

La Vega ISD

Success Academy Handbook Supplement



2023-2024

This is a supplemental handbook specific to the Success Academy campus of La Vega High School. Unless, specifically detailed in this supplement, all items in the La Vega Secondary Handbook and Code of Conduct apply to Success Academy.

La Vega ISD does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, age, sex, or disability in providing educational services, activities, and programs.

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The Board of Trustees meets in the regular session once each month on the third Tuesday. Meetings are open to the public and are held in the BoardRoom of the La Vega Administration Building at 400 East Loop 340, Waco, Texas at 7:00pm. Board meeting agendas are posted at the administration building 72 hours prior to the meeting, in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act.

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Preface

This handbook is prepared as a supplement to the Student Handbook and Code of Conduct for La Vega Independent School District's Secondary Campuses. This supplement is meant to address items that may be unique to this campus and is not to be considered in place of the official Handbook. Parents and students need to be familiar with the policies and procedures contained in both.

If an item is not mentioned in this supplement, refer to the Student Handbook and Code of Conduct under the "Student" tab of the La Vega High School web page.

We look forward to another successful year at La Vega High School's Success Academy!

Success Academy Program

Program Description

Success Academy (SA) is a program offered by La Vega Independent School District through La Vega High School. The program offers students who are behind in credits, overage, or otherwise at-risk to earn credits through a non-traditional school setting.

The Goals and Objectives of the Success Academy of La Vega High School are:

- A. Provide a supportive, flexible learning environment for students at risk of dropping out or have previously dropped out, that meets individual academic needs in a non-traditional school setting.
- B. Recover high school credits and attain necessary credits for high school graduation with full-time supervised highly qualified educator support.
- C. Develop social and employability skills to prepare for entrance in the workforce or college/training school.
- D. Provide specific, targeted programs of remediation for success on the state assessment end-of-course exams.
- E. Provide career investigation, access to resources and services and career counseling.
- F. Assist with transition services to college, training, apprentices, and/or institutions of higher education, or the workforce.

Student Admission to Program

Students are referred to Success Academy by the high school counselor, high school administrator or truancy officer. Students or parents wishing to have their child enrolled must go through one of these channels.

Qualifications

Students must meet certain qualifications to attend the Success Academy. Students must have attended/completed one year of high school. All incoming/transfer students must be in attendance for one semester at LVHS to qualify for consideration. Students must be classified at-risk in two or more of the following categories:

- High number of work hours
- Parent or pregnant
- At-risk for dropping out
 - High-risk social behavior

- High-risk peer group
- No extracurricular participation
- Low educational expectations
- Lack of effort
- Low commitment to school
- Low achievement
- Loss of 4 or more credits
- Overage for graduation
- Behind graduation cohort by at least one year
- Poor attendance, truant, or court-ordered to attend school
- Placed in alternative education program preceding year
- Currently on parole, probation, deferred prosecution
- Dropped out of school and is interested in returning

Schedules

Success Academy offers several schedules to meet student needs. Students will be required to attend a minimum of four (4) instructional hours per school day. A student could be scheduled for up to 6 hours depending on the following:

- If students need STAAR preparation, an additional hour will be added to the daily schedule
- If a student is not meeting credit expectations (.5 credit every eight (8) school days) an additional hour will be added.

Students enrolled in the Optional Flexible School Day Program (OFSDP) will have a schedule that meets his or her needs. This schedule will be detailed in the OFSDP contract. Students that do not follow the detailed schedule will be removed from the OFSDP program and placed on the regular schedule.

Online Curriculum

Courses are offered through Edgenuity. Edgenuity is an online curriculum provider offering instruction that aligns with the Texas Essential Knowledge Skills (TEKS). Content is presented in a variety of ways (animation, simulation, video teacher-led direct, and activities) to appeal to multiple learning styles or preferences. Students work through courses at their own pace with guidelines in place to ensure progress.

- **Pre-testing is a pre-assessment tool that can be used to appropriately select content that the student must work on- it should not be used in the student's grade calculation.**
- **Pre-testing should only be used to differentiate instruction for students who have already taken and failed a course. A student enrolled in an Edgenuity course that has not previously taken the course should complete all course units.**

- Credit for a course cannot be based on pre-test or summative assessments. Edgenuity cannot be used for credit by examination.
- Daily grades are based on assignment and quiz grades in the Edgenuity platform, and should be weighted at 50%.
- Test/Major grades are based on unit tests in Edgenuity, and should be weighted at 50%.
- When applicable, summative assessments in Edgenuity should count as semester exam grades, and weighted accordingly.

La Vega ISD reserved the right to change online curriculum providers.

Other Curriculum Delivery

Some courses are offered through self-paced modules that students can work on at school or, at times, at home. These courses have been adapted and/or created from curriculum approved at La Vega High School and meet or exceed the TEKS requirements for the courses.

Credit Expectations

Students are expected to earn one-half (0.5) credit every eight (8) school days. Some students may not be able to accomplish this and will have alternative completion goals.

Optional Flexible School Day Program (OFSDP)

The Optional Flexible School Day Program (OFSDP) serves the district's most vulnerable students. All of the students enrolled have been identified at risk due to academic failure, truancy, pregnancy, parenthood, homelessness and/or disruptive behavior. Students accepted to be on the OFSDP will have schedules catered to their individual needs that are tailored to meet the 20 hr. per week requirement.

Program Description

OFSDP students have personal, work, or parenting schedules that typically impede their ability to attend school consistently during the same, set scheduled hours. These students will be allowed to have a schedule that is flexible to their needs.

Student Enrollment in OFSDP

Students may request the OFSDP at any time, however, it will begin or end at the start of a new grading period. Requests to be enrolled in the OFSDP can be initiated by an administrator, teacher, parent and/or truancy officer.

Qualifications

Students must meet at least two of the at-risk criteria to be eligible for the OFSDP.

Attendance/Hours Guidelines

The schedule will be worked out based on student need. Students are encouraged to attend daily and exceed the required hours. Students on the OFSDP can make up weekly required hours within the same week.

Weekly Attendance Expectations

The OFSDP contract will specify days and minutes required each week. A student must be in attendance at least 45 minutes for any time to count. If a student does not make the contracted minutes in a week (without a valid excuse), he or she will be given one week to get in compliance. At that point, if the student still is not attending as contracted, and has not scheduled a meeting to discuss with Mr. Viladevall, he or she will be placed on the regular schedule.

Communication

Electronic Communications (via text or email) with Students and/or Parents

Communication is the KEY to having success at Success Academy. Success Academy has a dedicated cell phone that is used to contact parents and/or students. This phone number is (254)265-3350. This phone is to be used ONLY for school related business. It is subject to review by La Vega ISD administration without notice. Additionally, please be advised that phone messages are periodically downloaded and saved to the student's file. Messages are provided to administration, counselors, truancy officers or other authorized personnel upon request.

Communication with Noncustodial Parent or Listed Relative

Success Academy will use information provided in the district database to reach students or parents.

Attendance/Absences

Students are required to be in attendance a minimum of four (4) instructional hours of school each day. Some students will have a schedule that requires attendance five (5) or six (6) instructional hours. Students in the OFSDP are required to attend according to the OFSDP contract for 20 hours per week.

Absence Excuse

A signed absence excuse must be turned in to the Administrative Assistant within five (5) school days of the absence to be considered. All excuses are subject to administrative approval.

Medical Excuse

If a student attends school for a portion of the school day, and is absent for a medical appointment, the absence can be coded M for medical and will not count against a student for attendance purposes. The excuse from the doctors must be turned in within five (5) days of the absence and is subject to verification.

Complaints and Concerns

Student or parent concerns need to be directed to the Lead Teacher, Chuck Viladevall, at 254-299-6752. If, after this, the issue has not been resolved contact La Vega High School Principal, James Villa at 254-299-6820.

Conduct

Applicability of School Rules

The La Vega ISD Student Code of Conduct will be enforced on this campus.

Classroom/Teacher Rules

Students are expected to follow the teacher classroom rules at all times.

Behavior Expectations

Success Academy students typically are a diverse group of students – and we want to celebrate this. It is expected that all students will treat each other with dignity and respect at all times. Each student should feel a sense of obligation to help their classmates find success. Since we have a shortened day, it is imperative that students keep talking to a minimum and focus on school work.

Disruption of Campus Operations

Any student that disrupts the flow of the school day will be subject to discipline. If the student does not immediately correct the issue, a parent will be notified and the student may be sent home (unexcused absence) for the remainder of the day. The student may be moved to a different classroom setting for one or more days, as well.

Discipline Logs

Discipline concerns are logged on each student. These logs are turned into the Cohort Principal for Success when it is determined appropriate. This may be due to the volume of discipline issues or because of one discipline infraction.

Discipline logs are turned over to the truancy officers and/or probation/parole officers if applicable. Parents may also request the log at any time.

Discipline Communication

As noted above, discipline issues will be reported. Success Academy also keeps a line of communication open with parents at all times.

Discipline Referrals

Discipline referrals will immediately be turned over to the Assistant Principals at La Vega High School for severe infractions which include, but are not limited to:

- Fighting
- Drugs or alcohol
- Leaving campus without authorization
- Threatening violence

Alternative Placement

Students with severe discipline issues at Success Academy will be placed at the district alternative education campus.

Dress and Grooming

Students at SA are permitted a more relaxed dress code, but still must adhere to the guidelines put forth in the LVHS policies regarding dress and grooming. Any items not specifically mentioned below follow the LVHS or district-wide policies. The determination of appropriateness is up to the teacher. If a Success Academy teacher finds your clothing inappropriate you must remedy the situation.

Backpacks, Satchels, Purses

Backpacks and satchels are not permitted. Do not bring them. Students do not need any sort of school supplies at Success Academy, so there is no need. Any student bringing a backpack to school will have to leave it in the front office and will not have access to it until the end of the day, and/or when Mr. Viladevall is able to return to the front office to retrieve it.

Purses are allowed but cannot be oversized.

Clothing

- Students may wear jeans as long as there are no holes
- Students cannot “sag”. Pants must properly fit at the waist
- Shirts must have sleeves and fit properly
- Shirts must cover cleavage appropriately
- Tank tops or muscle shirts may not be worn as an outer garment
- Hoodies and caps are not allowed to be worn
- Tight fitting or revealing clothing is not permitted
- Flip-flops or shower shoes are not permitted

Non Permitted Articles of Clothing

- Articles of clothing with inappropriate advertising such as (but not limited to) tobacco products, illegal items, liquor, businesses that promote such, and/or explicit materials.
- Gang related insignias or materials/colors specifically used by gang members to teach affiliation.

Electronic Devices and Technology Resources

Students at SA are permitted to have electronic devices on campus as long as they comply with our use policy. These conditions of use will be strictly enforced.

Mobile or Cell Phones

- Students may have their mobile phone to listen to music while they are working
- Students cannot text or make/take phone calls unless on lunch or break
- Student must provide headphones and music cannot be so loud that the teacher can hear it
- Students must use their data or have the music downloaded (outside of school)
- School Wi-Fi is not to be used for music, videos or games
- If student is not producing an acceptable amount of work, or is found to be watching videos or movie, texting, or gaming on the device privileges will be taken away

Music Devices

Students may have a music device (ipod, etc...). The same guidelines noted above apply.

Headphones

Students need to supply their own headphones.

Non Specified Devices or Items

Students are permitted, with prior instructor approval, to have their own personal tablet, laptop computer or netbook for the specific purpose of doing coursework. Gaming devices (PlayStation, Xbox, Wii, etc...) are not permitted on this campus.

Acceptable Use of District Technology Resources

Students are only allowed to use the school provided internet for school-related activities. Students may access Edgenuity, STAAR or TSI Prep materials, news and weather, and college preparatory materials.

Unacceptable Use of Technology Resources

Downloading, streaming, or accessing non-school related materials will not be tolerated. Students cannot use the internet for videos, music, or movies. Students may not be on social media sites or in chat rooms while they are at school.

Please be sure to refer to the district Acceptable Use policies for additional information.

End-of Course (EOC) Assessments

STAAR tests will be administered at this campus. Prior to the EOC, students will be required to participate in practice and remediation in an effort to help prepare for the test administration. Some of these sessions may be in addition to the regular four (4) hours of attendance and are mandatory.

Graduation

Success Academy holds a graduation ceremony in October and April. The ceremony coincides with the School Board meeting. At this time, the cut-off to be eligible for the October ceremony is August 31st and February 28th for the April ceremony. All graduates are encouraged to attend.

Leaving Campus

Students may not leave campus during the day. This is a closed campus and students cannot come and go. If a student leaves campus without permission he or she will be counted absent (unexcused) and subject to discipline.

A parent or authorized person may sign a student out at the front desk.

Lunch***Cafeteria***

Lunch is provided by the Child Nutrition Department of La Vega ISD. Students will receive a lunch that will be delivered to our campus. Lunch will be at the end or beginning of a student's school day, depending on whether or not he or she is on the morning or afternoon schedule.

Food/Drink

Students are allowed to bring factory sealed drinks or snacks. A student may bring lunch. Students are not allowed to share homemade food items with other students.

Medications at School

Please make every attempt to store and take medications at home. If you need to take medication at school, please fill out appropriate paperwork with the La Vega High School nurse, Patricia Martinez. She will make arrangements for us to store and administer medications. Students may not keep medications on their person. For more specific information about medications at school, please reference page 76 of the Student Handbook.

Parking***Designated Area***

The parking lot on the north end of the building is designated student parking. Students are not permitted to park in any other parking space.

Permits

Students are required to purchase and display a parking permit to be allowed to park on school property.

Requirements

Any student wishing to drive or park on campus must possess a valid Texas driver's license and insurance.

Release of Students from School

End of Scheduled Time

The teacher will release students at the appropriate time. Regular scheduled students are required to have a minimum of four (4) hours of instruction each day.

Students Leaving Earlier Than Scheduled Time

A student may be signed out by a parent/guardian before their scheduled day ends. If a student leaves without being signed out, he or she will be subject to an unexcused absence (if more than 15 minutes left in day) and/or discipline.

Tardies

Students are expected to arrive at the assigned time. If a student is tardy more than three (3) times, he or she will have a detention. Additional tardies will result in longer detentions.

If a student is more than fifteen (15) minutes late, he or she will receive an unexcused absence for that class period.

Transportation

Students are responsible for their own transportation to the Success Academy. Bus transportation is not provided by La Vega ISD. The Waco Transit Bus does stop one block from the building and discounted passes are available at the Waco Bus Terminal.

Video Cameras

For safety purposes, video cameras and audio equipment are used to monitor this campus. Equipment is activated in the outside areas, common areas, classrooms, and hallways of the Success Academy campus. This equipment is also used to monitor student behavior.

Visitors to the Campus

Success Academy is a closed campus. Students are not allowed to have personal visitors. Counselors, recruiters and/or probation or parole officers are allowed to meet with students. They must check in with the front desk and have proper credentials. Each visit is limited to ten (10) minutes.