Sec. 1. DECISION TO ADOPT CHAPLAIN POLICY

In accordance with Texas Senate Bill 763 adopted by the 88th Texas Legislature, Raul Yzaguirre Schools for Success ("RYSS") has opted to adopt this policy authorizing RYSS to accept chaplains as volunteers who may provide support, services, and programs for students in a manner consistent with this policy.

Sec. 2. DEFINITION OF CHAPLAIN

For purposes of this policy, a "chaplain" is religious official who is responsible for providing spiritual care for individuals in a non-religious organization, in this case an open-enrollment charter school. In the context of this policy, no one religion will be favored over another religion. Chaplains of all religious faiths will be eligible to serve under this policy.

Sec. 3. PREREQUISITES FOR CHAPLAINS

Chaplains will serve as volunteers and must pass a criminal history background check pursuant to state law prior to commencing service. Chaplains who have been convicted of, or placed on deferred adjudication community supervision for, an offense for which a defendant is required to register as a sex offender are not eligible to serve. Chaplains are not required to be certified by the Texas State Board for Educator Certification, but they must comply with the additional eligibility criteria set forth in this policy.

Sec. 4. REQUEST FOR CHAPLAIN MUST BE MADE BY PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN

The support, services, or programs provided by volunteer chaplains, such as spiritual and moral counseling, will be offered only upon written request by a student's parent or legal guardian. In other words, chaplaincy services will be treated as "opt-in" versus an "opt-out" services. Accordingly, for a volunteer chaplain to be utilized by RYSS to provide support, services, and programs to any student, the student's parent or legal guardian must request chaplaincy services in writing.

The student's parent or legal guardian must identify the volunteer chaplain whom they wish to provide such services to their child. Once the volunteer chaplain is identified, the chaplain must demonstrate his or her eligibility to serve, including to provide written consent for a criminal history background check to be performed for the individual.

All volunteer chaplains identified by the legal guardians of a student must complete the training specified in Section 7 of this policy, which is an eight-hour, virtual training course consistent with staff compliance requirements. The purpose of the training is to ensure adherence to relevant laws, regulations, and ethical guidelines. The required training must be completed before a volunteer chaplain is authorized to serve students.

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Sec. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF CHAPLAINS

All written requests from parents or legal guardians for support, services, or programs by volunteer chaplains shall be processed by the Director of Outreach and Engagement and Human Resources.

Once a request is processed and facilitated by the Director of Outreach and Engagement , The School Counselor/SEL Coordinator will coordinate the specific chaplaincy support, services, or programs requested by the student's legal guardian, verify eligibility of the selected chaplain, and coordinate with campus leadership and the student's teachers to oversee the provision of chaplaincy services to the student. The Executive Director of Federal State Compliance and the Human Resources Department shall maintain all relevant documentation pertaining to these tasks.

Sec. 6. SERVICES PROVIDED BY CHAPLAINS

The interaction of a volunteer chaplain identified be a student's legal guardian will be limited to only the student for whom the legal guardian initiated the support, services, or programs.

Volunteer chaplains are not a replacement for school counselors at RYSS. Any support, services, or programs provided by an on-campus volunteer chaplain will be provided in coordination with, and supplemental to, the support services provided by RYSS's certified school counselors.

No school funds shall be allocated to compensate volunteer chaplains for their services to the students of RYSS. Chaplains are permitted to donate their time and resources for the benefit of students.

Sec. 7. REQUIRED TRAINING FOR CHAPLAINS

Once volunteer chaplains have completed and passed the required criminal history background check, they will be provided a username and access to a website for RYSS's online training modules.

Volunteer chaplains are required to complete the online training modules prior to obtaining the requisite authorization to provide chaplaincy support, services, or programs to a student. The required training will take approximately eight hours to complete. Training must be completed electronically.

The training module titles, and estimated time requirements are included on the following page.

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Training Module Title	Estimated Time
Child Abuse: Mandatory Reporting	*35 minutes*
FERPA: Confidentiality of Records	*20 minutes*
Health Emergencies: Breathing Emergencies, Choking, and the Heimlich Maneuver	*12 minutes*
Health Emergencies: Seizures	*29 minutes*
Medication Administration: Epinephrine Auto-Injections	*19 minutes*
Human Trafficking Awareness	*60 minutes*
Sexual Harassment: Policy and Prevention	*71 minutes*
Conflict Management: Student-to-Student	*22 minutes*
Bullying: Recognition & Response	*63 minutes*
Student Mental Health: Awareness, Intervention and Referral	*22 minutes*
CIPA: Compliance with the Children's Internet Protection Act	*16 minutes*
Trauma-Informed Practices	*44 minutes*
Students Experiencing Homelessness: Awareness & Understanding	*28 minutes*
Cybersecurity Overview	*15 minutes*
Youth Suicide: Awareness, Prevention & Postvention	*41 minutes*

Sec. 8. COMPLETION OF PREREQUISITES FOR CHAPLAINS

Once a volunteer chaplain has completed and passed the criminal history background check, completed the required training, obtained an authorization from the Human Resources Department, and coordinated with the School Counselor or SEL Coordinator to identify the support, services, and/or programs to be utilized, the volunteer chaplain may then proceed with enacting the support, services, and/or programs for the student whose legal guardian identified the volunteer chaplain.

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