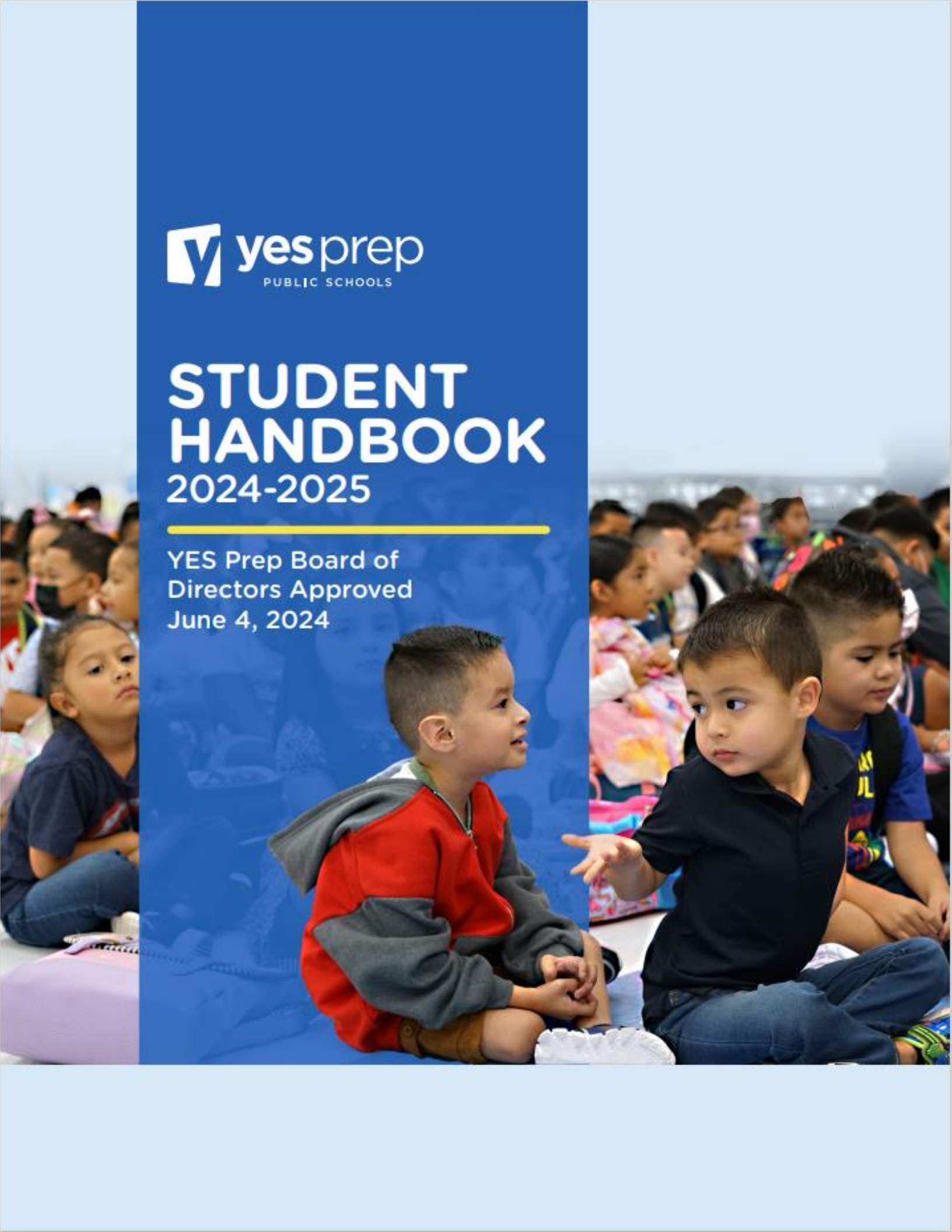




STUDENT HANDBOOK

2024-2025

YES Prep Board of
Directors Approved
June 4, 2024



Elementary Schools



Airline Elementary

GRADES PK-4*

8329 Lawndale St.
Houston, Texas 77012
(713) 924-0800

East End Elementary

GRADES PK-4*

5815 Airline Dr.
Houston, Texas 77076
(713) 261-7034

Hobby Elementary

GRADES PK-3*

7660 Hansen Rd.
Houston, Texas 77061
(713) 967-9000

North Central Elementary

GRADES PK-5

1900 Strawn Rd.
Houston, Texas 77039
(713) 842-5650

North Forest Elementary

GRADES PK-5

6602 Winfield Rd., Bldg. A
Houston, Texas 77050
(713) 924-5600

North Rankin Elementary

GRADES PK-3*

12537 Kuykendahl Rd.
Houston, TX 77090
(713) 967-9000

Southeast Elementary

GRADES PK-5

507 Crenshaw Rd.
Houston, Texas 77034
(713) 842-5555

Southside Elementary

GRADES PK-5

5515 S. Loop E. Fwy., Suite B
Houston, Texas 77033
(713) 924-5300

Southwest Oaks Elementary

GRADES PK-3*

5212 Anderson Rd.
Houston, TX 77053
(713) 967-9000

*Schools will continue to add grade levels until fully grown, offering pre-K through fifth grade.

Schools Map

 Elementary

 Secondary

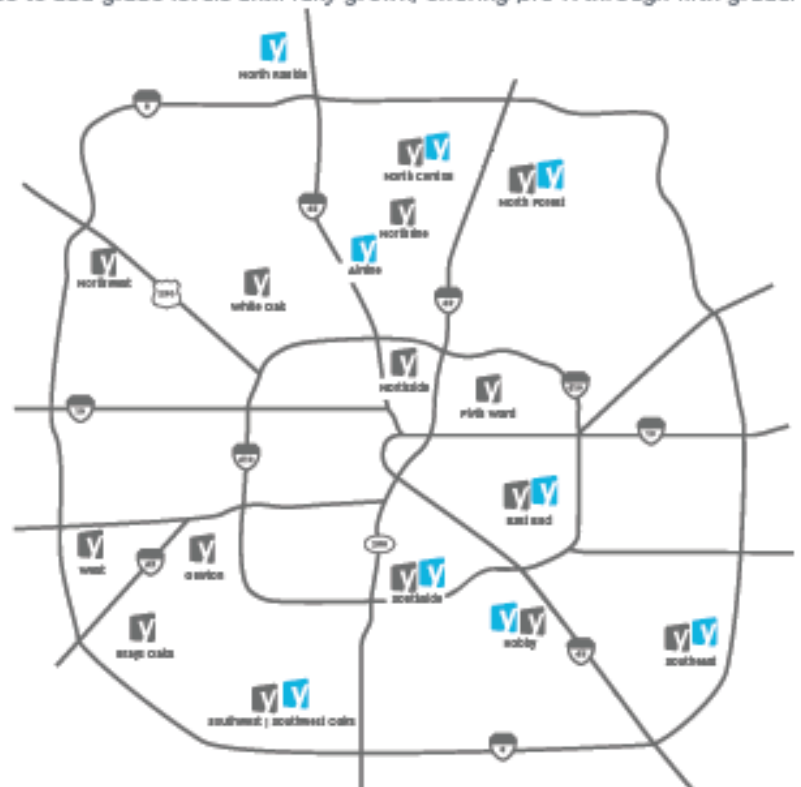


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STUDENT HANDBOOK OVERVIEW

It is a YES Prep expectation that every student and guardian understand the content of the entire YES Prep Public Schools (YES Prep) Student Handbook. This handbook is an easily searchable resource for regular reference. Use the “Ctrl+F” function to search the handbook for specific phrases.

Guardian Acknowledgement of the YES Prep Student Handbook

Guardians are required to acknowledge their reading and understanding of the YES Prep Student Handbook during the registration and re-registration processes. This is the language available in School Mint:

As guardians of a YES Prep student, we acknowledge that we have read and signed the appropriate forms on SchoolMint regarding the YES Prep Student Handbook. We acknowledge that YES Prep students and families are expected to carefully review the policies and procedures in the YES Prep Student Handbook which is available online or in hard copy upon request.

YES Prep Student Handbook Changes

Throughout the year, the handbook may be adjusted to meet the needs of students, guardians, staff, and the campus. Agreement with this handbook also means agreement with the possibility of temporary or permanent handbook changes. If changes are made, guardians and students will be notified through campus and YES Prep communication. Changes made during the current school year and temporary policies in place will be posted online at <https://www.yesprep.org/families/student-handbook> for easy access. The YES Prep Student Handbook found on this site will always be the most updated.

FAMILY GUIDANCE

YES Prep Parent Compacts

The YES Prep Parent Compact for each campus can be found in the Individual Campus Supplement. These may be accessed from the campus website at [YESprep.org](https://www.yesprep.org).

Parent & Family Engagement Policy

YES Prep is committed to working together with students, families, and community stakeholders to achieve ambitious student learning goals. Parents and families play an important role as their child's first teacher and are valued partners in their child's schooling and will be included in appropriate decision-making opportunities to support student achievement. The complete Engagement Policy can be found at <https://www.yesprep.org/departments/family-engagement/pfepolicy>.

Notice of Legal Guardian and Student Rights

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act ("FERPA") affords guardians and students over 18 years of age (eligible students) certain rights with respect to the student's educational records.

The Right to Inspect and Review

Legal guardians and/or eligible students have the right to inspect and review the student's educational records within 45 days of the day YES Prep receives a request for access. Legal guardians or eligible students should submit to the campus Principal a written request that identifies the record(s) they wish to inspect. The campus will plan for access and notify the guardian or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.

If circumstances effectively prevent the guardian or eligible student from exercising the right to inspect and review the student's educational records, the campus shall provide the guardian or eligible student with a copy of the records requested or make other arrangements for the guardian or eligible student to inspect and review the requested records.

The campus shall not destroy any educational records if there is an outstanding request to inspect and review the records under this section. The campus may charge a reasonable fee for a copy of an educational record that is made for the guardian or eligible student, unless the imposition of a fee effectively prevents a guardian or eligible student from exercising the right to inspect and review the student's educational records. The campus will not charge a fee to search for or to retrieve the educational records of a student.

If the educational records of a student contain information on more than one student, the guardian or eligible student may inspect and review or be informed of only the specific information about that student.

The Right to Seek Amendment of the Student's Educational Records

Legal guardians and/or eligible students may ask the campus to amend a record they believe is inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the privacy rights of the student. Such a request must be made to the Principal in writing, clearly identify the part of the record the guardian or eligible student wants changed and specify why it is inaccurate or misleading. The campus will

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decide whether to amend the record as requested within a reasonable time after receipt of the request. If the campus decides not to amend the record as requested by the guardian or eligible student, it will notify the guardian or eligible student of the decision and advise them of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment.

If, because of the hearing, the campus decides that the information in the educational record is not inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the privacy rights of the student, it shall inform the guardian or eligible student of the right to place a statement in the record commenting on the contested information or stating why they disagree with the decision of the campus, or both. If the campus places an amended statement in the educational records of a student, it is obligated to maintain the amended statement with the contested part of the record for as long as the record is maintained and disclose the statement whenever it discloses the portion of the record to which the statement relates.

The Right to Consent Prior to Disclosure

Legal guardians and/or eligible students have the right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's educational records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent.

One exception that permits disclosure without consent is disclosure to campus officials with legitimate educational interests. A "campus official" is a person employed by the campus as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); a person serving on the YES Prep Board of Directors; a person or company with whom the campus has outsourced services or functions it would otherwise use its own employees to perform (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist); a legal guardian or student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee; or a guardian, student, or other volunteer assisting another campus official in performing their tasks.

A campus official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record to fulfill their professional responsibility. Upon request, the campus discloses education records without consent to officials of another open-enrollment charter school, school system, or private school in which a student seeks or intends to enroll or is already enrolled if the disclosure is for purposes of the student's enrollment or transfer.

The Right to File a Complaint

Guardians who desire to express initial grievances or complaints should escalate concerns to Principals or appropriate campus directors. These campus officials will escalate concerns to appropriate departments or system officials.

A parent or legal guardian may submit a written appeal to the Board of Directors for disciplinary cases to share their grievance after all steps of the disciplinary process have been completed. The appeal will consist of the written appeal and be based upon the record of information presented at the administrative-level hearing and the decision of that level. The Board may schedule a hearing opportunity for the parent, legal guardian or student to present to the Board in executive session if the Board determines this appropriate in rendering its decision or as otherwise required by law. If the parent(s)/legal guardian(s) has questions about this process, they should contact the building principal. The Board of Directors will consider the written appeal at a future board meeting. The disciplinary decision or placement shall be in effect pending any appeal.

The process to submit a written appeal to the Board of Directors for disciplinary cases is as follows: The parent(s)/legal guardian(s) should contact the Chief of Staff (dana.foughty@yesprep.org) within three school days of receipt of the District Panel's decision. Once the Chief of Staff receives

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the parent's request for a Board of Directors appeal, the parent(s)/legal guardian(s) will be notified of the board review date and time, which will take place at a future scheduled board meeting.

Legal guardians and/or eligible students have the right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the campus to comply with the requirements of FERPA. These complaints should be addressed as follows:

Family Policy Compliance Office
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20202-4605

The Right to Access to Medical Records

Legal guardians are entitled to access their students' medical records.

The Right to Photograph or Film Students

Throughout the school year, YES Prep and its organizations (yearbook, webpage designer, etc.), as well as outside media representatives (newspaper, television stations, etc.) may be on campus to video and/or photograph students in school-related activities or events (YES Prep Photos).

Guardians must notify the campus administrator in writing to request that a student's picture not be used for these purposes or indicate so when registering in School Mint.

Notice for Directory Information

Under FERPA, the campus must, with certain exceptions, obtain written consent prior to the disclosure of personally identifiable information from a student's education records. However, the campus may disclose personally identifiable information contained in the student's educational records without obtaining prior written consent of the guardian or eligible student if the campus has designated the information as "directory information."

The campus has designated the following categories of information as directory information for disclosure relating to school-sponsored/school-affiliated purposes:

1. Student name;
2. Address;
3. Telephone listing;
4. Electronic mail address;
5. Photographs (including video image);
6. Date and place of birth;
7. Major field of study;
8. Degrees, honors, and awards received;
9. Dates of attendance;
10. Grade level;
11. Most recent educational institution attended;
12. Participation in officially recognized activities and sports; and
13. Weight and height of members of athletic teams.

School-sponsored/school-affiliated purposes are those events/activities the campus conducts and/or sponsors to support the educational mission of the campus. Examples include, but are not limited to:

1. Extracurricular programs or events (e.g., plays, concerts, athletic events, awards ceremony);

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2. Publications (e.g., newsletters, yearbook, etc.);
3. Honor roll and other student recognition lists;
4. Marketing materials of the campus (e.g., print media, website, videos, newspaper, etc.)

The campus shall not release directory information except for the purpose indicated above, namely: Disclosure relating to school-sponsored/school-affiliated purposes.

A guardian or eligible student may opt out of the release of directory information for either or both purposes by submitting a written objection to the Principal. The campus requests that such an objection be submitted within the **first week after school begins**.

If the campus does not receive an opt-out form objecting to the release of directory information by the fifth school day of the school year, the campus will assume that the guardian approves release of directory information for the purposes described above. However, guardians may alter their decision to restrict or not to restrict release of directory information by submitting a completed "Use of Student Photos and Directory Information Opt-Out Form" or otherwise notifying the campus in writing at any time during the year.

CIPA

YES Prep promotes digital safety and security by: (a) preventing user access over its computer network to, or transmission of, inappropriate material via Internet, electronic mail, and all other forms of electronic communications; (b) preventing unauthorized access and other unlawful online activity; (c) preventing unauthorized online disclosure, use, or dissemination of personal identification information of minors; and (d) complying with the Children's Internet Protection Act [Pub. L. No. 106-554 and 47 USC 254(h)], the Neighborhood Children's Internet Protection Act, and the Protecting Children in the 21st Century Act.

Prevention and protection measures have been put in place to block or filter Internet access to inappropriate information, including but not limited to, visual depictions of material deemed obscene, pornography, child sexual assault material, or any material deemed harmful to minors. Inappropriate behavior, including (a) unauthorized access, 'hacking,' and other unlawful activities; and (b) unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of personal identification information regarding minors, is not permitted. YES Prep periodically reviews and updates the filtering rules to include content deemed appropriate.

YES Prep monitors all online activity to ensure appropriate use. Periodic reviews are in place to update approved filtering rules to include content deemed appropriate. Students and staff are enrolled in yearly programs to educate on internet policies and best safety practices, including how to appropriately use social media and how to recognize and respond to cyberbullying. Anyone who attempts to circumvent this policy will be subject to discipline in accordance with the code of conduct.

FERPA

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act is a federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. The law applies to all schools that receive funds under an applicable program of the U.S. Department of Education.

Rights & Responsibilities of Guardians

Guardians, which for the purposes of this Handbook shall include mother, father, guardians or persons having lawful control of the student, have the right/responsibility to:

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- Provide for the physical needs of their child;
- Be knowledgeable of campus policies and academic requirements of campus programs;
- Cooperate with campus administrators and staff;
- Encourage their child to pay attention and obey the rules;
- Have their child attend school regularly and promptly report and explain absences and tardiness to the campus;
- Notify campus authorities of any learning problems or conditions that may relate to their child's education;
- Participate in meaningful guardian-teacher conferences to discuss their child's campus progress and welfare;
- Review educational records;
- Return signed report cards and campus assignments with their child;
- Maintain up-to-date home, work, and emergency telephone numbers and other pertinent information with the campus;
- Ensure their child is appropriately dressed at school and school-related activities;
- Encourage their child to develop proper study habits at home;
- Ensure their child attends a campus tutorial program when required or as the need arises;
- Attend guardian training workshops when available;
- Participate in school-related organizations;
- Control their child (under Family Code 33.01, a student's guardian is legally liable for property damage proximately caused by (a) the negligent conduct of the student if such conduct is reasonably attributable to the negligent failure of the guardian to exercise that duty, or (b) the willful or malicious conduct of a student who is at least 12 but under 18 years of age.);
- Pick up their child from campus when requested by campus authorities for disciplinary or other reasons;
- Receive a copy of all discipline reports that are given to an administrator.

Student Record Access and Pick Up

By law, YES Prep must release students and/or their information to their guardians. Requests that conflict with a student's guardianship (i.e. "Please don't allow Jane Doe to pick my student up," but Jane Doe is the guardian of the student) cannot be handled by YES Prep or its individual campuses. Only legal changes to guardian rights and/or guardianship will allow YES Prep to honor such requests.

COMPLIANCE

This section outlines all the policies YES Prep follows due to federal and state guidelines.

YES Prep Governance Structure

YES Prep is managed by a group of executive leaders who have dedicated their careers to challenging the status quo and are committed to continuous improvement and strategic innovation in service of the YES Prep Mission.

- Mark DiBella, Chief Executive Officer
- Carmen Darville, Chief Operating Officer
- Dana Foughty, Chief of Staff
- Isy Gabriela Castillo, Chief External Officer
- Luis Mena, Chief Financial Officer

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- Jose Muñoz, Chief Talent Officer
- Philip Wright, Chief School Officer

YES Prep is fortunate to have excellent volunteer leadership on the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors is comprised of a fervently committed and diverse group of individuals who consistently bring strong business skills, strategy, vision, and leadership to the organization.

Student Absences

Excused Absences

An absence is considered excused if a student provides physical or electronic documentation within 48 hours of absence indicating the student’s full name, dates missed and is signed by a guardian or doctor mentioning any of the following reasons:

- Illness
- Medical/dental-related, including appointments
- School-sanctioned activities
- Absences related to the legal system
- Family emergency
- Bereavement/Funeral for immediate family members
- Religious observances
- Short-term suspensions or other disciplinary actions resulting in an absence
- Any other absence that is protected under State or Federal Law

Upon return to school, a student absent for more than three (3) consecutive days because of a personal illness must bring a statement from a doctor or health clinic verifying the illness or condition that caused the student’s extended absence from school. YES Prep students have access to Legacy Community Health clinics on site at most YES Prep campuses.

Unexcused Absences

A student’s absence is considered unexcused if no documentation is provided by the guardian, doctor, or an official to verify the reason the student was absent. See the “Compliance - Compulsory Attendance” section for more details on absences.

Extended Student Absence

If a student is going to be absent for a week or more due to hospitalization, please notify the campus’s medical designee immediately. The medical designee will alert the Student Support Counselor who will investigate and determine if the student qualifies for Homebound Services. For a description of Homebound Services, please see the [Homebound Section](#) of this handbook.

Student Absence Exceptions

Specific absences are outlined in section 3.6.3 of the Student Attendance Accounting Handbook (SAAH) published each year by TEA and may be counted as “present” with the proper documentation.

Documentation for such absences should follow the guidelines defined in the SAAH, and where the SAAH references local policy, documentation will be determined at the Principal’s discretion. Please contact the campus Front Office for more details.

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Compulsory Attendance

Under [TECS25.085](#), Compulsory Attendance Law states that a child who is at least six years of age, or who is younger than six years of age and has previously been enrolled in first grade, and who has not yet reached their 19th birthday shall attend school. The child must attend school each school day for the entire period the program of instruction is provided, unless the student is exempt under [TECS25.086](#).

Compulsory attendance is also required for the following programs:

- Enrollment in prekindergarten or kindergarten
- An extended-year program for which the student is eligible that is provided by the system for students identified as likely not to be promoted to the next grade level or tutorial classes required by the system
- An accelerated reading instruction program to which the student is assigned
- An accelerated instruction program to which the student is assigned
- A basic skills program to which the student is assigned
- A summer program

Additional Compulsory Attendance Guidelines

At the beginning of each school year, guardians will receive notice of compulsory attendance requirements. During the school year, if a student has been absent without excuse for three days within a four-week period, a warning notice will be issued to the guardian informing them that truancy prevention measures will be initiated. Truant conduct occurs if a student is absent from campus without excuse for ten or more days within a six-month period in the same school year. In these cases, the student may be subject to referral to truancy court.

According to the Student Attendance Accounting Handbook ([SAAH 3.4.3](#)), the district must *not* withdraw a student who is temporarily absent from school but still a member of the district. The district may withdraw a student who never officially withdrew from school but whose whereabouts cannot be determined according to local policy. The district must have a policy in place that addresses how to “determine” a student’s whereabouts ([SAAH 3.4.3](#)).

Absenteeism may affect the final grade a student receives in any class. All students are expected to maintain regular attendance. Excessive tardiness or a pattern of unwarranted absenteeism contribute to poor academic performance and may lead to loss of credit and/or disciplinary action.

At the end of the year, Attendance Committees will review the unexcused absences of any student who has missed 10% of the school year to determine if they would refer students to Grade Placement Committee due to excessive absences. Grade Placement Committees will then determine possible impact on retention or promotion while taking mastery into consideration.

Policy for Determining Student Whereabouts

According to the Student Attendance Accounting Handbook ([24-25 TEA SAAH](#)). YES Prep may initiate withdrawal of a student who never officially withdrew from school, but whose whereabouts can no longer be determined.

YES Prep may determine the student’s whereabouts to be unknown under the following conditions:

The student has been absent for:

- 10+ unexcused absences (consecutive) school days or
- 20+ unexcused absences (non-consecutive) per semester
- Attendance initiatives have been completed and documented

Once it has been determined that the student's whereabouts are unknown, and proper documentation has been received, YES Prep may begin the withdrawal process. The effective date of the withdrawal date is the day after the 10th consecutive absence, 20th unexcused absence, or the date that the administrative withdrawal request is approved, whichever is later.

This policy refers to the "whereabouts" of a student and does not cover persistent absences less than 10 consecutive days nor repeat absenteeism, which should be addressed using truancy prevention measures above and/or according to applicable laws.

Early Pick-Up

Early pick-up for students to attend appointments or due to illness must be arranged prior to departure. All students leaving campus early for appointments must be signed out in the Front Office prior to departing campus. The adult picking up the student must show photo identification to Front Office staff and must appear on the student's emergency contact card authorized by the student's guardian. Early pick-up will be allowed up to 30 minutes prior to school dismissal.

Late to School Policy

Elementary students are considered late to school if they arrive after 7:30 AM (elementary start time). All students who enter the campus after 7:30 AM should enter through the front doors and report directly to the Front Office to be checked in, receive a tardy pass, and report directly to their scheduled class. See the Individual Campus Supplement for the campus-specific Late to School Policy.

Campus Visitor Expectations

All campus visitors—including family members of students, system employees and contractual/service provider workers are required to enter campuses through the main entrance that leads to the front office. All campus visitors are required to provide photo identification and reason(s) for visit to the front office to access the building. Only persons identified as guardian or emergency contact as indicated by the student's profile in YES Prep's student information system will be allowed to access the campus interior. Photo IDs will be scanned at the front office before clearing visitors to pass beyond the front office. Visitors without a photo ID will not be permitted past the front office.

Campuses may have policies pertaining to former student visitors, including alumni and students who have withdrawn from the campus. This information can be found in the Individual Campus Supplement. Campus visitors are expected to act in a way that maintains the learning environment and safety of the campus. Visitors who disrupt the learning environment or create an unsafe situation on campus will be subject to dismissal from the campus and further action as determined by the Principal and Head of Schools.

Outside Service Providers

All service providers must either be YES Prep employees or approved vendors who have gone through the background check & insurance procedure. Services not provided by a YES Prep employee or approved vendor should not be provided during the school day. We encourage campuses to consult private external service providers who work with students outside the school day, and to engage with approved YES Prep vendors when additional services are needed.

A private external service provider is any individual hired by the family to provide services to a student outside of the school day.

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YES Prep allows outside qualified mental health providers to work with students in a limited set of circumstances. If a family has signed consent with an outside qualified mental health provider, they can work with the Student Support Counselor (SSC) on campus to give consent for services to occur during the school day. The provider and the SSC will work together to identify times of day the student can work with the provider. Providers must be supervised by a YES Prep employee for students ages 11 and under: campus availability for supervision is not guaranteed. All providers must always adhere to YES Prep guidelines. At no point can outside therapy interfere with the student's learning opportunities. Students should be pulled from Core Enrichment to avoid loss of instructional time.

In order to approve outside therapy services, outside agencies must provide written & signed consent. The SSC then obtains verbal consent from the family. The SSC will request Release of Information (ROI) from the family to ensure regular communication with the qualified mental health provider for continuity of care. A family can revoke consent for services or the voluntary Release of Information at any time.

This type of service represents a medical or psychiatric need, which is outside of the duty of the Special Education program for students who qualify for Special Education and Related Services. YES Prep offers additional services through a broad range of community partners.

Community partners who work with SSCs on campus are considered approved YES Prep vendors and can provide services directly to students pending family approval & compliance with YES Prep's visitor policy.

Outside Special Education Service Providers

All services for students with disabilities that support their educational achievement must be included in the student's IEP, approved by the ARD committee, and provided at no charge to the family and student. All Special Education service providers must either be YES Prep employees or approved vendors who have gone through the background check & insurance procedure.

Services not recommended by the ARD committee & outlined in a student's IEP provided by a YES Prep employee or approved vendor cannot be provided during the school day. We encourage campuses to consult with private external service providers who work with students outside the school day, and to engage with approved YES Prep vendors when additional services are needed.

- A private external service provider is any individual hired by the family to provide services to a student outside of the school day
- Campuses can also consider entering into a formal vendor agreement and incorporating these services into a student's IEP
- Community partners who work with SSC on campus are considered approved YES Prep vendors and can provide services directly to students pending family approval & compliance with YES Prep's visitor policy.

Campus Volunteers

People interested in volunteering at YES Prep are required to follow the volunteer approval process. This process is required of all volunteers, including guardians, chaperones for trips, one-time volunteers, etc. Visit <https://www.yesprep.org/support-yes/volunteer> for more information.

Parent Custody Court Order & Legal Documents

When a student is enrolled in any YES Prep school in the system and is party to parents/legal guardians who are separated or divorced, both parents should provide the school Front Office/Registrar with a certified copy of the custody order, protective order, or decree and of any subsequent orders of modification. It is the responsibility of the parent to notify the school of changes by providing a certified copy of any modification order. If the school does not have any certified executed court order, then the school cannot keep any child from the parent who appears on the child's birth certificate. Any order submitted by the legal guardian to the school must be court certified.

Registered Sex Offender Visitation

To the extent that YES Prep Public School officials have actual knowledge that a parent, legal guardian, or other person seeking to be present on school property or at a school sponsored activity is a registered sex offender based on an offense against a child (a person under the age of 17), the following procedures shall apply:

- Only known registered sex offenders, based on an offense against a child, who are also parents or legal guardians of a child, or children enrolled in YES Prep Public Schools will be permitted on school property or to be in attendance at school-sponsored activities. No other persons known to be registered sex offenders, based on an offense against a child, will be permitted to be present on school property or at any school-sponsored activity.
- A legal guardian to whom these procedures apply must comply with all requirements. Failure to do so generally will result in the loss of visiting privileges for that person at any school property or at any school-sponsored activity, regardless of location.
- Unless legal documentation (i.e., a court order) prohibits a registered sex offender from being on or within a specified distance of school property, the registered sex offender shall be allowed school-related visitation, as provided by this policy.

To ensure student safety, school administrators shall enforce the precautions listed below while a registered sex offender is on school property.

[Click here to download a copy of the Registered Parent Sex Offender Form.](#) Please complete and submit the signed form to your child's campus front office.

For a parent or administrative conference, the person will abide by the following procedures:

- They must complete the consent form provided by the campus and return it to the front office. The person may also call the campus front office and speak with the Director of Campus Operation (DCO) to schedule a meeting before coming to the school.
- They must report immediately to the front office upon arriving at school and meet with the DCO to obtain a visitor's badge, as required of all school visitors.
- They must sign in at a place designated by the DCO upon arrival at the campus or event.
- They will be escorted by a school employee the entire time they are on campus.
- They will not have any access to any common area of the building, meaning cafeterias, auditoriums, breezeways, open areas for gathering on any campus, etc.
- They will not have access to any classroom where students other than their child are present.
- They must sign out at a place designated by the DCO before departing the campus or event.
- They will be escorted back to their vehicle by a school employee at the conclusion of the visit.

When dropping off or picking up a child to or from school, the person will abide by the following procedures:

- They must complete the consent form and return it to the front office if they are the legal guardian that will be collecting their child or picking them up, whether once or on a consistent basis during the school year.
- They will pick up or drop off their child at the campus without leaving their vehicle.
- If they must leave their vehicle during pick-up or drop-off, then they must coordinate with the school and follow school instructions.
- They will be escorted back to their vehicle by a school employee after their child has been picked up or dropped off.

Prior attending any before-school, after-school, or extra-curricular event, the person will abide by the following procedures:

- They must complete the consent form provided by the campus and return it to the front office. The person may also call the campus front office and speak with the DCO.
- They must state the event they intend to attend no later than 48 hours before the start of the event. They must have approval from the DCO in order to attend the event.
- They must sign in at a place designated by the DCO upon arrival at the event.
- They will be escorted by a school employee the entire time they are on campus.
- They will not have any access to any common area of the building, meaning cafeterias, auditoriums, breezeways, open areas for gathering on any campus, etc.
- They will not have access to any classroom where students other than their child are present.
- They must sign out at a place designated by the DCO before departing the event.
- They will be escorted to their vehicle by a school employee at the time of the departure from the event.

When picking up or dropping off a student at an extra-curricular activity, on or off school property, the person will abide by the following procedures:

- They must complete the consent form and return it to the front office if they are the legal guardian that will be collecting their child or picking them up on a consistent basis, or once or a few times during the school year.
- They will pick up or drop off their child at the campus without leaving your vehicle.
- If they must leave their vehicle during pick-up or drop-off, then they must coordinate with the school and follow school instructions.
- They will be escorted back to their vehicle by a school employee after their child has been picked up or dropped off.
- If they do not need to get out of the vehicle to collect their child, they must remain in the vehicle at all times.

A legal guardian who is subject to these procedures based on his or her identification as a registered sex offender because of an offense against a child is prohibited from transporting any student or child (other than his or her own child) to or from any school campus or school-sponsored activity without express written permission from the guardian of the student. Any person subject to these procedures is also prohibited from working as a volunteer for the school, including but not limited to volunteering for school-related activities such family associations and class fund raisers.

Any person subject to these procedures must send the most recent court document related to the offense to PublicInfo@yesprep.org to be kept on file with YES Prep. The person can also have their parole officer or other official write YES Prep a letter indicating that they do not have any such restrictions, are low risk, or the offense was not against a child (17 years old or younger).

Discrimination

Discrimination against a student is defined as conduct directed at a student based on race, color, religion, sex, gender, national origin, disability, age, or on any other basis prohibited by law, that adversely affects the student.

Examples of prohibited harassment may include offensive or derogatory language directed at another person's religious beliefs or practices, accent, immigration status, skin color, or need for accommodation; threatening, intimidating, or humiliating conduct; offensive jokes, name calling, slurs, or rumors; physical aggression or assault; display of graffiti or printed material promoting racial, ethnic, or other negative stereotypes; or other kinds of aggressive conduct such as theft or damage to property.

State and federal law prohibits discrimination. YES Prep complies with all non-discrimination rules and regulations and does not permit discrimination against students based on race, color, national origin, sex, gender, age, disability, sexual orientation, family situation, religion, or political affiliation. This holds true for all students who are participating in educational programs and/or co-curricular activities. Inquiries regarding compliance procedures may be directed to campus administrators.

Distributing Literature

Students and families must receive approval from a designated campus-based administrator prior to distributing any flyers, literature, etc., for non-school sponsored activities. For campus-sponsored activities, such as pep rallies, dances, student government campaigns, etc., students who wish to post advertising materials for these events must have each copy signed or initialed by a campus administrator before posting. Campuses may have additional processes connected to this policy outlined in their Individual Campus Supplements.

Fundraising

School clubs and organizations and individual students may sell items before, after, and during campus hours only after they have received permission from the Principal or designated administrator. Disciplinary action may be taken with students who sell items without permission.

School Threats and False Alarms

Safety is YES Prep's highest priority. Any threats, even hoax threats, to the safety of a student, the school, or a staff member are taken very seriously by YES Prep and law enforcement. If YES Prep is made aware of a threat, a thorough investigation will be conducted, and YES Prep will engage the local authorities as appropriate. As a part of the investigation, the guardian is notified at the start to secure any additional context for committee outcome. Once local authorities are involved, the person who issued the threats may be subject to civil or criminal charges that are beyond the control of YES Prep. Guardians should ensure students are aware of the serious consequences of any written or verbal threats on or off campus grounds, including web-based threats via social media, text message, or through email. These threats, listed in any of the included mediums, are considered a federal crime and will be taken seriously. Students, families, and staff should avoid sharing or forwarding any threat, instead, threats should be reported and shared immediately with school leadership and law enforcement so that the threat can be investigated thoroughly.

Threat assessments are critical to maintaining safety and security and will be executed anytime

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there is a perceived threat on campus. The assessments involve a systematic process for evaluating and responding to potential threats posed by students, staff, and other individuals within the school community. They are used to identify potential threats and inform risk management strategies. Depending on the level of threat (i.e., low or med/high), the school may recommend psychiatric evaluation and supportive measures such as counseling, safety plans, or support with consequences for code of conduct violations.

Any student found to be responsible for causing a false alarm or false report will be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with the code of conduct and may be subject to civil or criminal charges that are beyond the control of YES Prep. False alarms/false reports are dangerous to first responders and to the school community. False alarms/false reports can cause severe emotional distress to students, families, and school personnel. If YES Prep is made aware of a false alarm/false report, a thorough investigation will be conducted, and YES Prep will engage the local authorities as appropriate.

Suicide Threats

YES Prep Protocol

YES Prep community members take warning signs and threats of suicide seriously. If a student is identified as being a physical or emotional danger to themselves, campus administration works swiftly to ensure the physical and emotional safety of that student. Licensed and trained Student Support Counselors will meet with the student to conduct a suicide risk assessment.

Administrators will call an immediate emergency family conference to communicate risk assessment results and potential need for a psychiatric evaluation by a licensed physician. If a suicide risk assessment is high and the family refuses to complete the recommended psychiatric evaluation, then the staff will report the matter to the Child Protective Services (CPS). A listing of mental health professionals is provided to families. If recommended, the psychiatric evaluation ensures that the student receives the necessary medical attention and support needed before transitioning back to campus. Upon return to campus, Student Support Counselors may request a Release of Information to communicate with any mental health professional in previous or current care of the student. A safety plan may be implemented to support the student's functioning. The safety plan is reviewed by guardians and includes their responsibility to respond in the event of a mental health emergency.

Guidance for Families and Students

If a family member or student knows a classmate who has expressed thoughts of suicide, they must get help immediately. Call 911 or report to the emergency room in the event of an actual emergency. Because the mental health of every student matters, Student Support Counselors can confidentially provide students and families with a variety of referrals for mental health support. We have partnerships with quality, vetted community agencies who can provide low to no cost therapeutic services for student and families. Some services can be accessed on campus.

If you see something, say something. Student and school safety is particularly important; failure to provide relevant information that interferes with the safety of students, school staff, or the environment might result in disciplinary action. Ensuring student and school safety is crucial for creating a conducive learning environment. It not only protects the well-being of students and staff but also fosters a sense of trust and security within the school community. By encouraging individuals to report any suspicious or concerning behavior, we can proactively address potential threats and prevent harm before it occurs.

Property Damage

Students who damage or deface property belonging to another student, staff member, or YES Prep may be held responsible for the damage or loss. Any attempt to destroy, deface, or steal property may result in disciplinary action under the Code of Conduct at YES Prep.

All campus-issued materials will be returned in good condition at the end of each school year (such as devices, textbooks, novels, athletic uniforms, calculators, etc.). In the event that students fail to do so, they may be required to reimburse the campus for the replacement cost of these items.

Mandatory Reporting

A principal or designee who is under the principal's supervision shall notify the appropriate regulatory department including but not limited to Law Enforcement and Texas Department Family and Protective Services, in which a campus is located, for all mandatory reporting actions or offenses including, but is not limited to drugs, controlled substances, possession or use of a weapon, sexual assault, or terroristic threats if the principal or designee has reasonable belief that these actions occurred at school, on school property, or at a school sponsored or school related activity. Teachers and staff are not required to notify families when filing a CPS report.

Investigations & Searches

Student Interviews Pertaining to Investigations

School personnel may conduct searches if there is reasonable suspicion that a student possesses prohibited items or engages in behavior that threatens safety. Reasonable suspicion is based on specific facts and circumstances, not mere hunches. Students may not possess weapons, drugs, alcohol, or other dangerous items on campus. School personnel can confiscate such items. While maintaining a safe environment, we respect students' privacy rights. Searches should be conducted discreetly and sensitively.

Searches include:

- Personal Searches: These may include metal detector screening of but not limited to clothing, pockets, shoes, etc., bag checks, and personal belonging searches.
- Cubby Searches: Cubbies are school property, and students have limited privacy rights regarding cubby contents.

Guardians will be informed promptly if their child is searched. Exceptions apply in cases of imminent danger or when notifying guardians would compromise an ongoing investigation. Our primary goal is to create a secure learning environment while upholding students' rights. For detailed procedures, refer to our system's official Student Code of Conduct.

Personal Devices & Student Searches

In the interest of promoting student safety and to ensure that campuses are safe and drug free, campus officials may occasionally conduct searches. Student personal belongings including, but not limited to a student's cell phone or technological device, including but not limited to tablets, computers, cameras, or any other technological devices, are subject to search. Searches are conducted without a warrant as permitted by applicable law.

Administrators, teachers, and other professional personnel may question a student regarding the student's conduct or the conduct of other students. In the context of school discipline, students have no claim to the right not to incriminate themselves.

Students shall be free from unreasonable searches and seizures by campus officials. Campus officials may search a student's outer clothing, pockets, or property by establishing reasonable cause or securing the student's voluntary consent. A search is reasonable if:

- The campus official has reasonable grounds for suspecting that the search will uncover evidence of a rule violation or a criminal violation.
- The scope of the search is reasonably related to the circumstances justifying the search, such as the extent of the search, the objectives of the search, the age and sex of the student, and the nature of the infraction.

School administrators may seize a student's cell phone or technological device during an investigation if the content violates school policy, code of conduct, or civil/criminal law.

Desk and Storage Area Inspections

Students should have no expectation of privacy in the contents of desks or other storage areas, including cubbies, provided by YES Prep. All storage areas provided for student use on campus premises remain the property of the campus and under the control and jurisdiction of the campus, even when assigned to an individual student. Students are fully responsible for the security and contents of their assigned storage areas.

Campus administrators may conduct general inspections of storage areas at any time with or without the student present and with or without reasonable suspicion that a campus rule has been violated or another violation has occurred. Such general inspections shall not include searching personal items stored in clothing, bags, or purses, unless reasonable cause or suspicion exists.

Random Searches

In a scenario of reasonable suspicion, a student may be subject to a search. This search may include review of their items such as a backpack or athletic bag and could be conducted using a metal detector wand.

Restraint and Time-Out

It is the responsibility of YES Prep to maintain the dignity and safety of all students at all times. In the event that a student is in immediate danger of harming themselves or others, students may be restrained using approved restraint techniques. The Texas Education Agency defines "restraint" to mean the use of physical force or a mechanical device to significantly restrict the free movement of all or a portion of the student's body. (TEC 37.0021(b)(1) and 19 TAC 89.1053(b)92)). Restraint is used only in the case of an emergency and is limited in use and duration. TEA defines an "emergency" to mean a situation in which the student's behavior poses a threat of: 1) imminent, serious physical harm to a child or others; or 2) Imminent, serious property destruction (19TAC 89.1053(b)(1)).

All YES Prep staff who restrain students are trained in de-escalation and safe restraint procedures. Families will receive communication if a student is restrained. If a student in Special Education is restrained, a meeting may be scheduled or requested to review the student's Behavior Intervention Plan and Safety Plan.

The Texas Education Agency defines [time-out](#) as “a behavior management technique in which, to provide a child with an opportunity to regain self-control, the child is separated from other children for a limited time in a setting that is not locked and from which the exit is not physically blocked by furniture, a closed door held shut from the outside, or another inanimate object.” This includes the use of a cool-down or safe space that allows a student to regain self-control. These techniques may be used in limited circumstances to support student safety & well-being.

The use of cool-down or safe spaces occurs only in conjunction with other documented behavior supports. Use of these spaces is limited only when necessary to align to the student’s progress. If a student uses a cool-down or safe space, they will be given an opportunity to recover any missed instructional time and will be supported throughout by trained staff.

Student Property

YES Prep assumes no responsibility for any loss to students’ personal property or items. Students must put these items away whenever on campus or when requested to do so by campus personnel or volunteers.

All items that are prohibited and deemed unacceptable for the campus environment will be confiscated and stored in the appropriate administrators’ office until a guardian retrieves those items after speaking with the campus administrator and after following required processes. Guardians will not be permitted to retrieve illegal contraband. The campus is not responsible at any point for items that are prohibited on campus. Inappropriate items will be returned to guardians at the discretion of the campus administrator.

General Student Fees

Guardians should expect to pay various student fees throughout the year depending on the student’s participation in special programming. YES Prep has worked to standardize student fees across campuses and ensure fees being charged to students are aligned with compliance expectations and YES Prep philosophy.

These are some general parameters applied to student fees:

- Students will not be charged a fee for items that have no cost.
- Students will not be charged a fee for items or services that benefit staff members.
- Cost inflation will not be variable for items with a fixed cost. For example, ID badges will cost the same at all campuses.
- YES Prep will not make a profit from sale of items to students and/or families.

Student fees for specific activities may change from year to year because they are based on a percentage of cost. Campuses will communicate specific fee amounts based on the parameters above as costs for items and programs are finalized.

Cell Phone Usage

Cell phones can be confiscated by school personnel or law enforcement if they cause safety concerns. Any conduct that violates school, student, and staff safety in or out of school hours, including any school activity (bus routes, athletic events, after school programming) may be subject to further investigation and/or assigned consequences based on the code the conduct.

During school hours, all students follow their campus' cell phone policy to maximize student learning and focus. Students may receive permission from a YES Prep staff member to use their phone if needed. If a student's cell phone is out, in use, or heard without permission, the student may receive a consequence. Please refer to the Individual Campus Supplement for more details about how a student may obtain permission to use their phone and potential consequences.

Guardians should know that any content or conduct that impacts school, staff, or student safety shared via cell phone including but not limited to, social media, text message, email or any other technological devices may be investigated by school administrators and may receive consequences based on the student Code of Conduct.

Late After-School Pick Up

It is the responsibility of the guardian to ensure students are picked up promptly after dismissal or at the end of official after-school programming (if a student is participating). Staff members are unavailable to supervise students beyond the school day to ensure student safety unless a student is officially attending a program. Examples of after-school programming include tutorials, athletics, clubs, etc.

Students who are picked up 30 minutes or later after dismissal from campus or an official after-campus program in which they are approved to participate will receive a warning letter from the administrator on duty. This warning letter and a log will be signed in person as the student is retrieved from campus. Letters will be logged and tracked for each student picked up late. These letters are warnings, and after the third letter local law enforcement may be contacted if a student is not picked up on time, and a report may be filed with Child Protective Services.

If a guardian is aware they will not be able to pick up a student on time, they must alert the campus and do their best to arrange for alternative transportation. Lack of transportation is not an excuse to miss required after-school programming or the school day, and absences due to lack of transportation will be unexcused.

Student Health and Wellness

Homebound Services

If a student has a medical or psychiatric condition that necessitates being absent for at least four weeks, not necessarily consecutively, homebound service option may be shared with the family along with their responsibility to secure medical documentation for committee consideration. Once the campus receives a completed eligibility form (YPHB 2) from a licensed physician that there is a medical necessity for the student to receive homebound services, a committee will meet to review the medical documentation and determine whether homebound services would be an appropriate educational program to meet the individual student's needs. Convening the committee is not a guarantee of approval for homebound services.

A weekly schedule will be developed for in-home instruction, which is mutually agreed upon by the committee and student's guardian. Guardians are responsible for providing adult (age 18 and over) supervision during homebound instruction, requesting any schedule changes 24 hours in advance, and securing medical documentation for continuation and/or termination of services.

Failure to comply with the family responsibilities outlined during the Homebound committee meeting can result in discontinued services.

Students will be permitted to return to regular campus instruction upon receipt and approval of an exit form (YPHB 8) from a licensed physician. Upon termination of homebound services, Student Support Counselors will coordinate transition services, which may include academic, medical, and social emotional support. In some cases, medical records may be requested, with guardian permission, to ensure continuity of care. Students referred for homebound services may be considered for qualification under Section 504. Some students may also be eligible for services under the IDEA if the student qualifies. If a student has a disability, the determination will be made by a 504 or ARD committee.

Pregnancy Related Services

When a student is determined eligible through a certified physician's written confirmation to receive Pregnancy Related Services, a committee will meet to determine a coordinated educational plan. Students are responsible for meeting the requirements of grade-level curriculum and will be required to take all standardized tests when possible. Guardians are responsible for providing adult (age 18 and over) supervision during Compensatory Education Home Instruction (CEHI), requesting any schedule changes 24 hours in advance, and securing medical documentation for continuation and/or termination of services. Confinement in the home may include prenatal, post-partum, extended post-partum, or break-in-service and will be determined by the student's physician and the Homebound Committee/District Coordinator/Compliance following review of Physician recommendations based on individual need. Students will be permitted to return to regular campus instruction upon receipt and approval of an exit form (YPHB 8) from a certified physician. Upon termination of pregnancy related services, Student Support Counselors will coordinate transition services, which may include health and counseling supports. While in-home instruction is exclusive to mothers, Student Support Counselors can recommend a range of supports and services for fathers.

Homeless Students

YES Prep surveys families annually through the Student Residency Questionnaire (SRQ) to determine if their living situation is transitional as defined by the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act. All newly enrolled students and families who qualify for McKinney-Vento based on completion of Student Residency Questionnaire (SRQ) will have a welcome meeting with their respective Student Support Counselor (SSC). SSC will review the potential needs and share available supports and services. Children and youth who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence are considered transient and may be eligible for services.

Based on SRQ responses, families will be contacted by their Student Support Counselor to determine the type of services the student may be eligible for during the complete school year. Services will be provided for the duration of the qualified academic year. If, during the year, a family's living situation changes due to loss of housing or economic hardship, the family should contact their Student Support Counselor to update their SRQ and determine if they are eligible for services. Services can include but are not limited to transportation. Should a student qualify for services, a request for transportation can be initiated by the campus. Transportation services continue as routed except in cases of changes in address, which should be communicated to the respective Student Support Counselor immediately. Failure to communicate changes in housing status or adhere to the guidelines of customized routing may result in delay or termination of services. Questions concerning services to students who are transient should be directed to the Homeless Liaison at (713) 967-9083.

Suspected Child Abuse

All YES Prep staff and community members are required by law to report suspected child abuse/neglect to the proper authorities. A person making a report is immune from civil or criminal liability, and the name of the person making the report is kept confidential. Any person suspecting child abuse/neglect and not reporting it can be held liable for a Class B misdemeanor. The law requires persons with first-hand knowledge of the concern to make a report within 48 hours of the time they suspect the child abuse/neglect by calling the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services Abuse Hotline at 1-800-252-5400 or online at www.txabusehotline.org. The hotline is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The hotline can also be called to review a case for determination of whether a report should be made. Only suspicion is required to make a report, and general student demographic information is needed when placing the call. If a student reports a concern which presents as an imminent threat or danger, the Assistant Principal or Principal should be notified immediately.

Child Protective Services (CPS) reports may be made by classmates, neighbors, family members, clergy, campus administrators, campus social service professionals, teachers, passersby, and anyone in the community. YES Prep policy states that we do not disclose the source of the report, nor do we confirm or deny that the report originated from our campus.

YES Prep students are strongly encouraged to seek help for themselves and their classmates if they are being hurt by an adult, suspect that their classmate is being hurt by an adult, or communicate intentions to harm others. By seeking help, Student Support Counselors can refer students and families to community and/or counseling agencies that teach effective ways of dealing with common family stressors.

Student Accident and Health Insurance

YES Prep carries student accident insurance for all students. However, students who are enrolled in their own health insurance policy must utilize their policy first. YES Prep insurance will not cover any medications, deductibles, and/or co-pays.

Medical Care at School

The campus will contact guardians or a designated relative if a student becomes ill or suffers an injury. Guardians must provide information on any possible reaction to food allergies on the YES Prep Allergy Form.

Subject to specific rules related to self-administration of prescription asthma or anaphylaxis medication, prescription medication can be administered at campus only when advance written approval from a guardian or physician is on file. Only personnel designated by the campus administrator may administer prescription to a student during the school day or campus sanctioned events. For additional information, please contact the campus Nurse or Certified Medical Assistant (CMA).

Over-the-counter medication must be sent with written guardian consent and immediately turned in to a campus official in the main office. Any over-the-counter medication found on a student will be confiscated, and disciplinary action may follow. Both prescription and over-the-counter medication must be sent in the original package. The name and medication must match the student's information. The prescription or written instruction from the student's physician needs to be in the student's file.

Required Immunizations

Guardians must update their child's immunizations. When enrolling a child in school, guardians must bring a signed record of the child's current immunizations. The student can be enrolled provisionally if the required immunization process has begun. The student may remain in campus after 30 days if they have provided YES Prep with a record indicating they are 1) in the process of receiving immunizations, 2) bringing an affidavit indicating they cannot receive vaccines or 3) choosing not to receive the recommended vaccines.

If a guardian cannot provide YES Prep with the immunization records or one of the three above documents, YES Prep may require the student to stay home until the immunizations are complete.

Some organizations offer free immunizations through their regular healthcare providers, such as Texas Vaccinations for Children. Others, such as a few branches of the Houston Public Library, offer free immunizations during specific hours on certain days of the month. For more information about required Texas immunization please contact [Texas Minimum State Vaccine Requirements for Students Grades K-12 | Texas DSHS](#).

Head Lice

Based upon specialized training and the professional judgement of the Nurse, Certified Medical Assistant and/or designated staff, students with live head lice or signs of active infestation will not be excluded from campus. Students will not be isolated from the class. Students should receive prompt treatment for lice at home and are expected to return to campus the following day, free of live organisms. If head lice are found, guardian will be notified to treat the student before they return to campus the following day. Guardians should check their student on a weekly basis for head lice. If head lice are found, their hair must be treated before the student returns to campus the following day. Upon return to campus, the student and guardian must report directly to the Front Office, provide information about the treatment utilized, and have the student's hair checked before reporting to class. Please communicate with the campus Student Support Counselor as they can provide resources for medical care, if needed.

Bed Bugs

Based upon specialized training and the professional judgement of the Nurse, Certified Medical Assistant and/or designated staff, students with live bed bugs or signs of active bed bugs will not be excluded from campus. Students will not be isolated from the class. Students should receive prompt treatment for bed bugs at home and are expected to return to campus the following day, free from bed bugs. If bed bugs are found, the guardian will be notified to treat the student before they return to campus the following day. Guardians should check their students on a weekly basis for bed bugs. If bed bugs are found, the student must be treated before the student returns to campus the following day. Upon return to campus, the student and guardian must report directly to the Front Office, provide information about the treatment utilized, and have the student checked before reporting to class. Please communicate with the campus Student Support Counselor as they can provide resources for medical care, if needed.

YES Prep Wellness Plan

YES Prep conducts a wellness meeting quarterly that is comprised of parents, students, child nutrition employees, community partners and advocates.

The Child Nutrition team welcomes system employees, community leaders, parents, and students to actively get involved and participate.

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The importance of wellness through nutrition, exercise, and education is discussed during these meetings. Any changes to the plan are discussed and implemented at the meetings.

The committee works to create a well-rounded wellness plan that will encourage students to have a healthy foundation and wellness plan. The wellness plan covers all aspects of SMART snacks and food brought in for celebrations including birthdays, etc.

Find more information on the [YES Prep Wellness website](#).

ACADEMICS

Overview

The purpose of grading and the reporting of elementary grades at YES Prep is to communicate the progress of a student’s academic achievement with the student, the guardian, support staff, and campus-based leadership. Most importantly, the grade a student receives shows their learning and ability to demonstrate course content mastery.

YES Prep implements a standards-based grading system in grades PK-5 to give students and families more information about the areas in which a student is proficient as well as those in need of improvement. All grades are based on academic achievement and do not include homework, effort, behavior, extra credit, or work habits. The YES Prep standards-based learning system is designed to provide specific information about student learning, allowing learners, teachers, and guardians to work together to enable progress.

Curriculum

YES Prep’s curriculum has been designed to prepare students for college-level work in accordance with our mission. YES Prep believes that students’ access to aligned and on grade level curriculum is a key lever to educational equity. In effective classrooms, the teacher strikes a balance that allows students to struggle productively while ensuring that they have the appropriate resources and scaffolds to learn through that struggle. YES Prep will provide students with the support and appropriate interventions to make it possible for each of our students to succeed academically.

The YES Prep curriculum includes regular unit assessments that students will take during regular class time. YES Prep also administers the following assessments to monitor overall progress in students’ coursework and college readiness:

Assessment	Information of Note
Circle Progress Monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prekindergarten assessment tool required by the State of Texas.• Measures literacy, language, math, and social-emotional skills at the beginning, middle, and end of year.
Texas Kindergarten Entry Assessment (KEA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Texas Kindergarten Entry Assessment (TX-KEA) school readiness screener required by the State of Texas• Administered at the beginning of the year.
NWEA Measures of Academic Progress (MAP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Computerized adaptive tests to measure annual growth (Fall to Spring) and/or progress in interventions• Administered to students in kindergarten – grade 5• Timing varies by grade level
YES Prep Common Assessments (CA) and Interim Assessments (IA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Internal graded assessments to assess student learning and adjust instruction.• Administered to students in grades 3-5.• Elementary Interim and Common Assessments: A combination of Interim and Common Assessments will be administered in the fall, winter, and spring in grades 3-5 reading and math and in grade 5 science.
State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Annual assessments required by the State of Texas to measure progress a student has made in the subject area.• Administered in grades and courses below:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Grade 3 – Mathematics, Reading Language Arts○ Grade 4 – Mathematics, Reading Language Arts○ Grade 5 – Mathematics, Reading Language Arts & Science

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Testing windows are set by the TEA (https://www.texasassessment.com/staar/families/all-about-the-staar-test/)
Texas English Language Proficiency Assessment System (TELPAS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An assessment system that determines the English language proficiency of Emergent Bilingual (EBs) students in four domains: listening, speaking, reading, and writing Administered to students identified as Emergent Bilingual in grades K – 5 Administered in Spring

These assessments furnish important information about students’ progress and help YES Prep staff better support them in their journey to college. Data from these assessments:

- Demonstrate how students are currently performing on state and national standards;
- Measure student growth and progress from year to year;
- Identify students’ strengths and areas for additional focus so teachers can adjust instruction.

Accelerated Instruction

As required by the Texas Legislature, a student who does not earn satisfactory performance on any 3-5 STAAR exams must receive hours of accelerated learning. This applies to students who scored “Did Not Meet” and to students who did not take the STAAR and have a missing score. At YES Prep, accelerated learning may be delivered during the school day, after school, on Saturdays, and/or over the summer. If a student is required to attend accelerated learning outside the school day, the guardian will be informed.

Grading Policy

The YES Prep Elementary standards-based report card communicates a learner’s proficiency level as they progress toward meeting state and system standards. Learning standards are the academic skills students should know or be able to demonstrate during the academic year and by the end of the school year. Standards-based report cards display a grade for each learning goal.

Grades in grades PK-5 are given on a rubric-based grading scale. Students receive grades each grading period for English or Spanish Language Arts and Reading, Math, Science, and Social Studies. Students in the Bilingual Program in grades K-4 will also receive English Language Development (ELD) grades.

The YES Prep PK-5 report card includes the scale below and descriptors to denote levels of achievement:

- 1 – Developing proficiency
- 2 – Approaching grade level standard
- 3 – Meeting grade level standard
- 4 – Exceeding grade level standard

Standards-Based Learning Progression			
1	2	3	4
Developing Proficiency: Student demonstrates progress towards initial foundational skills of the topic.	Approaching Grade Level Standards: Student demonstrates proficiency on foundational skills of the topic.	Meeting Grade Level Standards: Student demonstrates proficiency on all grade level skills of the topic.	Exceeding Grade Level Standards: Student demonstrates understanding and performance beyond proficiency and has exceeded the standard.

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All elementary students are enrolled in Fine Arts and Health & Physical Education courses. Students earn credit in these courses, though grades are not assigned.

Gradebook Guidelines

Students' performance is based 100% on achievement-based grades. Examples include daily assignments, class discussions with a scoring rubric, teacher observations, end of module/unit assessments, and student work products. Teachers will holistically review and analyze all assigned grades each grading cycle to determine the rubric score on the student's progress and report card.

Each teacher is expected to enter, at minimum, two English/Spanish language arts and reading grades, two math grades, and one science or social studies grade in the gradebook per week during each grading period. Bilingual teachers are also expected to enter, at a minimum, one English Language Development grade per week for students in grades K-4. Grades are expected to be entered within five business days of an assignment's due date.

Promotion Standards

In grades 1st – 5th, promotion to the next grade level shall be based on demonstrated:

- Preparedness for the next grade level by meeting 50%+ of standards at grade-level proficiency (3+) in ELA/SLA, Math, and Science, and/or Social Studies. This includes a holistic analysis of student growth and performance over the year.
- Attendance in academic core classes for at least 90% of the school year. If a student misses an excessive number of days, they may be reviewed by the Retention and Promotion Committee (RPC) due to excessive absences.

Any student who does not meet these requirements will be reviewed by the Retention & Promotion Committee. Please note that the promotion standards do not apply to Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten students. At YES Prep, students in Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten are advanced to the next level of academic programming. If requested by a guardian, the RPC would meet to discuss other options.

Academic Dishonesty

YES Prep students participate in a rigorous, college-preparatory curriculum, and therefore are held accountable when it comes to academic honesty. If a student is caught cheating or copying (or if they are strongly suspected of cheating or copying), they will earn the appropriate consequence as determined by the campus administration. Cheating or copying is defined as, but not limited to discussing test contents or answers verbally or in writing, using unauthorized reference materials or technology. Campus administrators reserve the right to take all necessary steps to investigate alleged academic dishonesty.

Students who cheat or copy the work of another student, or allow another student to cheat or copy, on a state standardized test (e.g., STAAR, TELPAS, etc.) or any other external assessment such as MAP assessments will be subject to the following consequences:

- Invalidation of the student's test
- May be subject to other disciplinary action as determined by the campus administration



If it is determined that a student has been involved in cheating on a state assessment upon investigation, the system is required to:

- Submit an online report with the TEA
- Contact guardian

AI Student Policy

Digital Citizenship* is the ability to use technology responsibly, safely, and respectfully. With the emergence of generative Artificial Intelligence (learning systems capable of generating text, images, code, or other types of content, often in response to a prompt entered by a user) being a good Digital Citizen means continuing to make smart decisions when navigating a digital world (i.e., protecting your privacy, fact-checking information, treating others with respect, etc.).

This student policy aims to promote the efficient and ethical use of AI tools, while minimizing the risk of intentional or unintentional misuse that may result in harm to individuals, the organization, or our mission. AI is still developing, and as result, remains at risk of providing false or misleading information. Our goal is to develop students as good Digital Citizens set forth by individual teachers and their assignments. And as a Digital Citizen, it remains the student's responsibility to ask if AI use is permissible if they are not sure. Please refer to the section entitled Academic Dishonesty for a list of the appropriate consequences when using unauthorized technology (e.g., AI) for cheating or copying. *For additional information about the 9 Principles of Digital Citizenship please click here: [ISTE | Essential Elements of Digital Citizenship | ISTE](#)

Framework for Determining Appropriate AI Usage	
	<p>Plagiarism is taking credit for someone else's work without giving them credit. When using AI to complete assignments, produce ideas, etc., submitting AI work as a student's own is considered a form of plagiarism. Examples of misusing AI are listed below. For other applications, please check with the teacher.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Posting an assignment question or prompt to AI, copying or adapting the AI generated text/image, and submitting it as your own response/creation • Accessing AI during any system, state, or national exam where AI is prohibited. Assume AI use is prohibited on these exams unless otherwise stated. • Using AI to produce or alter images of staff or students without their permission
	<p>When a teacher allows AI to enhance the learning experience, students must use AI responsibly and cite AI in their work when necessary. Examples of how teachers may allow AI in the classroom are listed below. For other applications, please check with the teacher. Asking AI to translate course content, subtitles, audio, or video</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Posing a question to AI to generate summaries, provide examples, or images as part of the brainstorming/initial research process as explicitly permitted as part of an assignment and indicating that AI was used as part of the process



Remember, as a Digital Citizen, students must use AI safely and responsibly by evaluating the information and fact-checking sources. Examples of how students may use AI are listed below. For other applications, please check with the teacher.

- Asking AI to explain or simplify a difficult concept with examples
- Utilizing AI to generate a list of ideas as part of the brainstorming process
- Using AI to provide suggestions for further reading about a topic
- Using AI to generate extra practice questions
- Conversing with AI in a foreign language for additional practice

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

To ensure that ALL students have access to a college-ready education, YES Prep offers a variety of supports and services to students who have identified needs. The sections below describe specific programs created to support students.

Multi-Tiered System of Supports – Response to Intervention

Fostering Student Success through Response to Intervention (RTI) in the Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS): The Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) at YES Prep utilizes Response to Intervention (RTI) data to deliver additional academic and behavioral assistance to students in need. The MTSS team is responsible for identifying, designing, and implementing targeted interventions that cater to the unique requirements of each student. These interventions encompass various forms of support, such as regular check-ins, tutorials, peer tutoring, counseling, behavioral assistance, and a range of other services accessible to all students.

If a student encounters challenges in their learning or behavior, their guardian has the option to contact the school administrator to obtain information about YES Prep’s comprehensive screening system for support services. In situations where students are receiving interventions, legal guardians will be promptly notified.

To address potential reading difficulties, a screening process is in place. For detailed information regarding Dyslexia Services, please refer to the corresponding section below. In cases where the student’s family or school staff suspect a requirement for specially designed instruction through special education services, they can initiate a referral for a special education evaluation at any time.

Emergent Bilingual Program (EB)

YES Prep offers robust programming to support students who speak a language other than English – Emergent Bilingual students – with language acquisition & academic success. At the elementary level, YES Prep supports Emergent Bilingual students by providing both high-quality bilingual programming and an English as a Second Language program.

The goal of the bilingual program at YES Prep is to develop biliteracy. This is achieved by strengthening students’ home language of Spanish, supporting them in transferring content mastery and developing English language fluency. By the time students leave elementary campuses, they will be able to think, read, write and speak in both Spanish and English in any setting.

The YES Prep bilingual program is designed to:

- Develop full biliteracy in students whose native language is Spanish.
- Introduce, develop, and master academic competency in the English language gradually across grade levels.
- Maintain and develop skills in the Spanish language and culture while introducing, maintaining, and developing skills in English and developing competency in both languages.
- Prepare students for the sixth-grade English only program with English as a Second Language (ESL) supports in preparation for college-ready success.

YES Prep also provides an English-as-a-Second Language (ESL) that focuses on developing English as a second language and using English as a medium to learn mathematics, science, social studies, and other academic subjects. The ESL program is different from the Bilingual program in that all instruction is in English for students in the ESL program with additional supports provided by the classroom teacher.

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All Emergent Bilingual students will be monitored to ensure academic progress by the campus Language Proficiency Assessment Committee. This committee is responsible for coordinating additional services and supports needed for the student to meet their Bilingual or English as a Second Language program goals. Every year, Emergent Bilingual students take the state-required TELPAS (Texas English Language Proficiency Assessment System) exam to monitor their level of language proficiency and progress. Students who are Beginning or Intermediate Language Learners per the TELPAS assessment will be given additional accommodations and modifications in the classroom.

Every campus has a designated staff member responsible for coordinating support of Emergent Bilingual students on the campus. At elementary campuses, the Assistant Principal is the designated contact regarding questions about services for Emergent Bilingual students and the bilingual and ESL program on that campus.

Should the student's family or school staff suspect a need for specially designed instruction through special education services, they can refer the student for a special education evaluation at any time.

For Emergent Bilingual services and questions, contact the Managing Director of Elementary Special Populations at 713-967-9000.

You can find out more about elementary Emergent Bilingual programming here: <https://www.yesprep.org/schools/elementary/bilingual-programming>.

Dyslexia Services

Dyslexia is a neurological condition; the characteristics of dyslexia include difficulty with recognizing words accurately and quickly, difficulty breaking down words, and poor spelling. If a student is suspected of having dyslexia, they will be evaluated via Special Education by having a full and individual evaluation (FIE), as required by the state of Texas.

Elementary students demonstrating need in fluency, decoding, spelling, or phonological awareness, receive differentiated support from their teacher during the literacy block.

In accordance with the [2021 Dyslexia Handbook](#), YES Prep students go through a universal screening process in kindergarten through 2nd grade as required by the state of Texas. The universal screener will include formal and informal data to determine if a student demonstrates characteristics of dyslexia. If students in any grade display a pattern of characteristics of dyslexia, they may be referred for a dyslexia evaluation by campus staff. Guardians may refer a student for a dyslexia evaluation at any time.

Once identified, students who are eligible to receive dyslexia services are provided with research-based individualized support through Special Education. YES Prep offers small group reading instruction with a targeted and research-based curriculum to students with dyslexia who demonstrate a need for this intervention. During this time, students are provided with research-based direct instruction that is systematic, taught to mastery, and multisensory. The Annual Review & Dismissal (ARD) will annually review and recommend additional accommodation for all students with dyslexia. A list of instructional and testing accommodations will be given to each guardian as part of the IEP.

Special Education teachers and elementary Interventionists receive extensive training and development in Region 4 Education Service Center's dyslexia intervention called Reading by Design: An Individualized Reading Intervention. It is a systematic, multisensory approach aligned with research-based practices for developing literacy and is designed for students with basic reading difficulties, such as dyslexia. At the elementary level, YES Prep also uses Esperanza, a Spanish-language dyslexia curriculum to support Emergent Bilingual students identified with dyslexia.

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For more information see the [2021 Dyslexia Handbook](#): Procedures Concerning Dyslexia and Related Services.

Should the student's family or school staff suspect a need for specially designed instruction through special education services, they can refer the student for a special education evaluation at any time.

For Dyslexia services and questions, contact the YES Prep Special Populations Department at 713-967-9000.

Section 504

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 is a civil rights law aimed at protecting students from discrimination due to their disability and supporting students who are experiencing cognitive or physical impairments that limit major life activities. Students who qualify for services under Section 504 will receive accommodations based on their Service Plan to ensure their success in a general education classroom. Students receiving services under Section 504 are responsible for all content standards for their enrolled grade level and must meet all promotion standards to be promoted to the next grade.

If a student is experiencing cognitive or physical impairment that substantially limits a major life activity, their guardian may contact YES Prep to learn about the school's general education referral or screening system for support services. This system links students to a variety of support options, including making a referral for Section 504 evaluation to determine if the student needs specific aids, accommodations, or services. A guardian or adult student (age 18 or over) may request an evaluation for Section 504 services at any time.

If the student's family or school staff suspect a need for specially designed instruction through special education services, they can refer the student for a special education evaluation at any time.

The Section 504 Parent and Educator Resource Guide, created by the Office for Civil Rights (OCR), is available at this link: <https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/504-resource-guide-201612.pdf>.

For Section 504 services and questions, contact the Manager of Elementary 504 and Homebound Programs 713-967-9000.

Special Education

YES Prep complies with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). When a student enrolls at YES Prep, we provide that student with a free and appropriate public education that meets their needs. The Special Education teams on each campus provide a range of services deemed appropriate by the ARD committee for each student from direct instruction in small group pull-outs to in-class support in the general education classroom. Special education teams also offer support for socio-emotional and behavioral needs. All eligible students with disabilities receive a free and appropriate public education in accordance with their ARD/IEP meeting as reflected in the Legal Framework for the Child-Centered Special Education Process located here: <http://framework.esc18.net/>.

An individualized education program (IEP) is developed, implemented, and monitored for each student with a disability according to state and federal law.

YES Prep offers a full continuum of services for students with disabilities, including instructional and related services and self-contained Special Education. These specialized programs are designed for students who need to spend part or all their day in a Special Education classroom in order to

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meet their IEP goals. If the ARD committee deems that one of the programs below is the most appropriate placement for a student, we offer a transfer to a campus that has an available setting.

GLOW	Designed for students in Pre-K who have significant cognitive or physical disabilities who need alternate curriculum & daily living skills instruction. Available at YES Prep North Rankin, Airline, East End, Hobby, and Southwest Oaks elementary campuses with transfers for all qualifying students
SHINE	Designed for students in kindergarten-5 th grade who have significant cognitive or physical disabilities and require alternate curriculum & daily living skills instruction. Available at all elementary campuses.
SOAR	Designed for students with sensory needs who require on-grade level curriculum & social skill building. Available at YES Prep North Central Elementary, YES Prep Airline Elementary and YES Prep Southside Elementary with transfers for all qualifying students.
BASE	Designed for students with emotional and behavioral difficulties related to their disability who need structured social-emotional skill-building and on-grade level curriculum. Available at YES Prep North Forest Elementary and YES Prep Southeast Elementary with transfers for all qualifying students.

Students in Special Education prepare for rigorous post-secondary opportunities through transition planning in the ARD process. For more information on transition, consult <https://www.transitionintexas.org/>.

- For Special Education services and questions, contact the Director of Special Education at 713-967-9000.
- To refer student for Special Education testing, contact the Director of Special Education Evaluation at 713-967-9000 or use the QR code below.



Special Education Resources:

- [Texas Transition and Employment Guide](#)
- [Guia de Transicion y Empleo de Texas](#)
- [Guardian’s Guide to ARD Process](#)
- [Guia Para Padres del Proceso de ARD](#)
- [Notice of Procedural Safeguards](#)
- [Aviso Sobre Procedimientos de Proteccion](#)

Outside Service Providers

Please refer to the [Outside Service Providers](#) policy in the Compliance section for more details on how Outside Service Provider related to Special Education services may visit campus.

Child Find Responsibilities

YES Prep is responsible for identifying, locating, and evaluating students who are potentially eligible for Special Education and related services. According to the TEA, YES Prep's Child Find duty to seek guardian consent to evaluate a child when it suspects or has reason to suspect that the child has a disability and needs Special Education services is an affirmative one: a guardian is not required to request that the LEA identify and evaluate the child. This means that it is the responsibility of the school system, YES Prep, to identify and evaluate students who may need Special Education services. A guardian may request an initial evaluation at any time if they believe their child has a disability in need of Special Education and related services.

Referrals to Special Populations Programs

Learning Difficulties, Special Education, Section 504 Services

For those students who are having difficulty in the regular classroom, all school systems and open enrollment charter schools must consider tutorial, compensatory, and other academic or behavior support services that are available to all students, including a process based on Response to Intervention (RtI). The implementation of RtI has the potential to have a positive impact on the ability of systems and charter schools to meet the needs of all struggling students.

If a student is experiencing learning difficulties, their guardian may contact the individual(s) listed below to learn about the school's overall general education referral or screening system for support services. This system links students to a variety of support options, including making a referral for a special education evaluation or for a Section 504 evaluation to determine if the student needs specific aids, accommodations, or services. A guardian may request an evaluation for special education or Section 504 services at any time.

Special Education Referrals

If a guardian makes a written request for an initial evaluation for special education services to the director of special education services or an administrative employee of the school system or open enrollment charter school, the system or charter school must respond in writing no later than 15 school days after receiving the request. At that time, the school must give the guardian a prior written notice of whether it agrees to or refuses to evaluate the student, along with a copy of the Notice of Procedural Safeguards. If the school agrees to evaluate the student, it must also give the guardian the opportunity to give written consent for the evaluation.

A request for a special education evaluation may be made verbally and does not need to be in writing. Districts and charter schools must still comply with all federal prior written notice and procedural safeguard requirements and the requirements for identifying, locating, and evaluating children who are suspected of being a child with a disability and in need of special education. However, a verbal request does not require the system or charter school to respond within the 15-school-day timeline.

If YES Prep decides to evaluate the student, it must complete the student's initial evaluation and evaluation report no later than 45 school days from the day it receives a guardian's written consent to evaluate the student. However, if the student is absent from school during the evaluation period for three or more school days, the evaluation period will be extended by the number of school days equal to the number of school days that the student is absent.

There is an exception to the 45-school-day timeline. If a system or charter school receives a guardian's consent for the initial evaluation at least 35 but less than 45 school days before the last

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instructional day of the school year, it must complete the written report and provide a copy of the report to the guardian by June 30 of that year. However, if the student is absent from school for three or more days during the evaluation period, the June 30th due date no longer applies. Instead, the general timeline of 45 school days plus extensions for absences of three or more days will apply.

Upon completing the evaluation, the system or charter school must give the guardian a copy of the evaluation report at no cost. Additional information regarding special education is available from the system or charter school in a companion document titled Parent's Guide to the Admission, Review, and Dismissal Process.

Contact Person for Special Education Referrals

The designated person to contact regarding options for a student experiencing learning difficulties or regarding a referral for evaluation for special education services is:

- Contact Person: Director of Special Education Evaluation
- Phone Number: 713-967-9000

Section 504 Referrals

Each school system or charter school must have standards and procedures in place for the evaluation and placement of students in the system's or charter school's Section 504 program. Districts and charter schools must also implement a system of procedural safeguards that includes notice, an opportunity for a guardian to examine relevant records, an impartial hearing with an opportunity for participation by the guardian and representation by counsel, and a review procedure.

Contact Person for Section 504 Referrals

The designated person to contact regarding options for a student experiencing learning difficulties or regarding a referral for evaluation for Section 504 services is:

- Contact Person: Manager of Elementary 504 and Homebound Programs
- Phone Number: 713-967-9000

Additional Information

The following websites provide information and resources for students with disabilities and their families.

- [Legal Framework for the Child-Centered Special Education Process](#)
- [Partners Resource Network](#)
- [Special Education Information Center](#)
- [Texas Project First](#)

SCHOOL CULTURE AND DISCIPLINE

YES Prep believes holding students to behavioral expectations that increase safety and joy in learning will support their ability to achieve academic success, care for their community, and ultimately increase the number of students from YES Prep prepared to succeed in college and post-secondary opportunities. Committing to community expectations ensures a physically and emotionally safe learning environment that embraces the diverse communities, cultures, and identities of students. It is the responsibility of YES Prep staff to build community agreements and teach non-cognitive social skills to help students feel safe, seen, and empowered.

Rewards and Recognition

YES Prep recognizes students for overall achievement and growth in academics, attendance and behavior. Each YES Prep campus has their unique way of showing students they are seen and cared for by the staff, such as core value awards, honor roll, etc. YES Prep campuses also utilize a positive behavior incentive system that rewards students with points that can be used to participate in special events, make purchases at the school store, or earn special privileges. A student's positive points are accessible to students and families at any time through an online application. Elementary Schools use ClassDojo to track student points. See the Individual Campus Supplement for specific details on rewards and recognitions for each campus.

YES Prep Standards of Student Conduct and Behavior

YES Prep students are expected to behave in a manner that promotes care for all individuals, contributes to a safe environment for students, and provides an educational environment free of disruption.

To maintain **campus pride and safety**, students are expected to follow these guidelines:

Safe Hands and Body

- Students will use their hands and bodies in safe and kind ways to protect self, others, and school property.
- Students will follow the campus dress codes.

To maintain a **focus on learning**, students are expected to follow these guidelines:

Listening and Following Directions:

- Students will follow the directions of teachers and leaders to ensure readiness for learning and student safety.
- Students will use self-control to support the learning environment.

To maintain **kindness and respect**, students are expected to follow these guidelines:

- Kind Words and Actions: Students will communicate with peers and staff using kind words and appropriate language.

YES Prep Jurisdiction and Authority

YES Prep has disciplinary authority over a YES Prep student:

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- During the regular school day and while the student is going to and from school on YES Prep transportation including at bus stops before and after pick-up and at least 300 feet from the bus stop location;
- For any expulsion offense committed away from YES Prep property and not at a school-sponsored or school-related event, if the misconduct creates a substantial disruption to the educational environment;
- For any expulsion offense committed while on YES Prep property or while attending a school-sponsored or school-related activity of YES Prep or another school in Texas;
- For any school-related misconduct, regardless of time or location, including any violations involving or impacting other students of the school;
- When criminal mischief is committed on or off YES Prep property or at a school-related event;
- When retaliation against another student, school employee or volunteer occurs or is threatened, regardless of time or location;
- When the student commits a felony, including those provided by Texas Education Code §§ 37.006 or 37.0081, regardless of time or location;
- While a student is participating in any remote / virtual classroom or other period of online instruction provided by YES Prep;
- While the student is attending any school-related activity, regardless of time or location; and
- While the student is in transit to or from school or to or from school-related activities or events using YES Prep provided transportation.

Statement of Non-Discrimination and Title IX

YES Prep Public Schools is committed to providing a safe learning and work environment where all school community members are treated with dignity and respect. The schools in the system are subject to all federal and state laws and constitutional provisions prohibiting discrimination based on disability, race, creed, color, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, national origin, religion, ancestry, or need for special education services. A qualified student may not be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to unlawful discrimination under any system program or activity based on disability, race, creed, color, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, national origin, ancestry, creed, religion, sex (which includes marital status), sexual orientation (which includes transgender), disability ancestry, or need for special education services. Discrimination against employees and applicants for employment based on age, genetic information, and conditions related to pregnancy or childbirth is also prohibited per state and federal law. Based on the protected areas, any harassment/discrimination of students or staff will be investigated and responded to.

As required by Title IX, YES Prep Public Schools does not and is required to not discriminate based on sex in its educational programs or activities. This nondiscrimination requirement applies to admission to and employment with YES Prep Public Schools. Inquiries into issues related to Title IX may be referred to YES Prep Public Schools' Title IX Coordinator, to the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights of the Department of Education, or both. School community members, including families, should bring any questions or concerns about YES Prep Public Schools' compliance with these federal programs to the attention of the following persons designated as being responsible for coordinating compliance with these requirements. More information can be found at <https://www.yesprep.org/departments/student-family-services/title-ix>.

Harassment, Bullying, and Inappropriate Conduct

No one should be subject to harassment, bullying, or inappropriate conduct on campus for any reason. It is YES Prep's policy that all employees, volunteers, guardians, and students will deal with all persons in ways that convey care and consideration for individuals regardless of race, color,

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national origin, sex, gender, age, disability, immigration status, sexual orientation, family situation, religion, or political affiliation. Acts of harassment, bullying, hostility, or other inappropriate conduct, whether verbal, written, or physical, will not be tolerated and constitute grounds for disciplinary action according to the YES Prep Code of Conduct. Prohibited harassment of a student is defined as physical, verbal, or nonverbal conduct based on the student's race, color, religion, sex, gender, national origin, disability, sexual orientation, family situation, political affiliation, or any other basis prohibited by law that is so severe, persistent, or pervasive that the conduct:

- Affects a student's ability to participate in or benefit from an educational program or activity, or creates an intimidating, threatening, hostile, or offensive educational environment;
- Has the purpose or effect of substantially or unreasonably interfering with the student's academic performance; OR
- Otherwise adversely affects the student's educational opportunities.

Prohibited harassment includes dating violence as defined by this policy. Legal agencies may also be contacted.

Inappropriate conduct that might not rise to the level of harassment is also prohibited and can include, but is not limited to: physical (e.g., hitting, kicking, pushing, choking, etc.), oral or written comments (e.g., threatening, taunting, teasing, starting rumors, hate speech, or inappropriate comments or actions that result in intimidation or revealing of personal information without permission, etc.), electronic (e.g., e-mail, text messaging, blogging, social networking sites, etc.) or written threats.

David's Law is a federal law prohibiting and combating bullying in Texas schools. David's Law empowers school administrators and law enforcement to reprimand the aggressor, while focusing on rehabilitation. The following are amendments to Education Code 37.0832: changes the definition of "bullying" to include "single significant act" or a "pattern of acts" by one or more students directed at another student that exploits an imbalance of power; integrates "cyberbullying" into the definition of bullying; and requires Texas public schools to investigate and respond to bullying that occurs on or off school property.

If a student believes they are a target of discrimination, harassment (including sexual harassment or dating violence) or other inappropriate behavior described in this section, the student should immediately notify their teacher, the Student Support Counselor, a Dean of Students, Assistant Principal, or the Principal. Additionally, if anyone else believes that someone has been a target of harassment, discrimination, or inappropriate behavior described in this section, that individual should immediately notify a teacher or campus administrator.

Students may report any incident of bullying. All campuses have Student Assistance Forms (SAFs) where students may report an incident of bullying. These forms may be completed electronically. An investigation into the alleged incident will take place.

Guardians of a bullied student will be notified within three days of the bullying or notification of the bullying to administrators. The guardians of the alleged bully will be notified within a reasonable time by administrators. Students who witness or are made aware of such situations are expected to report the incident immediately to a campus administrator. Failure to do so may result in disciplinary action.

Reports of discrimination based on sex, including sexual harassment, gender-based harassment, or dating violence, may be directed to the designated Title IX coordinator. YES Prep will follow its Title IX procedures when such allegations, if proved, would meet the definition of sexual harassment in an education program or activity and against a person in the United States under Title IX. To review YES Prep's Title IX policies and procedures, see YES Prep Public Schools Title IX webpage.

Sexual harassment includes all unwanted, uninvited, or non-reciprocal sexual attention (whether direct or indirect) as well as the creation of an intimidating, hostile, or offensive campus or work environment. Harassment can include, but is not limited to:

- Sexually suggestive looks or gestures
- Sexual jokes, pictures or teasing
- Pressure for dates or sex
- Sexually demeaning comments
- Deliberate touching, cornering, or pinching
- Attempts to kiss or fondle
- Threats, demands, or suggestions that favors will be granted in exchange for sex or tolerance of sexual advances

Dating violence, which is prohibited conduct, occurs when a person in a current or past dating relationship uses sexual, verbal, or emotional abuse to harm, threaten, intimidate, or control another person in a dating relationship. Dating violence occurs when a person commits these acts against a person in a marriage or dating relationship with the individual who is or was once in a marriage or dating relationship with the person committing the offense, as defined by Section 71.0021 of the Family Code. Dating violence is a pattern of coercive behavior that one partner exerts over the other for establishing and maintaining power and control. Dating violence can include, but is not limited to:

- Physical abuse (hitting, kicking, pushing, choking, etc.)
- Control of daily activities, choices, and access to resources
- Isolation from family, friends, religious activities, campus, community, etc.
- Emotional abuse (put-downs, public humiliation, etc.)
- Sabotage
- Technological abuse and stalking
- Sexual coercion
- Suicide or homicide threats, attempts, or completions

Such conduct will be considered bullying if that conduct exploits an imbalance of power between the student perpetrator and the student victim through written or verbal expression or physical conduct and interferes with a student's education or substantially disrupts the operation of a campus.

Students who engage in bullying may be expelled if the student encourages another student to commit or attempt suicide, incites violence against a student through group bullying, or releases or threatens to release intimate visual material of a minor or a student who is 18 years of age.

Any student who wishes to seek additional support for engaging in harassment or bullying should contact a campus administrator.

Federal Firearms Act

YES Prep, as an open-enrollment charter school, shall expel a student who brings, possesses at campus, including any setting that is under YES Prep's control or supervision for a campus activity, a firearm, as defined by 18 U.S.C. Section 921. The student must be expelled from the student's regular campus for a period of at least one year, unless the superintendent or other chief administrative officer of the campus chooses to modify the length of the expulsion in the case of an individual student (excluding grades 2nd and below).

In-School and Out-of-School Suspension

If a student engages in an act of misconduct that is in violation Level II, Level III, or Level IV of YES Prep Student Code of Conduct, the student may earn an In School or Out of School Suspension for up to three days per occurrence. Prior to the suspension, the campus administrator will notify the student of the claims against them, allow the student to share their version of the incident, conduct a thorough investigation of the events surrounding the incident, and determine whether the student's conduct was a violation of the YES Prep Code of Conduct. If it is determined that the student's behavior warrants a suspension, the campus administrator will notify the student's guardian of the period of suspension, the grounds for suspension, and provide a time and place for an opportunity to meet with the campus administrator. The system shall not use out-of-school suspension for students in grade 2 or below, or students under the age 10, unless, while on property or while attending a school-sponsored or school-related activity on or off school property, the student engages in one of the following offenses. The system shall use a positive behavior program as a disciplinary alternative for students below grade 2, or students under the age 10, who commit general conduct violations instead of suspension or placement in a DAEP. The program shall meet the requirement of law:

- Conduct that contains the elements of an offense related to weapons under Penal Section 46.02 or 46.05; or
- Conduct that contains the elements of a violent offense under Penal Code Section 22.01, 22.011, 22.02, or 22.021,
- Selling, giving, or delivering to another person or possessing, using, or being under the influence of any amount of marijuana, an alcoholic beverage, or a controlled substance or dangerous drug as define by federal or state law

The student shall receive credit for missed work during the period of removal if the student makes up the work within the same number of school days the student was absent on administrative removal.

Disciplinary Hearings

If a student is recommended for a Disciplinary Hearing, the guardian will receive written notice of the Disciplinary Hearing, reason for the Disciplinary Hearing, and the location and time the Disciplinary Hearing will be held. The campus shall make a good faith effort to work with the guardian to schedule the Disciplinary Hearing and will inform the student and the student's guardian of the location and time that the hearing will be held. The campus shall hold the Disciplinary Hearing regardless of whether the student, the student's guardian, or another adult representing the student attends.

At the hearing, the student has the right to:

- Be present at the meeting;
- Present evidence in their defense;
- Be informed and appraised of the campus's evidence;
- Be accompanied by their guardians; and
- Be represented by an attorney

The hearing will be led by the campus administrator in front of a Disciplinary Hearing Officer and will be audio recorded. Within 48 hours of the Disciplinary Hearing, the Disciplinary Hearing Officer will notify the student and the student's guardian of their decision, including the length of the DAEP placement or expulsion. The decision shall also be provided to the guardian in writing from the campus. The Disciplinary Hearing Officer shall also inform the guardian of their right to appeal the decision if they believe that due process was not afforded to them during the hearing.

A disciplinary hearing decision may result in the following but is not limited to:

- Placement in a disciplinary alternative education program (DAEP);
- Expulsion for up to 180-days (See Expulsion Section);
- Completion of a substance abuse contract (See Substance Abuse Contract Section); AND/OR
- Other consequences recommended by the hearing officer (e.g., implementation of an individual student plan, implementation of a safety plan, and or removal from extracurricular activities)
- If the guardian believes due process was not afforded to them during the hearing, the guardian has the right to appeal. The appeal process is as follows:

To appeal the decision by the Disciplinary Hearing Officer (DHO) for placement at DAEP:

- The guardian will notify the YES Prep Head of Schools or their designee to request an appeal within 48 hours of receipt of the decision by calling the YES Prep District number and leaving a message with the request for the appeal or email receptionist@yesprep.org. The YES Prep District number is (713)- 967-9000.
- A Head of Schools or their designee will act as the appeal officer. The appeal officer will review the evidence presented at the disciplinary hearing. No new evidence may be presented before review. The appeal officer may uphold the decision, overturn the decision, or modify the length of the DAEP placement.
- If the appeal officer elects to uphold the placement, the guardian(s) may request a second hearing review by another Head of Schools. The second Head of Schools will review the body of evidence presented at the original hearing. No new evidence may be presented before review. The second Head of Schools may uphold the decision, revise the decision, or overturn the decision.

To appeal the decision by the Disciplinary Hearing Officer (DHO) for expulsion from YES Prep Public Schools:

- The guardian will notify the YES Prep Head of Schools or their designee to request an appeal within 48 hours of receipt of the decision by calling the YES Prep District number and leaving a message with the request for the appeal or email receptionist@yesprep.org. The YES Prep District number is (713)- 967-9000.
- A Head of Schools or their designee will act as the appeal officer. The appeal officer will review the evidence presented at the disciplinary hearing. No new evidence may be presented before review. The appeal officer may uphold the decision, revise the decision, or overturn the decision.
- If the appeal officer elects to uphold the expulsion, the guardian(s) may request a second hearing review by another Head of Schools. The second Head of Schools will review the body of evidence presented at the original hearing. No new evidence may be presented before review. The second Head of Schools may uphold the decision, revise the decision, or overturn the decision.
- If the parent disagrees with the decision of the second Head of Schools, the parent may request a review with a Disciplinary Hearing Review Panel, by notifying the Chief Schools Officer via email within seven (7) calendar days of the date of receipt of the second Head of School's decision.
- The Disciplinary Hearing Review Panel will be comprised of one or more members of the Board, designated by the Board Chair or Vice Chair of the Board and the Chief Schools Officer. The Disciplinary Hearing Review Panel may have access to legal counsel if needed. The Disciplinary Hearing Review Panel will review the record prepared before the hearing officer and the decisions of the hearing officer, appeal officer, and second Head of Schools.

The Panel will also give the student, guardians, and first Head of Schools the opportunity to make a presentation before the Panel.

- The Panel will determine the length of the presentation based on the complexity of the case, typically not to exceed fifteen (15) minutes. The Panel members may ask questions of the student, guardians, and Head of Schools (or their designee); however, the Panel members are not subject to questioning. The student and the Head of Schools (or their designee) are required to attend. The student's guardians are encouraged to attend as well. In most cases, the Disciplinary Hearing Review Panel will render its decision at the meeting, but in any event, will do so within five (5) business days after the meeting.
- The Disciplinary Hearing Review Panel's decision will be limited to upholding or overturning the expulsion or revising the decision to be a placement in DAEP/YES Prep Thrive. If the decision is to overturn the expulsion, the student may be subject to other consequences as determined by the Head of Schools or their designee. These consequences include but are not limited to a DAEP/YES Prep Thrive placement, counseling services, community service hours, removal of all extracurricular activities, guardians picking up the student at a set-time, in-school suspension, or out-of-school suspension.

For all appeals, the Head of Schools or their designee decides whether consequences will be deferred pending the outcome of the appeal. If the consequences are deferred pending the outcome of the appeal, the Head of Schools has the discretion to administratively remove the student or place the student in another educational setting within YES Prep, including in-school suspension, while awaiting the decision following an appeal. If a student is placed in another educational setting, the days will count towards their DAEP placement.

Expulsion

If a student engages in conduct listed under the mandatory or discretionary expulsion category of the YES Prep Student Code of Conduct, a student may be expelled from the system for a maximum of 180 calendar days. At the end of 180 calendar days, the student will be required to enter their name into the lottery and will only return to a YES Prep campus should their name be pulled from the lottery. Please see the Student Restrictions section below for additional information about access to the campus after an expulsion.

Substance Abuse Contract

If a student engages in conduct related to the use of any illegal substance, one potential result may be a Substance Abuse Contract. The Substance Abuse Contract requires a student to participate in a substance abuse course along with additional requirements outlined by the campus.

Administrative Removal

In addition to the offenses in this code of conduct for which a student could be suspended as a disciplinary consequence, the Principal or designee has the authority to administratively remove a student from campus for a period of up to 10 school days for any of the following additional reasons:

- The need to further investigate an incident;
- Pending a recommendation to expel the student or pending the outcome of the hearing and/or the appeal of the hearing decision; OR

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- An emergency constituting endangerment to health or safety

Should a student be removed from the educational environment for these reasons, the Principal or appropriate campus administrator must notify the student's guardians of the duration and reason for the removal and the time and place for an opportunity to confer with the Principal or appropriate campus administrator.

The student shall receive credit for missed work during the period of removal if the student makes up the work within the same number of school days the student was absent on administrative removal.

Disciplinary Alternative Education Program (DAEP)

If a student engages in conduct listed under mandatory or discretionary DAEP placement category of the YES Prep Student Code of Conduct, a student may be removed from the school and placed into the corresponding DAEP for a determined number of days. Placements may not exceed one year, unless after reviewing it is determined that a return to the home campus is a threat to the safety of other students, YES Prep staff, or that it is in the best interest of the student to remain at the DAEP. The terms of placement in a DAEP prohibit the student from participating in any home campus activities. Students who qualify for Special Education services may be placed in the DAEP strictly in accordance with the procedures for discipline of Special Education. Students who qualify for Special Education may not be placed in a DAEP unless the Admissions, Review, and Dismissal (ARD) Committee determines that it is educationally appropriate, and that the student has engaged in conduct for which referral to DAEP is authorized.

House Bill 114

Under the Texas Education House Bill 114, a student shall be removed from class and placed in a Disciplinary Alternative Education Program (DAEP) if they engage in specific conduct: sells, gives, or delivers to another person or possesses or uses or is under the influence of a controlled substance (excluding marijuana) or a dangerous drug, possesses, uses, or is under the influence of, or sells, gives, or delivers to another person marijuana or tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), possesses, uses, sells, gives, or delivers to another person an e-cigarette, or sells, gives, or delivers to another person an alcoholic beverage, commits a serious act or offense while under the influence of alcohol, or possesses, uses, or is under the influence of an alcoholic beverage. The bill also authorizes classroom removal and DAEP placement for students found vaping or using marijuana on or near public school property or at specific school events. A DAEP placement can take place on-campus (at the school) and the number of placement days depends on the student's involvement and the impact of their infraction.

Student Restrictions During DAEP Placement, Expulsion, or Administrative Leave

Students that have been expelled or put on administrative leave are prohibited attending campus-sponsored or campus-related activities during the expulsion or period of administrative leave. If the student has a sibling at YES Prep with a significant event at campus that the guardian would like to have the student attend, the guardian must first contact the campus administrator to receive a one-time approval to attend the event with their family.

Students serving On-site DAEP days will not be allowed to attend campus-sponsored events or activities outside of the On-site DAEP program. Students serving On-site DAEP days are required to be separated from other students as much as possible until completion of their On-site DAEP program days. The campus administration will provide parents, guardians, and students with additional restrictions and expectations following the disciplinary hearing.

Newly Enrolled Students

YES Prep will decide on a case-by-case basis the placement of a student who is subject to a DAEP placement or expulsion order from another system or an open-enrollment charter upon enrollment in the system.

Discipline of Students with Disabilities

The discipline of students with disabilities is subject to applicable state and federal law in addition to the YES Prep Handbook. To the extent any conflict exists, state and/or federal law will prevail.

YES Prep Student Code of Conduct

The YES Prep Student Code of Conduct outlines the behavioral expectations of students and the consequences administered for specific acts of misconduct. Disciplinary action shall draw on the professional judgment of teachers and administrators, the seriousness of the offense, and the requirements listed in the YES Prep Student Code of Conduct.

The following discipline techniques may be used in addition to the consequences outlined in the Student Code of Conduct.

- Cooling-off time
- Verbal or written redirection
- Seating changes within the classroom or vehicles owned or operated by YES Prep
- Temporary confiscation of items that disrupt the educational process
- Behavioral interventions
- Counseling by teachers, counselors, or administrative personnel
- Guardian-staff conferences
- Request administrator intervention, other assigned area, or in-school suspension
- Assignment of a consequence that is natural consequences of the offense (e.g. removing graffiti, etc.)
- Withdrawal of privileges, such as participation in extracurricular activities, eligibility for seeking and holding honorary offices, or membership in campus sponsored clubs, athletics, and organizations
- Penalties identified for an individual student organization's extracurricular standard of behavior
- Restriction or revocation of YES Prep transportation privileges
- In or Out-of-School suspension, as specified in the Student Code of Conduct
- Expulsion or Alternative Placement, as specified in the Expulsion/DAEP section (Level IV) of the Student Code of Conduct
- Contacting law enforcement officials
- Other strategies and consequences as determined by campus administrators

Level I Acts of Misconduct

Level I acts of misconduct are those for which student behavior is in violation of classroom, campus, extracurricular, or transportation rules. YES Prep students are held to these expectations to ensure campuses remain safe places where students can focus on learning and are all treated with kindness and respect. Failure to adhere to these expectations may result in a loss of Class Dojo points, required family conferences, and/or consequences as assigned by the teacher or campus administrator.

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Level II Acts of Misconduct

Level II acts of misconduct are those for which an appropriate administrator may implement a restorative consequence or assign in-school suspension to the student for up to three days per occurrence. Elementary students who engage in level II acts of misconduct will receive an age-appropriate consequence determined by the campus administrator. The system shall not use out-of-school suspension for students in grade 2 or below, or students under the age 10, unless the conduct meets the requirements established in law. See Out of School Suspension Section.

- Damaging or vandalizing school property or property belonging to others
- Use of matches or a lighter, except as part of an instructional program
- Inappropriate language/gestures (including but not limited to profanity)
- Using any type of gang sign, symbol, or representation while at school, involvement in a public-school fraternity, sorority, or secret society, including participating as a member or pledge, or soliciting another person to become a pledge or member of a public-school fraternity, sorority, secret society while at school
- Conducting private business, selling, or buying unauthorized items
- Skipping class(es) or activities scheduled during the regular school day
- Failing to attend an assigned detention two times for the same behavior incident
- Failing to provide appropriate or relevant information to school administrators, which results in mental or physical harm to another individual
- Leaving school grounds without permission of an appropriate school administrator
- Behaving in a manner that is consistently disruptive to the classroom or school learning environment
- Failure or refusal to cover up while on campus or at a school-related activity any tattoo that is inappropriate, obscene, offensive, vulgar, or gang-related
- Gambling or participating in gambling activities

Level III Acts of Misconduct

Level III acts of misconduct are those for which an appropriate administrator may suspend the student for up to three days per occurrence paired with an educational component, or if the administrator finds the Level III misconduct to be severe may recommend the student for a disciplinary hearing in which the student may be placed in a disciplinary alternative program (DAEP) or expelled. The system shall not use out-of-school suspension for students in grade 2 or below, or students under the age 10, unless the conduct meets the requirements established in law. See Out of School Suspension Section.

- Engaging in inappropriate physical or sexual conduct that is consensual
- Harassment due to dating violence and sexually intimidating conduct
- Engaging in conduct that constitutes sexual harassment, including but not limited to verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature
- Taking, disseminating, transferring, possessing, or sharing obscene, sexually oriented, lewd or otherwise illegal images or other content, including but not limited to sexting
- Possessing, distributing, or printing pornographic material
- Starting or building a fire on school grounds or at a school-sponsored event, except as part of an instructional program
- Using, in a manner inconsistent with the manufacturer's instructions, or being under the influence of glue, aerosol, paint, and other inhalants
- Possessing, distributing, selling, using, or smoking tobacco or tobacco products, smokeless cigarettes, e-cigarettes, vaporizers, any other nicotine delivery device, or any substance for consumption containing nicotine

- Possessing drug paraphernalia
- Possessing, distributing, selling, or using medications that are available with or without a prescription in a manner that is not consistent with the medicine's intended use as indicated on the manufacturer's label, or with school rules concerning the handling of such medications
- Possessing or selling items attempted to be passed off as illegal drugs or contraband
- Assault of another person, non-felony
- Cyberbullying at or away from campus. The use of the internet, cell phones, or other devices to send, post, or text message images and material intended to hurt or embarrass another student. This may include, but is not limited to, sending e-mail to someone who has said he or she wants no further contact with the sender; sending or posting threats, sexual remarks, or pejorative labels (i.e., hate speech); ganging up on victims by making them the subject of ridicule in electronic forums and posting false statements as fact intended to humiliate another student; sending threatening and harassing texts, instant messages, or emails to another; and posting or sending rumors or gossip to incite others to dislike and/or gang up on the target, which is determined to have a material and substantial interference with school activities or with the rights of students
- Any verbal abuse of others, including slurs, name-calling, or derogatory statements to another person.
- Any bullying or harassment of others, including slurs, name-calling, or derogatory statements to another person because of that person's race, color, national origin, religion, disability, physical appearance, sexual orientation, gender identity and/or gender expression
- Possession, distribution, carrying, exhibition, or use of a knife, which includes a switchblade knife, razor blades, utility knives, or other bladed instruments and/or possession, distribution, exhibition of ammunition or bullets
- Throwing objects that can cause bodily injury or property damage
- Possessing, discharging, or spraying mace or pepper spray, which results in a school disturbance
- Burglary of a YES Prep facility
- Stealing, theft, or robbery (not felony level) in an amount under \$750
- Possession or sale of stolen property (non-felony)
- Recording the voice or image of another without the prior consent of the individuals being recorded or in any way that disrupts the educational environment or invades the privacy of others
- Inappropriate or illegal use of the school's electronic communication systems, including the Internet, or abuse of the Technology Use Policy (found at <https://www.yesprep.org/families/student-tech>)
- Verifiable evidence of crimes (non-felony) charged for conduct committed on campus or off campus determined to have one or more of the following effects: (a) Disrupting the learning environment; (b) Providing a negative example to the other students; or (c) Creating a dangerous and unsafe environment for students or school personnel
- Intentionally discharging a fire extinguisher or activating a fire alarm, except in an emergency
- Escalated vandalism or destruction of school property or property belonging to others
- Possession or use of fireworks, "poppers," smoke or stink bombs, or any other pyrotechnic device that may be used to disrupt the educational process
- Selling, giving, delivering to another person, using or being under the influence of an alcoholic beverage
- Engaging in a fight that results in minimal physical harm
- Threats to another person, including any physical, verbal, emotional and written forms
- Engaging in bullying, harassment, or hazing
- Behaving in such a manner that the continued presence of the student in the classroom threatens the safety, interests and rights of other students or staff, or will be detrimental to the educational process or engages in unruly, disruptive, or abusive behavior that seriously

interferes with the teacher's ability to communicate effectively with the students in the class or with the ability of the student's classmates to learn

- Cases of extortion, intimidation, or disrespect of another student, staff member or campus visitor
- Making a hit-list

Level IV Acts of Misconduct

Level IV acts of misconduct are those for which an appropriate administrator may recommend the student for a disciplinary hearing in which the student may be placed in a disciplinary alternative program (DAEP) or expelled. The system shall not use out-of-school suspension for students in grade 2 or below or, students under the age 10, unless the conduct meets the requirements established in law. See Out of School Suspension Section. These are considered serious misbehaviors and/or illegal acts that seriously disrupt the educational process.

- Conduct punishable as a felony
- Sells, gives, or delivers to another person or possesses or uses or is under the influence of marijuana or a controlled substance, as defined by Health and Safety Code Chapter 481, or a dangerous drug, as defined by Health and Safety Code Chapter 483
- Possessed, sold, used, or was under the influence of an alcoholic beverage
- Abuse of a volatile chemical
- Public Lewdness or indecent exposure
- Retaliation against a school employee
- Based on conduct occurring off campus and while the student is not in the attendance at a school-sponsored or school-related activity for felony offenses not in Title 5 Penal code
- Brought a Firearm to School or Unlawful Carrying of a Handgun, Location-restricted Knife, or club under Penal Code 46.02
- Conduct Containing the Elements of an Offense Relating to Prohibited Weapons Under Penal Code 46.05
- Arson
- Murder, capital murder, criminal attempt to commit murder, or capital murder
- Indecency with a child
- Aggravated kidnapping
- Buying and attempting to buy, attempting to sell marijuana, controlled substances or a dangerous drug
- Use, exhibition, or possession (even if not being carried on or about the student's person) of a club, illegal knife, or handgun
- Possession, distribution, exhibition, or use of any, pellet gun, ammunition, air gun, replica firearm or bomb, electronic stunning device, and other dangerous items
- Terroristic threat
- Assault under Penal Code Section 22.01(a)(1) against a school system employee, volunteer, or someone other than a school system employee or volunteer
- Aggravated assault under Penal Code Section 22.02 against a school system employee, volunteer or someone other than a school system employee or volunteer
- Sexual assault under Penal Code Section 22.011 or aggravated sexual assault under 22.021 against a school system employee, volunteer, or someone other than a school system employee or volunteer
- False Alarm/False Report
- Felony Controlled Substance Violation or Alcohol Violation
- Fighting/Mutual Combat
- Aggravated Robbery
- Manslaughter

- Criminally Negligent Homicide
- Engages in Deadly Conduct
- Student is required to register as a sex offender under Chapter 62 of the Code Of Criminal Procedure
- Continuous sexual abuse of young child or children under Penal Code §21.02 occurring on school property or while attending a school-sponsored or school-related activity on or off school property
- Serious misbehavior, as defined by TEC §37.007(c), while expelled to/placed in a Disciplinary Alternative Education Program (DAEP)
- Harassment Against an Employee of the School District under Texas Penal Code 42.07(a)(1), (2), (3), or (7) - TEC 37.006(a)(2)(G)
- Bullying - TEC 37.0052(b)
- Escalation to Expulsion Policy: Students who receive 4 or more Level III and/or Level IV suspensions in any academic year will be recommended for expulsion by the Principal
- Criminal mischief (felony violation)

Extracurricular Activities & School-Sponsored Events

Co-Curricular Activities

YES Prep offers a variety of extracurricular activities to students including athletic programming, clubs, affinity groups, performance teams, and student organizations as part of the YES Prep Student Experience. YES Prep believes offering opportunities in addition to rigorous classroom instruction allows students to engage in their campus community and develop skills that will prepare them for college and future leadership. Students who participate in co-curricular activities are held to a high standard of conduct and must comply with all YES Prep rules and polices. Co-curricular activity staff may apply additional, reasonable, and necessary rules unique to the activity for which they oversee, which have been approved by the campus administration in advance and shared with the participating students. For a complete list of opportunities, please see the Individual Campus Supplement or speak with an Assistant Principal.

Eligibility to Participate in Co-curricular Activities:

Students must be prepared to follow all rules and regulations as determined by the performance staff, advisors, activity leads, and/or administrators.

Students must be in attendance for at least 50% of the academic day to participate in a performance or co-curricular activity that same day.

School-Sponsored Activities

YES Prep holds campus-sponsored activities (for example Field Day, family engagement nights, science fair, etc.) for the enjoyment of YES Prep students. When attending a campus-sponsored activity, students are representing YES Prep and are still in the care of YES Prep Staff. As such, to ensure all campus-sponsored activities are safe and orderly and all YES Prep students are positively represented, students are held to the following expectations:

- Follow all campus rules and polices at the campus-sponsored event (on or off-campus)
- Secure approval for any non-YES Prep guests (see Non-YES Prep Students as Guest section)
- Students leave prior to the end of the activity for any reason may not re-enter the activity

- YES Prep students and their guests may be asked to leave an activity if they conduct themselves in an inappropriate manner or violate any rules set forth in this handbook. No money will be refunded.
- The dress code for each event will be determined by the campus administration. Students and guests who do not meet the dress code expectations will not be allowed to attend the event.
- Students who are absent from 50% or more of the school day are not allowed to attend or participate in any campus-sponsored events (athletic competitions, campus dances, etc.) held on the day they were absent.
- Students expelled from YES Prep are not permitted to attend YES Prep sponsored activities (see section on Expulsion)

Field Trips

YES Prep offers a variety of field trips throughout the year as rewards or additional learning opportunities. Field trips, including overnight trips if offered by the campus, are a privilege for students, and campus administrators have discretion to determine eligibility criteria for all field trips. Criteria may include good academic performance and effort, number of consequences assigned, number of suspensions, total number of absences, and past field trip behavior.

Students who are eligible to participate in field trips and fail to participate without properly notifying the campus will be responsible for paying any unrecoverable expenses incurred by the campus. Students who are ineligible to attend a field trip or who choose not to participate are still required to attend school that day and complete all work left by their teachers.

OPERATIONS

Campus Hours

Our [website](#) features the most updated academic calendars. The following school hours will apply to elementary campuses unless an alternate schedule or school closure is required.

Days	Campus Hours
Monday - Friday	7:25am - 3:00pm

Campus Communication to Families

YES Prep utilizes various technologies to communicate with families. Every technology relies on accurate contact information from guardians to receive messaging in a timely manner. Families should ensure their contact information is up to date and notify the campus front office if a number, emergency contact, email address or physical address has changed.

Families may receive communication from the system and campuses in the following ways:

- Individual phone calls and emails
- Family Notes Newsletter
- Social Media updates (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, etc.)
- Updates through the Hero application on smartphones
- Automated calls, emails, and texts through SchoolMessenger
- Skyward Family Access
- Class Dojo

YES Prep is continually exploring new technologies to better communicate with families and provide updates about student performance, behavior, and campus events. These technologies include Skyward Family Access. Families will receive information about how to sign up for optional updates at campus registration, orientation, and open-house events.

Please leave clear, detailed messages, including a call back number with the family's name, student's name and grade level if leaving a voicemail. Staff email addresses and phone numbers are published on campus websites. Families should expect staff to respond to their emails, calls, and messages in 48 hours or less.

Technology Use

All students will use a YES Prep provided laptop as part of their daily learning experience. By using a YES Prep device, a student agrees to be bound by [YES Prep Student Technology Device Use Agreement and Student Technology Policy](#) including but not limited to, being held responsible for safeguarding YES Prep's equipment, networks, and data and facing consequences for incurred damage. YES Prep policies and procedures may be adjusted from time to time due to the continually changing technology environment that requires adaptation to new conditions. The most updated versions of the YES Prep device policies and procedures, as well as resources and support for families and students, can be found at <https://www.yesprep.org/families/student-tech>.

Child Nutrition

The purpose of Child Nutrition is to ensure that all students are ready to learn by having access to nutritious and appealing campus meals.

All meals are free of charge to students in the 2024-2025 school year. Students who attend YES Prep are encouraged to complete a Family Income Survey (one per household). YES Prep is required to collect and report this information to continue receiving funding for our dynamic education programming.

Families of students who attend YES Prep Hobby Elementary, YES Prep North Rankin Elementary and YES Prep Southwest Oaks Elementary will be required to complete the 24-25 household lunch applications. Students will still eat free, however for our new campuses a household lunch application will need to be completed.

YES Prep's food service provider is Sodexo. Menus can be found on our website at [Student Meals - YES Prep Public Schools](#) and on the Sodexo So Happy App which can be downloaded on the App Store or Google Play Store.

Breakfast, lunch, supper, and snacks are available for students each school day. Guardians and/or people indicated on a student's emergency contact list are welcome to eat with their students following the guidelines indicated in the Individual Campus Supplement. Non-student meal prices are available on our Child Nutrition website at [Student Meals - YES Prep Public Schools](#).

Food Deliveries

YES Prep strongly discourages lunch deliveries to students during the school day as this is a disruption to instruction. If a student forgets their lunch, they are encouraged to eat the school lunch provided daily by Sodexo. The Front Office will accept lunch if it does not become a habit or if it is due to a medical emergency. A guardian is the only individual who may provide food for their student. If lunch is dropped off at the Front Office by a guardian, the student will not be called to the Front Office to get the lunch. See elementary campuses' Individual Campus Supplements for more specific elementary student guidelines.

YES Prep Uniforms

Dress Code Policy

YES Prep Public Schools believes in the power of community and school pride while also deeply valuing a student's right to express their individuality without the fear of unnecessary discipline, body shaming, or the confines of gender norms. Students have the right to be treated equitably and dress code enforcement at YES Prep Public Schools will not create disparities, reinforce, or increase the marginalization of any group, nor will it be unfairly enforced more strictly against a student because of racial identity, ethnicity, gender expression, sexual orientation, cultural or religious identity, household income, body size or type, or body maturity.

YES Prep Public Schools' dress code policy is centered around values of equity and school pride. A dress code allows for individuality and campus-based pride dress options (YES Prep shirts, jackets) allows for community building. The dress code should be met each school day and should meet the expectations of system and campus guidelines. If a student's dress or accessory choice poses a concern for student physical or emotional safety, a campus administrator has the discretion to disallow the dress item.

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YES Prep-based polos and campus spirit shirts or accessories will be sold by YES Prep Public Schools, containing the current school and official YES Prep logo and is distributed by the student's school. YES Prep Public Schools also provides various outerwear options.

Families should refer to the Individual Campus Supplement for details on campus-specific daily expectations.

YES Prep Attire Merchandise

YES Prep attire must be purchased through the YES Prep approved vendor website. The vendor web address is communicated throughout the school year and during summer prior to the start of school. Students are responsible for adhering to the campus dress code on the first day of school through the remainder of the school year.

Students with financial hardship can reach out to their Student Support Counselor for assistance with the purchase of YES Prep attire. Assistance will be determined based on need. For exchanges, returned merchandise should be returned to the front office. For more questions, please reach out to the campus Front Office team.

Backpack Policy

To improve safety measures currently in place, YES Prep Public Schools will require all students to use clear or mesh backpacks. Small non-transparent bags no larger than 6" x 9" will be allowed for personal items, such as school supplies, cellphones, money and hygiene products.

Students participating in extracurricular activities are permitted to carry non-transparent bags to store items pertaining to their activity (i.e., athletics, dance, etc.). Upon entry into school, all extracurricular activity bags must be stored in lockers or designated areas.

Additionally, the maximum size for non-transparent bags permitted to carry during the school day, such as lunch kits and purses, will be 6"x 9"x 5".

Please see more details on the backpack policy, including Frequently Asked questions, at <https://www.yesprep.org/families/safety/backpack-policy>.

School-Sponsored Transportation

The mission of the YES Prep Transportation Department is to provide safe, reliable, and efficient transportation daily so students across the system can get to school and maximize their time in the classroom. YES Prep also offers special transportation as a related service to students in Special Education and McKinney Vento Programs who qualify. For yellow bus services, YES Prep uses two different vendors: First Student and Huerta Bus. For private rideshare services, we use three vendors: FirstAlt, HopSkip Drive, and Adroit

Bus Route Stops

The transportation department creates stops for students who live within the campus priority zone and two or more miles from campus. If a student's residence meets these criteria, a bus stop will be provided within a mile of their home. Elementary and secondary buses operate separately. Siblings in elementary and secondary will not be allowed to ride the same bus.

- Stops are created with the safety of students in mind, and bus stops will be at locations that allow students to wait off the main roadway for the bus if possible.

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- Stops are not placed in private gated communities, cul-de-sacs, or dead-end streets. Bus stops will be located at the corner of intersections that match the distance guidelines.
- Bus stops operated by First Student and Huerta Bus are not scheduled earlier than 6 a.m.
- Questions about eligibility for a bus stop or requests to make changes to a bus stop should be taken to the campus Front Office.

Student Bus Stop Expectations

- Students must be present and ready to be picked up 10 minutes before the scheduled stop time.
- Students are expected to be out of their cars and waiting to board the bus.
- Drivers will not wait for late students.
- Bus drivers are instructed not to stop or open the door for late students once the bus begins to move for safety reasons.
- Students will only be permitted to ride the bus to which they are assigned.

While bus drivers aim to be on time at all stops, they must prioritize safety on the road. If a bus is running late, please reach out directly to the bus yard that corresponds to the campus. This information is available at yesprep.org or at the campus Front Office. Guardians and students may use First View to track a student's bus in the morning and afternoon.

Student Bus Conduct & Behavior

For transportation to run smoothly, students must adhere to the same campus behavior guidelines in this handbook while they are on the school bus. Some additional rules apply while riding the bus, which are detailed below. Any violation of these expectations may result in disciplinary action, including the loss of the privilege of being able to use the school bus.

Students are expected to know and follow bus rules in the following areas.

Before Boarding the Bus

- Arrive at your designated stop at least ten minutes before your scheduled pick-up time. YES Prep will not send a bus to pick you up if you miss your bus because you were late.
- Be careful in the loading area. Wait in an orderly, single line for the bus to arrive and avoid horseplay. Stay off the street while waiting for the bus to arrive.
- Approach the bus entrance only after the bus has come to a complete stop. Pushing or shoving while boarding the bus will not be tolerated.

After Boarding the Bus

- Obey the bus operator's directions.
- Go to the closest available seat or your assigned seat and stay seated until you arrive at your destination. The bus operator may assign you a seat if, in his or her judgement, it is in the best interest of student safety.
- Speak in a classroom voice. Loud speech or laughter causes distractions for the driver. Rough-housing or horseplay on the bus will not be allowed and may result in a loss of transportation privileges.
- Use appropriate language and be courteous to the bus driver and other passengers.
- Keep the bus litter free. No food or drinks may be consumed on the bus.
- If a student causes any damage to or vandalizes a bus, they and/or their guardian will be financially responsible, and the student may permanently lose your transportation privileges.
- Never throw an object inside or out of the bus. Keep all parts of the body (head, hands, and arms) inside the bus.

- Observe the rules of good conduct and show courtesy to everyone. The use of profane language, rude gestures, or malicious behavior toward the bus operator, a fellow passenger, or another motorist will not be tolerated.
- For the safety of all passengers, aisles must be kept clear of all objects such as books, backpacks, musical instruments, packages, and coats.
- Items which are prohibited on school grounds may not be taken on a school bus, such as alcohol, tobacco, drugs, or weapons.

All provisions of the YES Prep Code of Student Conduct apply to students when being transported by YES Prep transportation services. Violations of the YES Prep Code of Student Conduct while on a YES Prep school bus will be referred to the appropriate campus administrator for disciplinary action. Conduct violations may result in a temporary or possible permanent loss of a student's transportation privileges.

Leaving The Bus

- For safety purposes, if you live on the right side (bus exit side) of the street, get off the bus and walk towards the front of the bus so you can be seen by the driver.
- For safety purposes if you live on the left side of the street (across the street from the bus), leave the bus and walk about 15 feet towards the front of the bus. Watch for the driver's signal to indicate it is safe and walk to the left front fender of the bus. Stop and look in both directions to see if it is safe before proceeding across the street. Never cross the street behind the bus.
- For elementary grade level students, the guardian must be ready to receive the student at the bus door with the appropriate bus rider tag and/or photo ID.
- For student safety, students may ride only their assigned bus and be discharged only at their assigned stop. Students must follow the directions of the driver to ensure safety.

Schools Bus Acts of Misconduct

For transportation to run smoothly, students must adhere to the same [Code of Conduct guidelines](#) while they are on the school bus. Some additional rules apply while riding the bus, which are detailed below. Any violation of these expectations may result in disciplinary actions, including the loss of bus riding privilege.

Consequences for School Bus Offenses

Acts of Misconduct	1 st occurrence	2 nd occurrence	3 rd occurrence	4 th occurrence
Level 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written warning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written warning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family meeting • Written warning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family meeting • 1 Day Bus Suspension
Level 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restorative Discipline Practice + Family Meeting • 1-3 Day Bus Suspension 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School Day Detention + Family Meeting • 3-5-day bus suspension 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In school suspension + Family Meeting • 3-5-day bus suspension 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In school suspension + Family Meeting • 3-5-day bus suspension
Level 3 / 4 (Termination)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Out-of-school suspension and possible disciplinary hearing for students who are eligible for out of school suspension. (Exclusions include students who qualify under McKinney-Vento and students in grade PK-2.) • Offenses will result in permanent loss of bus privileges for the remainder of the school year. • Some acts may result in legal consequences. Please refer to the Acts of Misconduct for violation offenses. 			

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YES Prep Public Schools has the discretion based on each incident to modify the above consequence policies. The transportation team reserves the right, when applicable and considering FERPA laws, to show proof of incident to a guardian of a child involved in a specific incident. A written statement of the incident with disciplinary action will be provided. Bus Behavior Contacts are responsible for responding to incident reports in a timely manner.

Student Enrollment and Transfers

Student Change of Address

Guardians must give the Registrar written notification of a student's change of address or phone number so that the campus can provide information to the family on a timely basis. For a change of address, a utility bill (gas, water, or light), lease agreement or address affidavit will need to be submitted to the campus Registrar.

Withdrawal from School

A student withdrawing from campus must be accompanied by a guardian. The family must meet with a campus administrator prior to withdrawing and give the campus 24 hours to obtain withdrawal paperwork. Upon completion of the withdrawal form, all fees and fines must be paid, and all campus-owned materials must be returned in good condition. Any student who withdraws from YES Prep solely to attend another school system and wishes to return to YES Prep will be required to apply for re-entry through the lottery system.

Transfer Policies

YES Prep allows current YES Prep students to transfer to a different YES Prep campus if approval is granted by both Principals and seats are available at the campus of preference.

Requesting A Transfer

To request a student transfer, families should follow these guidelines:

- **Direct Communication:** Families must contact the current campus Registrar directly to initiate the transfer process.
- **Transfer Criteria:** The reason for transfer must align with one of the approved transfer reasons and supporting documentation must be reviewed for approval. The current campus must confirm space availability at the destination campus.
- **Skyward Processing:** All transfer requests are handled through Skyward, the student information platform for managing such requests.
- **Immediate Transfer Requests:** Families seeking immediate transfers should express their desire directly to the Registrar of the current campus.
- **Next Campus Year Transfer Requests:** For transfers planned for the next academic year, families should submit their transfer request to the Registrar, who will then initiate the process via Skyward and begin the transfer process.

Once all criteria are met, the current Registrar will proceed to initiate the Student Transfer Process Manager in Skyward. This ensures a streamlined and efficient transfer process for all parties

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involved. More information on the Student Transfer Process Manager in Skyward will be communicated to families.

Additional Transfer Guidelines

Transfer requests are accepted all year round but are dependent on Principal approval and seat availability at the desired campus. Some requests may also require approval from the Head of School for each campus.

- Transfer requests may take up to 10 business days to be accepted or denied.
- Guardians can request a transfer if the student is currently enrolled at a YES Prep Campus.
- Transportation to and from the campus is only provided to students who live within the transportation zone for their YES Prep campus.

Students in Special Education may also transfer schools in order to access required services. Special Education transfers are initiated by the ARD Committee, and do not require guardian request.

No-Show Policy

YES Prep is committed to serving the maximum number of students possible throughout Houston, and to prepare these students to graduate from college. To meet this goal, YES Prep asks that students return to school in August on the first day of school for YES Prep. The first day of school for YES Prep is published in the YES Prep yearly calendar, is communicated through Family Notes (newsletter distributed by campuses) and is available on the website.

Students who do not return for the first day of school in August are deemed “no-show students”. After the last Friday in August, all no-show students officially lose their seats at YES Prep. The seats formally occupied by no-show students will then become available to students on the YES Prep waiting list if the applicable campus has openings in that grade level.

If the no-show student seeks to return to YES Prep after the last Friday in August, the student will not be allowed to enroll immediately. Instead, the student must complete an application in the lottery to re-enroll. The student will be offered a seat when the student moves to the top of the waitlist for the applicable campus.

School Safety Protocols and Policies

Closed Campus Policy

All students are required to stay on campus throughout the entirety of the school day upon arrival. All students who are leaving campus must have an approved guardian or emergency contact check them out through the Front Office. All guardians must present a valid, non-expired, government-issued form of identification to be confirmed against the student records as authorized to check out the student. Guardians are not allowed to pick up students from any location on campus other than the campus Front Office. Additionally, any guest, including guardians, who are remaining on campus for any reason will need to show proof of ID and will be run against the national sex offender database. Persons required to register as a sex offender—including guardians, and listed emergency contacts—are not allowed to be on campus or campus property at any time. Visitors may not walk around campus unescorted. Persons found walking unescorted will be escorted back to the campus Front Office to check in.

Before and After School Expectations

Students arriving to campus before the official beginning of the school day or staying after campus for activities or pick up by a guardian are required to remain in spaces designated by YES Prep staff to ensure student safety. Students must always be supervised by YES Prep staff while on campus. Students may be subject to disciplinary action for breaking this expectation. Specific procedures for before and after campus expectations, including designated locations for students, are outlined in the Individual Campus Supplement. All students should be collected by a legal guardian 30 minutes after the conclusion of any YES Prep school day and event, activity, or game. See more information about [late pick up](#) in the Compliance section above.

Late to School Policy

Elementary students are considered late to school if they arrive after 7:25 AM. All students who enter the campus after 7:25 AM should enter through the front doors and report directly to the front office to be checked in, receive a tardy pass, and report directly to their scheduled class. Each time a student reports to campus after 7:25 AM, without a valid note from a guardian. For students that are chronically late to school (5 days in a grading cycle) campuses will reach out to the guardian to determine the root cause and work with them toward a resolution. See the Individual Campus Supplement for the campus-specific Late to School Policy.

Emergency School Cancellation

In the event of dangerous weather condition, natural disaster, or some threat to health and/or safety, YES Prep will either cancel or delay the opening of school.

Announcements about campus closures or delays will be made via SchoolMessenger notifications (when information is available), social media and major news channels (whenever possible).

If a YES Prep campus is closed or dismisses early due to an emergency, all after campus activities are cancelled.

Carpool

Any guardian dropping or picking up a student must adhere to all traffic guidelines detailed in the Individual Campus Supplement for each campus or as posted on each applicable campus. This includes observing laws and procedures for Fire Lanes, Traffic lane lines, directional signage, cones, and/or YES Prep Staff member instructions. The approved speed limit on all campus properties is 5 MPH. Failure to adhere to these guidelines may result in the police being called for assistance.

Any traffic violations, infractions, and/or accidents are subject to police investigation. The individual responsible for any damage caused to campus property, persons, or other vehicles on campus property will be held financially liable for their actions.

Fire Lanes

Fire lanes are defined by the Fire Marshal's Office and must always remain clear. Vehicles left parked in a fire lane may be subject to towing at the owner's expense and/or ticketing by the Fire Marshal.

Emergency Drills

All YES Prep campuses are required to run emergency drills and regularly test life safety equipment to ensure readiness in the case of an actual emergency.

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Campuses are required to maintain logs of drills for the school year that include:

- Date of drill
- Time of drill
- Location of drill
- Outcomes
- Lessons learned
- Action items to address

All campuses must run the following drills at the following frequency each year, at a minimum:

- Evacuation (Fire): Monthly
- Evacuation (Fire) with Obstruction: 6 times annually (every other drill)
- Secure: Once per semester
- Shelter: Once per semester (different scenarios – e.g., tornado, hazardous material)
- Lockdown: Once per semester
- Hold: Once per semester

Everyone on campus must participate in drills by order of the Fire Marshal.

Emergency Operations Plan and Training

All campuses have a Multi-hazard Emergency Operations Plan (MEOP) in place that outlines the protocols to execute in the event of an emergency. This plan is reviewed annually. Directors of Campus Operations present this plan to staff during staff in-service at the beginning of August. EOPs are not publicly available but are constructed in accordance with the nationally adopted Incident Command System (ICS).

All staff are required to complete FEMA accredited ICS 100 course on the Incident Command System annually.

Emergency Notification Tools

All campuses are equipped with a notification system in each classroom and in most common areas. In the event of an emergency, this system (called Informacast) will be triggered, and messaging will be sounded throughout the campus.

In the event of an emergency, SchoolMessenger will be used to send either systemwide or campus specific messaging to families to provide an update on the situation. Families may receive an automated phone call or text message alert.

In the event of an emergency, social media platforms are NOT the primary mode of communication. Campus and/or system social media pages may publish updates, but guardians should not rely on these for up-to-date information in an emergency.

In the event of an emergency, guardians should be aware of the guidelines through which campuses handle emergencies. Emergencies may create a chaotic environment on campuses and require first responders to act. Guardians' presence on campuses can hinder the recovery effort or campus staff and first responders. Unless specifically instructed, guardians and other emergency contacts should not come to campus and attempt to pick up a student during an emergency.

INDIVIDUAL CAMPUS SUPPLEMENTS

Many sections in this handbook refer to an "Individual Campus Supplement". The Individual Campus Supplement outlines specific procedures campuses will take in connection with policies outlined in

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this handbook. Individual Campus Supplements for each campus may be found YESPrep.org on the campus page.