA(LOCAL) and **Grading Guidelines** on page **37**.]

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

The report card or unsatisfactory progress report will state whether tutorials are required for a student who receives a grade lower than 70 in a class or subject.

Report cards and unsatisfactory progress reports must be signed by the parent and returned to the school within 3 days.

## RETALIATION

[See **Dating Violence, Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation** on page **26**.]

## SAFETY

Student safety on campus and at school-related events is a high priority of the district. Although the district has implemented safety procedures, the cooperation of students is essential to ensuring school safety. A student should:

- Avoid conduct that is likely to put the student or others at risk.
- Follow the behavioral standards in this handbook and the Student Code of Conduct, as well as any additional rules for behavior and safety set by the principal, teachers, or bus drivers.
- Remain alert to and promptly report to a teacher or the principal any safety hazards, such as intruders on campus or threats made by any person toward a student or staff member.
- Know emergency evacuation routes and signals.
- Follow immediately the instructions of teachers, bus drivers, and other district employees who are overseeing the welfare of students.

### **Accident Insurance**

Soon after the school year begins, parents will have the opportunity to purchase low-cost accident insurance that would help meet medical expenses in the event of injury to their child.

### **Drills: Fire, Tornado, and Other Emergencies**

From time to time, students, teachers, and other district employees will participate in drills of emergency procedures. When the alarm is sounded, students should follow the direction of teachers or others in charge quickly, quietly, and in an orderly manner.

#### ***Fire Drill Bells***

- 3 bells      leave the building
- 1 bell      halt; stand at attention
- 2 bells      return to the classroom

#### ***Tornado Drill Bells***

- 1 continuous bell      move quietly but quickly to the designated locations
- 2 bells      return to the classroom

### **Emergency Medical Treatment and Information**

If a student has a medical emergency at school or a school-related activity when the parent cannot be reached, the school may have to rely on written parental consent to obtain emergency medical treatment, and information about allergies to medications, foods, insect bites, etc. Therefore, parents are asked each year to complete an emergency care consent form. Parents should keep emergency care information up-to-date (name of doctor, emergency phone numbers, allergies, etc.). Please contact the school nurse to update any information that the nurse or the teacher needs to know.

### **Emergency School-Closing Information**

Each year, parents are asked to complete an emergency release form to provide contact information in the event that school is dismissed early because of severe weather or another emergency.

### **SAT, ACT, AND OTHER STANDARDIZED TESTS**

See **Standardized Testing** on page **57**.

## **SCHOOL FACILITIES**

### **Use by Students Before and After School**

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.

The following areas are open to students before school, beginning at 7:30 a.m.

- Library

Unless the teacher or sponsor overseeing the activity gives permission, a student will not be permitted to go to another area of the building or campus.

After dismissal of school in the afternoon, and unless involved in an activity under the supervision of a teacher, students must leave campus immediately.

### **Conduct Before and After School**

Teachers and administrators have full authority over student conduct at before- or after-school activities on district premises and at school-sponsored events off district premises, such as play rehearsals, club meetings, athletic practices, and special study groups or tutorials. Students are subject to the same rules of conduct that apply during the instructional day and 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.

### **Use of Hallways During Class Time**

Loitering or standing in the halls during class is not permitted. During class time, 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.

### **Cafeteria Services**

The district participates in the School Breakfast Program and National School Lunch Program and offers students nutritionally balanced meals daily. Free and reduced-price meals are available based on financial need. Information about a student's participation is confidential.

The district follows the federal and state guidelines regarding foods of minimal nutritional value being served or sold on school premises during the school day. [For more information, see policy CO(LEGAL).]

### **Library**

The library is a learning laboratory with books, computers, magazines, and other materials available for classroom assignments, projects, and reading or listening pleasure. The library is open for independent student use during the following times with a teacher permit:

7:30 to 8:00pm – Monday through Thursday & 7:30 to 4:00pm on Fridays

### **Meetings of Noncurriculum-Related Groups**

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.

## **SEARCHES**

In the interest of promoting student safety and attempting to ensure that schools are safe and drug free, district officials may from time to time conduct searches. Such searches are conducted without a warrant and as permitted by law.

### **Students' Desks and Lockers**

Students' desks and lockers are school property and remain under the control and jurisdiction of the school even when assigned to an individual student.

Students are fully responsible for the security and contents of their assigned desks and lockers. Students must be certain that their lockers are locked, and that the combinations are not available to others.

Searches of desks or lockers may be conducted at any time there is reasonable cause to believe that they contain articles or materials prohibited by policy, whether or not a student is present.

The parent will be notified if any prohibited items are found in the student's desk or locker.

### **Electronic Devices**

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 telecommunications or other personal electronic devices will be conducted in accordance with law, and the device may be confiscated in order to perform a lawful search. A confiscated device may be turned over to law enforcement to determine whether a crime has been committed.

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

### **Vehicles on Campus**

Vehicles parked on school property are under the jurisdiction of the school. School officials may search any vehicle any time there is reasonable cause to do so, with or without the permission of the student. A student has full responsibility for the security and content of his or her vehicle and must make certain that it is locked and that the keys are not given to others. [See also the Student Code of Conduct.]

### **Trained Dogs**

The district will use trained dogs to alert school officials to the presence of prohibited or illegal items, including drugs and alcohol. At any time, trained dogs may be used around lockers and the areas around vehicles parked on school property. Searches of classrooms, common areas, or student belongings may also be conducted by trained dogs when students are not present. An item in a classroom, a locker, or a vehicle to which a trained dog alerts may be searched by school officials.

### **Metal Detectors**

[For further information, see policy FNF(LOCAL).]

## **Drug-Testing**

[For further information, see policy FNF(LOCAL). Also see **Steroids** on page **59**.]

## **SPECIAL PROGRAMS**

The district provides special programs for gifted and talented students, homeless students, bilingual students, migrant students, students with limited English proficiency, dyslexic students, 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 the Principal.

## **STANDARDIZED TESTING**

### **SAT/ACT (Scholastic Aptitude Test and American College Test)**

Many colleges require either the American College Test (ACT) or the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) for admission. Students are encouraged to talk with the counselor early during their junior year to determine the appropriate exam to take; these exams are usually taken at the end of the junior year.

The ACT or SAT may be available at no cost to students. In addition, students in grades 8 and 10 may have the opportunity to take the corresponding preparation assessments at no charge. Please check with the counselor for details.

### **STAAR (State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness)**

#### **Grades 3–8**

In addition to routine tests and other measures of achievement, students at certain grade levels will take state-mandated assessments, such as the STAAR, in the following subjects:

- Mathematics, annually in grades 3–8
- Reading, annually in grades 3–8
- Writing, including spelling and grammar, in grades 4 and 7
- Science in grades 5 and 8
- Social Studies in grade 8

Successful performance on the reading and math assessments in grades 5 and 8 is required by law in order for the student to be promoted to the next grade level. See **Promotion and Retention** on page **50** for additional information.

STAAR Modified and STAAR Alternate, for students receiving special education services, will be available for eligible students, as determined by the student's ARD committee.

STAAR-L is a linguistically accommodated assessment that is available for certain limited English proficient (LEP) students, as determined by the student's Language Proficiency Assessment Committee (LPAC).

## **End-of-Course (EOC) Assessments for Students in Grades 9–12**

End-of-course (EOC) assessments will be administered for the following courses:

- Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II
- English I, English II, and English III
- Biology, Chemistry, and Physics
- World Geography, World History, and United States History

Satisfactory performance on the applicable assessments will be required for graduation and will also affect the plan under which the student may graduate.

Normally, there will be three testing windows during the year in which a student may take an EOC assessment, which will occur during the fall, spring, and summer months.

In each content area (English language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies), a student must achieve a cumulative score. To determine whether the student meets the cumulative score, the student's EOC assessment scores in each content area will be added together. If the student's total score on the assessments within the content area is not equal to or greater than the cumulative score set by TEA, the student may retake any of the assessments in that content area until the student achieves the cumulative score. A student who does not achieve the minimum required score on any individual assessment will be required to retake that assessment.

A student may choose to retake an EOC assessment in situations other than those listed above as well.

STAAR Modified and STAAR Alternate, for students receiving special education services, will be available for eligible students, as determined by the student's ARD committee. These particular EOC assessments may have different testing windows than the general assessments, and the ARD committee will determine whether successful performance on the assessments will be required for graduation.

STAAR-L, which is a linguistically accommodated assessment, will be available for students who have been determined to be limited English proficient (LEP) and who require this type of testing accommodation.

Additional information will be provided to students and parents prior to the spring 2012 administrations.

Also see **Course Credit** on page [25](#), **Grading Guidelines** on page [37](#), and **Graduation** on page [37](#) for additional information.

### **TAKS (Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills)**

TAKS is a state-mandated assessment currently being transitioned to the STAAR program. However, depending on the grade level of the student, TAKS may still be administered to a student.

For a student in **grade 11** during the 2012–2013 school year, the student will be assessed with TAKS in the subject areas of mathematics, English/language arts, social studies, and science. The test at grade 11 is called “exit-level” TAKS, and satisfactory performance on this test is required for graduation.

Also see **Graduation** on page 37 for more information.

## **THEA (Texas Higher Education Assessment)**

Prior to enrollment in a Texas public college or university, most students must take a standardized test, such as the Texas Higher Education Assessment [THEA]. The purpose of the THEA is to assess the reading, mathematics, and writing skills that entering freshmen-level students should have if they are to perform effectively in undergraduate certificate or degree programs in Texas public colleges and universities. This test may be required before a student enrolls in a dual-credit course offered through the district as well.

## **STEROIDS**

State law prohibits students from possessing, dispensing, delivering, or administering an anabolic steroid. Anabolic steroids are for medical use only, and only a physician can prescribe use.

Body building, muscle enhancement, or the increase of muscle bulk or strength through the use of an anabolic steroid or human growth hormone by a healthy student is not a valid medical use and is a criminal offense.

Students participating in UIL athletic competition may be subject to random steroid testing. More information on the UIL testing program may be found on the UIL Web site at <http://www.uiltexas.org/health/steroid-information>.

## **STUDENT SPEAKERS**

The district provides students the opportunity to introduce the following school events:

1. Football games;
2. Opening announcements and greetings for the school day;
3. High school athletic events;
4. Assemblies and club/organizational events/banquets;
5. Community events (parades, celebrations, festivals); and
6. Parent/Teacher Organization meetings.

Students are eligible to introduce these events if they only those students in the highest two grade levels of the school at which the student is publicly speaking and who hold one of the following positions of honor based on neutral criteria are eligible to use the limited public forum: student council officers, class officers of the highest grade level in the school, valedictorian and salutatorian, captains of the football team, and club and/or organizational officers.

A student who is eligible and wishes to introduce one of the school events listed above should submit his or her name to the principal or to the Superintendent during an announced period of not less than three days. The announced period shall occur at the beginning of each semester so speakers are in place for the next semester. The names of the volunteering student speakers shall be randomly drawn until all names have been selected, and the names shall be listed in the order drawn.

As determined by the principal, students who have been selected for special honors, such as captain of an athletic team, student council officers, leaders of school-sponsored organizations, homecoming king or queen, or prom king or queen may also address school audiences at designated events. Policy FNA(LOCAL).]

## **SUMMER SCHOOL**

Students at all grade levels who have been identified as being at risk of dropping out of school, who are not performing at grade level, or who did not perform satisfactorily on a state-mandated assessment, shall be provided accelerated and/or compensatory educational services based on needs assessment. The principal shall ensure that each identified student is receiving services. The services provided each student shall be consistent with the goals and strategies established in the District and campus improvement plans and shall be reviewed for effectiveness at the close of each grading period. Parents shall be encouraged to participate in the planning of educational services for their child and shall be kept informed regarding the child's progress toward educational goals. Parents of students who are not successful in meeting requirements for promotion shall be informed of any available options, such as an extended year program or summer school. Policy EHBC[Legal]

## **TAKS (TEXAS ASSESSMENT OF KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS)**

See **Standardized Testing** on page 57.

## **TARDINESS**

A student who is tardy to class by more than 5 minutes will be assigned to detention hall. Repeated instances of tardiness will result in more severe disciplinary action, in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct.

## **TEXTBOOKS, ELECTRONIC TEXTBOOKS, AND TECHNOLOGICAL EQUIPMENT**

State-approved textbooks are provided to students free of charge for each subject or class. Books must be covered by the student, as directed by the teacher, and treated with care. Electronic textbooks and technological equipment may also be provided to students, depending on the course and course objectives. A student who is issued a damaged item should report the damage to the teacher. Any student failing to return an item in acceptable condition loses the right to free textbooks and technological equipment until the item is returned or paid for by the parent; however, the student will be provided textbooks and equipment for use at school during the school day.

## **TRANSFERS**

[See **School Safety Transfers**, on page 8, and **Options and Requirements for Providing Assistance to Students Who Have Learning Difficulties or Who Need or May Need Special Education Services**, on page 8, for other transfer options.]

## **TRANSPORTATION**

### **School-Sponsored Trips**

Students who participate in school-sponsored trips are required to use transportation provided by the school to and from the event. The principal, however, may make an exception if the parent makes a written request that the student be released to the parent or to another adult designated by the parent.



## **Buses and Other School Vehicles**

The district makes school bus transportation available to all students living two or more miles from school. This service is provided at no cost to students. Bus routes and any subsequent changes are posted at the school.

A parent may also designate a child-care facility or grandparent's residence as the regular pickup and drop-off location for his or her child. The designated facility or residence must be on an approved stop on an approved route. For information on bus routes and stops or to designate an alternate pickup or drop-off location, you may contact Support Services at 956-223-2619.

See the Student Code of Conduct for provisions regarding transportation to the DAEP.

Students are expected to assist district staff in ensuring that buses remain in good condition and that transportation is provided safely. 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 bus or van in an orderly manner at the designated stop.
- Keep feet, books, instrument cases, and other objects out of the aisle.
- Not deface the bus, van, 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 bus or van.
- Not possess or use any form of tobacco on school buses.
- Observe all usual classroom rules.
- Be seated while the vehicle is moving.
- Fasten their seat belts, if available.
- Wait for the driver's signal upon leaving the bus or van and before crossing in front of the vehicle.

Misconduct will be punished in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct; bus-riding privileges may be suspended.

## **VANDALISM**

The taxpayers of the community have made a sustained financial commitment for the construction and upkeep of school facilities. To ensure that school facilities can serve those for whom they are intended—both this year and for years to come—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**

For safety purposes, video/audio equipment may be used 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/audio recordings routinely and document student misconduct. Discipline will be in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct.

## **VISITORS TO THE SCHOOL**

### **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 first report to the principal's office and must comply with all applicable district policies and procedures.

Visits to individual classrooms during instructional time are permitted only with approval of the principal and teacher and only so long as their duration or frequency does not interfere with the delivery of instruction or disrupt the normal school environment.

All visitors are expected to demonstrate the highest standards of courtesy and conduct; disruptive behavior will not be permitted.

### **Visitors Participating in Special Programs for Students**

On School Career Day, Valley View ISD invites representatives from colleges and universities and other higher education institutions, prospective employers, and military recruiters to present information to interested students.

## **WITHDRAWING FROM SCHOOL**

A student under 18 may be withdrawn from school only by a parent. The school requests notice from the parent at least three days in advance so that records and documents may be prepared. The parent may obtain a withdrawal form from the principal's office.

On the student's last day, the withdrawal form must be presented to each teacher for current grade averages and book and equipment clearance; to the librarian to ensure a clear library record; to the clinic for health records; to the counselor for the last report card and course clearance; and finally, to the principal. A copy of the withdrawal form will be given to the student, and a copy will be placed in the student's permanent record.

A student who is 18 or older, who is married, or who has been declared by a court to be an emancipated minor may withdraw without parental signature.

## Glossary

**Accelerated instruction** is an intensive supplemental program designed to address the needs of an individual student in acquiring the knowledge and skills required at his or her grade level and/or as a result of a student not meeting the passing standard on a state-mandated assessment.

**ACT** refers to one of the two most frequently used college or university admissions exams: the American College Test. The test may be a requirement for admission to certain colleges or universities.

**ARD** is the admission, review, and dismissal committee convened 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 sometimes responsible for reviewing a student's absences when the student's attendance drops below 90 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 lost because of absences.

**DAEP** stands for disciplinary alternative education program, a placement for students who have violated certain provisions of the Student Code of Conduct.

**EOC assessments** are end-of-course tests, which are state-mandated, and are part of the STAAR program. Successful performance on EOC assessments will be required for **graduation beginning with students in grade 9 during the 2011–2012 school year**. These exams will be given in English I, English II, English III, Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, World Geography, World History, and United States History.

**FERPA** refers to the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act that 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 or older directs the school not to release directory information.

**IEP** is the written record of the individualized education program prepared by the ARD committee for a student with disabilities who is eligible for special education services. The IEP contains several parts, such as a statement of the student's present educational performance; a statement of measurable annual goals, with short-term objectives; the special education and related services and supplemental aids and services to be provided, and program modifications or support by school personnel; a statement regarding how the student's progress will be measured and how the parents will be kept informed; accommodations for state or districtwide tests; whether successful completion of state-mandated assessments is required for graduation, etc.

**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.

**LAT** stands for linguistically accommodated testing, which is an assessment process for recent immigrant English language learners who are required to be assessed in certain grades and subjects under the NCLB Act.

**NCLB Act** is the federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001.

**PGP** stands for Personal Graduation Plan , which is recommended for all students entering grade 9 and is required by state law for any student in middle school or higher 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.

**SAT** refers to one of the two most frequently used college or university admissions exams: the Scholastic Aptitude Test. The test may be a requirement 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 assist the district in ensuring that local community values and health issues are reflected in the district's health education instruction.

**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, **effective beginning with certain students for the 2011–2012 school year.**

**STAAR Alternate** 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 Modified** is an alternative state-mandated assessment based on modified achievement standards that is administered to eligible students receiving special education services, as determined by the student's ARD committee.

**STAAR Linguistically Accommodated (STAAR L)** is an alternative state-mandated assessment with linguistic accommodations designed for certain recent immigrant English language learners.

**State-mandated assessments** are required of students at certain grade levels and in specified subjects. Successful performance sometimes is a condition of promotion, and passing the grade 11 exit-level test or end-of-course assessments, when applicable, is a condition of graduation. Students have multiple opportunities to take the tests if necessary for promotion or 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 the classroom or campus. It also sets out the conditions that authorize or require the principal or another administrator to place the student in a DAEP. It 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.

**TAKS** is the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills, the state's standardized achievement test currently given to students in certain subjects in grades 10 and 11 and is required for graduation for students at these grade levels. .

**TELPAS** stands for the Texas English Language Proficiency Assessment System, which assesses the progress that English language learners make in learning the English language, and is administered for those who meet the participation requirements in kindergarten–grade 12.

**TxVSN** is 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 courses 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.

## **Appendix A**

# **SCHOOL FORMS**

# Valley View Independent School District

## Acknowledgment Form

My child and I have received a copy of the Valley View Independent School District Student Handbook and the Student Code of Conduct for 2012–2013. I understand that the handbook contains information that my child and I may need during the school year and that all students will be held accountable for their behavior and will be subject to the disciplinary consequences outlined in the Student Code of Conduct. If I have any questions regarding this handbook or the Code, I should direct those questions to the principal at telephone number listed on page iv.

*Mi hijo(a) y yo hemos recibido una copia del Manual Estudiantil y el Código de Conducta del Distrito Escolar Valley View del ciclo escolar 2012-2013. Yo comprendo que este manual contiene información que mi hijo(a) y yo necesitaremos durante el ciclo escolar y que todos los estudiantes serán responsables por su comportamiento y deberán cumplir con los reglamentos aquí descritos y pagar las consecuencias de no hacerlo. Si yo tiene alguna pregunta sobre este manual, deberé dirigirme con el director de la escuela al teléfono que se encuentra en la página iv.*

Printed name of student: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Nombre del estudiante (con letra de molde):*

Signature of student: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Firma del estudiante:*

Signature of parent: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Firma del Padre/Tutor:*

Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Fecha*

***Please sign and date this page, remove it from the handbook, and return it to the student's school.***

***Favor de firmar esta hoja y entregarla en la escuela de su hijo(a)***

# Valley View Independent School District

## Acknowledgment of Electronic Distribution of Student Handbook

My child and I have been offered the option to receive a paper copy of or to electronically access at [www.vviewisd.net](http://www.vviewisd.net) the Valley View Independent School District Student Handbook and the Student Code of Conduct for 2012–2013.

*Mi hijo(a) y yo hemos sido informados de la opción de recibir el Manual Estudiantil y Código de Conducta del Distrito Escolar Valley View del ciclo escolar 2012-2013 via electrónica ([www.vviewisd.net](http://www.vviewisd.net)) ó en forma impresa.*

I have chosen to/ Yo elijo:

- Receive a paper copy of the Student Handbook and the Student Code of Conduct.

*Recibir una copia impresa del Manual Estudiantil y Código de Conducta*

- Accept responsibility for accessing the Student Handbook and the Student Code of Conduct by visiting the Web address listed above.

*Aceptar la responsabilidad de entrar a la página de internet del distrito y tener acceso al Manual Estudiantil y Código de Conducta*

I understand that the handbook contains information that my child and I may need during the school year and that all students will be held accountable for their behavior and will be subject to the disciplinary consequences outlined in the Student Code of Conduct. If I have any questions regarding this Handbook, I should direct those questions to the principal at the telephone number listed on page iv.

*Yo comprendo que este manual contiene información que mi hijo(a) y yo necesitaremos durante el ciclo escolar y que todos los estudiantes serán responsables por su comportamiento y deberán cumplir con los reglamentos aquí descritos y pagar las consecuencias de no hacerlo. Si yo tiene alguna pregunta sobre este manual, deberé dirigirme con el director de la escuela al teléfono que se encuentra en la página iv.*

Printed name of student: \_\_\_\_\_

*Nombre del estudiante (con letra de molde):*

Signature of student: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*Firma del estudiante: Fecha*

Signature of parent: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*Firma del Padre/Tutor Fecha*

***Please sign and date this page, remove it from the handbook, and return it to the student's school.***

***Favor de firmar esta hoja y entregarla en la escuela de su hijo(a)***



## Valley View Independent School District

### Permission to Photograph or Publish

2012-2013

STUDENT: \_\_\_\_\_ PARENT: \_\_\_\_\_

Permission is being requested to include your child in visual presentations/publications concerning his/her school, Valley View High School. These photographs/ publications include but are not limited to:

- Newspaper articles/photographs
- Television news reports/programs
- Valley View Internet Website reports/photographs

Permission is hereby given to photograph/publish (including movies, videotapes, and slides) the student listed above for use in publications and meetings.

Please Check One:

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, you have my permission to photograph/publish

\_\_\_\_\_ No, you do not have my permission to photograph/publish

Signature of Parent: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of School Official: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

***Please sign and date this page, remove it from the handbook, and return it to the student's school.***

**VALLEY VIEW HIGH SCHOOL**

**AUTORIZACION PARA FOTOGRAFIAR/PUBLICAR**

**2012-2013**

ESTUDIANTE: \_\_\_\_\_ PADRE O TUTOR: \_\_\_\_\_

Autorización es requerida para incluir a su hijo(a) en presentaciones/publicaciones concernientes a Valley View High School. Estas fotografías/publicaciones incluyen pero no se limitan a:

- Artículos de periódicos/fotografías
- Reportes noticieros de televisión/programas
- Reportes por medio de Internet/fotografías

Se autoriza fotografiar/publicar (incluyendo películas, videos y audiovisuales) al estudiante nombrado arriba para uso de publicaciones y juntas.

Favor de marcar uno:

\_\_\_\_\_ Si, ustedes tienen autorización para fotografiar/publicar

\_\_\_\_\_ No, no doy autorización de fotografiar/publicar

Firma del Padre o Tutor: \_\_\_\_\_

Fecha: \_\_\_\_\_

Firma de Oficial Escolar: \_\_\_\_\_

Fecha: \_\_\_\_\_

**Valley View Independent School District**  
**Permission for Participation in Counseling and Guidance Program**  
**2012-2013**

**A comprehensive and developmental counseling and guidance program has been an integral part of the total education program for some time now. This program has included classroom guidance lessons, individual and group counseling, preparation and planning for higher education.**

Senate Bill 1 has brought along changes in the Education Code regarding school counseling programs. In order for students to participate in all activities of the District Counseling and Guidance Program, consent (on the form below) must be obtained from the student's parents or guardians. **This consent does not apply to psychological examinations, tests or treatments.**

Please complete the form below and return it to your child's teacher. This form will be placed in your child's permanent school record. Materials including curriculum, to be used during the year, will be available for preview.

Please call us if you have questions or need additional information..

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student's Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Teacher

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, I give my child permission to participate in a comprehensive and developmental counseling and guidance program.

\_\_\_\_\_ No, I do not give my child permission to participate in a comprehensive and developmental counseling and guidance program.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

***Please sign and date this page, remove it from the handbook, and return it to the student's school.***

# VALLEY VIEW HIGH SCHOOL

## AUTORIZACION PARA LA PARTICIPACION EN EL PROGRAMA DE CONSEJERIA 2012-2013

**Un programa de consejería comprensivo ha sido una parte integral en la educación. Este programa ha incluido lecciones de orientación en el salón de clases, consejería individual o en grupo, preparación y planeación para colegio.**

El proyecto de ley del Senado ha traído consigo cambios en el Código de Educación sobre los programas de consejería en las escuelas. Para que los estudiantes puedan participar en todas las actividades del Programa de Consejería del Distrito, un consentimiento (la forma de abajo) deberá ser obtenido de los padres o tutores del alumno(a). **Este consentimiento no se aplica a los exámenes psicológicos, pruebas o tratamientos.**

Favor de llenar los lugares en blanco en esta forma y regresarla al maestro(a) de su hijo(a). Esta forma será archivada en el expediente educativo del alumno(a). Los materiales incluyendo el curriculum, que serán usados durante el año, estarán disponibles para ser revisados.

Favor de llamarnos si usted tiene alguna pregunta o necesita información adicional al teléfono 843-9222.

Sinceramente,

Rolando Ramirez, Director

\*\*\*\*\*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Nombre del estudiante

\_\_\_\_\_  
Maestro(a)

\_\_\_\_\_ Si, doy mi autorización para que mi hijo(a) participe en el programa de consejería.

\_\_\_\_\_ No, no doy mi autorización para que mi hijo(a) participe en el programa de consejería.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Firma del Padre o Tutor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Fecha

**Valley View Independent School District**  
**Important Notice to Parents Concerning Student Injuries**  
**2012-2013**

Even with the greatest precautions and the closest supervision, accidents can and do happen at school. They are a fact of life and a part of the growing-up process our children go through.

Parents need to be aware of this and be prepared for possible medical expenses that may arise should their child be injured at school.

The school district does not provide medical insurance to automatically pay for medical expenses when students are injured at school. This is the responsibility of the parents or legal guardians. The district carries only legal liability insurance.

The district does make student medical insurance available to families for their individual purchase. Brochures outlining the coverage and premiums are available at the school office.

Parents, please be prepared to pay for your child's possible medical expenses.

I have read and understand this notice.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Legal Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

A pesar de que en la escuela se tiene la mayor precaución y una supervisión muy cercana, nuestros hijos están expuestos a cualquier tipo de accidente. Los accidentes a veces son inevitables ya que son parte de la vida y del proceso del crecimiento por el que nuestros hijos pasan.

Los padres de familia necesitan estar al tanto y estar preparados para cualquier gasto médico que pueda resultar si su hijo(a) llegase a tener un accidente.

El distrito no provee seguro médico para pagar automáticamente por los gastos médicos cuando algún estudiante tiene algún accidente. Esto es responsabilidad de los padres o tutores legales. El distrito solamente tiene seguro legal.

El distrito tiene seguro médico disponible para que sea comprado para los estudiantes. Los folletos delineando la cobertura y costo del seguro estarán disponibles en la oficina de la escuela.

Padres de familia, por favor, estén preparados para pagar posibles gastos médicos de su hijo(a).

Yo he leído y comprendo este aviso.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Firma del padre o tutor legal

\_\_\_\_\_  
Fecha

***Please sign and date this page, remove it from the handbook, and return it to the student's school.***

## Use of Student Work in District Publications

### *Uso de Trabajos de los Estudiantes en Publicaciones del Distrito Escolar*

2012-2013

Occasionally, Valley View ISD wishes to display or publish student artwork or special projects on the district's Web site and in district publications. The district agrees to only use these student projects in this manner.

En ocasiones, el Distrito Escolar Valley View desea mostrar o publicar trabajos manuales o proyectos especiales de los estudiantes en su página de internet. La intención del distrito es utilizar estos trabajos o proyectos con el propósito de publicar los logros de nuestros estudiantes.

**Parent: Please circle one of the choices below:**

I, parent of \_\_\_\_\_ (student's name), **(do give)** **(do not give)** the district permission to use my child's artwork or special project on the district's Web site and in district publications.

***Padre de Familia: Favor de seleccionar una de las 2 opciones:***

*Yo, padre de \_\_\_\_\_, **(autorizo)** **(no autorizo)** al distrito escolar para publicar los trabajos manuales o proyectos especiales de mi hijo(a) en su página de internet.*

Parent signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Firma del Padre/Tutor*

Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Fecha*

***Please sign and date this page, remove it from the handbook, and return it to the student's school.***

***Favor de firmar esta hoja y entregarla en la escuela de su hijo(a)***

**Valley View Independent School District**  
**Options and Requirements**  
**For Providing Assistance to Students Who Have Learning Difficulties**  
**or Who Need or May Need Special Education**  
**2012-2013**

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 academic or behavior support services that are available to all 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 informed written consent for the evaluation. The district must complete the evaluation and the report within 60 calendar days of the date the district receives the written consent. The district must give a copy of the report to the parent.

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

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

Contact Person:        Debra Salinas, Special Education Director

Phone Number:        (956) 843-2665

## **VALLEY VIEW HIGH SCHOOL**

### **Opciones y Requisitos Para Proporcionar Ayuda a Los Estudiantes Que Tienen Dificultades en el Aprendizaje o Que Necesitan o Pueden Necesitar Educación Especial**

**2012-2013**

Si un niño está experimentando dificultades en el aprendizaje, el padre puede comunicarse con la persona mencionada más abajo para enterarse sobre el sistema de estudios de diagnóstico y de recomendación de la educación general del distrito para los servicios de apoyo. Este sistema conecta a los estudiantes con una variedad de opciones de apoyo, incluyendo la recomendación para una evaluación para educación especial. Los estudiantes que tienen dificultades en el aula normal deberán ser considerados para tutoría, servicios compensatorios y otros servicios de apoyo, académicos o de comportamiento, disponibles para todos los estudiantes.

En cualquier momento, un padre tiene derecho a solicitar una evaluación para los servicios de educación especial. Dentro de un período de tiempo razonable, el distrito debe decidir si la evaluación es necesaria. Si la evaluación es necesaria, el padre será notificado y se le pedirá que dé consentimiento informado por escrito para la evaluación. El distrito debe completar la evaluación y el informe dentro de los 60 días de calendario desde la fecha en que el distrito reciba el consentimiento por escrito. El distrito debe darle una copia del informe al padre.

Si el distrito determina que la evaluación no es necesaria, el distrito proporcionará al padre una notificación por escrito que explica el motivo por el cual el niño no será evaluado. Esta notificación por escrito incluirá información que le explica al padre los derechos que tiene si no está de acuerdo con el distrito. Además, la notificación debe informarle al padre la manera de obtener una copia de la Notificación de las Salvaguardas del Procedimiento – Derecho de los Padres de Estudiantes con Discapacidades.

La persona designada con quien puede comunicarse en relación a las opciones que tiene un niño que experimenta dificultades en el aprendizaje o para una recomendación para la evaluación para educación especial es:

Nombre de la persona: Debra Salinas, Special Education Director

Número de teléfono: (956) 843-2665



## Valley View Independent School District

### Notice Regarding Directory Information and Parent's Response Regarding Release of Student Information

2012-2013

Certain information about district students is considered directory information and will be released to anyone who follows the procedures for requesting the information unless the parent or guardian objects to the release of the directory information about the student. If you do not want Valley View ISD to disclose directory information from your child's education records without your prior written consent, you must notify the district in writing **by September 7, 2012 or the tenth school day after your child enrolls in school.**

This means that the district must give certain personal information (called "directory information") about your child to any person who requests it, unless you have told the district in writing not to do so. In addition, you have the right to tell the district that it may, or may not; use certain personal information about your child for specific school-sponsored purposes. The district is providing you this form so you can communicate your wishes about these issues. [See **Directory Information** on page **12** for more information.]

2012-2013

For the following school-sponsored purposes: Sports, Music and all other school sponsored clubs and organizations, Valley View ISD has designated the following information as directory information:

- Student's name
- Address
- Telephone listing
- E-mail address
- Photograph
- Date and place of birth
- Major field of study
- Degrees, honors, and awards received
- Dates of attendance
- Grade level
- Most recent school previously attended
- Participation in officially recognized activities and sports
- Weight and height, if a member of an athletic team
- Enrollment status
- Student identification numbers or identifiers that cannot be used alone to gain access to electronic education records

Directory information identified only for limited school-sponsored purposes remains otherwise confidential and will not be released to the public without the consent of the parent or eligible student.

**Parent: Please circle one of the choices below:**

I, parent of \_\_\_\_\_ (student's name), (**do give**) (**do not give**) the district permission to use the information in the above list for the specified school-sponsored purposes.

Parent signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

*Please sign and date this page, remove it from the handbook, and return it to the student's school.*

## 2012-2013

Para propósitos de las siguientes actividades escolares: deportes, música, y otras clubs u organizaciones escolares, el Distrito Escolar Valley View ha designado la siguiente información como información de directorio:

- Nombre del estudiantes
- Dirección
- Número telefónico
- Correo electronic
- Fotografía
- Fecha y lugar de nacimiento
- Campo de studio
- Reconocimientos recibidos
- Fechas de asistencia
- Grado
- Escuela a la que asistió anteriormente
- Participación en actividades oficialmente reconocidas y deportes
- Peso y estatura, si es miembro de algún equipo deportivo
- Estatus de inscripción
- Números de identificación que no pueden ser utilizados por si solos para obtener archivos académicos electronicamente.

Información de directorio considerada solamente para el uso limitado de la escuela se mantendrá de manera confidencial y no se facilitará para uso public sin el consentimiento de los padres de familia o del estudiante si es mayor de edad.

### **Padre de Familia: Favor de seleccionar una de las 2 opciones:**

Yo, padre de \_\_\_\_\_, (**autorizo**) (**no autorizo**) al distrito escolar para utilizar la información mencionada en la lista para propósitos específicos de los clubs u organizaciones escolares del Distrito Escolar Valley View.

Firma del Padre/Tutor \_\_\_\_\_ Fecha: \_\_\_\_\_

*Favor de firmar esta hoja y entregarla en la escuela de su hijo(a)*

2012-2013

For all other purposes, Valley View ISD has designated the following information as directory information:

- Student's name
- Address
- Telephone listing
- E-mail address
- Photograph
- Date and place of birth
- Major field of study
- Degrees, honors, and awards received
- Dates of attendance
- Grade level
- Most recent school previously attended
- Participation in officially recognized activities and sports
- Weight and height, if a member of an athletic team
- Enrollment status
- Student identification numbers or identifiers that cannot be used alone to gain access to electronic education records

**Parent: Please circle one of the choices below:**

I, parent of \_\_\_\_\_ (student's name), **(do give)** **(do not give)** the district permission to release the information in this list in response to request the information in this list in response to a request.

Parent signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

*Please sign and date this page, remove it from the handbook, and return it to the student's school.*

**2012-2013**

*Para cualquier otro propósito Distrito Escolar Valley View ha designado la siguiente información como información de directorio:*

- *Nombre del estudiantes*
- *Dirección*
- *Número telefónico*
- *Correo electronic*
- *Fotografía*
- *Fecha y lugar de nacimiento*
- *Campo de studio*
- *Reconocimientos recibidos*
- *Fechas de asistencia*
- *Grado*
- *Escuela a la que asistió anteriormente*
- *Participación en actividades oficialmente reconocidas y deportes*
- *Peso y estatura, si es miembro de algún equipo deportivo*
- *Estatus de inscripción*
- *Números de identificación que no pueden ser utilizados por si solos para obtener archivos académicos electronicamente.*

***Padre de Familia: Favor de seleccionar una de las 2 opciones:***

*Yo, padre de \_\_\_\_\_, (autorizo) (no autorizo) al distrito escolar para proveer la información mencionada en la lista en respuesta a una petición.*

*Firma del Padre/Tutor \_\_\_\_\_ Fecha: \_\_\_\_\_*

***Favor de firmar esta hoja y entregarla en la escuela de su hijo(a)***

**Parent's Response Regarding Release of Student Information to  
Military Recruiters and Institutions of Higher Education  
2012-2013**

Federal law requires that the district release to military recruiters and institutions of higher education, upon request, the name, address, and phone number of secondary school students enrolled in the district, unless the parent or eligible student directs the district not to release information to these types of requestors without prior written consent. [See **Release of Student Information to Military Recruiters and Institutions of Higher Education** on page 12 for more information.]

**Parent:** Please complete the following only if you do not want your child's information released to a military recruiter or an institution of higher education without your prior consent.

I, parent of \_\_\_\_\_ (student's name), request that the district **not** release my child's name, address, and telephone number to a military recruiter or institutions of higher education upon their request without my prior written consent.

Parent signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

*Please sign and date this page, remove it from the handbook, and return it to the student's school.*

**Respuesta del Padre de Familia a la Petición de Información del Estudiante por  
Reclutadores Militares o de Instituciones de Educación Superior**

La Ley Federal require que el distrito facilite datos: nombre, dirección, y teléfonos de los estudiantes inscritos en el distrito escolar, en respuesta a una petición de reclutadores militares o de instituciones de educación superior. Esta información sera provista a dichas instituciones a menos que el padre de familia o el estudiante, siendo mayor de edad, indique al distrito no proveer esta información sin su consentimiento por escrito. [ver página 12 de este manual para mas información]

**Padre de Familia:** Favor de llenar los espacios indicados en esta hoja, solamente si usted no desea que la información de su hijo(a), al ser requerida, no se facilite a reclutadores militares o de instituciones de educación superior, sin mi consentimiento por escrito.

Yo, padre de \_\_\_\_\_, elijo que el distrito escolar **no** facilite, nombre, dirección, y teléfonos de mi hijo(a), a reclutadores militares o de instituciones de educación superior, sin mi consentimiento por escrito.

Padre de Familia \_\_\_\_\_ Fecha \_\_\_\_\_

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