

**FAITH ★ FAMILY
ACADEMY**



**Student
Code of Conduct**

Oak Cliff & Waxahachie

**Educate.
Empower.
Inspire.**

FFA Parents and Students are expected to be knowledgeable of and follow all procedures in the Parent/Student Handbook and the Student Code of Conduct.

FFA complies with nondiscrimination provisions of all federal and state laws. FFA admits students without regard to race, religion, color, gender, age, national origin, ethnicity, disability, academic, artistic, or athletic ability, marital status, political belief, limited English proficiency or the district the child would otherwise attend.

FFA will deny admission to students with documented histories of criminal offense, juvenile court adjudication, or discipline problems under TEC Chapter 37, Subchapter A. A student or parent who believes they have been the subject of unlawful discrimination or retaliation may file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights.

Faith Family Academy Student Code of Conduct Copyright ©2025. Unauthorized Reproduction is not allowed.

FAITH FAMILY ACADEMY
STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT
2025-2026

Table of Contents

Application of the Code	4
Expectations for Student Conduct	5
Student Cell Phone Policy	6
Prohibited Conduct	6
Determining Appropriate Discipline	8
Investigation of Discipline Issues	9
Discipline of Students with Special Needs	10
Types of Discipline	11
Detention / In-School Suspension	12
Out-of-School Suspension	12
Reasons for Expulsion	12
Expulsion Process	15
Terms of Expulsion	16
Discipline Appeal Process	17
Truancy	18
Bullying	19
Definitions	20
Bullying Incident Report Form	25

APPLICATION OF THE CODE

The Board of Directors of the Faith Family Academy (“FFA” or the “School”) has adopted this Student Code of Conduct (the “Code”) in accordance with Section 12.131 of the Texas Education Code, in order to clearly communicate standards for expected student conduct, the disciplinary consequences which may be applied to students who violate those standards, and the applicable procedures for the implementation of disciplinary consequences. All students must comply with the Code. Definitions of words and phrases used throughout this Code are provided at the end of the Code.

Parents and students are encouraged to contact campus administration with any questions or concerns regarding the requirements and provisions of the Code. Parents and students are expected to review and be familiar with the provisions of the Code. Lack of knowledge or awareness about any School rules, including this Code, will not excuse violations of the Code. Parents and students will be required to sign a statement acknowledging receipt and understanding of the Code. A copy of this Code is available upon request in the main office of our Oak Cliff and Waxahachie campuses.

The School has the authority to create and enforce rules related to student conduct and behavior while on school property, participating in remote instruction or activities, traveling to or in attendance at a school-sponsored or school-related event or activity, whether on or off campus. The School has the authority to issue disciplinary consequences for certain other student conduct that relates to, affects, or shares a nexus with the School, its students, or its employees regardless of when or where the conduct occurs. The School may also issue discipline based on a student’s use of electronic media, whether on or off campus.

Other School rules, codes or policies may apply to a student’s misconduct and may result in multiple disciplinary consequences issued for the same conduct.

In considering a student’s request for admission, the School may consider the student’s history of a criminal offense(s), juvenile court adjudication(s), or disciplinary problems under subchapter A, Chapter 37 of the Education Code, as evidenced by records received from schools previously attended by the student, law enforcement, or any other relevant documentation, and may exclude the student from admission on this basis.

If a student or the parent of a student who would otherwise be ineligible for admission to the School provides false information on an admissions application or other enrollment document and as a result of the false information is admitted to the School, the student shall be immediately withdrawn from enrollment from the School upon discovery of the falsification. Falsification of information for the purpose of gaining enrollment in a public school is a criminal offense under Section 37.10 of the Texas Penal Code. The School may elect to report the falsification to law enforcement or take any other action permitted by law.

EXPECTATIONS FOR STUDENT CONDUCT

The mission of FFA is to empower and educate the whole child for lifelong success as a responsible leader in the community. To achieve that mission, the School must be an environment safe, secure and free from disruption. Students are expected to demonstrate behavior appropriate to the School's learning environment, to treat other students, School personnel, and visitors to the School with respect. As such, each student is expected to:

1. Behave in a responsible and respectful manner.
2. Demonstrate courtesy and respect for others, especially other students and School personnel.
3. Attend classes and required School activities and events regularly and on time.
4. Prepare for each class and complete assignments on time.
5. Respect the rights and privileges of other students and school personnel, in person and online.
6. Respect and care for School property and facilities.
7. In compliance with Texas House Bill 1481, students must turn off and store all personal communication devices—including cell phones, smartwatches, earbuds, tablets, and other electronic devices capable of messaging or internet access—during instructional time and throughout the school day.
8. Devices must remain off and out of sight from the beginning to the end of the school day unless expressly authorized by a teacher or administrator for instructional or medical purposes as documented in a student's IEP, 504 plan, or health plan. Violations of this policy may result in disciplinary consequences, and unclaimed devices may be subject to disposal after 90 days with prior written notice in accordance with Texas Education Code §37.082(d) and HB 1481. Cooperate with School personnel in maintaining safety, order, and discipline.
9. Promote an environment that does not threaten school safety.
10. Dress appropriately in accordance with the School's dress code.
11. Review and comply with the Student Handbook and other School and campus rules.
12. Obey classroom rules and classroom expectations for behavior.
13. Refrain from physical, verbal or written acts of bullying, whether in person or online; and
14. Avoid violations of this Code.

Students are expected to comply with the school's technology and electronic media use policies and procedures. Students are also expected to demonstrate the same behavior online or while using electronic media as is expected in the classroom, on school property, or at school-related events. Sending, posting, or possessing electronic messages that are disrespectful, disruptive, abusive, obscene, illegal, threatening, harassing, or damaging to another person and disrupts the learning environment and will not be tolerated.

Parent cooperation is essential to achieving the School's mission and ensuring that students learn in a safe, secure, and positive environment. Parental involvement and cooperation are vital in the discipline process. Parents should understand and be familiar with the Code, ensure that his or her child understands and seeks to comply with this Code, and assist the School in counseling students regarding appropriate behavior.

STUDENT CELL PHONE POLICY

For the purpose of this policy, “personal communication device” shall mean:

- Telephone
- Cell phone such as smartphone or flip phone
- Tablet
- Smartwatch
- Radio device
- Paging device
- Or any other electronic device capable of telecommunication or digital communication.

This policy does not include any electronic device that is issued by FFA to student, a device that is used in accordance with a student’s IEP or a device that is considered a medical need as documented in a qualified physician’s note.

Students are not permitted to use personal communication devices during the school day while on school property. Students who bring a cell phone to school will be assigned a personal Yondr pouch with an ID number. Students will be expected to bring their Yondr pouch to school every day and return the pouch in good condition at the end of each school year. On arriving at school – prior to the first bell – students will be expected to place their cell phone on airplane mode and secure the cell phone inside the Yondr pouch which will be stored in student’s backpack or locker. Students may not remove their cell phones from the Yondr pouch during the school day. Students may remove their cell phone from the Yondr pouch at the end of the school day when the student is off school property for the day. All other devices that are not cell phones shall be stored inside a student’s backpack or locker and may only be used at the end of the school day when off school property.

PROHIBITED CONDUCT

The following conduct constitutes a violation of the Code. Any student found to have engaged in such conduct shall be subject to one or more disciplinary consequences as identified within the Code.

General Student Behavior

1. Cursing, using offensive language, name calling, ethnic, racial or gender slurs, other derogatory statements, or yelling.
2. Disrespectful behavior towards adults.
3. Failure to follow directives
4. Disruption of instruction or other school activities or operations.
5. Unexcused or excessive tardiness.
6. False statements or false accusations.
7. Bullying, including cyberbullying.
8. Teasing, or targeting other students; and
9. Displaying or using a telecommunications device, including a cell phone, or other electronic device during the school day in violation of this Code.

Violation of School Rules and Policies

1. Failure to comply with the Student Handbook, or other School or campus rules.
2. Leaving the classroom, School building, mandatory School activities or events, or adult supervision without permission.
3. Skipping a class period or other mandatory activity, in whole or in part, without permission.
4. Violation of School or campus policies or rules related to the use of electronic media, including personal or School-owned electronic devices (e.g., cell phones, tablets, game systems, computers, cameras), or the School's network or Internet connection.
5. Truancy or other failure to attend school without excuse.
6. Defacing, destroying, or otherwise modifying School property without authorization.
7. Taking photographs or making video or audio recordings of students, employees, or other persons, except as part of a classroom assignment and with the explicit consent of a teacher.
8. Soliciting or attempting to solicit another student to violate the Code, School policies and rules, or the law.
9. Taking steps toward violation of the Code, even if the act is not completed, as determined by appropriate School administrator;
10. Failing to follow School directives and classroom rules and expectations;
11. Disobeying rules and expectations regarding School transportation;
12. Inappropriate or unauthorized use of School property, including posting or distributing literature or materials without School authorization; and
13. Intentional and repeated disruption of classroom setting.

Violent, Illegal, and Other Serious Offenses

1. Possession of prohibited items.
2. Conduct which meets the elements of a criminal offense, as determined by the School or the Texas Penal Code;
3. Deadly conduct
4. Disorderly conduct of firearm and/or unlawful carrying of firearm
5. Physical, verbal, or sexual harassment of others.
6. Inappropriate physical or sexual behavior, including jokes, comments, gestures, or unwelcome physical conduct or contact.
7. Hazing or initiations.
8. Participation in a gang, soliciting or attempting to solicit participation in a gang.
9. Possessing, distributing, using, or being under the influence of tobacco products, CBD, THC, electronic cigarettes/vape pens, drugs, alcohol, or controlled substances, including prescription drugs if the student has not been prescribed the drugs or is taking the drugs in excess of the dosage specified by the prescription.
10. Possessing drug paraphernalia.
11. Stealing, lying, cheating, or copying the work of another without authorization (plagiarism), or the use of any form of artificial intelligence on a class assignment or project, including but not limited to chat GPT, Bing Chat, Google Bard, Perplexity AI, Jasper, YouChat, Chatsonic, Midjourney Bot or other similar applications, unless teacher authorized.
12. Deliberately, and without School authorization, accessing, damaging, or altering School data and records, including, but not limited to, confidential records, electronic data, networks, or systems.
13. Violence of any kind, including dating violence.
14. Fighting
15. Gambling
16. Setting or attempting to set a fire.
17. Inappropriate or indecent exposure of body parts.
18. Retaliation of any form against other students or School personnel.
19. Conduct which requires the student's registration as a sex offender.
20. Possession or distribution of pictures, text messages, electronic messages, or other material of a sexual or obscene nature.
21. Engaging in oral or written threats of any kind of violence or violent acts.
22. Endangering the health or safety of others; and
23. Other conduct as identified within this Student Code of Conduct or provided under Chapter 37 of the Texas Education Code .

DETERMINING APPROPRIATE DISCIPLINE

Depending on the nature and severity of the offense, discipline may be issued by the student's classroom teacher, campus administrator, or administrator's designee, in accordance with this Code. In order to make a determination of misconduct or issue disciplinary consequences under this Code, the authorized School employee must have a reasonable belief that the student engaged in the suspected conduct. The employee's conclusion may be based on any relevant evidence including, but not limited to, observation, other personal knowledge, verbal or written witness statements, other forms of documentation, or information received from law enforcement.

In reaching a decision regarding a student discipline matter, the School may consider the specific facts and circumstances of the situation, including but not limited to:

- The student's intent
- The student's age and grade level
- The student's past disciplinary history
- Whether the student's conduct may have been the manifestation of a disability.
- The extent of the student's cooperation during the investigation of the matter.
- The nature and severity of the alleged conduct
- Whether the student has previously engaged in similar conduct.
- Whether self-defense was involved.
- The student's remorsefulness for the conduct.
- The severity of the effect or harm of the conduct on other persons or property.
- The frequency of the conduct.

The School may issue discipline based on a determination that a student has engaged in conduct which meets the elements of a criminal offense. The School has the authority to make such a determination without regard for whether the student is arrested, charged, or otherwise processed by the criminal justice system for the criminal offense. The School may consider information received from law enforcement or other entities within the criminal justice system in issuing discipline under this Code.

Disciplinary actions will not be based on a student's race, ethnicity, national origin, gender, sex, religion, disability, or any other unlawful consideration.

INVESTIGATION OF DISCIPLINE ISSUES

In order to determine whether a violation of the Code has occurred, campus administrators or other authorized individuals may conduct an investigation. Investigations of student misconduct may involve, but are not limited to, interviews of other students, employees, and adults, review of School surveillance footage, review of relevant documents, review of information on School-owned computers, verification of tips received from other individuals, gathering of physical evidence, contact or cooperation with law enforcement agencies and officials. Law enforcement may be contacted and informed of student conduct which may constitute a criminal offense.

Students should have no expectation of privacy with respect to School-owned property. Lockers, desks, and other items provided for student use remain School property, and students do not have a reasonable expectation of privacy in School property or in personal items placed inside School property. School administrators or other authorized personnel may monitor and search student desks and lockers for any reason. School officials may search any School property, including School property that is within a student's possession or otherwise being used by a student, at any time, with or without notice to the student and without consent. School officials may confiscate any items found during a search, including prohibited items, dangerous items, or other items that violate School policy.

A student's person or property may be searched by authorized School officials if the official has a reasonable belief that the search will result in the discovery of evidence of a violation of the Code or of the law. Any personal property which is brought onto School property or to a School-sponsored or School-related activity or event, on or off School property, may be subject to search (e.g., student cell phone, backpack, personal computer, purse, car, etc.).

DISCIPLINE OF STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Students eligible for services under the Individuals with Disabilities in Education Act (IDEA) or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Section 504) are subject to discipline under those laws and in accordance with the provisions of this Code.

The School may take disciplinary action pertaining to the use or possession of illegal drugs or alcohol against any student with a disability under Section 504 who is currently engaging in the illegal use of drugs or in the use of alcohol to the same extent that the School would take disciplinary action against nondisabled students. The due process procedures afforded under Section 504 do not apply to disciplinary action for the use or possession of illegal drugs or alcohol. However, a student who is eligible for special education under the IDEA should have a manifestation determination review conducted to address any use or possession of illegal drugs or alcohol if such conduct could result in a change of placement.

Any disciplinary action that would constitute a “change in the placement” of a student receiving special education services requires a student’s Admission, Review, and Dismissal (ARD) committee to conduct a manifestation determination review in order to determine whether the student’s conduct was a manifestation of his or her disability. A manifestation determination review (MDR) should be held as soon as possible, but not later than ten school days after the decision is made to change the student’s placement.

A change in placement occurs if a student is:

1. Removed from the student’s current educational placement for more than ten consecutive school days; or
2. Subjected to a series of removals that constitute a pattern because:
 - a. The series of removals total more than ten school days in a school year;
 - b. The student’s behavior is substantially similar to the student’s behavior in the previous incidents that resulted in the series of removals; and
 - c. Additional factors exist, such as the length of each removal, the total amount of time the student is removed, and the proximity of the removals to one another.

The School will determine, on a case-by-case basis, whether a pattern of removals constitutes a change in placement.

A student who has not been determined eligible for special education services and who has engaged in behavior that violates the Code is entitled to the protections under the IDEA regarding discipline of a student with special needs described above if the school has knowledge that the student was a student with a disability before the behavior that precipitated the disciplinary action occurred. If the school does not have knowledge that a student is a student with a disability prior to taking disciplinary action, the student may be subject to the disciplinary actions applied to students without disabilities. If a request is made for an evaluation of a student during the time period in which the student is subjected to disciplinary action, the evaluation shall be conducted in an expedited manner. Refer to Campus Principal for more information regarding special education services.

TYPES OF DISCIPLINE

Available disciplinary consequences include:

- Parent conference
- Verbal correction
- Counseling
- Conference with teacher or administrator
- Education/training
- Improvement plan
- Community service
- School-related assigned tasks or duties
- Loss or restriction of privileges (e.g., eligibility to hold special positions, exemption from exams, etc.)
- Consequences related to student participation in extracurricular activities, including removal, suspension, or restriction of participation
- Removal from class to campus office
- Issuance of demerits
- Confiscation of items
- Detention
- In-School Suspension
- Other alternative placement
- Out-of-School Suspension and
- Expulsion.

One or more of these disciplinary consequences may be issued to a student found to have violated the Code. If the Code does not specify the appropriate disciplinary consequence for a particular type of student conduct, the School may issue whatever disciplinary consequence is deemed reasonable and appropriate, with the exception of expulsion. A teacher may have additional rules and consequences for student conduct in the classroom which may result in discipline under this Code or may be enforced in addition to any discipline issued under this Code.

If a student withdraws from the School before completing assigned In-School Suspension, Out-of-School Suspension, or Expulsion, the School shall send documentation of the discipline to the next school that enrolls the student. If a student withdraws from the School before the expulsion process is completed, the School may choose to complete the expulsion process and send documentation of the expulsion decision to the next school that enrolls the student. If the student returns to enroll in the School at a later date and has not been required to complete the disciplinary consequences previously required, the School may require the student to complete the discipline upon return.

The Code shall be applied and enforced consistently and equitably among students, with the understanding that every disciplinary situation will differ, and decisions will be made based on the individual facts and circumstances of a given situation.

DETENTION / IN-SCHOOL SUSPENSION

A student may be assigned to one or more sessions of detention or placed in In-School Suspension for engaging in prohibited conduct under this Code. The student's parent or guardian will be notified by phone and in writing of the student's conduct and assignment to detention or In-School Suspension. **Detention** will be held outside of instructional time, either before or after school or during lunch period.. **In-School Suspension** will require the student to report to the In-School Suspension classroom for all or part of one or more school days. While in In-School Suspension, the student will be provided the appropriate class assignments and will be expected to complete those assignments as if the student were in the regular classroom.

OUT-OF-SCHOOL SUSPENSION

A student may be suspended for one or more school days for engaging in prohibited conduct under this Code. The student's parent or guardian will be notified by phone and in writing of the student's conduct and the length of the period of suspension. A student may not be suspended for more than three (3) consecutive school days. During a period of suspension, the suspended student may not enter onto School property or participate in or attend School-sponsored or School-related events or activities. The student's teachers will provide assignments that the student will be expected to complete during the period of suspension. Student assignments or other class work completed during a period of suspension will be accepted for grading if completed in a timely fashion.

A student who is homeless, as that term is defined in federal law for homeless children and youth, cannot receive an Out-of-School Suspension, unless the student engages in conduct that contains the elements of an offense related to weapons or a violent offense, or unless the student engages in selling, giving, or delivering to another person or possessing, using, or being under the influence of marijuana or a controlled substance, a dangerous drug, or an alcoholic beverage.

REASONS FOR EXPULSION

A student may be expelled from the School if he or she is found to have committed any of the acts listed below.

1. **Weapons.** The student used, exhibited, or possessed any of the following while on School property or while attending a School-sponsored or School-related activity on or off School property:
 - a. A firearm
 - b. A location-restricted knife (5 ½ inches or more)
 - c. A club or
 - d. A prohibited weapon.

2. **Violent Conduct.** The student engaged in conduct that contains the elements of the following offenses within the Texas Penal Code, regardless of location:
 - a. Aggravated assault, sexual assault, aggravated sexual assault, arson, murder, capital murder, criminal attempt to commit murder or capital murder, indecency with a child, aggravated kidnapping, aggravated robbery, manslaughter, criminally negligent homicide, or continuous sexual abuse of a child or children
 - b. Assault against another student, an employee, or a volunteer of the School
 - c. Deadly conduct
 - d. Kidnapping or
 - e. A Title V felony under the Penal Code.
3. **Disruptions.** The student engaged in conduct that contains the elements of the following offenses within the Texas Penal Code, regardless of location:
 - a. False alarm or report (including a bomb threat) or terroristic threat involving a public school
 - b. An offense related to an abusable volatile chemical
 - c. Breach of computer security if the conduct involves accessing a computer network, or computer system owned by or operated on behalf of a public school and the student knowingly alters, damages, or deletes school property or information or commits a breach of any other computer, computer network, or computer system
 - d. Criminal mischief, if the conduct is punishable as a felony; or
 - e. Hazing, public lewdness or indecent exposure.
4. **Drugs and Alcohol.** The student engaged in conduct that contains the elements of the following offenses within the Texas Penal Code:
 - a. On School property, at School-sponsored or School-related event, or within 300 feet of School property:
 - i. Sells, gives, or delivers to another person, or possesses, uses, or is under the influence of any amount of marijuana, controlled substance, dangerous drug, or alcoholic beverage; or
 - b. Regardless of location:
 - i. sells, gives, delivers to another person, or possesses, uses or is under the influence of any amount of a controlled substance, marijuana or a dangerous drug, as defined by the Health and Safety Code. A student with a valid prescription for low-THC cannabis as authorized by Chapter 487 of the Health and Safety Code does not violate this provision; or
 - ii. Sells, gives, delivers to another person an alcoholic beverage, as defined by the Alcoholic Beverage Code, commits a serious act or offense while under the influence of alcohol, or possesses, uses, or is under the influence of an alcoholic beverage.
5. **Bullying.** The student, regardless of location:
 - a. Engages in bullying that encourages a student to commit or attempt to commit suicide;
 - b. Incites violence against a student through group bullying; or
 - c. Releases or threatens to release intimate visual material of a minor or a student who is 18 years of age or older without the student's consent.

6. **Other.** The student, while on campus or at a School-sponsored or School-related event, on or off campus:
 - a. Engages in conduct that constitutes a felony
 - b. Commits an assault; or
 - c. Commits frequent violations of this Code that cause significant disruption to the School environment or substantial interference with the instructional process.

EXPULSION PROCESS

If the School administrator or administrator's designee determines that the student's conduct warrants expulsion, the administrator shall provide written notice to the parent, guardian, or adult student of the proposed expulsion of the student. The written notice shall also include the reason(s) for the proposed expulsion and the date, time, location, and procedure for the expulsion hearing. The student is entitled to a hearing with the campus administrator during which the student and/or the student's representative (e.g., parent, guardian, attorney, other) will have the opportunity to review and present evidence and information. The campus administrator may place reasonable restrictions on the conduct of the hearing, including the length of the presentations. At the end of the hearing, the campus administrator may issue a decision immediately or may wait until a later date to communicate a decision. The administrator shall send written communication of the decision to the parent, guardian, or adult student. If the administrator determines that expulsion is appropriate, the written decision ("Expulsion Order") shall include the length of the term of expulsion.

The parent, guardian, or adult student may choose to voluntarily waive the right to an expulsion hearing by signing a hearing waiver form provided with the notice of proposed expulsion. If the hearing is waived, the administrator will review the relevant evidence and issue a written decision to the parent as described above.

The School will notify the independent school district in which the student resides of the student's expulsion within three business days of the Expulsion Order.

TERMS OF EXPULSION

The period of expulsion may be determined by many factors, including the severity of the conduct and the existence of a continuing risk of harm to other students and employees if the student were allowed to return. An expulsion may be temporary or permanent. A **temporary expulsion** may range in length from 4 school days to one calendar year. A **permanent expulsion** allows the School to deny future admission to the student based on consideration of the student's past disciplinary history. In each instance, the Expulsion Order must explain the circumstances which justify the length of the expulsion.

A student expelled from the School for any length of time may not be eligible for readmission to the School. In considering the readmission of a student upon expiration of the period of expulsion, the School will consider, among other factors, the length of the expulsion, the nature of the violation that lead to the expulsion, and the circumstances justifying the expulsion.

During a period of expulsion, the student is prohibited from entering onto any School property and attending any School-sponsored or School-related events. Failure to comply with this prohibition will result in the filing of criminal trespass charges against the student. Except as otherwise required by law, students will not receive educational services or receive course credits during a period of expulsion.

DISCIPLINE APPEAL PROCESS

With the exception of expulsions, student discipline decisions at the campus level are final and not appealable. A parent, legal guardian, or adult student may appeal an expulsion decision by filing a written appeal with the Superintendent within 5 business days of the date of the Expulsion Order. The Superintendent or Superintendent's designee will review the record of the expulsion proceedings at the campus level, along with any other relevant information, and will issue a written decision to the appealing party within 10 business days of receiving the request for review.

If the appealing party is not satisfied with the decision of the Superintendent or Superintendent's designee, he or she may appeal that decision to the FFA Board of Directors by filing a request for review with the Superintendent's office within 5 business days of the date of the decision. The Superintendent shall notify the Board of Directors and arrange for the Board to hear the complaints of the appealing party at the next available board meeting. The Superintendent shall notify the appealing party of the location, date, and time of the hearing in front of the Board of Directors. The decision of the governing body is final and not appealable. Enforcement of an Expulsion Order will not be delayed during the appeal process.

TRUANCY

State compulsory attendance law requires that every child at least ages 6 and younger than 19 years of age attend school. The School enforces the compulsory attendance laws by ensuring the regular attendance of currently enrolled students through the application of truancy prevention measures and, if necessary, referral of students to truancy court.

A student's absence is excused if the absence is specifically authorized by School policy or rule or is otherwise approved by the campus administrator. Any absence that is not excused shall be considered an "unexcused" absence.

The School will provide written notice to parents if their student has incurred three (3) unexcused absences (including partial day absences) in a four-week period, and will begin the implementation of truancy prevention measures, which shall include one of the following:

1. The creation of a behavior improvement plan that includes a specific description of required or prohibited behavior, the period of the plan's effectiveness (not to exceed 45 days), and penalties for additional absences
2. School-based community service or
3. Referral to counseling, mentoring, teen court, community-based services, or other services to address the student's truancy.

A student will be considered "truant" if the student fails to attend school, without excuse, on 10 or more days or parts of days within a six-month period in the same school year. A student, who is at least 12 years of age and younger than 19 years of age, may be referred to truancy court within 10 days of the student's 10th unexcused absence. In rare occasions, parents may also be subject to prosecution for criminal negligence if the parent fails to secure the student's attendance as further detailed below. FFA shall notify a student's parent in writing at the beginning of the school year that if the student is absent from school on 10 or more days or parts of days within a six-month period in the same school year that 1) the student's parent is subject to prosecution under Section 25.093 of the Texas Education Code and 2) the student is subject to referral to a truancy court for truant conduct Section 65.003(a) of the Texas Family Code

Before the School makes a referral to truancy court, the School's Truancy Prevention Facilitator will create and oversee the implementation of truancy prevention measures for the student. The School will not refer a student to truancy court if the student's truancy is the result of pregnancy, foster care, homelessness, or because the student is the principal income earner for their family and instead may offer additional counseling for the student.

If a student is 19 or older and has more than 3 unexcused absences in one semester, the School will issue a warning letter to the student that states enrollment can be revoked after 5 unexcused absences. As an alternative to revoking enrollment, the School may require the student to comply with a behavior improvement plan to address the student's lack of attendance. If the student fails to comply with the behavior improvement plan, the School may revoke the student's enrollment.

BULLYING

Bullying is strictly prohibited and FFA may implement a variety of different techniques – both educational and disciplinary in nature – in order to eliminate bullying between students.

Students may face disciplinary consequences for bullying conduct that:

1. occurs on or is delivered to School property or to the site of a School-sponsored or School-related activity on or off School property
2. occurs on a publicly or privately owned school bus or vehicle being used for transportation of students to or from School or a School-sponsored or School-related activity or
3. is considered cyberbullying that occurs off School property or outside of a School-sponsored or School-related activity, if the cyberbullying interferes with a student's educational opportunities or substantially disrupts the orderly operation of a classroom, School, or School-sponsored or School-related activity.

Students who engage in certain bullying behavior may be expelled from FFA. Any student who, after an investigation, is found to be a victim of bullying and used reasonable self-defense in response to the bullying will not be subject to disciplinary action on the basis of the student's reasonable use of self-defense.

Students are encouraged to report an alleged incident of bullying immediately to the Campus Principal or to any teacher, Intervention Specialist, administrator, or other campus employee. Reports may be made orally or in writing, and reports may be made anonymously. A Bullying Incident Report Form is included at the end of this Code; however, use of a form is not required to make a report. Refer to campus administrators for additional information. No student or other person shall retaliate against any other student or other person who reports bullying. The School will promptly launch an investigation into the reported incident pursuant to the FFA Parent/Student Handbook. The School will notify the parent(s) of the alleged victim on or before the third business day after the incident is reported and the parent(s) of the alleged bully within a reasonable amount of time after the incident pursuant to the FFA Parent/Student Handbook.

Students who are victims of bullying, witnesses of bullying, or who engage in bullying have the following counseling options available: peer mediation, "stay away" agreement/contract, and/or counseling sessions.

The principal or a designated staff member may report acts of bullying that constitute assault or harassment to the local law enforcement office.

DEFINITIONS

The following definitions are provided to further detail and define the terms of this Code. The Board of Directors shall have final authority to interpret or amend any terms or provisions within this Code.

Abusable volatile chemicals: Those substances as defined in Texas Health and Safety Code § 485.001.

Alcoholic Beverage: Those substances as defined in Texas Alcoholic Beverage Code § 1.04.

Antisemitism: A certain perception of Jews that may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. The term includes rhetorical and physical acts of antisemitism directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals or their property or toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities. Examples of antisemitism are included with the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's "Working Definition of Antisemitism" adopted on May 26, 2016.

Assault: Intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly causing bodily injury to another; intentionally or knowingly threatening another with imminent bodily injury; or intentionally or knowingly causing physical contact with another that can reasonably be regarded as offensive or provocative.

Bodily Injury: Physical pain, illness, or impairment of a physical condition.

Bullying: A single significant act or a pattern of acts by one or more students directed at another student that exploits an imbalance of power and involves engaging in written or verbal expression, expression through electronic means, or physical conduct that (1) has the effect or will have the effect of physically harming a student, damaging a student's property, or placing a student in reasonable fear of harm to the student's person or of damage to the student's property; (2) is sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive enough that the action or threat creates an intimidating, threatening, or abusive educational environment for a student; (3) materially and substantially disrupts the educational process or the orderly operation of a classroom or school; or (iv) infringes on the rights of the victim at school. Bullying includes cyberbullying.

Club: An instrument specially designed, made, or adapted for the purpose of inflicting serious bodily injury or death by striking a person with the instrument, including, but not limited to, a blackjack, nightstick, mace, and tomahawk.

Controlled Substance: A substance, including a drug, an adulterant, and a dilutant, listed in Schedules I through V or Penalty Group 1, 1-A, 1-B, 2, 2-A, 3, or 4 of the Texas Controlled Substances Act. The term includes the aggregate weight of any mixture, solution, or other substance containing a controlled substance. The term does not include hemp, as defined by Agriculture Code 121.001, or the tetrahydrocannabinols (THC) in hemp.

Cyberbullying: Bullying that is done through the use of any electronic communication device, including a cell phone or other phone, a computer, a camera, e-mail, an Internet website, or any other Internet-based communication tool. Cyberbullying includes conduct that occurs off School property or outside of a School-sponsored or School-related activity if it (1) interferes with a student's educational opportunities, or (2) substantially disrupts the orderly operation of a classroom, School, or School-sponsored or School-related activity.

Dangerous Drug: Substances as defined in Chapter 483 of the Texas Health and Safety Code.

Deadly Conduct: Recklessly engaging in conduct that places another in imminent danger of serious bodily injury or knowingly discharging a firearm in the direction of an individual, habitation, building, or vehicle.

~~**Deadly Weapon:** A firearm or anything manifestly designed, made, or adapted for the purpose of inflicting~~

death or serious bodily injury or anything that in the manner of its use or intended use is capable of causing death or serious bodily injury.

E-cigarette: An electronic cigarette or any other device, including Juuls, that simulates smoking by using a mechanical heating element, battery, or electronic circuit to deliver nicotine or other substances to the individual inhaling from the device including any component, part, or accessory for the device and regardless of whether the device is manufactured, distributed, or sold as an e-cigarette. The term does not include a prescription medical device unrelated to the cessation of smoking.

Electronic media: Refers to all forms, kinds, and types of electronic devices, communication systems, networks, software, websites, and any other technology resources including, but not limited to, social media, text messaging, instant messaging, electronic mail (e-mail), Web logs (blogs), electronic forums (chat rooms), video-sharing or file sharing Web sites, cellular telephones, portable electronic devices, computers.

Explosive Weapon: Any explosive or incendiary bomb, grenade, rocket, or mine that is designed, made, or adapted for the purpose of inflicting serious bodily injury, death, or substantial property damage, or for the principal purpose of causing such a loud report as to cause undue public alarm or terror. It includes a device designed, made, or adapted for delivery or shooting an explosive weapon.

False alarm or report: Knowingly initiating, communicating, or circulating a report of a present, past, or future bombing, fire, offense, or other emergency that is known to be false or baseless and that would ordinarily: (1) cause action by an official or volunteer agency organized to deal with emergencies; (2) place a person in fear of imminent serious bodily injury; or (3) prevent or interrupt the occupation of a building, room, or place of assembly.

Fighting: Two or more persons engaged in any mutual violent or physically aggressive contact toward each other such as scuffling, pushing, shoving, or hitting.

Firearm (federal): (1) any weapon, including a starter gun that will, is designed to, or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive; (2) the frame or receiver of any such weapon; (3) any firearm muffler or firearm weapon; or (4) any destructive device, such as an explosive, incendiary, or poison gas bomb, or grenade.

Firearm (state): Any device designed, made, or adapted to expel a projectile through a barrel by using the energy generated by an explosion or burning substance or any device readily convertible to that use.

Gang: An organization, combination, or association of persons composed wholly or in part of students that: (1) seeks to perpetuate itself by taking in additional members on the basis of the decision of the membership rather than on the free choice of the individual, or (2) that engages in illegal and/or violent activities. In identifying gangs and associated gang attire, signs, or symbols, the School will consult with law enforcement authorities.

Harassment (as defined by federal law): Threatening to cause harm or bodily injury to another, engaging in intimidating conduct, causing physical damage to the property of another, subjecting another to physical confinement or restraint, maliciously taking any action that substantially harms another's physical or emotional health or safety, or other conduct prohibited by School policy that is so severe, persistent, or pervasive that it has the purpose or effect of substantially or unreasonably interfering with a student's performance; creates an intimidating, threatening, hostile, or offensive educational environment; affects a student's ability to participate in or benefit from an educational program or activity; or otherwise adversely affects the student's educational opportunities. See also definition of Sexual Harassment, below.

Harassment (as defined by the Penal Code): Actions against another person with intent to harass, annoy, alarm, abuse, torment, or embarrass, whereby the student initiates the communication and makes a makes a

comment, request, suggestion, or proposal that is obscene; threatens, in a manner reasonably likely to alarm the person receiving the threat, to inflict bodily injury on the person or to commit a felony against the person, a member of the person's family or household, or the person's property; conveys, in a manner reasonably likely to alarm the person receiving the report, a false report, which is known by the student to be false, that another person has suffered death or serious bodily injury; causes the telephone of another to ring repeatedly or making repeated telephone communications anonymously or in a manner reasonably likely to harass, annoy, alarm, abuse, torment, embarrass, or offend another; makes a telephone call and intentionally failing to hang up or disengage the connection; knows permitting a telephone under the person's control to be used by another to commit an offense under this section; sends repeated electronic communications in a manner reasonably likely to harass, annoy, alarm, abuse, torment, embarrass, or offend another person; publishes on an internet website, including a social media platform, repeated electronic communications in a manner reasonably likely to cause emotional distress, abuse, or torment to another person, unless the communications are made in connection with a matter of public concern, as defined by law; or making obscene, intimidating, or threatening telephone calls or other electronic communications from a temporary or disposable telephone number provided by an internet application or other technological means.

Hazing: Any act, occurring on or off the campus, by one person alone or acting with others, directed against a student, for the purposes of pledging, initiation into, affiliation with, holding office in, or maintaining membership in an organization, if the act constitutes any type of physical brutality, involves sleep deprivation, exposure to the elements, confinement in a small space, calisthenics, or other similar activity that subjects the student to an unreasonable risk of harm or that adversely affects the mental or physical health or safety of the student, or involves the consumption of a food, liquid, alcoholic beverage, liquor, drug, or other substance, including in amounts that would lead a reasonable person to believe the student is intoxicated. Hazing includes soliciting, encouraging, directing, aiding, or attempting to aid another student in engaging in hazing, as well as having firsthand knowledge of the planning or occurrence of a specific student hazing incident without reporting the incident to a school administrator in writing. Consent to or acquiescence in the hazing activity does not excuse the student of responsibility for the misconduct.

Intent: The design, resolve, determination, or state of mind with which a person acts, ordinarily proven through inferences drawn from the act and/or circumstances surrounding the act. Intent includes the conscious objective or desire to engage in the conduct or cause the result, an awareness that the conduct is reasonably certain to cause the result, or disregard of a substantial and justifiable risk when there is an awareness that the circumstances exist. or the result will occur. The fact that a student may not have been motivated by a desire to violate the SCC does not preclude imposing a disciplinary consequence so long as the student intended to engage in the underlying conduct that violated the SCC.

Indecent Exposure: Those acts defined in Texas Penal Code 8 21.08 as an offense that occurs when a person exposes his or her anus or any part of his or her genitals with intent to arouse or gratify the sexual desire of any person and is reckless about whether another is present who will be offended or alarmed by the act.

Intimate visual material: visual material that depicts a person: (1) with the person's intimate parts exposed; or (2) engaged in sexual conduct.

Knife: A bladed hand instrument that is capable of inflicting serious bodily injury or death by cutting or stabbing, including a switchblade.

Location-restricted knife: A knife with a blade over 5 and one-half inches.

On or about his or her person: Within the student's control and within arm's reach.

Paraphernalia: Any article or device used or intended for use to inject, ingest, inhale, or otherwise introduce marijuana, a controlled substance, or a dangerous drug into the human body, including but not limited to roach clips, rolling papers, needles, baggies with residue, razor blades, bong, and pipes.

Personal communication device:

- Telephone
- Cell phone such as smartphone or flip phone
- Tablet
- Smartwatch
- Radio device
- Paging device
- Or any other electronic device capable of telecommunication or digital communication.

Possession: Regardless of the student's knowledge or intent to possess the item, to have in or on: (1) a student's person or in the student's personal property, such as the student's clothing, purse, or backpack; (2) in any vehicle used by the student for transportation to or from school or school-related activities, such as an automobile, truck, motorcycle, or bicycle; or (3) any other school property used by the student, such as a locker or desk.

Prohibited item: Includes but is not limited to (1) alcoholic beverages, marijuana, controlled substances, or dangerous drugs; (2) paraphernalia; (3) prohibited weapons; (4) any other item prohibited by this Code.

Prohibited weapons: Includes the following items: armor-piercing ammunition, chemical dispensing device, explosive weapon, firearm silencer, knuckles, machine gun, short-barrel firearm, switchblade knife, zip gun, taser gun, or tire deflation device

Public lewdness: Those acts defined in Texas Penal Code § 21.07 as an offense that occurs when a person knowingly engages in an act of sexual intercourse, deviate sexual intercourse, or sexual contact in a public place or, if not in a public place, is reckless about whether another is present who will be offended or alarmed by the act.

Reasonable Belief: A determination that misconduct occurred, made by the administrator using all available factual and legal information, and must consider the information furnished in the notice of a student's arrest under Article 15.27 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

Retaliation: Harming or threatening to harm another: (1) on account of their service as a School employee or volunteer, (2) to prevent or delay another's service to the School, or (3) because the person intends to report a crime or violation of this Code.

Self-defense: When the person who is not the aggressor in an encounter uses the minimum force required to remove himself or herself from immediate danger of harm. Actions that escalate or continue the encounter will not be considered self-defense.

Sex offender: A person required to register as a sex offender under Chapter 62 of the Code of Criminal Procedure for an offense committed on or after September 1, 2007. The term does not include a person who: (1) is no longer required to register as a sex offender under Chapter 62, (2) is exempt from registering as a sex offender under Chapter 62, or (3) receives an early termination of the obligation to register as a sex offender under Chapter 62.

Sexual harassment: Unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal, nonverbal, or physical conduct of a sexual nature, or conduct on the basis of sex prohibited by School policy, when it is so severe, persistent, pervasive, and objectively offensive that it has the purpose or effect of effectively denying a person equal access to an educational program or activity. Any conduct by a person conditioning the provision of aid or a service on an individual's participation in unwelcome sexual conduct (quid pro quo conduct). Conduct that meets the definitions of sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, or stalking under federal law.

Soliciting: Requesting, commanding, or attempting to induce another student to engage in specific conduct that would constitute a violation of the Code, and with the intent that a violation of the Code be committed.

Short-barrel firearm: A rifle with a barrel length of less than 16 inches or a shotgun with a barrel length of less than 18 inches, or any weapon made from a rifle or shotgun if, as altered, it has an overall length of less than 26 inches.

Switchblade knife: Any knife with a blade that folds, closes, or retracts into the handle or sheath and that opens automatically by pressing a button or other device located on the handle or opens or releases a blade from the handle or sheath by the force of gravity or centrifugal force.

Terroristic threat: Threats to commit an offense involving violence to any person or property with intent to: (1) cause a reaction by an official or volunteer agency organized to deal with emergencies; (2) place any person in fear of imminent serious bodily injury; (3) prevent or interrupt the occupation or use of a building, room, place of assembly, place to which the public has access, place of employment or occupation, aircraft, automobile, or other form of conveyance, or other public place; (4) cause impairment or interruption of public communications, public transportation, public water, gas, or power supply or other public service; (5) place the public or a substantial group of the public in fear of serious bodily injury; or (6) influence the conduct or activities of a branch or agency of the federal government, the state, or a political subdivision of the state (including the School).

Title 5 felony offenses: Offenses against the person that, depending on the circumstances, may include the following offenses under the Penal Code: murder; capital murder; transport; assault; aggravated assault; sexual assault; aggravated sexual assault; improper relationship between educator and student; indecency with a child; injury to a child, an elderly person, or a disabled person; abandoning or endangering a child; improper photography or visual recording; coercing, soliciting, or inducing gang membership; deadly conduct; terroristic threat; aiding a person to commit suicide; harassment by a person in a correctional facility; continuous sexual abuse of a young child or children; and tampering with a consumer product.

Under the influence: When in an employee's professional judgment, the student does not have the normal use of mental or physical faculties likely attributable to the student's use of marijuana, a controlled substance, dangerous drug or alcoholic beverage. Such impairment may be evidenced by the symptoms typically associated with drug or alcohol use or other abnormal or erratic behavior. The student need not be legally intoxicated.

Use: With respect to substances, voluntarily injecting, ingesting, inhaling, or otherwise introducing a prohibited substance into the body. With respect to objects or devices, putting into action or service or carrying out an action or purpose with the object or device.

Zip gun: A device or combination of devices that was not originally a firearm and is adapted to expel a projectile through a smooth-bore or rifled-bore barrel by using the energy generated by an explosion or burning substance.

BULLYING INCIDENT REPORT FORM

This form may be used to report alleged bullying. Bullying is strictly prohibited at Faith Family Academy. Students, parents, and guardians may report the bullying of a student to any School employee (including campus administrators, Intervention Specialists, nurses, teachers, etc.), either orally or in writing.

FFA will investigate and address any alleged bullying that:

1. occurs on School property, or
2. at a School-sponsored or School-related activity on or off School property
3. occurs on a School bus or other vehicle (privately owned or owned by the School) used for transportation of students to or from School or a School-sponsored or School-related activity; or
4. constitutes cyberbullying if the cyberbullying has interfered with a student's educational opportunities or substantially disrupts the orderly operation of a classroom, School, or School-sponsored or School-related activity.

Instructions for completion of this form:

- Submission of this form is not required to report an incident of bullying.
- You may choose to include your name or your student's name on the form, or you may submit it anonymously.
- Please respond only to the questions that you feel comfortable answering and are able to answer accurately.
 - Please answer the questions honestly.
 - Once completed, submit this form to a campus administrator or other campus employee.

FFA's bullying policy prohibits retaliation against any person, including a victim, witness, or another person who in good faith provides information concerning an incident of bullying.

Please contact the Campus Principal if you require additional information or assistance.

BULLYING INCIDENT REPORT

Date of Report:

Have you previously reported this incident or similar incidents?

If so, to who did you report and when did you report?

Reporter's Name (Optional):

Relationship to Victim (Optional):

- ☐ Student
- ☐ Staff
- ☐ Parent/Guardian
- ☐ Relative
- ☐ Other (Please specify):

Contact Information (Optional):

Phone:

Email:

Name of Alleged Bully:

Grade Level:

If you don't know the alleged bully's name, please describe them:

Name of Victim:

Grade Level:

If you don't know the victim's name, please describe them:

Information about the Incident(s):

Date of Incident(s):

Time of Incident(s):

Location: (Cafeteria, Hallways, Classroom, Online)

Description of Incident. Please check all that apply:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Name Calling • Stalking • Inappropriate Gesturing | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spitting • Harassment due to race, sex/gender, disability, national origin, religion, etc. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Exclusion • Inappropriate touching • Threats (Physical or otherwise) • Physical Violence (e.g., hitting, kicking, shoving, pushing) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Destruction of property • Cyberbullying/Cyberstalking • Public Humiliation • Intimidation/Extortion • Demeaning Comments |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spreading Rumors | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other |

Describe the incident(s): Please provide as much information as you can and attach separate sheets if necessary:

List and attach any evidence of the incident (letters, texts, photos, etc.):

Any other information you would like to supply?

Witness Information:

If there were any witnesses, please provide names and contact information. If you don't know the names, please describe him or her:

Signature of Reporter (Optional): _____

-----[For Administrative Use Only]-----

Person receiving report:

Title:

Date of Receipt:
