

CLEAR BACKPACK FAQ:

Student Handbook 2018–2019: In an effort to improve the safety measures currently in place, CFISD requires all high school and middle school students to use clear backpacks. Students participating in an extracurricular activity are permitted to carry non-transparent bags to store items pertaining to their particular activity (i.e. band, athletics, etc.). Upon entry into the school, all extracurricular activity bags must be stored in lockers or designated areas. All bags are subject to search. Additionally, the maximum size for non-transparent bags that students in grades 6–12 will be permitted to carry during the school day, such as lunch kits, pencil bags and purses, will be 6" x 9". Elementary school students will be allowed to continue using traditional backpacks.



Example of permitted clear backpack.

- **Are elementary students required to use clear backpacks?**
No. This policy is in place for grades 6–12 (middle school and high school) only.
- **What are the size specifications for the clear backpack?**
There are no size specifications for the clear backpack.
- **Are mesh backpacks allowed?**
No. Mesh backpacks are not allowed. Students are permitted to only use clear backpacks (see example).



- **Can the backpack have mesh pockets?**

Yes. Mesh side pockets are allowed on the backpack (see example).



- **Can the front pocket of the backpack have a mesh organizer?**

Yes. A mesh organizer inside the front pocket is allowed (see example).



- **Will backpacks with padded backs be accepted?**

No. Backpack must have clear visibility through all dimensions excluding the backpack bottom (see example).



- **Are transparent colored backpacks allowed?**

No. Colored, transparent backpacks are not allowed (see example). Only fully clear backpacks are permitted.



- **Are stripes allowed on the backpack?**

No. Stripes in any location are not allowed on the backpack (see example).



- **Can the backpack have colored straps?**

Yes. The backpack may have colored straps (see example).



- **Are leather reinforcements on the corners of the backpacks allowed?**

Yes. Leather reinforcements on the corners are permitted (see example).

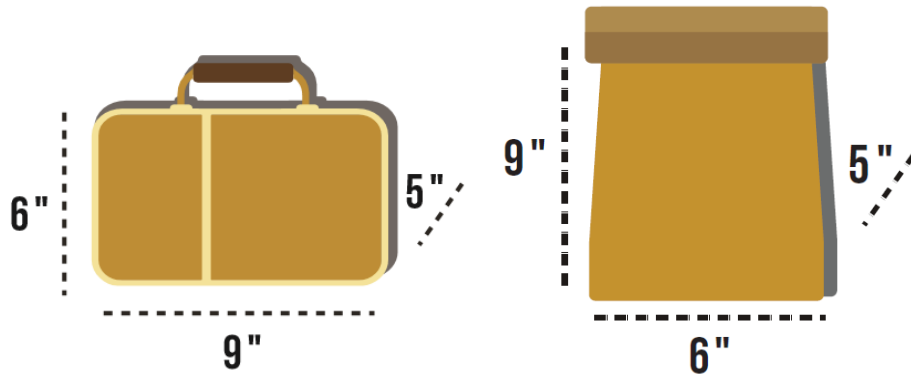


- **Are company or trademark logos allowed on the front of the backpack?**

Yes. Small company and school logos are allowed (see example), but large logos, monograms or other visual design obstructions are not.



- **Will athletic/spirit bags and instrument cases, which are not clear, be allowed on campus?**
Yes, however, these bags must be stored as soon as the student arrives at school. They must be placed in lockers or secured in fine arts classrooms or athletic locker rooms as designated by school instructors.
- **Are lunch kits permitted?**
Yes. Non-transparent lunch kits no larger than approximately 6" x 9" x 5" (see examples) are permitted to be carried.



- **Can multiple 6" x 9" bags be carried in schools?**
Yes. Students must limit non-transparent 6" x 9" bags (lunch kits, purses, pouches) to **two bags** (see examples), regardless of whether they are carried inside or outside the backpack.



- **Are clear totes, clear purses and transparent plastic bags allowed?**
Yes. Clear totes, purses and bags are allowed (see examples).



- **Are students allowed to have a laptop sleeve in their backpack, or are they required to carry the laptop sleeve separately?**

Yes. A laptop inserted into a laptop sleeve will be permitted in a backpack.

- **Can I line the inside of the backpack?**

No. Fabric, wallpaper or any other material that conceals the contents of the backpack is not permitted.

- **Where do I purchase a clear backpack?**

Online retailers such as Amazon are currently carrying clear backpacks. Several high school booster clubs have them available to order. In addition, CFISD secondary schools will have clear backpacks available to purchase for \$10 each.

- **Is there a health concern related to carrying clear backpacks (exposure to plastic)?**

No. According to current United States Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) research, chemicals released by plastic backpacks are not stored in the human body, so routine, low level exposures like touching plastic products or breathing indoor air are unlikely to cause toxicity or disease. Additional information can be found on the [CDC/ATSDR](#) website.

- **Is this an invasion of privacy?**

We understand the concern regarding the privacy of certain items contained within backpacks. Students will be permitted to carry such items in a small makeup pouch or purse within the backpack. Any non-transparent pouch, purse, or lunch kit should be no larger than approximately 6" x 9" x 5".