



Waco Independent School District
 501 Franklin Avenue • Waco TX 76701 • 254-755-9432

SATURDAY DIVERSION VIRTUAL COURSE
 Contract for Students & Parent/Guardian
2023-2024

Purpose of Program:

Through the Waco ISD administrative office of Student Management, the goal is:

To incorporate restorative discipline with the Saturday Diversion Course to assist in reducing the number of referrals to the Waco ISD DAEP, reduce student out of school suspensions, and modify student behaviors.

This Diversion Course may be used:

- by administrators as an **option** in place of suspension or placement at the DAEP
- by PCL's as alternative to Truancy Court
- by judges as a sentencing alternative to increase the likelihood of students staying out of the juvenile justice system.

The Diversion Course is intended as a diversion away from court, entering the Juvenile Justice System, paying court fines, or having to leave work for court hearings or deferred dispositions, etc. Information learned during the Diversion Course equips participating students and parent/guardians with necessary skills to communicate more effectively and build more supportive relationships with one another.

- Students will learn pro-social alternatives to their current behaviors and understand the long-term consequences of continued school disruptions and/or trancies.
- Parents will learn strategies for supporting their children and learn to meet their developmental needs in healthy and pro-social ways, based on trust and mutual respect.

Format:

A Cohort group of students and parents will attend a **Saturday Google Meet session** of 7 contact hours.

- **Student(s) and Parent/Guardian must attend the entire session.**
- ***An internet link for Google Meet will be sent via email to the parent and/or to the student's WISD email. You will need to download the Google app in order to participate.***
- Certificate will be provided electronically upon completion of course for proof of attendance

Dates:

SEP	16th	cohort 1	JAN	27th	cohort 7	MAY	4th	cohort 13
	30th	cohort 2	FEB	10th	cohort 8		18th	cohort 14
OCT	14th	cohort 3		24th	cohort 9	JUN	TBD	cohort 15
NOV	4th	cohort 4	MAR	16th	cohort 10	JUL	TBD	cohort 16
NOV	11th	cohort 5	APR	6th	cohort 11			
DEC	2nd	cohort 6		20th	cohort 12			

Times: 8:30am to 3:30pm (participants must stay online for entire virtual session in order to receive credit)

Course Objectives:

A cohort group of students and their Parent(s)/ Guardian(s) will attend a Saturday session.

Over the Saturday virtual course, students will learn strategies to communicate more effectively with others, understand impulse control and anger management, and practice skills needed to make better choices in stressful, high-pressure situations. They will also identify their post-secondary interests and strengths and understand how to achieve their career path goals. Elementary students will be engaged with restorative discipline practices, conscious discipline techniques, along with communication and interaction skills developed for proper classroom behavior.

A resource guide will be sent electronically to help parents find and access resources to meet the needs they identify through the course.

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Dear Parent,

Your child's education is very important to Waco ISD and to you. Receiving an education helps in the following way

- **overall success and well-being of your child
- **helps your child compete with others for jobs
- **provides sense of accomplishment
- **benefit from instruction & structure that school provides daily

Truancy: Educational benefits are so great for an individual, that there are laws to ensure that schools and parents make sure students are attending daily. The Compulsory Attendance Law (**Section 25.093 and 25.094 Texas Education Code**) says that students must attend at least 90% of the day's that class is offered. If students do not attend, parents and/or students may be prosecuted in a justice court of any precinct in McLennan County.

Waco ISD is committed to ensuring that you and your child understand the importance and benefits to be gained from daily, on-time attendance and appropriate behaviors in the school setting. As provided by Waco ISD through the office of Student Management, we are offering a course designed to divert your child away from the criminal and civil justice system because of behavior and or attendance issues. This **DIVERSION COURSE** is an option for you and your student to avoid behavioral consequences or from paying court fines and/or court costs up to \$500 for each court violation, and avoid entering the criminal or civil justice system.

To attend the virtual Diversion Course, you agree to the following:

- Student and Parent/ Guardian attend a virtual Saturday session of the next Diversion class offered via internet on Google Meet.
- Parent and/or student needs to download the Google Meet app in order to attend virtual Diversion class.
- Log on to the Google Meet session on time and stay for the entire session (8:30 am – 3:30 pm)
- Ensure student and/or parent have a device with internet service to access the class - can use a campus or personal device.

Between now and the scheduled Diversion Course, you agree to the following:

- Student must meet with Campus Behavior Coordinator or designee during school hours to prepare for the session and 3 additional times after completion of the Diversion class as a follow up.
- Student must attend all school classes on time.
- Students must complete ALL school work assigned.
- Student must obey the Waco ISD Student Code of Conduct; have no behavioral issues, refrain from written referrals, In-School Suspensions, Out-of-School Suspensions, or expulsions

Additional Information:

Certificate will be provided electronically upon completion of course for proof of attendance. Ensure parent and/or student have at least one device to access the Google Meet with internet service.

I understand the above conditions and agree to attend the Waco ISD DIVERSION COURSE.

Student: Print Name	
School	Student ID
Age	Grade
Signature	Date

Parent/ Guardian: Print Name	
Home address	Zip code
Home phone#	Cell phone #
Signature	Date

Recommended by: Court PCL Campus **Date Attending** _____
 Please check one of the above.

Person recommending _____ **Date Parent Contacted** _____
 (Please print)

Parent Email: _____

Administrative Notes:
