

SFISD Chaplain Handbook

The following handbook describes the application process, qualifications, and training required to participate as an SFISD Chaplain.

2023-2024

Goals & Background

During the 88th Texas Legislature, Senate Bill 763 was passed. The bill required the school districts to vote on allowing chaplains to be employed or volunteer to provide support, services, and programs assigned by the board. On January 22, 2024, the SFISD Board, approved volunteer chaplains to help provide support in the following ways:

- restorative discipline practices,*
- mental health support,*
- behavioral health support services, and*
- programs related to suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention.*

SFISD is dedicated to providing the best care for our students. In order to give students well-rounded options for support services, the district would like to partner with chaplains.

This partnership allows Faith-based Chaplains to volunteer in the school. Volunteer activities will be supportive in nature and not primarily given by the Chaplain.



Application Process

Chaplains interested in volunteering will follow the process below. Completed applications will be sent to a committee for review and approval. The committee's decision is final, and the committee reserves the right to limit the number of approved applications.

- Complete the online application under the “Volunteer Chaplain Program” tab.
- Present the following supporting documentation:
 - Ordained Minister License,
 - A resume to be shared with parents that includes the following:
 - Your denomination,
 - Credentials that support the following areas: restorative discipline practices, mental health support, behavioral health support services, and programs related to suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention.
 - Contact Information,
 - Educational Background, and
- Complete the background check requirements.

Training Required

- Volunteer Expectations & Orientations which includes, but is not limited to the following:
 - Counseling training
 - Suicide procedures
 - Reporting requirements.

Process & Chaplain Guidelines

Chaplains who volunteer at any of the campuses must adhere to the following regulations:

- ▶ Chaplains will be allowed to be present in the cafeteria and public locations approved by the campus principals. Students may come and talk with the chaplain. If the Chaplain sees a student in distress, he/she must report it to a staff member first. The student must go through the SFISD counselors before being referred to the chaplain.
 - Chaplains will share a list of students who come and request to speak with them at regular campus counselor meetings. The campus counselor will reach out to the parents for permission. Any meetings are required to be in public places and not during instruction.

If a chaplain does not follow these guidelines, he/she can be removed immediately by the building principal.