



2025-2026

Student Handbook

And

Code of Conduct

2001 Texan Dr. Justin, Texas 76247

Northwest ISD Student Handbook

2025-2026 School Year

If you have difficulty accessing this handbook because of a disability, please contact Micah Gierkey Executive Director of Student Support Services at 817-215-0985 or mgierkey@nisdtx.org.

Letter from Superintendent

Dear Northwest ISD Families,

Welcome to the 2025-2026 school year – we hope this year is both exciting and rewarding for every student and family in our district. In Northwest ISD we believe that “Kids Come First” and that we have a shared responsibility for the success of each student. As an organization, we are committed to a growth mindset for ourselves and all of our stakeholders and recognize that each school day is an opportunity to learn and grow. I am grateful for your partnership in creating safe and inspiring learning environments throughout Northwest ISD.

In Northwest ISD we want to foster a culture of engagement and provide clear communication of the expectations, policies and procedures that govern our district. The *Student Handbook and Code of Conduct* is intended to promote the best learning environment for our kids. We take our responsibility to maintain order in our schools seriously and want you to be informed of our policies and expectations. I encourage you to review this information and always feel free to contact your campus administration if you have any questions.

Thank you for your continued support and authentic engagement in your student’s education. Best wishes for a year filled with personalized learning experiences, growth and achievement for every student.

Sincerely,

Dr. Mark Foust

Superintendent of Schools

Northwest ISD Student Handbook

Northwest Independent School District

Mission, Vision, Beliefs, Goals

Core Beliefs:

- Kids come first.
- Continuous learning is essential to prepare for college and career opportunities.
- Each student's success is the shared responsibility of students, families, schools, and communities.
- Learning is influenced by environment.

Vision:

Northwest ISD empowers learners and leaders to positively impact the world.

Mission:

Northwest ISD, in collaboration with students, families, communities, and global partners, will engage in a culture of learning that prepares all students to confidently navigate their future.

Strategic Goals

1. Northwest ISD will invest in personalized learning experiences as well as the growth and achievement of every student.
2. Northwest ISD will recruit, value, and retain highly effective staff prepared to meet the individual needs of our students and learning community.
3. Northwest ISD will foster a safe environment and a culture of engagement that values the voices of all students, staff, families and community members.

2025-2026 Board of Trustees

Jennifer Murphy, President, Place 7
Lillian Rauch, Ph.D., Vice President, Place 6
Judy Copp, Secretary, Place 4
Jeff Dearing, Trustee, Place 3
Deanne Hatfield, Trustee Place 1
Mark Schluter, Trustee, Place 2
Steve Sprowls, Trustee, Place 5

Board Meetings:

All Northwest Independent School District Board meetings are open to the public. Regular meetings will be open to the public at 6:30 p.m. on the second and fourth Monday of each month in the Board Room at the Administration Building (2001 Texan Drive, Justin). With public notice, Trustees will also hold special meetings and work sessions as needed. When determined to be necessary, the Board President may change the date or time of the regular meetings. The notice for the meeting shall reflect the changed date or time. Within the limits of the Texas Open Meetings Act, parts of the Board meetings may be closed to the public for topics including but not limited to the following: real estate transactions, personnel matters, student hearings, and legal matters.

To Address the Board: The public may address the Board during the public participation portion of the Board meeting. Remarks may be related to any topic, whether agenda items or non-agenda items, and are limited to three minutes. Those wishing to speak during public participation may sign the roster in the Board Room within the hour preceding the meeting.

Northwest ISD Student Handbook

Contents

Northwest ISD Student Handbook	1
Letter from Superintendent	1
Preface Parents and Students:	16
Section One: Parental Rights	18
Consent, Opt-Out, and Refusal Rights	18
Removing a Student from Instruction or Excusing a Student from a Required Component of Instruction	24
Right of Access to Student Records, Instructional Materials, and District Records/Policies	25
A Student with Exceptionalities or Special Circumstances	30
Section Two: Other Important Information for Parents and Students	37
Absences/Attendance	37
Accountability under State and Federal Law (All Grade Levels)	42
Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery Test (Grades 10-12)	42
Bullying (All Grade Levels)	43
Career and Technical Education (CTE) and Other Work-Based Programs (Secondary Grade Levels Only)	45
Celebrations (All Grade Levels)	45
Child Sexual Abuse, Neglect, Trafficking, and Other Maltreatment of Children (All Grade Levels)	46
Class Rank/Highest-Ranking Student (Secondary Grade Levels Only)	49
Class Schedules (Secondary Grade Levels Only)	50
College and University Admissions and Financial Aid (All Grade Levels)	50
College Credit Courses (Secondary Grade Levels Only)	51
Communications (All Grade Levels)	52
Complaints and Concerns (All Grade Levels)	52
Conduct (All Grade Levels)	53
Counseling	54
Course Credit (Secondary Grade Levels Only)	55
Credit by Examination — If a Student Has Taken the Course/Subject (Grades 6-12)	56
Credit by Examination for Advancement/Acceleration — If a Student Has Not Taken the Course/Subject	56

Northwest ISD Student Handbook

Dating Violence, Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation (All Grade Levels) ..	57
Discrimination	60
Distance Learning (All Grade Levels)	60
Texas Virtual School Network (TXVSN) (Secondary Grade Levels)	60
Distribution of Literature, Published Materials, or Other Documents (All Grade Levels)	61
Dress and Grooming (All Grade Levels)	62
Electronic Devices and Technology Resources (All Grade Levels)	64
Responsible Use of District Technology Resources.....	65
End-of-Course (EOC) Assessments.....	66
Emergent Bilingual Students (All Grade Levels)	66
Extracurricular Activities, Clubs, and Organizations (All Grade Levels)	66
Activity Standards	68
Term of the Agreement	68
Fees (All Grade Levels)	73
Fundraising (All Grade Levels)	74
Gang-Free Zones (All Grade Levels)	74
Grade-Level Classification (Grades 9-12 Only).....	74
Grading Guidelines (All Grade Levels).....	74
Graduation (Secondary Grade Levels Only).....	75
Harassment	80
Hazing (All Grade Levels)	81
Health — Physical and Mental	81
Health-Related Resources, Policies, and Procedures	91
Homeless Students (All Grade Levels)	92
Homework (All Grade Levels)	92
Law Enforcement Agencies (All Grade Levels).....	93
Leaving Campus (All Grade Levels)	94
Lost and Found (All Grade Levels)	95
Makeup Work	95
Makeup Work Because of Absence (All Grade Levels)	95
Nondiscrimination Statement (All Grade Levels)	96
Parent and Family Engagement (All Grade Levels)	97

Northwest ISD Student Handbook

Parking and Parking Permits (Secondary Grade Levels Only)	98
Pledges of Allegiance and a Minute of Silence (All Grade Levels)	98
Prayer (All Grade Levels)	99
Promotion.....	99
Release of Students from School	100
Remote Instruction.....	100
Report Cards/Progress Reports and Conferences (All Grade Levels)	100
Retaliation	100
Required State Assessments	101
Safe Storage of Firearms	103
Safety (All Grade Levels).....	103
SAT, ACT, and Other Standardized Tests.....	105
Schedule Changes (Middle/Junior High and High School Grade Levels)	105
School Facilities.....	105
Asbestos Management Plan (All Grade Levels)	105
School-Sponsored Field Trips (All Grade Levels)	108
Searches and Investigations.....	108
Sexual Harassment.....	110
Special Programs (All Grade Levels)	110
Standardized Testing	110
Student Speakers (All Grade Levels)	110
Summer School (All Grade Levels)	111
Tardies (All Grade Levels)	111
Textbooks, Electronic Textbooks, Technological Equipment, and Other Instructional Materials (All Grade Levels).....	111
Tip Line.....	112
Transfers (All Grade Levels)	112
Transportation (All Grade Levels).....	112
Restrictions for Violation of School Bus Guidelines and Expectations and Regulations	114
Vandalism (All Grade Levels)	115
Video Cameras (All Grade Levels)	115
Visitors to the School (All Grade Levels)	115
Visitors at Lunch	116

Northwest ISD Student Handbook

Volunteers (All Grade Levels)	117
Voter Registration (Secondary Grade Levels Only).....	117
Withdrawing from School (All Grade Levels).....	117
Glossary	118
Appendix: Freedom from Bullying Policy	121
Student Welfare: Freedom from Bullying	121
Appendix: Student Rights and Responsibilities Policy	125
Student Code of Conduct	136
Accessibility.....	136
Purpose	136
School District Authority and Jurisdiction.....	138
Campus Behavior Coordinator	138
Threat Assessment and Safe and Supportive School Team.....	139
Searches	139
Reporting Crimes	139
Security Personnel.....	139
“Parent” Defined	140
Participating in Graduation Activities	140
Unauthorized Persons.....	140
Standards for Student Conduct.....	142
General Conduct Violations	142
Mistreatment of Others.....	143
Property Offenses	143
Possession of Prohibited Items	144
Possession of Personal Communication Devices	145
Illegal, Prescription, and Over-the-Counter Drugs	145
Misuse of Technology Resources and the Internet.....	146
Safety Transgressions.....	146
Miscellaneous Offenses.....	147
Discipline Management Techniques	148
First-Time Offense of Possession or Use of Nicotine Delivery Product or E-Cigarette	148
Students with Disabilities	148

Northwest ISD Student Handbook

Techniques	148
Prohibited Aversive Techniques	150
Notification	150
Parental Involvement	151
Appeals	151
Removal from the School Bus	152
Removal from the Regular Educational Setting.....	153
Routine Referral	153
Formal Teacher Removal	153
Returning a Student to the Classroom.....	154
Appeals of Formal Teacher Removals.....	154
In-School Suspension	155
Process	155
Out-of-School Suspension	156
Misconduct	156
Process	156
Alternative Assignment	157
Coursework During Suspension	157
Disciplinary Alternative Education Program (DAEP) Placement	158
Discretionary Placement: Misconduct That May Result in DAEP Placement	158
Mandatory Placement: Misconduct That Requires DAEP Placement.....	159
Sexual Assault and Campus Assignments	161
Process	161
Length of Placement.....	163
Appeals (only for DAEP placements <i>exceeding</i> 60 days)	164
Restrictions During Placement	165
Placement Review	165
Additional Misconduct.....	165
Notice of Criminal Proceedings	165
Withdrawal During Process	166
Newly Enrolled Students	166
Emergency Placement Procedure.....	167
Transition Services	167

Northwest ISD Student Handbook

Placement and/or Expulsion for Certain Offenses	167
Registered Sex Offenders.....	167
Expulsion	169
Discretionary Expulsion: Misconduct That May Result in Expulsion.....	169
Mandatory Expulsion: Misconduct That Requires Expulsion	171
Under Age 10	172
Process	172
Length of Expulsion.....	174
Withdrawal During Process	175
Additional Misconduct.....	175
Restrictions During Expulsion	175
Newly Enrolled Students	175
Emergency Expulsion Procedures.....	176
DAEP Placement of Expelled Students.....	176
Transition Services	176
Certain Felonies	176
Hearing and Required Findings.....	177
Length of Placement.....	177
Placement Review	177
Glossary.....	178

Northwest ISD Student Handbook

Northwest ISD

Parent Involvement Policy

The following Parent Involvement Policy was developed by Northwest ISD parents in accordance with Federal regulations.

The Northwest Independent School District believes that parents are partners with teachers and other staff in the education of their children. Northwest Independent School District believes that parent involvement and empowerment are essential at all levels throughout the school district. It is the intent of Northwest Independent School District to inform parents of Title I Parental Involvement participation rights and requirements. Each Campus Principal of Title I served schools will conduct annual campus meetings with parents to explain Title I programming and services.

Northwest Independent School District believes that student academic achievement requires that parents have an understanding of curriculum, academic achievement standards, assessments, district/school policies and procedures, and how to monitor their children's progress and work with students and educators to improve the achievement of their children.

Central administration shall work in collaboration with parents and guardians and shall actively support the school and parents in enhancing parent involvement by:

- Respecting parents as partners in the education of their children
- Valuing diversity and the need for equity in each school.
- Promoting parent involvement in the district leadership and decision-making.
- Fostering a welcoming and responsive environment for parents.
- Ensuring accountability of the staff at all levels throughout the district in working with parents as partners.
- Valuing the need for partnerships with public and private entities in the Northwest community.
- Establishing and promoting communication as a source of trust and understanding between the district and parents.
- Promote parent training that supports student academic achievement.

Parents/Guardians are asked and encouraged to be involved in their children's learning and education by:

- Taking the initiative to seek the best educational opportunities for their children.
- Understanding school procedures and opportunities to contribute or receive support.
- Utilizing flexible two-way lines of communication between parents, school staff, and the district on the instruction, achievement, and conduct of their children.
- Participating in training opportunities that will include but are not limited to: strategies/reinforcing learning at home, discipline, and understanding cultural differences.
- Participating in site-based leadership and decision-making.
- Volunteering in their children's schools.
- Supporting and engaging in developing partnerships within the Northwest community.

An annual review of Parent Involvement Policy is a Title I Part A requirement. If you are interested in participating in the Parent Involvement Policy Review Committee, please contact Micah Gierkey, Executive Director of Student Support Services, 817-215-0079, mgierkey@nisdtx.org.

Northwest ISD Student Handbook

Northwest Independent School District Central Administration Offices

Physical Address: 2001 Texan Drive Justin, Texas 76247	Mailing Address: P.O. Box 77070 Fort Worth, Texas 76177
817-215-0000 Fax: 817-215-0170	

Mark Foust, Ed.D.
Northwest Independent School District Superintendent of Schools
817-215-0030

Department Phone Numbers

Human Resources	817-215-0168
Athletics	817-698-1041
Communications/Community Relations	817-215-0171
Curriculum and Instruction	817-215-0594
Facilities, Planning, and Construction	817-215-0321
Finance	817-215-0024
Fine Arts	817-215-0159
Food Services	817-215-0005
Records Retention	817-215-0074
Safety and Security	817-215-0066
Student Support Services	817-215-0079
Superintendent	817-215-0030
Technology	817-215-0102
Transportation	817-698-1287

[District School Year Calendar](#)

Northwest ISD Student Handbook

Secondary Schools

<p>Byron Nelson High School 2775 Bobcat Boulevard Trophy Club, TX 76262 817-698-5600 Fax: 817-698-5670 Grades 9-12 School Hours: 8:25 AM – 3:50 PM</p> <p><i>Principal: Kara Lea Deardorff</i> <i>Associate Principal: Dr. Maggie Norris</i> <i>Assistant Principals: Kerry Knisley, Carol McDaniel-White, Ron Mendoza, Jacob Chastain, Brandon Thomas, Branden Richardson and Bobby Taylor</i> <i>Counselors: Leah Berry, Monique Chavez, Ryan Laney, Jazmin Lopez, Jennifer Martinez, Page Hanna, , Emily Shipman, and Christina Salcido</i> <i>Student Services Facilitator: Cheryl Chancelor</i></p>	<p>Northwest High School 2301 Texan Drive Justin, Texas 76247 817-215-0200 Fax: 817-215-0262 Grades 9-12 School Hours: 8:25 AM – 3:50 PM</p> <p><i>Principal: Dr. Daryl Porter</i> <i>Associate Principal: Shannon Boudreaux</i> <i>Assistant Principals: Patricia Tran, Vincent Landrum, Ed.D, James Clark, Jody Noblett, Natalie Eddleman, and Lucy Nunley</i> <i>Counselors: Ashley Gaither, Jessica Wallace, Kelly Wallace, Michelle Delongchamps, William Flanagan, Jessica Moreno, Susie Boelens and Rachel Walker</i> <i>Student Services Facilitator: Tamesha Davis</i></p>
<p>V.R. Eaton High School 1350 Eagle Boulevard Ft. Worth, TX 76052 817-698-7300 Fax: 817-698-7370 Grades 9-12 School Hours: 8:25 AM – 3:50 PM</p> <p><i>Principal: Stacy Miles</i> <i>Associate Principal: Parween Zaher</i> <i>Assistant Principals: Brian Day, Chassidy Green, Ed. D, Delan Peebles, Misty Taylor, Mallory Smith, Daniel Nelson, JT Espinosa, and James Jones (Construction/Bond)</i> <i>Counselors: Michelle Arnold, Erin Harris, Rebecca Tubbs, Rebecca Kelley, Patricia Porter, Abby Scanlon, Marcella Southerland, Cooper Spruill, Amani Pereira, Carrie Alano and Lauren Dillon</i> <i>Student Services Facilitator: Elaine Osborne</i></p>	<p>James M. Steele Early College High School 606 N. Walnut Roanoke, TX 76262 817-698-5800 Fax: 817-698-5840 Grades 9-12 School Hours: 8:15 AM – 3:40 PM</p> <p><i>Principal: Todd Rogers</i> <i>Assistant Principal: James Stuart</i> <i>Counselor: Sheneka Davis</i></p>

Northwest ISD Student Handbook

<p>Leo Adams Middle School 1069 Eagle Blvd. - Haslet, Texas 76052 Phone: 817-541-8000 Fax: 817-541-8099 Grades 6-8 School Hours: 8:50 AM – 4:15 PM</p> <p><i>Principal: Jeremy Harris</i> <i>Assistant Principals: Jordan Mauk, Raigan Perez, and Rachel Markham</i> <i>Counselors: Kim Hardy, Michelle Rouleau, and Teresa English</i></p>	<p>Chisholm Trail Middle School 583 FM 3433 - Rhome, Texas 76078 Phone: 817-215-0600 Fax: 817-215-0648 Grades 6-8 School Hours: 8:50 AM – 4:15 PM</p> <p><i>Principal: Jennifer Higgins</i> <i>Assistant Principals: Elly Palmenteri, Lynn Petty and Alen Palislamovic</i> <i>Counselors: Cindy Barksdale, Sarah Lacefield, Shelby Ellison</i></p>
<p>Medlin Middle School 601 Parkview Drive - Trophy Club, Texas 76262 Phone: 817-215-0500 Fax: 817-215-0548 Grades 6-8 School Hours: 8:50 AM – 4:15 PM</p> <p><i>Principal: Paige Cantrell</i> <i>Assistant Principals: Ethan Dee, Ashley Kahler, and Lydia Callahan</i> <i>Counselors: Sara Moltenbrey, and Shannon Noble, Megan Kaiser</i></p>	<p>Gene Pike Middle School 2200 Texan Drive - Justin, Texas 76247 Phone: 817-215-0400 Fax: 817-215-0425 Grades 6-8 School Hours: 8:50 AM – 4:15 PM</p> <p><i>Principal: Jeff Dickeson</i> <i>Assistant Principals: Pam Neven, Atiana Waters, and James “Trey” Dodd</i> <i>Counselors: Adam Aldridge, Whitney Martin, and Terry Evans</i></p>
<p>John M. Tidwell Middle School 3937 Haslet-Roanoke Road - Roanoke, Texas 76262 Phone: 817-698-5900 Fax: 817-698-5870 Grades 6-8 School Hours: 8:50 AM – 4:15 PM</p> <p><i>Principal: Jeremy Martin</i> <i>Assistant Principals: Abbey Flores, Cyndy Brooks, and Amanda Hughes</i> <i>Counselors: Stefanie Jardine, Reagan Dickeson and Paul Higgins</i></p>	<p>Truett Wilson Middle School 14250 Sendera Ranch Blvd.- Haslet, Texas 76052 Phone: 817-698-7900 Fax: 817-698-7970 Grades 6-8 School Hours: 8:50 AM – 4:15 PM</p> <p><i>Principal: Tim Berube.</i> <i>Assistant Principals: Marie Yost, Carla Reisman, Michael Campos</i> <i>Counselors: Mike Hayes, Laynie Johnson, Jennifer Stinson</i></p>
<p>Worthington Middle School 1045 S. John Day Rd Haslet, Texas 76052 Phone: 817-541-8020 Fax: TBD Grades 6-8 School Hours 8:50-4:15 PM</p> <p><i>Principal: Natalie Childress</i> <i>Assistant Principals: Michelle Jennings, Abraham Medina, and Donna Thompson</i> <i>Counselors: Laura Pierce, Tara Teague, and Lori Totty</i></p>	<p>Special Programs Center (DAEP) 501 School House Rd Haslet, Texas 76052 Phone: 817-215-0900 Fax: 817-215-0120 School Hours: 8:25 AM – 3:50 PM</p> <p><i>Principal: Diana Foster</i> <i>Assistant Principal: Rhett King</i> <i>Counselor: Heather Witzke</i></p>
<p>Barksdale Middle School (Coming Fall 2027) <i>Principal: Tricia Lutkenhaus</i></p>	

Northwest ISD Student Handbook

Elementary Schools

<p>Samuel Beck Elementary School 401 Parkview Drive Trophy Club, Texas 76262 Phone: 817-215-0450 Fax: 817-215-0498 Grades PK-5 School Hours: 7:40 AM – 3:05 PM</p> <p><i>Principal: Amanda Bunch</i> <i>Assistant Principal: Tiffani Brisco</i> <i>Counselor: Jessica Hill</i></p>	<p>Wayne A. Cox Elementary School 1100 Litsey Road Roanoke, TX 76262 Phone: 817-698-7200 Fax: 817-698-7270 Grades PK-5 School Hours: 7:40 AM – 3:05 PM</p> <p><i>Principal: Chrisa Oakley</i> <i>Assistant Principal: Shawnda Tweedy</i> <i>Counselor: Charlie Garrett</i></p>
<p>Lizzie Curtis Elementary School 9640 Belle Prairie Trail Fort Worth, Texas 76131 Phone: 817-541-8901 Fax: 817-541-8961 Grades PK-5 School Hours: 7:40 AM – 3:05 PM</p> <p><i>Principal: Jennifer Putnam</i> <i>Assistant Principal: Cheri Travis</i> <i>Counselor: Leslie Nesbitt</i></p>	<p>Kay Granger Elementary School 12771 Saratoga Springs Circle Keller, Texas 76244 Phone: 817-698-1100 Fax: 817-698-1170 Grades PK-5 School Hours: 7:40 AM – 3:05 PM</p> <p><i>Principal: Michelle McAdams</i> <i>Assistant Principal: Erin O'Shea Johnson</i> <i>Counselor: Amanda Jones</i></p>
<p>Haslet Elementary School 1188 Wisdom Way Haslet, Texas 76052 Phone: 817-215-0850 Fax: 817-215-0870 Grades PK-5 School Hours: 7:40 AM – 3:05 PM</p> <p><i>Principal: Donna Busby</i> <i>Assistant Principal: Julie Seibold</i> <i>Counselor: Christina Buce</i></p>	<p>W. R. Hatfield Elementary School 15748 Redgrave Drive Fort Worth, Texas 76247 Phone: 817-215-0350 Fax: 817-215-0369 Grades PK-5 School Hours: 7:40 AM – 3:05 PM</p> <p><i>Principal: Jim Mahler</i> <i>Assistant Principal: Robbie Terrell</i> <i>Counselor: Kendra Nelson</i></p>
<p>J. Lyndal Hughes Elementary School 13824 Lost Spurs Road Roanoke, Texas 76262 Phone: 817-698-1900 Fax: 817-698-1915 Grades PK-5 School Hours: 7:40 AM – 3:05PM</p> <p><i>Principal:</i> <i>Assistant Principal: Leah TenEyck</i> <i>Counselor: Shelbee Russell</i></p>	<p>Justin Elementary School 2315 W 7th Street Justin, Texas 76247 Phone: 817-215-0800 Fax: 817-215-0840 Grades PK-5 School Hours: 7:40 AM – 3:05 PM</p> <p><i>Principal: Stephen Garretson, Ed. D.</i> <i>Assistant Principal: Angie Eudy</i> <i>Counselor: Julie Nolting</i></p>

Northwest ISD Student Handbook

<p>Lakeview Elementary School 100 Village Trail Trophy Club, Texas 76262 Phone: 817-215-0750 Fax: 817-215-0770 Grades PK-5 School Hours: 7:40 AM – 3:05 PM</p> <p><i>Principal: Erika Oster</i> <i>Assistant Principal: Erin Albert</i> <i>Counselor: Hayley Bell</i></p>	<p>Clara Love Elementary School 16301 Elementary Drive Justin, Texas 76247 Phone: 817-698-6600 Fax: 817-698-6670 Grades PK-5 School Hours: 7:40 AM – 3:05 PM</p> <p><i>Principal: Aaron McAdams</i> <i>Assistant Principal: Mindy Ingram</i> <i>Counselor: Leslie Lopez</i></p>
<p>Sonny & Allegra Nance Elementary School 701 Tierra Vista Way Fort Worth, Texas 76131 Phone: 817-698-1950 Fax: 817-698-1960 Grades PK-5 School Hours: 7:40 AM – 3:05 PM</p> <p><i>Principal: Lyndsie Smith</i> <i>Assistant Principal:</i> <i>Counselor: Julie Saal</i></p>	<p>O.A. Peterson Elementary School 2000 Winter Hawk Drive Fort Worth, TX 76177 Phone: 817-698-5000 Fax: 817-698-5070 Grades PK-5 School Hours: 7:40 AM – 3:05 PM</p> <p><i>Principal: Danielle Grimes</i> <i>Assistant Principal: Brittney Kerley</i> <i>Counselor: Diane Drake</i></p>
<p>Prairie View Elementary School 609 FM 3433 Rhome, Texas 76078 Phone: 817-215-0550 Fax: 817-215-0598 Grades PK-5 School Hours: 7:40 AM – 3:05PM</p> <p><i>Principal: Amanda Hughes</i> <i>Assistant Principal: Renee Gonzalez & Sloan Heath</i> <i>Counselor: Becca Hill</i></p>	<p>Roanoke Elementary School 1401 Lancelot Roanoke, Texas 76262 Phone: 817-215-0650 Fax: 817-215-0670 Grades PK-5 School Hours: 7:40 AM – 3:05 PM</p> <p><i>Principal: Erin Appling</i> <i>Assistant Principal: Kara Acevedo</i> <i>Counselor: Lindsey Boggs</i></p>
<p>Carl E. Schluter Elementary School 1220 Mesa Crest Drive Fort Worth, Texas 76052 Phone: 817-698-3900 Fax: 817-698-3970 Grade PK-5 School Hours: 7:40 AM – 3:05 PM</p> <p><i>Principal: Donae Raymundo</i> <i>Assistant Principal: Sarah McMurdo</i> <i>Counselor: Kristen Martinez</i></p>	<p>Sendera Ranch Elementary School 1216 Diamond Back Lane Haslet, Texas 76052 Phone: 817-698-3500 Fax: 817-698-3515 Grades PK-5 School Hours: 7:40 AM – 3:05 PM</p> <p><i>Principal: Sarah Thornell, Ed.D</i> <i>Assistant Principal: Kenni Dwyer & Charolette Derosssett</i> <i>Counselor: Angela Snyder</i></p>

Northwest ISD Student Handbook

<p>Seven Hills Elementary School 654 FM 3433 Newark, Texas 76071 Phone: 817-215-0700 Fax: 817-215-0740 Grades PK-5 School Hours: 7:40 AM – 3:05 PM</p> <p><i>Principal: Kim Blackburn</i> <i>Assistant Principal: Julie Seibold</i> <i>Counselor: Jennifer Morales</i></p>	<p>J. C. Thompson Elementary School 440 Wishbone Lane Fort Worth, Texas 76052 Phone: 817-698-3800 Fax: 817-698-3870 Grades PK-5 School Hours: 7:40 AM – 3:05 PM</p> <p><i>Principal: Edwina West-Dukes</i> <i>Assistant Principal: Sarah Riley & Dan Flank</i> <i>Counselor: Michele Markulec</i></p>
<p>Lance Thompson Elementary School 821 Hawks Way Argyle, Texas 76226 Phone: 817-698-1800 Fax: 817-698-1813 Grades PK-5 School Hours: 7:40 AM – 3:05 PM</p> <p><i>Principal: Amy Lawson</i> <i>Assistant Principal: Erin Pitts</i> <i>Counselor: Megan Gjonbala</i></p>	<p>Berkshire Elementary School 10301 Berkshire Lake Blvd Fort Worth, Texas 76131 Phone: 817-698-1500 Fax: 817-698-1550 Grades PK-5 School Hours: 7:40 AM – 3:05 PM</p> <p><i>Principal: Shanel Jones</i> <i>Assistant Principal: Jennifer Diaz & Laura Garlow</i> <i>Counselor: Brittany Connolly</i></p>
<p>Molly Livengood Carter Elementary School 14117 Borealis Drive Haslet, Texas 76052 Phone: 682-605-8510 Fax: 682-605-8520 Grades PK-5 School Hours 7:40 AM – 3:05 PM</p> <p><i>Principal: John Booles</i> <i>Assistant Principal: Hannah Garcia</i> <i>Counselor: Leigh Ann Trice</i></p>	<p>Johnie Daniel Elementary School 1907 Tye Street Northlake, Texas 76247 Phone: 817-215-0920 Fax: 817-215-0940 Grades PK-5 School Hours 7:40 AM – 3:05 PM</p> <p><i>Principal: Jessica McDonald, Ed.D.</i> <i>Assistant Principal: Che' Williams</i> <i>Counselor: Meagan White</i></p>
<p>Alan & Andra Perrin Elementary 1073 Canyon Maple Drive Fort Worth, TX 76247 Phone: 682-605-8400 FAX: 682-605-8450 Grades PK-5 School Hours 7:40AM-3:05PM</p> <p><i>Principal: Carrie Pierce</i> <i>Assistant Principal: Clemency Green</i> <i>Counselor: Jazmin Bautista</i></p>	

Northwest ISD Student Handbook

Preface Parents and Students:

Welcome to the 2025-2026 school year!

Education is a team effort. Students, parents, teachers, and other staff members working together will make this a successful year.

The Northwest ISD Handbook is a general reference guide that is divided into two sections:

Section One: Parental Rights describes certain parental rights as specified in state or federal law.

Section Two: Other Important Information for Parents and Students is organized alphabetically by topic. Where applicable, the topics are further organized by grade level.

Note: Unless otherwise noted, the term “parent” refers to the parent, legal guardian, any person granted some other type of lawful control of a student, or any other person who has agreed to assume school-related responsibility for a student.

The Student Handbook is designed to align with law, board-adopted policy, and the Student Code of Conduct, a board-adopted document intended to promote school safety and an atmosphere for learning. The Student Handbook is not meant to be a complete statement of all policies, procedures, or rules in any given circumstance. The Northwest Independent School District Student Handbook and Code of Conduct is just one tool to help students, parents, teachers, and administrators work together to teach children self-discipline. To achieve the best possible learning environment for all our students, the Student Handbook and Code of Conduct and ***other campus guidelines and expectations of behavior will apply*** whenever the interest of the district is involved, on or off school grounds, in conjunction with or independent of classes and school-sponsored activities.

In case of conflicts between board policy (including the Student Code of Conduct) and any Student Handbook provision, the district will follow board policy and the Student Code of Conduct.

Therefore, parents and students should become familiar with the Northwest ISD Student Code of Conduct. To review the Code of Conduct, visit the district’s website at <https://www.nisdtx.org>. State law requires that the Code of Conduct be prominently displayed or made available for review at each campus.

The Student Handbook is updated annually. However, policy adoption and revisions may occur throughout the year. The district encourages parents to stay informed of proposed policy changes by attending board meetings and reviewing communications explaining changes in policy or other rules that affect Student Handbook provisions. The district reserves the right to modify the Student Handbook at any time. Notice of revisions will be provided as is reasonably practical.

Although the Student Handbook may refer to rights established through law or district policy, it does not create additional rights for parents and students. It does not, nor is it intended to, represent a contract between any parent or student and the district.

For questions about the material in this handbook or to request a printed copy, please contact Melissa Webber, Director of Student Services, mwebber@nisdtx.org. 2001 Texan Dr. Justin, Texas 76247

Note: References to board policy codes are included for ease of reference. The hard copy of the district’s official policy manual is available for review in the district administration office, and an

Northwest ISD Student Handbook

unofficial electronic copy is available at <https://www.nisdtx.org/about-nisd/school-board/policyregulations>

The policy manual includes:

- Legally referenced legal policies that contain provisions from federal and state laws and regulations, case law, and other legal authorities that provide the legal framework for school districts
- Board-adopted local policies that articulate the board's choices and values regarding district practices

Complete and return to the student's campus the following forms (provided in the forms packet distributed at the beginning of the year or upon enrollment):

- Acknowledgment of Electronic Distribution of Student Handbook- Annually during the registration process, each parent and student shall electronically sign the Required Signature Page for Students and the Verification of Receipt, agreeing that both the parent and student will abide by Northwest Independent School District policy and the Student Handbook and Code of Conduct and acknowledging that the Student Handbook and Code of Conduct can be found online or that a paper copy may be obtained by requesting it in writing from the campus.
- Notice Regarding Directory Information and Parent's Response Regarding Release of Student Information
- Parent's Objection to the Release of Student Information to Military Recruiters and Institutions of Higher Education (if you choose to restrict the release of information to these entities)
- Consent/Opt-Out Form for participation in third-party surveys

[See Objecting to the Release of Directory Information and Consent Required Before Student Participation in a Federally Funded Survey for more information.]

Northwest ISD Student Handbook

Section One: Parental Rights

This section describes certain parental rights as specified in state or federal law.

Consent, Opt-Out, and Refusal Rights

Consent to Conduct a Psychological or Psychiatric Evaluation

Unless required under state or federal law, a district employee or contractor of the district will not conduct a psychological or psychiatric examination, test, or treatment without obtaining prior written parental consent.

Note: An evaluation may be legally required under special education rules or by the Texas Education Agency for child abuse investigations and reports.

Consent to Human Sexuality Instruction

Annual Notification

As a part of the district's curriculum, students receive instruction related to human sexuality. The School Health Advisory Council (SHAC) makes recommendations for curriculum materials, and the school board adopts the materials and determines the specific content of the instruction.

For more information, see the district's academic website at <https://www.nisdtx.org/departments/academics/course-syllabi>

In accordance with state law, a parent may:

- Review, receive a copy of, or purchase a copy of curriculum materials depending on the copyright of the materials.
- Remove their child from any part of the human sexuality instruction without academic, disciplinary, or other penalties.
- Become involved in the development of this curriculum by becoming a member of the district's SHAC or attending SHAC meetings. See the campus principal for details.
- Use the district's grievance procedure concerning a complaint. [See Complaints and Concerns (All Grade Levels) and FNG(LOCAL).]

GRADES 5 AND 6 – HUMAN SEXUALITY INSTRUCTION

In order to be proactive in our delivery of education concerning human sexuality, the Northwest Independent School District School Health Advisory Committee has determined that the district will show growth and development videos to our fifth and sixth grade students as part of the health curriculum. Parents may preview this program during a parent preview session, which is scheduled at the campus prior to viewing. District staff will be available at the parent preview session to answer questions regarding the human sexuality program.

The video will describe the physical and emotional changes that occur in a child's life and help students understand what will soon be happening to their own bodies. A physical education teacher or school nurse will be available for questions at the conclusion of the program.

Northwest ISD Student Handbook

GRADES 8-12 HEALTH – HUMAN SEXUALITY INSTRUCTION COMPONENT

In order to be proactive in our delivery of education concerning human sexuality, the Northwest Independent School District School Health Advisory Committee has determined that the district will include a component on sexual education within the Health I course. The objectives and focus of the course are curriculum based and cover the reproductive systems and the birth process.

A parent is entitled to review the curriculum materials. A parent may also choose to become more involved with the development of this curriculum by becoming a member of the district's SHAC. (See the campus principal for details.)

State law also requires instruction related to human sexuality, sexually transmitted diseases, or human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) or acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS):

- Present abstinence from sexual activity as the preferred choice in relationship to all sexual activity for unmarried persons of school age
- Devote more attention to abstinence from sexual activity than to any other behavior
- Emphasize that abstinence, if used consistently and correctly, is the only method that is 100 percent effective in preventing pregnancy, sexually transmitted infections, and the emotional trauma associated with adolescent sexual activity
- Direct adolescents to abstain from sexual activity before marriage as the most effective way to prevent pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases
- If included in the content of the curriculum, teach contraception and condom use in terms of human use reality rates instead of theoretical laboratory rates

Consent Before Human Sexuality Instruction

Before a student receives human sexuality instruction, the parent must give written consent. Parents will be sent a request for written consent at least 14 days before the instruction will begin.

Consent to Instruction on Prevention of Child Abuse, Family Violence, Dating Violence, and Sex Trafficking

Before a student receives instruction on the prevention of child abuse, family violence, dating violence, and sex trafficking, the district must obtain written consent from the student's parent. Parents will be sent a request for written consent at least 14 days before the instruction will begin.

Annual Notification

Students receive instruction related to the prevention of child abuse, family violence, dating violence, and sex trafficking. The School Health Advisory Council (SHAC) makes recommendations for curriculum materials, and the school board adopts the materials and determines the specific content of the instruction.

The curriculum is provided by and facilitated through a community partner, Alliance for Children: A Children's Advocacy Center. For more information regarding content of instruction and curriculum materials go to :<https://www.nisdtx.org/departments/student-services/counseling/senate-bill-9-sb-9>

In accordance with state law, a parent may:

- Review, receive a copy of, or purchase a copy of curriculum materials depending on the copyright of the materials. As required by law, any curriculum materials in the public

Northwest ISD Student Handbook

domain used in this instruction will be posted on the district's website at the location indicated above.

- Remove their child from any part of this instruction without academic, disciplinary, or other penalties.
- Become involved in the development of this curriculum by becoming a member of the district's SHAC or attending SHAC meetings. See the campus principal for details.
- Use the district's grievance procedure concerning a complaint. [See Complaints and Concerns (All Grade Levels) and policy FNG for information on the grievance and appeals process.]

[See Consent Before Human Sexuality Instruction, Dating Violence, and Child Sexual Abuse, Neglect, Trafficking, and Other Maltreatment of Children (All Grade Levels)]

Consent to Provide a Mental Health Care Service

Parents must provide consent to routine school counseling services at the start of each school year. The district will not provide a mental health care service to a student or conduct a medical screening of a student as part of the district's intervention procedures except as permitted by law.

The district has established procedures for recommending to a parent an intervention for a student with early warning signs of mental health concerns, substance abuse, or suicide risk. The campus counselor will notify the student's parent within a reasonable amount of time after the counselor learns that a student has displayed early warning signs and provide information about available counseling options. Mental health support resources may also be found here:

<https://www.nisdtx.org/departments/student-services/counseling/mental-health>

The district mental health liaison is: Jamie Farber, Ed.D, Director of Guidance Counseling 2001 Texan Dr. Justin, Tx. 76247 jfarber@nisdtx.org 817-215-0147

The mental health liaison can provide further information about these procedures as well as curriculum materials on identifying risk factors, accessing resources for treatment or support on and off campus, and accessing available student accommodations provided on campus.

[See Mental Health Support (All Grade Levels)]

Consent to Display a Student's Original Works and Personal Information

Teachers may display a student's work in classrooms or elsewhere on campus as recognition of student achievement without seeking prior parental consent. These displays may include personally identifiable student information. Student work includes:

- Artwork
- Special projects
- Photographs
- Original videos or voice recordings
- Other original works

However, the district will seek parental consent before displaying a student's work on the district's website, a website affiliated or sponsored by the district (such as a campus or classroom website), or in district publications, which may include printed materials, videos, or other methods of mass communication.

Northwest ISD Student Handbook

Consent to Receive Parenting and Paternity Awareness Instruction If a Student is Under Age 14

A student under age 14 must have parental permission to participate in the district's [Parenting and Paternity Awareness Program](https://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/child-support/programs-and-initiatives/parenting-and-paternity-awareness-papa/papa-educators/papa-curriculum) (<https://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/child-support/programs-and-initiatives/parenting-and-paternity-awareness-papa/papa-educators/papa-curriculum>). This program was developed by the Office of the Texas Attorney General and the State Board of Education (SBOE) to be incorporated into health education classes.

Consent to Video or Audio Record a Student When Not Already Permitted by Law

State law permits the school to make a video or voice recording without parental permission when the recording is to be used for:

- School safety
- Classroom instruction or a cocurricular or extracurricular activity
- Media coverage of the school
- Promotion of student safety, as provided by law for a student receiving special education services in certain settings

In other circumstances, the district will seek written parental consent before making a video or voice recording of a student.

Please note that parents and visitors to a classroom, both virtual and in-person, may not record video or audio or take photographs or other still images without permission from the teacher or other school official.

Opting Out of Advanced Mathematics in Grades 6-8

The district will automatically enroll a student in grade 6 in an advanced mathematics course if the student performed in the top 40 percent on the grade 5 mathematics STAAR or a local measure that demonstrates proficiency in the student's grade 5 mathematics course work.

Enrollment in an advanced mathematics course in grade 6 will enable students to enroll in Algebra I in grade 8 and advanced mathematics in grades 9-12.

The student's parent may opt the student out of automatic enrollment in an advanced mathematics course.

Prohibiting the Use of Corporal Punishment

The board prohibits the use of corporal punishment in the district. Students shall not be spanked, paddled, or subjected to other physical force as a means of discipline for violation of the student code of conduct. [See policy [FO\(LOCAL\)](#).]

Limiting Electronic Communications between Students and District Employees

The district permits teachers and other approved employees to use electronic communications with students within the scope of professional responsibilities, as described by district guidelines.

For example, a teacher may create a social networking page for his or her class to relay information regarding class work, homework, and tests. A parent is welcome to such a page.

Northwest ISD Student Handbook

However, text messages sent to an individual student are only allowed if a district employee with responsibility for an extracurricular activity must communicate with a student participating in that activity.

- The employee is required to include at least one of the student's parents as a recipient on all text messages.
- The employee is required to include his or her immediate supervisor as recipient on all text messages.
- The employee is required to send a copy of the text message to the employee's district email address.

If you prefer that your child not receive any one-to-one electronic communications from a district employee or if you have questions related to the use of electronic media by district employees, please contact the campus principal.

Objecting to the Release of Directory Information

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, or FERPA, permits the district to disclose appropriately designated "directory information" from a student's education records without written consent.

"Directory information" is information that, if released, is generally not considered harmful or an invasion of privacy. The district has identified the following as directory information: student name; photograph; date and place of birth; major field of study; degrees, honors, and awards received; dates of attendance; grade level; most recent educational institution attended; participation in officially recognized activities and sports; and weight and height of members of athletic teams.

Directory information will be released to anyone who follows procedures for requesting it.

However, a parent or eligible student may object to the release of any or all student directory information. This may include release for school sponsored purposes, release to third parties, and release to military recruiters. Parents may designate preferences of release information while completing online enrollment at the beginning of each school year.

[See Notice Regarding Directory Information and Parent's Response Regarding Release of Student Information, included in the forms packet.]

The district requests that families living in a shelter for survivors of family violence or trafficking notify district personnel that the student currently resides in such a shelter. Families may want to opt out of the release of directory information so that the district does not release any information that might reveal the location of such a shelter.

Authorized Inspection and Use of Student Records

Objecting to the Release of Student Information to Military Recruiters and Institutions of Higher Education (Secondary Grade Levels Only)

Unless a parent has advised the district not to release their student's information, the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) requires the district to comply with requests from military recruiters or institutions of higher education to provide the following information about students:

- Name

Northwest ISD Student Handbook

- Address
- Telephone listing

Military recruiters may also have access to a student's district-provided email address, unless a parent has advised the district not to release this information.

[See Parent's Objection to the Release of Student Information to Military Recruiters and Institutions of Higher Education, included in the forms packet.]

Participation in Third-Party Surveys

Consent Required Before Student Participation in a Federally Funded Survey

The Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA) provides parents with certain rights regarding participation in surveys, the collection and use of information for marketing purposes, and certain physical exams.

A parent has the right to consent before a student is required to submit to a survey funded by the U.S. Department of Education that concerns any of the following protected areas:

- Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or the student's parent
- Mental or psychological problems of the student or the student's family
- Sex behavior or attitudes
- Illegal, antisocial, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior
- Critical appraisals of individuals with whom the student has a close family relationship
- Legally recognized privileged relationships, such as with lawyers, doctors, and ministers
- Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or parent
- Income, except when the information is required by law and will be used to determine the student's eligibility for a program

A parent may inspect the survey or other instrument, and any corresponding instructional materials used in connection with such a survey. [See policy [EF\(LEGAL\)](#) for more information.]

"Opting Out" of Participation in Other Types of Surveys or Screenings and the Disclosure of Personal Information

The PPRA gives parents the right to receive notice and an opportunity to opt a student out of:

- Activities involving the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information gathered from the child for the purpose of marketing, selling, or otherwise disclosing that information to others
- Any nonemergency, invasive physical examination or screening required as a condition of attendance, administered by the school or its agent, and not necessary to protect the immediate health and safety of the student

Exceptions are hearing, vision, or spinal screenings, or any physical examination or screening permitted or required under state law. [See policies [EE](#) and [FFAA](#) for more information.]

A parent may inspect:

- Protected information surveys of students and surveys created by a third party
- Instruments used to collect personal information from students for any of the above marketing, sales, or other distribution purposes

Northwest ISD Student Handbook

- Instructional material used as part of the educational curriculum

The ED provides extensive information about the [Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment](https://studentprivacy.ed.gov/resources/protection-pupil-rights-amendment-ppra-general-guidance) (<https://studentprivacy.ed.gov/resources/protection-pupil-rights-amendment-ppra-general-guidance>), including a [PPRA Complaint Form](https://studentprivacy.ed.gov/file-a-complaint) (<https://studentprivacy.ed.gov/file-a-complaint>).

Removing a Student from Instruction or Excusing a Student from a Required Component of Instruction

See Consent to Human Sexuality Instruction and Consent to Instruction on Prevention of Child Abuse, Family Violence, Dating Violence, and Sex Trafficking for information on a parent's right to remove a student from such instruction.

Reciting a Portion of the Declaration of Independence in Grades 3-12

State law designates the week of September 17 as Celebrate Freedom Week and requires all social studies classes to provide the following:

- Instruction concerning the intent, meaning, and importance of the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution
- A specific recitation from the Declaration of Independence for students in grades 3-12

Per state law, a student may be excused from recitation of a portion of the Declaration of Independence if any of the following apply:

- A parent provides a written statement requesting that their child be excused
- The district determines that the student has a conscientious objection to the recitation
- A parent is a representative of a foreign government to whom the U.S. government extends diplomatic immunity

[See policy [EHBK\(LEGAL\)](#) for more information.]

Reciting the Pledges to the U.S. and Texas Flags

A parent may request that their child be excused from participation in the daily recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. flag and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Texas flag. The request must be made in writing.

State law, however, requires that all students participate in one minute of silence following recitation of the pledges.

[See Pledges of Allegiance and a Minute of Silence (All Grade Levels) and policy [EC\(LEGAL\)](#) for more information.]

Religious or Moral Beliefs

A parent may remove their child temporarily from the classroom if a scheduled instructional activity conflicts with the parent's religious or moral beliefs.

The removal may not be used to avoid a test and may not extend for an entire semester. The student must also satisfy grade-level and graduation requirements as determined by the school and by state law.

Northwest ISD Student Handbook

Tutoring or Test Preparation

A teacher may determine that a student needs additional targeted assistance for the student to achieve mastery in state-developed essential knowledge and skills based on:

- Informal observations
- Evaluative data such as grades earned on assignments or tests
- Results from diagnostic assessments

The school will always attempt to provide tutoring and strategies for test-taking in ways that prevent removal from other instruction as much as possible.

In accordance with state law and policy [EC](#), districts must obtain parental permission before removing a student from a regularly scheduled class for remedial tutoring or test preparation for more than 10 percent of the days the class is offered.

If a district offers tutorial services to students, state law requires a student with a grade below 70 for a reporting period to attend.

[For questions about school-provided tutoring programs, contact the student's teacher and see policies [EC](#) and [EHBC](#). See Standardized Testing for information regarding required accelerated instruction after a student fails to perform satisfactorily on certain state-mandated tests.]

Right of Access to Student Records, Instructional Materials, and District Records/Policies

Parent Review of Instructional Materials and Plan

A parent has the right to review teaching materials, textbooks, and other teaching aids and instructional materials used in the curriculum, and to examine tests that have been administered, whether instruction is delivered in-person, virtually, or remotely.

The district will make instructional materials available for parent review no later than 30 days before the school year begins and for at least 30 days after the school year ends. However, tests that have not yet been administered will not be made available for parent examination.

The district will provide login credentials to each student's parent for any learning management system or online learning portal used in instruction to facilitate parent access and review.

A parent is also entitled to request that the school allows the student to take home instructional materials the student uses. The school may ask the student to return the materials at the beginning of the next school day.

A school must provide printed versions of electronic instructional materials to a student if the student does not have reliable access to technology at home.

Teachers are required to provide a copy of the teacher's instructional plan or course syllabus for each class to the parent of each student enrolled in that class before the beginning of each semester. A parent may obtain additional copies of plan or syllabus by request. At the start of a new grading period, teachers will provide an updated syllabus in their newsletters and/or online course page. They can also be found on the district website:

<https://www.nisdtx.org/departments/academics/course-syllabi>

[For information about parental access to any online library catalog and library materials, including records of their child's checked out library materials, see Library (All Grade Levels).]

Northwest ISD Student Handbook

District Review of Instructional Materials

A parent may request that the district conduct an instructional material review in a math, English Language Arts, science, or social studies class in which the parent's student is enrolled to determine alignment with state standards and the level of rigor for the grade level.

The district is not required to conduct an instructional material review for a specific subject area or grade level at a specific campus more than once per school year.

For more information about requesting an instructional material review, contact the campus principal.

Notices of Certain Student Misconduct to Noncustodial Parent

A noncustodial parent may request in writing that the district provide for the remainder of the school year with a copy of any written notice usually provided to a parent related to the child's misconduct that may involve placement in a disciplinary alternative education program (DAEP) or expulsion. [See the Student Code of Conduct and policy [FO\(LEGAL\)](#) for more information.]

Participation in Federally Required, State-Mandated, and District Assessments

In accordance with the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), a parent may request information regarding any federal, state, or district policy related to their child's participation in required assessments. [See policy [EK\(LEGAL\)](#)].

Student Records

Accessing Student Records

A parent may review their child's records, including:

- Attendance records
- Test scores
- Grades
- Disciplinary records
- Counseling records
- Psychological records
- Applications for admission
- Health and immunization information
- Other medical records
- Teacher and school counselor evaluations
- Reports of behavioral patterns
- Records relating to assistance provided for learning difficulties, including information collected regarding any intervention strategies used with the child, as the term "intervention strategy" is defined by law
- Records relating to school library materials the child obtains from a school library [See Library (All Grade Levels) for more information.]
- State assessment instruments that have been administered to the child
- Teaching materials and tests used in the child's classroom

Northwest ISD Student Handbook

Authorized Inspection and Use of Student Records

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents and eligible students certain rights regarding student education records.

For purposes of student records, an “eligible” student is anyone age 18 or older or who attends a postsecondary educational institution. These rights, as discussed here and at Objecting to the Release of Directory Information, are the right to:

- Inspect and review student records within 45 days after the day the school receives a request for access
- Request an amendment to a student record the parent or eligible student believes is inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of FERPA
- Provide written consent before the school discloses personally identifiable information from the student’s records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent
- [File a complaint \(https://studentprivacy.ed.gov/file-a-complaint\)](https://studentprivacy.ed.gov/file-a-complaint) with the U.S. Department of Education concerning failures by the school to comply with FERPA requirements

Both FERPA and state laws safeguard student records from unauthorized inspection or use and provide parents and eligible students certain rights of privacy.

Before disclosing personally identifiable information from a student’s records, the district must verify the identity of the person, including a parent or the student, requesting the information.

Virtually all information about student performance, including grades, test results, and disciplinary records, is considered confidential educational records.

Inspection and release of student records is restricted to an eligible student or a student’s parent unless the school receives a copy of a court order terminating parental rights or the right to access a student’s education records. A parent’s rights regarding access to student records are not affected by the parent’s marital status.

Federal law requires that control of the records goes to the student as soon as the student meets at least one of the following criteria:

- Reaches the age of 18
- Is emancipated by a court
- Enrolls in a postsecondary educational institution

However, the parent may continue to have access to the records if the student is a dependent for tax purposes and, under limited circumstances, when there is a threat to the health and safety of the student or other individuals.

FERPA permits the disclosure of personally identifiable information from a student’s education records without written consent of the parent or eligible student when school officials have what federal law refers to as a “legitimate educational interest” in a student’s records.

Legitimate educational interest may include:

- Working with the student
- Considering disciplinary or academic actions, the student’s case, or an individualized education program for a student with disabilities

Northwest ISD Student Handbook

- Compiling statistical data
- Reviewing an educational record to fulfill the official's professional responsibility
- Investigating or evaluating programs

School officials may include:

- Board members and employees, such as the superintendent, administrators, and principals
- Teachers, school counselors, diagnosticians, and support staff (including district health or medical staff)
- A person or company with whom the district has contracted or allowed to provide a specific institutional service or function (such as an attorney, consultant, third-party vendor that offers online programs or software, auditor, medical consultant, therapist, school resource officer, or volunteer)
- A person appointed to serve on a team to support the district's safe and supportive school program
- A parent or student serving on a school committee
- A parent or student assisting a school official perform their duties

FERPA also permits the disclosure of personally identifiable information without written consent:

- To authorized representatives of various governmental agencies, including juvenile service providers, the U.S. Comptroller General's office, the U.S. Attorney General's office, the U.S. Secretary of Education, the Texas Education Agency, the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture's office, and Child Protective Services (CPS) caseworkers or, in certain cases, other child welfare representatives
- To individuals or entities granted access in response to a subpoena or court order
- To another school, district/system, or postsecondary educational institution to which a student seeks or intends to enroll or in which the student already is enrolled
- In connection with financial aid for which a student has applied or has received
- To accrediting organizations to carry out accrediting functions
- To organizations conducting studies for, or on behalf of, the school to develop, validate, or administer predictive tests; administer student aid programs; or improve instruction
- To appropriate officials in connection with a health or safety emergency
- When the district discloses directory information-designated details. [See Objecting to the Release of Directory Information to prohibit this disclosure.]

Release of personally identifiable information to any other person or agency — such as a prospective employer or for a scholarship application — will occur only with parental or student permission as appropriate.

The principal is custodian of all records for currently enrolled students at the assigned school. The superintendent is the custodian of all records for students who have withdrawn or graduated.

A parent or eligible student who wants to inspect the student's records should submit a written request to the custodian of records identifying the records they want to inspect.

Records may be reviewed in person during regular school hours. The custodian of records or designee will be available to explain the record and to answer questions.

Northwest ISD Student Handbook

A parent or eligible student who submits a written request and pays copying costs of 10 cents per page may obtain copies. If circumstances prevent inspection during regular school hours and the student qualifies for free or reduced-price meals, the district will either provide a copy of the records requested or make other arrangements for the parent or student to review the records.

Requests for student records should be made to Linda Gray, Records Management Officer at 817-215-0074, 817-698-6695 fax, or Lgray@nisdtx.org. Mailing address is 2001 Texan Drive, Justin, TX 76247.

A parent or eligible student may inspect the student's records and request a correction or amendment if the records are considered inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy rights.

A request to correct a student's record should be submitted to the appropriate custodian of records. The request must clearly identify the part of the record that should be corrected and include an explanation of how the information is inaccurate. If the district denies the request to amend the records, the parent or eligible student has the right to request a hearing. If after the hearing the records are not amended, the parent or eligible student has 30 school days to place a statement in the student's record.

Although improperly recorded grades may be challenged, contesting a student's grade in a course or on an examination is handled through the complaint process found in policy [FNG\(LOCAL\)](#). A grade issued by a teacher can be changed only if the board of trustees determines that the grade is arbitrary, erroneous, or inconsistent with the district's grading guidelines.

[See Report Cards/Progress Reports and Conferences (All Grade Levels), Complaints and Concerns (All Grade Levels), and Finality of Grades at policy [FNG\(LEGAL\)](#)]

The district's student records policy is found at policy [FL\(LEGAL\)](#) and [FL\(LOCAL\)](#) and is available at the principal's or superintendent's office or on the district's website at <https://www.nisdtx.org>.

Note: The parent's or eligible student's right of access to and copies of student records does not extend to all records. Materials that are not considered educational records — such as a teacher's personal notes about a student shared only with a substitute teacher — do not have to be made available.

Teacher and Staff Professional Qualifications

A parent may request information about the professional qualifications of their child's teachers, including whether the teacher:

- Has met state qualification and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction
- Has an emergency permit or other provisional status for which state requirements have been waived
- Is currently teaching in the field or discipline of their certification

The parent also has the right to request information about the qualifications of any paraprofessional who may provide services to the child.

Northwest ISD Student Handbook

A Student with Exceptionalities or Special Circumstances

Children of Military Families

[The Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunities for Military Children](https://www.dodea.edu/education/partnership-and-resources/military-interstate-compact) (<https://www.dodea.edu/education/partnership-and-resources/military-interstate-compact>) entitles children of military families to flexibility regarding certain district and state requirements, including:

- Immunization requirements
- Grade level, course, or educational program placement
- Eligibility requirements for participation in extracurricular activities
- Enrollment in virtual or hybrid courses offered by the district or another district or school
- Graduation requirements

The district will excuse absences related to a student visiting a parent, including a stepparent or legal guardian, who is:

- Called to active duty
- On leave
- Returning from a deployment of at least four months

The district will permit **no more than five excused absences** per year for this purpose. For the absence to be excused, the absence must occur no earlier than the 60th day before deployment or no later than the 30th day after the parent's return from deployment.

More information is available at [Military Family Resources at the Texas Education Agency](https://tea.texas.gov/about-tea/other-services/military-family-resources) (<https://tea.texas.gov/about-tea/other-services/military-family-resources>).

Parental Role in Certain Classroom and School Assignments

Multiple-Birth Siblings

State law permits a parent of multiple-birth siblings (for example, twins, triplets) assigned to the same grade and campus to request in writing that the children be placed in either the same classroom or separate classrooms.

Written requests must be submitted by the 14th day after the students' enrollment. [See policy [FDB\(LEGAL\)](#) for more information.]

Safety Transfers/Assignments

The board or its designee will honor a parent's request to transfer their child to another classroom or campus if the district has determined that the child has been a victim of bullying, including cyberbullying, as defined by Education Code 37.0832.

The board may transfer a student who has engaged in bullying to another classroom. The board will consult with the parent of a child who has engaged in bullying before deciding to transfer the child to another campus.

Transportation is not provided for a transfer to another campus. See the principal for more information.

[See Bullying (All Grade Levels), and policies [FDB](#) and [FFI](#) for more information.]

Northwest ISD Student Handbook

The district will honor a parent's request for the transfer of their child to a safe public school in the district if the child attends a school identified by the Texas Education Agency as persistently dangerous or if the child has been a victim of a violent criminal offense while at school or on school grounds.

[See policy FDE for more information.]

The board will honor a parent's request for the transfer of their child to another district campus if the child has been the victim of sexual assault by another student assigned to the same campus, whether the assault occurred on or off campus, and that student has been convicted of or placed on deferred adjudication for the assault. In accordance with policy [FDE](#), if the victim does not wish to transfer, the board will transfer the assailant.

Student Use of a Service/Assistance Animal

A parent of a student who uses a service/assistance animal because of the student's disability must submit a written request to the principal before bringing the service/assistance animal on campus. The district will try to accommodate a request as soon as possible but will do so within 10 district business days.

A Student in the Conservatorship of the State (Foster Care)

In an effort to provide educational stability, the district will provide enrollment and registration assistance, as well as other educational services throughout the student's enrollment, to any student who is currently placed or newly placed in foster care (temporary or permanent custody of the state, sometimes referred to as substitute care).

A student in the conservatorship (custody) of the state who enrolls in the district after the beginning of the school year will be allowed credit-by-examination opportunities at any point during the year.

The district will assess the student's available records to determine transfer of credit for subjects and courses taken before the student's enrollment in the district.

The district will award partial course credit when the student only passes one half of a two-half course. [For provisions on partial course credit for students who are not in the conservatorship of the state, see EI(LOCAL).]

A student in the conservatorship of the state who is moved outside the district's or school's attendance boundaries — or who is initially placed in the conservatorship of the state and moved outside the district's or school's boundaries — is entitled to remain at the school the student was attending before the placement or move until the student reaches the highest grade level at that particular school.

If a student in grade 11 or 12 transfers to another district but does not meet the graduation requirements of the receiving district, the student can request a diploma from the previous district if the student meets its graduation criteria.

For a student in the conservatorship of the state who is eligible for a tuition and fee exemption under state law and likely to be in care on the day preceding the student's 18th birthday, the district will:

- Assist the student with the completion of applications for admission or financial aid
- Arrange for and accompany the student on campus visits

Northwest ISD Student Handbook

- Assist in researching and applying for private or institution-sponsored scholarships
- Identify whether the student is a candidate for appointment to a military academy
- Assist the student in registering and preparing for college entrance examinations, including (subject to the availability of funds) arranging for the payment of examination fees by the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS)
- Coordinate contact between the student and a liaison officer for students formerly in the conservatorship of the state

If you have questions, please contact the district's foster care liaison:

Lilia Vasquez

Lilia.Vasquez@nisdtx.org

817-698-1067

[See Credit by Examination for Advancement/Acceleration — If a Student Has Not Taken the Course/Subject and Course Credit (Secondary Grade Levels Only)]

A Student Who Is Homeless

A parent is encouraged to inform the district if their child is experiencing homelessness. District staff can share resources that may be able to assist families.

Please also check the district website for information related to services available in the area that can help families who are homeless.

A student who is homeless will be provided flexibility regarding certain district provisions, including:

- Proof of residency requirements
- Immunization requirements
- Educational program placement (if the student is unable to provide previous academic records or misses an application deadline during a period of homelessness)
- Credit-by-examination opportunities at any point during the year (if the student enrolled in the district after the beginning of the school year), per State Board of Education (SBOE) rules
- Assessment of the student's available records to determine transfer of credit for subjects and courses taken before the student's enrollment in the district
- Awarding partial credit when a student passes only one half of a two-half course
- Eligibility requirements for participation in extracurricular activities
- Graduation requirements

Federal law allows a student who is homeless to remain enrolled in the "school of origin" or to enroll in a new school in the attendance area where the student is currently residing.

If a student who is homeless in grade 11 or 12 transfers to another district but does not meet the graduation requirements of the receiving district, state law allows the student to request a diploma from the previous district if the student meets the criteria to graduate from the previous district.

Northwest ISD Student Handbook

A student or parent who is dissatisfied by the district's eligibility, school selection, or enrollment decision may appeal through policy [FNG\(LOCAL\)](#). The district will expedite local timelines, when possible, for prompt dispute resolution.

For more information on services for students who are homeless, contact the district's homeless education liaison:

Lilia Vasquez

Lilia.Vasquez@nisdtx.org

817-698-1067

[See Credit by Examination for Advancement/Acceleration — If a Student Has Not Taken the Course/Subject and Course Credit (Secondary Grade Levels Only)]

A Student Who Has Learning Difficulties or Who Needs Special Education or Section 504 Services

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

If a student is experiencing learning difficulties, their parent may contact the individuals 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 whether the student needs specific aids, accommodations, or services. A parent may request an evaluation for special education or Section 504 services at any time.

Special Education Referrals

If a parent makes a **written request** for an initial evaluation for special education services to the director of special education services or to a district administrative employee of the school district, the district must respond no later than **15 school days** after receiving the request. At that time, the district must give the parent prior written notice of whether it agrees or refuses to evaluate the student, along with a copy of the [Notice of Procedural Safeguards](#) (https://fw.escapps.net/Display_Portal/publications). If the district agrees to evaluate the student, it must also give the parent the opportunity to give written consent for the evaluation.

Note: A request for a special education evaluation may be made verbally; it does not need to be made in writing. Districts must still comply with all federal prior-written notices and procedural safeguard requirements as well as the requirements for identifying, locating, and evaluating children who are suspected of having a disability and in need of special education. However, a verbal request does not require the district to respond within the 15 school-day timeline.

If the district 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 parent's written consent. However, if the student is absent from school during the evaluation period for three or more school

Northwest ISD Student Handbook

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 the district receives a parent's consent for the initial evaluation at least 35 but less than 45 school days before the last instructional day of the school year, it must complete the written report and provide a copy of the report to the parent 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 30 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 district must give the parent a copy of the evaluation report at no cost.

Additional information about special education is available from the school district in a companion document titled [Parent's Guide to the Admission, Review, and Dismissal Process](https://fw.escapps.net/Display_Portal/publications) (https://fw.escapps.net/Display_Portal/publications).

Contact Person for Special Education Referrals

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

Micah Gierkey, Executive Director of Student Support Services, at (817) 215-0985 or mgierkey@nisdtx.org.

For questions about post-secondary transitions, including the transition from education to employment, for students receiving special education services, contact the district's transition and employment designee:

Micah Gierkey, Executive Director of Student Support Services, at (817) 215-0985 or mgierkey@nisdtx.org.

Section 504 Referrals

Each school district must have standards and procedures in place for the evaluation and placement of students in the district's Section 504 program. Districts must also implement a system of procedural safeguards that includes:

- Notice
- An opportunity for a parent or guardian to examine relevant records
- An impartial hearing with an opportunity for participation by the parent or guardian and representation by counsel
- 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:

Lilia Vasquez

Lilia.Vasquez@nisdtx.org

817-698-1067

Northwest ISD Student Handbook

[See A Student with Physical or Mental Impairments Protected under Section 504]

Visit these websites for information regarding students with disabilities and the family:

- [Legal Framework for the Child-Centered Special Education Process](https://fw.escapps.net/Display_Portal?destination=/) (https://fw.escapps.net/Display_Portal?destination=/)
- [Partner Resource Network](http://prntexas.org/) (<http://prntexas.org/>)
- [SPEDTEX: Special Education Information Center](https://www.spedtex.org/) (<https://www.spedtex.org/>)
- [Texas First Project](http://www.texasprojectfirst.org/) (<http://www.texasprojectfirst.org/>)
- [TEA Special Education Parent and Family Resources](https://tea.texas.gov/academics/special-student-populations/special-education/parent-and-family-resources) (<https://tea.texas.gov/academics/special-student-populations/special-education/parent-and-family-resources>)

Notification to Parents of Intervention Strategies for Learning Difficulties Provided to Students in General Education

In accordance with state law, the district will annually notify parents if their child receives assistance for learning difficulties. Details of such assistance can include intervention strategies. This notice is not intended for those students already enrolled in a special education program.

Texas Driving with Disability Program

In accordance with state law, the district will provide notification of the Texas Driving with Disability Program to students who have a health condition or disability that may impede effective communication with a peace officer and receive special education or are covered by Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. This notification will be provided annually to an eligible student aged 16 years or older until the student's graduation or 21st birthday and to the student's parents.

The Texas Driving with Disability Program focuses on improving the interaction between law enforcement and drivers with disabilities that have unique communication needs.

A Student Who Receives Special Education Services with Other School-Aged Children in the Home

If a student is receiving special education services at a campus outside their attendance zone, state law permits the parent or guardian to request that other students residing in the household be transferred to the same campus if the grade level for the transferring student is offered on that campus.

The student receiving special education services is entitled to transportation; however, the district is not required to provide transportation to other children in the household.

The parent or guardian should contact the school principal regarding transportation needs before requesting a transfer for other children in the home. [See policy [FDB\(LOCAL\)](#) for more information.]

A Student Who Speaks a Primary Language Other than English

A student may be eligible to receive specialized support if their primary language is not English and the student has difficulty performing ordinary class work in English.

If the student qualifies for these services, the Language Proficiency Assessment Committee (LPAC) will determine the types of services the student needs, including accommodations or

Northwest ISD Student Handbook

modifications related to classroom instruction, local assessments, and state-mandated assessments.

[See Emergent Bilingual Students (All Grade Levels) and Special Programs (All Grade Levels)]

A Student with Physical or Mental Impairments Protected under Section 504

A student with a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits a major life activity, as defined by law — and who does not otherwise qualify for special education services — may qualify for protections under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act.

Section 504 is a federal law designed to prohibit discrimination against individuals with disabilities.

When an evaluation is requested, a committee will be formed to determine whether the student needs services and supports under Section 504 in order to receive a free appropriate public education (FAPE), as defined in federal law.

[See A Student Who Has Learning Difficulties or Who Needs Special Education or Section 504 Services and policy [FB](#) for more information.]

Northwest ISD Student Handbook

Section Two: Other Important Information for Parents and Students

This section contains important information on academics, school activities, and school operations and requirements.

It is organized alphabetically to serve as a quick-reference guide. Where applicable, the topics are further organized by grade level.

Parents and children should take a moment together to become familiar with the issues addressed in this section. For guidance on a particular topic, please contact your child's teacher, counselor, or principal.

Absences/Attendance

Regular school attendance is essential. Absences from class may result in serious disruption of a student's education. The student and parent should avoid unnecessary absences.

Two important state laws are discussed below — one dealing with compulsory attendance and the other with how attendance affects the award of a student's final grade or course credit.

Compulsory Attendance

Prekindergarten and Kindergarten

Students enrolled in prekindergarten or kindergarten are required to attend school and are subject to the compulsory attendance requirements as long as they remain enrolled.

Ages 6-18

State law requires that a student 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, as well as any applicable accelerated instruction program, extended-year program, or tutorial session, unless the student is otherwise excused from attendance or legally exempt.

State law requires a student in kindergarten-grade 2 to attend any assigned accelerated reading instruction program. Parents will be notified in writing if their child is assigned to an accelerated reading instruction program based on a diagnostic reading instrument.

A student will be required to attend any assigned accelerated instruction program before or after school or during the summer if the student does not meet the passing standards on an applicable subject area state assessment.

Age 19 and Older

A student who voluntarily attends or enrolls after their 19th birthday is required to attend each school day until the end of the school year. If the student incurs more than five unexcused absences in a semester, the district may revoke the student's enrollment. The student's presence on school property thereafter would be unauthorized and may be considered trespassing. [See policy [FEA](#) for more information.]

Northwest ISD Student Handbook

Compulsory Attendance — Exemptions

All Grade Levels

State law allows exemptions to the compulsory attendance requirements, as long as the student makes up all work, for the following activities and events:

- Religious holy days
- Required court appearances
- Appearing at a governmental office to obtain U.S. citizenship
- Taking part in a US naturalization oath ceremony
- Serving as an election clerk
- Health-care appointments for the student or a child of the student, including absences related to autism services and mental health appointments
- Absences resulting from a serious or life-threatening illness or related treatment that makes a student's attendance infeasible, with certification by a physician on the district's form
- Absences for attendance in a released time course in religious instruction
- For students in the conservatorship of the state:
 - An activity required under a court-ordered service plan
 - Any other court-ordered activity, provided it is not practicable to schedule the student's participation in the activity outside of school hours

For **children of military families**, absences of up to five days will be excused for a student to visit a parent, stepparent, or legal guardian going to, on leave from, or returning from certain deployments. [See Children of Military Families]

Note that documented health-care appointments may include telehealth appointments. Students who are physically on campus will not be allowed to participate in telehealth or other online appointments without specific authorization from an appropriate administrator. Students should not use district-issued technology, including Wi-Fi or internet, for telehealth appointments because use of district-owned equipment and its network systems is not private and may be monitored by the district. For more information, see Personal Communications and Other Electronic Devices (All Grade Levels).

Secondary Grade Levels

The district will allow a student who is 15 years of age or older to be absent for one day to obtain a learner license and one day to obtain a driver's license, provided that the board has authorized such excused absences under policy FEA(LOCAL). The student will be required to provide documentation of the visit to the driver's license office for each absence and must make up any work missed.

[See Driver License Attendance Verification (Secondary Grade Levels Only)]

The district will allow junior and senior students to be absent for up to two days per year to visit a college or university if the following conditions are met:

- The board has authorized such excused absences under policy [FEA\(LOCAL\)](#)
- The principal has approved the student's absence
- The student follows campus procedures to verify the visit and makes up any work missed

Northwest ISD Student Handbook

The district will allow a student 17 years old or older to be absent for up to four days during the period the student is enrolled in high school to pursue enlistment in the U.S. armed services or Texas National Guard, provided the student verifies these activities to the district.

The district will allow a student to be absent for up to two days during the student's junior year and two days during the student's senior year for a career investigation day to visit a professional at that individual's workplace to determine the student's interest in pursuing a career in the professional's field, provided the student verifies these activities to the district.

The district will allow a student to be absent for up to two days per school year to serve as:

- An early voting clerk, if the district's board has authorized this in policy [FEA\(LOCAL\)](#), the student notifies their teachers, and the student receives approval from the principal prior to the absences
- An election clerk, if the student makes up any work missed

The district will allow a student in grades 6-12 to be absent for the purpose of sounding "Taps" at a military honors funeral for a deceased veteran.

Compulsory Attendance — Failure to Comply

All Grade Levels

School employees must investigate and report violations of the compulsory attendance law.

A student who is absent without permission from school, any class, any required special program, or any required tutorial will be considered in violation of the compulsory attendance law and subject to disciplinary action.

Students with Disabilities

If a student with a disability is experiencing attendance issues, the student's ARD or Section 504 committee will determine whether the attendance issues warrant an evaluation, a reevaluation, and/or modifications to the student's individualized education program or Section 504 plan, as appropriate.

Ages 6-18

When a student age 6-18 incurs three or more unexcused absences within a four-week period, the law requires the school to send notice to the parent.

The notice will:

- Remind the parent of their duty to monitor the student's attendance and require the student to attend school
- Request a conference between school administrators and the parent
- Inform the parent that the district will initiate truancy prevention measures, including a behavior improvement plan, school-based community service, referrals to counseling or other social services, or other appropriate measures

The truancy prevention facilitator for the district is: Jamie Farber, Ed.D, Director of Guidance Counseling 2001 Texan Dr. Justin, Tx. 76247 jfarber@nisdtx.org 817-215-0147

Northwest ISD Student Handbook

For any questions about student absences, parents should contact the facilitator or any other campus administrator.

A court of law may impose penalties against the parent if a school-aged student is deliberately not attending school. The district may file a complaint against the parent if the student incurs 10 or more unexcused absences within a six-month period in the same school year.

If a student age 12-18 incurs 10 or more unexcused absences within a six-month period in the same school year, the district, in most circumstances, will refer the student to truancy court.

[See policies [FEA\(LEGAL\)](#) and [FED\(LEGAL\)](#) for more information.]

Age 19 and Older

After a student age 19 or older incurs a third unexcused absence, the district is required by law to send the student a letter explaining that the district may revoke the student's enrollment for the remainder of the school year if the student has more than five unexcused absences in a semester. As an alternative to revoking a student's enrollment, the district may implement a behavior improvement plan.

Attendance for Credit or Final Grade (All Grade Levels)

To receive credit or a final grade in a class, a student must attend the class at least 90 percent of the days it is offered. A student who attends at least 75 percent but fewer than 90 percent of the days may receive credit or a final grade if they complete a plan, approved by the principal, that allows the student to fulfill the class's instructional requirements. If a student is involved in a criminal or juvenile court proceeding, the judge presiding over the case must also approve the plan before the student receives credit or a final grade.

If a student attends fewer than 75 percent of the class days or does not complete the principal-approved plan, then the attendance review committee will determine whether there are extenuating circumstances for the absences and how the student can regain credit or a final grade. [See policy [FEC](#) for more information.]

Except for absences due to serious or life-threatening illness or related treatment, all absences, excused or unexcused, may be held against a student's attendance requirement. To determine whether there were extenuating circumstances for any absences, the attendance committee will consider:

- Whether the student has mastered the essential knowledge and skills and maintained passing grades in the course or subject.
- If makeup work is completed, absences for the reasons listed above at Exemptions to Compulsory Attendance will be considered extenuating circumstances for purposes of attendance for credit or the award of a final grade.
- Whether the student or the student's parent had any control over the absences.
- Any information presented by the student or parent to the committee about the absences.

The student or parent may appeal the committee's decision to the board by following policy [ENG\(LOCAL\)](#).

Northwest ISD Student Handbook

Official Attendance-Taking Time (All Grade Levels)

The district must submit attendance of its students to the TEA reflecting attendance at a specific time each day.

Official attendance is taken every day during the second instructional hour as required by state rule.

A student absent for any portion of the day should follow the procedures below to provide documentation of the absence.

Documentation After an Absence (All Grade Levels)

When a student is absent from school, parents are asked to contact the school each day the student is absent. If the contact is made by phone, the **parent must submit the digital absence form (absence.nisdtx.org)** and upload supporting documentation, if needed. Upon arrival or return to school and no later than 5 school days of returning to school, the digital absence form must be completed and submitted. A digital absence form submitted by the student will not be accepted unless the student is age 18 or older or is an emancipated minor under state law.

The campus will document in its attendance records for the student whether the absence is considered by the district to be excused or unexcused. Administrators and teachers value communication and encourage parents to notify the campus when a student is absent. However, in order to consider excusing the absence, the digital absence form must be submitted by the parent. The campus may excuse up to six days of absences with parent notes, after which a doctor's note will be required to excuse the absence. Please note that unless the absence is for a statutorily allowed reason under compulsory attendance laws, the district is not required to excuse any absence, even if the parent submits a digital absence form explaining the absence.

Because class time is important, doctor and dental appointments should be made before or after school hours, if possible so students will not miss valuable instructional time.

Students who have an appointment with a healthcare professional and either commence class or return to school on the same day of the appointment are not considered absent for attendance accounting purposes if a note from the doctor's office is provided and make-up work is completed within the time allotted by the teacher. Students must be signed in and out through the attendance office.

Note: The district is not required to excuse any absence, even if the parent provides a note explaining the absence, unless the absence is an exemption under compulsory attendance laws.

Doctor's Note After an Absence for Illness (All Grade Levels)

Within **5** days of returning to school, a student who is absent for more than **6** consecutive days because of a personal illness must submit a digital absence form, including documentation from a doctor or health clinic verifying the illness or condition that caused the absence. Otherwise, the absence may be considered unexcused and in violation of compulsory attendance laws.

If the student develops a questionable pattern of absences, the principal or attendance committee may require a statement from a doctor or health clinic verifying the illness or condition that caused the absence to determine whether an absence will be excused or unexcused.

Northwest ISD Student Handbook

Certification of Absence Due to Severe Illness or Treatment

If a student is absent because of a serious or life-threatening illness or related treatment that makes a student's attendance infeasible, a parent must provide certification from a physician licensed to practice in Texas specifying the student's illness and the anticipated period of absence related to the illness or treatment on the district's form. A parent may access the [required form](#) (Physician Certification of Serious or Life-Threatening Illness).

Driver License Attendance Verification (Secondary Grade Levels Only)

A currently enrolled student seeking a driver's license shall submit the Texas Department of Public Safety Verification of Enrollment and Attendance Form (VOE), signed by the parent, to the campus central office at least 10 days before it is needed. The district will issue a VOE only if the student meets class credit or attendance requirements. The [VOE form](#) (<https://www.tdlr.texas.gov/driver/forms/VOE.pdf>) is available online.

More information is available on the [Texas Department of Public Safety website](#) (<https://www.dps.texas.gov/section/driver-license/how-apply-texas-driver-license-teen>).

[See Compulsory Attendance — Exemptions for Secondary Grade Levels for information on excused absences for obtaining a learner license or driver's license.]

Accountability under State and Federal Law (All Grade Levels)

Northwest ISD and each of its campuses are held to certain standards of accountability under state and federal law. A key component of accountability is the dissemination and publication of certain reports and information, including:

- The Texas Academic Performance Report (TAPR) for the district, compiled by the Texas Education Agency (TEA), based on academic factors and ratings
- A School Report Card (SRC) for each campus in the district, compiled by TEA
- The district's financial management report, which includes the financial accountability rating assigned to the district by TEA
- Information compiled by TEA for the submission of a federal report card that is required by federal law

Accountability information can be found on the district's website at <https://www.nisdtx.org/>. Hard copies of any reports are available upon request to the district's administration office.

TEA maintains additional accountability and accreditation information at [TEA Performance Reporting Division](#) (<https://tea.texas.gov/texas-schools/accountability/academic-accountability/performance-reporting>).

Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery Test (Grades 10-12)

A student in grades 10-12 will be offered an opportunity to take the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery test and consult with a military recruiter.

Please contact the campus counselor for more information and/or to determine what date(s) it will be given on your campus.

Northwest ISD Student Handbook

Bullying (All Grade Levels)

The district strives to prevent bullying, in accordance with the district's policies, by promoting a positive school culture; building healthy relationships between students and staff; encouraging reporting of bullying incidents, including anonymous reporting; and investigating and addressing reported bullying incidents.

Bullying is defined in state law as 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:

- 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
- Is sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive enough that the action or threat creates an intimidating, threatening, or abusive educational environment for a student
- Materially and substantially disrupts the educational process or the orderly operation of a classroom or school
- Infringes on the rights of the victim at school

Bullying includes cyberbullying. Cyberbullying is defined in state law as bullying that is done using any electronic communication device, including:

- A cellular or other type of telephone
- A computer
- A camera
- Electronic mail
- Instant messaging
- Text messaging
- A social media application
- An internet website
- Any other internet-based communication tool

Bullying is prohibited by the district and could include:

- Hazing
- Threats
- Taunting
- Teasing
- Confinement
- Assault
- Demands for money
- Destruction of property
- Theft of valued possessions
- Name-calling
- Rumor-spreading
- Ostracism

The district will integrate into instruction research-based content designed to reduce bullying that is appropriate for students' age groups.

Northwest ISD Student Handbook

Students in elementary grades will participate in:

- Instruction designed so that students can recognize bullying behaviors and how to report them
- Age-appropriate discussions that encourage peers to intervene when they observe bullying occur
- Instruction that characterizes bullying as a behavior that results from the student's need to acquire more mature social or coping skills, not an unchangeable trait

Students in secondary grades will participate in:

- Instruction on the brain's ability to change and grow so the student recognizes bullying behavior can come from a developmental need to acquire more social skills, can change when the brain matures and learns better ways of coping, and is not an unchangeable trait
- Discussions that portray bullying as undesirable behavior and a means for attaining or maintaining social status at school, and that discourage students from using bullying as a tool for social status
- Instruction designed so that students recognize the role that reporting bullying behaviors plays in promoting a safe school community

The district will use an age-appropriate survey about school culture that includes relevant questions on bullying to identify and address student concerns.

Each campus has a committee that addresses bullying by focusing on prevention efforts and health and wellness initiatives. The committee will include parents and secondary students. For more information on this committee, including interest in serving on the committee, contact the campus principal.

If a student believes that they have experienced bullying or witnessed the bullying of another student, the student or parent should notify a teacher, school counselor, principal, or another district employee as soon as possible. Any district employee aware of a report of a bullying incident will relay the report to an appropriate administrator. Procedures for reporting allegations of bullying may be found on the district's website.

A student may anonymously report an alleged incident of bullying at NISD Tipline <https://www.nisdtx.org/tipline>.

The administration will investigate any allegations of bullying and related misconduct. The district will also provide notice to the parent of the alleged victim and the parent of the student alleged to have engaged in bullying.

If an investigation determines that bullying occurred, the administration will take appropriate disciplinary action and may, in certain circumstances, notify law enforcement. Disciplinary or other action may be taken even if the conduct did not meet the definition of bullying.

The district will provide research-based interventions, which may include counseling options, for students who engage in bullying behaviors, students who are targeted by bullying behaviors, and any student who witnessed bullying behaviors.

Any action taken in response to bullying will comply with state and federal law regarding students with disabilities.

Northwest ISD Student Handbook

Any retaliation against a student who reports an incident of bullying is prohibited.

Upon recommendation of the administration, the board may transfer a student found to have engaged in bullying to another classroom at the campus. In consultation with the student's parent, the board may transfer the student to another campus in the district.

The parent of a student who has been determined to be a victim of bullying may request that the student be transferred to another classroom or campus within the district. [See Safety Transfers/Assignments]

A copy of the district's bullying policy is available in the principal's office, superintendent's office, and on the district's website, and is included at the end of this handbook as an [appendix](#).

A student or parent who is dissatisfied with the outcome of an investigation may appeal through policy [FNG\(LOCAL\)](#).

[See Safety Transfers/Assignments, Dating Violence, Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation (All Grade Levels), Hazing (All Grade Levels), policy FFI, the district's Student Code of Conduct, and the district improvement plan, a copy of which can be viewed in the campus office.]

Career and Technical Education (CTE) and Other Work-Based Programs (Secondary Grade Levels Only)

The district offers career and technical education programs in the following areas:

Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources, Architecture & Construction, Arts, A/V Technology & Communications, Business Management & Administration, Education & Training, Finance, Health Science, Human Services, Information Technology, Law, Marketing, STEM, Technology Applications/Information Technology, and Transportation, Distribution & Logistics.

Admission to these programs is based on open enrollment for all pathways. School of choice academies require additional requests.

District policy also prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, handicap, or age in its employment practices as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended; and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.

The district will take steps to assure that lack of English language skills will not be a barrier to admission or participation in all educational and vocational programs.

For information about your rights or grievance procedures, contact the Title IX coordinator and the ADA/Section 504 coordinator.

[See Nondiscrimination Statement (All Grade Levels) for the name and contact information for the Title IX coordinator and ADA/Section 504 coordinator.]

Celebrations (All Grade Levels)

Although a parent or grandparent is not prohibited from providing food for a school-designated function or for children in the child's or grandchild's classroom for his or her birthday, please be aware that children in the school may have severe allergies to certain food products. Therefore, it is imperative to discuss this with the child's teacher prior to bringing any food in this circumstance.

Northwest ISD Student Handbook

The district wellness policy allows three (3) designated party days per school year and Board Policy designates these as Valentine, Winter Holiday, and one day designated by the campus. *Board Policy [CO \(LEGAL\)](#)*. The foods and beverages sold for fundraisers on allowable days are not required to meet applicable standards outlined in the Code of Federal Regulations, provided that no specially exempted fundraiser foods or beverages may be sold in competition with school meals in the food service area during the meal service.

Occasionally, the school or a class may host certain functions or celebrations tied to the curriculum that will involve food. The school or teacher will notify students and parents of any known food allergies when soliciting potential volunteers for bringing food products.

[See Food Allergies (All Grade Levels)]

Child Sexual Abuse, Neglect, Trafficking, and Other Maltreatment of Children (All Grade Levels)

The district has established a plan for addressing child abuse, neglect, trafficking, and other maltreatment of children. The plan is available at [Child Abuse](#). Abuse includes physical abuse, including sexual abuse, and mental and emotional abuse. Trafficking includes both sex and labor trafficking.

Duty to Report

Anyone who suspects that a child has been or may be abused or neglected has a legal responsibility, under state law, to report the suspected abuse or neglect to law enforcement or to Child Protective Services (CPS). See below for information about how to report and respond to allegations of child abuse or neglect.

Possible Warning Signs of Child Abuse, Neglect, Trafficking, and Other Maltreatment of Children

Physical abuse

Possible warning signs of physical abuse include:

- Frequent injuries such as bruises, cuts, black eyes, or burns without adequate explanations
- Frequent complaints of pain without apparent injury
- Burns or bruises in unusual patterns that may indicate the use of an instrument or human bite; cigarette burns on any part of the body
- Lack of reaction to pain
- Extreme fear of going home or seeing parents
- Injuries that appear after a child has not been seen for several days
- Unseasonable clothing that may hide injuries to arms or legs

Sexual Abuse

Possible warning signs of sexual abuse include:

- Physical signs of sexually transmitted diseases
- Evidence of injury to the genital area
- Pregnancy in a young girl
- Difficulty in sitting or walking
- Extreme fear of being alone with adults of a certain sex

Northwest ISD Student Handbook

- Sexual comments, behaviors, or play beyond what is considered age-appropriate behavior
- Knowledge of sexual relations beyond what is expected for a child's age
- Sexual victimization of other children

Children and adolescents who have experienced dating violence may show similar physical, behavioral, and emotional warning signs. [See Dating Violence, Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation (All Grade Levels) and Consent to Instruction on Prevention of Child Abuse, Family Violence, Dating Violence, and Sex Trafficking]

Emotional Abuse

Possible warning signs of emotional abuse include:

- Over-compliance or low self-esteem caused by scapegoating or verbal abuse by caregivers
- Severe depression, anxiety, or aggression
- Lag in physical, emotional, and intellectual development
- Indicators of a caregiver who belittles the child, withholds love, and seems unconcerned about the child's problems
- Significant changes to behavior, such as withdrawal or over-aggression
- Significant changes to weight, such as substantial weight gain or weight loss

Neglect

Possible warning signs of neglect include:

- Obvious malnourishment
- Consistent lack of personal hygiene that poses a health risk
- Stealing or begging for food
- Child unattended for long periods of time
- Unaddressed need for dental care or other medical attention

Description and Warning Signs of Trafficking

Child trafficking of any sort is prohibited by the Penal Code. Sex trafficking involves forcing a person, including a child, into sexual abuse, assault, indecency, prostitution, or pornography. Labor trafficking involves forcing a person, including a child, to engage in forced labor or services.

Traffickers are often trusted members of a child's community, such as friends, romantic partners, family members, mentors, and coaches. Some traffickers contact victims online.

Possible warning signs of sexual trafficking in children include:

- Changes in school attendance, habits, friend groups, vocabulary, demeanor, and attitude
- Sudden appearance of expensive items (for example, manicures, designer clothes, purses, technology)
- Tattoos or branding
- Refillable gift cards
- Frequent runaway episodes
- Multiple phones or social media accounts
- Provocative pictures posted online or stored on the phone
- Unexplained injuries
- Isolation from family, friends, and community

Northwest ISD Student Handbook

- Older romantic partners

Additional warning signs of labor trafficking in children include:

- Being unpaid, paid very little, or paid only through tips
- Being employed but not having a school-authorized work permit
- Being employed and having a work permit but clearly working outside the permitted hours for students
- Owning a large debt and being unable to pay it off
- Not being allowed breaks at work or being subjected to excessively long work hours
- Being overly concerned with pleasing an employer and/or deferring personal or educational decisions to a boss
- Not being in control of their own money
- Living with an employer or having an employer listed as a student's caregiver
- A desire to quit a job but not being allowed to do so

[See Consent to Instruction on Prevention of Child Abuse, Family Violence, Dating Violence, and Sex Trafficking]

Reporting and Responding to Child Abuse, Neglect, Trafficking, and Other Maltreatment of Children

A child who has experienced any type of abuse or neglect should be encouraged to seek out a parent or trusted adult. Children may be reluctant to disclose abuse and may only disclose sexual abuse indirectly. As a parent or trusted adult, it is important to be calm and comforting if your child or another child confides in you. Reassure the child that they did the right thing by telling you.

If your child is a victim of abuse, neglect, trafficking, or other maltreatment, the school counselor or principal will provide information on counseling options for you and your child available in your area. Texas Health and Human Services also manages early intervention counseling programs.

To find out what services may be available in your county, see Texas Health and Human Services' [Family Support Services Program Locator](https://fss.hhs.texas.gov/Programs_Available_In_Your_County/default.asp) (https://fss.hhs.texas.gov/Programs_Available_In_Your_County/default.asp).

Reports of abuse, trafficking, or neglect may be made to the CPS division of the DFPS at 1 800-252-5400 or online at [Texas Abuse Hotline Website](http://www.txabusehotline.org) (www.txabusehotline.org).

Further Resources on Sexual Abuse, Trafficking, and Other Maltreatment of Children

The following websites include resources to help increase awareness of child abuse and neglect, sexual abuse, trafficking, and other maltreatment of children:

- [Child Welfare Information Gateway](https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubPDFs/whatiscan.pdf) (<https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubPDFs/whatiscan.pdf>)
- [KidsHealth, For Parents, Child Abuse](https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/child-abuse.html) (<https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/child-abuse.html>)
- [Office of the Texas Governor's Child Sex Trafficking Team](https://gov.texas.gov/organization/cjd/childsextrafficking) (<https://gov.texas.gov/organization/cjd/childsextrafficking>)
- [Human Trafficking of School-aged Children](https://tea.texas.gov/about-tea/other-services/human-trafficking-of-school-aged-children) (<https://tea.texas.gov/about-tea/other-services/human-trafficking-of-school-aged-children>)
- [Child Sexual Abuse: A Parental Guide from the Texas Association Against Sexual Assault](https://www.nsvrc.org/publications/booklets/child-sexual-abuse-parental-guide) (<https://www.nsvrc.org/publications/booklets/child-sexual-abuse-parental-guide>)

Northwest ISD Student Handbook

- [National Center of Safe Supportive Learning Environments: Human Trafficking in America's Schools](https://safesupportivelearning.ed.gov/human-trafficking-americas-schools) (<https://safesupportivelearning.ed.gov/human-trafficking-americas-schools>)

Class Rank/Highest-Ranking Student (Secondary Grade Levels Only)

- The district shall include in the calculation of class rank only grades earned for high school credit in the following subjects: English; Mathematics; Science; Social studies; Economics; and Languages other than English. (Grades earned in these courses during middle school shall be included in class rank calculation.)
- The calculation of a student's grade point average (GPA), both unweighted and for class rank, shall exclude grades earned in or by a course for which a pass/fail grade is assigned; credit by examination, with or without prior instruction; local credit courses, academic courses substituted for physical education; summer school courses taken for remediation; and distance learning in the form of traditional correspondence courses.
- The district shall categorize and weight courses in accordance with provisions of this policy and [EIC\(EXHIBIT\)](#).
- The district shall convert grade points in accordance with the weighted grade point chart published in [EIC\(EXHIBIT\)](#) and shall calculate a weighted GPA.
- Transferred Grades

When a student transfers semester grades for courses that would not be eligible for additional weight and the District has accepted the credit, the District shall include the grades in the calculation of class rank.

When a student transfers semester grades for courses that would be eligible to receive additional weight under the District's weighted grade system, the District shall assign additional weight to the grades based on the categories and grade weight system used by the District only if the same or an equivalent course is offered to the same class of students in the District.

If a student transfers a semester grade for a course that is eligible for additional weight and the course is not offered to the same class of students in the District, the student shall receive credit for that course and shall be assigned a grade of pass/fail, with no impact to the student's GPA or class ranking.

- Optional Course Exemption
Beginning with students entering the ninth grade in the fall of 2024, juniors and seniors shall have the option to exclude grades earned in up to two elective courses from their GPA and class rank calculation, in accordance with administrative regulations. A student may apply an exemption to a core course if the student elects to take the course in addition to any core courses required for graduation.
- Local Graduation Honors
For the purpose of determining honors to be conferred during graduation activities, the district shall calculate class rank at the end of the third quarter grading period of the senior year. The third quarter grades shall be used as the semester grades for this purpose.

Northwest ISD Student Handbook

For the purpose of applications to institutions of higher education, the district shall also calculate class rank as required by state law. The district's eligibility criteria for local graduation honors shall apply only for local recognitions and shall not restrict class rank for the purpose of automatic admission under state law. [See policy [EIC\(LEGAL\)](#).]

[See [EIC Policies and Exhibit](#) and [Grading Guidelines](#) for more information.]

Class Schedules (Secondary Grade Levels Only)

All students are expected to attend school for the entire school day and maintain a class/course schedule to fulfill each period of the day. Exceptions may be made occasionally by the campus principal for students in grades 9-12 who meet specific criteria and receive parental consent to enroll in less than a full-day schedule.

[See Schedule Changes (Middle/Junior High and High School Grade Levels) for information related to student requests to revise their course schedule.]

College and University Admissions and Financial Aid (All Grade Levels)

For two school years following graduation, a district student who graduates as valedictorian or in the top 10 percent of their class is eligible for automatic admission into four-year public universities and colleges in Texas if the student meets one of the following requirements:

- Completes the distinguished level of achievement under the foundation graduation program [see Foundation Graduation Program]
- Satisfies the ACT College Readiness Benchmarks or earns at least a 1500 out of 2400 on the SAT

The student is ultimately responsible for meeting the admission requirements of the university or college, including timely submission of a completed application.

If a college or university adopts an admissions policy that automatically accepts the top 25 percent of a graduating class, the provisions above will also apply to a student ranked in the top 25 percent of their class.

The University of Texas at Austin may limit the number of automatically admitted students to 75 percent of the University's enrollment capacity for incoming resident freshmen. From the summer/fall 2026 term through the spring 2027 term, the University will admit the top five percent of a high school's graduating class who meet the above requirements. Additional applicants will be considered by the University through a holistic review process.

As required by law, the district will provide written notice about the following:

- Automatic college admission
- Curriculum requirements for financial aid
- Benefits of completing the requirements for automatic admission and financial aid
- The Texas First Early High School Completion Program, which requires a student to provide an official copy of assessment results and transcripts, as applicable, to receive credit for the assessments and credits required for early graduation under the program
- The Texas First Scholarship Program
- The Future Texas Teachers Scholarship Program

Parents and students will be asked to sign an acknowledgment that they received this information.

Northwest ISD Student Handbook

Students and parents should contact the school counselor for further information about automatic admissions, the application process, and deadlines.

[See Class Rank/Highest-Ranking Student (Secondary Grade Levels Only) for information specifically related to how the district calculates a student's rank in class, and requirements for Graduation (Secondary Grade Levels Only) for information associated with the foundation graduation program.]

[See A Student in the Conservatorship of the State (Foster Care) for information on assistance in transitioning to higher education for students in foster care.]

College Credit Courses (Secondary Grade Levels Only)

Students in grades 9-12 may earn college credit through the following opportunities:

- Certain courses taught at the high school campus, which may include courses termed dual credit, Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), or college preparatory
- Enrollment in AP or dual credit courses through the virtual or hybrid courses offered by the district or another district or school
- Enrollment in courses taught in conjunction and in partnership with UT OnRamps, North Central Texas College, Tarrant County College, Dallas County Community College/El Centro (Culinary Academy only), which may be offered on or off campus;
- Enrollment in courses taught at other colleges or universities
- Certain CTE courses

Under the Financial Aid for Swift Transfer (FAST) program, a student may be eligible to enroll at no cost to the student in dual credit courses at a participating institution of higher education. The FAST program allows students who are or have been educationally disadvantaged at any time during the four years preceding the student's enrollment in a dual credit course to enroll at no cost to the student. The district will determine eligibility upon the student's enrollment in the dual credit course. See the high school counselor for more information.

A student may be eligible for subsidies based on financial need for AP or IB exam fees. [See Fees (All Grade Levels) for more information.]

A student may also earn college credit for certain Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses. Career and Technical Education (CTE) and Other Work-Based Programs (Secondary Grade Levels Only) for information on CTE and other work-based programs.

For dual credit purposes, all these methods have eligibility requirements and must be approved before enrollment in the course. Please see the school counselor for more information. Depending on the student's grade level and the course, a state-mandated end-of-course assessment may be required for graduation.

Not all colleges and universities accept credit earned in all dual credit or AP courses taken in high school for college credit. Students and parents should check with the prospective college or university to determine if a particular course will count toward the student's desired degree plan.

Northwest ISD Student Handbook

Communications (All Grade Levels)

Parent Contact Information

A parent is legally required to provide in writing the parent's contact information, including address, phone number, and email address.

A parent must provide the contact information to the district upon enrollment and again within two weeks after the beginning of each following school year while the student is enrolled in the district.

If the parent's contact information changes during the school year, the parent must update the information in writing no more than two weeks after the date the information changes.

A parent may update contact information by contacting the campus registrar.

Automated Emergency Communications

The district will rely on contact information on file with the district to communicate with parents in an emergency situation, which may include real-time or automated messages. An emergency situation may include early dismissal, delayed opening, or restricted access to the campus due to severe weather, another emergency, or a security threat. It is crucial to notify your child's school when a phone number changes.

[See Safety (All Grade Levels) for information about contact with parents during an emergency situation.]

Automated Nonemergency Communications

Your child's school periodically sends information by automated or pre-recorded messages, text messages, or real-time phone or email communications that are closely related to the school's mission and specific to your child, your child's school, or the district.

Standard messaging rates of your wireless phone carrier may apply.

If you do not wish to receive such communications, please contact your child's principal. [See Safety (All Grade Levels) for information about contact with parents during an emergency.]

Communication Between Parents and Educators

The Campus and/or District has the authority to minimize or prohibit communication received from parents if communication becomes inappropriate, aggressive, abusive, insulting, threatening or excessive.

Complaints and Concerns (All Grade Levels)

Usually, student or parent complaints or concerns can be addressed informally by a phone call or a conference with the teacher or principal.

For those complaints and concerns that cannot be resolved informally, the board has adopted a student and parent grievance policy at FNG(LOCAL) in accordance with Education Code Chapter 26A. This policy describing the grievance process in detail is available in the district's online policy manual at [FNG\(LOCAL\)](#) and is attached to this handbook as an appendix. A parent may file a grievance by submitting the district grievance form to the campus principal. The district's grievance forms are available on the district's website at [FNG Complaint Form](#), at the principal's, or superintendent's office.

Northwest ISD Student Handbook

A parent may also submit a grievance by hand-delivery, by electronic communication, including email and the online complaint site, or by U.S. Mail, ***in accordance with Board policy FNG (LEGAL) and (LOCAL) or any exceptions outlined therein.***

In general, the written grievance form should be completed and submitted to the campus principal in a timely manner.

Hearings at each level will be conducted in accordance with the timelines established by law described in the district's policy at [FNG\(LOCAL\)](#).

Conduct (All Grade Levels)

Applicability of School Rules

The board has adopted a Student Code of Conduct that defines standards of acceptable behavior — on and off campus, during remote and in-person instruction, and on district vehicles — and outlines consequences for violation of these standards. The district has disciplinary authority over a student in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct. Students and parents should be familiar with the standards set out in the Student Code of Conduct, as well as campus and classroom rules.

During summer instruction, the Student Handbook and Student Code of Conduct in place for the school year immediately before the summer period apply, unless the district amends either or both documents for summer instruction.

Campus Behavior Coordinator

Each campus has a campus behavior coordinator to apply discipline management techniques and administer consequences for certain student misconduct, as well as provide a point of contact for student misconduct. The contact information for each campus behavior coordinator is available on the campus' website. The Campus Behavior Coordinator for a campus is the principal or assistant principal.

Deliveries

Except in emergencies, delivery of messages or packages to students will not be allowed during instructional time. A parent may leave a message or a package, such as a forgotten lunch, for the student to pick up from the front office during a passing period or lunch.

Disruption of School Operations

Disruption of school operations is not tolerated and may constitute a misdemeanor offense. As identified by state law, disruptions include the following:

- Interference with the movement of people at an exit, entrance, or hallway of a district building without authorization from an administrator
- Interference with an authorized activity by seizing control of all or part of a building
- Use of force, violence, or threats in an attempt to prevent participation in an authorized assembly
- Use of force, violence, or threats to cause disruption during an assembly
- Interference with the movement of people at an exit or an entrance to district property
- Use of force, violence, or threats in an attempt to prevent people from entering or leaving district property without authorization from an administrator

Northwest ISD Student Handbook

Disruption of classes or other school activities while on or within 500 feet of district property includes:

- Making loud noises
- Trying to entice a student away from, or to prevent a student from attending, a required class or activity
- Entering a classroom without authorization and disrupting the activity with loud or profane language or any misconduct

Interference with the transportation of students in vehicles owned or operated by the district is also considered a disruption.

Social Events

School rules apply to all school social events. Guests attending these events are expected to observe the same rules as students, and a student inviting a guest will share responsibility for the conduct of the guest.

A student attending a social event will be asked to sign out when leaving before the end of the event and will not be readmitted.

A parent interested in serving as a chaperone for any school social events should contact the campus principal.

Counseling

The district has a comprehensive school counseling program that includes:

- A guidance curriculum to help students develop their full educational potential, including the student's interests and career objectives
- A responsive services component to intervene on behalf of any student whose immediate personal concerns or problems put the student's continued educational, career, personal, or social development at risk
- An individual planning system to guide a student as the student plans, monitors, and manages the student's own educational, career, personal, and social development
- Systems to support the efforts of teachers, staff, parents, and other members of the community in promoting the educational, career, personal, and social development of students

The district will make a preview of the program, including all materials and curriculum, available to parents to review during school hours.

Academic Counseling

Elementary and Middle/Junior High School Grade Levels

The school counselor will provide information to students and parents about college and university admissions and the importance of planning for postsecondary education, including appropriate coursework and financial aid availability and requirements.

In either grade 7 or 8, each student will receive instruction on how best to prepare for high school, college, and a career.

Northwest ISD Student Handbook

High School Grade Levels

High school students and their parents are encouraged to talk with a school counselor, teacher, or principal to learn more about course offerings, graduation requirements, and early graduation procedures.

Each year, high school students will be provided information on anticipated course offerings for the next school year, how to make the most of academic and career and technical education (CTE) opportunities, and the importance of postsecondary education.

The school counselor will also provide information each year a student is enrolled in high school about:

- The importance of postsecondary education
- The advantages of earning an endorsement and completing the foundation program with the distinguished level of achievement
- The disadvantages of pursuing a high school equivalency exam (GED) as opposed to earning a high school diploma
- Financial aid eligibility and how to apply for financial aid
- Automatic admission to state-funded Texas colleges and universities
- Eligibility requirements for the TEXAS Grant
- Availability of district programs that allow students to earn college credit
- Availability of tuition and fee assistance for postsecondary education for students in foster care
- Availability of college credit awarded by institutions of higher education to veterans and military service members for military experience, education, and training

Additionally, the school counselor can provide information about workforce opportunities after graduation or technical and trade school opportunities, including opportunities to earn industry-recognized certificates and licenses.

[See Scholarships and Grants for more information.]

Personal Counseling (All Grade Levels)

The school counselor is available to assist students with a wide range of personal, social, and family concerns, including emotional or mental health issues and substance abuse. A student who wishes to meet with the school counselor should contact the counseling office. As a parent, if you are concerned about your child's mental or emotional health, please speak with the school counselor for a list of resources that may be of assistance.

If your child has experienced trauma, contact the school counselor for more information.

[See Mental Health Support (All Grade Levels), Child Sexual Abuse, Neglect, Trafficking, and Other Maltreatment of Children (All Grade Levels), and Dating Violence]

Course Credit (Secondary Grade Levels Only)

A student at any grade level enrolled in a high school course will earn credit for the course only if the final grade is 70 or above. For a two-part (two-semester, 1-credit course), the student's grades from both halves (semesters) will be averaged and credit will be awarded if the combined average is 70 or above. If the student's combined average is less than 70, the student will be awarded credit only for the half (semester) with the passing grade.

Northwest ISD Student Handbook

Credit by Examination — If a Student Has Taken the Course/Subject (Grades 6-12)

A student who has previously taken a course or subject but did not receive credit or a final grade for it may, in circumstances determined by the principal or attendance committee, be permitted to earn credit or a final grade by passing an examination approved by the district's board of trustees on the essential knowledge and skills defined for that course or subject.

Examples of prior instruction include incomplete coursework due to a failed course or excessive absences, homeschooling, or coursework by a student transferring from a nonaccredited school. The opportunity to earn credit by examination after the student has had prior instruction is sometimes referred to as "credit recovery."

The attendance review committee may also offer a student with excessive absences an opportunity to earn credit for a course by passing an examination. [See Attendance for Credit or Final Grade (All Grade Levels)]

If a student is granted approval to take an examination for credit, the student must score at least 70 on the examination to receive credit for the course or subject.

[See the school counselor and policy [EHDB\(LOCAL\)](#) for more information.]

Credit by Examination for Advancement/Acceleration — If a Student Has Not Taken the Course/Subject

A student will be permitted to earn credit by examination for an academic course or subject area for which the student had no prior instruction for advancement or to accelerate to the next grade level.

The examinations offered by the district are approved by the district's board of trustees. Testing windows for these examinations will be published in district publications and on the district's website. A student may take a specific examination only once per testing window.

The only exceptions to the published testing windows will be for examinations administered by another entity or to accommodate a student experiencing homelessness or a student involved in the foster care system.

When another entity administers an examination, the student and the district must comply with the testing schedule of the other entity.

If a student plans to take an examination, the student or parent must register with the school counselor no later than 30 days before the scheduled testing date. [See policy [EHDC](#) for more information.]

Kindergarten Acceleration

The student must be at least 5 years of age at the time the request is made and must be currently enrolled in the district. The parent must initiate the request by completing the request for Kindergarten Acceleration Form and filing with the campus principal. Kindergarten acceleration can only occur during the first six weeks of the school year. [For further information, see [Kindergarten Acceleration](#), policy [EHDC](#), and [EHDC REGULATION](#) and [EXHIBIT](#).]

Students in Grades 1-5

Northwest ISD Student Handbook

A student in elementary school is eligible to accelerate to the next grade level if the student meets all of the following requirements:

- The student scores at least an 80 on each examination in the subject areas of language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies.
- A district administrator recommends that the student be accelerated
- The student's parent gives written approval of the grade advancement

Students in Grades 6-12

A student may take an examination to earn high school credit for a specific course no more than twice. If a student fails to achieve the designated score on the applicable exam before the beginning of the school year in which the student would need to enroll in the course according to the school's high school course sequence, the student must complete the course. For math acceleration in grades 6 and 7, see [Math Acceleration](#).

A student in middle school will be eligible for single subject acceleration in mathematics if the student scores at least 80 on the mathematics credit-by-exam, a district administrator recommends that the student be accelerated, and the student's parent gives written approval of the mathematics advancement.

Dating Violence, Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation (All Grade Levels)

Students learn best, and their welfare is best served, in a school environment that is free from dating violence, discrimination, harassment, and retaliation.

Students are expected to treat peers and district employees with courtesy and respect, avoid offensive behaviors, and stop those behaviors as directed. District employees are likewise expected to treat students with courtesy and respect.

The board has established policies and procedures to prohibit and promptly address inappropriate and offensive behaviors that are based on a person's race, color, religion, sex, gender, national origin, age, disability, or any other basis prohibited by law. A copy of the district's policy is available in the principal's office and in the superintendent's office or on the district's website. [See [FFH\(LOCAL\)](#) of policies for more information.]

Dating Violence

Dating violence will not be tolerated at school. To report dating violence, see Reporting Procedures.

Dating violence occurs when a person in a current or past dating relationship uses physical, sexual, verbal, or emotional abuse to harm, threaten, intimidate, or control the other person in the relationship or any of the person's past or subsequent partners. This type of conduct is considered harassment if it is so severe, persistent, or pervasive that it affects a student's ability to participate in or benefit from an educational program or activity; creates an intimidating, threatening, hostile, or offensive educational environment; or substantially interferes with the student's academic performance.

Examples of dating violence against a student may include, but are not limited to:

- Physical or sexual assaults
- Name-calling
- Put-downs

Northwest ISD Student Handbook

- Threats to hurt the student, the student's family members, or members of the student's household
- Destroying property belonging to the student
- Threats to die by suicide or homicide if the student ends the relationship
- Threats to harm a student's past or current dating partner
- Attempts to isolate the student from friends and family
- Stalking
- Encouraging others to engage in these behaviors

In accordance with law, when the district receives a report of dating violence, a district official will immediately notify the parent of the alleged victim and alleged perpetrator.

The counselor's office has information about the dangers of dating violence and resources for seeking help.

For more information on dating violence, see:

- Texas Attorney General's office [recognizing and responding to dating violence flier](https://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/sites/default/files/files/child-support/papa/session%2010/recognizing-relationship-violence-en.pdf) (<https://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/sites/default/files/files/child-support/papa/session%2010/recognizing-relationship-violence-en.pdf>)
- [Preventing Teen Dating Violence](https://www.cdc.gov/intimate-partner-violence/about/about-teen-dating-violence.html) (<https://www.cdc.gov/intimate-partner-violence/about/about-teen-dating-violence.html>)

[See Consent to Instruction on Prevention of Child Abuse, Family Violence, Dating Violence, and Sex Trafficking]

Discrimination

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

Harassment

Harassment, in general terms, is conduct so severe, persistent, or pervasive that it affects a student's ability to participate in or benefit from an educational program or activity; creates an intimidating, threatening, hostile, or offensive educational environment; or substantially interferes with the student's academic performance.

Examples of harassment may include, but are not limited to:

- Offensive or derogatory language directed at a person's religious beliefs or practices, accent, skin color, or need for accommodation
- Threatening, intimidating, or humiliating conduct
- Offensive jokes, name-calling, slurs, or rumors
- Physical aggression or assault
- Graffiti or printed material promoting racial, ethnic, or other negative stereotypes
- Other kinds of aggressive conduct such as theft or damage to property

Northwest ISD Student Handbook

Sexual Harassment and Sex-Based Harassment

Sexual harassment and sex-based harassment of a student by an employee, volunteer, or another student are prohibited.

Examples of sexual harassment may include, but are not limited to:

- Touching private body parts or coercing physical contact that is sexual in nature
- Sexual advances
- Jokes or conversations of a sexual nature
- Other sexually motivated conduct, communications, or contact

Sexual harassment of a student by an employee or volunteer does not include necessary or permissible physical contact that a reasonable person would not construe as sexual in nature, such as comforting a child with a hug or taking the child's hand. However, romantic, sexual, and other inappropriate social relationships between students and district employees are prohibited, even if consensual.

Pregnancy or Related Conditions

The district does not discriminate on the basis of pregnancy or a related condition. Please contact your child's counselor for pregnancy-related accommodations.

Retaliation

Retaliation against a person who makes a report or participates in an investigation of discrimination, harassment, or dating violence is prohibited.

Reporting Procedures

Any student who believes that they have experienced dating violence, discrimination, harassment, or retaliation should immediately report the problem to a teacher, school counselor, principal, or other district employee. The report may be made by the student's parent. [See the FFH series of policies and FFH([EXHIBIT](#)) for other appropriate district officials to whom to make a report.]

Upon receiving a report, the district will determine whether the allegations, if proven, constitute prohibited conduct as defined by the FFH([EXHIBIT](#)). If not, the district will refer to [policy FFI](#) to determine whether the allegations, if proven, constitute bullying, as defined by law and [policy FFI](#). If the alleged prohibited conduct also meets the statutory and policy definitions for bullying, an investigation of bullying will also be conducted. [See Bullying (All Grade Levels)]

The district will promptly notify the parent of any student alleged to have experienced prohibited conduct involving an adult associated with the district. In the event alleged prohibited conduct involves another student, the district will notify the parent of the student alleged to have experienced the prohibited conduct when the allegations, if proven, would constitute a violation as defined by the FFH series of policies.

Investigation of Report

Allegations of prohibited conduct, which includes dating violence, discrimination, harassment, and retaliation, will be promptly investigated.

To the extent possible, the district will respect the privacy of the student. However, limited disclosures may be necessary to conduct a thorough investigation and comply with law.

Northwest ISD Student Handbook

If a law enforcement or other regulatory agency notifies the district that it is investigating the matter and requests that the district delay its investigation, the district will resume its investigation at the conclusion of the agency's investigation.

During an investigation and when appropriate, the district will take interim action to address the alleged prohibited conduct.

If the district's investigation indicates that prohibited conduct occurred, appropriate disciplinary action and, in some cases, corrective action will be taken to address the conduct. The district may take disciplinary and corrective action even if the conduct was not unlawful.

All involved parties will be notified of the outcome of the district investigation within the parameters and limits allowed under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

A student or parent who is dissatisfied with the outcome of the investigation may appeal in accordance with policy [FNG\(LOCAL\)](#).

Discrimination

[See Dating Violence, Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation (All Grade Levels)]

Distance Learning (All Grade Levels)

Distance learning and correspondence courses include courses that encompass the state-required essential knowledge and skills but are taught through multiple technologies and alternative methodologies such as mail, satellite, internet, video-conferencing, and instructional television.

Discuss distance learning opportunities that are available with your child's counselor.

If a student wishes to enroll in a correspondence course or a distance learning course that is not provided through the Texas Virtual School Network (TXVSN), as described below, to earn credit in a course or subject, the student must receive permission from the principal prior to enrolling in the course or subject. If the student does not receive prior approval, the district may not recognize and apply the course or subject toward graduation requirements or subject mastery.

[See Remote Instruction]

Texas Virtual School Network (TXVSN) (Secondary Grade Levels)

The Texas Virtual School Network (TXVSN) has been established by the state as one method of distance learning. A student has the option, with certain limitations, to enroll in a course offered through the TXVSN to earn course credit for graduation.

Depending on the TXVSN course in which a student enrolls, the course may be subject to the "no pass, no play" rules. [See **Extracurricular Activities, Clubs, and Organizations**] In addition, for a student who enrolls in a TXVSN course for which an end-of-course (EOC) assessment is required, the student must still take the corresponding EOC assessment.

If you have questions or wish to make a request that your child, be enrolled in a TXVSN course, please contact the school counselor. Unless an exception is made by the counselor and administrator, a student will not be allowed to enroll in a TXVSN course if the school offers the same or a similar course.

Northwest ISD Student Handbook

A copy of policy [EHDE](#) and [NISD's Academic Planning Guide](#) is available to parents of middle and high school students. If you do not receive a copy or have questions about this policy, please contact your child's school counselor.

Distribution of Literature, Published Materials, or Other Documents (All Grade Levels)

School Materials

Publications prepared by and for the school may be posted or distributed, with the prior approval of the principal, sponsor, or teacher. Such items may include school posters, newspapers, yearbooks, brochures, flyers, and the like.

All school publications are under the supervision of a teacher, sponsor, and the principal.

Non-school Materials

From Students

Students must obtain prior approval from the principal's designee before selling, posting, circulating, or distributing more than 10 copies of written or printed materials, handbills, photographs, pictures, films, tapes, or other visual or auditory materials that were not developed under the oversight of the school. To be considered, any nonschool material must include the name of the sponsoring person or organization. Approval will be granted or denied within two school days. See Board Policy [FNA \(LEGAL\)](#) and [\(LOCAL\)](#) for regulations on the time, place, and manner of distribution of non-school literature.

A student may appeal a decision in accordance with policy [FNG\(LOCAL\)](#). Any student who sells, posts, circulates, or distributes nonschool material without prior approval will be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct. Materials displayed without approval will be removed. [See policy [FNG\(LOCAL\)](#) for student complaint procedures.]

From Others

No person or group will sell, circulate, distribute, or post on any district premises written or printed materials, handbills, photographs, pictures, films, tapes, or other visual or auditory materials that is not sponsored by the district or by a district-affiliated school-support organization, except as permitted by policy [GKDA](#).

To be considered for distribution, any non-school material must meet the limitations on content established in the policy, include the name of the sponsoring person or organization, and be submitted to the superintendent for prior review. The superintendent will approve or reject the materials within two school days of the time the materials are received. The requestor may appeal a rejection in accordance with the appropriate district complaint policy. [See policies [DGBA](#) or [GE](#) for more information.]

The principal or designee will designate the location for approved non-school materials to be placed for voluntary viewing or collection.

Prior review will not be required for:

- Distribution of materials by an attendee to other attendees of a school-sponsored meeting intended for adults and held after school hours

Northwest ISD Student Handbook

- Distribution of materials by an attendee to other attendees of a community group meeting held after school hours in accordance with policy [GKD\(LOCAL\)](#) or a noncurriculum-related student group meeting held in accordance with policy [FNAB\(LOCAL\)](#)
- Distribution for electioneering purposes during the time a school facility is being used as a polling place, in accordance with state law

All non-school materials distributed under these circumstances must be removed from district property immediately following the event at which the materials are distributed.

Dress and Grooming (All Grade Levels)

The district's dress code is established to prevent disruption and minimize safety hazards. All students are expected to dress in a respectful manner within the acceptable standards of the community and in such a manner as to contribute to the academic atmosphere, not detract from it.

NISD expects that all students will dress in a way that is appropriate for the school day and for any school sponsored event. Our Student Dress Code is designed to accomplish several goals:

- Maintain a safe learning environment in classes where protective or supportive clothing is needed, such as chemistry/biology, dance, or PE.
- Prevent students from wearing clothing or accessories that denote, suggest, or display or reference alcohol, drugs or related paraphernalia or other illegal conduct or activities.
- Prevent students from wearing clothing or accessories that will interfere with the operation of the school, disrupt the educational process, invade the rights of others, or create a reasonably foreseeable risk of such interference or invasion of rights.
- Prevent students from wearing clothing or accessories (including flags or capes) that reasonably can be construed as being or including content that is profane, racist, lewd, vulgar, or obscene, or that reasonably can be construed as containing fighting words, speech that incites others to imminent lawless action, defamatory speech, or threats to others.
- Dress Code for All Students: The following are minimum requirements regarding student dress and grooming.
- Clothing must cover undergarments. Fabric covering all private parts must be fully covered, without alteration. Plunging necklines are not allowed. All items listed in the "must wear" and "may wear" categories below must meet this basic principle.

Students Must Wear:

- Clothing including both a shirt with pants, shorts, dress, skirt, or the equivalent and shoes.
- Clothing must be suitable for all scheduled classroom activities including PE, science labs, CTE courses, and other activities where unique hazards exist.
- Proper undergarments must be worn and covered by non-see-through outer clothing.
- Shirts and dresses must have fabric in the front and on the sides.
- Shirt length must meet the top of pants/waistband without alteration.

Northwest ISD Student Handbook

Students May Wear:

- Athletic attire
- Bandanas as a headband or scarf
- Clothing with commercial or athletic logos if they do not violate the guidelines in the “May Not Wear” section below
- Fitted pants, including opaque leggings, yoga pants and skinny jeans if they do not violate the guidelines in the “May Not Wear” section below
- Hats, caps, visors or similar hat like apparel as long as they do not create a safety concern, a distraction inside of school buildings, classrooms, or instructional settings
- Hoodie sweatshirts (*wearing the hood overhead is not allowed inside the building*). The face and ears must be visible to school staff.
- Religious headwear
- Ripped jeans if underwear and buttocks are not exposed, without alteration
- Sweatpants, shorts, skirts, dresses, pants
- Tank tops with straps at least 2 inches wide (the width of a student ID)

Students May NOT Wear:

- Accessories that could be considered dangerous or could be used as a weapon
- Any clothing that reveals undergarments
- Any item that obscures the face or ears (except as religious observance or as required by the district to mitigate health risks associated with the spread of communicable diseases).
- Hate speech, profanity, pornography
- Images or language depicting drugs or alcohol (or any illegal item or activity)
- Images or language that creates a hostile or intimidating environment based on any protected class or consistently marginalized groups
- Strapless, backless, halter, bare-midriff, spaghetti strap shirts/blouses, muscle shirts or sleeveless undershirts.
- Swimsuits (except as required in class or athletic practice)
- Violent language or images

The principal, in connection with the sponsor, coach, or other person in charge of an extracurricular activity, may regulate the dress and grooming of students who participate in the activity. For special events, defined by campus administration, specific dress requirements may be set.

Solutions to Address Dress Code:

If a student is not following the dress code, the administrator/staff member should address the student in private to come up with a solution using the following guidelines:

- Students will be given the option of removing articles and accessories that do not conform to the dress code.
- Students will be asked to put on their own alternative clothing, if readily available at school, to be dressed in compliance to code for the remainder of the day.
- Students will be provided with temporary school clothing to be dressed in compliance to code for the remainder of the day.

Northwest ISD Student Handbook

- If necessary, students' parents/guardians may be called during the school day to bring alternative clothing for the student to wear for the remainder of the school day.

The school administrators may make appropriate adjustments in the dress code to fit the unique needs of a campus or student needs. The campus administration shall employ appropriate disciplinary procedures to carry out and enforce this policy.

Electronic Devices and Technology Resources (All Grade Levels)

Safe Use of Technology

The district is committed to ensuring that students use technology responsibly in a safe digital environment and will follow all federal and state requirements to protect students from excessive data collection or materials that are considered harmful to minors. The district considers parents as partners in digital citizenship, cybersecurity, and online safety.

In accordance with state and federal law, the district will:

- Utilize a filtered, wireless network as defined by the federal Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) through which all student devices will connect. This filter will block and prohibit pornographic or obscene materials or applications, including from unsolicited pop-ups, installations, and downloads, that have been determined to be harmful to minors in accordance with CIPA.
- Require staff and students to abide by the Responsible Use Policy for access and use of district technology resources and tools [See [Technology Responsible Use Policy for Students](#)].
- Require direct and informed parental consent for a student's use of software that conducts mental health assessments or other assessments unrelated to education curricula that are intended to collect information about students [See Consent to Conduct a Psychological Evaluation.]

If you want to know more about partnering with the district regarding cybersecurity and online safety, or if you have complaints or concerns about student use of electronic devices, please contact Northwest ISD HelpDesk via email at helpdesk@nisdtx.org.

[NISD Student Responsible Use Policy](#) (link)

[See Textbooks, Electronic Textbooks, Technological Equipment, and Other Instructional Materials (All Grade Levels)]

Possession and Use of Personal Communications Devices, Including Cell Phones and Other Electronic Devices

In accordance with state law, the district prohibits the use of a personal communication device (such as cell phones, tablets, and smartwatches) while on school property during the school day. For more information about permitted use in certain circumstances and disciplinary measures that apply to this prohibition, see the Student Code of Conduct and policy [FNCE\(LOCAL\)](#).

The use of cell phones or any device capable of capturing images is strictly prohibited in locker rooms or restroom areas while at school or at a school-related or school-sponsored event.

Students are required to have their cellphones and personal communication devices “off and

Northwest ISD Student Handbook

away” in their backpacks (or storage system) during the school day. This includes classroom instruction, passing periods, and lunch.

If a student uses a personal communications device without authorization during the school day, the student will be disciplined in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct.

The **parent or student** may pick up the confiscated communications device from the principal’s office.

Confiscated communications devices that are not retrieved by the student or the student’s parent will be stored in accordance with administrative regulations. [See policy [FNCE](#) for more information.

In limited circumstances and in accordance with law, a student’s personal communications device may be searched by authorized personnel. [See Searches and Investigations and policy [FNE](#) for more information.]

The district is not responsible for damaged, lost, or stolen communications devices.

Instructional Use of Personal Electronic Devices

Students must obtain prior approval to use personal electronic devices allowed by law for instructional purposes while on campus. The district may not permit use of a prohibited personal communication device except as required by law. [See Possession and Use of Personal Communications Devices, Including Cell Phones and Other Electronic Devices] Students must also sign a user agreement that contains applicable rules for use (separate from this handbook).

All personal devices must be turned off during the instructional day when not in use for approved instructional purposes. Violations of the user agreement may result in withdrawal of privileges and other disciplinary action.

Responsible Use of District Technology Resources

District-owned technology resources for instructional purposes may be issued to individual students. Use of these technological resources, which include the district’s network systems and use of district equipment, is restricted to approved purposes only. Students and parents will be asked to sign [Student Guidelines for Responsible Use of Technology Resources](#) (separate from this handbook) regarding use of these district resources. Violations of the user agreement may result in withdrawal of privileges and other disciplinary action.

Unacceptable and Inappropriate Use of Technology Resources

Students are prohibited from possessing, sending, forwarding, posting, accessing, or displaying electronic messages that are abusive, obscene, sexually oriented, threatening, harassing, damaging to another’s reputation, or illegal. This prohibition also applies to conduct off school property, whether on district-owned or personally owned equipment, if it results in a substantial disruption to the educational environment.

Any person taking, disseminating, transferring, possessing, or sharing obscene, sexually oriented, lewd, or otherwise illegal images or other content — commonly referred to as “sexting” — will be disciplined in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct, may be required to complete an educational program related to the dangers of this type of behavior, and, in certain circumstances, may be reported to law enforcement.

Northwest ISD Student Handbook

This type of behavior may constitute bullying or harassment, as well as impede future endeavors of a student. We encourage parents to review with their child the ["Before You Text" Bullying and Sexting Course](https://txssc.txstate.edu/tools/courses/before-you-text/) (<https://txssc.txstate.edu/tools/courses/before-you-text/>), a state-developed program that addresses the consequences of sexting.

In accordance with state law, the district prohibits the installation or use of TikTok (or any successor application or service) on a district device, along with any other social media application or service determined by the governor.

Any student who engages in conduct that results in a breach of the district's computer security will be disciplined in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct. In some cases, the consequence may be expulsion.

End-of-Course (EOC) Assessments

[See Graduation (Secondary Grade Levels Only) and Standardized Testing]

Emergent Bilingual Students (All Grade Levels)

A student who is an emergent bilingual student is entitled to receive specialized services from the district. A Language Proficiency Assessment Committee (LPAC), consisting of both district personnel and at least one parent representative, will determine whether the student qualifies for services. The student's parent must consent to any services recommended by the LPAC. However, pending the receipt of parental consent or denial of services, an eligible student will receive the services to which the student is entitled and eligible.

To determine a student's level of proficiency in English, the LPAC will use information from a variety of assessments. If the student qualifies for services, and once a level of proficiency has been established, the LPAC will designate instructional accommodations or additional special programs that the student will require to eventually become proficient at grade level work in English. Ongoing assessments will be conducted to determine a student's continued eligibility for the program.

The LPAC will also determine whether certain accommodations are necessary for any state-mandated assessments. The STAAR Spanish, as mentioned at Standardized Testing, may be administered to an emergent bilingual student up to grade 5. In limited circumstances, a student's LPAC may exempt the student from an otherwise required state-mandated assessment or may waive certain graduation requirements related to the English I end-of-course (EOC) assessment. The Texas English Language Proficiency Assessment System (TELPAS) will also be administered to emergent bilingual students who qualify for services.

If a student is considered an emergent bilingual student and receives special education services because of a qualifying disability, the student's ARD committee will make instructional and assessment decisions in conjunction with the LPAC.

Extracurricular Activities, Clubs, and Organizations (All Grade Levels)

Participation in school and school-related activities is an excellent way for a student to develop talents, receive individual recognition, and build strong friendships with other students; participation, however, is a privilege, not a right. Eligibility for participation in many of these activities is governed by state law as well as rules of the University Interscholastic League (UIL)—a statewide association overseeing interdistrict competition. If a student is involved in an academic, athletic, or fine arts activity governed by UIL, the student and parent are expected to know and

Northwest ISD Student Handbook

follow all rules of the UIL organization. Students involved in UIL activities, and their parents can access the UIL Parent Information Manual at [UIL Parent Information Manual](#); a hard copy can be provided by the coach or sponsor of the activity on request. To report a complaint of alleged noncompliance with required safety training or an alleged violation of safety rules required by law and the UIL, please contact the curriculum division of TEA at (512) 463-9581 or curriculum@tea.texas.gov.

[See [UIL Texas](#) for additional information on all UIL-governed activities.]

Student safety in extracurricular activities is a priority of the district. The equipment used in football is no exception. As a parent, you are entitled to review the district's records regarding the age of each football helmet used by the campus, including when a helmet has been reconditioned.

The following requirements apply to all extracurricular activities:

- A student who receives a grade below 70 at the end of a grading period may not participate in extracurricular activities for a time period, as stipulated in the *UIL Side-by-Side* at <https://www.uil texas.org/policy/tea-uil-side-by-side> [FM (Legal)]. Students in advanced courses, such as pre-AP, AP, GT courses, and dual credit college courses, are required to maintain a passing standard of 60 or higher in order to maintain UIL eligibility *FMF(Local)*. Students who fall below this passing standard will lose UIL eligibility in accordance with UIL regulations and for the period of time identical to students who lose eligibility in non-advanced courses.
- A student who has an individualized education program (IEP) who fails to meet the standards in the IEP may not participate for a time period, as stipulated in the *UIL Side-by-Side*.
- An ineligible student may practice or rehearse.
- A student is allowed in a school year up to ten absences not related to post-district competition, a maximum of five absences for post-district competition prior to state, and a maximum of two absences for state competition. All extracurricular activities and public performances, whether UIL activities or other activities approved by the Board, are subject to these restrictions.
- A student who misses a class because of participation in an activity that has not been approved will receive an unexcused absence unless the absence is excused by campus administration.

Sponsors and coaches of extracurricular activities, including but not limited to: interscholastic academics and athletics, cheerleaders, drill teams, and marching bands, may develop and enforce standards of behavior that are higher than the district-developed *Student Code of Conduct* and may condition membership or participation in the activity on adherence to those standards. These higher standards are outlined in each extracurricular group's guidelines and constitutions. Extracurricular standards of behavior may take into consideration conduct that occurs at any time, on or off school property. No provision of an extracurricular behavioral standard shall have the effect of discriminating on the basis of sex, race, disability, religion, or ethnicity. If a violation is also a violation of school guidelines and expectations, the consequences specified by the *Student Code of Conduct* or by local policy will apply in addition to any consequences specified by the organization.

Expected standards of behavior shall be approved by the principal and the Superintendent or designee before they are communicated to students. Students shall be informed of any extracurricular behavior standards at the beginning of each school year or, in the case of interscholastic athletics, cheerleaders, drill team, and marching band, at the time the students report for workouts or practices that occur prior to the actual beginning of classes. Signing the

Northwest ISD Student Handbook

registration documentation serves as receipt and awareness of the *Student Handbook and Code of Conduct* and acknowledges the responsibilities outlined therein. Failure to sign does not exempt the student from following the Extra/Co-Curricular portions of the *Student Handbook and Code of Conduct*.

Organizational standards of conduct of an extracurricular activity are independent of the *Student Handbook and Code of Conduct*. Violations of the organization's standards of conduct that are also violations of the *Student Handbook and Code of Conduct* may result in school-assessed disciplinary actions. Likewise, students who violate the District's *Student Handbook and Code of Conduct* will be assessed appropriate disciplinary consequences for the infraction and the consequences may result in a student's removal or limited participation in an extracurricular activity if the disciplinary action or level of offense violates the higher standards of conduct specified by the student's extracurricular organization. Administrators and sponsors are expected to discipline students according to established guidelines and expectations.

[Board Policies](#) FM (LEGAL/LOCAL), FNC (LOCAL), and FO (LEGAL/LOCAL)

Standards of Behavior - Extra/Co-Curricular Agreement

Violations of the Northwest ISD Student Extra/Co-Curricular Agreement

Standards of Behavior - Extra/Co-Curricular Agreement

Participation in extracurricular activities is a privilege, not a right. Students who choose to participate in extracurricular activities are expected to be role models, and exemplary behavior is always expected of them. Extracurricular participants have the responsibility to:

- Always remember they are representatives of their school, family, and community.
- Project a positive, respectful image of themselves, their school, and their extracurricular activities.
- Always be considerate of those around them and actively avoid situations that may reflect poorly on themselves and/or the Northwest ISD.
- Exhibit proper behavior; failure to do so will result in discipline in accordance with the Northwest ISD Student Code of Conduct and Extracurricular Code of Conduct.
- Adhere to the specified guidelines and rules of their chosen activities.
- Adhere to the specified guidelines and rules of the Student Code of Conduct.

Activity Standards

Sponsors of extracurricular and co-curricular activities teams may establish standards of behavior—including consequences for misbehavior—that are stricter than those for students in general. If a violation is also a violation of school rules, the consequences specified by the Student Code of Conduct or board policy will apply, in addition to any consequences specified by the organization's standards of behavior.

Term of the Agreement

Consequences for violating the Extracurricular/Co-curricular Student Agreement of Conduct (the "Agreement") will be in effect for all students participating in extracurricular/co-curricular activities year-round. The Agreement is effective from the date of signature until the first day of instruction for the school year after the performance/competition season. For example, if an 8th grade student signs the Agreement in May for an extracurricular activity he will participate in during his 9th grade year, the Agreement is effective until the first day of instruction of his 10th grade year.

Northwest ISD Student Handbook

Consequences for violations that occur during summer break will be administered during the subsequent school session. School-sponsored extracurricular and co-curricular activities in which students perform or compete are covered by the Agreement. Records of first and second level offenses do not carry over to the next school year, except in instances in which the suspension period has not been completed.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The **Administrator** has the responsibility and authority to ensure that

1. All violations of the Extracurricular/Co-Curricular Agreement of Conduct ("Agreement") are thoroughly investigated;
2. Decisions are made and based on the facts; and
3. All students across all organizations are treated in a consistent manner.

The role of the **Coach/Director/Sponsor** is to

1. Report suspected violations,
2. Participate in the investigation as required by the administration,
3. Assist with decisions regarding violations and/or disciplinary action, and
4. Enforce the sanctions laid out in these guidelines.

OFF CAMPUS VIOLATIONS

Off-Campus Violations Include:

1. Student engages in conduct that violates the activity guidelines, as determined by the campus administrator and/or the appropriate coordinator/coach/sponsor of the activity.
2. Student is under the influence of, consumes, possesses, delivers, provides, solicits, or sells any prohibited substance, including but not limited to illegal drugs, alcohol, tobacco products, e-cigarettes, or vaping paraphernalia (such as vape pen, e-vaporizer, dab pen, JUUL, liquid cartridges or any other device used to inhale an aerosol).
3. Student promotes or participates in the depiction of the use, sale, possession, and/or distribution of any prohibited substance, including but not limited to illegal drugs, alcohol, tobacco products, e-cigarettes, or vaping paraphernalia.
4. Student is not in the presence of his/her parents and is in a situation where alcohol, tobacco, vaping or any prohibited substance is being used by, in the possession of, and/or in the presence of other minors (including but not limited to field parties, keg parties, raves, etc.) and the student does not make an affirmative attempt to remove him/herself from the situation immediately.

NOTE: No consequences will be assessed for students who immediately leave an activity upon learning of the introduction of alcohol and/or drugs and self-report the incident to a campus administrator and/or organization sponsor at the beginning of the next school day.

5. Student engages in any other offense that violates the Student Code of Conduct and/or compromises the integrity, reputation, or credibility of the organization(s).
6. Student engages in criminal conduct or delinquent conduct, other than a routine traffic citation. Delinquent conduct is defined in Texas Family Code Section 51.03. An administrator may determine that a student engaged in criminal conduct or delinquent conduct if:

Northwest ISD Student Handbook

- a. the student is arrested or taken into custody by law enforcement for criminal conduct or delinquent conduct;
- b. the student is charged with a crime, convicted, pleads guilty or no contest, receives deferred adjudication, receives deferred prosecution, or is adjudicated of delinquent conduct;
- c. a court or jury finds the student engaged in criminal conduct or delinquent conduct;
- d. the school receives a notification under Texas Code of Criminal Procedure Section 15.27, indicating the student engaged in criminal conduct or delinquent conduct; or
- e. the superintendent or designee has a reasonable belief that the student engaged in criminal conduct or delinquent conduct.

First Offense

- Conference with student, parent, assistant principal and sponsor.
- Student will be assigned by school official the following:
 - o 10 school day suspension from performances/contests (If the conduct occurs outside of the activity's performance or competition season, the consequence will begin at the beginning of the next season.)
 - o Students may practice/rehearse in accordance with the activity's guidelines or handbook.

In cases involving substance abuse, students may be asked to attend substance abuse intervention. Failure to attend intervention will constitute an additional level one offense and extracurricular/co-curricular suspension until all requirements are met.

Second Offense

- Conference with student, parent, assistant principal and sponsor.
- Student will be assigned the following:
 - o 30 school day suspension from performances/contests (If the conduct occurs outside of the activity's performance or competition season, the consequence will begin at the beginning of the next season.)
 - o Students may practice/rehearse in accordance with the activity's guidelines or handbook.

In cases involving substance abuse, students may be asked to attend substance abuse intervention. Students involved in their second substance abuse offense must attend substance abuse intervention. Failure to attend intervention shall result in continued extracurricular/co-curricular suspension until all requirements are met.

Third Offense

- Conference with student, parent, assistant principal and sponsor.
- Student will be suspended from activities for one calendar year.

In cases involving substance abuse, students may be asked to attend substance abuse intervention. Students involved in their second substance abuse offense must attend substance abuse intervention. Failure to attend intervention shall result in continued extracurricular/co-curricular suspension.

STUDENTS ASSIGNED TO A DAEP OR JJAEP

Violations at this level may include but are not limited to:

1. Continued violations at previous levels;

Northwest ISD Student Handbook

2. Extremely severe offenses; or
3. Violations of the Student Code of Conduct Levels IV and/or V as determined by the campus administration in coordination with the activity's coordinator/coach/sponsor.
 - A student placed in a DAEP for reasons set out in Texas Education Code Section 37.006 may not attend or participate in school-sponsored or school-related extracurricular activities.
 - The University Interscholastic League may set other standards, which will require compliance of students in UIL-sponsored activities.
 - When a student returns from a DAEP or JJAEP placement, the student will have a 5 school day transition period. During this transition period, the student will be eligible to practice with the extracurricular/co-curricular activity but will not be eligible to perform or compete.

Transition Plan for Returning to Campus

Not later than five instructional days after the date of a student's return from an alternative education program, the campus administrator shall coordinate the student's transition to a regular classroom. The coordination must include assistance and recommendations from school counselors; school resource officers; assistant principal; and classroom teachers/coaches/sponsors/directors who are or may be responsible for implementing the student's personalized transition plan.

The campus administrator will develop a personalized transition plan for the student. The transition plan will include recommendations for the best educational placement of the student and a reintegration plan for participating in extracurricular/co-curricular activities that includes expectations and consequences if expectations are not met. The transition plan may include:

- Recommendations for counseling, behavioral management, or academic assistance for the student with a concentration on the student's academic or career goals;
- Recommendations for assistance for obtaining access to mental health services provided by the district or school, a local mental health authority, or another private or public entity;
- The provision of information to the student's parent/guardian about the process to request a full individual and initial evaluation of the student for purposes of special education services under Texas Education Code Section 29.004;
- A regular review of the student's progress toward the student's academic or career goals; and
- An extracurricular probation period if the student fails to comply with rules and regulations of the extracurricular/co-curricular activity.

When necessary, the campus administrator, or the administrator's designee, shall meet with the student's parent/guardian to coordinate plans for the student's transition.

Appeals relating to the Agreement are handled in accordance with [Board Policies FNG \(LEGAL\) and FNG \(LOCAL\)](#).

Appeals of the Co-Curricular/Extracurricular Contract are handled in accordance with FNG(LEGAL) and FNG(LOCAL).

Northwest ISD Student Handbook

All NISD Athletic Coaches and Athletic Directors follow the Texas High School Coaches Association Code of Ethics Article IX — Management of Felony Crime, which states, *"It will be considered a breach of the Code of Ethics to willingly allow a student/athlete who is charged with and under indictment for a felony crime to participate in an athletic contest. This action should not be considered a presumption of guilt, but rather it affords the accused athlete the time and opportunity to clear his/her name. The student/athlete may be allowed to remain on his/her athletic team as a suspended member but should not be allowed to represent his/her school or community in an athletic contest while under this suspension."* For student athletes, in the event of conflict between the sanctions imposed under section 2 of the Student Guidelines and the Texas High School Coaches Association Code of Ethics, Article IX — Management of a Felony, the Texas High School Coaches Association Code of Ethics, Article IX—Management of a Felony, will prevail.

Parental Consent

State law requires the district to obtain written parental consent before a student may participate in a student club that is authorized or sponsored by the district. A parent may obtain consent forms for student clubs **from their campus**.

Some extracurricular activities may include off-campus events. Students are required to use transportation provided by the district to and from the events. Exceptions may only be made with the approval of the activity's coach or sponsor. [See Transportation (All Grade Levels)]

Eligibility for many of these activities is governed by state law and the rules of the University Interscholastic League (UIL), a statewide association overseeing interdistrict competition. If a student is involved in an academic, athletic, or music activity governed by UIL, the student and parent are expected to know and follow all rules of the UIL organization. Students and parents can access the [UIL Parent Information Manual](https://www.uil texas.org/athletics/manuals) (<https://www.uil texas.org/athletics/manuals>) online. A hard copy can be provided by the coach or sponsor of the activity on request.

To report alleged noncompliance with required safety training or an alleged violation of safety rules required by law and the UIL, please contact the curriculum division of TEA at (512) 463-9581 or curriculum@tea.texas.gov.

[See [UIL Texas](https://www.uil texas.org/) (<https://www.uil texas.org/>) for additional information on all UIL-governed activities.]

Student safety in extracurricular activities is a priority of the district. Parents are entitled to review the district's records regarding the age of each football helmet used by the campus, including when a helmet has been reconditioned.

Generally, a student who receives a grade below 70 at the end of a grading period in any academic class may not participate in extracurricular activities for at least three school weeks.

If a student is enrolled in a state-approved music course that participates in UIL Concert and Sight-Reading Evaluation, and the student receives a grade below 70 in any course at the end of a grading period, the student may perform with the ensemble during the UIL evaluation performance but is ineligible for other extracurricular activities for at least three weeks.

In addition, the following applies to all extracurricular activities:

Northwest ISD Student Handbook

- A student who receives special education services and who fails to meet the standards in the individualized education program (IEP) may not participate for at least three school weeks.
- An ineligible student may practice or rehearse but may not participate in any competitive activity.
- A student is allowed in a school year up to **10** absences not related to post-district competition, a maximum of **5** absences for post-district competition prior to state, and a maximum of **2** absences for state competition. All extracurricular activities and public performances, whether UIL activities or other activities approved by the board, are subject to these restrictions.
- An absence of participation in an activity that has not been approved will be considered an unexcused absence.

Standards of Behavior

- Sponsors of student clubs and performing groups such as the band, choir, and drill and athletic teams may establish standards of behavior — including consequences for misbehavior — that are stricter than those for students in general. If a violation is also a violation of school rules, the consequences specified by the Student Code of Conduct or by board policy will apply in addition to any consequences specified by the organization's standards of behavior.

Offices and Elections

Certain clubs, organizations, and performing groups will hold elections for student officers.

Fees (All Grade Levels)

Basic educational program materials are provided at no charge to a student. However, a student is expected to provide their own supplies, such as pencils, paper, erasers, and notebooks. A student may also be required to pay certain other costs, fees, or deposits, including:

- Materials for a class project that the student will keep.
- Membership dues in voluntary clubs or student organizations.
- Admission fees to extracurricular activities.
- Security deposits.
- Personal physical education and athletic equipment and apparel.
- Voluntarily purchased pictures, publications, class rings, yearbooks, graduation announcements, and the like.
- Voluntarily purchased student health and accident insurance.
- Musical instrument rental and uniform maintenance when uniforms are provided by the district.
- Personal apparel used in extracurricular activities that becomes the property of the student.
- Parking fees and student identification cards.
- Fees for lost, damaged, or overdue library books.
- Fees for driver training courses.
- Fees for optional courses offered for credit that require use of facilities not available on district premises.
- Summer school for courses that are offered tuition-free during the regular school year.

Northwest ISD Student Handbook

- A reasonable fee for providing transportation to a student who lives within two miles of the school. [See Buses and Other School Vehicles]
- A maximum fee of \$50 for an educational program outside of regular school hours for a student who has lost credit or has not been awarded a final grade because of absences and whose parent chooses the program for the student to meet the 90 percent attendance requirements. The fee will be charged only if the parent or guardian signs a district-provided request form.
- In some cases, a fee for a virtual or hybrid course.

Any required fee or deposit may be waived if the student and parent are unable to pay. Application for such a waiver may be made to the **campus principal or designee**. [See policy FP for more information.]

Fundraising (All Grade Levels)

Student groups or classes and/or parent groups may be permitted to conduct fundraising drives for approved school purposes in accordance with administrative regulations. [See policies FJ and GE for more information.]

Gang-Free Zones (All Grade Levels)

Certain criminal offenses, including gang-related crimes, will be enhanced to the next-highest category of offense if they are committed in a gang-free zone. Gang-free zones include a school bus and any location in, on, or within 1,000 feet of any district-owned or leased property or campus playground.

Grade-Level Classification (Grades 9-12 Only)

After grade 9, students are classified according to the number of credits earned toward graduation.

Credits Earned	Classification
6	Grade 10 (Sophomore)
13	Grade 11 (Junior)
19	Grade 12 (Senior)

Grading Guidelines (All Grade Levels)

Grading guidelines for each grade level or course will be provided on the [district webpage](#).

Approved grading guidelines for each grade level or course will be communicated to students and their parents by the classroom teacher. These guidelines establish:

- The minimum number of assignments, projects, and examinations required for each grading period
- How the student's mastery of concepts and achievement will be communicated (for example, letter grades, numerical averages, checklist of required skills, and the like)
- Circumstances under which a student will be allowed to redo an assignment or retake an examination the student originally failed
- Procedures for a student to follow after an absence

Northwest ISD Student Handbook

- Grading consequences for academic dishonesty, including cheating or copying the work of another student, plagiarism (including the unauthorized use of artificial intelligence (AI) such as ChatGPT), and unauthorized communication between students during an examination

[See Report Cards/Progress Reports and Conferences (All Grade Levels) for additional information on grading guidelines.]

Graduation (Secondary Grade Levels Only)

Requirements for a Diploma

A student must meet the following requirements to receive a high school diploma from the district:

- Achieve passing scores on certain end-of-course (EOC) assessments or approved substitute assessments, unless specifically waived as permitted by state law
- Complete the required number of credits established by the state and any additional credits required by the district
- Complete any locally required courses in addition to the courses mandated by the state
- Demonstrate proficiency, as determined by the district, in the specific communication skills required by the State Board of Education (SBOE)
- Complete and submit a free application for federal student aid (FAFSA) or a Texas application for state financial aid (TASFA)

Testing Requirements for Graduation

Students are required, with limited exceptions and regardless of graduation program, to perform satisfactorily on the following EOC assessments:

- English I
- English II
- Algebra I
- Biology
- U.S. History

A student who does not achieve a sufficient score will have opportunities to retake an assessment.

State law allows a student to meet EOC requirements by substituting satisfactory performance on approved national standardized assessments or on the state-developed assessment used for entrance into Texas public universities. [See the school counselor for more information on the state testing requirements for graduation.]

If a student fails to perform satisfactorily on an EOC assessment, the district will provide remediation in the applicable content area. This may require the student's participation outside normal school operating times.

In limited circumstances, a student who fails to demonstrate proficiency on up to two of the required assessments may still be eligible to graduate if an individual graduation committee, formed in accordance with state law, unanimously determines that the student is eligible to graduate.

[See Standardized Testing]

Northwest ISD Student Handbook

Foundation Graduation Program

Every Texas public school student will graduate under the foundation graduation program. The foundation graduation program features endorsements, which are paths of interest that include:

- Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM)
- Business and Industry
- Public Service
- Arts and Humanities
- Multidisciplinary Studies

Endorsements earned by a student will be noted on the student's transcript.

A student can complete the foundation graduation program with a "distinguished level of achievement," which reflects the completion of at least one endorsement and Algebra II as one of the required advanced mathematics credits.

Personal Graduation Plans will be completed for each high school student.

State law generally prohibits a student from graduating solely under the foundation graduation program without an endorsement. However, after the student's sophomore year, the student and student's parent may request that the student graduate without an endorsement. The district will advise the student and the student's parent of the specific benefits of graduating with an endorsement. The student and the student's parent must then submit written permission to the school counselor for the student to graduate without an endorsement.

A student who wishes to attend a four-year university or college after graduation must carefully consider whether graduation under the foundation program without an endorsement will satisfy the admission requirements of the student's desired college or university.

A student graduating under the foundation graduation program can also earn performance acknowledgments on their transcript. Performance acknowledgments are available for outstanding performance in bilingualism and biliteracy, in a dual credit course, on an AP or IB examination, on certain national college preparatory and readiness or college entrance examinations, or for earning a license or certificate recognized at the state, national, or international level. The school counselor can provide more information about these acknowledgments.

A student is not required to complete an Algebra II course to graduate under the foundation graduation program, and the district will annually notify a student's parent of this fact. However, not taking Algebra II will make a student ineligible for automatic admission to four-year public universities and colleges in Texas and for certain financial aid and grants while attending those institutions.

A school district will permit a student to satisfy the curriculum requirements for graduation under the foundation program with the distinguished level of achievement, including an endorsement, by successfully completing courses in the core curriculum of a public Texas institution of higher education. Please see your counselor for more information.

Northwest ISD Student Handbook

Credits Required

The foundation graduation program requires completion of the following credits:

Course Area	Number of Credits: Foundation Graduation Program	Number of Credits: Foundation Graduation Program with an Endorsement
English/Language Arts	4	4
Mathematics	3	4
Science	3	4
Social Studies	3	3
Physical Education	1	1
Languages other than English	2	2
Fine Arts	1	1
Speech	.5	.5
Electives	4.5	6.5
Total	22 credits	26 credits

Additional considerations apply in some course areas, including:

- **Mathematics:** To obtain the distinguished level of achievement under the foundation graduation program, a student must complete an endorsement and take Algebra II as one of the 4 mathematics credits. A student's completion of the distinguished level of achievement is a requirement to be considered for automatic admission to a Texas four-year college or university and will be included on a student's transcript.
- **Physical education:** A student who is unable to participate in physical activity due to a disability or illness may be able to substitute a course in English language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, or another locally determined credit-bearing course for the required credit of physical education. This determination will be made by the student's ARD committee, Section 504 committee, or other campus committee, as applicable.
- **Languages other than English:** Students are required to earn 2 credits in the same language other than English to graduate.
 - A student may substitute computer programming languages for these credits.
 - A student may satisfy one of the 2 required credits by successfully completing in elementary school a dual language immersion program or a course in American Sign Language.
 - In limited circumstances, a student may be able to substitute this requirement with other courses, as determined by a district committee authorized by law to make these decisions for the student.

Northwest ISD Student Handbook

Available Endorsements

A student must specify which endorsement to pursue upon entering grade 9.

- Science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM),
- Business and industry,
- Public services,
- Arts and humanities, or
- Multidisciplinary studies.

Financial Aid Application Requirement

Before graduating from high school, each student must complete and submit an application for financial aid for post-secondary education. Students must complete and submit either a free application for federal student aid (FAFSA) or a Texas application for state financial aid (TASFA).

A student is not required to complete and submit a FAFSA or TASFA if:

- The student's parent submits a form provided by the district indicating that the parent authorizes the student to opt out
- A student who is 18 years of age or older or a legally independent minor submits a form provided by the district indicating that the student opts out
- A school counselor authorizes the student to opt out for good cause

Please contact the school counselor for more information.

To confirm that a student has completed and submitted a FAFSA or TASFA, the student must submit one of the following:

- A screenshot that includes the processed date field of the FAFSA ApplyTexas Counselor Suite
- Notification, such as a copy of an email, from the United States Department of Education verifying completion of the FAFSA
- A copy or screenshot of the FAFSA acknowledgment page
- A screenshot of the TASFA submission acknowledgment page (from those institutions that offer an electronic form)
- An acknowledgment receipt from an institution of higher education (IHE)
- A copy of a financial aid award letter from an IHE

Personal Graduation Plans

A personal graduation plan will be developed for each high school student.

The district encourages all students to pursue a personal graduation plan that includes the completion of at least one endorsement and to graduate with the distinguished level of achievement. Attainment of the distinguished level of achievement is a requirement for a student to be considered for automatic admission to a public four-year college or university in Texas, depending on their rank in class.

Northwest ISD Student Handbook

The school will review personal graduation plan options with each student entering grade 9 and the student's parent. Before the end of grade 9, a student and their parent will be required to sign off on a personal graduation plan that promotes college and workforce readiness, promotes career placement and advancement, and facilitates the transition from secondary to postsecondary education.

The student's personal graduation plan will outline an appropriate course sequence based on the student's choice of endorsement.

Please review [TEA's Graduation Toolkit \(https://tea.texas.gov/about-tea/news-and-multimedia/brochures/tea-brochures\)](https://tea.texas.gov/about-tea/news-and-multimedia/brochures/tea-brochures).

A student may amend their personal graduation plan after this initial confirmation. The school will send written notice of any such amendment to the student's parent.

Available Course Options for All Graduation Programs

Each spring, the district will update students on the courses required or offered in each curriculum area so students can enroll for the upcoming school year.

Note: The district may require the completion of certain courses for graduation even if these courses are not required by the state for graduation.

Not all courses are offered at every secondary campus in the district. A student who wants to take a course not offered at their regular campus should contact the school counselor about a transfer or other alternatives. If the parents of at least 22 students request a transfer for a course in the required curriculum other than fine arts or career and technical education (CTE), the district will offer the course the following year either by teleconference or at the school from which the transfers were requested.

Certificates of Coursework Completion

A certificate of coursework completion will be issued to a student who has successfully completed state and local credit requirements for graduation but has not yet demonstrated satisfactory performance on the state-mandated tests required for graduation.

Students with Disabilities

Admission, review, and dismissal (ARD) committees will make instructional and assessment decisions for students with disabilities who receive special education services in accordance with state law.

Upon the recommendation of the ARD committee, a student with a disability who receives special education services may be permitted to graduate under the provisions of their individualized education program (IEP) and in accordance with state rules.

A student who receives special education services may earn the distinguished level of achievement or an endorsement under the foundation program. If the student's curriculum requirements for the endorsement were modified, the student's ARD committee will determine whether the modified curriculum is sufficiently rigorous to earn the distinguished level of achievement or endorsement. The ARD committee must also determine whether the student must perform satisfactorily on any end-of-course assessment to earn an endorsement.

Northwest ISD Student Handbook

A student who receives special education services and has completed four years of high school but has not met the requirements of their IEP may participate in graduation ceremonies and receive a certificate of attendance. The student may then remain enrolled to complete the IEP and earn a high school diploma but will only be allowed to participate in one graduation ceremony.

[See policy FMH(LEGAL) for more information.]

Graduation Speakers

Certain graduating students will be given an opportunity to have speaking roles at graduation ceremonies. Only those students who hold one of the following positions of honor will be eligible to give these remarks:

- Student council officers of the graduating class,
- Class officers of the graduating class, or
- The top three academically ranked graduates.

However, if the student was assigned to disciplinary placement at any time during the spring semester, he or she will not be eligible to speak at graduation.

A student must meet local eligibility criteria, which may include requirements related to student conduct, to have a speaking role. Students eligible for speaking roles will be notified by the principal and given an opportunity to volunteer.

[See [FNA\(LOCAL\)](#)]

Graduation Expenses

Because students and parents will incur expenses to participate in the traditions of graduation — such as the purchase of invitations, senior ring, cap and gown, and senior picture — both the student and parent should monitor progress toward completion of all requirements for graduation. The expenses often are incurred in the junior year or first semester of the senior year. [See Fees (All Grade Levels)]

Scholarships and Grants

Students who have a financial need according to federal criteria and who complete the foundation graduation program may be eligible under the TEXAS Grant Program, Teach for Texas Grant Program, and Future Texas Teachers Scholarship Program for scholarships and grants toward tuition and fees to Texas public universities, community colleges, and technical schools, as well as to private institutions. Certain students who graduate early may also be eligible for the Texas First Scholarship Program.

[See College and University Admissions and Financial Aid (All Grade Levels) for more information.]

Contact the school counselor for information about other scholarships and grants available to students.

Harassment

[See Dating Violence, Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation (All Grade Levels)]

Northwest ISD Student Handbook

Hazing (All Grade Levels)

Hazing is defined as an intentional, knowing, or reckless act, on or off campus, by one person alone or acting with others, directed against a student for the purpose of pledging, initiation into, affiliation with, holding office in, or maintaining membership in a student organization if the act meets the elements in Education Code 37.151, including:

- Any type of physical brutality
- An activity that subjects the student to an unreasonable risk of harm or that adversely affects the student's mental or physical health, such as sleep deprivation, exposure to the elements, confinement to small spaces, calisthenics, or consumption of food, liquids, drugs, or other substances
- An activity that induces, causes, or requires the student to perform a duty or task that violates the Penal Code
- Coercing a student to consume a drug or alcoholic beverage in an amount that would lead a reasonable person to believe the student is intoxicated

The district will not tolerate hazing. Disciplinary consequences for hazing will be in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct. It is a criminal offense if a person engages in hazing; solicits, encourages, directs, aids, or attempts to aid another in hazing; or has firsthand knowledge of an incident of hazing being planned or having occurred and fails to report this to the principal, superintendent, or law enforcement official.

[See Bullying (All Grade Levels) and policies FFI and FNCC for more information.]

Health — Physical and Mental

Health-Related Services

The district is required to provide notice of each health-related service offered at a student's campus. A parent may withhold consent for or decline a health-related service.

The following health related services are offered on the following district campuses:

- Administration of medication that is provided by a parent in accordance with District guidelines
- Special procedures and treatments deemed medically necessary (i.e. accompanied by a physician's order) with written consent of the parent or guardian (examples include tube feeding, catheterization, etc.)
- Vision, hearing, spinal screening and Texas Risk Assessment for Type 2 Diabetes in Children pursuant to Texas Health and Safety Code, Chapter 36
- Administration of epinephrine, albuterol, and/or naloxone in accordance with aforementioned standing orders
- Assessment and formulation of nursing care plans in accordance with the Texas Nursing Practice Act
- Communicable disease or condition symptom evaluation, exclusion and readmission as well as maintenance and updating of immunization records or exemptions
- First aid for injuries, illness and care to protect the immediate health and safety of the student, decrease exposure for others, and limit the likelihood of complications from said injuries or illness

Northwest ISD Student Handbook

- Participation in 504 or ARD meeting when nursing expertise may be required

Illness (All Grade Levels)

When your child is ill, please contact the school to let us know they will not be attending that day.

State rules require schools to exclude students with certain illnesses from school for certain periods of time. For example, a child with a fever over 100 degrees must stay out of school until fever-free for 24 hours without use of fever-reducing medications. Students with diarrheal illnesses must stay home until they are diarrhea-free without use of diarrhea-suppressing medications for 24 hours.

A full list of conditions for which the school must exclude children can be obtained from the school nurse.

If a student becomes ill during the school day and the school nurse determines that the child should go home, the nurse will contact the parent.

The district is required to report certain contagious (communicable) diseases or illnesses to the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) or our local/regional health authority. The school nurse can provide information from DSHS on these notifiable conditions.

The school nurse is available to answer any questions for parents who are concerned about whether or not their child should stay home.

Immunization (All Grade Levels)

A student must be fully immunized against certain diseases or must present a certificate or statement that, for medical reasons or reasons of conscience, including a religious belief, the student will not be immunized.

For exemptions based on reasons of conscience, only official forms issued by the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS), Immunization Branch, can be honored by the district. You may access the [DSHS exemption form \(https://www.dshs.texas.gov/immunization-unit/texas-school-child-care-facility-immunization/texas-immunization-exemptions\)](https://www.dshs.texas.gov/immunization-unit/texas-school-child-care-facility-immunization/texas-immunization-exemptions) online or by writing to this address:

Texas Department of State Health Services
Immunization Section, Mail Code 1946
P.O. Box 149347
Austin, Texas 78714-9347

The form must be notarized and submitted to the principal or school nurse within 90 days of notarization. If the parent is seeking an exemption for more than one student in the family, a separate form must be provided for each student.

The immunizations required are:

- Diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis
- Polio
- Measles, mumps, and rubella
- Hepatitis B
- Varicella (chicken pox)

Northwest ISD Student Handbook

- Meningococcal
- Hepatitis A

The school nurse can provide information on immunization requirements. Proof of immunization may be established by personal records from a licensed physician or public health clinic with a signature or rubber-stamp validation.

If a student should not be immunized for medical reasons, the student or parent must present a certificate signed by a U.S. registered and licensed physician stating that, in the doctor's opinion, the immunization required is medically contraindicated or poses a significant risk to the health and well-being of the student or a member of the student's family or household. This certificate must be renewed yearly unless the physician specifies a lifelong condition.

For information on immunization against bacterial meningitis and college enrollment and attendance, see Bacterial Meningitis (All Grade Levels).

[See the DSHS's [School and Childcare Vaccine Requirements](https://www.dshs.texas.gov/immunizations/school) (<https://www.dshs.texas.gov/immunizations/school>) and policy FFAB(LEGAL) for more information.]

[For further information, see policy [FFAB\(LEGAL\)](#) and the DSHS website: [Texas School & Child Care Facility Immunization Requirements](#).]

Lice (All Grade Levels)

Head lice is very common among children. Although not an illness or a disease, head lice spread through head-to-head contact during play, sports, nap time, and when children share things like brushes, combs, hats, and headphones.

The district does not require or recommend that students be removed from school because of lice or nits.

If careful observation indicates that a student has head lice, the school nurse will contact the student's parent to discuss a treatment plan using an FDA-approved medicated shampoo or cream rinse that may be purchased from any drug or grocery store. After the student undergoes one treatment, the parent should contact the school nurse to discuss the treatment used. The nurse can also offer additional recommendations, including subsequent treatments, how best to get rid of lice, and how to prevent lice from returning.

The district will provide notice to parents of elementary school students in an affected classroom without identifying the student with lice.

More information on head lice is available on the DSHS website [Managing Head Lice in School Settings and at Home](https://www.dshs.texas.gov/texas-school-health/skilled-procedures-texas-school-health/managing-head-lice-school) (<https://www.dshs.texas.gov/texas-school-health/skilled-procedures-texas-school-health/managing-head-lice-school>) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's website [About Head Lice](https://www.cdc.gov/lice/about/head-lice.html) (<https://www.cdc.gov/lice/about/head-lice.html>).

[See policy [FFAA](#).]

Medicine at School (All Grade Levels)

If a student must take medication during school hours, the student's parent must provide the medication. All medication, whether prescription or nonprescription, must be kept in the nurse's

Northwest ISD Student Handbook

office and be administered by the nurse or another authorized district employee. A student may be authorized to possess their own medication because of asthma or a severe allergy as described below or as otherwise allowed by law.

The district will not purchase nonprescription medication to give to a student.

In accordance with policy [FFAC](#), authorized employees may administer:

- Prescription medication in the original, properly labeled container, provided by the parent or guardian, along with a completed [Northwest ISD Medication Administration Request Form](#). All medications must be transported by a parent, legal guardian, or emergency contact and if it is a controlled substance, e.g. Ritalin, the medication will be counted upon its arrival in the health clinic.
- Prescription medication from a properly labeled unit dosage container filled by a registered nurse or another qualified district employee from the original, properly labeled container provided by the parent along with a written request.
- Nonprescription medication in the original, properly labeled container, provided by the parent along with a completed [Northwest ISD Medication Administration Request Form](#).
Note: Insect repellent is considered nonprescription medication.
- Herbal or dietary supplements provided by the parent only if required by the student's individualized education program (IEP) or Section 504 plan for a student with disabilities.

The district can assume no responsibility for loss or negligent behavior when students carry conventional or alternative medication or dietary supplements without the knowledge of the campus health service personnel. Noncompliance may be subject to disciplinary action.

Any unused medication will be destroyed two weeks after last dosage or after dismissal on the last day of instruction of the current school year. Generally, medication will not be sent home with a student. With few exceptions, most medications and all controlled substances must be picked up by a parent or legal guardian at the school health clinic.

Students whose schedules provide regular time spent outdoors, including for recess and physical education classes, should apply sunscreen before coming to school.

Whether a student is at the elementary or secondary level, if sunscreen needs to be administered to treat any type of medical condition, this should be handled through communication with the school nurse so that the district is made aware of any safety and medical issues. Nurses and teachers will not apply sunscreen. The student must be able to apply sunscreen independently or must wear appropriate sun-blocking clothing/accessories as an alternative to sunscreen.

Asthma and Severe Allergic Reactions

A student with asthma or severe allergic reaction (anaphylaxis) may possess and use prescribed asthma or anaphylaxis medication at school or school-related events only if they have written authorization from a parent and a physician or other licensed health-care provider. The student must also demonstrate to their health-care provider and the school nurse the ability to use the prescribed medication, including any device required to administer the medication. This permission may be revoked if the student is unable to demonstrate compliance and/or if he/she frequently forgets or loses medication. In that case, medication will need to be stored in the clinic and administered by the nurse.

Northwest ISD Student Handbook

If the student has been prescribed asthma or anaphylaxis medication for use during the school day, the student and parents should discuss this with the school nurse or principal.

[See also Food Allergies (All Grade Levels)]

Unassigned Epinephrine Delivery Systems

In accordance with Chapter 38, Subchapter E of the Education Code, the board has adopted a policy to allow authorized school personnel and school volunteers who have been adequately trained to administer unassigned epinephrine via an available delivery system (either intranasally or by injection) to a person who is reasonably believed to be experiencing a severe allergic reaction (anaphylaxis).

An “unassigned epinephrine delivery system” is an epinephrine device prescribed by an authorized health-care provider in the name of the school issued with a non-patient-specific standing delegation order for the administration of an epinephrine auto-injector. Devices may include Neffy , EpiPens®, or generic substitutes.

Authorized and trained individuals may administer epinephrine at any time to a person experiencing anaphylaxis on a school campus.

The district will ensure that at each campus a sufficient number of school personnel are trained to administer epinephrine so that at least one trained individual is present on campus during regular on-campus school hours and when school personnel are physically on site for school-sponsored activities.

For additional information, see [FFAC\(LOCAL\)](#).

Unassigned Medication for Respiratory Distress

In accordance with Chapter 38, Subchapter E of the Education Code, the board has adopted a policy to allow authorized and trained school personnel to administer a medication for respiratory distress on a school campus or at a school-related activity to a person reasonably believed to be experiencing symptoms of respiratory distress.

The district will provide at each campus school personnel who are trained to administer prescription medication for respiratory distress during regular school hours.

“Unassigned medication for respiratory distress” means albuterol, levalbuterol, or another medication designated by the executive commission of the Health and Human Services Commission for treatment of respiratory distress, prescribed by an authorized health-care provider in the name of the district with a non-patient-specific standing delegation order for the administration of a medication for respiratory distress, and issued by an authorized health-care provider.

Unassigned Opioid Antagonists

In accordance with Chapter 38, Subchapter E of the Education Code, the board has adopted a policy to allow authorized and trained school personnel at each campus to administer an opioid antagonist, such as Narcan or Naloxone, to an individual who is reasonably believed to be experiencing an opioid-related drug overdose. One or more authorized and trained individuals will be present on each campus subject to this policy during regular school hours.

Northwest ISD Student Handbook

Latex Policy

A person who is allergic to LATEX may experience mild symptoms (such as itching, redness, or runny nose) or may experience a life-threatening reaction (including difficulty breathing, swelling of the throat, severe congestion, or anaphylaxis). To create a safer environment for students with latex allergies, NISD is committed to reducing or eliminating latex on campus. In addition, we will prepare staff members to react to accidental exposure for the individual who is sensitive.

About Latex Allergy

Latex allergy is present in 1% to 6% of the general population. Latex, and the powder that is often used with it, contains a protein that can be dangerous to sensitive individuals if they touch it or inhale it. Latex is often found in balloons, gloves, medical supplies, and other common items.

To limit Latex exposure

Individuals who are responsible for ordering supplies (including PTO/PTA, booster clubs, etc.) should NOT order supplies known to contain LATEX.

Please request a written latex-free verification from vendors when you order these items/supplies:

- Balloons
- Rubber Bands (including bands for training/sports)
- Bandages
- Gloves
- Toys
- Paint

Please note: Latex powder can float in the air or adhere to clothing when a balloon is being inflated or deflated. Therefore, even though the decorations may be out of reach of students, they could still pose a danger.

Decorations may include balloons made of Mylar or latex-free plastic. However, please maintain the written latex-free verification with your records in case a parent requests to see this verification.

Preparing for accidental exposure

Because it is impossible to create a 100% latex-free environment, NISD will make every effort to create a Latex-SAFE environment (Beierwaltes, P., & Schoessler, A. (2017). *Latex Safe at School: A Student-Centered Approach*).

This may include using signs or posters, letters to parents of classmates as applicable, class discussion as appropriate, and other interventions that will promote education and safety.

Furthermore, NISD staff will be trained to administer epinephrine if a student displays signs of severe allergic reaction.

Northwest ISD Student Handbook

What you should know

As an individual who orders decorations and/or supplies, it is your responsibility to verify that items purchased or rented for events are latex-free. NISD has committed to be a Latex-Safe district. You play an integral part in making that a reality.

Steroids (Secondary Grade Levels Only)

State law prohibits students from possessing, dispensing, delivering, or administering an anabolic steroid. Anabolic steroids are for physician-prescribed medical use only.

Body building, muscle enhancement, or the increase of muscle bulk or strength through the use of an anabolic steroid or human growth hormone by a healthy student is not a valid medical use and is a criminal offense.

Mental Health Support (All Grade Levels)

The district has implemented programs to address the following mental health, behavioral health, and substance abuse concerns:

- Mental health promotion and early intervention
- Building skills to manage emotions, establish and maintain positive relationships, and engage in responsible decision-making
- Substance abuse prevention and intervention
- Suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention (interventions after a suicide in a community)
- Grief, trauma, and trauma-informed care
- Positive behavior interventions and supports
- Positive youth development
- Safe, supportive, and positive school climates

If a student has been hospitalized or placed in residential treatment for a mental health condition or substance abuse, the district has procedures to support the student's return to school. Please contact the campus counselor for further information.

Teachers and other district employees may discuss a student's academic progress or behavior with the student's parents or another employee as appropriate; however, they are not permitted to recommend use of psychotropic drugs. A psychotropic drug is a substance used in the diagnosis, treatment, or prevention of a disease or as a component of a medication that is intended to alter perception, emotion, mood, or behavior.

A district employee who is a registered nurse, an advanced nurse practitioner, a physician, or a certified or credentialed mental health professional can recommend that a student be evaluated by an appropriate medical practitioner, if appropriate. [See policy FFEB for more information.]

For related information, see:

- Consent to Conduct a Psychological or Psychiatric Evaluation and Consent to Provide a Mental Health Care Service for the district's procedures for recommending a mental health intervention and the mental health liaison's contact information
- Counseling for the district's comprehensive school counseling program

Northwest ISD Student Handbook

- Physical and Mental Health Resources (All Grade Levels) for campus and community mental and physical health resources
- Policies and Procedures that Promote Student Physical and Mental Health (All Grade Levels) for board-adopted policies and administrative procedures that promote student health

The district has also established procedures for staff to notify the mental health liaison regarding a student who may need intervention. The mental health liaison can be reached at:

Dr. Jamie Farber, Director of Guidance and Counseling

2001 Texan Dr., Justin, TX 76247

jfarber@nisdtx.org 817-215-0187

Physical Activity Requirements

Elementary School

In accordance with policies at [EHAB](#), [EHAC](#), [EHBC](#), and [FFA](#), the district will ensure that students in full-day prekindergarten–grade 5 engage in moderate or vigorous physical activity for at least 30 minutes per day or 135 minutes per week.

For additional information on the district’s elementary school student physical activity programs and requirements, please see the principal.

Junior High/Middle School

In accordance with policies at [EHAB](#), [EHAC](#), [EHBC](#), and [FFA](#), the district will ensure that students in middle school will engage in at least 225 minutes of moderate or vigorous physical activity within each two-week period for at least four semesters.

For additional information on the district’s requirements and programs regarding junior high and middle school student physical activity requirements, please see the principal.

Temporary Restriction from Participation in Physical Education

Students who are temporarily restricted from participation in physical education will not actively participate in skill demonstration but will remain in class to learn the concepts of the lessons.

Physical Fitness Assessment (Grades 3-12)

Annually, the district will conduct a physical fitness assessment of students in grades 3-12 who are enrolled in a physical education course or a course for which physical education credit is awarded. At the end of the school year, a parent may submit a written request to the student’s physical education teacher to obtain the results of their child’s physical fitness assessment conducted during the school year.

Physical Health Screenings/Examinations

Athletics Participation (Secondary Grade Levels Only)

For certain extracurricular activities, a student must submit certification from an authorized health-care provider. The certification must state that the student has been examined and is physically able to participate in the relevant program, including:

Northwest ISD Student Handbook

- A district athletics program
- District marching band
- Any district extracurricular program identified by the superintendent.
- This examination is required in the first year of middle school competition. During the alternate years, the student must complete a medical appraisal form, and the results of this appraisal may prompt the district to require a physical examination.

Students should be aware of the rare possibility of sudden cardiac arrest, which in athletes is usually caused by a previously unsuspected heart disease or disorder. A student may request an electrocardiogram (ECG or EKG) to screen for such disorders, in addition to the required physical examination.

See the UIL's explanation of [sudden cardiac arrest](https://www.uiltexas.org/health/info/sudden-cardiac-death) (<https://www.uiltexas.org/health/info/sudden-cardiac-death>) for more information.

Spinal Screening Program

School-based spinal screening helps identify adolescents with abnormal spinal curvature at an early stage when the curve is mild and may go unnoticed. Early detection is key to controlling spinal deformities. Spinal screening is non-invasive and conducted in accordance with the most recent nationally accepted and peer-reviewed standards.

All students who meet the Texas Department of State Health Services criteria will be screened for abnormal spinal curvature before the end of the school year. As appropriate, students will be referred for follow-up with their physician.

For information on spinal screening by an outside professional or exemption from spinal screening based on religious beliefs, contact the superintendent or see policy [FFAA\(LEGAL\)](#).

Other Examinations and Screenings (All Grade Levels)

[All students are screened for complications related to vision and hearing in the following grade levels:](#)

4 years old by Sept 1

Kinder, 1st, 3rd, 5th, and 7th grades

Any other first-time entrants to the district in any grade if there is not proof of a recent screening in accordance with the schedule here noted.

During this screening, we also conduct the Acanthosis Nigricans (AN) screening for risk factors related to Type 2 Diabetes.

[Students are screened for complications related to spinal abnormalities according to the following schedule:](#)

Girls – Grades 5 and 7

Boys – 8th grade

Northwest ISD has a screen team comprised of trained and certified screeners who visit the appropriate campuses during the fall semester to complete a mass screening. The campus nurse follows up with any student who the screen team has initially identified as having a concern in any of the areas screened. [See policy [FFAA](#).]

Northwest ISD Student Handbook

Special Health Concerns (All Grade Levels)

Bacterial Meningitis (All Grade Levels)

Please see the district's [Health Services](#) website for information regarding meningitis.

Note: Entering college students must show, with limited exception, evidence of receiving a bacterial meningitis vaccination within the five-year period prior to enrolling in and taking courses at an institution of higher education. Please see the school nurse for more information, as this may affect a student who wishes to enroll in a dual credit course taken off campus.

[See Immunization (All Grade Levels)]

Diabetes

In accordance with a student's individual health plan for management of diabetes, a student with diabetes will be permitted to possess and use monitoring and treatment supplies and equipment while at school or at a school-related activity. See the school nurse or principal for information.

[See policy FFAF(LEGAL) for more information.]

Food Allergies (All Grade Levels)

Parents should notify the district when a student has been diagnosed with a food allergy, especially an allergy that could result in dangerous or life-threatening reactions either by breathing, eating, or touching the particular food. It is important to disclose the food to which the student is allergic as well as the nature of the allergic reaction. Please contact the school nurse or campus principal if your child has a known food allergy or as soon as possible after any diagnosis of a food allergy.

The district has developed and annually reviews a food allergy management plan, based on the Texas Department of State Health Services' (DSHS) *Guidelines for the Care of Students with Food Allergies at Risk for Anaphylaxis* found on the DSHS [Allergies and Anaphylaxis](https://www.dshs.texas.gov/texas-school-health/allergies-anaphylaxis) website (<https://www.dshs.texas.gov/texas-school-health/allergies-anaphylaxis>)

When the district receives information that a student has a food allergy that puts the student at risk for anaphylaxis, an individual care plan will be developed to assist the student in safely accessing the school environment. If the student develops a food allergy during the school year, please complete the [Emergency Information for School Health Clinic](#)

[See Celebrations (All Grade Levels) and policy FFAF for more information.]

Seizures (All Grade Levels)

To address the care of a student with a seizure disorder while at school or participating in a school activity, a parent may submit a seizure management and treatment plan to the district before the beginning of the school year, upon enrollment of the student, or as soon as practicable following diagnosis of a seizure disorder. A parent who submits a plan must use the [Seizure Management and Treatment Plan Form](https://tea.texas.gov/academics/tea-seizure-management-form.pdf) (<https://tea.texas.gov/academics/tea-seizure-management-form.pdf>) developed by the Texas Education Agency.

[See A Student with Physical or Mental Impairments Protected under Section 504 and contact the school nurse for more information.]

Northwest ISD Student Handbook

Tobacco, E-Cigarettes, and Nicotine Products Prohibited (All Grade Levels)

Students are prohibited from possessing or using any type of tobacco product, electronic cigarette (e-cigarette), or any other electronic vaporizing device while on school property or while attending an off-campus school-related activity. With limited exceptions for medication, [see [See policy FFAA.]

Medicine at School (All Grade Levels)] students are also prohibited from possessing or using any type of nicotine product, including nicotine pouches, regardless of whether the product contains tobacco, while on school property or while attending an off-campus school-related activity.

The district and its staff strictly enforce prohibitions against the use of all tobacco products, e-cigarettes, or any other electronic vaporizing device by students and all others on school property and at school-sponsored and school-related activities. [See the Student Code of Conduct and policies [FNCD](#) and [GKA](#) for more information.]

Health-Related Resources, Policies, and Procedures

Physical and Mental Health Resources (All Grade Levels)

Parents and students in need of assistance with physical and mental health concerns may contact the following campus and community resources:

Campus school nurse or
Campus school counselor(s)

Policies and Procedures that Promote Student Physical and Mental Health (All Grade Levels)

The district has adopted board policies that promote student physical and mental health. Local policies on the topics below can be found in the district's policy manual, available at the central administration office and online at <https://www.nisdtx.org/about-nisd/school-board/about-nisd/school-board/policyregulations>.

- Food and nutrition management: [CO](#), [COA](#), [COB](#)
- Wellness and Health Services: [FFA](#)
- Physical Examinations: [FFAA](#)
- Immunizations: [FFAB](#)
- Medical Treatment: [FFAC](#)
- Communicable Diseases: [FFAD](#)
- School-Based Health Centers: [FFAE](#)
- Care Plans: [FFAF](#)
- Crisis Intervention: [FFB](#)
- Trauma-informed Care: [FFBA](#)
- Student Support Services: [FFC](#)
- Student Safety: [FFF](#)
- Child Abuse and Neglect: [FFG](#)
- Freedom from Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation: the [FFH](#) series of policies
- Freedom from Bullying: [FFI](#)

In addition, the District Improvement Plan details the district's strategies to improve student performance through evidence-based practices that address physical and mental health.

Northwest ISD Student Handbook

The district has developed administrative procedures as necessary to implement the above policies and plans.

For more information about these procedures and access to the District Improvement Plan, please contact: Angela Scott, Public Affairs Coordinator, (817) 215 - 1088, ascott@nisdtx.org.

School Health Advisory Council (SHAC) (All Grade Levels)

During the preceding school year, the district's School Health Advisory Council (SHAC) held 5 meetings. Additional information about the district's SHAC is available from the Michelle Shilling, Assistant Director of PE/Health at mshilling@nisdtx.org or 817-215-0202.

Notification of upcoming SHAC meetings will be posted at each campus administrative office at least 72 hours before the meeting. Notification of upcoming SHAC meetings, meeting minutes, and a recording of each meeting will be posted on the district website.

[See Consent to Human Sexuality Instruction, Consent to Instruction on Prevention of Child Abuse, Family Violence, Dating Violence, and Sex Trafficking, and policies [BDF](#) and [EHAA](#) for more information.]

Student Wellness Policy/Wellness Plan (All Grade Levels)

To encourage healthy habits in our students, the district has developed a board-adopted wellness policy at [FFA\(LOCAL\)](#) and corresponding plans and procedures to implement it.

You are encouraged to contact Kitty Poehler, Executive Director of Benefits and Risk Management at 817-215-0071 or kpoehler@nisdtx.org with questions about the content or implementation of the district's wellness policy and plan.

Homeless Students (All Grade Levels)

You are encouraged to inform the district if you or your child are experiencing homelessness. District staff can share resources with you that may be able to assist you and your family.

For more information on services for homeless students, contact the district's homeless education liaison, Lilia Vasquez, 504/ At Risk Coordinator, at 817-698-1067 or Lilia.vasquez@nisdtx.org.

[See **Students Who Are Homeless**]

Homework (All Grade Levels)

Homework is assigned at the discretion of the teacher, engages the student in valuable activities, and develops effective study habits by incorporating practice, enrichment, reinforcement, extension, or application of knowledge and skills related to topics covered in class. Homework can be an integral part of the learning process, and students should be able to see the purpose of homework and clearly understand the requirements. The district encourages a reasonable amount of academic work to be done at home to complement learning during the school day. Homework also gives the child and parents an opportunity to share in the educational process. Any questions or concerns regarding homework should be directed to the teacher.

Students should anticipate homework time may vary by grade, subject, and rigor of the course (such as honors, AP, dual credit, etc.). Although homework at the secondary level is not designed to cover material not introduced in the classroom, watching a video, reading, or outlining a chapter prior to class coverage may be assigned in order to prepare for the next class session.

Northwest ISD Student Handbook

The student's responsibility is to complete assignments on time and to schedule after-school activities so that they do not interfere with the completion of assignments. The student assumes the responsibility for making up work when absent from class.

Law Enforcement Agencies (All Grade Levels)

Questioning of Students

When law enforcement officers or other lawful authorities wish to question or interview a student at school, the principal or principal's designee will cooperate fully regarding the conditions of the interview, including without parental consent, if necessary, if it is part of a child abuse investigation. In other circumstances, the principal or principal's designee will:

- Verify and record the identity of the officer or other authority and ask for an explanation of the need to question the student at school
- Ordinarily make reasonable efforts to notify the parents, unless the interviewer raises what the principal considers to be a valid objection
- Ordinarily be present for the questioning or interview, unless the interviewer raises what the principal considers to be a valid objection

Students Taken into Custody

State law requires the district to permit a student to be taken into legal custody:

- To comply with an order of the juvenile court
- To comply with the laws of arrest
- By a law enforcement officer if there is probable cause to believe the student has engaged in delinquent conduct or conduct in need of supervision
- By a law enforcement officer to obtain fingerprints or photographs for comparison in an investigation
- By a law enforcement officer to obtain fingerprints or photographs to establish a student's identity where the child may have engaged in conduct indicating a need for supervision, such as running away
- By a probation officer if there is probable cause to believe the student has violated a condition of probation imposed by the juvenile court
- By an authorized representative of Child Protective Services (CPS), Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS), a law enforcement officer, or a juvenile probation officer, without a court order, under the conditions set out in the Family Code relating to the student's physical health or safety
- To comply with a properly issued directive from a juvenile court to take a student into custody

Before a student is released to a legally authorized person, the principal will verify the person's identity and, to the best of their ability, will verify the person's authority to take custody of the student.

The principal will immediately notify the superintendent and will attempt to notify the parent, unless the legally authorized person raises what the principal considers to be a valid objection to notifying the parents. Because the principal does not have the authority to prevent or delay a student's release to a legally authorized person, any notification will most likely be after the fact.

Northwest ISD Student Handbook

Notification of Law Violations

The district is required by state law to notify:

- All instructional and support personnel who have responsibility for supervising a student who has been taken into custody, arrested, or referred to the juvenile court for any felony offense or for certain misdemeanors.
- All instructional and support personnel who have regular contact with a student who has been convicted, received deferred prosecution, received deferred adjudication, or was adjudicated for delinquent conduct for any felony offense or certain misdemeanors that occur in school, on school property, or at a school-sponsored or school-related activity on or off school property. These personnel will also be notified if the principal has reasonable grounds to believe the student has engaged in certain conduct.
- All appropriate district personnel regarding a student who is required to register as a sex offender.

[For further information, see policy [FL\(LEGAL\)](#)

Leaving Campus (All Grade Levels)

Please remember that student attendance is crucial to learning. We ask that appointments be scheduled outside of school hours as much as reasonably possible. Students are not allowed to leave campus for lunch. Also note that picking up a student early on a regular basis results in missed opportunities for learning. Unless the principal has granted approval because of extenuating circumstances, a student will not regularly be released before the end of the school day.

State rules require that parental consent be obtained before any student is allowed to leave campus for any part of the school day. No student will be allowed to leave with any person not named on the student registration card unless prior written permission by a parent or guardian has been received. Identification may be required.

- The district is committed to the protection of students entrusted to its custody during the school day. Therefore, campus administrators shall exercise caution in releasing students during the school day. The procedures controlling the release of a student from school are as follows:
- Definite and satisfactory identification (i.e., driver's license or picture ID) shall be required of the person authorized to talk with a student or to take a student from school. The following persons will be allowed access to a student: a) the student's parents/guardians, unless restricted by court order; b) a person who has written authorization from the student's parent/guardian; or c) a person who is authorized by a legal order to have access to, or to take possession of, a student.
- A teacher shall not allow a student to leave school without securing the permission of the principal or administrative designee.
- A telephone call from a person representing himself/herself as a parent shall be verified by a principal or designee. The parent shall be notified any time a request for the release of a student is denied by the principal.
- When checking a student out of school, a parent or guardian must follow campus checkout procedures.
- High school students who have a car on campus must obtain an early dismissal pass to leave campus during the school day by presenting a signed and dated note from the parent.

Northwest ISD Student Handbook

These students shall check out through the appropriate office before leaving the campus.

Parents requesting that a student be allowed to leave the campus for medical or family matters must make a request, in writing or by personal contact. The principal or principal's designee will verify the request.

If a student is 18 years of age or is an emancipated minor, the student may sign out of school. Documentation regarding the reason for the absence will be required.

During Lunch

All Northwest ISD campuses are closed campuses. Students are not allowed to leave campus for any reason during the school day without properly checking out. Furthermore, students are not allowed to leave campus for lunch without permission from the principal or principal's designee.

At Any Other Time During the School Day

Students are not authorized to leave campus during regular school hours for any other reason, except with the permission of the principal.

Students who leave campus in violation of these rules will be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct. This can also be considered an unexcused absence.

Lost and Found (All Grade Levels)

A lost and found collection box is located in the campus office. A student who loses an item should check the lost and found box. The district discourages bringing personal items of high monetary value to school, as the district is not responsible for lost or stolen items. The campus will dispose of lost and found items as needed with prior notice.

Makeup Work

Makeup Work Because of Absence (All Grade Levels)

All students shall be allowed to make up work when they are absent from class.

1. Students shall have a time equal to days absent from class plus one day to complete all missed assignments.
2. Under extenuating circumstances such as long-term illness or family emergencies, teachers may choose to give students more than one day for each day missed to make-up assignments.
3. In situations where the assignments were given before the student was absent, a shorter time frame may be required at the teacher's discretion. Students who miss class for scheduled extra-curricular or co-curricular events are expected to have all previously assigned work submitted when they return the next day.
4. Make-up tests or quizzes should be administered during tutorial times to prevent the student from missing additional class time; however, students who cannot attend tutorials must be given the opportunity to make up this work during the regular school day. Students who are absent for scheduled extra-curricular or co-curricular events are expected to be prepared to take any previously scheduled tests or quizzes when they return the next day.

Northwest ISD Student Handbook

5. Modifications of this procedure, which may require administrative approval, should be discussed with the appropriate administrator in a timely manner.

The student is encouraged to speak with his or her teacher if the student knows of an absence ahead of time so that the teacher and student may plan any make up work. Please remember the importance of student attendance at school. With limited exceptions, , all absences account for the 90 percent set in state law regarding the state laws regarding attendance for credit or final grade.[See **Attendance for Credit or Final Grade**]

DAEP Makeup Work

Grades 9-12

If a high school student is enrolled in a foundation curriculum course at the time of removal to a disciplinary alternative education program (DAEP), the student will have an opportunity to complete the course before the beginning of the next school year. The district may provide the opportunity to complete the course through an alternative method, including a correspondence course, another distance learning option, or summer school. The district will not charge the student for any method of completion provided by the district. [See policy [FOCA](#)(LEGAL) for more information.]

In-School Suspension (ISS) and Out-of-School Suspension (OSS) Makeup Work (All Grade Levels)

Alternative Means to Receive Coursework

While a student is in ISS or OSS, the district will provide the student with all course work for the student's foundation curriculum classes that the student misses as a result of the suspension.

Opportunity to Complete Courses

A student removed from the regular classroom to ISS or another setting, other than a DAEP, will have an opportunity to complete before the beginning of the next school year each course the student was enrolled in at the time of removal from the regular classroom. The district may provide the opportunity by any method available, including a correspondence course, another distance learning option, or summer school. The district will not charge the student for any method of completion provided by the district. [See policy [FO](#)(LEGAL) for more information.]

Nondiscrimination Statement (All Grade Levels)

In its efforts to promote nondiscrimination and as required by law, Northwest ISD does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, gender, sex, age, disability, or any other basis prohibited by law in providing education services, activities, and programs, including Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs. The district provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups.

In accordance with Title IX, the district does not and is required not to discriminate on the basis of sex and prohibits sex discrimination in its educational programs or activities. The requirement not to discriminate extends to employment. Inquiries about the application of Title IX may be referred to the district's Title IX Coordinator (see below), to the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights, or both.

Northwest ISD Student Handbook

Other federal laws that prohibit discrimination include Title VI, Section 504, the Age Discrimination Act, the Boy Scouts Act, and Title II.

The notice of nondiscrimination is located at <https://www.nisdtx.org/about-nisd/student-affairs>.

The district has designated and authorized the following employee as the Title IX Coordinator to address concerns or inquiries regarding discrimination on the basis of sex, including sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, stalking, or sex-based harassment: Dr. Cindy Bauter, Executive Director of Student Affairs and Title IX Coordinator, 2001 Texan Dr. Justin, TX 76247, (817)215-0567, cynthia.bauter@nisdtx.org

Reports can be made at any time and by any person, including during non-business hours, by mail, phone, or email. During district business hours, reports may also be made in person. Upon the district receiving notice or an allegation of sex-based harassment, the Title IX Coordinator will promptly respond in accordance with the process described in the [FFH](#) series of policies.

The following district representatives have been designated to address concerns or inquiries about other kinds of discrimination:

- For concerns regarding discrimination on the basis of disability, see the ADA/Section 504 Coordinator: Lilia Vasquez, 504/At Risk Coordinator, 2001 Texan Dr. Justin, TX 76247, (817)698-1067, lilia.vasquez@nisdtx.org
- All other concerns regarding discrimination: See the superintendent, Dr. Mark Foust, Ed.D., Superintendent, 2001 Texan Dr. Justin, TX 76247, (817)215-0030.

[See policies [FB](#), [FFH](#), and [GKD](#).]

Parent and Family Engagement (All Grade Levels)

Parental Rights and Options

State law provides that a parent has the right to direct the moral and religious training of the parent's child, make decisions concerning the child's education, and consent to medical, psychiatric, and psychological treatment of the child without obstruction or interference from a governmental entity of Texas, including a school district.

In addition to referring to the rights of parents, including the right to withhold consent for or exempt the parent's child from certain activities and instruction specified throughout this handbook, parents may access additional information regarding parental rights at the district's website.

Working Together

Experience and research tell us that a child succeeds in education with good communication and a strong partnership between home and school. A parent's involvement and engagement in this partnership may include:

- Encouraging your child to put a high priority on education and working with your child every day to make the most of the educational opportunities the school provides.
- Ensuring that your child completes all homework assignments and special projects and comes to school each day prepared, rested, and ready to learn.
- Becoming familiar with all your child's school activities and with the academic programs, including special programs, offered in the district.

Northwest ISD Student Handbook

- Discussing with the school counselor or principal any questions you may have about the options and opportunities available to your child.
- Reviewing the requirements and options for graduation with your child in middle school and again while your child is enrolled in high school.
- Monitoring your child's academic progress and contacting teachers as needed. [See Academic Counseling]
- Attending scheduled conferences and requesting additional conferences as needed. The district will provide at least two opportunities for in-person conferences during each school year for each parent of a child enrolled in the district with the child's teachers. To schedule a telephone or in-person conference with a teacher, school counselor, or principal, please call the school office for an appointment. The teacher will usually return your call or meet with you during their conference period or before or after school. [See Report Cards/Progress Reports and Conferences (All Grade Levels)]
- Becoming a school volunteer. [See Volunteers (All Grade Levels) and policy [GKG](#) for more information.]
- Participating in campus parent organizations.
- Serving on the School Health Advisory Council (SHAC) and assisting the district in aligning local community values with health education instruction, human sexuality instruction, instruction on prevention of child abuse, family violence, dating violence, and sex trafficking, and other wellness issues. [See School Health Advisory Council (SHAC) (All Grade Levels) and policies [BDF](#), [EHAA](#), [FFA](#) for more information.]
- Being aware of the school's ongoing bullying and harassment prevention efforts.
- Contacting school officials if you are concerned with your child's emotional or mental well-being.
- Attending board meetings to learn more about district operations. [See policies at [BE](#) and [BED](#) for more information]
- Attending board meetings to learn more about district operations. Regular board meetings will be open to the public at 6:30 p.m. on the second and fourth Monday of each month in the Board Room at the Administration Building (2001 Texan Drive, Justin).
- An agenda for a regular or special meeting is posted no later than 3 business days before each meeting on the district website. [See policies [BE](#) and [BED](#) for more information.]

Parking and Parking Permits (Secondary Grade Levels Only)

A student must present a valid driver's license and proof of insurance to be eligible for a parking permit. Students must request a parking permit from their home campus to park in a school parking lot. So long as space is available, parking permits may be issued throughout the year. Students will not be permitted to speed, double-park, park across a white or yellow line, park in a fire lane, or sit in parked cars during school hours. Students may be subject to disciplinary action for violation of these rules. The district may tow cars that are parked in violation of these rules.

Pledges of Allegiance and a Minute of Silence (All Grade Levels)

Each school day, students will recite the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. flag and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Texas flag. Parents may submit a written request to the principal to excuse their child from reciting a pledge. [See Reciting the Pledges to the U.S. and Texas Flags]

Northwest ISD Student Handbook

State law requires that one minute of silence follow recitation of the pledges. Each student may choose to reflect, pray, meditate, or engage in any other silent activity during that minute so long as the silent activity does not interfere with or distract others.

In addition, state law requires that each campus provide for the observance of one minute of silence in remembrance of those who lost their lives on September 11, 2001, at the beginning of the first class period when September 11 falls on a regular school day.

[See policy [EC](#) for more information.]

Prayer (All Grade Levels)

Each student has a right to pray individually, voluntarily, and silently or to meditate in school in a manner that does not disrupt school activities. The school will not encourage, require, or coerce a student to engage in or refrain from such prayer or meditation during any school activity.

Promotion

A student will be promoted only on the basis of academic achievement or proficiency. In making promotion decisions, the district will consider the following:

- Teacher recommendation
- Grades
- Scores on criterion-referenced or state-mandated assessments
- Any other necessary academic information as determined by the district

Elementary and Middle School Grade Levels

In grades 1 - 3, promotion is based on an overall average of 70 on a scale of 100 based on course level, grade-level standards (Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills) for all subject areas, and a grade of 70 or above in language arts and mathematics. [See policy [EIE\(LOCAL\)](#).]

In grades 4 - 8, promotion is based on an overall average of 70 on a scale of 100 based on course level, grade-level standards (Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills) for all subject areas, and a grade of 70 or above in three of the following areas: language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies. [See policy [EIE\(LOCAL\)](#).]

Repeating Prekindergarten- Grade 8 at Parent Request

A parent may request in writing that a student repeat prekindergarten, kindergarten, or any grade in grade 1-8. Before granting the request, the district may convene a retention committee to meet and discuss the request and will invite the parent to participate. If the district disagrees with the request, the school must convene a retention committee and meet with the parent or guardian to discuss the proposed retention.

High School Grade Levels

To earn credit in a course, a student must receive a grade of at least 70 based on course-level standards.

A student in grades 9-12 will be advanced a grade level based on the number of course credits earned. [See Grade-Level Classification (Grades 9-12 Only)]

Northwest ISD Student Handbook

Repeating a High-School Credit Course

A parent may request in writing that a student repeat a high-school credit course in which the student was enrolled during the previous school year unless the district determines that the student has met all requirements for graduation.

Before granting the request, the district may convene a retention committee to meet and discuss the request and will invite the parent to participate.

Only the student's first passing grade will be included in the calculation of class ranking.

Release of Students from School

[See Leaving Campus (All Grade Levels)]

Remote Instruction

The district may offer remote instruction in accordance with TEA guidelines.

All district policies, procedures, guidelines, rules, and other expectations of student behavior will be enforced as applicable in a remote or virtual learning environment.

Report Cards/Progress Reports and Conferences (All Grade Levels)

Report cards with each student's performance and absences in each class or subject are issued at least once every 9 weeks.

At the end of the 3rd and 6th week of a nine-week grading period, parents will receive a progress report if their child's performance in any course/subject area is near or below 70 or is below the expected level of performance. If a student receives a grade lower than 70 in any class or subject at the end of a grading period, the parent will be asked to schedule a conference with the teacher. [See Working Together for how to schedule a conference.]

Teachers follow grading guidelines that have been approved by the superintendent pursuant to the board-adopted policy. Grading guidelines are designed to reflect each student's relative mastery of each assignment. State law provides that a test or course grade issued by a teacher cannot be changed unless the board determines that the grade was arbitrary or contains an error, or that the teacher did not follow the district's grading policy. [See Grading Guidelines (All Grade Levels) and policy [EIA\(LOCAL\)](#) for more information.]

Questions about grade calculation should first be discussed with the teacher. If the question is not resolved, the student or parent may request a conference with the principal in accordance with [FNG\(LOCAL\)](#).

The district uses an electronic program to communicate academic information about your child, including for report card and progress reporting [Home Access Center](#) (HAC).

Retaliation

[See Dating Violence, Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation (All Grade Levels)]

Northwest ISD Student Handbook

Required State Assessments

STAAR (State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness) for Grades 3-8

In addition to routine tests and other measures of achievement, students at certain grade levels are required to take the state assessment, called STAAR, in the following subjects:

- Mathematics, annually in grades 3-8
- Reading, annually in grades 3-8
- Science in grades 5 and 8
- Social Studies in grade 8

Standardized Testing for a Student Enrolled Above Grade Level

If a student in grades 3-8 is enrolled in a class or course intended for students above the current grade level in which the student will be administered a state-mandated assessment, the student will be required to take an applicable state-mandated assessment only for the course in which they are enrolled, unless otherwise required to do so by federal law.

A student in grades 3-8 shall be assessed at least once in high school with the ACT or the SAT if the student completes the high school end-of-course assessments in mathematics, reading/language arts, or science before high school.

High School Courses End-of-Course (EOC) Assessments

STAAR end-of-course (EOC) assessments are administered for the following courses:

- Algebra I
- English I and English II
- Biology
- U.S. History

Satisfactory performance on the applicable assessments is required for graduation, unless waived or substituted as allowed by state law and rules.

There are three testing windows during the year in which a student may take an EOC assessment. The windows occur in the fall, spring, and summer months. If a student does not meet satisfactory performance, the student will have opportunities to retake the assessment.

Requesting Administration of STAAR/EOC in Paper Format (All Grade Levels)

STAAR and EOC assessments are administered electronically.

A parent or teacher may request that a STAAR or EOC be administered to a student in paper format. The district may grant this request for any single administration for up to three percent of the number of students enrolled in the district. Requests will be granted in the order in which they are received.

Requests for paper format for a fall administration of a STAAR or EOC must be submitted no later than September 15 each school year.

Requests for paper format for a spring administration of a STAAR or EOC must be submitted no later than December 1 each school year.

Northwest ISD Student Handbook

Standardized Testing for a Student in Special Programs

Certain students — some with disabilities and some classified as emergent bilingual students — may be eligible for exemptions, accommodations, or deferred testing.

STAAR Alternate 2 is available for eligible students receiving special education services who meet certain state-established criteria as determined by the student's ARD committee.

An admission, review, and dismissal (ARD) committee for a student in grades 9-12 receiving special education services will determine whether successful performance on the EOC assessments will be required for graduation within the parameters identified in state rules and the student's personal graduation plan (PGP). [See Graduation (Secondary Grade Levels Only)]

STAAR Spanish is available for eligible students for whom a Spanish version of STAAR is the most appropriate measure of their academic progress.

For more information, see the principal, school counselor, or special education director.

Failure to Perform Satisfactorily on a STAAR or EOC Assessment

If a student does not perform satisfactorily on a required state assessment in any subject, the district will provide accelerated instruction for the student in the next school year through one of the following:

- Assigning the student to a teacher who is certified as a master, exemplary, or recognized teacher if one is available in the grade and subject matter of the state assessment on which the student did not perform satisfactorily
- Providing supplemental instruction

A student may be required to attend any assigned supplemental instruction program before or after school or during the summer.

When a student fails to perform satisfactorily on a required state assessment in the same subject area for two or more years, the district shall develop an accelerated education plan. Parents are encouraged to participate in developing this plan.

Personal Graduation Plan

A personal graduation plan will be developed for each high school student. The district encourages all students to pursue a personal graduation plan that includes the completion of at least one endorsement and to graduate with a distinguished level of achievement. Attainment of the distinguished level of achievement entitles a student to be considered for automatic admission to a public four-year college or university in Texas, depending on his or her rank in class. The school will review personal graduation plan options with each student entering grade 9 and his or her parent. Before the end of grade 9, a student and his or her parent will be required to sign off on a personal graduation plan that includes a course of study that promotes college and workforce readiness and career placement and advancement, as well as facilitates the transition from secondary to postsecondary education. The student's personal graduation plan will denote an appropriate course sequence based on the student's choice of endorsement.

Please review TEA's Graduation Toolkit.

A student may amend his or her personal graduation plan after this initial confirmation. The school will send written notice of any such amendment made by the student to the student's parent.

Northwest ISD Student Handbook

Safe Storage of Firearms

A firearm should be stored unloaded in a safe or locked container, with ammunition stored elsewhere.

It is unlawful to store, transport, or abandon an unsecured firearm in a place where children are likely to be and can obtain access to the firearm. Under the Penal Code, a person commits the offense of making a firearm accessible to a child if the child gains access to a readily dischargeable firearm, and the person with criminal negligence:

- Failed to secure the firearm; or
- Left the firearm in a place to which the person knew or should have known the child would gain access

The penalty for allowing a child access to a firearm can range from a Class C misdemeanor (punishable by a \$500 fine) to a Class A misdemeanor (punishable by a \$4000 fine, a year in jail, or a combination of the two).

Safety (All Grade Levels)

Student safety on campus, at school-related events, and in district vehicles is a high priority of the district. The cooperation of students is essential to ensuring school safety. A student is expected to:

- Avoid conduct that is likely to put the student or others at risk.
- Follow all behavioral standards in this handbook and the Student Code of Conduct or set by district employees.
- Help secure the campus by keeping all exterior doors closed, latched, and locked unless the door is actively monitored by a district employee.
- Follow instructions from teachers and other district employees regarding classroom doors.
- Remain alert to any safety hazards, such as intruders on campus or threats made by any person toward a student or staff member and promptly report any incidents to a district employee. A student may make anonymous reports about safety concerns at NISD Tipline <https://www.nisdtx.org/tipline>.
- Know emergency evacuation routes and signals.
- Follow immediately the instructions of teachers, bus drivers, and other district employees who are overseeing the welfare of students.

Accident Insurance

Soon after the school year begins, parents will have the opportunity to purchase low-cost accident insurance that would help meet medical expenses in the event of injury to their child. Insurance forms are available at [Student Accident Insurance Form](#)

Paperwork to purchase this insurance must be returned directly to the insurance provider. Parents who have questions related to insurance should contact the insurance provider.

Insurance for Career and Technical Education (CTE) Programs

The district may purchase accident, liability, or automobile insurance coverage for students and businesses involved in the district's CTE programs.

Northwest ISD Student Handbook

Preparedness Drills: Evacuation, Severe Weather, and Other Emergencies

Periodically, the school will conduct preparedness drills of emergency procedures. When the command is given or alarm is sounded, students need to follow the direction of teachers or others in charge quickly, quietly, and in an orderly manner.

Preparedness Training: CPR and Stop the Bleed

The district will offer instruction in CPR and the use of an automated external defibrillator (AED) at least once to students enrolled in grades 7-12. The instruction can be provided as part of any course and is not required to result in CPR or AED certification.

The district will annually offer students in grades 7-12 instruction on the use of bleeding control stations to respond to traumatic injury. For more information, see [Stop the Bleed Texas](https://stopthebleedtexas.org/) (<https://stopthebleedtexas.org/>).

Emergency Medical Treatment and Information

All parents are asked each year to complete a medical care authorization form, providing written parental consent to obtain emergency treatment and information about allergies to medications or drugs. Parents should contact the school nurse to update emergency care information (name of doctor, emergency phone numbers, allergies, and the like).

The district may consent to medical treatment, including dental treatment, if necessary, for a student if all of the following requirements are met:

- The district has received written authorization from a person having the right to consent
- That person cannot be contacted
- That person has not given the district actual notice to the contrary

The emergency care authorization form will be used by the district when a student's parent or authorized designee cannot be contacted. A student may provide consent if authorized by law or court order.

Regardless of parental authorization for the district to consent to medical treatment, district employees will contact emergency medical services to provide emergency care when required by law or when deemed necessary, such as to avoid a life-threatening situation.

Emergency School Closing Information

Each year, parents are asked to complete an emergency release form to provide contact information if the district needs to notify parents of early dismissal, delayed opening, or restricted access to a campus because of severe weather, a security threat, or another emergency cause.

The district will rely on contact information on file with the district to communicate with parents in an emergency situation, which may include real-time or automated messages. It is crucial to notify your child's school when a phone number changes. State law requires parents to update contact information within two weeks after the date the information changes.

If the campus must close, delay opening, or restrict access to the building because of an emergency, the district will also alert the community in the following ways:

- Website: www.nisdtx.org;
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/NorthwestIndependentSchoolDistrict>

Northwest ISD Student Handbook

- Twitter: www.twitter.com/northwestisd
- School Messenger
- District's emergency notification system
- and through the following venues:

KDFW TV Channel 4	KTVT TV Channel 11
KXAS TX Channel 5	KRLD Radio 1080 AM
WFAA TV Channel 8	WBAP Radio 820 AM

[See Parent Contact Information and Automated Emergency Communications]

SAT, ACT, and Other Standardized Tests

[See Standardized Testing]

Schedule Changes (Middle/Junior High and High School Grade Levels)

[See [NISD Academic Planning Guide](#) for specific information.]

School Facilities

Asbestos Management Plan (All Grade Levels)

The district works diligently to maintain compliance with federal and state law governing asbestos in school buildings. A copy of the district's asbestos management plan is available in the central administrative office. If you have any questions or would like to examine the district's plan in more detail, please contact Jim Sadler, the district's designated asbestos coordinator, at 817-215-0019 or jsadler@nisdtx.org.

Food and Nutrition Services (All Grade Levels)

The district participates in the School Breakfast Program and National School Lunch Program and offers students nutritionally balanced meals daily in accordance with standards set forth in state and federal law.

Some students are eligible for free and reduced-price meals based on financial need. Information about a student's participation is confidential. The district may share information such as a student's name and eligibility status to help enroll eligible children in Medicaid or the state children's health insurance program (CHIP) unless the student's parent requests the student's information not be disclosed.

Participating students will be offered the same meal options as their peers and will not be treated differently from their peers.

To apply for free or reduced-price meal services, contact:

Yen Brown 817-215-0053 or yen.brown2@nisdtx.org or go the district website to apply: <https://www.nisdtx.org/departments/food-services/free-and-reduced-program>

See [CO\(LEGAL\)](#) for more information.

Northwest ISD Student Handbook

Parents are strongly encouraged to continually monitor their child's meal account balance. As established by the Board, a student with an exhausted or insufficient balance on his or her meal card or meal account shall be allowed to continue to purchase meals for up to five school days. [See [CO\(LOCAL\)](#) for more information]

The following information is published as required by the USDA for participation in the National School Lunch Program:

"In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity.

"Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

"To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at: <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/ad-3027.pdf>, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by:

1. mail:

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or

2. fax:

(833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or

3. email:

Program.Intake@usda.gov

"This institution is an equal opportunity provider."

The responsible state agency that administers the program is the [Texas Department of Agriculture](https://www.texasagriculture.gov/Home/Contact-Us) (<https://www.texasagriculture.gov/Home/Contact-Us>), which can be reached at (800) TELL-TDA (835-5832) or (800) 735-2989 (TTY).

The local agency that administers the program is the district. [See Nondiscrimination Statement (All Grade Levels) for the name and contact information for the Title IX coordinator, ADA/Section 504 coordinator, and superintendent for other concerns about discrimination.]

Northwest ISD Student Handbook

Vending Machines (All Grade Levels)

The district has adopted and implemented the state and federal policies for food service, including guidelines to restrict student access to vending machines. For more information about these policies and guidelines, contact: Bobby Aucoin, Executive Director of Operations
Robert.Aucoin@nisdtx.org 817.698.1043

[See policies at [CO](#) and [FFA](#).]

Pest Management Plan (All Grade Levels)

The district is required to follow integrated pest management (IPM) procedures to control pests on school grounds. Although the district strives to use the safest and most effective methods to manage pests, including a variety of non-chemical control measures, periodic indoor and outdoor pesticide use is sometimes necessary to ensure a safe, pest-free school environment.

All pesticides used are registered for their intended use by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and are applied only by certified pesticide applicators. Except in an emergency, signs will be posted 48 hours before indoor application. All outdoor applications will be posted at the time of treatment, and signs will remain until it is safe to enter the area.

Parents who have questions or who want to be notified of the times and types of applications prior to pesticide application inside their child's school assignment area may contact the district's IPM coordinator: Adrian Ramirez at 817-797-6909 or adrian.ramirez@nisdtx.org

Conduct Before and After School (All Grade Levels)

Teachers and administrators have full authority over student conduct at before- or after-school activities. Whether a school activity is on or off district premises, students must follow the same rules of conduct that apply during the instructional day. Misbehavior will be subject to consequences established by the Student Code of Conduct or any stricter standards of behavior established by the sponsor for extracurricular participants.

Library (All Grade Levels)

Parents are the primary decision makers regarding their student's access to library material. The district encourages parental involvement in library acquisition, maintenance, and campus activities. Parents are encouraged to communicate with **the campus librarian** and their child's teacher about special considerations regarding library materials self-selected by their student. A parent may submit to the district a list of library materials that their child may not be allowed to check out by submitting the list. Contact the campus librarian for more information on submitting a list.

The district will provide parents a record of each time the parent's child checks out a library material that includes the title, author, genre, and return date of the library material through an email via Destiny.

A parent may access the school's library or any available online catalog by visiting the campus library website.

The district welcomes student and parent feedback on library materials and services. Parents may contact the campus librarian with questions or comments about their child's campus library. A district employee, parent, or person residing in the district may submit a written challenge to the

Northwest ISD Student Handbook

inclusion of any library material in the catalog of the school library by submitting the form available on the district's website.

[For more information, see [EFB\(LOCAL\)](#). Meetings of Noncurriculum-Related Groups]

Use of Hallways during Class Time (All Grade Levels)

During class times, loitering or standing in the halls is not permitted, and a student must have a hall pass to be outside the classroom for any purpose. Failure to obtain a pass will result in disciplinary action in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct.

Students must leave campus immediately after dismissal of school in the afternoon, unless the student is involved in an activity under the supervision of a teacher or other authorized employee or adult.

Meetings of Noncurriculum-Related Groups (Secondary Grade Levels Only)

Student-organized, student-led non-curriculum related groups are permitted to meet during the hours designated by the principal before and after school. These groups must comply with the requirements of policy [FNAB\(LOCAL\)](#). A list of these groups is available in the principal's office.

Parental consent is required before a student may participate in a student club that is authorized or sponsored by the district. [See Extracurricular Activities, Clubs, and Organizations (All Grade Levels)]

School-Sponsored Field Trips (All Grade Levels)

The district periodically takes students on field trips for educational purposes.

A parent must provide permission for a student to participate in a field trip.

The district may ask the parent to provide information about a student's medical provider and insurance coverage and may also ask the parent to sign a waiver allowing for emergency medical treatment in the case of a student accident or illness during the field trip.

The district may require a fee for student participation in a field trip that is not required as part of a basic educational program or course to cover expenses such as transportation, admission, and meals; however, a student will not be denied participation because of financial need. [See Fees (All Grade Levels) for more information.]

The district is not responsible for refunding fees paid directly to a third-party vendor.

Searches and Investigations

Searches in General (All Grade Levels)

In the interest of promoting student safety and drug-free schools, district officials may occasionally conduct searches and investigations.

District officials may conduct investigations in accordance with law and district policy and may question students regarding a student's own conduct or the conduct of others. [For questioning of students by law enforcement officials, see Law Enforcement Agencies (All Grade Levels).]

District officials may search students, their belongings, and their vehicles in accordance with law and district policy. Searches of students will be conducted without discrimination, based on, for

Northwest ISD Student Handbook

example, reasonable suspicion or voluntary consent or pursuant to district policy providing for suspicionless security procedures, including the use of metal detectors.

In accordance with the Student Code of Conduct, students are responsible for prohibited items found in their possession, including items in their personal belongings or in vehicles parked on district property.

If there is reasonable suspicion to believe that searching a student's person, belongings, or vehicle will reveal evidence of a violation of the Student Code of Conduct, a district official may conduct a search in accordance with law and district regulations.

District Property (All Grade Levels)

Desks, lockers, district-provided technology, and similar items are the property of the district and are provided for student use as a matter of convenience. District property is subject to search or inspection at any time without notice. Students have no expectation of privacy in district property.

Students are responsible for any item found in district property provided to the student that is prohibited by law, district policy, or the Student Code of Conduct.

Metal Detectors (All Grade Levels)

To maintain a safe and disciplined learning environment, the district reserves the right to subject students to metal detector searches when entering a district campus and at off-campus, school-sponsored activities.

Personal Communications and Other Electronic Devices (All Grade Levels)

Use of district-owned equipment and its network systems is not private and will be monitored by the district. [See policy CQ for more information.]

Any searches of personal electronic devices will be conducted in accordance with law, and the device may be confiscated to perform a lawful search. A confiscated device may be turned over to law enforcement to determine whether a crime has been committed.

[See Electronic Devices and Technology Resources (All Grade Levels) and policy [FNF\(LEGAL\)](#) for more information.]

Trained Dogs (All Grade Levels)

The district may use trained dogs to screen for concealed, prohibited items, including drugs and alcohol. Screenings conducted by trained dogs will not be announced in advance. The dogs will not be used with students, but students may be asked to leave personal belongings in an area that is going to be screened, such as a classroom, a locker, or a vehicle. If a dog alerts to an item or an area, it may be searched by district officials.

Vehicles on Campus (Secondary Grade Levels Only)

If a vehicle subject to search is locked, the student will be asked to unlock the vehicle. If the student refuses, the district will contact the student's parents. If the parents also refuse to permit the vehicle to be searched, the district may turn the matter over to law enforcement. The district may contact law enforcement even if permission to search is granted.

Northwest ISD Student Handbook

Sexual Harassment

[See Dating Violence, Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation (All Grade Levels)]

Special Programs (All Grade Levels)

The district provides special programs for gifted and talented students, students who are homeless, students in foster care, bilingual students, migrant students, emergent bilingual students, students diagnosed with dyslexia, and students with disabilities. The coordinator of each program can answer questions about eligibility requirements, as well as programs and services offered in the district or by other organizations. A student or parent with questions about these programs should contact: Lilia Vasquez at Lilia.vasquez@nisdtx.org

The Texas State Library and Archives Commission's [Talking Book Program](https://www.tsl.texas.gov/tbp/index.html) (<https://www.tsl.texas.gov/tbp/index.html>) provides audiobooks free of charge to qualifying Texans, including students with visual, physical, or reading disabilities such as dyslexia.

Standardized Testing

SAT/ACT (Scholastic Aptitude Test and American College Test)

Many colleges require either the American College Test (ACT) or the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) for admission. These assessments are usually taken at the end of the junior year. Students are encouraged to talk with the school counselor early during their junior year to learn about these assessments and determine the appropriate examination to take. The Preliminary SAT (PSAT) and ACT-Aspire are the corresponding preparatory and readiness assessments for the SAT and ACT.

Note: These assessments may qualify a student to receive a performance acknowledgment on the student's transcript under the foundation graduation program and may qualify as a substitute for an end-of-course testing requirement in certain circumstances. A student's performance at a certain level on the SAT or ACT also makes the student eligible for automatic admission to a Texas public institution of higher education.

TSI (Texas Success Initiative) Assessment

Prior to enrollment in a Texas public college or university, most students must take a standardized test called the Texas Success Initiative (TSI) assessment. The TSI assesses the reading, mathematics, and writing skills that first-year students need to perform effectively as undergraduates in Texas public colleges and universities. This assessment may also be required before a student enrolls in a dual credit course offered through the district. Achieving certain benchmark scores on this assessment may also waive certain end-of-course assessment requirements in limited circumstances.

Student Speakers (All Grade Levels)

The district provides students the opportunity to introduce school events. If a student meets the eligibility criteria and wishes to introduce one of the school events listed above, the student should submit their name in accordance with policy [FNA](#)(LOCAL).

[See Graduation (Secondary Grade Levels Only) for information related to student speakers at graduation ceremonies and policy [FNA](#)(LOCAL) regarding other speaking opportunities.]

Northwest ISD Student Handbook

Summer School (All Grade Levels)

Identified students in Pre-Kindergarten through fifth grade, who are eligible, may be provided the opportunity to participate in summer interventions for additional support. These programs will offer instruction in essential knowledge and skills and will give students opportunities to study and practice these skills.

Participation in summer interventions and subsequent essential knowledge and skills mastery may be considered for some students in grades 6 – 12, in order to continue content acceleration and academic mastery. Students who do not pass required courses during the school year should participate in the tuition-based summer school program. Financial assistance will be provided to those that qualify for reduced fees, based on financial need, and participate in the National School Lunch Program or qualify based on McKinney-Vento status.

Enrichment programs, fine arts programs, and athletic camps are also offered for tuition throughout the summer.

Students attending summer school are expected to adhere to the same discipline standards as outlined in this booklet. Failure to comply with the discipline standards may result in the student's dismissal from the summer school program. If the infraction represents a mandatory removable or expellable offense, the student will be placed in the appropriate Disciplinary Alternative Education Program (DAEP) or Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Program (JJAEP) in the upcoming year as specified in this handbook.

Students assigned to a DAEP (on or off campus) or JJAEP in which the period of placement extends into the next school year must request permission to attend summer school. An administrator from the home campus and summer school campus (as well as the DAEP or JJAEP, if appropriate) must approve the request in order for the student to attend.

Tardies (All Grade Levels)

A student who is tardy to class may be assigned consequences. Repeated instances of tardiness will result in more severe disciplinary action, in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct.

Textbooks, Electronic Textbooks, Technological Equipment, and Other Instructional Materials (All Grade Levels)

Instructional materials are any resources used in classroom instruction as part of the required curriculum, such as textbooks, workbooks, computer software, or online services.

The district selects instructional materials in accordance with state law and policy [EFA](#).

The district provides approved instructional materials to students free of charge for each subject or class. Students must treat instructional materials with care, as directed by the teacher.

If a student needs a graphing calculator for a course and the district does not provide one, the student may use a calculator application with graphing capabilities on a phone, laptop, tablet, or other computing device.

A student who is issued a damaged item should report the damage to the teacher.

Any student who does not return an item or returns an item in an unacceptable condition loses the right to free textbooks and technological equipment until the item is returned or the damage is paid

Northwest ISD Student Handbook

for by the parent. However, the student will be provided the necessary instructional resources and equipment for use at school during the school day.

For information on library books and other resources students may access voluntarily, see Library (All Grade Levels).

Tip Line

The district provides an on-line “tip line” for students, parents, teachers and others to anonymously share any safety or health concerns regarding our school community. Reports can be made on-line at <http://www.nisdtx.org/tipline>

Transfers (All Grade Levels)

The principal is authorized to transfer a student from one classroom to another.

The superintendent is authorized to investigate and approve transfers between schools.

[See Safety Transfers/Assignments, Bullying (All Grade Levels), and A Student with Physical or Mental Impairments Protected under Section 504, for other transfer options.]

Transportation (All Grade Levels)

Please see the [NISD Bus Rider Handbook](#) for specific information regarding transportation.

School-Sponsored Trips

Students who participate in school-sponsored trips are required to use transportation provided by the school to and from the event. As approved by the principal, a coach or sponsor of an extracurricular activity may establish procedures related to making an exception to this requirement when a parent requests that the student be released to the parent or to another adult designated by the parent [regulation FMG, exhibit FMG](#). [See **School-sponsored Field Trips** for more information.]

In the case of an emergency or if a bus accident occurs, students will only be allowed to leave with a parent or another designated adult with the permission of Robert Aucoin, Director of Outsourced Operations, at 817-215-0190 or robert.aucoin@nisdtx.org or his designee. This provision would also include when a bus is transporting students to and from school.

Buses and Other School Vehicles

The district makes school bus transportation available to all students living two or more miles from school and to any students who are experiencing homelessness. This service is provided at no cost to students.

Bus routes and stops will be designated annually. Any changes will be posted at the school and on the district’s website. For the safety of the driver and all passengers, students must board district vehicles only at authorized stops and drivers must unload passengers only at authorized stops.

Because the district has identified bus routes due to hazardous traffic conditions while walking to and from school, the district will provide transportation to these students. Please contact Robert Aucoin, Director of Outsourced Operations at 817-215-0190 or robert.aucoin@nisdtx.org for additional information.

Northwest ISD Student Handbook

A parent may also designate a child-care facility or grandparent's residence as the regular pickup and drop-off location for his or her child. The designated facility or residence must be on an approved stop on an approved route. For information on bus routes and stops or to designate an alternate pickup or drop-off location, you may contact NISD Transportation at 817-698-1287 or email transportation@nisdtx.org. [See the Student Code of Conduct for provisions regarding transportation to the DAEP.]

Students are expected to assist district staff in ensuring that buses and other district vehicles remain in good condition and that transportation is provided safely. When riding in district vehicles, including buses, students are held to behavioral standards established in this handbook and the Student Code of Conduct. [[Regulation FFFF](#)] Students must:

- Follow the driver's instructions at all times.
- Enter and leave the vehicle in an orderly manner at the designated stop.
- Keep feet, books, instrument cases, and other objects out of the aisle or stored in the overhead storage rack.
- Not deface the vehicle or its equipment.
- Not put head, hands, arms, or legs out of the window, hold any object out of the window, or throw objects within or out of the vehicle.
- Not possess or use any form of tobacco or e-cigarettes in any district vehicle.
- Observe all usual classroom rules.
- Be seated while the vehicle is moving.
- Fasten their seat belts, if available.
- Wait for the driver's signal upon leaving the vehicle and before crossing in front of the vehicle.
- Follow any other rules established by the operator of the vehicle.

Misconduct will be punished in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct; the privilege to ride in a district vehicle, including a school bus, may be suspended or revoked.

The following procedures will be adhered to when inappropriate behavior occurs on a bus serving a regular route or an activity trip:

1. The driver or district employee will attempt to correct the misbehavior of the passengers.
2. If the driver or district employee is unable to correct the misbehavior of a passenger, the driver or district employee will remove the student from the bus and will send the student to the principal's office in order to maintain discipline on the bus.
3. The principal or designee will investigate the incident and notify the driver of the action taken.
4. If the misconduct is a violation of the *Student Handbook and Code of Conduct*, the principal will send written notice of the violation to the student's parent.
5. If determined necessary by the principal, a conference involving the principal, the student passenger(s), the driver, and parent(s) will be held.
6. The principal may suspend the student's bus riding privileges or other listed behavior interventions in accordance with the *Student Handbook and Code of Conduct*.

Northwest ISD Student Handbook

In the case of serious misconduct that endangers the safety of other passengers or the driver, the driver has the authority to call for law enforcement assistance, and the principal and parent(s) will be notified of the situation as soon as possible. In such an instance, the student will not be provided bus service until a conference involving all persons listed above has been held in accordance with the *Student Handbook and Code of Conduct*. including loss of the privilege to ride in a district vehicle.

Special Note for Kindergarten and First Grade After School Drop-off

Northwest Independent School District and its transportation department want to make sure small children arrive home safely. To ensure the student's safety, ***drivers do not drop off Kindergarten or First Grade students without a responsible person to take custody of that student.*** A responsible person could be an older sibling, parent, adult neighbor, etc. Students should have a responsible person at the stop to receive the student or a visual confirmation if dropped off in front of the house. In instances where the student will be walking home with a responsible person, a signed and dated note should be given to the driver to confirm drop-off plans. This will include bus stops that are located at the front apartment building/complex.

[See the Student Code of Conduct for provisions regarding transportation to the DAEP.]

Restrictions for Violation of School Bus Guidelines and Expectations and Regulations

Bus drivers will report all violations to the school principal. The principal or designee will enforce the bus safety guidelines and expectations in the evaluation of the report to determine whether the violation should be considered an offense. ***The following guidelines will generally be followed; however, the guidelines do not constitute a hierarchy that must be followed for all violations.***
[\[Regulation FFFF\]](#)

First Offense: A principal will warn the student and send a letter of warning to the student's parents. The warning should include a reminder that the student will lose bus riding privileges for five school days on the third offense.

Second Offense: A principal will warn the student and send a letter of warning to the student's parents. The warning should include a reminder that the student will lose bus-riding privileges for five school days on the third offense.

Third Offense: The student will be removed from the bus for five school days. The school principal will attempt to notify the student's parents by phone and/or letter within twenty-four (24) hours.

Fourth Offense: The student will lose bus riding privileges for the remainder of the semester or ten school days, whichever is longer. The school principal will attempt to notify the student's parents by phone and/or by letter within twenty-four (24) hours.

Fifth Offense: The student will lose bus riding privileges for the remainder of the school year. The school principal will attempt to notify the student's parents by phone and/or by letter within twenty-four (24) hours.

Major Offense: Any offense considered "major" by the school principal, including but not limited to conduct that constitutes a discretionary or mandatory removal under the *Student Handbook and Code of Conduct*, will result in the immediate removal of bus privileges for whatever length of time deemed appropriate. The school principal

Northwest ISD Student Handbook

will attempt to notify the student's parents by phone and/or by letter within twenty-four (24) hours.

Vandalism (All Grade Levels)

Littering, defacing, or damaging school property is not tolerated. Students will be required to pay for damages they cause and will be subject to criminal proceedings as well as disciplinary consequences in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct.

Video Cameras (All Grade Levels)

For safety purposes, the district uses video and audio recording equipment to monitor student behavior, including on buses and in common areas on campus. Students will not be told when the equipment is being used.

The principal will review the video and audio recordings as needed and document student misconduct. Discipline will be in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct.

In accordance with state law, a parent of a student who receives special education services, a staff member (as this term is defined by law), a principal or assistant principal, or the board may make a written request for the district to place video and audio recording equipment in certain special education classrooms. The district will provide notice before placing a video camera in a classroom or other setting in which a child receives special education services. For more information or to request the installation and operation of this equipment, contact the principal or Micah Gierkey, Executive Director of Student Support Services that the district has designated to coordinate the implementation of and compliance with this law.

[See policy [EHBAF](#)(LOCAL) for more information.]

[See Consent to Video or Audio Record a Student When Not Already Permitted by Law for video and other recording by parents or visitors to virtual or in-person classrooms.]

Visitors to the School (All Grade Levels)

General Visitors

Parents and others are welcome to visit district schools. For the safety of those within the school and to avoid disruption of instructional time, all visitors must:

- Request entry to the school at the primary entrance unless otherwise directed by a district employee
- Report to the main office
- Be prepared to show identification
- Exit the school at the primary entrance and leave all exterior doors closed, latched, and locked unless actively monitored by a district employee
- Comply with all applicable district policies and procedures

If requested by a district employee, a visitor must provide identification such as a driver's license, other picture identification issued by a government entity, or employee or student identification issued by the district. A person who refuses to provide identification and who reasonably appears to have no legitimate reason to be on district property may be ejected from district property.

Northwest ISD Student Handbook

Raptor is a visitor tracking system that enhances school security. The system reads visitor's driver's licenses (or other United States government-issued photo IDs), compares information to a sex offender database, alerts campus administrators if a match is found, then (assuming no match was made) prints a visitor badge that includes a photo of the visitor. Campus administration will have final approval regarding visitor access if the visitor is without proper identification. Individuals may visit classrooms or observe virtual instruction during instructional time only with approval of the principal or teacher. Visitors may not interfere with instruction or disrupt the normal school environment. Even if the visit is approved prior to the visitor's arrival, the individual must check in at the main office first.

All visitors are expected to demonstrate the highest standards of courtesy and conduct. Disruptive behavior or violations of student privacy will not be permitted.

[See Consent to Video or Audio Record a Student When Not Already Permitted by Law for video and other recording by parents or visitors to virtual or in-person classrooms.]

Visitors at Lunch

Elementary School Visitors at Lunch

Lunch visitors at the elementary level may be parents, immediate family members, and campus mentors. Immediate family members are defined as the student's parents/stepparents, siblings, grandparents, or any person residing in the home. If a parent/guardian wishes to restrict visitation of immediate family members to their child, a written request must be submitted to the campus principal or principal's designee; however, the school cannot prohibit a parent and/or guardian who has specific access to the student at lunch pursuant to a court order. Lunch visitors may not bring food or drinks to school for anyone other than their own children. Lunch visitors should leave at the end of the lunch period.

Secondary School Visitors at Lunch

Due to space and safety concerns at the secondary level, lunch visitors will be restricted to parents/guardians, grandparents (with written permission), and campus mentors. Siblings may attend, if accompanied by a parent or guardian. Lunch visitors may not bring food or drinks to school for anyone other than their own children. Mentors may not use visitation at lunch with an assigned student mentee as an opportunity to create a limited open forum or limited public forum. A violation to this restriction may result in the mentor losing the privilege of visiting during lunch.

Unauthorized Persons

In accordance with Education Code 37.105, a school administrator, school resource officer (SRO), or district police officer has the authority to refuse entry to or eject a person from district property if the person refuses to leave peaceably on request and either of the following applies:

- The person poses a substantial risk of harm to any person
- The person behaves in a manner that is inappropriate for a school setting and persists in the behavior after being given a verbal warning that the behavior is inappropriate and may result in refusal of entry or ejection

Appeals regarding refusal of entry or ejection from district property may be filed in accordance with policies [FNG\(LOCAL\)](#) or [GF\(LOCAL\)](#).

[See the Student Code of Conduct]

Northwest ISD Student Handbook

Visitors Participating in Special Programs for Students

Business, Civic, and Youth Groups

The district may invite representatives from patriotic societies listed in Title 36 of the United States Code to present information to interested students about membership in the society.

College and Career Fair

Throughout the school year, the district invites representatives from colleges and universities and other higher education institutions, prospective employers, and military recruiters to present information to interested students.

Volunteers (All Grade Levels)

We appreciate so much the efforts of parent and grandparent volunteers that are willing to serve our district and students. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact your child's campus or Partners in Education, for more information and to complete an application.

Voter Registration (Secondary Grade Levels Only)

A student who is eligible to vote in any local, state, or federal election may obtain a voter registration application at the main campus office.

Withdrawing from School (All Grade Levels)

To withdraw a student under age 18 from school, the parent or guardian must submit a written request to the principal specifying the reasons for withdrawal and the final day the student will be in attendance. Withdrawal forms are available from the principal's office. The student, parent, and/or guardian will then return textbooks, technology devices, library books and clear any outstanding fines or records.

A student who is age 18 or older, who is married, or who has been declared by a court to be an emancipated minor may withdraw without parental signature.

Please provide the school at least three days' notice of withdrawal so that records and documents may be prepared.

Northwest ISD Student Handbook

Glossary

Accelerated instruction, including supplemental instruction, is an intensive educational program designed to help an individual student acquire the knowledge and skills required at their grade level. It is required when a student does not meet the passing standard on a state-mandated assessment. Accelerated instruction may be provided by assigning a student to a classroom teacher who is certified as a master, exemplary, or recognized teacher or by providing supplemental instruction in addition to regular instruction.

ACT, or the American College Test, is one of the two most frequently used college or university admissions examinations. The test may be required for admission to certain colleges or universities.

ACT-Aspire is designed as a preparatory and readiness assessment for the ACT. This is usually taken by students in grade 10.

ARD stands for admission, review, and dismissal. The ARD committee convenes for each student who is identified as needing a full and individual evaluation for special education services. The eligible student and their parents are members of the committee.

Attendance review committee is responsible for reviewing a student's absences when the student's attendance drops below 90 percent, or in some cases 75 percent, of the days the class is offered. Under guidelines adopted by the board, the committee will determine whether there were extenuating circumstances for the absences and whether the student needs to complete certain conditions to master the course and regain credit or a final grade lost because of absences.

CPS stands for Child Protective Services.

DAEP stands for disciplinary alternative education program, a placement for students who have violated certain provisions of the Student Code of Conduct.

DFPS stands for the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services.

DPS stands for the Texas Department of Public Safety.

DSHS stands for the Texas Department of State Health Services.

ED stands for the U.S. Department of Education.

Emergent bilingual student refers to a student of limited English proficiency. Other related terms include English learner, English language learner, and limited English proficient student.

EOC (end-of-course) assessments are state-mandated and are part of the STAAR program. Successful performance on EOC assessments is required for graduation. These examinations will be given in English I, English II, Algebra I, Biology, and U.S. History.

ESSA is the federal Every Student Succeeds Act.

FERPA refers to the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, which grants specific privacy protections to student records. The law contains certain exceptions, such as for directory information, unless a student's parent or a student 18 years of age or older directs the school not to release directory information.

Northwest ISD Student Handbook

IEP stands for individualized education program and is the written record prepared by the ARD committee for a student with disabilities who is eligible for special education services.

IGC is the individual graduation committee, formed in accordance with state law, to determine a student's eligibility to graduate when the student has failed to demonstrate satisfactory performance on no more than two of the required state assessments.

ISS refers to in-school suspension, a disciplinary technique for misconduct found in the Student Code of Conduct. Although different from out-of-school suspension and placement in a DAEP, ISS removes the student from the regular classroom.

PGP stands for personal graduation plan, which is required for high school students and for any student in middle school who fails a section on a state-mandated test or is identified by the district as not likely to earn a high school diploma before the fifth school year after beginning grade 9.

PSAT is the preparatory and readiness assessment for the SAT. It also serves as the basis for the awarding of National Merit Scholarships.

Safe and Supportive School Team is a team established at each campus that is responsible for conducting a threat assessment regarding individuals who make threats of violence or exhibit harmful, threatening, or violent behavior and determining appropriate intervention, and providing guidance to students and school employees on recognizing harmful, threatening, or violent behavior that may pose a threat to the community, school, or individual.

SAT refers to the Scholastic Aptitude Test, one of the two most frequently used college or university admissions examinations. The test may be required for admissions to certain colleges or universities.

SHAC stands for School Health Advisory Council, a group of at least five members, a majority of whom must be parents, appointed by the school board to help ensure that local community values and health issues are reflected in the district's health education instruction, as well as assist with other student and employee wellness issues.

Section 504 is the federal law that prohibits discrimination against a student with a disability, requiring schools to provide opportunities for equal services, programs, and participation in activities. Unless the student is determined to be eligible for special education services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), general education with appropriate instructional accommodations will be provided.

STAAR is the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness, the state's system of standardized academic achievement assessments.

STAAR Alternate 2 is an alternative state-mandated assessment designed for students with severe cognitive disabilities receiving special education services who meet the participation requirements, as determined by the student's ARD committee.

STAAR Spanish is an alternative state-mandated assessment administered to eligible students for whom a Spanish version of STAAR is the most appropriate measure of their academic progress.

State-mandated assessments are required of students at certain grade levels and in specified subjects. Except under limited circumstances, students must pass the STAAR EOC assessments to graduate. Students have multiple opportunities to take the tests, if necessary, for graduation.

Northwest ISD Student Handbook

Student Code of Conduct is developed with the advice of the district-level committee and adopted by the board and identifies the circumstances, consistent with law, when a student may be removed from a classroom, campus, or district vehicle; sets out the conditions that authorize or require the principal or another administrator to place the student in a DAEP; and outlines conditions for out-of-school suspension and for expulsion. The Student Code of Conduct also addresses notice to the parent regarding a student's violation of one of its provisions.

TAC stands for the Texas Administrative Code.

TEA stands for the Texas Education Agency, which oversees primary and secondary public education in Texas.

TELPAS stands for the Texas English Language Proficiency Assessment System, which assesses the progress that emergent bilingual students make in learning the English language and is administered for those who meet the participation requirements in kindergarten-grade 12.

TSI stands for the Texas Success Initiative, an assessment designed to measure the reading, mathematics, and writing skills that entering college-level freshmen students should have if they are to be successful in undergraduate programs in Texas public colleges and universities.

UIL refers to the University Interscholastic League, the statewide, voluntary nonprofit organization that oversees educational extracurricular academic, athletic, and music contests.

Northwest ISD Student Handbook

Appendix: Freedom from Bullying Policy

Student Welfare: Freedom from Bullying

Note that school board policies may be revised at any time. For legal context and the most current copy of the local policy, visit policy [FFI](#). Below is the text of Northwest ISD's policy [FFI\(LOCAL\)](#) as of the date that this handbook was finalized for this school year.

Student Welfare: Freedom from Bullying

Policy [FFI\(LOCAL\)](#) adopted on 11-7-2017

FFI(LOCAL) - STUDENT WELFARE: FREEDOM FROM BULLYING

Note: This policy addresses bullying of district students. For purposes of this policy, the term bullying includes cyberbullying.

- For provisions regarding discrimination and harassment involving district students, see [FFH](#). Note that FFI shall be used in conjunction with [FFH](#) for certain prohibited conduct. For reporting requirements related to child abuse and neglect, see [FFG](#).

Bullying Prohibited

The district prohibits bullying, including cyberbullying, as defined by state law. Retaliation against anyone involved in the complaint process is a violation of district policy and is prohibited.

Examples: Bullying of a student could occur by physical contact or through electronic means and may include hazing, threats, taunting, teasing, confinement, assault, demands for money, destruction of property, theft of valued possessions, name calling, rumor spreading, or ostracism.

Retaliation

The district prohibits retaliation by a student or district employee against any person who in good faith makes a report of bullying, serves as a witness, or participates in an investigation.

Examples: Examples of retaliation may include threats, rumor spreading, ostracism, assault, destruction of property, unjustified punishments, or unwarranted grade reductions. Unlawful retaliation does not include petty slights or annoyances.

False Claim

A student who intentionally makes a false claim, offers false statements, or refuses to cooperate with a district investigation regarding bullying shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action.

Timely Reporting

Reports of bullying shall be made as soon as possible after the alleged act or knowledge of the alleged act. A failure to immediately report may impair the district's ability to investigate and address the prohibited conduct.

Reporting Procedures

Student Report

To obtain assistance and intervention, any student who believes that he or she has experienced bullying or believes that another student has experienced bullying should immediately report the

Northwest ISD Student Handbook

alleged acts to a teacher, school counselor, principal, or other district employee. The Superintendent shall develop procedures allowing a student to anonymously report an alleged incident of bullying.

Employee Report

Any district employee who suspects or receives notice that a student or group of students has or may have experienced bullying shall immediately notify the principal or designee.

Report Format

A report may be made orally or in writing. The principal or designee shall reduce any oral reports to written form.

Notice of Report

When an allegation of bullying is reported, the principal or designee shall notify a parent of the alleged victim on or before the third business day after the incident is reported. The principal or designee shall also notify a parent of the student alleged to have engaged in the conduct within a reasonable amount of time after the incident is reported.

Prohibited Conduct

The principal or designee shall determine whether the allegations in the report, if proven, would constitute prohibited conduct as defined by policy [FFH](#), including dating violence and harassment or discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, gender, national origin, or disability. If so, the district shall proceed under policy [FFH](#). If the allegations could constitute both prohibited conduct and bullying, the investigation under [FFH](#) shall include a determination on each type of conduct.

Investigation of Report

The principal or designee shall conduct an appropriate investigation based on the allegations in the report. The principal or designee shall promptly take interim action calculated to prevent bullying during the course of an investigation, if appropriate.

Concluding the Investigation

Absent extenuating circumstances, the investigation should be completed within ten district business days from the date of the initial report alleging bullying; however, the principal or designee shall take additional time if necessary to complete a thorough investigation.

The principal or designee shall prepare a final, written report of the investigation. The report shall include a determination of whether bullying occurred, and if so, whether the victim used reasonable self-defense. A copy of the report shall be sent to the Superintendent or designee.

Notice to Parents

If an incident of bullying is confirmed, the principal or designee shall promptly notify the parents of the victim and of the student who engaged in bullying.

Northwest ISD Student Handbook

District Action

Bullying

If the results of an investigation indicate that bullying occurred, the district shall promptly respond by taking appropriate disciplinary action in accordance with the district's Student Code of Conduct and may take corrective action reasonably calculated to address the conduct. The district may notify law enforcement in certain circumstances.

Discipline

A student who is a victim of bullying and who used reasonable self-defense in response to the bullying shall not be subject to disciplinary action.

The discipline of a student with a disability is subject to applicable state and federal law in addition to the Student Code of Conduct.

Corrective Action

Examples of corrective action may include a training program for the individuals involved in the complaint, a comprehensive education program for the school community, follow-up inquiries to determine whether any new incidents or any instances of retaliation have occurred, involving parents and students in efforts to identify problems and improve the school climate, increasing staff monitoring of areas where bullying has occurred, and reaffirming the district's policy against bullying.

Transfers

The principal or designee shall refer to [FDB](#) for transfer provisions.

Counseling

The principal or designee shall notify the victim, the student who engaged in bullying, and any students who witnessed the bullying of available counseling options.

Improper Conduct

If the investigation reveals improper conduct that did not rise to the level of prohibited conduct or bullying, the district may take action in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct or any other appropriate corrective action.

Confidentiality

To the greatest extent possible, the district shall respect the privacy of the complainant, persons against whom a report is filed, and witnesses. Limited disclosures may be necessary in order to conduct a thorough investigation.

Appeal

A student who is dissatisfied with the outcome of the investigation may appeal through [FNG\(LOCAL\)](#), beginning at the appropriate level.

Records Retention

Retention of records shall be in accordance with [CPC\(LOCAL\)](#).

Northwest ISD Student Handbook

Access to Policy and Procedures

This policy and any accompanying procedures shall be distributed annually in the employee and student handbooks. Copies of the policy and procedures shall be posted on the district's website, to the extent practicable, and shall be readily available at each campus and the district's administrative offices.

Northwest ISD [[FFI\(LOCAL\)](#)]-A] UPDATE 109 DATE ISSUED: 11/7/2017

Northwest ISD Student Handbook

Appendix: Student Rights and Responsibilities Policy

Student and Parent Complaints/Grievances -Policy [FNG\(LOCAL\)](#) adopted on 12/13/24

In this policy, the terms “complaint” and “grievance” shall have the same meaning.

Other Complaint Processes

Student or parent complaints shall be filed in accordance with this policy, except as required by the policies listed below. Some of these policies require appeals to be submitted in accordance with FNG after the relevant complaint process:

1. Complaints alleging discrimination or harassment based on race, color, religion, sex, gender, national origin, age, or disability shall be submitted in accordance with the FFH series.
2. Complaints concerning dating violence shall be submitted in accordance with the FFH series.
3. Complaints concerning retaliation related to discrimination and harassment shall be submitted in accordance with the FFH series.
4. Complaints concerning bullying or retaliation related to bullying shall be submitted in accordance with FFI.
5. Complaints concerning failure to award credit or a final grade on the basis of attendance shall be submitted in accordance with FEC.
6. Complaints concerning expulsion shall be submitted in accordance with FOD and the Student Code of Conduct.
7. Complaints concerning any final decisions of the gifted and talented selection committee regarding selection for or exit from the gifted program shall be submitted in accordance with EHBB.
8. Complaints within the scope of Section 504, including complaints concerning identification, evaluation, or educational placement of a student with a disability, shall be submitted in accordance with FB and the procedural safeguards handbook.
9. Complaints within the scope of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, including complaints concerning identification, evaluation, educational placement, or discipline of a student with a disability, shall be submitted in accordance with EHBAE, FOF, and the procedural safeguards handbook provided to parents of all students referred to special education.
10. Complaints concerning instructional resources shall be submitted in accordance with the EF series.
11. Complaints concerning a commissioned peace officer who is an employee of the District shall be submitted in accordance with the CKE series.
12. Complaints concerning intradistrict transfers or campus assignment shall be submitted in accordance with FDB.
13. Complaints concerning admission, placement, or services provided for a homeless student shall be submitted in accordance with FDC.

Northwest ISD Student Handbook

14. Complaints concerning disputes regarding a student's eligibility for free or reduced-priced meal programs shall be submitted in accordance with COB.

15. Complaints concerning acceleration in math without prior instruction shall be submitted in accordance with EHDC.

Complaints regarding refusal of entry to or ejection from District property based on Education Code 37.105 shall be filed in accordance with this policy. However, the timelines shall be adjusted as necessary to permit the complainant to address the Board in person within 90 calendar days of filing the initial complaint, unless the complaint is resolved before the Board considers it. [See GKA(LEGAL)]

Notice to Students and Parents

The District shall inform students and parents of this policy through appropriate District publications.

Guiding Principles

Informal Process

The Board encourages students and parents to discuss their concerns with the appropriate teacher, principal, or other campus administrator who has the authority to address the concerns. Concerns should be expressed as soon as possible to allow early resolution at the lowest possible administrative level.

Informal resolution shall be encouraged but shall not extend any deadlines in this policy, except by mutual written consent.

Formal Process

A student or parent may initiate the formal process described below by timely filing a written complaint form.

Even after initiating the formal complaint process, students and parents are encouraged to seek informal resolution of their concerns. A student or parent whose concerns are resolved may withdraw a formal complaint at any time.

The process described in this policy shall not be construed to create new or additional rights beyond those granted by law or Board policy, nor to require a full evidentiary hearing or "mini-trial" at any level.

Freedom from Retaliation

Neither the Board nor any District employee shall unlawfully retaliate against any student or parent for bringing a concern or complaint.

General Provisions- Policy FNG — Student Rights and Responsibilities: Student and Parent Complaints/Grievances

Filing

Complaint forms and appeal notices may be filed by hand-delivery, by electronic communication, including email and the online complaint site, or by U.S. Mail. Hand-delivered filings shall be timely

Northwest ISD Student Handbook

filed if received by the appropriate administrator or designee by the close of business on the deadline. Filings submitted by electronic communication shall be timely filed if they are received by the close of business on the deadline, as indicated by the date/time shown on the electronic communication. Mail filings shall be timely filed if they are postmarked by U.S. Mail on or before the deadline and received by the appropriate administrator or designated representative no more than three days after the deadline.

Scheduling Conferences

The District shall make reasonable attempts to schedule conferences at a mutually agreeable time. If a student or parent fails to appear at a scheduled conference, the District may hold the conference and issue a decision in the student's or parent's absence.

Response

At Levels One and Two, "response" shall mean a written communication to the student or parent from the appropriate administrator. Responses may be hand-delivered, sent by electronic communication to the student's or parent's email address of record, or sent by U.S. Mail to the student's or parent's mailing address of record. Mailed responses shall be timely if they are postmarked by U.S. Mail on or before the deadline.

Days

"Days" shall mean District business days, unless otherwise noted. In calculating timelines under this policy, the day a document is filed is "day zero." The following business day is "day one."

Representative

"Representative" shall mean any person who or organization that is designated by the student or parent to represent the student or parent in the complaint process. A student may be represented by an adult at any level of the complaint.

The student or parent may designate a representative through written notice to the District at any level of this process. If the student or parent designates a representative with fewer than three days' notice to the District before a scheduled conference, hearing, or Board meeting to consider a complaint, the District may reschedule the conference, hearing, or consideration to a later date, if desired, in order to include the District's counsel. The District may be represented by counsel at any level of the process.

Consolidating Complaints

Complaints arising out of an event or a series of related events shall be addressed in one complaint. A student or parent shall not file separate or serial complaints arising from any event or series of events that have been or could have been addressed in a previous complaint.

Untimely Filings

All time limits shall be strictly followed unless modified by mutual written consent.

If a complaint form or appeal notice is not timely filed, the complaint may be dismissed, on written notice to the student or parent, at any point during the complaint process. The student or parent may appeal the dismissal by seeking review in writing within 10 days from the date of the written

Northwest ISD Student Handbook

dismissal notice, starting at the level at which the complaint was dismissed. Such appeal shall be limited to the issue of timeliness.

Improperly Filed Complaints

A complaint shall be deemed improperly filed and dismissed for the following reasons:

- The issue for which the complaint is filed has already been addressed or resolved.
- The complaint is not filed on the required form.
- The complaint form is incomplete or missing information in any material aspect such as the complainant's name, a description of the issue, or the requested relief.
- The requested relief cannot be legally granted by the District.
- The complaint is regarding conduct by an individual, group, or organization other than the District.
- The complaint is regarding an issue that has not yet happened.

The dismissal of a complaint under these circumstances shall not be appealable; however, the complaint may be refiled with all the required information if the refiling is within the designated time for filing.

Costs Incurred-Each party shall pay its own costs incurred in the course of the complaint.

Complaint and Appeal Forms

Complaints and appeals under this policy shall be submitted in writing on a form provided by the District.

Copies of any documents that support the complaint should be attached to the complaint form. If the student or parent does not have copies of these documents, copies may be presented at the Level One conference. After the Level One conference, no new documents may be submitted by the student or parent unless the student or parent did not know the documents existed before the Level One conference.

A complaint or appeal form that is incomplete in any material aspect may be dismissed but may be refiled with all the required information if the refiling is within the designated time for filing.

Level One

Complaint forms must be filed:

1. Within 15 days of the date the student or parent first knew, or with reasonable diligence should have known, of the decision or action giving rise to the complaint or grievance; and
2. With the lowest level administrator who has the authority to remedy the alleged problem.

In most circumstances, students and parents shall file Level One complaints with the campus principal.

If the only administrator who has authority to remedy the alleged problem is the Superintendent or designee, the complaint may begin at Level Two following the procedure, including deadlines, for filing the complaint form at Level One.

Northwest ISD Student Handbook

If the complaint is not filed with the appropriate administrator, the receiving administrator must note the date and time the complaint form was received and immediately forward the complaint form to the appropriate administrator.

The appropriate administrator shall investigate as necessary and schedule a conference with the student or parent within 10 days after receipt of the written complaint. The administrator may set reasonable time limits for the conference.

Absent extenuating circumstances, the administrator shall provide the student or parent a written response within 10 days following the conference. The written response shall set forth the basis of the decision. In reaching a decision, the administrator may consider information provided at the Level One conference and any other relevant documents or information the administrator believes will help resolve the complaint.

Level Two

If the student or parent did not receive the relief requested at Level One or if the time for a response has expired, the student or parent may request a conference with the designee to appeal the Level One decision.

The appeal notice must be filed in writing, on a form provided by the District, within 10 days of the date of the written Level One response or, if no response was received, within 10 days of the Level One response deadline.

After receiving notice of the appeal, the Level One administrator shall prepare and forward a record of the Level One complaint to the Level Two administrator. The student or parent may request a copy of the Level One record. The Level One record shall include:

1. The original complaint form and any attachments.
2. All other documents submitted by the student or parent at Level One.
3. The written response issued at Level One and any attachments.
4. All other documents relied upon by the Level One administrator in reaching the Level One decision.

The Superintendent or designee shall schedule a conference within 10 days after the appeal notice is filed. The conference shall be limited to the issues and documents considered at Level One. At the conference, the student or parent may provide information concerning any documents or information relied upon by the administration for the Level One decision. The Superintendent or designee may set reasonable time limits for the conference.

The Superintendent or designee shall provide the student or parent a written response within 10 days following the conference. The written response shall set forth the basis of the decision. In reaching a decision, the Superintendent or designee may consider the Level One record, information provided at the Level Two conference, and any other relevant documents or information the Superintendent or designee believes will help resolve the complaint.

Recordings of the Level One and Level Two conferences, if any, shall be maintained with the Level One and Level Two records.

Level Three

Northwest ISD Student Handbook

If the student or parent did not receive the relief requested at Level Two or if the time for a response has expired, the student or parent may appeal the decision to the Board.

The appeal notice must be filed in writing, on a form provided by the District, within 10 days of the date of the written Level Two response or, if no response was received, within 10 days of the Level Two response deadline.

The Superintendent or designee shall provide the Board the record of the Level Two appeal. The student or parent may request a copy of the Level Two record. The Level Two record shall include:

1. The Level One record.
2. The notice of appeal from Level One to Level Two.
3. The written response issued at Level Two and any attachments.
4. All other documents relied upon by the administration in reaching the Level Two decision.

The appeal shall be limited to the issues and documents considered at Level Two, except that if at Level Three the administration intends to rely on evidence not included in the Level Two record, the administration shall provide the student or parent notice of the nature of the evidence at least three days before the meeting at which the Level Three appeal shall be considered.

Presentation to the Board

A Level Three appeal shall be considered by the Board through written submission unless three or more members of the Board request that the appeal be heard by oral presentation. A request for oral presentation must be made by a Board member in writing to the Superintendent within three days from the date Board members are notified of the Level Three appeal and provided copies of:

1. The Level One Complaint;
2. The Level One Decision;
3. The Level Two Notice of Appeal;
4. The Level Two Decision; and
5. The Level Three Notice of Appeal.

Written Submission

When the Level Three appeal is to be considered on written submission, the Superintendent shall provide written notice to the student or parent of the process by which the written submission is to be made, the deadline for providing the submission, and applicable page limitations. Written submissions shall not exceed four pages in length. The District shall allow the student or parent 10 days to provide the submission unless compliance with statutory deadlines requires a shorter timeline.

The administration shall be given an opportunity to submit a written response for the Board's consideration at Level Three. If the student or parent provides a written submission at Level Three, the administration shall be given 10 days to review the complainant's written response and submit the administration's written response unless compliance with statutory deadlines requires a shorter timeline.

Northwest ISD Student Handbook

The Superintendent shall inform the student or parent of the date, time, and place of the Board meeting at which the complaint will be on the agenda for consideration by the Board.

Oral Presentation

If three or more Board members request oral presentations for the Level Three appeal within the required time period, the Superintendent shall inform the student or parent of the date, time, and place of the Board meeting at which the complaint will be on the agenda for consideration by the Board.

The District shall determine whether the complaint will be presented in open or closed meeting in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act and other applicable law. [See BE]

The presiding officer may set reasonable time limits and guidelines for the presentation, including an opportunity for the student or parent and administration to each make a presentation and provide rebuttal and an opportunity for questioning by the Board. The Board shall hear the complaint and may request that the administration provide an explanation for the decisions at the preceding levels.

In addition to any other record of the Board meeting required by law, the Board shall prepare a separate record of the Level Three presentation. The Level Three presentation, including the presentation by the student or parent or the student's representative, any presentation from the administration, and questions from the Board with responses, shall be recorded by audio recording, video/audio recording, or court reporter.

Board's Response

After reviewing the written submission or listening to the oral presentations, as applicable, the Board shall then consider the complaint. It may give notice of its decision orally or in writing at any time up to and including the next regularly scheduled Board meeting. If the Board does not make a decision regarding the complaint by the end of the next regularly scheduled meeting, the lack of a response by the Board upholds the administrative decision at Level Two. Note: School board policies may be revised at any time. For legal context and the most current copy of the local policy, visit [[link to policy code FNG](#)]. Below is the text of Northwest ISD's policy FNG(LOCAL) as of the date this handbook was finalized for this school year.

[See [FNG \(Regulations\)](#) for STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES: STUDENT AND PARENT COMPLAINTS forms]



2025-2026

Code of Conduct

2001 Texan Dr. Justin, Texas 76247

Northwest ISD Student Code of Conduct

Table of Contents

Student Code of Conduct	136
Accessibility	136
Purpose	136
School District Authority and Jurisdiction.....	138
Campus Behavior Coordinator	138
Threat Assessment and Safe and Supportive School Team.....	139
Searches	139
Reporting Crimes	139
Security Personnel.....	139
“Parent” Defined	140
Participating in Graduation Activities	140
Unauthorized Persons.....	140
Standards for Student Conduct.....	142
General Conduct Violations	142
Mistreatment of Others.....	143
Property Offenses	143
Possession of Prohibited Items	144
Possession of Personal Communication Devices	145
Illegal, Prescription, and Over-the-Counter Drugs	145
Misuse of Technology Resources and the Internet.....	146
Safety Transgressions.....	146
Miscellaneous Offenses.....	147
Discipline Management Techniques	148
First-Time Offense of Possession or Use of Nicotine Delivery Product or E-Cigarette	148
Students with Disabilities	148
Techniques.....	148
Prohibited Aversive Techniques	150
Notification	150
Parental Involvement	151
Appeals	151
Removal from the School Bus	152

Northwest ISD Student Code of Conduct

Removal from the Regular Educational Setting.....	153
Routine Referral.....	153
Formal Teacher Removal	153
Returning a Student to the Classroom.....	154
Appeals of Formal Teacher Removals.....	154
In-School Suspension	155
Process	155
Out-of-School Suspension	156
Misconduct	156
Process	156
Alternative Assignment	157
Coursework During Suspension	157
Disciplinary Alternative Education Program (DAEP) Placement	158
Discretionary Placement: Misconduct That May Result in DAEP Placement	158
Mandatory Placement: Misconduct That Requires DAEP Placement.....	159
Sexual Assault and Campus Assignments	161
Process	161
Length of Placement.....	163
Appeals (only for DAEP placements <i>exceeding</i> 60 days)	164
Restrictions During Placement	165
Placement Review	165
Additional Misconduct.....	165
Notice of Criminal Proceedings	165
Withdrawal During Process	166
Newly Enrolled Students	166
Emergency Placement Procedure.....	167
Transition Services	167
Placement and/or Expulsion for Certain Offenses	167
Registered Sex Offenders.....	167
Expulsion	169
Discretionary Expulsion: Misconduct That May Result in Expulsion.....	169
Mandatory Expulsion: Misconduct That Requires Expulsion	171
Under Age 10	172

Northwest ISD Student Code of Conduct

Process	172
Length of Expulsion.....	174
Withdrawal During Process	175
Additional Misconduct.....	175
Restrictions During Expulsion	175
Newly Enrolled Students	175
Emergency Expulsion Procedures.....	176
DAEP Placement of Expelled Students.....	176
Transition Services	176
Certain Felonies	176
Hearing and Required Findings.....	177
Length of Placement.....	177
Placement Review	177
Glossary.....	178

Northwest ISD Student Code of Conduct

Student Code of Conduct

Accessibility

If you have difficulty accessing the information in this document because of disability, please contact Melissa Webber, Director of Student Services at mwebber@nisdtx.org or 817-215-0968.

Purpose

The Student Code of Conduct (“Code of Conduct”), as required by [Chapter 37](#) of the Texas Education Code, provides methods and options for managing student behavior, preventing and intervening in student discipline problems, and imposing discipline.

The law requires the district to define misconduct that may—or must—result in a range of specific disciplinary consequences, including removal from a regular classroom or campus, out-of-school suspension, placement in a disciplinary alternative education program (DAEP), placement in a juvenile justice alternative education program (JJAEP), or expulsion from school.

This Code of Conduct has been adopted by the Northwest ISD board of trustees and developed with the advice of the district-level planning and decision-making committee. It provides information to parents and students regarding standards of conduct, consequences of misconduct, and procedures for administering discipline. This Code of Conduct remains in effect during summer school and at all school-related events and activities outside the school year until the board adopts an updated version for the next school year.

In accordance with state law, the Code of Conduct shall be posted at each school campus or shall be available for review at the campus principal’s office. Additionally, the Code of Conduct shall be available at the campus behavior coordinator’s office and posted on the district’s website. Parents shall be notified of any conduct violation that may result in a student being suspended, placed in a DAEP or JJAEP, expelled, or taken into custody by a law enforcement officer under [Chapter 37](#) of the Education Code.

Not later than the first day of the 2025-2026 school year, the Texas Education Agency (TEA) shall prepare and provide to each school district a report identifying each law relating to school discipline that was amended or added by the 89th Legislature, Regular Session, 2025. A school district shall provide to each student and the parent of or person standing in parental relation to the student the prepared report.

Because the Code of Conduct is adopted by the district’s board of trustees, it has the force of policy. In the event of a conflict between the Code of Conduct and the Student Handbook, the Code of Conduct shall prevail.

Northwest ISD Student Code of Conduct

Please note: The discipline of students with disabilities who are eligible for services under federal law ([Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973](#)) is subject to the provisions of those laws.

Northwest ISD Student Code of Conduct

School District Authority and Jurisdiction

School rules and the district's authority to administer discipline apply whenever the interest of the district is involved, on or off school grounds, in conjunction with or independent of classes and school-sponsored activities.

The district has disciplinary authority over a student:

1. During the regular school day;
2. While the student is traveling on district transportation;
3. During lunch periods in which a student is allowed to leave campus;
4. At any school-related activity, regardless of time or location;
5. For any school-related misconduct, regardless of time or location;
6. When retaliation against a school employee, board member, or volunteer occurs or is threatened, regardless of time or location;
7. When a student engages in cyberbullying, as defined by [Education Code 37.0832](#);
8. When criminal mischief is committed on or off school property or at a school-related event;
9. For certain offenses committed within 300 feet of school property as measured from any point on the school's real property boundary line;
10. For certain offenses committed while on school property or while attending a school-sponsored or school-related activity of another district in Texas;
11. When the student commits a felony, as provided by [Education Code 37.006](#), [37.007](#), or [37.0081](#); and
12. When the student is required to register as a sex offender.

Campus Behavior Coordinator

As required by law, a single person at each campus must be designated to serve as the campus behavior coordinator (CBC). The designated person may be the principal, or any other campus administrator selected by the principal. Additional staff members may assist the CBC in the performance of the CBC's duties, provided that the CBC personally verifies that all aspects of [Chapter 37, Subchapter A](#) are appropriately implemented. The CBC is primarily responsible for maintaining student discipline. The CBC shall monitor disciplinary referrals and report the following behavior to the campus's threat assessment and safe and supportive school team:

- Conduct that contains the elements of the offense of terroristic threat under [Penal Code 22.07](#);
- Conduct that contains the elements of the offense of unlawfully carrying weapons under [Penal Code 46.02](#);

Northwest ISD Student Code of Conduct

- Conduct that contains the elements of the offense of exhibiting, using, or threatening to exhibit or use a firearm under [Education Code 37.125](#); and
- Any concerning student behaviors or behavioral trends that may pose a serious risk of violence to the student or others.

The district shall post on its website and in the Student Handbook, for each campus, the email address and telephone number of the person serving as CBC. Contact information may be found at <https://www.nisdtx.org/students-families/student-handbookcode-of-conduct>.

Threat Assessment and Safe and Supportive School Team

The CBC or other appropriate administrator will work closely with the campus threat assessment and safe and supportive school team to implement the district's threat assessment policy and procedures, as required by law, and shall take appropriate disciplinary action in accordance with the Code of Conduct.

Searches

District officials may conduct searches of students, their belongings, and their vehicles in accordance with state and federal law and district policy. Searches of students shall be conducted in a reasonable and nondiscriminatory manner. Refer to the district's policies at FNF(LEGAL) and FNF(LOCAL) for more information regarding investigations and searches.

The district has the right to search a vehicle driven to school by a student and parked on school property whenever there is reasonable suspicion to believe it contains articles or materials prohibited by the district.

Desks, lockers, district-provided technology, and similar items are the property of the district and are provided for student use as a matter of convenience. District property is subject to search or inspection at any time without notice.

Reporting Crimes

The principal or CBC and other school administrators as appropriate shall report crimes as required by law and shall call local law enforcement when an administrator suspects that a crime has been committed on campus.

Security Personnel

The board utilize police officers, school resource officers (SROs), and/or security personnel to ensure the security and protection of students, staff, and property. In accordance with law, the board has coordinated with the CBC and other district employees to ensure appropriate law enforcement duties are assigned to these persons. Provisions addressing the various types of security personnel can be found in the CKE policy series.

Northwest ISD Student Code of Conduct

The law enforcement duties of school resource officers and/or security personnel include, but are not limited to, conducting investigations of criminal violations occurring on district property or at district-sponsored or school-related activities; patrolling district facilities and campuses for the purpose of controlling narcotic/alcohol sale and use and other crimes; establishing good rapport with students to establish role models for good community/criminal justice system relationships; providing security on the various district campuses for prevention of theft, trespassing, and intrusion; in coordination with the district, acting as a liaison with public safety authorities on agreed-upon matters affecting school security; consulting with district and campus administration on methods of increasing security in and around the premises of each school; and preserving the peace within the Officer's jurisdiction by all lawful and appropriate means, consistent with the memorandums of understanding with cooperating law enforcement agencies. The duties of district security personnel include, but are not limited to, patrolling district facilities and campuses for the purpose of increased safety and security of students, staff, and guests; communicating safety procedures and expectations of conduct at school and school events to students, staff, participants, and guests; and assisting to preserve the peace, consistent with the contracts with entities providing such services.

“Parent” Defined

Throughout the Code of Conduct and related discipline policies, the term “parent” includes a parent, legal guardian, or other person having lawful control of the child.

Participating in Graduation Activities

The district has the right to limit a student's participation in graduation activities for violating the district's Code of Conduct.

Participation might include a speaking role, as established by district policy and procedures.

Students eligible to give the opening and closing remarks at graduation shall be notified by the campus principal. Notwithstanding any other eligibility requirements, in order to be considered eligible, a student shall not have engaged in any misconduct that resulted in an out-of-school suspension, removal to a DAEP, or expulsion during the semester immediately preceding graduation.

The valedictorian and salutatorian may also have speaking roles at graduation. No student shall be eligible to have such a speaking role if he or she engaged in any misconduct that resulted in an out-of-school suspension, removal to a DAEP, or expulsion during the semester immediately preceding graduation.

Unauthorized Persons

In accordance with [Education Code 37.105](#), a school administrator, SRO, or district police officer shall have the authority to refuse entry to or eject a person from district property if the person refuses to leave peaceably on request and:

Northwest ISD Student Code of Conduct

1. The person poses a substantial risk of harm to any person; or
2. The person behaves in a manner that is inappropriate for a school setting and persists in the behavior after being given a verbal warning that the behavior is inappropriate and may result in refusal of entry or ejection.

Appeals regarding refusal of entry or ejection from district property may be filed in accordance with policies FNG(LOCAL) or GF(LOCAL), as appropriate. However, the timelines for the district's grievance procedures shall be adjusted as necessary to permit the person to address the board in person within 90 calendar days, unless the complaint is resolved before a board hearing.

[See Restrictions During Placement for information regarding a student assigned to DAEP at the time of graduation.]

Northwest ISD Student Code of Conduct

Standards for Student Conduct

Each student is expected to:

- Demonstrate courtesy, even when others do not.
- Behave in a responsible manner.
- Exercise self-discipline.
- Attend all classes regularly and on time.
- Bring appropriate materials and assignments to class.
- Meet district and campus standards of grooming and dress.
- Obey all campus and classroom rules.
- Respect the rights and privileges of students, teachers, and other district staff and volunteers.
- Respect the property of others, including district property and facilities.
- Cooperate with and assist the school staff in maintaining safety, order, and discipline.
- Adhere to the requirements of the Code of Conduct

General Conduct Violations

The categories of conduct below are prohibited at school, in vehicles owned or operated by the district, and at all school-related activities, but the list does not include the most severe offenses. In the subsequent sections on In-School Suspension, Out-of-School Suspension, Disciplinary Alternative Education Program (DAEP) Placement, Placement and/or Expulsion for Certain Offenses, and Expulsion, those offenses that require or permit specific consequences are listed. Any offense, however, may be severe enough to result in Removal from the Regular Educational Setting.

Disregard for Authority

Students shall not:

- Fail to comply with directives given by school personnel.
- Leave school grounds or school-sponsored events without permission.
- Disobey rules for conduct in district vehicles.
- Refuse to accept discipline or consequence assigned by a teacher or principal.

Northwest ISD Student Code of Conduct

Mistreatment of Others

Students shall not:

- Use profanity or vulgar language or make obscene gestures.
- Fight or scuffle. [See Placement and/or Expulsion for Certain Offenses for assault.]
- Threaten a district student, employee, or volunteer, including off school property if the conduct causes a substantial disruption to the educational environment.
- Engage in any behavior that violates the Student Code of Conduct and is motivated by antisemitism. [See Glossary]
- Engage in bullying, cyberbullying, harassment, or making hit lists. (See Glossary for all four terms.)
- Release or threaten to release intimate visual material of a minor or a student who is 18 years of age or older without the student's consent.
- Engage in sexual or gender-based harassment or sexual abuse, whether by word, gesture, or any other conduct directed toward another person, including a district student, employee, board member, or volunteer.
- Engage in conduct that constitutes dating violence. [See Glossary]
- Engage in inappropriate or indecent exposure of private body parts.
- Participate in hazing. [See Glossary]
- Coerce an individual to act through the use or threat of force.
- Commit extortion or blackmail.
- Engage in inappropriate verbal, physical, or sexual conduct directed toward another person, including a district student, employee, or volunteer.
- Record the voice or image of another without the prior consent of the individual being recorded or in any way that disrupts the educational environment or invades the privacy of others.

Property Offenses

Students shall not:

- Damage or vandalize property owned by others. [See Placement and/or Expulsion for Certain Offenses for felony criminal mischief.]
- Deface or damage school property, including textbooks, technology and electronic resources, lockers, furniture, and other equipment, with graffiti or by other means.
- Steal from students, staff, or the school.

Northwest ISD Student Code of Conduct

- Commit or assist in a robbery or theft, even if it does not constitute a felony according to the Penal Code. [See Placement and/or Expulsion for Certain Offenses for felony robbery, aggravated robbery, and theft.]
- Enter, without authorization, district facilities that are not open for operations.

Possession of Prohibited Items

Students shall not possess or use:

- Fireworks of any kind, smoke or stink bombs, or any other pyrotechnic device;
- A razor, box cutter, chain, or any other object used in a way that threatens or inflicts bodily injury to another person;
- A “look-alike” weapon that is intended to be used as a weapon or could reasonably be perceived as a weapon;
- An air gun or BB gun;
- A short barrel firearm;
- Ammunition;
- A hand instrument designed to cut or stab another by being thrown;
- A firearm silencer or suppressor;
- *A location-restricted knife;
- *A club;
- *A firearm;
- A stun gun;
- Knuckles;
- A pocketknife or any other small knife;
- Mace or pepper spray;
- Pornographic material;
- Tobacco products (including nicotine pouches), cigarettes, e-cigarettes, and any component, part, or accessory for an e-cigarette device;
- Matches or a lighter;
- A laser pointer, unless it is for an approved use; or
- Any articles not generally considered to be weapons, including school supplies, when the principal or designee determines that a danger exists.

Northwest ISD Student Code of Conduct

*See DAEP-Placement and/or Expulsion for Certain Offenses for weapons and firearms. In many circumstances, possession of these items is punishable by mandatory expulsion under federal or state law.

Possession of Personal Communication Devices

A student shall not use a personal communication device on school property during the school day. During the school day, the student shall store any personal communication device in accordance with administrative regulations.

A student who violates this policy or any regulations shall be subject to discipline in accordance with the Board-adopted Student Code of Conduct.

An authorized District employee shall confiscate a student's personal communication device that is used in violation of this policy or any applicable regulations.

- The District shall not dispose of the personal communication device. The District shall provide appropriate notice, and devices that are not retrieved shall be stored according to administrative regulations. The district may authorize the use of a personal communication device for the following reasons:
 - To implement an individualized education program (IEP) or for a plan created under [Section 504, Rehabilitation Act of 1973 \(29 U.S.C Section 794\)](#) or a similar program or plan;
 - With documented need based on a directive from a qualified physician; or
 - To comply with a health or safety requirement imposed by law or as part of the district's safety protocols.

Inappropriate use of a personal communication device during the school day will result in disciplinary action in accordance with this Code of Conduct. [see policy FNCE]

Illegal, Prescription, and Over-the-Counter Drugs

Students shall not:

- Possess, use, give, or sell alcohol or an illegal drug. [See **Disciplinary Alternative Education Program (DAEP) Placement** and Expulsion for mandatory and permissive consequences under state law.]
- Possess or sell seeds or pieces of marijuana in less than a usable amount.
- Possess, use, give, or sell paraphernalia related to any prohibited substance. [See Glossary for "paraphernalia."]
- Possess, use, abuse, or sell look-alike drugs or attempt to pass items off as drugs or contraband.
- Abuse the student's own prescription drug, give a prescription drug to another student, or possess or be under the influence of another person's prescription drug on school property or at a school-related event. [See Glossary for "abuse."]

Northwest ISD Student Code of Conduct

- Abuse over-the-counter drugs. [See Glossary for “abuse.”]
- Be under the influence of prescription or over-the-counter drugs that cause impairment to body or mind. [See Glossary for “under the influence.”]
- Have or take prescription drugs or over-the-counter drugs at school other than as provided by district policy.

Misuse of Technology Resources and the Internet

Students shall not:

- Violate policies, rules, or agreements signed by the student or the student’s parent regarding the use of technology resources.
- Attempt to access or circumvent passwords or other security-related information of the district, students, or employees or upload or create computer viruses, including off school property if the conduct causes a substantial disruption to the educational environment.
- Attempt to alter, destroy, or disable district technology resources including, but not limited to, computers and related equipment, district data, the data of others, or other networks connected to the district’s system, including off school property if the conduct causes a substantial disruption to the educational environment.
- Use the internet or other electronic communications to threaten or harass district students, employees, board members, or volunteers, including off school property if the conduct causes a substantial disruption to the educational environment or infringes on the rights of another student at school.
- Send, post, deliver, or possess electronic messages that are abusive, obscene, sexually oriented, threatening, harassing, damaging to another’s reputation, or illegal, including cyberbullying and “sexting,” either on or off school property, if the conduct causes a substantial disruption to the educational environment or infringes on the rights of another student at school.
- Use the internet or other electronic communication to engage in or encourage illegal behavior or threaten school safety, including off school property if the conduct causes a substantial disruption to the educational environment or infringes on the rights of another student at school.
- Utilize artificial intelligence in a way that would constitute academic dishonesty or as a means of engaging in any other prohibited conduct.

Safety Transgressions

Students shall not:

- Possess published or electronic material that is designed to promote or encourage illegal behavior or that could threaten school safety.

Northwest ISD Student Code of Conduct

- Engage in verbal (oral or written) exchanges that threaten the safety of another student, a school employee, or school property.
- Make false accusations or perpetrate hoaxes regarding school safety.
- Engage in any conduct that school officials might reasonably believe will substantially disrupt the school program or incite violence.
- Throw objects that can cause bodily injury or property damage.
- Discharge a fire extinguisher without valid cause.

Miscellaneous Offenses

Students shall not:

- Violate dress and grooming standards as communicated in the Student Handbook.
- Engage in academic dishonesty, which includes cheating or copying the work of another student, unauthorized use of artificial intelligence, plagiarism, and unauthorized communication between students during an examination.
- Gamble.
- Falsify records, passes, or other school-related documents.
- Engage in actions or demonstrations that substantially disrupt or materially interfere with school activities.
- Repeatedly violate other communicated campus or classroom standards of conduct.

The district may impose campus or classroom rules in addition to those found in the Code of Conduct. These rules may be posted in classrooms or given to the student and may or may not constitute violations of the Code of Conduct.

Northwest ISD Student Code of Conduct

Discipline Management Techniques

Discipline shall be designed to improve conduct and encourage students to be responsible members of the school community. Disciplinary action shall draw on the professional judgment of teachers and administrators and on a range of discipline management techniques, including restorative practices. Discipline shall be based on the seriousness of the offense, the student's age and grade level, the frequency of misbehavior, the student's attitude, the effect of the misconduct on the school environment, and statutory requirements.

First-Time Offense of Possession or Use of Nicotine Delivery Product or E-Cigarette

An appropriate administrator may place a student in a disciplinary alternative education program for the first-time offense of possession or use of a nicotine delivery product or e-cigarette, as defined by [Section 161.081, Health and Safety Code](#).

If a student who possesses or uses an e-cigarette is not placed in a disciplinary alternative education program for the first-time offense under [Education Code 37.008](#), the student shall be placed in in-school suspension for a period of at least 10 school days.

Students with Disabilities

The discipline of students with disabilities is subject to applicable state and federal law in addition to the Code of Conduct. In the event of any conflict, the district shall comply with federal law. For more information regarding discipline of students with disabilities, see policy FOF(LEGAL).

In accordance with the [Education Code](#), a student who receives special education services may not be disciplined in a manner that results in a change to the student's educational placement for conduct meeting the definition of bullying, cyberbullying, harassment, or making hit lists [see Glossary] until an Admission, Review, and Dismissal (ARD) committee meeting has been held to review the conduct.

In deciding whether to order suspension, DAEP placement, or expulsion, regardless of whether the action is mandatory or discretionary, the district shall take into consideration a disability that substantially impairs the student's capacity to appreciate the wrongfulness of the student's conduct.

Techniques

The following discipline management techniques may be used alone, in combination, or as part of progressive interventions for behavior prohibited by the Code of Conduct or by campus or classroom rules:

- Verbal correction, oral or written.
- Cooling-off time or a brief "time-out" period, in accordance with law.
- Seating changes within the classroom or vehicles owned or operated by the district.

Northwest ISD Student Code of Conduct

- Temporary confiscation of items that disrupt the educational process.
- Rewards or demerits.
- Behavioral contracts.
- Counseling by teachers, school counselors, or administrative personnel.
- Parent-teacher conferences.
- Behavior coaching.
- Anger management classes.
- Mediation (victim-offender).
- Classroom circles.
- Family group conferencing.
- Grade reductions for cheating, plagiarism, and as otherwise permitted by policy.
- Detention, including outside regular school hours.
- Sending the student to the office, another assigned area, or to in-school suspension (ISS).
- Assignment of school duties, such as cleaning or picking up litter.
- Withdrawal of privileges, such as participation in extracurricular activities, eligibility for seeking and holding honorary offices, or membership in school-sponsored clubs and organizations.
- Penalties identified in student organizations' extracurricular standards of behavior.
- Restriction or revocation of district transportation privileges.
- In-school suspension, as specified in In-School Suspension.
- Out-of-school suspension, as specified in Out-of-School Suspension.
- Placement in a DAEP, as specified in Disciplinary Alternative Education Program (DAEP) Placement.
- Expulsion and/or placement in an alternative educational setting, as specified in Placement and/or Expulsion for Certain Offenses.
- Expulsion, as specified in Expulsion.
- Referral to an outside agency or legal authority for criminal prosecution in addition to disciplinary measures imposed by the district.
- Other strategies and consequences as determined by school officials.

Northwest ISD Student Code of Conduct

Prohibited Aversive Techniques

Aversive techniques are prohibited for use with students and are defined as techniques or interventions intended to reduce the reoccurrence of a behavior by intentionally inflicting significant physical or emotional discomfort or pain. Aversive techniques include:

- Using techniques designed or likely to cause physical pain by electric shock or any procedure involving pressure points or joint locks.
- Directed release of noxious, toxic, or unpleasant spray, mist, or substance near a student's face.
- Denying adequate sleep, air, food, water, shelter, bedding, physical comfort, supervision, or access to a restroom facility.
- Ridiculing or demeaning a student in a manner that adversely affects or endangers the learning or mental health of the student or constitutes verbal abuse.
- Employing a device, material, or object that immobilizes all four of a student's extremities, including prone or supine floor restraint.
- Impairing the student's breathing, including applying pressure to the student's torso or neck or placing something in, on, or over the student's mouth or nose or covering the student's face.
- Restricting the student's circulation.
- Securing the student to a stationary object while the student is standing or sitting.
- Inhibiting, reducing, or hindering the student's ability to communicate.
- Using chemical restraints.
- Using time-out in a manner that prevents the student from being able to be involved in and progress appropriately in the required curriculum or any applicable individualized education program (IEP) goals, including isolating the student using physical barriers.
- Depriving the student of one or more of the student's senses, unless the technique does not cause the student discomfort or complies with the student's IEP or behavior intervention plan (BIP).

Notification

The CBC shall promptly notify a student's parent by phone or in person of any violation that may result in in-school or out-of-school suspension, placement in a DAEP, placement in a JJAEP, or expulsion. The CBC shall also notify a student's parent if the student is taken into custody by a law enforcement officer under the disciplinary provisions of [Education Code 37.0012\(d\)](#).

A good-faith effort shall be made to provide written notice of the disciplinary action to the student, on the day the action was taken, for delivery to the student's parent. If the parent

Northwest ISD Student Code of Conduct

has not been reached by telephone or in person, the CBC shall send written notification by U.S. Mail. If the CBC is not able to provide notice to the parent, the principal or designee shall provide the notice.

Before the principal or appropriate administrator assigns a student under age 18 to detention outside regular school hours, notice shall be given to the student's parent to inform him or her of the reason for the detention and permit arrangements for necessary transportation.

Parental Involvement

The principal, campus behavior coordinator, or other appropriate administrator shall notify the parent of or person standing in parental relation to a student who has been placed in a disciplinary alternative education program (DAEP) or expelled of the parent's or person's right to request a behavioral agreement that specifies the responsibilities of the parent or person and student.

The behavioral agreement must specify the responsibilities of the student and parent/guardian. If followed, the agreement may result in a reduced disciplinary placement period, as outlined in the agreement. Reduction in the disciplinary placement period does not entitle the student to different disciplinary placement. The decision to reduce, revoke, or amend the disciplinary placement period is at the sole discretion of the school administration. Compliance with the agreement is required for the reduction to remain valid.

Appeals

Questions from parents regarding disciplinary measures should be addressed to the teacher, campus administration, or CBC, as appropriate. Appeals or complaints regarding the use of specific discipline management techniques should be addressed in accordance with policy FNG(LOCAL). A copy of this policy may be obtained from the central administration office or online at <https://www.nisdtx.org/>.

The district shall not delay a disciplinary consequence while a student or parent pursues a grievance. In the instance of a student who is accused of conduct that meets the definition of sexual harassment as defined by Title IX, the district will comply with applicable federal law, including the Title IX formal complaint process. [See policies FFH(LEGAL) and(LOCAL)]

Northwest ISD Student Code of Conduct

Removal from the School Bus

A bus driver may refer a student to the principal's office or the CBC's office to maintain effective discipline on the bus. The principal or CBC must employ additional discipline management techniques, as appropriate, which can include restricting or revoking a student's bus riding privileges.

To transport students safely, the vehicle operator must focus on driving and not be distracted by student misbehavior. Therefore, when appropriate disciplinary management techniques fail to improve student behavior or when specific misconduct warrants immediate removal, the principal or the CBC may restrict or revoke a student's transportation privileges, in accordance with law.

Northwest ISD Student Code of Conduct

Removal from the Regular Educational Setting

In addition to other discipline management techniques, misconduct may result in removal from the regular educational setting in the form of a routine referral or a formal removal.

Routine Referral

A routine referral occurs when a teacher sends a student to the CBC's office as a discipline management technique. The CBC shall employ alternative discipline management techniques, including progressive interventions. A teacher or administrator may remove a student from class for behavior that violates this Code of Conduct to maintain effective discipline in the classroom.

Formal Teacher Removal

A teacher may initiate a formal removal from class if:

1. A student's behavior repeatedly interferes with the teacher's ability to teach the class or with other students' ability to learn.
2. A student demonstrates behavior that is unruly, disruptive, or abusive toward the teacher, another adult, or another student in the classroom.
3. A student engages in conduct that constitutes bullying, as defined by [Education Code 37.0832.0](#).

A teacher, CBC, or other appropriate administrator must notify a parent or person standing in parental relation to the student of the formal removal. A teacher may remove a student from class based on a single incident of behavior.

Within three school days of the formal removal, the CBC or appropriate administrator shall schedule a conference with the student's parent, the student, the teacher who removed the student from class, and any other appropriate administrator.

At the conference, the CBC or appropriate administrator shall inform the student of the alleged misconduct and the proposed consequences. The student shall have an opportunity to respond to the allegations.

When a student is removed from the regular classroom by a teacher and a conference is pending, the CBC or other administrator may place the student in:

- Another appropriate classroom.
- ISS.
- Out-of-school suspension.
- DAEP.

A teacher or administrator must remove a student from class if the student engages in behavior that under the [Education Code](#) requires or permits the student to be placed in a

Northwest ISD Student Code of Conduct

DAEP or expelled. When removing for those reasons, the procedures in the subsequent sections on DAEP or expulsion shall be followed.

Returning a Student to the Classroom

A student who has been formally removed from class by a teacher for conduct against the teacher containing the elements of assault, aggravated assault, sexual assault, or aggravated sexual assault may not be returned to the teacher's class without the teacher's written consent.

A student who has been formally removed by a teacher for any other conduct may not be returned to the teacher's class without the teacher's written consent unless the placement review committee determines that the teacher's class is the best or only alternative, and not later than the third class day after the day the student was removed from class, a conference in which the teacher was provided an opportunity to participate has been held. The student may not be returned to the teacher's class unless the teacher provides written consent for the student's return or a return to class plan has been prepared for that student.

Appeals of Formal Teacher Removals

A student may appeal the teacher's removal of the student from class to the school's placement review committee or the campus's threat assessment and safe and supportive school team, in accordance with a district policy providing for such an appeal to be made to this team.

Northwest ISD Student Code of Conduct

In-School Suspension

An in-school suspension is not subject to any time limit.

A school's principal or other appropriate administrator shall review the in-school suspension of a student at least once every 10 school days after the date of the suspension begins to evaluate the educational progress of the student and to determine if continued in-school suspension is appropriate.

During in-school suspension, a student shall receive appropriate behavioral support services and comparable educational services as the student would receive in the classroom. If the student receives special education services, the student must continue to receive special education and related services specified in the student's individualized education program (IEP) and continue to have an opportunity to progress in the general curriculum.

[See First-Time Offense of Possession or Use of Nicotine Delivery Product or E-Cigarette for limitations to the general rule.]

Process

Before being suspended, a student shall have an informal conference with the CBC or appropriate administrator, who shall inform the student of the alleged misconduct and give the student an opportunity to respond to the allegation before the administrator makes a decision.

The CBC shall determine the number of days of a student's suspension.

In deciding whether to order in-school suspension, the CBC shall take into consideration:

1. Self-defense [see Glossary];
2. Intent or lack of intent at the time the student engaged in the conduct;
3. The student's disciplinary history;
4. A disability that substantially impairs the student's capacity to appreciate the wrongfulness of the student's conduct;
5. A student's status in the conservatorship of the Department of Family and Protective Services (foster care); or
6. A student's status as homeless.

Northwest ISD Student Code of Conduct

Out-of-School Suspension

Misconduct

Students may be suspended for behavior listed in the Code of Conduct as a general conduct violation, DAEP offense, or expellable offense.

The district shall not use out-of-school suspension for students below grade 3 unless the conduct meets the requirements established in law.

A student below grade 3 or a student who is homeless shall not be placed in out-of-school suspension unless, while on school property or while attending a school-sponsored or school-related activity on or off school property, the student engages in:

- Conduct that contains the elements of a weapons offense, as provided in [Penal Code sections 46.02 or 46.05](#);
- Conduct that threatens the immediate health and safety of other students in the classroom;
- Documented conduct that results in repeated or significant disruption to the classroom; or
- 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 defined by federal or state law.

The district shall use a positive behavior program as a disciplinary alternative for students below grade 3 who commit general conduct violations instead of suspension or placement in a DAEP. The program shall meet the requirements of law.

Process

State law allows a student to be assigned to out-of-school suspension for no more than three school days per behavior violation, with no limit on the number of times a student may be suspended in a semester or school year.

Before being suspended a student shall have an informal conference with the CBC or appropriate administrator, who shall inform the student of the alleged misconduct and give the student an opportunity to respond to the allegation before the administrator makes a decision.

The CBC shall determine the number of days of a student's suspension, not to exceed three school days.

In deciding whether to order out-of-school suspension, the CBC shall take into consideration:

1. Self-defense [see Glossary];
2. Intent or lack of intent at the time the student engaged in the conduct;

Northwest ISD Student Code of Conduct

3. The student's disciplinary history;
4. A disability that substantially impairs the student's capacity to appreciate the wrongfulness of the student's conduct;
5. A student's status in the conservatorship of the Department of Family and Protective Services (foster care); or
6. A student's status as homeless.

A student who is assigned an Out-of-School Suspension (OSS) is prohibited from being on any school campus or property and from attending or participating in school-sponsored or school-related activities on or off school property, including practice, until the day following the last day of the Out of School Suspension (OSS) assignment. Additional penalties may be imposed by sponsors of extracurricular groups/organizations in accordance with established guidelines.

A student who is assigned an Out-of-School Suspension (OSS) is prohibited from being on any school campus or property and from attending or participating in school-sponsored or school-related activities on or off school property, including practice, until the day following the last day of the Out of School Suspension (OSS) assignment.

Alternative Assignment

A parent or person standing in parental relation to the student may submit a written request to the principal or other appropriate administrator to reassign a student placed in out-of-school suspension. The parent or person standing in parental relation to the student must provide sufficient information and documentation that they are unable to provide suitable supervision for the student during school hours during the period of the suspension. It is the sole discretion of the principal or other appropriate administrator to reassign the student placed in out-of-school suspension in extenuating circumstances.

Coursework During Suspension

The district shall ensure a student receives access to coursework for foundation curriculum courses while the student is placed in in-school or out-of-school suspension, including at least one method of receiving this coursework that doesn't require the use of the internet.

A student removed from the regular classroom to ISS or another setting, other than a DAEP, will have an opportunity before the beginning of the next school year to complete each course the student was enrolled in at the time of removal. The district may provide the opportunity by any method available, including a correspondence course or summer school. The district will not charge the student for any appropriate method of completion provided by the district.

Northwest ISD Student Code of Conduct

Disciplinary Alternative Education Program (DAEP) Placement

The DAEP shall be provided in a setting other than the student's regular classroom. An elementary school student may not be placed in a DAEP with a student who is not an elementary school student.

For purposes of DAEP, elementary classification shall be kindergarten-grade 5 (only ages 6 years and up) and secondary classification shall be grades 6-12.

Summer programs provided by the district shall serve students assigned to a DAEP in conjunction with other students.

A student who is expelled for an offense that otherwise would have resulted in a DAEP placement does not have to be placed in a DAEP in addition to the expulsion.

In deciding whether to place a student in a DAEP, regardless of whether the action is mandatory or discretionary, the CBC shall take into consideration:

1. Self-defense [see Glossary];
2. Intent or lack of intent at the time the student engaged in the conduct;
3. The student's disciplinary history;
4. A disability that substantially impairs the student's capacity to appreciate the wrongfulness of the student's conduct;
5. A student's status in the conservatorship of the Department of Family and Protective Services (foster care); or
6. A student's status as homeless.

Discretionary Placement: Misconduct That May Result in DAEP Placement

A student may be placed in a DAEP for behaviors prohibited in the General Conduct Violations section of this Code of Conduct.

Misconduct Identified in State Law

In accordance with state law, a student **may** be placed in a DAEP for any of the following offenses:

- Engaging in bullying that encourages a student to die by suicide.
- Inciting violence against a student through group bullying.
- Releasing or threatening to release intimate visual material of a minor or of a student who is 18 years of age or older without the student's consent.
- Involvement in a public school fraternity, sorority, or secret society, or gang 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, or gang. [see Glossary]

Northwest ISD Student Code of Conduct

- Involvement in criminal street gang activity. [see Glossary]
- Any criminal mischief, including a felony.
- Assault (no bodily injury) with threat of imminent bodily injury.
- Assault by offensive or provocative physical contact.
- Engages in conduct that contains the elements of the offense of disruptive activities under [Education Code 37.123](#).
- Engages in conduct that contains the elements of the offense of disruption of classes under [Education Code 37.124](#).
- Possesses or uses an e-cigarette, as defined by [Section 161.081, Health and Safety Code](#), except that if a student who possesses or uses an e-cigarette is not placed in a disciplinary alternative education program for the first-time offense under [Education Code 37.008](#), the student shall be placed in in-school suspension for a period of at least 10 school days. See First-Time Offense of Possession or Use of Nicotine Delivery Product or E-Cigarette for additional information.

In accordance with state law, a student **may** be placed in a DAEP if the superintendent or the superintendent's designee has reasonable belief [see Glossary] that the student engaged in conduct punishable as a felony that occurs off school property and not at a school-sponsored or school-related event, if the student's presence in the regular classroom threatens the safety of other students or teachers or will be detrimental to the educational process. Aggravated robbery or felonies listed as offenses in Title 5 [see Glossary] of the Penal Code are punishable as mandatory expulsions.

The CBC **may** place a student in a DAEP for off-campus conduct for which DAEP placement is required by state law if the administrator does not have knowledge of the conduct before the first anniversary of the date the conduct occurred.

Mandatory Placement: Misconduct That Requires DAEP Placement

A student **must** be placed in a DAEP if the student:

- Engages in conduct relating to a false alarm or report (including a bomb threat) or a terroristic threat involving a public school. [see Glossary]
 - Commits the following offenses on school property, within 300 feet of school property as measured from any point on the school's real property boundary line, or while attending a school-sponsored or school-related activity on or off school property:
 - Engages in conduct punishable as a felony.
 - Commits an assault [see Glossary] under [Penal Code 22.01\(a\)\(1\)](#).
 - Except as provided by [Education Code 37.007\(a\)\(3\)](#), sells, gives, or delivers to another person or possesses, uses, or is under the influence of a

Northwest ISD Student Code of Conduct

controlled substance or dangerous drug in an amount not constituting a felony offense. [School-related felony drug offenses are addressed in Expulsion.] [See Glossary for "under the influence," "controlled substance," and "dangerous drug."]

- Sells, gives, or delivers to another person or possesses, uses, or is under the influence of marijuana or THC. 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.
- 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 alcohol.
- Behaves in a manner that contains the elements of an offense relating to abusable volatile chemicals.
- Sells, gives, or delivers to another person an e-cigarette, as defined by [Section 161.081, Health and Safety Code](#).
- Behaves in a manner that contains the elements of the offense of public lewdness or indecent exposure. [see Glossary]
- Engages in conduct that contains the elements of an offense of harassment against an employee under [Penal Code sections 42.07\(a\)\(1\), \(2\), \(3\), or \(7\)](#).
- Engages in expellable conduct and is six to nine years of age.
- Commits a federal firearms violation and is younger than six years of age.
- Engages in conduct that contains the elements of the offense of retaliation under [Penal Code 36.06](#) against any school employee or volunteer on or off school property.
- Engages in conduct that contains the elements of harassment under [Penal Code 42.07](#) against any school employee or volunteer on or off of school property.

The student receives deferred prosecution [see Glossary], or a court or jury finds that the student has engaged in delinquent conduct [see Glossary], or the superintendent or designee has a reasonable belief [see Glossary] under [Section 53.03, Family Code](#), for conduct defined as any of the following offenses under the Penal Code:

1. A felony offense under [Title 5](#);
2. The offense of deadly conduct under [Section 22.05](#);
3. The felony offense of aggravated robbery under [Section 29.03](#);
4. The offense of disorderly conduct involving a firearm under [Section 42.01\(a\)\(7\) or \(8\)](#); or
5. The offense of unlawfully carrying weapons under [Section 46.02](#), except for an offense punishable as a Class C misdemeanor under that section.

Northwest ISD Student Code of Conduct

Sexual Assault and Campus Assignments

A student shall be transferred to another campus if:

- The student has been convicted of continuous sexual abuse of a young child or disabled individual or convicted of or placed on deferred adjudication for sexual assault or aggravated sexual assault against another student on the same campus; and
- The victim's parent or another person with the authority to act on behalf of the victim requests that the board transfer the offending student to another campus.

If there is no other campus in the district serving the grade level of the offending student, the offending student shall be transferred to a DAEP.

Process

Removals to a DAEP shall be made by the CBC.

Conference

When a student is removed from class for a DAEP offense, the CBC or appropriate administrator shall schedule a conference within three school days with the student's parent, the student, and, in the case of a teacher removal, the teacher.

At the conference, the CBC or appropriate administrator shall provide the student:

- Information, orally or in writing, of the reasons for the removal;
- An explanation of the basis for the removal; and
- An opportunity to respond to the reasons for the removal.

Students assigned to the off-campus DAEP will be suspended for three (3) school days prior to reporting to the DAEP to allow time for the conference and for transportation to be arranged. A student placed in a DAEP shall not be provided transportation unless he or she is a student who is already receiving transportation in accordance with Special Education or McKinney-Vento needs. Parents, who wish to do so, may transport their student to a DAEP on the first day of removal. Texas Education Code 37.009

Following valid attempts to require attendance, the district may hold the conference and make a placement decision regardless of whether the student or the student's parents attend the conference.

Consideration of Mitigating Factors

In deciding whether to place a student in a DAEP, regardless of whether the action is mandatory or discretionary, the CBC shall take into consideration:

1. Self-defense [see Glossary];
2. Intent or lack of intent at the time the student engaged in the conduct;

Northwest ISD Student Code of Conduct

3. The student's disciplinary history;
4. A disability that substantially impairs the student's capacity to appreciate the wrongfulness of the student's conduct;
5. A student's status in the conservatorship of the Department of Family and Protective Services (foster care); or
6. A student's status as homeless.

Placement Order

After the conference, if the student is placed in a DAEP, the CBC shall write a placement order. A copy of the DAEP placement order and information for the parent or person standing in parental relation to the student regarding the process for requesting a full individual and initial evaluation of the student for purposes of special education services shall be sent to the student and the student's parent.

Not later than the second business day after the conference, the board's designee shall deliver to the juvenile court a copy of the placement order and all information required by [Section 52.04 of the Family Code](#).

If the student is placed in a DAEP and the length of placement is inconsistent with the guidelines included in this Code of Conduct, the placement order shall give notice of the inconsistency.

DAEP at Capacity

If a DAEP is at capacity at the time the CBC is deciding placement for conduct related to marijuana, THC, an e-cigarette, alcohol, or an abusable volatile chemical, the student shall be placed in ISS then transferred to a DAEP for the remainder of the period if space becomes available before the expiration of the period of the placement.

If a DAEP is at capacity at the time the CBC is deciding placement for a student who engaged in violent conduct, a student placed in a DAEP for conduct related to marijuana, THC, an e-cigarette, alcohol, or an abusable volatile chemical may be placed in ISS to make a position in the DAEP available for the student who engaged in violent conduct. If a position becomes available in a DAEP before the expiration of the period of the placement for the student removed, the student shall be returned to a DAEP for the remainder of the period.

Coursework Notice

The parent or guardian of a student placed in DAEP shall be given written notice of the student's opportunity to complete, at no cost to the student, a foundation curriculum course in which the student was enrolled at the time of removal, and which is required for graduation. The notice shall include information regarding all methods available for completing the coursework.

Northwest ISD Student Code of Conduct

Academically, the mission of DAEP shall be to enable students to perform at grade level. However, Northwest Independent School District is not required to provide a course necessary to fulfill a student's high school graduation requirement other than the core areas while placed in the DAEP setting. Students may be withdrawn from a course for the remainder of the semester if the course is not offered at the DAEP. Advanced courses, such as but not limited to, Pre-AP, AP, dual credit, and CTE courses, are not offered at the DAEP. The district is required to offer a student placed in DAEP an opportunity to complete coursework necessary to stay on track for graduation before the beginning of the next school year. The district will not charge the student for any method of completion provided by the district. *Board Policy FOCA (LEGAL)*.

Length of Placement

The CBC shall determine the duration of a student's placement in a DAEP.

The duration of a student's placement shall be determined case by case based on the seriousness of the offense, the student's age and grade level, the frequency of misconduct, the student's attitude, and statutory requirements.

The maximum period of DAEP placement shall be one calendar year, except as provided below.

Unless otherwise specified in the placement order, days absent from a DAEP shall not count toward fulfilling the total number of days required in a student's DAEP placement order.

The district shall administer the required pre- and post-assessments for students assigned to DAEP for a period of 90 days or longer in accordance with established district administrative procedures for administering other diagnostic or benchmark assessments.

Exceeds One Year

Placement in a DAEP may exceed one year when a review by the district determines that the student is a threat to the safety of other students or to district employees.

The statutory limitations on the length of a DAEP placement do not apply to a placement resulting from the board's decision to place a student who engaged in the sexual assault of another student so that the students are not assigned to the same campus.

Exceeds School Year

Students who are in a DAEP placement at the end of one school year may be required to continue that placement at the start of the next school year to complete the assigned term of placement.

For placement in a DAEP to extend beyond the end of the school year, the CBC or the board's designee must determine that:

1. The student's presence in the regular classroom or campus presents a danger of physical harm to the student or others; or

Northwest ISD Student Code of Conduct

2. The student has engaged in serious or persistent misbehavior [see Glossary] that violates the district's Code of Conduct.

Exceeds 60 Days

For placement in a DAEP to extend beyond 60 days or the end of the next grading period, whichever is sooner, a student's parent shall be given notice and the opportunity to participate in a proceeding before the board or the board's designee.

Appeals (only for DAEP placements *exceeding* 60 days)

Questions from parents regarding disciplinary measures should be addressed to the campus administration.

Student or parent appeals regarding a student's placement in a DAEP should be addressed in accordance with policy FNG(LOCAL). A copy of this policy may be obtained from the central administration office or online at <https://pol.tasb.org/Home/Index/391>.

Level 1 with the CBC or campus principal:

In order to appeal the campus-level hearing decision, a written request for an appeal must be submitted to the Executive Director of Secondary Education within three (3) days of the notice of the campus-level hearing officer's decision or the right to appeal is waived. The student will be placed in the DAEP during the appeal process.

The Executive Director of Secondary Education will contact the parent within five (5) school days of receipt of the written request for appeal to schedule an informal district-level committee to hear the appeal. The proceedings will be recorded to provide an accurate record of the proceedings, and the parents will be notified in writing of the decision as promptly as possible. The decision of the district-level committee is final. However, parents/students may still exercise their right to avail themselves of the complaint process outlined in Board Policy FNG (LOCAL). A disciplinary consequence cannot be overturned as a result of the complaint process. (See "Complaints and Concerns.")

The district shall not delay disciplinary consequences pending the outcome of an appeal. The decision to place a student in a DAEP cannot be appealed beyond the board.

There is not a discipline appeal process for placements that do not extend beyond 60 days or the end of the next grading period, whichever is earlier. However, parental questions, concerns, or complaints regarding issues that were ancillary to the consequence should be addressed informally with the teacher, assistant principal, or campus principal, as appropriate. For example, a concern or complaint might allege that proper procedures were not followed. If these conferences are not satisfactory, parents may follow the formal complaint process in accordance with Board Policy FNG (LOCAL). This policy may be reviewed on the campus or on the district's website. The FNG process may not be used to overturn the disciplinary consequence.

Northwest ISD Student Code of Conduct

The district shall not delay disciplinary consequences pending the outcome of an appeal. The decision to place a student in a DAEP cannot be appealed beyond the board.

*****DAEP placements that are LESS than 60 days are NOT eligible for Appeal. However, parents/students may still exercise their right to avail themselves of the complaint process outlined in Board Policy FNG (LOCAL).***

Restrictions During Placement

State law prohibits a student placed in a DAEP for reasons specified in state law from attending or participating in school-sponsored or school-related extracurricular activities.

A student placed in a DAEP shall not be provided transportation unless he or she is a student who is entitled to transportation in accordance with the student's IEP, Section 504 plan, or McKinney-Vento needs.

For seniors who are eligible to graduate and are assigned to a DAEP at the time of graduation, the placement in the program shall continue through graduation, and the student shall not be allowed to participate in the graduation ceremony and related graduation activities.

Placement Review

A student placed in a DAEP shall be provided with a review of his or her status, including academic status, by the CBC or the board's designee at intervals not to exceed 120 days. In the case of a high school student, the student's progress toward graduation and the student's graduation plan shall also be reviewed. At the review, the student or the student's parent shall be given the opportunity to present arguments for the student's return to the regular classroom or campus. The student may not be returned to the classroom of a teacher who removed the student without that teacher's consent.

Additional Misconduct

If during the term of placement in a DAEP the student engages in additional misconduct for which placement in a DAEP or expulsion is required or permitted, additional proceedings may be conducted, and the CBC may enter an additional disciplinary order as a result of those proceedings.

Notice of Criminal Proceedings

When a student is placed in a DAEP for certain offenses, the office of the prosecuting attorney shall notify the district if:

1. Prosecution of a student's case was refused for lack of prosecutorial merit or insufficient evidence, and no formal proceedings, deferred adjudication [see Glossary], or deferred prosecution will be initiated; or

Northwest ISD Student Code of Conduct

2. The court or jury found a student not guilty or made a finding that the student did not engage in delinquent conduct or conduct indicating a need for supervision, and the case was dismissed with prejudice.

If a student was placed in a DAEP for such conduct, on receiving the notice from the prosecutor, the superintendent or designee shall review the student's placement and schedule a review with the student's parent not later than the third day after the superintendent or designee receives notice from the prosecutor. The student may not be returned to the regular classroom pending the review.

After reviewing the notice and receiving information from the student's parent, the superintendent or designee may continue the student's placement if there is reason to believe that the presence of the student in the regular classroom threatens the safety of other students or teachers.

The student or the student's parent may appeal the superintendent's decision to the board. The student may not be returned to the regular classroom pending the appeal. In the case of an appeal, the board shall, at the next scheduled meeting, review the notice from the prosecutor and receive information from the student, the student's parent, and the superintendent or designee, and confirm or reverse the decision of the superintendent or designee. The board shall make a record of the proceedings.

If the board confirms the decision of the superintendent or designee, the student and the student's parent may appeal to the Commissioner of Education. The student may not be returned to the regular classroom pending the appeal.

Withdrawal During Process

When a student violates the district's Code of Conduct in a way that requires or permits the student to be placed in a DAEP and the student withdraws from the district before a placement order is completed, the CBC may complete the proceedings and issue a placement order. If the student then re-enrolls in the district during the same or a subsequent school year, the district may enforce the order at that time, less any period of the placement that has been served by the student during enrollment in another district. If the CBC or the board fails to issue a placement order after the student withdraws, the next district in which the student enrolls may complete the proceedings and issue a placement order.

Newly Enrolled Students

The district shall continue the DAEP placement of a student who enrolls in the district and was assigned to a DAEP in an open-enrollment charter school or another district including a district in another state.

When a student enrolls in the district with a DAEP placement from a district in another state, the district has the right to place the student in DAEP to the same extent as any other newly enrolled student if the behavior committed is a reason for DAEP placement in the receiving district.

Northwest ISD Student Code of Conduct

State law requires the district to reduce a placement imposed by a district in another state that exceeds one year so that the total placement does not exceed one year. After a review, however, the placement may be extended beyond a year if the district determines that the student is a threat to the safety of other students or employees, or if the extended placement is in the best interest of the student.

Emergency Placement Procedure

When an emergency placement is necessary because the student's behavior is so unruly, disruptive, or abusive that it seriously interferes with classroom or school operations, the student shall be given oral notice of the reason for the action. Not later than the tenth day after the date of the placement, the student shall be given the appropriate conference required for assignment to a DAEP.

Transition Services

In accordance with law and district procedures, campus staff shall provide transition services to a student returning to the regular classroom from an alternative education program, including a DAEP. [See policy FOCA(LEGAL) for more information.]

Placement and/or Expulsion for Certain Offenses

This section includes two categories of offenses for which the [Education Code](#) provides unique procedures and specific consequences.

Registered Sex Offenders

Upon receiving notification in accordance with state law that a student is currently required to register as a sex offender, the district must remove the student from the regular classroom and determine appropriate placement unless the court orders JJAEP placement.

If the student is under any form of court supervision, including probation, community supervision, or parole, the student shall be placed in either DAEP or JJAEP for at least one semester.

If the student is not under any form of court supervision, the student may be placed in DAEP or JJAEP for one semester or placed in a regular classroom. The student may not be placed in the regular classroom if the board or its designee determines that the student's presence:

1. Threatens the safety of other students or teachers;
2. Will be detrimental to the educational process; or
3. Is not in the best interests of the district's students

Review Committee

At the end of the first semester of a student's placement in an alternative educational setting and before the beginning of each school year for which the student remains in an

Northwest ISD Student Code of Conduct

alternative placement, the district shall convene a committee, in accordance with state law, to review the student's placement. The committee shall recommend whether the student should return to the regular classroom or remain in the placement. Absent a special finding, the board or its designee must follow the committee's recommendation.

The placement review of a student with a disability who receives special education services must be made by the ARD committee.

Newly Enrolled Students

If a student enrolls in the district during a mandatory placement as a registered sex offender, the district may count any time already spent by the student in a placement or may require an additional semester in an alternative placement without conducting a review of the placement.

Appeal

A student or the student's parent may appeal the placement by requesting a conference between the board or its designee, the student, and the student's parent. The conference is limited to the factual question of whether the student is required to register as a sex offender. Any decision of the board or its designee under this section is final and may not be appealed.

Northwest ISD Student Code of Conduct

Expulsion

In deciding whether to order expulsion, regardless of whether the action is mandatory or discretionary, the CBC shall take into consideration:

1. Self-defense [see Glossary];
2. Intent or lack of intent at the time the student engaged in the conduct;
3. The student's disciplinary history;
4. A disability that substantially impairs the student's capacity to appreciate the wrongfulness of the student's conduct;
5. A student's status in the conservatorship of the Department of Family and Protective Services (foster care); or
6. A student's status as homeless.

Discretionary Expulsion: Misconduct That May Result in Expulsion

Some of the following types of misconduct may result in mandatory placement in a DAEP, whether or not a student is expelled. [see Disciplinary Alternative Education Program (DAEP) Placement]

Any Location

A student **may** be expelled for:

- Engaging in bullying that encourages a student to die by suicide.
- Inciting violence against a student through group bullying.
- Releasing or threatening to release intimate visual material of a minor or of a student who is 18 years of age or older without the student's consent.
- Engaging in conduct that contains the elements of assault under Section 22.01(a)(1) against an employee or a volunteer.
- Criminal mischief, if punishable as a felony.
- Breach of computer security. [see Glossary]
- Engaging in conduct relating to a false alarm or report (including a bomb threat) or a terroristic threat involving a public school.

At School, Within 300 Feet, or at a School Event

A student **may** be expelled for committing any of the following offenses on or within 300 feet of school property, as measured from any point on the school's real property boundary line, or while attending a school-sponsored or school-related activity on or off school property:

Northwest ISD Student Code of Conduct

- Possession of a firearm, as defined by federal law
- Selling, giving, or delivering to another person, or possessing, using, or being under the influence of any amount of marijuana, a controlled substance, or a dangerous drug, unless the conduct is punishable as a felony. 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. [See Glossary for “under the influence.”]
- Selling, giving, or delivering to another person, or possessing, using, or being under the influence of alcohol; or committing a serious act or offense while under the influence of alcohol.
- Engaging in conduct that contains the elements of an offense relating to abusable volatile chemicals.
- Engaging in deadly conduct. [see Glossary]

Within 300 Feet of School

A student may be expelled for possession of a firearm, as defined by federal law, while within 300 feet of school property, as measured from any point on the school’s real property boundary line.

Property of Another District

A student may be expelled for committing any offense that is a state-mandated expellable offense if the offense is committed on the property of another district in Texas or while the student is attending a school-sponsored or school-related activity of a school in another district in Texas.

While in a DAEP

A student may be expelled for engaging in documented serious misbehavior that violates the district’s Code of Conduct, despite documented behavioral interventions while placed in a DAEP. For purposes of discretionary expulsion from a DAEP, serious misbehavior means:

1. Deliberate violent behavior that poses a direct threat to the health or safety of others;
2. Extortion, meaning the gaining of money or other property by force or threat;
3. Conduct that constitutes coercion, as defined by [Penal Code 1.07](#); or
4. Conduct that constitutes the offense of:
 - a. Public lewdness under [Penal Code 21.07](#);
 - b. Indecent exposure under [Penal Code 21.08](#);
 - c. Criminal mischief under [Penal Code 28.03](#);

Northwest ISD Student Code of Conduct

- d. Hazing under [Education Code 37.152](#); or
- e. Harassment under [Penal Code 42.07\(a\)\(1\)](#) of a student or district employee.

Mandatory Expulsion: Misconduct That Requires Expulsion

A student **must** be expelled under federal or state law for any of the following offenses that occur on or off school property.

Under Federal Law

Bringing to school or possessing at school, including any setting that is under the district's control or supervision for the purpose of a school activity, a firearm, as defined by federal law. [see Glossary]

Note: Mandatory expulsion under the [federal Gun Free Schools Act](#) does not apply to a firearm that is lawfully stored inside a locked vehicle or to firearms used in activities approved and authorized by the district when the district has adopted appropriate safeguards to ensure student safety.

Under the Penal Code

- Unlawfully carrying on or about the student's person the following, in the manner prohibited by [Penal Code 46.02](#):
 - A handgun, defined by state law as any firearm designed, made, or adapted to be used with one hand. [see Glossary] Note: A student may not be expelled solely on the basis of the student's use, exhibition, or possession of a firearm that occurs at an approved target range facility that is not located on a school campus; while participating in or preparing for a school-sponsored, shooting sports competition or a shooting sports educational activity that is sponsored or supported by the Parks and Wildlife Department; or a shooting sports sanctioning organization working with the department. [See policy FNCG(LEGAL).]
- A location-restricted knife, as defined by state law. [see Glossary]
- Possessing, manufacturing, transporting, repairing, or selling a prohibited weapon, as defined in state law. [see Glossary]
- Engages in conduct that contains the elements of the offense of exhibiting, using, or threatening to exhibit or use a firearm under Education Code 37.125.
- Behaving in a manner that contains elements of the following offenses under the Penal Code:
 - Aggravated assault, sexual assault, or aggravated sexual assault.
 - Arson. [see Glossary]
 - Murder, capital murder, or criminal attempt to commit murder or capital murder.

Northwest ISD Student Code of Conduct

- Indecency with a child.
- Kidnapping or aggravated kidnapping.
- Burglary, robbery or aggravated robbery.
- Manslaughter.
- Criminally negligent homicide.
- Continuous sexual abuse of a young child or disabled individual.
- Behavior punishable as a felony that involves selling, giving, or delivering to another person or possessing, using, or being under the influence of a controlled substance or a dangerous drug.
- Engaging in conduct that contains elements of assault against a school employee or volunteer.

Under Age 10

When a student under the age of 10 engages in behavior that is expellable behavior, the student shall not be expelled but shall be placed in a DAEP. A student ***under age six*** shall not be placed in a DAEP unless the student commits a federal firearm offense.

Process

If a student is believed to have committed an expellable offense, the CBC or other appropriate administrator shall schedule a hearing within a reasonable time. The student's parent shall be invited in writing to attend the hearing.

Until a hearing can be held, the CBC or other administrator may place the student in:

- Another appropriate classroom.
- ISS.
- Out-of-school suspension.
- DAEP.

Hearing

A student facing expulsion shall be given a hearing with appropriate due process. The student is entitled to:

1. Representation by the student's parent or another adult who can provide guidance to the student and who is not an employee of the district;
2. An opportunity to testify and to present evidence and witnesses in the student's defense; and
3. An opportunity to question the witnesses called by the district at the hearing.

Northwest ISD Student Code of Conduct

After providing notice to the student and parent of the hearing, the district may hold the hearing regardless of whether the student or the student's parent attends.

Parents will be provided written notice of a recommendation for expulsion. To afford a reasonable opportunity for preparation, the written notice shall include the date and time of the hearing, the names of witnesses against the student, and the nature of the evidence and documents to be used.

A parent or guardian may appeal a campus-level recommendation for expulsion. In order to do so, a written request must be made in writing within three (3) school days of the receipt of written notification of the campus-level decision. The written request should be addressed to the District's Chief Hearing Officer:

Dr. Cynthia Bauter

Executive Director of Student Affairs

PO Box 77070

Ft. Worth, TX 76177

The District's Chief Hearing Officer shall provide the student an opportunity for a hearing before a District-level hearing committee at which the student will be afforded the requisite due process. The District's Chief Hearing Officer shall contact the parent within five (5) school days of receipt of the written request for appeal.

The board of trustees delegates to the District Chief Hearing Officer authority to conduct hearings and expel students.

Board Review of Expulsion

After the due process hearing, the expelled student may request that the board review the expulsion decisions. The student or parent must submit a written request to the superintendent within seven days after receipt of the written decision. The superintendent must provide the student or parent written notice of the date, time, and place of the meeting at which the board will review the decision. The board shall review the record of the expulsion hearing in a closed meeting unless the parent requests in writing that the matter be held in an open meeting. The board may also hear a statement from the student or parent and from the board's designee.

The board shall consider and base its decision on evidence reflected in the record and any statements made by the parties at the review. The board shall make and communicate its decision orally at the conclusion of the presentation. Consequences shall not be deferred pending the outcome of the hearing.

Expulsion Order

Before ordering the expulsion, the board or CBC shall take into consideration:

1. Self-defense [see Glossary];
2. Intent or lack of intent at the time the student engaged in the conduct;

Northwest ISD Student Code of Conduct

3. The student's disciplinary history;
4. A disability that substantially impairs the student's capacity to appreciate the wrongfulness of the student's conduct;
5. A student's status in the conservatorship of the Department of Family and Protective Services (foster care); or
6. A student's status as homeless.

If the student is expelled, the board or its designee shall deliver to the student and the student's parent a copy of the order expelling the student.

Not later than the second business day after the hearing, the board or its designee shall deliver to the juvenile court a copy of the expulsion order and the information required by [Section 52.04 of the Family Code](#).

If the length of the expulsion is inconsistent with the guidelines included in the Code of Conduct, the expulsion order shall give notice of the inconsistency.

Length of Expulsion

The length of an expulsion shall be based on the seriousness of the offense, the student's age and grade level, the frequency of misbehavior, the student's attitude, and statutory requirements. As required by Texas Education Code 37.011, the Northwest Independent School District Board of Trustees has entered into agreements with the County Juvenile Boards (Denton and Tarrant) to have the Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Program (JJAEP) provide educational services to secondary students expelled from the district for mandatory and discretionary reasons. The length of the student's assignment to the JJAEP is determined by the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Juvenile Board.

The duration of a student's expulsion shall be determined on a case-by-case basis. The maximum period of expulsion is one calendar year, except as provided below.

An expulsion may not exceed one year unless, after review, the district determines that:

1. The student is a threat to the safety of other students or to district employees; or
2. Extended expulsion is in the best interest of the student.

State and federal law require a student to be expelled from the regular classroom for a period of at least one calendar year for bringing a firearm, as defined by federal law, to school. However, the superintendent may modify the length of the expulsion on a case-by-case basis.

Students who commit offenses that require expulsion at the end of one school year may be expelled into the next school year to complete the term of expulsion.

Northwest ISD Student Code of Conduct

Withdrawal During Process

When a student's conduct requires or permits expulsion from the district and the student withdraws from the district before the expulsion hearing takes place, the district may conduct the hearing after sending written notice to the parent and student.

If the student then re-enrolls in the district during the same or subsequent school year, the district may enforce the expulsion order at that time, less any expulsion period that has been served by the student during enrollment in another district.

If the CBC or the board fails to issue an expulsion order after the student withdraws, the next district in which the student enrolls may complete the proceedings.

Additional Misconduct

If during the expulsion, the student engages in additional conduct for which placement in a DAEP or expulsion is required or permitted, additional proceedings may be conducted, and the CBC or the board may issue an additional disciplinary order as a result of those proceedings.

Restrictions During Expulsion

Expelled students are prohibited from being on school grounds or attending school-sponsored or school-related activities during the period of expulsion.

No district academic credit shall be earned for work missed during the period of expulsion unless the student is enrolled in a JJAEP or another district-approved program.

Newly Enrolled Students

The district shall continue the expulsion of any newly enrolled student expelled from another district or an open-enrollment charter school until the period of the expulsion is completed.

If a student expelled in another state enrolls in the district, the district may continue the expulsion under the terms of the expulsion order, may place the student in a DAEP for the period specified in the order, or may allow the student to attend regular classes if:

1. The out-of-state district provides the district with a copy of the expulsion order; and
2. The offense resulting in the expulsion is also an expellable offense in the district in which the student is enrolling.

If a student is expelled by a district in another state for a period that exceeds one year and the district continues the expulsion or places the student in a DAEP, the district shall reduce the period of the expulsion or DAEP placement so that the entire period does not exceed one year, unless after a review it is determined that:

1. The student is a threat to the safety of other students or district employees; or
2. Extended placement is in the best interest of the student.

Northwest ISD Student Code of Conduct

Emergency Expulsion Procedures

When an emergency expulsion is necessary to protect persons or property from imminent harm, the student shall be given verbal notice of the reason for the action. Emergency expulsion may be ordered based on a single incident of behavior by the student. Within 10 days after the date of the emergency expulsion, the student shall be given appropriate due process required for a student facing expulsion.

DAEP Placement of Expelled Students

The district may provide educational services to any expelled student in a DAEP; however, educational services in the DAEP must be provided if the student is less than 10 years of age.

Transition Services

In accordance with law and district procedures, campus staff shall provide transition services for a student returning to the regular classroom from placement in an alternative education program, including a DAEP or JJAEP. See policies FOCA(LEGAL) and FODA(LEGAL) for more information.

Certain Felonies

Regardless of whether DAEP placement or expulsion is required or permitted by one of the reasons in the DAEP Placement or Expulsion sections, in accordance with [Education Code 37.0081](#), a student may be expelled and placed in either DAEP or JJAEP if the board or CBC makes certain findings and the following circumstances exist in relation to aggravated robbery or a felony offense under Title 5 [see Glossary] of the Penal Code. The student must have:

- Received deferred prosecution for conduct defined as aggravated robbery or a [Title 5 felony](#) offense;
- Been found by a court or jury to have engaged in delinquent conduct for conduct defined as aggravated robbery or a [Title 5 felony](#) offense;
- Been charged with engaging in conduct defined as aggravated robbery or a [Title 5 felony](#) offense;
- Been referred to a juvenile court for allegedly engaging in delinquent conduct for conduct defined as aggravated robbery or a [Title 5 felony](#) offense; or
- Received probation or deferred adjudication or have been arrested for, charged with, or convicted of aggravated robbery or a Title 5 felony offense.

The district may expel the student and order placement under these circumstances regardless of:

1. The date on which the student's conduct occurred;
2. The location at which the conduct occurred;

Northwest ISD Student Code of Conduct

3. Whether the conduct occurred while the student was enrolled in the district; or
4. Whether the student has successfully completed any court disposition requirements imposed in connection with the conduct.

Hearing and Required Findings

The student must first have a hearing before the board or its designee, who must determine that in addition to the circumstances above that allow for the expulsion, the student's presence in the regular classroom:

1. Threatens the safety of other students or teachers;
2. Will be detrimental to the educational process; or
3. Is not in the best interest of the district's students.

Any decision of the board or the board's designee under this section is final and may not be appealed.

Length of Placement

The student is subject to the placement until:

1. The student graduates from high school;
2. The charges are dismissed or reduced to a misdemeanor offense; or
3. The student completes the term of the placement or is assigned to another program.

Placement Review

A student placed in a DAEP or JJAEP under this section is entitled to a review of his or her status, including academic status, by the CBC or board's designee at intervals not to exceed 120 days. In the case of a high school student, the student's progress toward graduation and the student's graduation plan shall also be reviewed. At the review, the student or the student's parent shall have the opportunity to present arguments for the student's return to the regular classroom or campus.

Newly Enrolled Students

A student who enrolls in the district before completing a placement under this section from another school district must complete the term of the placement.

Northwest ISD Student Code of Conduct

Glossary

Abuse is improper or excessive use.

Aggravated robbery is defined in part by [Penal Code 29.03\(a\)](#) as when a person commits robbery and:

1. Causes serious bodily injury to another;
2. Uses or exhibits a deadly weapon; or
3. Causes bodily injury to another person or threatens or places another person in fear of imminent bodily injury or death, if the other person is:
 - a. 65 years of age or older; or
 - b. A disabled person.

Antisemitism is defined by [Government Code section 448.001](#) as 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.

Armor-piercing ammunition is defined by [Penal Code 46.01](#) as handgun ammunition used in pistols and revolvers and designed primarily for the purpose of penetrating metal or body armor.

Arson is defined in part by [Penal Code 28.02](#) as a crime that involves:

1. Starting a fire or causing an explosion with intent to destroy or damage:
 - a. Any vegetation, fence, or structure on open-space land; or
 - b. Any building, habitation, or vehicle:
 - (1) Knowing that it is within the limits of an incorporated city or town;
 - (2) Knowing that it is insured against damage or destruction;
 - (3) Knowing that it is subject to a mortgage or other security interest;
 - (4) Knowing that it is located on property belonging to another;
 - (5) Knowing that it has located within it property belonging to another;
or
 - (6) When the person starting the fire is reckless about whether the burning or explosion will endanger the life of some individual or the safety of the property of another.
2. Recklessly starting a fire or causing an explosion while manufacturing or attempting to manufacture a controlled substance if the fire or explosion damages any building, habitation, or vehicle; or

Northwest ISD Student Code of Conduct

3. Intentionally starting a fire or causing an explosion and in so doing:
 - a. Recklessly damaging or destroying a building belonging to another; or
 - b. Recklessly causing another person to suffer bodily injury or death.

Assault is defined in part by [Penal Code 22.01](#) as 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.

Breach of computer security includes knowingly accessing a computer, computer network, or computer system without the effective consent of the owner as defined in [Penal Code 33.02](#), if the conduct involves accessing a computer, computer network, or computer system owned by or operated on behalf of a school district and the student knowingly alters, damages, or deletes school district property or information or commits a breach of any other computer, computer network, or computer system.

Bullying is defined as 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 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
4. Infringes on the rights of the victim at school.

Bullying includes cyberbullying. (See below.) This state law on bullying prevention applies to:

1. Bullying that 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. Bullying that 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; and
3. 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.

Northwest ISD Student Code of Conduct

Chemical dispensing device is defined by [Penal Code 46.01](#) as a device designed, made, or adapted for the purpose of dispensing a substance capable of causing an adverse psychological or physiological effect on a human being. A small chemical dispenser sold commercially for personal protection is not in this category.

Club is defined by [Penal Code 46.01](#) as an instrument, specially designed, made, or adapted for the purpose of inflicting serious bodily injury or death by striking a person with the instrument, and includes but is not limited to a blackjack, nightstick, mace, and tomahawk.

Controlled substance means 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.

Criminal street gang is defined by [Penal Code 71.01](#) as three or more persons having a common identifying sign or symbol or an identifiable leadership who continuously or regularly associate in the commission of criminal activities.

Cyberbullying is defined by [Education Code 37.0832](#) as bullying that is done through the use of any electronic communication device, including through the use of a cellular or other type of telephone, a computer, a camera, electronic mail, instant messaging, text messaging, a social media application, an internet website, or any other internet-based communication tool.

Dangerous drug is defined by [Health and Safety Code 483.001](#) as a device or a drug that is unsafe for self-medication and that is not included in [Schedules I through V or Penalty Groups 1 through 4 of the Texas Controlled Substances Act](#). The term includes a device or drug that federal law prohibits dispensing without prescription or restricts to use by or on the order of a licensed veterinarian.

Dating violence occurs when a person in a current or past dating relationship uses physical, sexual, verbal, or emotional abuse to harm, threaten, intimidate, or control another person in the relationship. Dating violence also 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](#).

Deadly conduct under [Penal Code 22.05](#) occurs when a person recklessly engages in conduct that places another in imminent danger of serious bodily injury, such as knowingly discharging a firearm in the direction of an individual, habitation, building, or vehicle.

Deferred adjudication is an alternative to seeking a conviction in court that may be offered to a juvenile for delinquent conduct or conduct indicating a need for supervision.

Northwest ISD Student Code of Conduct

Deferred prosecution may be offered to a juvenile as an alternative to seeking a conviction in court for delinquent conduct or conduct indicating a need for supervision.

Delinquent conduct is conduct that violates either state or federal law and is punishable by imprisonment or confinement in jail. It includes conduct that violates certain juvenile court orders, including probation orders, but does not include violations of traffic laws.

Discretionary means that something is left to or regulated by a local decision maker.

E-cigarette means an electronic cigarette or any other device 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 or a consumable liquid solution or other material aerosolized or vaporized during the use of an electronic cigarette or other device described by this provision. The term includes any device that is manufactured, distributed, or sold as an e-cigarette, e-cigar, or e-pipe or under another product name or description and a component, part, or accessory for the device, regardless of whether the component, part, or accessory is sold separately from the device.

Explosive weapon is defined by [Penal Code 46.01](#) as any explosive or incendiary bomb, grenade, rocket, or mine and its delivery mechanism 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.

False alarm or report under [Penal Code 42.06](#) occurs when a person knowingly initiates, communicates, or circulates a report of a present, past, or future bombing, fire, offense, or other emergency that he or she knows is 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.

Firearm is defined by [federal law \(18 U.S.C. 921\(a\)\)](#) as:

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 silencer, defined as any device for silencing, muffling, or diminishing the report of a portable firearm; or
4. Any destructive device, such as any explosive, incendiary or poison gas bomb, or grenade.

Such term does not include an antique firearm.

Graffiti includes markings with paint, an indelible pen or marker, or an etching or engraving device on tangible property without the effective consent of the owner. The markings may include inscriptions, slogans, drawings, or paintings.

Northwest ISD Student Code of Conduct

Handgun is defined by [Penal Code 46.01](#) as any firearm that is designed, made, or adapted to be fired with one hand.

Harassment includes:

1. Conduct that meets the definition established in district policies DIA(LOCAL) and FFH(LOCAL);
2. Conduct that threatens to cause harm or bodily injury to another person, including a district student, employee, board member, or volunteer; is sexually intimidating; causes physical damage to the property of another student; subjects another student to physical confinement or restraint; or maliciously and substantially harms another student's physical or emotional health or safety, as defined in [Education Code 37.001\(b\)\(2\)](#); or
3. Conduct that is punishable as a crime under [Penal Code 42.07](#), including the following types of conduct if carried out with the intent to harass, annoy, alarm, abuse, torment, or embarrass another:
 - a. Initiating communication and, in the course of the communication, making a comment, request, suggestion, or proposal that is obscene, as defined by law;
 - b. Threatening, 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;
 - c. Conveying, in a manner reasonably likely to alarm the person receiving the report, a false report, which is known by the conveyor to be false, that another person has suffered death or serious bodily injury;
 - d. Causing 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;
 - e. Making a telephone call and intentionally failing to hang up or disengage the connection;
 - f. Knowingly permitting a telephone under the person's control to be used by another to commit an offense under this section;
 - g. Sending repeated electronic communications in a manner reasonably likely to harass, annoy, alarm, abuse, torment, embarrass, or offend another;
 - h. Publishing 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

Northwest ISD Student Code of Conduct

- i. 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 is defined by [Education Code 37.151](#) as an intentional, knowing, or reckless act, on or off campus, by one person alone or acting with others, directed against a student for the purpose of pledging, initiation into, affiliation with, holding office in, or maintaining membership in a student organization if the act meets the elements in [Education Code 37.151](#), including:

1. Any type of physical brutality;
2. An activity that subjects the student to an unreasonable risk of harm or that adversely affects the student's mental or physical health, such as sleep deprivation, exposure to the elements, confinement to small spaces, calisthenics, or consumption of food, liquids, drugs, or other substances;
3. An activity that induces, causes, or requires the student to perform a duty or task that violates the Penal Code; or
4. Coercing a student to consume a drug or alcoholic beverage in an amount that would lead a reasonable person to believe the student is intoxicated.

Hit list is defined in [Education Code 37.001\(b\)\(3\)](#) as a list of people targeted to be harmed, using a firearm, a knife, or any other object to be used with intent to cause bodily harm.

Improvised explosive device is defined by [Penal Code 46.01](#) as a completed and operational bomb designed to cause serious bodily injury, death, or substantial property damage that is fabricated in an improvised manner using nonmilitary components.

Indecent exposure is defined by [Penal Code 21.08](#) as an offense that occurs when a person exposes the person's anus or any part of the person's 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 is defined by [Civil Practices and Remedies Code 98B.001](#) and [Penal Code 21.16](#) as visual material that depicts a person with the person's intimate parts exposed or engaged in sexual conduct. "Visual material" means any film, photograph, video tape, negative, or slide of any photographic reproduction or any other physical medium that allows an image to be displayed on a computer or other video screen and any image transmitted to a computer or other video screen.

Location-restricted knife is defined by [Penal Code 46.01](#) as a knife with a blade over five and one-half inches.

Knuckles means any instrument consisting of finger rings or guards made of a hard substance and designed or adapted for inflicting serious bodily injury or death by striking a person with a fist enclosed in the knuckles.

Northwest ISD Student Code of Conduct

Look-alike weapon means an item that resembles a weapon but is not intended to be used to cause serious bodily injury.

Machine gun as defined by [Penal Code 46.01](#) is any firearm that is capable of shooting more than two shots automatically, without manual reloading, by a single function of the trigger.

Mandatory means that something is obligatory or required because of an authority.

Paraphernalia are devices that can be used for inhaling, ingesting, injecting, or otherwise introducing a controlled substance into a human body.

Personal Communication Device means a telephone, cell phone such as a smartphone or flip phone, tablet, smartwatch, radio device, paging device, or any other electronic device capable of telecommunication or digital communication.

Possession means to have an item on one's person or in one's personal property, including, but not limited to:

1. Clothing, purse, or backpack;
2. A private vehicle used for transportation to or from school or school-related activities, including, but not limited to, an automobile, truck, motorcycle, or bicycle;
3. Personal communication devices or electronic devices; or
4. Any school property used by the student, including, but not limited to, a locker or desk.

Prohibited weapon under [Penal Code 46.05\(a\)](#) means:

1. The following items, unless registered with the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives or otherwise not subject to that registration requirement or unless the item is classified as a curio or relic by the U.S. Department of Justice:
 - a. An explosive weapon; or
 - b. A machine gun.
2. Armor-piercing ammunition;
3. A chemical dispensing device;
4. A zip gun;
5. A tire deflation device; or
6. An improvised explosive device.

Public Lewdness is defined by [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, when the person is reckless about whether another is present who will be offended or alarmed by the act.

Northwest ISD Student Code of Conduct

Public school fraternity, sorority, secret society, or gang means an organization composed wholly or in part of students that seeks to perpetuate itself by taking additional members from the students enrolled in school based on a decision of its membership rather than on the free choice of a qualified student. Educational organizations listed in [Education Code 37.121\(d\)](#) are excepted from this definition.

Reasonable belief is that which an ordinary person of average intelligence and sound mind would believe. Chapter 37 requires certain disciplinary decisions when the superintendent or designee has a reasonable belief that a student engaged in conduct punishable as a felony offense. In forming such a reasonable belief, the superintendent or designee may use all available information and must consider the information furnished in the notice of a student's arrest under [Code of Criminal Procedure Article 15.27](#).

Self-defense is the use of force against another to the degree a person reasonably believes is immediately necessary to protect himself or herself.

Serious misbehavior means:

1. Deliberate violent behavior that poses a direct threat to the health or safety of others;
2. Extortion, meaning the gaining of money or other property by force or threat;
3. Conduct that constitutes coercion, as defined by [Penal Code Section 1.07](#); or
4. Conduct that constitutes the offense of:
 - a. Public lewdness under [Penal Code 21.07](#);
 - b. Indecent exposure under [Penal Code 21.08](#);
 - c. Criminal mischief under [Penal Code 28.03](#);
 - d. Hazing under [Education Code 37.152](#); or
 - e. Harassment under [Penal Code 42.07\(a\)\(1\)](#) of a student or district employee.

Serious or persistent misbehavior includes, but is not limited to:

- Behavior that is grounds for permissible expulsion or mandatory DAEP placement.
- Behavior identified by the district as grounds for discretionary DAEP placement.
- Actions or demonstrations that substantially disrupt or materially interfere with school activities.
- Refusal to attempt or complete schoolwork as assigned.
- Insubordination.
- Profanity, vulgar language, or obscene gestures.
- Leaving school grounds without permission.
- Falsification of records, passes, or other school-related documents.

Northwest ISD Student Code of Conduct

- Refusal to accept discipline assigned by the teacher or principal.

Short-barrel firearm is defined by [Penal Code 46.01](#) as 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 that, as altered, has an overall length of less than 26 inches.

Terroristic threat is defined by [Penal Code 22.07](#) as a threat of violence to any person or property with intent to:

1. Cause a reaction of any type 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, or 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 district).

Tire deflation device is defined in part by [Penal Code 46.01](#) as a device, including a caltrop or spike strip, that, when driven over, impedes or stops the movement of a wheeled vehicle by puncturing one or more of the vehicle's tires.

Title 5 felonies are those crimes listed in [Title 5 of the Penal Code](#) that typically involve injury to a person and may include:

- Murder, manslaughter, or homicide under [Sections 19.02–.05](#);
- Kidnapping under [Section 20.03](#);
- Trafficking of persons under [Section 20A.02](#);
- Smuggling or continuous smuggling of persons under [Sections 20.05–.06](#);
- Assault under [Section 22.01](#);
- Aggravated assault under [Section 22.02](#);
- Sexual assault under [Section 22.011](#);
- Aggravated sexual assault under [Section 22.021](#);
- Unlawful restraint under [Section 20.02](#);
- Continuous sexual abuse of a young child or disabled individual under [Section 21.02](#);

Northwest ISD Student Code of Conduct

- Bestiality under [Section 21.09](#);
- Improper relationship between educator and student under [Section 21.12](#);
- Voyeurism under [Section 21.17](#);
- Indecency with a child under [Section 21.11](#);
- Invasive visual recording under [Section 21.15](#);
- Disclosure or promotion of intimate visual material under [Section 21.16](#);
- Sexual coercion under [Section 21.18](#);
- Injury to a child, an elderly person, or a disabled person of any age under [Section 22.04](#);
- Abandoning or endangering a child under [Section 22.041](#);
- Deadly conduct under [Section 22.05](#);
- Terroristic threat under [Section 22.07](#);
- Aiding a person to die by suicide under [Section 22.08](#); and
- Tampering with a consumer product under [Section 22.09](#).

Under the influence means lacking the normal use of mental or physical faculties.

Impairment of a person's physical or mental faculties may be evidenced by a pattern of abnormal or erratic behavior, the presence of physical symptoms of drug or alcohol use, or by admission. A student "under the in-fluence" need not be legally intoxicated to trigger disciplinary action.

Use means voluntarily introducing into one's body, by any means, a prohibited substance.

Zip gun is defined by [Penal Code 46.01](#) as 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.