Student Success at

Waxahachie High School of Choice

Parent/Student Handbook
2026 - 2027

55 Northgate Drive
Waxahachie, TX 75165
(972) 923-4695 phone
(972) 923-4717 fax
Office Hours: 8:00a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Preface

The Student Handbook is a general reference guide only and is designed to be in harmony with board policy and the Student Code of Conduct. Please be aware that it is not a complete statement of all policies, procedures, or rules that may be applicable in a given circumstance.

In case of conflict between board policy (including the Student Code of Conduct) and any provisions of the Student Handbook, the current provisions of board policy and the Student Code of Conduct are to be followed.

Also, please be aware that the handbook is updated yearly, while policy adoption and revision may **occur throughout the year.** Changes in policy or other rules that affect Student Handbook provisions will be made available to students and parents through newsletters or other communications. The district reserves the right to modify provisions of the Student Handbook at any time, whenever it is deemed necessary. Notice of any revision or modification will be given as is reasonably practical under the circumstances.

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

After reading through the entire handbook with your child, keep it as a reference during this school year. If you or your child has questions about any of the material in this handbook, please contact the campus front office.

Notices To Parents

Statement of Nondiscrimination

In its efforts to promote nondiscrimination and as required by law, Waxahachie ISD does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, gender, sex, disability, age, or any other basis prohibited by law, in providing education services, activities, and programs, including CTE programs, and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups.

The following district staff members have been designated to coordinate compliance with these legal requirements:

- Title IX Coordinator, for concerns regarding discrimination based on gender:
  Mr. Jacob Perry
  Assistant Superintendent Secondary Leadership
  411 North Gibson Street
  Waxahachie, TX 75165
  (972) 923-4631
- Section 504 Coordinator, for concerns regarding discrimination based on disability:
  Mrs. Ginger Robinson, Director of Educational Support and Counseling

411 North Gibson Street
Waxahachie, TX 75165
(972) 923-4631

[See WISD Board Policies FB (LOCAL) and FFH (LOCAL).]

Asbestos Management Plan

The district's Asbestos Management Plan, designed to be in compliance with state and federal regulations addressing asbestos, and is available at the WISD Administration Building or WISD Support Services Office. If you have any questions, please contact the Assistant Superintendent at 972-923-4631.

Pest Management Plan

The district applies only pest control products that comply with state and federal guidelines. Except in an emergency, signs will be posted 48 hours before application. Parents who want to be notified prior to pesticide application inside their child's school assignment area may contact the Assistant Superintendent (972) 923-4631.

Accountability Under State and Federal Law

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

- The Texas Academic Performance Report (TAPR) for the district, compiled by TEA, the state agency that oversees public education, based on academic factors and ratings.
- A School Report Card (SRC) for each campus in the district compiled by TEA based on academic factors and ratings.
- The district's financial management report, which will include the financial accountability rating assigned to the district by TEA.
- The performance ratings of the district's evaluation of community and student engagement using the indicators required by law, and
- Information compiled by TEA for submission of a federal report card.

Information about all of this can be found on the district's website at www.wisd.org. Hard copies of any reports are available upon request to the district's administration office.

TEA also maintains additional accountability and accreditation information at http://www.texasschoolaccountabilitydashboard.org and http://www.tea.texas.gov.

Waxahachie High School of Choice Staff

Shavon Reed	Instructor
Jacquey Taylor	Instructor / SPED
Richie Furlow	Instructional Aide
Rebecca Buck	ESL
Cathleen Wilkerson	Counselor
Stephanie Davis	Attendance
Annie Bonilla	Secretary
Tiffany Cotten	Behavioral Coordinator
Lee Coleman	Principal

Our Mission

The High School of Choice's (HSoC) mission is to provide students in "at-risk" situations the opportunity to attain excellence through a non-traditional high school diploma program.

Purpose

The High School of Choice has been established to address the unique needs of students in at-risk situations. We believe that the future of our country depends on the education of its youth; that education should be the concern of everyone, and that education provides for the optimum development of each individual so that everyone may make satisfactory decisions in an ever-changing society.
Staff members in Waxahachie High School of Choice are dedicated to students and believe in the dignity and worth of each individual. It is the desire of the staff to work with students, parents, and the community to address the needs of the individual. Together we can establish a setting in which students are successful academically, emotionally, and socially.

*Enrollment in Waxahachie's High School of Choice is a **privilege**. Any repeated violations of the rules **will** result in removal from the program.

Procedures and Criteria for Enrollment

A student must meet certain criteria to be considered for admission to the HSOC, including but not limited to:

- HSoC applicants **must be current WISD students** who have successfully completed **at least nine weeks of school** at Waxahachie High School, Waxahachie Creek High School or Global High School.
- The student and counselor of the sending school must submit the HSoC Application, complete with a current transcript, current attendance and discipline records, testing information including accommodations, and any other requested documentation. This information must be submitted to the Principal of Alternative Learning.
- **A student must have passed or have accepted scores from 3 out of 5 of the STARR End of Course (EOC) requirements in order to be considered for acceptance in the HSoC. In addition, a student must have acquired a minimum of 11 High School Credits earned.**
- HSoC applicants **must be coded as at-risk students** as determined by the State and Federal At-Risk indicators listed on the application. Students qualifying in multiple at-risk indicators will be assessed and **placed based on seat availability.**
- HSoC applicants **must be selected** for admission by the application review process and committee, led by the Principal of Alternative Learning.
- HSoC applicants **must live** within the boundaries of Waxahachie Independent School District. Any student found living / moving outside WISD boundaries will be withdrawn from the Waxahachie High School of Choice.

Once Accepted to Waxahachie High School of Choice

- Once accepted, the Principal of Alternative Learning will notify the sending school as well as the HSoC via email. This e-mail will be sent to the Principals, Counselors and registrar of the respective schools.
- The sending school counselor will contact the student/parent to inform them of the withdrawal process. The student will need to be withdrawn from the sending campus AFTER the intake interview/orientation at HSOC can be held, allowing for the student and parent to make their final decision to attend after the orientation/intake interview.
- The parent and student must schedule and attend an intake interview/orientation at the HSOC by calling 972-923-4695.

Students Must Provide the Following Documents at the HSoC Orientation and to Enroll in the HSoC

- Copy of birth certificate
- Shot records
- Proof of residency (current water, gas, or electric bill)
- Driver's license of parent and student (if applicable)

The following documents must be signed at the intake interview/orientation before a student is officially enrolled in the Waxahachie High School of Choice.

- Program Acknowledgement & Expectations (in online orientation form)

- Attendance & Withdrawal (in online orientation form)
- Edgenuity Commitment (in online orientation form)
- Student Handbook (in online orientation form)
- Graduation & Prom Information (in online orientation form)
- Foundation Graduation Plan (Endorsement Opt In and/or Opt Out forms)
- FASFA (Opt Out form)

When students have made their final decision to join HSoC, the student's guardian will then go through the withdrawal process with the home campus in person.

Home Campus Withdrawal Requirements

To complete the withdrawal process from a student's home campus, the parent/guardian must have the following items and obligations addressed at the time of withdrawal:

- The student's district-issued device and charger must be returned. If either item is missing, the parent/guardian should be prepared to compensate the district for the replacement cost.
- Any library books checked out to the student must be returned, or the parent/guardian should be prepared to pay any outstanding library fines or fees.
- Any outstanding cafeteria charges must be paid in full. Students must have a zero cafeteria balance before the withdrawal process can be completed.

Addressing these items during the withdrawal process will help ensure a smooth transition for the student and family.

Attendance Policy

Regular school attendance is essential for a student to make the most of his or her education— to benefit from teacher-led and school activities, to build each day's learning on the previous days, and to grow as an individual. Absences from class may result in serious disruption of a student's mastery of the instructional materials. The students and parents should make every effort to avoid unnecessary absences. Two state laws—one dealing with compulsory attendance, the other with attendance for course credit—are of special interest to students and parents. They are discussed below.

Absences and Attendance

Regular school attendance is essential for a student to make the most of his or her education— to benefit from teacher-led and school activities, to build each day's learning on the previous days, and to grow as an individual. Absences from class may result in serious disruption of a student's mastery of the instructional materials; therefore, the student and parent should make every effort to avoid unnecessary absences. Two state laws—one dealing with compulsory attendance, the other with attendance for course credit—are of special interest to students and parents. They are discussed below.

Compulsory Attendance

- Age 19 and Older
    - A student who voluntarily attends or enrolls after his or her 19th birthday is required to attend each school day until the end of the school year. If a student aged 19 or older has 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.]
- Between Ages 6 and 19
    - State law requires that a student between the ages of six and 19 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.

Exemptions for Compulsory Attendance

All Grade Levels

State law allows exemptions to the compulsory attendance requirements for several types of absences if the student makes up all work. These include the following activities and events:

- Religious holy days
- Required court appearances
- Activities relating to obtaining United States citizenship
- Documented healthcare appointments, including absences for recognized services for students diagnosed with autism spectrum disorders which are still recorded as an absence or state recording purposes.
- For students in conservatorship (custody) of the state
    - An activity required under a court-ordered service plan; or
    - Any other court-ordered activity, provided it is not practicable to schedule the student's participation in the activity outside of school hours.

As listed in Children of Military Families, absences of up to five days will be excused for a student to visit with a parent, stepparent or legal guardian who has been called to duty for, is on leave from, or immediately returned from certain deployments.

Secondary Grade Levels Only

In addition, a junior or senior student's absence of up to two days related to visiting a college or university will be considered an exemption, provided the student receives approval from the campus or associate principal, follows the campus procedures to verify such a visit, and makes up any work missed.

Absences of up to two days in a school year will also be considered an exemption for:

- A student serving as an early voting clerk, provided the district's board has authorized this in policy FEA(LOCAL), the student notifies his or her teachers, and the student receives approval from the principal prior to

absence; and o A student serving as an election clerk, if the student makes up any work missed.

Failure to Comply with Compulsory Attendance

All Grade Levels

School employees must investigate and report violations of the state compulsory attendance law. A student absent without permission from school; from any class; from required special programs, such as additional special instruction, termed "accelerated instruction" by the state; or from required tutorials will be considered in violation of the compulsory attendance law and subject to disciplinary action.

Age 19 or Older

After a student aged 19 or older incurs a third unexcused absence, the district will send the student a letter as required by law 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.

Between Ages 6 and 19

When a student between ages 6 and 19 incurs unexcused absences for three or more days or parts of days, the school will send a notice to the student's parents, as required by law, to remind the parent that it is the parent's duty to monitor his or her child's attendance and to require the student to come to school. The notice will also inform the parents that the district will initiate truancy prevention measures and request a conference between school administrators and the parent. These measures will include a behavior improvement plan, school-based community service, or referrals to either in-school or out-of-school counseling or other social services. Any other measures considered appropriate by the district will also be initiated.

A court of law may also impose penalties against a student's parents if a school-aged student tis deliberately not attending school. A complaint against the parents may be filed in court if the student is absent without excuse from school on **ten or more days or parts of days within a six- month period in the same school year.**

If a student aged 12 through 18 incurs unexcused absences on ten or more days or parts of days within a six-month period in the same school year, the district, in most circumstances, will refer the student to truancy court.

Absences

A student absence is marked as unexcused unless a parent calls or provides a note with documented acceptable excuse(s) for the student's absence or a doctor's note is provided listing an approved reason for the student's absence. If a student is absent, the parent/student over 18 **should call the school at 972-923-4695** as soon as possible to explain why the student is absent.

The student, upon returning to school, must bring a note signed by the parent that describes the specific reason for the absence. **Notes must be received within three days of the student's return to school. A student who is absent for more than three consecutive days because of a personal illness must bring a statement from a doctor or health clinic verifying the illness or condition that caused the extended absence from school**. [See Board Policy FEC (LOCAL).]

Should the student develop a questionable pattern of absences, the principal may require a statement from a doctor or health clinic verifying the illness or condition that caused the student's absence from school. [See Board Policy FEC (LOCAL).] The principal may, if a student has established a questionable pattern of absences, also require a physician's or clinic's statement of illness after a single day's absence as a condition of classifying the absence as one for which there are extenuating circumstances.

After three days of absences, a letter will be sent to the parent as a reminder of the compulsory attendance law and truancy. **Truancy is defined as the voluntary, unexcused absence of a student on 10 or more days within a six-month period.**

A student will be withdrawn from the program in case of attendance violations. Readmission to the program will be possible either by attending extra sessions on assigned days to make-up time missed in the class due to attendance violations or a student may be required to reapply for admittance with the DCSS after a period of 30 school days. Students may be readmitted based on seat availability.

Excused (Approved) Absences

Any child may be excused from school for absences resulting from personal sickness, death in the family, court appearance with documentation, quarantine, and weather or road conditions.

Unexcused Absences

A student absent from school for any reason other than personal illness, death in the immediate family, court, school related event, quarantine, and weather or road conditions will be assigned an unexcused absence. Unexcused absences include vacations during scheduled school days, baby-sitting, and oversleeping, etc.

*** If a student is 19 or over in the HSoC, they will be withdrawn when 5 unexcused absences are accumulated throughout the current school semester. Please see section under absences for re-admittance policy.**

Doctor, Dentist, and Court Appointments

Every effort should be made to schedule appointments with doctors and dentists at times other than school hours. If a student returns to school the same day or attends part of the day prior to the doctor's appointment or court appearance, etc. and presents a doctor note or court documentation verifying the

appointment, the absence is excused. Students will be picked up and signed out for early dismissal in the main office. **Students will remain in class until signed out.**

Contagious Diseases or Conditions

To protect other students from contagious illnesses, students infected with certain diseases are not allowed to come to school while contagious. If a parent suspects that his or her child has a contagious disease, the parent should contact the school nurse or principal so that other students who might have been exposed to the disease can be alerted.

The school nurse or the principal's office can provide information from the Department of State Health Services regarding these diseases.

Class Times

The class times are as follows:

- Lunch – 12:15 pm to 12:45 pm
- Full Day – 7:45 am to 3:15 pm
- At Principals Discretion – 7:45 am to 11:45 am; 7:45 am to 1 pm

Every effort will be made to accommodate class requests however; class sizes are limited.

Students must attend during their scheduled class time. **Class time will be strictly enforced. If you are not in school at the assigned time, you will be counted absent.**

It is the responsibility of both the parent/guardian and student that he/she arrives **on time** and is **in attendance** every day. Morning students must be in the classroom/at the door promptly at 7:50 a.m. ***Students arriving late on a regular basis will be disciplined according to policy, including but not limited to withdrawal from the program.**

Withdrawing from School

A student under 18 may be withdrawn from school. The parent that signed the student in at HSoC registration, must withdraw this student. The school requests notice from the parent at least three days in advance so that records and documents may be prepared. The parents may obtain a withdrawal form from the campus principal's office. On the student's last day, the withdrawal form must be presented to each teacher for current grade averages and book and equipment clearance; to the librarian to ensure a clear library record; to the clinic for health records; to the campus counselor for the last report card and course clearance; and finally, to the principal. A copy of the withdrawal form will be given to the student, and a copy will be placed in the student's permanent record.

***A student who is 18 or older, who is married, or who has been declared by a court to be an emancipated minor may withdraw without parental signature.**

Requesting Limited Media or No Contact with a Student Through Electronic Media

Teachers and other approved employees are permitted by the district to communicate with students through the use of electronic media within the scope of the individual's professional responsibilities. For example, a teacher may set up a social networking page for his or her class that has information related to class work, homework, and tests. As a parent, you are welcome to join or become a member of such a page.

An employee described above may also contact a student individually through electronic media to communicate about items such as homework or upcoming tests. If you prefer that your child not receive any one-to-one electronic communications from a district employee, please submit a written request to the campus principal stating this preference.

Parents of Students who Speak a Primary Language other than English

A student may be eligible to receive specialized support if his or her primary language is not English, and the student has difficulty performing ordinary class work in English. If the student qualifies for these extra services, the Language Proficiency Assessment Committee (LPAC) will determine the types of services the student needs, including accommodations or modifications related to classroom instruction, local assessments, and state-mandated assessments.

Options and Requirements for Providing Assistance to Students Who Have Learning Difficulties or Who Need Special Education Services

If a child is experiencing learning difficulties, the parent may contact the person listed below to learn about the district's overall general education referral or screening system for support services. This system links students to a variety of support options, including referral for a special education evaluation. Students having difficulty in the regular classroom should be considered for tutorial, compensatory, and other academic or behavior support services that are available to all students including a process based on Response to Intervention (RtI). The implementation of Response to Intervention (RtI) has the potential to have a positive impact on the ability of school districts to meet the needs of all struggling students.

If the district determines that the evaluation is not needed, the district will provide the parent with prior written notice that explains why the child will not be evaluated.

This written notice will include a statement that informs the parents of their rights, if they disagree with the district. The district is required to provide parents the ***Notice of Procedural Safeguards— Rights of Parents of Students with Disabilities***. Additional information regarding the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) is available from the school district in a companion document, ***A Guide to the Admission, Review, and Dismissal Process***. The following websites provide information to those who are seeking information and resources specific to students with disabilities and their families:

- Texas Project First at http://www.texasprojectfirst.org
- Partners Resource Network at http://www.partnerstx.org/howPRNhelps.html

The designated person to contact regarding options for a child experiencing learning difficulties or a referral for evaluation for special education is the Director of Special Education, at (972) 923-4695.

If a student is receiving special education services at a campus outside his or her attendance zone, the parent or guardian may request that any other student residing in the household be transferred to the same campus, if the appropriate grade level for the transferring student is offered on that campus. [See Board Policy FDB (LOCAL).]

Communication

Skyward Family Access and School Messenger

Students are a vital link between home and school. We encourage students to share all communications with their parents. Additionally, we will utilize *School Messenger,* newsletters, the website, parent conferences and meetings, e-mail, phone calls, surveys and take-home folders, as well as other vehicles for sharing information and gaining feedback.

Parents may also register for Family Access by *Skyward; Inc.* Family Access is a secure, internet-based website that will allow tracking of your student's attendance, grades, schedule, progress, assignments, health record, and emergency information. Family Access will also allow you to subscribe to automatic email notifications for daily attendance information, student grades (low assignments, missing assignments, low averages), and daily/weekly/monthly progress reports. To register for Family Access, each parent/guardian must fill out the registration form and drop it by the WISD Administration Building on 411 North Gibson Street or at the front Office.

Academic Expectations

Students are expected to:

- Bring paper, class notes and pencil/pen to class each day.
- **Complete ½ credit every week. Students may be withdrawn from the program for not meeting this expectation.**
- Stay focused and on tasks.

- Attend and participate in all EOC / STAAR tutorials and modules.
- Ask for help.
- Be on time for class (or you will be counted absent.)

Cheating, Scholastic Dishonesty, and Plagiarism

The definition of student academic dishonesty varies; however, it traditionally includes one or all of the following:

- Copying another student's homework or test answers with or without that student's permission
- Using cheat notes during test
- Having access to teacher's answer sheets or book
- Obtaining test questions from students who have already taken tests.
- Copying themes and other written papers from other students or reference materials (plagiarism)
- Allowing another student to copy homework or test answers
- Claiming work taken from the Internet as their own, using other student's log-in access, sharing personal passwords with others
- Technology Policy violations
- Use of cell phones or other electronic devices during test or class time to relay answers, photo a test, communicate with another person during this time, etc.

Plagiarism is the use of another person's original ideas or writing as one's own without giving credit to the true author. Plagiarism will be considered cheating, and the student shall be subject to disciplinary action and loss of course work or credit for the work in question.

Consequences for Academic Dishonesty

Consequences for academic dishonesty may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Students will lose credit.
- Students will receive a grade of zero on the permanent transcript.
- Students may be withdrawn from HSoC.

Behavior Expectations

- Students in the HSOC are not allowed on the WHS, Global HS or Waxahachie Creek HS campus during school hours without prior permission from an administrator from both HSoC and the requested campus.
- Students are not permitted in any other parts of the building without permission from HSoC staff.
- When arriving and leaving school, students need to go directly to and from the HSoC entrance doors.
- Students must report directly to class and not loiter outside the school or the room.
- Students must have a pass from the office to go to their cars during class hours.

(*This will only occur in cases of emergency.*)

- Students are not allowed to sleep. Continuous violations will result in the student being sent home for the remainder of the class, possible suspension and an absence.
- Any and all medication brought on campus must be in the original container, turned into the office upon arrival and have a written note from the parent or guardian.
- Students will not be allowed to use any personal electronic devices including media players, cell phones, etc. during class time without prior permission from the principal. Policy will be posted in the class.
- Students will treat staff and classmates with respect at all times.
- Disruption of the learning environment will not be tolerated. It is a privilege to attend HSoC.
- Permission to leave class early must be obtained from the office and the counselor the day prior to the request.
- Other disciplinary infractions.

Discipline

Waxahachie High School of Choice students are subject to all rules and regulations outlined in the WISD Student Code of Conduct. The code can be found on the WISD district website at www.wisd.org under Student Life. Violations of WISD or HSOC rules and guidelines may result in the student receiving a discipline referral, parent conference, suspension or expulsion (removal from the program). Attending this school is a privilege, and removal from this program is partially based upon the disciplinary needs of the student. **All disciplinary actions are at the discretion of the HSoC principal or designee.**

Dress Code and Grooming

The Waxahachie Independent School District is committed to providing an excellent educational opportunity for each student in the district. Efforts are made to ensure the highest standards of performance for all Waxahachie ISD students and to promote a safe and secure environment.

The district's dress code is used to promote grooming and hygiene, instill discipline, prevent disruption, help avoid safety hazards, and teach respect for authority. In addition, dress and grooming standards shall promote community values and good citizenship, enhance a safe orderly educational environment, and not infringe on any individual's religious beliefs or protected free speech.

The desire of the district is to present changes in a positive format; however, the most effective manner in which to explain the changes is to list the prohibited dress and/or grooming practices. Even though the Dress Code is restrictive, students continue to have a wide variety of choices. The cooperation of parents and students and the consistent and fair enforcement of this policy by teachers and administrators are essential to the effectiveness of the Code. The campus administrator has the final decision as to what constitutes appropriate school attire. Administrators shall have the

discretion to determine the appropriateness of attire and grooming for religious and/or medical necessities.

The Following Modes of Dress or Grooming Are Prohibited

Shirts, Tops and Blouses

- Sleeveless shirts or blouses that are not hemmed
- Spaghetti straps, halter tops, strapless tops, basketball jerseys, tank tops, tube tops, unbuttoned shirts and blouses, and overalls (unless worn over appropriate garments)
- Exposed midriff or cleavage
- Backless tops

Dresses, Shorts, Skits, Pants

- Dresses, shorts, skirts, or slits in skirts shorter than mid-thigh and strapless dresses
- Pants, shorts, and skirts worn below the waist (i.e., “sagging” garments)
- Students may be required to use an accessory, provided by the campus to ensure that pants are worn at normal waist level
- Underwear as outerwear or exposed underwear or nightwear
- Fitted bottoms such as leggings, leotards, and yoga pants, or worn only with a top, sweater, or dress that is shorter than mid-thigh length
- Athletic shorts that are mid-thigh length but are hemmed on the rise on the side of the leg that is above mid-thigh length (This style of short may be worn with slider style shorts or tights underneath that are at least mid-thigh length.)

Outerwear (Coats, Jackets, Coveralls, etc.):

- Trench coats or dusters
- One-piece jumpsuits

Accessories

- Piercings: tongue rings, lip rings, eyebrow rings, ear gauges, spacers, facial jewelry such as hoops or rings, visible body piercings, or facial decorations Students may, however, wear one small nostril ring (not to be worn in the septum-cartilage that separates the two nostrils).
- Chains on clothing or wallets
- Heavy or spiked jewelry (e.g., dog collars, spiked bracelets or belts, etc.)
- Visible tattoos deemed disruptive or inappropriate (must be covered at all times)

Headwear

- Hats, caps, bandannas, sweatbands, or other head coverings

- Garments with hoods may not be worn with the hood over the head inside the perimeter of the building during the school day

Footwear

- Soft-bottom house shoes, bare feet, shoes with metal cleats, or shoes with wheels

Sunglasses

- except with a signed note from the school nurse

Grooming

- Hairstyles that are disruptive (e.g., natural Mohawks are not to exceed 2" in height when spiked, designs which display inappropriate symbols or messages, etc.) Non-natural colored hair or extensions. (i.e., red, purple, green, blue, orange, multicolored, etc.)
- If the principal determines that a student's grooming or clothing violates the school's dress code, the student will be given an opportunity to correct the problem at school and return to the classroom. If the problem cannot be corrected at school, the principal will work with the student and parent to obtain an acceptable change of clothing for the student in a way that minimizes loss of instructional time. Repeated or severe offenses may result in more serious disciplinary action in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct.

Exemptions

Parents or guardians seeking an exemption from the Dress Code for their students must complete a WISD Dress Code Exemption request form. This form is available upon request by mail, in person at the main office, or online at Dress code exemption form. The form must be completed in full and returned to the campus principal. Parents or guardians will be asked to discuss with the campus principal the reasons and goal of the policy and the nature of the objections to the Dress Code. This meeting will be held within ten days after the receipt of the form.

Based on the information provided in the Exemption Request form and the interview with the parent, the campus principal will make a determination as to whether the exemption is granted. The decision shall be provided to the student or parent within ten days following the conference.

Parents with more than one student enrolled in the district must fill out a separate WISD Dress Code Exemption Request form for each student. Any appeal of the campus principal's decision will be treated as a student/parent or guardian complaint under WISD Board Policy FNG (LOCAL). Unless otherwise approved by the campus principal, the student must continue to comply with the Waxahachie ISD Dress Code pending the outcome of the Exemption Meeting.

Electronic Devices and Technology Resources

All Grade Levels

Safe Use of Technology

The district is committed to ensuring that students use technology safely 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 cybersecurity and online safety.

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

- Install a filter that blocks and prohibits pornographic or obscene materials or
- applications, including from unsolicited pop-ups, installations, and downloads, before transferring an electronic device to a student to be used for an educational purpose
- Block or filter students' internet access to pictures that are obscene, contain child pornography, or have been determined to be harmful to minors in accordance with the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA)
- Require direct and informed parental consent for a student's use of software, other than software excluded from the consent requirement by law [See Required State Assessments and Standardized Testing]
- Require direct and informed parental consent for a student's use of software that conducts mental health assessments or other assessments unrelated to eucation curricula that are intended to collect information about students [See Consent to Conduct a Psychological or Psychiatric Evaluation]

If you want to know more about partnering with the district regarding cybersecurity and online safety, or if you have complaints or concern about student use of electronic devices, please contact Sean Cagle, Director of Campus and Student Services by phone (972) 923- 4631, Email: mailto:scagle@wisd.org. [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.

Waxahachie ISD Personal Communication Device (PCD) Guidelines

Student PCD Guidelines:
To support an optimal learning and social environment, Waxahachie ISD requires students to refrain from using a PCD during the school day.

A PCD is defined as: cell phone, smartwatch, wireless headphones, earbuds, personal computer/tablet or any electronic device capable of digital communication. All such devices must be powered off and kept out of sight and not on the students' person for the duration of the school day.

Statement of Expectations

Campus administrators will clearly communicate expectations and emphasize the importance of maintaining a learning environment free PCD's throughout the school year. They will monitor violations to determine the need for additional support and reinforcement.

Headphone use will be permitted only with approval from individual classroom teachers, and with school issued devices in accordance with their specific guidelines.

At the Beginning of the School Day

- Students must power off and put away PCD's before entering the school premises.
- While waiting for the school doors to open, students must secure any PCD in a bag, backpack, or other sealable container.
- Students are responsible for arriving to class on time with all devices out of sight.

Throughout the School Day

- Students will maintain all PCD's securely in a bag/backpack/other sealable container for the duration of the school day.
- Accessing any PCD anywhere on school premises during the school day is strictly prohibited.

Conclusion of the School Day

- Once off school premises, students are permitted to utilize their PCD.

Consequences

In limited circumstances and in accordance with law, a student's personal communications devices may be searched by authorized personnel. [See Searches and Investigations and policy FNF 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 devices except as required by law.

Acceptable Use of District Technology Resources

District-owned technology resources may be issued to individual students for instructional purposes. Use of the district's network systems and equipment is restricted to approved purposes only. Students and parents will be asked to sign a user agreement (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. 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 visit 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.

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.

Searches and Investigations

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.

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 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.

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.

Counseling

Academic Counseling

Students and parents are encouraged to talk with a school counselor, teachers, and principal in order to learn about the curriculum, course offerings, and differences between graduation programs. Students who are interested in attending a college, university, or training school, or pursuing some other advanced education should work closely with their counselor so that they take the high school courses to best prepare them for further work. The counselor can also provide information about entrance examinations required by many trade schools, colleges and universities, as well as information about financial aid and housing.

Personal Counseling

The school counselor is available to assist students with a wide range of personal concerns, including such areas as social, family, emotional, academic, or substance abuse needs. The counselor may also make available information about community resources to address personal concerns. Students are encouraged to see their counselor as needed.

Grading Policy

Curriculum is offered through Edgenuity. It consists of tutorials, applications and tests. Numerical grades will be given for courses.

Class Rank Policy

Students will not receive a class rank.

College Implications

Students who graduate from the Waxahachie High School of Choice will be eligible to apply for entrance to junior/community college. Some four-year colleges may consider Waxahachie High School of Choice graduates for admission; however, they will generally expect the student to have taken the SAT/ACT. The student's scores may determine eligibility or Armed Forces service.

Graduation

Graduation Programs

Foundation Graduation Program

Every student in a Texas public school who entered grade 9 in the 2014–15 school year and thereafter will graduate under the "foundation graduation program." Within the foundation graduation program are "endorsements," which are paths of interest that include Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM); Business and Industry; Public Services; Arts and Humanities; and Multidisciplinary Studies. Endorsements earned by a student will be noted on the student's transcript. The foundation graduation program also involves the term "distinguished level of achievement," which reflects the completion of at least one endorsement and Algebra II as one of the required advanced mathematics credits. A personal graduation plan will be completed for each high school student.

State law and rules prohibit a student from graduating solely under the foundation graduation program without an endorsement unless, after the student's sophomore year, the student and student's parents are advised of the specific benefits of graduating with an endorsement and submit written permission to the school counselor for the student to graduate without an endorsement. A student who anticipates graduating under the foundation graduation program without an endorsement and who wishes to attend a four-year university or college after graduation must carefully consider whether this will satisfy the admission requirements of the student's desired college or university.

Graduating under the foundation graduation program will also provide opportunities to earn "performance acknowledgments" that will be acknowledged on a student's transcript. Performance acknowledgments are available for outstanding performance in bilingualism and biliteracy, in a dual credit course, on an AP or IB exam, on certain national college preparatory and readiness or college entrance exams, or for earning a state recognized or nationally or internationally recognized license or certificate. The criteria for earning these performance acknowledgments are prescribed by state rules, and the school counselor can provide more information about these acknowledgments.

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, including Economics & Government	3	3 or 4
Physical Education**	1	1
Language other than English***	2	2
Fine Arts	1	1
Electives	5	7
Miscellaneous		Available Endorsements****: Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math Business and Industry Public Services Arts and Humanities Multidisciplinary
TOTAL	22 credits	26 credits

In order to obtain the distinguished level of achievement under the foundation graduation program, which will be denoted on a student's transcript and is a requirement to be considered for automatic admission purposes to a Texas four-year college or university, a student must complete an endorsement and take Algebra II as one of the four mathematics credits.

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.

Students are required to earn two credits in the same language other than English to graduate. Any student may substitute computer programming languages for these credits. 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.

A student must specify upon entering grade 9 the endorsement he or she wishes to pursue.

Personal Graduation Plans for Students Under the Foundation Graduation Program

A personal graduation plan will be developed for each high school student who is subject to the requirements of the foundation graduation program. 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 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 also review TEA's Graduation Toolkit, available here: http://tea.texas.gov/communications/brochures.aspx.

A student may, with parental permission, amend his or her personal graduation plan after the initial confirmation.