

2024-2025 Constitution

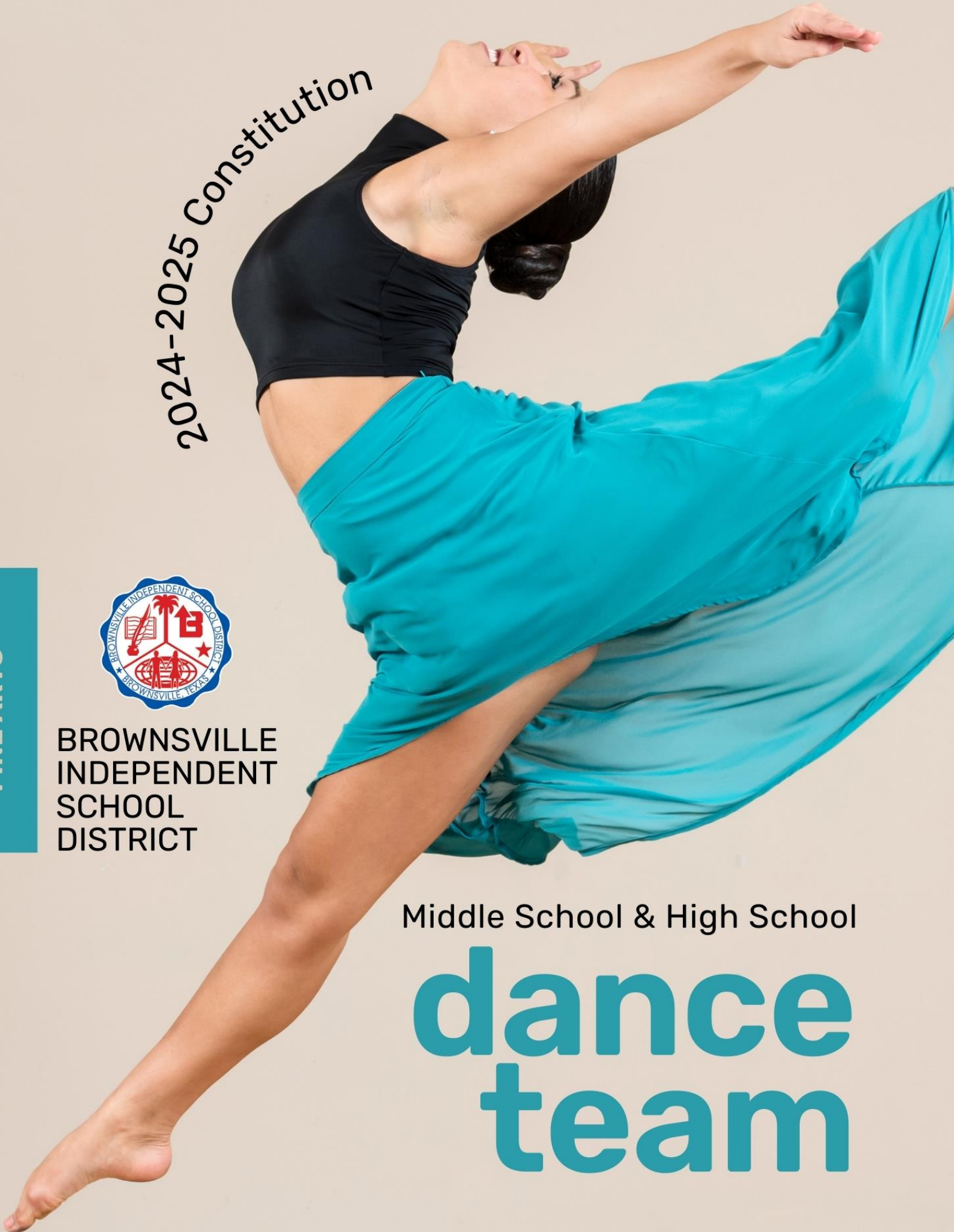


BROWNSVILLE
INDEPENDENT
SCHOOL
DISTRICT

FINE ARTS

Middle School & High School

**dance
team**



BROWNSVILLE ISD DANCE TEAM CONSTITUTION

This constitution describes and outlines the rules and expectations of all Brownsville ISD MS/HS Dance programs. All students are expected to abide by all rules set forth and follow all lawful directions given by the dance director and/or dance officers. The rules outlined on the following pages are simple and sound. Abiding by these rules allows each student to fulfill an obligation to their school, to their fellow dance members, to their family and to themselves. Only when every member of the dance program puts forth 100% effort can a dance group attain its goals in dance achievement and service to school and community.

Acceptance of a candidate to a Brownsville ISD High School Dance Team program or removal there from, shall be on the basis of ability, skill, presentation, or any other basis set forth, but shall not be on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability, or pregnancy. Furthermore, any violation of the BISD Student Code of Conduct and/or failure to comply with all listed requirements as stated in this constitution may cause a student to lose their privilege to participate in all activities and/or result in the termination of membership.

Should questions arise, parents should contact the Dance Director of the Brownsville ISD MS/HS Dance Team, then a campus administrator, and then the principal. For matters that cannot be satisfactorily resolved at the campus level, and after sufficient efforts have been made to do so, contact the BISD Department of Fine Arts at (956) 982-3730. Thereafter, the District Resolution Director, Ms. Julie Salinas, is available to assist parents and students whose issue was not resolved at the campus level.

(Teacher)

(Principal)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Preamble	1
Purpose	1
Goals	1
▪ Brownsville ISD Fine Arts	
▪ Individual MS/HS Campus	
▪ Brownsville ISD MS/HS Dance Team Constitution	
Eligibility for Membership	2
Audition Procedures	3
Officer Auditions	5
Membership and Expectations	6
Practice Responsibilities	7
Attendance	7
Performances/Contests	8
Uniforms/Costumes/Hair/Makeup	9
Fundraising and Financial Obligations	10
Academics/Eligibility	11
Discipline	11
Code of Ethics	12
Complaints/Grievances	12
Senior Award Jackets	12

BROWNSVILLE ISD

DANCE TEAM CONSTITUTION

Preamble

The following articles have been developed with the advice and consent of the campus dance team directors for the purpose of communicating the standards of eligibility and procedure which all candidates must meet to be eligible for try-outs and for the purpose of articulating the standards of conduct and behavior to which all Brownsville ISD MS/HS Dance Team members are expected to adhere to as a condition of participation in dance team activities.

Purpose

The purpose of the Brownsville ISD Dance Team programs shall be to promote and encourage team spirit, to foster fellowship and sportsmanship by example, and to engender enthusiasm and loyalty to team and school and to promote the art of dance. Members shall lead by example; shall exhibit exemplary qualities of character; and shall uphold high moral standards in their service to the school and the community as representatives of their student body and of the Brownsville ISD.

Goal: Brownsville ISD Fine Arts

So that all Brownsville ISD MS/HS Dance Team members will be afforded the opportunity to explore, display, test, evaluate, and refine their talents, based upon their individual development, the Brownsville ISD Fine Arts Department will provide opportunities for successful student self-expression and personal growth as artists, citizens, and life-long learners through school, community, district-wide and State/National level performances.

Goal: Individual Middle School/High School Campus

It is every Brownsville ISD MS/HS Campus' belief that participating in the school's Dance Team promotes and develops teamwork and leadership skills and contributes in evolving self-confidence. In addition, each member must be a role model who achieves academic excellence and demonstrates strong character in his/her daily life.

Goal: Brownsville ISD MS/HS Dance Team Constitution

The purpose of this document is to develop uniform guidelines for each member of a Brownsville ISD MS/HS Dance Team. These guidelines focus on the proper implementation of tryouts, membership requirements, and performance expectations from each member.

Being a member of a Brownsville ISD MS/HS Dance Team is a **PRIVILEGE**. Any student wishing to be a part of this organization must audition and present their knowledge in dance technique, performance and choreographic ability. Students will have the opportunity to study and perform various styles of dance. All students participating in this organization must have an understanding of the rigorous schedule that must be maintained for a successful performance year. Failure to comply with the Brownsville ISD MS/HS Dance Constitution, school guidelines and district rules may result in immediate removal from this organization. Each case will be dealt with individually.

Eligibility for Membership

1. Currently enrolled Brownsville ISD MS students in **grades sixth through eighth** are eligible for membership in a **Brownsville ISD MS Dance Team**.
2. Currently enrolled Brownsville ISD HS students in **grades ninth through eleventh** are eligible for membership in a **Brownsville ISD HS Dance Team**.
 - a. Eighth grade students from middle school feeders are also eligible for membership.
 - b. Transfer students will be eligible once he or she has been officially approved for transfer. Transferring students (in or out of district) must participate in the audition procedure and submit all required paperwork. Students who transfer after the audition date will not be allowed membership. If the Dance Director determines a need for additional team members, transfer students will be allowed to audition.
3. Grade requirements:
 - a. Anyone auditioning must have passed every class with a 70 or above for the six weeks grading period prior to tryouts. One grade of a 65-69 in an advanced course (refer to TEA/UIIL Side by Side guidelines) is acceptable if waived by administration.
 - b. A student may submit a progress report for eligibility purposes if audition date falls after IPR grades for the current six weeks grading period have been posted.
 - c. Students who do not meet the above stated criteria will still be allowed to audition if grades from MP1-MP4 average a 70 or above for each class in question.
4. All candidates must demonstrate exemplary attendance, behavior, and citizenship habits. Exceptions will be considered only if caused by circumstances clearly beyond the control of the candidate. All exceptions require prior approval from the dance director and the principal.
5. Qualifying candidates must be in good financial standing with all student organizations of which they are or have been a member of at any BISD campus.
6. Students who are eligible for participation with a Brownsville ISD MS/HS Dance Team must comply and follow the required audition procedures. Including submitting all of the forms found in the audition packet prior to auditions.
7. A student who has been dismissed from any Brownsville ISD MS/HS Dance Program for any reason is prohibited from participating in the auditions for the following school year.
8. All members at the middle school and high school level must provide documentation that they have received and passed a physical examination from a physician licensed to practice in the state of Texas during the calendar year. The documentation must indicate that the student has been examined and is physically able to participate with a Brownsville ISD MS/HS Dance Team. This documentation must be submitted prior to auditions along with all other application forms. Auditions for current members with existing medical conditions will be handled on a case-by-case basis.
9. Candidates must complete all requirements for try-out prior to try-outs, including but not limited to timely submission of application, timely submission of all required forms, and attendance at all required meetings, practice sessions or clinics as specified by the BISD MS/HS Dance Team Audition Packet. Any candidate failing to complete all audition requirements who is otherwise eligible to try-out will not be allowed to audition, unless extenuating circumstances exist such as a death in the family or serious illness. An absence from school on the day requirements are to be completed, either excused or unexcused, does not constitute an extenuating circumstance.
10. All candidates and their parent or guardian must attend the mandatory orientation meeting(s) for their campus to be eligible for dance team auditions. However, if unable to attend, a parent or guardian may designate, in writing, another responsible adult as a proxy to attend the

meeting in his or her place. Failure of the parent, guardian, or proxy to attend the mandatory orientation meeting(s) will result in the candidate being ineligible for try-outs.

Audition Meeting and Information

- A mandatory audition meeting will be held for all prospective members and parents/guardians. A parent/guardian of each prospective member is expected to attend the mandatory audition meeting to receive information and clarification. This is the only opportunity for parents to have an oral explanation of necessary documents required for auditions. If unable to attend, a parent or guardian may designate, in writing, another responsible adult as a proxy to attend the meeting in his or her place. Failure of the parent, guardian, or proxy to attend the mandatory orientation meeting(s) will result in the candidate being ineligible for try-outs.
- Audition packets will be distributed to all prospective members and the parents/guardians of all prospective members. The BISD MS/HS Dance Team Audition Packet will be distributed at the mandatory audition meeting and will include information such as projected costs, tentative schedules, Dance Team Audition Guidelines, and necessary application forms.
- Parents/guardians of all prospective members must agree to support the enforcement of all rules and regulations and must agree to the payment of all necessary expenses should their child be selected as a member of a BISD MS/HS Dance Team by signing and submitting the BISD MS/HS Dance Team Guidelines Acknowledgement Form.
- Candidates for membership are required to in the audition workshop provided.
- All candidates must audition during the scheduled audition session. If a participant is injured prior or during tryouts, a make-up audition will not be permitted. Make-up auditions will not be allowed for any purpose. Pre-recorded audio/visual routines will not be accepted as a substitute for the scheduled audition session.
- Membership is for the current year only. All BISD MS/HS Dance Team members must reestablish membership through annual auditions unless the member is a returning 8th or 12th grade student that has repeatedly made the team consecutively in prior years.
- High school and middle school candidates for membership in a Brownsville MS/HS Dance Team will audition in front of a panel of FIVE contracted judges. With Principal approval, the Director may serve as one of the five judges.
- Directors will set-up audition procedures with the campus principal or designee.
- Directors and parents are not allowed in the audition room during the actual audition. BISD administrators may be present during the auditions to supervise the auditions.

Auditions

Team and officer auditions will be held at the end of the year, preferably during the fifth six weeks in preparation for the upcoming dance season. All students must audition every year with the exception of returning senior members who are in good standing. The director is responsible for organizing and administering the auditions. All team and officer auditions will be closed to the general public.

• Team Auditions

1. All prospective candidates must submit all required forms prior to or on the first day of the audition workshop in order to participate in the workshop and auditions.
2. Each candidate will be judged using the required dance choreography for the audition.
3. All students must be passing all their courses at the time of auditions.

4. Five judges selected by the director and approved by the principal will adjudicate the try-out. With Principal approval, the Director may serve as one of the five judges.
5. The audition date and location shall be selected by the director with the principal's approval.
6. The audition area shall be restricted to candidates, judges, director, principal or designee, and any other personnel which the director deems essential to properly administer the audition.
7. Each candidate will dress as specified by the director.
8. Candidates shall be identified by letter only.
9. If a candidate is injured at the time of auditions, it will be at the director's and principal's discretion whether to allow an alternative audition opportunity.
10. The "Olympic Scoring System" shall be used for tabulating dance team audition results.
11. At least two tabulators shall process the judges' scores and shall give the result to the director for posting. One of the tabulators may be the principal or designee. The judges' decision is final except in the case of a mechanical error in the tally.
12. Results shall be posted as soon after try-outs as possible but not until both director and principal/designee determine that they are error-free.
13. Upon request a parent/guardian may review their own child's scores in a scheduled conference with the director and campus principal **no more than 14 days AFTER auditions.**
14. Once team auditions have taken place, company auditions will occur two weeks after. This audition will determine which members will be in Senior Company and Junior Company. Any member may choose to automatically be in Junior Company.
15. In order to prepare students for a future in performance, everyone who is interested in being a member or officer of this organization, including returning members (veterans who have been on the team 1 or more years), must audition every year in order to gain experience.

**** Senior & Junior Companies are not a requirement. Directors may choose to have them if they feel the need to help maintain numbers in their programs. ****

❖ *Senior Company Members will/ are:*

1. Dancers may audition to be considered for Senior Company (year-round membership).
2. Responsible for all rehearsals and events from Pre-School Camp until the last day of the school year.
3. Will audition for ALL performances: Football Games, Pep Rallies, Santa & Friends, Competition, Evaluation, etc.
4. Has the opportunity to attend the yearly trip/event as long as all requirements are met.
5. Must meet all additional fundraising requirements.
6. A Senior Company member has the ability to be moved down as a Junior Company member if the director sees fit. This means the dancer is not improving or displays a **lack of commitment**, etc.

❖ *Junior Company Members will/ are:*

1. Participate at all Football Games, Pep Rallies, Parades, and other events.
2. Responsible for attendance at all camps and rehearsals from Pre-School Camp to the end of football season.

3. Audition for ALL performances
4. Must meet all additional fundraising requirements.
5. Must stay enrolled in a dance class all year.
6. Will be considered year-round members, as long as student is in good standing.
7. A Junior Company member has the ability to move up as to Senior Company throughout the year if the director sees fit, offers the promotion, and the student accepts. This offer can happen at any time throughout the academic year.

❖ ***Alternates:***

1. BISD MS/HS Dance Team guidelines DO NOT allow a selection of alternates.

❖ ***Membership Size***

1. BISD MS/HS Dance teams will have NO MORE than 40 positions available for membership.
2. The number of actual members will be determined by the Director and may vary from year to year depending on the number of students interested in being members of the dance team, available resources, and/or the largest break in judges' scores.

• **Officer Auditions**

❖ ***Qualifications***

1. An Officer candidate must have at least **one-year** on a BISD MS Dance Team, or **two-years** on a BISD HS Dance Team.
2. All Officer candidates must be selected for dance team membership prior to the officer audition.
3. Auditions for current officers with existing medical conditions will be handled on a case-by-case basis.

❖ ***Duties***

1. Officers will directly assist the Director and will be in command when the Director is not available.
2. All officers should be able to contribute ideas for routines. They should offer constructive criticism concerning the routines, learn routines to be taught, and be able to accept and give constructive criticism.
3. Individual officer duties will be determined by the director from year to year.

❖ ***Selection***

1. The judges' scores will determine the number of students who will be awarded officer positions (not to exceed seven). Once the officer positions are awarded, the highest-ranking 12th grade student selected as officer will be named Captain. In the case that there are no 12th grade students selected as officer, the position of Captain will be awarded to the highest scoring 11th grade student selected as officer. If there are no 11th or 12th grade students selected as officer, the position of Captain will be awarded to the highest scoring 10th grade student selected as officer. Each campus dance team may select up to six officers depending on the size of the team.

❖ ***Requirements***

1. Officers must adhere to all Campus and District Rules as well as adhere to the BISD MS/HS Dance Team Constitution, and Student Code of Conduct.
2. Officer positions must agree to and sign the Officer Contract.
3. Officer positions are not permanent. An officer will be removed from office if in the discretion of the director and principal, the officer acts in a manner that is inconsistent with the promotion of a positive image for the dance program or that is considered as undermining the director's authority or the success of the dance program.
4. Procedures for the replacement of an officer that has withdrawn or has been dismissed will be filled by the officer alternate if Director feels needed. The officer alternate will be the student with the next highest officer audition score who does not hold a current position. In some cases, the spot will be left vacant for the rest of the year.

• **Membership and Expectations**

❖ ***Membership***

Membership in a BISD MS/HS School Dance Team program is from the date of try-outs to the last day of school the following school year. Members must be enrolled in a Brownsville ISD school. Membership numbers are subject to change based upon drastic drop-off rates or gaps between the resulting high, middle, and low scores, provided that any such change in numbers shall be approved by the director and the assigned administrator. Membership may be terminated at any time for failure to comply with the student code of conduct and procedures outlined herein.

Grade classifications named below are for the year following try-outs and shall be determined according to official school records.

In the event a member is removed, withdraws from school, or quits the squad prior to the end of the school year it will be at the discretion of the director and the principal whether the member will be replaced on the squad from the next qualifying candidate of the try-out pool. Consideration should be given to the time of year, the need of the squad and the appropriateness of the candidate in determining whether a member should be replaced.

❖ ***Expectations***

1. All members of the Dance Team must be enrolled in the Dance Team Class during the day to remain as members of the Dance Team.
2. Members shall be on time and prepared for all dance team activities. Members should be dressed in the required uniform prior to the start of the activity.
3. Members shall be neatly presented in appearance, with hair neatly groomed and pulled back from face. There will not be a requirement that greatly affects the natural texture of the members hair.
4. Members shall attend and perform all required duties at all practices, games, events, or functions, including any required camp or competition.
5. Members shall maintain their eligibility status under the Texas public education policy, HB72, No Pass, No Play Rules. Members must maintain a grade of 70 or above in all classes, other than an identified honors or advanced class, to be eligible to participate.
6. Members with disabilities must meet the standards in their IEP to be eligible to participate.

7. Members should be enthusiastic, self-disciplined, willing to learn, and be physically and mentally prepared for practice and performances.
8. Members shall comply with all TEA-UIL Side by Side Guidelines for Dance Teams.
9. Members shall comply with all district disciplinary rules in accordance with the Brownsville ISD MS/HS Dance Team Constitution and the BISD Student Code of Conduct. The documents specify in further detail, consequences for failure to comply with any of the above expectations. These include any, or a combination of the following: a bar from participation in the next scheduled function, probationary status, and/or removal from the squad.
10. Members are responsible for the care and upkeep of their district issued uniform(s). District issued uniforms must be returned cleaned and undamaged at the end of each school year. Members who resign or are removed from the dance team are responsible for returning their district provided uniform(s) to the dance coach immediately following their removal from the squad. Members will be held financially responsible for lost or damaged uniforms.

Practice Responsibilities

1. All before/after school, weekend, and summer practice sessions are mandatory.
2. Members must be on time for practice and stay until dismissed by the director.
3. Practices are based on need; therefore, practice times are subject to change.
4. Practice is made for performance perfection; therefore, members must voice individual needs so that an officer or director may help.
5. If questions arise, members must raise their hand and wait to be called on. Talking is prohibited while the director or officers are speaking. Clear communication is imperative.
6. Hair must be pulled away from face at all times, unless otherwise instructed by the director.
7. Gum chewing or eating will not be tolerated. Breaks will be given as needed.
8. All dances must be practiced at full dancing ability, unless otherwise instructed by the director.
9. Practice times will be at the discretion of the director.
10. All practice sessions will be closed to parents and non-members of the organization.

Attendance

In order to maintain the high standards of any dance program attendance and punctuality is imperative. A dance member is required to attend **ALL** practices, performances and designated activities. Absenteeism must be kept to a minimum. One primary purpose of any dance program is the preparation for and participation in performances. If a dance team member misses practice or a performance he/she may be excluded from upcoming performances and/or dismissed from the program. Please schedule all doctor (and other) appointments appropriately avoiding scheduling conflicts. All absences and excuses must be reported to the director before class, practice or performance. Written documentation including a copy of doctor's excuses and notification must be provided for absences either in person or via email. All students participating in this organization must have an understanding of the rigorous schedule that must be maintained for a successful performance year. Failure to comply with the BISD Dance Constitution, BISD Student Code of Conduct, school rules, and district guidelines may result in immediate removal from this organization. Each case will be dealt with individually.

1. Attendance and promptness at all practices, special appearances, performances, and meetings is required.

2. In order to receive an excused absence from a practice, performance, or event, member must present a written note from a parent or guardian to the director upon the member's return. The written note must include the member's name, date, reason for absence, and parent or guardian signature and telephone number. If the absence was anticipated, a parent or guardian must also notify the director. Three or more consecutive absences may also require an excuse from a physician who is licensed in the State of Texas.
 - a. **Excused absences** include: personal illness or accident, death in the family, school activities that receive advance approval from the director, religious holidays, weddings in the immediate family, any other absence approved by the director.
 - b. **Unexcused absences** include but are not limited to: out-of-town trips or vacations, work, any absence not approved by the director.
3. The Dance Director must approve absences prior to a practice or an activity. Only in an emergency situation should the director be notified after the fact. Certain circumstances may require documentation.
4. If a member must leave a practice or an activity early, the director must be notified beforehand.
5. When a student is absent to a practice or event for any reason, it is that member's responsibility to find out what was missed and what is required upon return.
6. Any member who misses two specific routine practices may forfeit performing that routine.
7. Any member missing two consecutive practice days, whether excused or unexcused may forfeit the performance for that week.
8. If a member misses the practice session right before a performance or during line up (formations), it may prohibit him/her from performing due to last minute changes.

Performances/Contests

As a member of this organization participation in ALL performances is mandatory. These include, but are not limited to all football games, designated parades, Santa & Friends, Pep Rallies, Fall/Spring Dance Shows, Dance Contests and other district and special events. Most dates for public appearances are announced weeks and even months in advance. Jobs, family trips, doctor's appointments, etc. do not justify absences. An unexcused absence from any public appearance is very serious. Students will earn a zero for the missed performance. Excessive absences for mandatory performances may result in the termination of membership. Every case will be dealt with individually.

The director has the option to require auditions for every performance prior to an event. Members who have mastered the required skills will perform for that event. Members will be evaluated based on multiple standards including their knowledge of the dance, technical abilities, experience, attendance and their work ethic. Those who have failed to meet the required skills will attend the event, however, an opportunity to perform will depend on the need to replace a member who is unable to participate. All decisions for member participation will be made by the director. All dance members are responsible for learning all choreography including if they are absent. All performances will be for a grade and count towards the six-week average.

1. Each member will participate in required activities throughout the year. Required activities include, but are not limited to, athletic events, practices, competitions, community events, school pep rallies, summer camp, and assigned fundraising functions. The director will designate which activities are required activities.
2. Parents, guardians, and students are responsible for appropriate transportation arrangements to and from each activity in a timely manner. Students are responsible for appropriate

arrangements to and from the pick-up and drop off locations at the time designated by the director.

3. All members of a BISD MS/HS Dance Team must travel on a school bus to any school-related activity during school and after school. During out-of-town or evening activities, parents can take members unless a bus is provided. Parents can transport students home from these events under the following conditions:
 - a. Student must request and complete the official student travel release form from their campus and present it to the director **48 hours** prior to the activity. The form must be dated and signed by the parent/guardian and the principal.
 - b. A parent/guardian transporting a student home from an event must meet the director at the end of an event or game and take responsibility for the member at that time. All other students will return to the bus with the group.
 - c. Any exceptions to this procedure, must be approved in advance by both the director and the principal/school administrator.

Uniforms/Costumes/Hair/Makeup

Everyone must understand and adhere to the expectations and procedures with regards to uniforms/costumes, hair and make-up for ALL PERFORMANCES, which is different from everyday rehearsals/practices! The director will determine the appropriate uniform/costume; hair and make-up for each dance performance and/or dance function. Appropriate uniforms/costumes, hair and “performance make-up” as well as other procedures must be followed for participation in any dance performance and/or dance function. Designated uniforms/costumes will be worn by all dance students in their respective dance classes and all public performances. Dancers must have all required and appropriate dance attire and shoes for class and performances. Failure to comply with procedures/directives will result in discipline procedures taken as needed including not allowing the student to participate in the designated dance function. In addition, it may result in the termination of membership. Each case will be dealt with individually.

When in public, the uniform/costume is to be worn complete and you may not remove any part of the uniform when you are in the public eye and can be identified as a member of this organization.

The following guidelines should be considered for all uniforms and costumes:

- Uniforms/costumes will be distributed as needed. Uniforms will be distributed to officers and veterans followed by rookies.
- All altering must be made by the director unless otherwise directed. Nothing is to be cut when uniforms/costumes belonging to the school need to be altered. Only the director may alter costumes as needed.
- Proper undergarments must be worn under costumes. Bra straps should be nude and need to be hidden.
- The director and/or officers will check that you are properly dressed the day of your performance. This includes proper uniform/costume, hair and make-up.
- If the student does not have all of their proper uniform including dance shoes they will not be allowed to perform. If so, the student must complete an alternate assignment or earn a “0” for that performance.
- Keep your uniform clean. If it becomes dirty you must get it properly cleaned.
- Students will be charged replacement costs for costumes, props, bags etc. that are damaged, not returned or lost.

The following guidelines should be considered for hair, makeup and other miscellaneous items:

- Every girl is expected to wear hair as directed (pony tail, bun, curly down, etc.) for every practice, performance and/or dance function. Failure to comply with directive will result in discipline procedures taken as needed including not allowing the student to participate in the designated dance function. In addition, it may result in the termination of membership. Each case will be dealt with individually.
- Every boy is expected to wear hair short, gelled as needed and clean cut. No facial hair is allowed in costume, for performances and/or dance functions. Failure to comply with directive will result in discipline procedures taken as needed including not allowing the student to participate in the designated dance function. In addition, it may result in the termination of membership. Each case will be dealt with individually.
- Every girl is expected to wear make-up as directed for every performance and/or dance function. Failure to comply with directive will result in discipline procedures taken as needed including not allowing the student to participate in the designated dance function. In addition, it may result in the termination of membership. Each case will be dealt with individually.
- NO JEWELRY (watches, earrings, rings, bracelets, etc.) is to be worn in class, performances or with costumes unless directed.
- NO NAIL POLISH is to be worn for performances or with costumes.

Fundraising & Financial Obligations

All members are expected to participate in all annual fundraiser activities predetermined by the dance director, which will assist in the purchasing of dance items needed by this organization as well as providing funds to participate in various events throughout the year. The director will also establish payment deadlines as needed. Students must adhere to all deadlines set forth. Failure to turn in funds in a timely manner will delay and possibly force the cancellation of team-scheduled activities. Students will be held responsible for clearing all balances with this organization. Prior to placing orders and making payments for the new year all balances must be cleared. Members will not be allowed to participate in auditions for the next school year until all financial obligations to the organization have been met. Each case will be dealt with individually.

1. Every member will be required to participate in all fundraisers.
2. Any member who does not fully partake in a fundraising event will have to pay her/his share out of pocket.
3. All school sponsored fundraisers will be held to benefit the entire organization.
4. Any fundraised monies will be issued/used at the discretion of the director.
5. All fundraising is at the discretion of the director and assigned campus administrator.
6. All fundraised money is non-refundable.

All members of this organization will be expected to purchase items as determined by the director for their participation in class and performances throughout the year. Full payment for the total cost of the specified uniform/ costume or additional expenses (team shirt, guest artist choreography fee) will be required before an order is made. Deadlines for payment(s) must be met to have merchandise delivered on time. Some items may already be owned by returning members. New members would need to purchase all items. Failure to purchase all items will forfeit the opportunity for the student to participate in any/all rehearsals, performances and activities. If items are lost it will be the responsibility of each member to replace his/her item(s) as soon as possible.

All members are expected to make payments for all purchases needing to be made prior to the beginning of the new school year. The director will establish deadlines for payments. Items will not be ordered by the director for any student if payments are not made. Members may be dismissed from the program if any payments are missed. Please note that veterans must clear their remaining balances from the previous year before any new payments can be accepted and credited. Students who do not have all required items prior to the beginning of the new school year will not be allowed to participate in any rehearsal, performance and/or activity and may be dropped from this organization. If any member is dismissed from the program or drops, they are still responsible for all financial obligations.

Academics/Eligibility

Academics is our priority. Every member is expected to pass all their classes in order to participate in any dance performances and/or activities throughout the year. Grade checks will be performed according to the TEA/UIIL eligibility calendar. You and your daughter/son should be familiar with the “No Pass/No Play” rule. If a student fails any subject at the end of a 6-week period, she/he is placed on academic probation for the following 6 weeks. A member who is on scholastic probation must participate in practices, but will not be allowed to perform or attend events with their group. If a student fails more than one 6 week grading period she/he will be placed on probation. If a student fails 3 or more grading periods, they will be dismissed from the program. Any student needing additional help is encouraged to attend tutorial after school.

Member must maintain a grade point average that meets or exceeds the grade point average requirements for participation in a UIL extracurricular activity, as outlined by TEA-UIL Side-by-Side (www.uiltexas.org)

“No Pass/No Play” House Bill 72, Section 1, subchapter Z, Chapter 21, Education Code reads as follows:

Sec. 21.920 (b) "A student enrolled in a school district in this state shall be suspended from participation in any extracurricular activity sponsored or sanctioned by the school district during the grade reporting period after a grade reporting period in which the student received a grade lower than the equivalent of 70 on a scale of 100 in any academic class."

Discipline

BISD MS/HS Dance Team members are official representatives of their school, the district, and the community. Each member must maintain high moral and ethical standards and use good judgment at all times. They must conduct themselves in an exemplary manner that reflects the BISD Student Code of Conduct, the BISD MS/HS Dance Team Constitution, school rules, and district guidelines.

Failure to comply may result in disciplinary action against the member, **up to and including removal from the team**. Membership may be terminated for unacceptable behavior. For a detailed list of general conduct violations and discipline management, please refer to the BISD Student Code of Conduct.

Each case will be dealt with individually by the director and campus administration. If a student is removed from the team, they are still responsible for all financial obligations.

Code of Ethics

Being a member of a BISD MS/HS Dance Team is a **PRIVILEGE!** Members will share in many great experiences, recognitions, numerous performance opportunities, life-long memories as well as sacrifices along with developing high goals and standards, maturity, dependability, responsibility and self-discipline in developing and preparing him/her for their future.

- All parents/guardians should be fully aware of the requirements for membership including the commitment and dedication expected from all members in order to make this a very successful experience.
- All parents/guardians are strongly encouraged to be supportive and reinforce the decisions set forth by the Director.
- Mutual respect is imperative.

Concerns/Complaints/Grievances

Brownsville ISD Fine Arts encourages students and parents to discuss their concerns with the teacher first, then a campus administrator who has the authority to address the concerns, and then the principal.

Concerns should be expressed as soon as possible to allow early resolution at the lowest possible administrative level. For the matters that cannot be satisfactorily resolved at the campus level, and after sufficient efforts have been made to do so, contact the BISD Department of Fine Arts at (956) 982-3730. Thereafter, the District Resolution Director, Ms. Julie Salinas, is available to assist parents and students whose issue was not resolved at the campus level.

Senior Award Jackets

Senior jackets shall be awarded to a dance student during their senior year as a dance member provided that they fulfill the following criteria.

- The student must be a member of the dance team for **6 consecutive semesters** which **must include their senior year**. The equivalence will be accepted from students transferring into the Dance Program.
- Students must have participated in ALL scheduled performances, rehearsals, and Dance activities commensurate with level of assignment. The B.I.S.D. policy on absences will determine an excused absence.
- Student must be passing Dance class (if enrolled) with a current minimum grade average of **80**.
- Student must have maintained conduct, which is a credit to the organization, school, and community, and exhibited a positive attitude towards other members of the Dance Program and teachers.
- Students must have cleared all financial responsibilities to the dance organization.
- Students may only earn one letterman jacket. Any student who has earned a jacket from another school organization may not receive a dance jacket
- Students transferring into this organization from other performance dance programs will be awarded the equivalent dance credits. Any unique situation will be dealt with individually.

- Dropping dance classes or the dismissal from this organization will forfeit the award.
- In all cases the award is the property of (School Name) ECHS (Team Name) and will be considered **ON LOAN** until the completion of all the requirements and graduation of the student. Each senior candidate will sign an agreement stating these guidelines upon their being measured for the senior jacket.

Letterman Jacket Requirements for Fine Arts Dance

Senior jackets shall be awarded to a dance student during their senior year as a dance member provided that they fulfill the following criteria.

1. The student must be a member of the dance team for **6 consecutive semesters** which **must include their senior year**. The equivalence will be accepted from students transferring into the Dance Program.
2. Students must have participated in ALL scheduled performances, rehearsals, and Dance activities commensurate with level of assignment. The B.I.S.D. policy on absences will determine an excused absence.
3. Student must be passing Dance class (if enrolled) with a current minimum grade average of **80.**
4. Student must have maintained conduct, which is a credit to the organization, school, and community, and exhibited a positive attitude towards other members of the Dance Program and teachers.
5. **Dropping the Dance class or dismissal from Dance class will forfeit the award.**
6. Student must have cleared all financial responsibilities involved with the Dance Program.
7. Students may only earn one letterman jacket. Any student who has earned a jacket from another school organization may not receive a dance jacket but they may receive a patch.
8. All arrangements for the sizing and ordering of the jackets are the responsibility of the dance instructor.
 - a. The director will give the order to the Department of Fine Arts. This order must include: student names, sizes and the number of jackets needed.
 - b. The Department of Fine Arts will generate the Purchase Request (PR) for this award.
 - c. Students must sign a “contract” at the time of ordering that defines the expectations for the student to earn the award.
9. Jackets are to be ordered without extra items.
 - a. Any additional jacket items may be ordered by the student AFTER the jacket has been presented.

In all cases the award is the property of the Dance Program and will be considered ON LOAN until the completion of all the requirements and graduation of the student.

Student Name (printed): _____

Student Signature: _____

Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Name (printed): _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____

**PARENT/STUDENT DANCE CONSTITUTION
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM**

Students & parents are required to sign this constitution form acknowledging that they understand and will comply with the requirements of this organization. Anyone not completing this form will forfeit their membership of this organization.

We have read, understand and are fully aware of ALL expectations, commitments, requirements and consequences laid out in the BISD MS/HS Dance Constitution. In addition, we understand that the director will do everything possible to provide a safe environment for ALL students, but will not be held accountable for any accidents that may occur.

STUDENT:

I hereby pledge to be positive about my participation in, a BISD MS/HS Dance Team. I agree to abide by the BISD Student Code of Conduct and all items stated in the BISD MS/HS Dance Team Constitution. It is my own desire to participate in this program. I will be forthcoming to my director about any issues I face throughout my time on the team. I deserve to be an active member on this team because my actions will reflect that. I understand school is most important and comes first. My behavior and success in my class will reflect my membership on the team and vice versa. I will be a team member and act as such. I understand and acknowledge that being on this team is a privilege and not a right. I understand there is no "I" in TEAM.

PARENT/GUARDIAN:

I hereby pledge to be positive about my child's experience in a BISD MS/HS Dance Team. I accept responsibility for my child's participation by abiding to the BISD Student Code of Conduct and the BISD MS/HS Dance Team Constitution. I will encourage good sportsmanship by demonstrating positive support for my child and his/her teammates. I promise to help my child enjoy his/her experience by assisting with what is asked of my student by assisting in any ways I may be able to (i.e. transportation, fundraisers, etc.). I will support my child by offering positive praise and encouraging him/her to work hard and to his/her fullest potential. I will work directly with the director so my child and the entire dance team can reach their fullest potential. I understand and acknowledge that my child's participation in this program is a privilege and not a right.

I hereby give permission for my daughter/son to be a member of this organization.

Parent Printed Name: _____

Parent Signature: _____ *Date:* _____

Student Printed Name: _____

Student Signature: _____ *Date:* _____

Director Signature: _____ *Date:* _____

Thank you in advance for your cooperation!

Please return this form as receipt of the BISD MS/HS Dance Constitution.