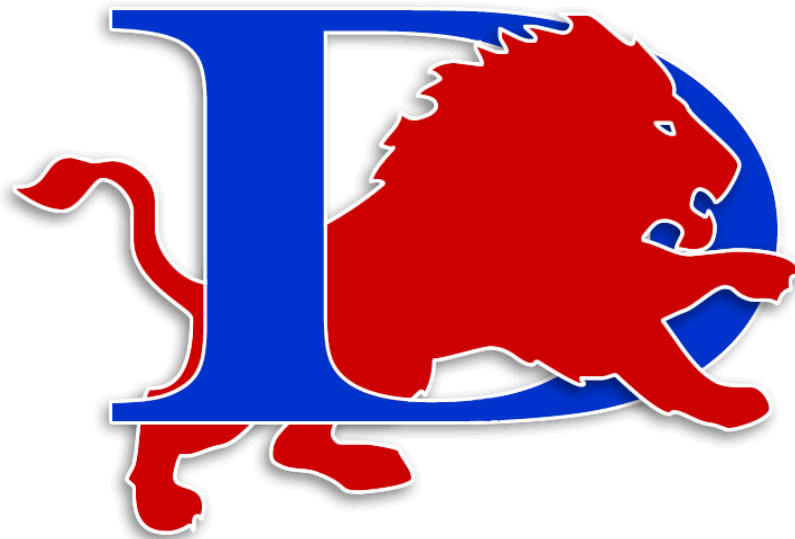


# DURANT HIGH SCHOOL

*Pride, Passion and Purpose*



ONCE A LION, ALWAYS A LION  
ONE TEAM, ONE FAMILY

STUDENT HANDBOOK  
*2026-2027*

**Durant High School does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, natural origin, gender or age.**

**DURANT PUBLIC SCHOOLS MISSION STATEMENT**

The Mission of our learning community is to work together to assure that every child feels important and is empowered to be a happy, successful and responsible human being.

**“REACHING EVERY STUDENT, EVERY DAY, EVERY WAY”**

# **STUDENT HANDBOOK**

**2026-2027**

**Durant High School**

**950 Gerlach Drive**

**Durant, OK 74701**

**(580) 924-4424**

**DURANT HIGH SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT**  
**“Reaching Every Student, Every Day, Every Way”**

# **WELCOME**

Dear DHS students and families:

Welcome to the 2026-2027 school year! We expect this year to be a great one for all of you. To achieve academic success, we must make sure our school is safe and orderly. Our expectation of each student is responsible, ethical behavior at school so all students can learn. This will help create an environment that nurtures learning and achievement. The DHS student policy handbook specifies Student Rights, Responsibilities and Character Development indicating what we expect from every student. This handbook may be used as a ready reference to the Durant Board of Education policies that directly affect students. We hope that its use will result in a clear understanding of what is acceptable, expected and required of our students. However, it does not include every rule, regulation, qualification, or other relevant information of the district or building policies. Durant High School will not waive students' responsibilities simply because a state regulation, district or building policy is not included in this handbook.

The policies are written to comply with both federal and state statutes; therefore, policies may be added or amended during the school year. We will make every effort reasonably possible to see that students are informed either verbally or in writing. However, it is the student's responsibility to know the rules that they must live by in this school. If you have any questions regarding the policies, please feel free to contact the office.

The staff wishes each student a successful school year. We encourage open communication between parents and teachers, and we ask parents to bring their concerns to the school's attention so they can be resolved at the lowest level. We also encourage each parent or guardian to become involved in your child's education, not only by reading this handbook but also by visiting Durant High School. Our doors are always open. Our goal as a district is to educate every child, every day for a better tomorrow – and that future begins today with the start of school. Thank you for choosing DHS and have a great school year!

Sincerely,

Amber Bullard  
Principal

# Durant High School

**2026 - 2027**

## *Student Rights, Responsibilities and Character Development Handbook* **CODE OF STUDENT CONDUCT**

### **Student and Parent Acknowledgement and Pledge**

The *Code of Student Conduct* has been developed to help your child receive quality instruction in an orderly educational environment. The school needs your cooperation in this effort. Therefore, please (1) review and discuss the *Code of Student Conduct* with your child and (2) sign and return this sheet to your child's school. Should you have any questions when reviewing the *Code of Student Conduct*, please contact your child's school principal. You may access an electronic copy of the handbook on the DHS website: [www.durantisd.org](http://www.durantisd.org). You may also access a paper copy at your child's school.

**NOTE: FAILURE TO RETURN THIS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND PLEDGE WILL NOT RELIEVE A STUDENT OR THE PARENT/GUARDIAN FROM BEING RESPONSIBLE FOR KNOWING OR COMPLYING WITH THE RULES CONTAINED WITHIN THE CODE OF STUDENT CONDUCT.**

I have reviewed the *Code of Student Conduct*, and I understand the rights and responsibilities contained therein.

Parent: \_\_\_\_\_

To help keep my school safe, I pledge to show good character, work to the best of my ability and adhere to the guidelines established within the *Code of Student Conduct*.

Student: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Character Traits

Character education is the deliberate effort to help people understand, care about and act upon core ethical values. An intentional and comprehensive character education initiative provides a lens through which every aspect of school becomes an opportunity for character development.

Benefits:

- It promotes character development through the exploration of ethical issues across the curriculum.
- It develops a positive and moral climate by engaging the participation of students, teachers and staff, parents, and communities.
- It teaches students how to solve conflicts fairly, creating safer schools that are freer of intimidation, fear and violence, and are more conducive to learning\*

The following character traits are essential for students to compete locally, nationally and internationally! These traits should be modeled and maintained by adults and students.

### **Respect, Responsibility and Caring**

*These are the cornerstones of good character!*

#### **Respect**

*Showing high regard for self, others and property.*

#### **Responsibility**

*Being accountable for individual behavior.*

#### **Honesty**

*Being truthful in words and action.*

#### **Caring**

*Showing concern for the well-being of others.*

#### **Justice and Fairness**

*Demonstrating impartial, unbiased and equitable treatment for all.*

#### **Citizenship**

*Being an informed, responsible and caring participant in the community.*

#### **Courage**

*Doing the right thing in the face of difficulty and following the conscience instead of the crowd.*

#### **Perseverance**

*Staying the course and not giving up; demonstrating commitment, pride and a positive attitude in completing tasks.*

#### **Hope**

*Believing in success.*

# Student Rights and Responsibilities

## *Safe and Orderly Educational Environment*

### **Student Rights**

To attend school in a positive educational environment

To have school staff that is willing to hear the needs and concerns of students

To feel safe from crime, violence, intimidation, bullying, harassment, racism and other discrimination at school

### **Student Responsibilities**

To only engage in behaviors which support a positive educational environment

To express needs and concerns appropriately

To understand and follow school behavior expectations and to report instances of bullying and dangerous/unsafe situations to school administrators

## *Attendance*

### **Student Rights**

To be informed of school board policies and school rules about absences, recovery and tardiness

To arrange to make up classwork/tests for credit within five days of returning from an absence

### **Student Responsibilities**

To attend school and class daily and to be on time

To provide documentation of the reason for an absence.

To request make-up work for an absence and arrange to complete it within five days of returning to school

## *School Counseling Services*

### **Student Rights**

To be informed about school guidance services

To have access to school counselors

To request counseling when needed

### **Student Responsibilities**

To utilize guidance services for educational improvement

To request counseling or advisement when needed

To work cooperatively with school staff

## *Free Speech/Expression*

### **Student Rights**

To express views (in written or verbal form) without being obscene, disruptive, discriminatory or provocative

To choose to participate in patriotic observances such as the Pledge of Allegiance

To have religious beliefs respected

To help develop and distribute publications as part of the educational process

To be protected from bullying, intimidation and threats

### **Student Responsibilities**

To respect the rights of others when they express their views

To behave respectfully during patriotic observances

To respect the religious beliefs of others and to refrain from activities that hold religious beliefs up for ridicule

To follow the rules of responsible journalism under the guidance of an advisor and administrator, including refraining from publishing material that is inappropriate for the school environment

To refrain from bullying, intimidating and threatening conduct

## *Privacy and Property Rights*

### **Student Rights**

To have personal possessions remain private unless school staff have reason to believe that a student is in possession of items prohibited by the *Code of Student Conduct*, other school policy or the law

To have personal property respected

### **Student Responsibilities**

To keep prohibited items away from school and school functions

To respect the personal property of others

# STUDENT HANDBOOK

## ASSEMBLIES

Students are required to sit with their current class during an assembly. Behavioral expectations in an assembly are the same as in the classroom.

## ATHLETIC LETTERS

The following requirements must be met in order for an athlete to be awarded a letter in any sport:

- Athletes must conform to all eligibility requirements.
- Athletes must meet the specific lettering requirements for each sport.
- Athletes must complete the entire sports season for that sport.

## ATTENDANCE

Students are required to attend at least 90% of the days a class is held in order to receive credit and to be eligible to participate in extracurricular activities. Students are considered truant at any time their attendance falls below 90% of the days school has been in session.

Regular attendance is of high importance. Parents/guardians are asked to make every effort to schedule medical and other appointments so as not to create an absence. Please note: DOCTOR/DENTIST APPOINTMENTS ARE ABSENCES AND COUNT TOWARD THE TOTAL NUMBER OF ABSENCES ALLOWED PER SEMESTER. Exceptions will be made for extenuating circumstances, such as hospital stays, death of immediate family members or court mandates. If a student misses 15 or more minutes of a class period, the student will be marked absent.

Parents should call the school attendance office (580) 924-4424, if a student is absent from school. If the parent does not call the office **within three days of the absence**, the absence will be marked **unexcused**. The student will be sent to the dean of students immediately upon returning to school. The dean of students will contact the parent to verify the reason for the absence. Absences deemed unexcused may result in disciplinary consequences. This includes oversleeping.

Doctor's notes or other documentation must be presented immediately to the attendance office on the day the student returns to school. **Medical documentation not submitted within 3 days of the absence will not be accepted. Medical documentation should include the student's name, date and time of the visit, and the student's return date to school.** Students with excused absences will be allowed to make up the course work missed.

Students classified as juniors or seniors are allowed 2 days during the school year to visit colleges. These visits must be pre-approved by a school administrator. If the student presents documentation validating the college visit, then the absence will be coded in such a way that it does not count against semester exam exemptions.

The decision to excuse an absence is at the discretion of the school administrator.

This policy applies to all absences, whether for all or part of a school day.

Classes missed for approved school activities are not considered absences and are not subject to the above rules. Students who miss classes due to participation in approved school activities are responsible for making arrangements for make-up work. Work

previously assigned for the day missed is due on the day of the student's return to school. Students will not be given additional time to make-up work or tests as a result of an activity absence.

Students may not leave the campus during the school day without checking out through the attendance office. The school must be able to contact a parent for approval prior to allowing a student to sign out of school.

Students are limited to ten absences per class each year for participation in school activities. Students must make a choice as to which activities to select. **Students are not allowed to miss a class in which they are failing (when averaging their grade at the end of any week during the semester) to participate in a school activity.** Students may also not miss a class in which the total number of days present is less than 90% of the class days held up until that point. For example, if a class has been in session 15 days, the student must have attended at least 13 of those days and have no more than 2 absences, excused and unexcused absences combined.

## BELL SCHEDULE

### "A" LUNCH DAILY SCHEDULE

|            |               |
|------------|---------------|
| TUTORIALS  | 07:50 - 08:15 |
| 1ST PERIOD | 08:20 - 09:12 |
| 2ND PERIOD | 09:17 - 10:09 |
| 3RD PERIOD | 10:14 - 11:12 |
| "A" LUNCH  | 11:17 - 11:47 |
| 4TH PERIOD | 11:52 - 12:44 |
| 5TH PERIOD | 12:49 - 01:41 |
| 6TH PERIOD | 01:46 - 02:38 |
| 7TH PERIOD | 02:43 - 03:35 |

### "B" LUNCH DAILY SCHEDULE

|            |               |
|------------|---------------|
| TUTORIALS  | 07:50 - 08:15 |
| 1ST PERIOD | 08:20 - 09:12 |
| 2ND PERIOD | 09:17 - 10:09 |
| 3RD PERIOD | 10:14 - 11:12 |
| 4TH PERIOD | 11:17 - 12:09 |
| "B" LUNCH  | 12:14 - 12:44 |
| 5TH PERIOD | 12:49 - 01:41 |
| 6TH PERIOD | 01:46 - 02:38 |
| 7TH PERIOD | 02:43 - 03:35 |

### "C" LUNCH DAILY SCHEDULE

|            |               |
|------------|---------------|
| TUTORIALS  | 07:50 - 08:15 |
| 1ST PERIOD | 08:20 - 09:12 |
| 2ND PERIOD | 09:17 - 10:09 |
| 3RD PERIOD | 10:14 - 11:12 |
| 4TH PERIOD | 11:17 - 12:09 |
| 5TH PERIOD | 12:14 - 01:06 |
| "C" LUNCH  | 01:11 - 01:41 |
| 6TH PERIOD | 01:46 - 02:38 |
| 7TH PERIOD | 02:43 - 03:35 |

### PEP RALLY SCHEDULE

|            |           |
|------------|-----------|
| 6TH PERIOD | 1:46-2:20 |
| 7TH PERIOD | 2:25-3:00 |
| PEP RALLY  | 3:05-3:35 |

## **FLEX SCHEDULE**

Flex Schedule will be followed weekly to provide time for teacher collaboration in conjunction with our Professional Learning Community.

Students are not required to be in attendance during Flex Time. However, they are required to report to school by 9:10 a.m. on Flex days. Students who are in attendance during Flex Time must report to the assigned location and participate in the scheduled activity until 9:10 a.m.

### **“A” LUNCH FLEX SCHEDULE**

Flex Time 08:05 – 09:10

1<sup>ST</sup> PERIOD 09:15 – 10:00

2<sup>ND</sup> PERIOD 10:05 – 10:50

3<sup>RD</sup> PERIOD 10:55 – 11:40

A LUNCH 11:45 – 12:15

4<sup>TH</sup> PERIOD 12:20 – 01:05

5<sup>TH</sup> PERIOD 01:10 – 01:55

6<sup>TH</sup> PERIOD 02:00 – 02:45

7<sup>TH</sup> PERIOD 02:50 – 03:35

### **“B” LUNCH FLEX SCHEDULE**

Flex Time 08:05 – 09:10

1<sup>ST</sup> PERIOD 09:15 – 10:00

2<sup>ND</sup> PERIOD 10:05 – 10:50

3<sup>RD</sup> PERIOD 10:55 – 11:40

4<sup>TH</sup> PERIOD 11:45 – 12:30

B LUNCH 12:35 – 01:05

5<sup>TH</sup> PERIOD 01:10 – 01:55

6<sup>TH</sup> PERIOD 02:00 – 02:45

7<sup>TH</sup> PERIOD 02:50 – 03:35

### **“C” LUNCH FLEX SCHEDULE**

Flex Time 08:05 – 09:10

1<sup>ST</sup> PERIOD 09:15 – 10:00

2<sup>ND</sup> PERIOD 10:05 – 10:50

3<sup>RD</sup> PERIOD 10:55 – 11:40

4<sup>TH</sup> PERIOD 11:45 – 12:30

5<sup>TH</sup> PERIOD 12:35 – 01:20

C LUNCH 01:25 – 01:55

6<sup>TH</sup> PERIOD 02:00 – 02:45

7<sup>TH</sup> PERIOD 02:50 – 03:35

### **FLEX PEP RALLY SCHEDULE**

6<sup>th</sup> PERIOD 02:00 – 02:30

7<sup>th</sup> PERIOD 02:35 – 03:05

PEP RALLY 03:10 – 03:35

## **CELL PHONES AND PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICES POLICY**

(Pursuant to Oklahoma Statutes, Section 1-126, Title 70)

### **Devices Off — Learning On**

Spending less time on personal devices during school helps students stay focused, feel less stressed, and connect more with their learning and each other. By keeping personal devices off and put away during the school day, we create an environment where students can do their best in school, build friendships, and take care of their well-being.

This new policy agrees with the new state law regarding prohibiting students from using electronic devices from bell-to-bell (as defined in the statute “bell to bell” means the time between the first bell ringing at the start of the school day to begin instructional time until the dismissal bell at the end of the school day to end instructional time.)

### **Expectations for Students**

All students are expected to keep personal electronic devices turned off and out of sight during the instructional day. Personal electronic devices include cell phones, earbuds, headphones, iPods, smartwatches, smart glasses, and any other device that can connect to the internet, a cell phone, or a cellular or Wi-Fi network.

This effort helps us create a better learning environment by reducing distractions and encouraging students to stay engaged. Families can always reach their child by calling the school office. Students may request to go to the office to use the phone to call their parents or guardians during the instructional day.

### **Guidelines for Students & Families**

- **Bringing a Device is a Personal Choice** – Durant Public Schools cannot guarantee the safety of personal devices. Students bring their personal electronic devices at their own risk. To avoid loss or damage, we recommend leaving all devices at home.
- **Devices Should Stay Out of Sight** – Personal devices must be put away and should not be used on campus. This includes but is not limited to passing periods, bathrooms, the cafeteria/Commons, and hallways.
- **Keep Devices Off** – If a personal device makes noise in class thereby disrupting the educational environment, it will be treated as a policy violation as if the student had the device out.
- **Lost or Stolen Devices** – If students bring a personal device to school, we recommend having a tracking app. Teachers and staff cannot take time from instruction to search for lost or missing devices that students choose to bring to school at their own risk.
- **Need to Reach Your Student?** – In case of an emergency, parents/guardians can call the front office, and a message will be delivered to your child.
- **Students Needing to Call Home** – If a student needs to contact a parent/guardian, they may request to use the phone in the main office.
- **Medical Use** – Students who need to use a personal device for medical purposes must provide documentation from a qualified medical professional.

This policy helps us create a space where students can focus on learning, build strong relationships, and enjoy their school day without unnecessary distractions.

Please remember that Durant Public Schools may not be held responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged devices, even if they have been confiscated.

### **Consequences**

It is the district's policy that students who possess a personal electronic device at school must keep that device turned off and out of sight. Campus staff may provide a designated area within the classroom during class time to store personal electronic devices.

Students who violate this policy will have their personal electronic device confiscated until after a parent/guardian conference. Students are also subject to other disciplinary actions which may include one day in the alternative classroom. Subsequent violations may result in additional consequences at the discretion of administrator. Disciplinary incidents, such as personal electronic device violations, also constitute loss of the student's semester exam exemption status.

If a student refuses confiscation of a device, the student may be immediately suspended, receive AC or other disciplinary action rendered at the discretion of the administration.

## **CHANGE OF ADDRESS OR PHONE NUMBER**

Students should inform the Counseling Office immediately of any change in home address or telephone number.

## **CLOSED CAMPUS**

It is the policy of the Durant Board of Education that the schools will have a closed campus. Students will remain on campus from the time they arrive in the morning until the completion of the day.

Each student should plan to arrive at school before the first bell, allowing time to get organized for the morning and be ready to meet the first class.

Upon arrival on campus, the student is to go to an approved area to wait for the first bell.

**Sitting in a vehicle is not permitted.**

Students who have arrived at school may not leave the school premises at any time during the day without first receiving permission from the principal's office. For special occasions at school, students will not be allowed to leave campus to change clothes unless extenuating circumstances exist.

Before permission can be granted for a student to leave at any time other than during the lunch period:

1. The principal's office must have received a note or a phone call from the student's parent/guardian stating the reason why the student needs to leave school (a note must be brought in soon enough to be verified).
2. The principal or office personnel must talk personally with the parent/guardian.
3. The principal will then issue a slip, which verifies the student's right to leave campus.
4. Then the student must sign-out through the Kiosk in the office (and must sign back in if returning before school is out).

Before permission can be granted for a student to leave the campus during the lunch period:

1. Only the parent/guardian may pick up the student.
2. The parent/guardian must sign the student out through the principal's office before the student is allowed to leave.
3. The student must sign back in upon returning to campus.
4. Students are not permitted to drive from the campus at lunch if planning to return for afternoon classes.

Any student who fails to abide by these policies will be considered truant and could be subject to discipline.

## **COLLEGE CLASSES**

Concurrent enrollment allows a junior or senior who is enrolled in an accredited high school and meets the college admission requirements as set by the State Department of Education to attend a college or university in the Oklahoma State System of Higher Education. All courses that are taken concurrently will be added to the student's transcript and the grades(s) will be calculated as part of the high school GPA. No Passing (NP)

issued for a college course will result in No Credit (NC) being transcribed on the high school diploma. This will be calculated as an F in the student's GPA. Any student who drops a course **MUST** inform the counselor's office the day the course is dropped. Tuition and fees associated with concurrent courses are the responsibility of the student.

### **Accelerated College Experience (ACE) Program**

The ACE Program, in partnership with Murray State College, provides students with the opportunity to earn an associate degree while completing their high school diploma. Students enrolled in the program will complete up to 60 hours of college credit and earn a college degree or certificate by the time they graduate from high school.

Students interested in the ACE Program must begin the application process during the spring semester of their sophomore (10th-grade) year. To be eligible, students must:

- Maintain a minimum 3.5 unweighted GPA
- Receive recommendations from all core academic teachers
- Meet all college enrollment requirements
- Complete all application and enrollment requirements by the last day of the spring semester

Students accepted into the program are expected to successfully complete both their high school graduation requirements and the requirements for their selected college degree or certificate program.

### **DANCES**

School dances must be sponsored by the Student Council and have the approval of the principal. Students may bring a date from another school by completing an out-of-school date form and securing the approval of the principal or assistant principal three days prior to the dance. Guests must be under 21 years of age and have no previous behavior concerns.

### **DETENTION**

Detention may be assigned as a disciplinary action by classroom teachers and administrators. Detention is a study period where students must bring books, paper, pencil or an assignment in order to be admitted. No talking or any form of misbehavior or violation of school rules is allowed. Students will be dismissed and considered as a "no show" if talking or misbehavior occurs. Students are not allowed in detention late. Students who fail to arrive on time are considered "no shows." A student must receive permission to miss detention from the assigning person. Students who miss detention without permission will be considered "no shows." Students are responsible for notifying their parents that detention has been assigned.

- Afternoon detention is held from 3:40 p.m. to 4:20 p.m.
- Morning detention is held from 7:30 a.m. to 8:15 a.m.
- Failure to serve detention will result in further disciplinary action.
  - First "no show": Detention is doubled and student is reassigned. Parent/Guardian notification attempted.
  - Second "no show": Further disciplinary action will take place.

## **DIPLOMAS**

Diplomas will be issued at the end of each school year to all seniors who have fulfilled graduation requirements. Diplomas will not be mailed. Students may pick up diplomas in the counseling center the week following graduation.

## **DISCIPLINE CODE**

The following behaviors at school, while on school vehicles or going to or from or attending school events will result in disciplinary action, which may include in-school placement options or out-of-school suspension:

1. Arson
2. Altering or attempting to alter another individual's food or beverage
3. Assault (whether physical or verbal) and/or battery
4. Attempting to incite or produce imminent violence directed against another person because of his or her race, color, sex, pregnancy, gender, gender expression or identity, national origin, religion, disability, veteran status, sexual orientation, age, or genetic information by making or transmitting or causing or allowing to be transmitted, any telephonic, computerized or electronic message
5. Attempting to incite or produce imminent violence directed against another person because of his or her race, color, sex, pregnancy, gender, gender expression or identity, national origin, religion, disability, veteran status, sexual orientation, age, or genetic information by broadcasting, publishing or distributing or causing or allowing to be broadcast, published or distributed, any message or material
6. Academic Misconduct, including, but not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, unauthorized collaboration, alteration of academic materials or other academic misbehavior
7. Complicity in misconduct by others, including, but not limited to, attempting to or encouraging others to commit prohibited conduct. Apathy or acquiescence in the presence of prohibited conduct is violative of this policy.
8. Conduct that threatens or jeopardizes the safety of others
9. Cutting class or sleeping, eating or refusing to work in class
10. Disorderly conduct, including behaving in a disorderly, lewd, indecent manner or breaching the peace on school property or in school-sponsored activities. Examples include, but are not limited to, obscene language, profanity, inappropriate behavior or gestures, indecent exposure, nonconsensual photography, video, or audio recording of another person on school premises or at school-sponsored events when recording causes or is likely to cause injury or distress
11. Disruption of the educational process or operation of the school — as to disruptive behavior in the classroom specifically, engaging in behavior that a reasonable person would view as substantial or repeated interference with the instructor's ability to teach the class or the ability of other students to benefit from instruction
12. Extortion

13. Failure to attend assigned detention, alternative school or other disciplinary assignment without approval
  14. Failure to comply with state immunization records
  15. False reports or false calls
  16. Fighting
  17. Forgery, fraud, or embezzlement
  18. Gambling
  19. Gang related activity or action
  20. Harassment, intimidation, and bullying, including gestures, written or verbal expression, electronic communication or physical acts
  21. Hazing (whether involving initiations, admission into, affiliations with, or as a continued involvement in a group or organization or not) in connection with any school activity, regardless of location. Hazing, includes, but is not limited to, any activity that recklessly or intentionally endangers the mental or physical health or safety of a student. Likewise, engaging in any action or activity that causes or is likely to cause physical or mental discomfort or distress that may demean, degrade, or disgrace any person, regardless of location, intent or consent of participants is violation of this policy
  22. Immorality
  23. Inappropriate attire, including violation of dress code
  24. Intimidation or harassment because of race, color, sex, pregnancy, gender, gender expression or identity, national origin, religion, disability, veteran status, sexual orientation, age, or genetic information, including but not limited to: (a) assault and battery; (b) damage, destruction, vandalism or defacing any real or personal property; or threatening, by word or act, the acts identified in (a) or (b)
  25. Physical or verbal abuse, including, but not limited to, physically restraining or transporting someone against their will
  26. Possession or distribution of a caustic substance
  27. Possessing, distributing or viewing obscene materials, including electronic possession, distribution or viewing (sexting)
  28. Possession of synthetic urine, a warmer or any other item with the intent to use that item to tamper with a drug or alcohol test
  29. Possession, without prior authorization, of a wireless telecommunication device
  30. Possession, threat or use of a dangerous weapon<sup>1</sup> and related instrumentalities (i.e., bullets, shells, gun powder, pellets, etc.)
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31. Possession, claimed possession, use, manufacture, distribution, sale, purchase, conspiracy to sell, distribute or possess or being in the chain of sale or distribution, or being under the influence of (a) alcoholic beverages, (b) any mind altering substance, except for medications taken for legitimate medical purposes pursuant to district policy, including but not limited to prescription medications for which the individual does not have a prescription, or medications used outside their intended therapeutic purpose, (c) paint, glue, aerosol sprays, salts, incense and other substances which may be used as an intoxicating substance, or (d) any substance believed or represented to be a prohibited substance, regardless of its actual content
32. Possession or claimed possession of illegal and/or drug related paraphernalia
33. Possession, claimed possession, distribution, or claimed distribution of supplements, prescription medicine, and/or non-prescription medicine while at school and school related functions without prior district approval
34. Purchasing, selling and/or attempting to purchase or sell prescription and non-prescription medicine while at school and school related functions
35. School Bus or Transportation Misconduct – While riding on any district school bus or other district-provided mode of transportation, engaging in any of the following acts is prohibited: (i) throwing any object; (ii) placing any part of one's body out of a window (bus moving or stationary); (iii) eating, drinking, and/or possessing food or drink while on a bus (lunches taken to school are excluded provided they are packed in a container and the container is not opened on the bus); (iv) failure to remain seated (feet on floor, facing front); (v) disrespectful words, comments or actions toward the driver or other passengers; (vi) blocking the aisle; (vii) pushing while loading/unloading or while bus is approaching; (viii) transporting unauthorized items; (ix) any type of harassment; (x) excessive noise; and (xi) improper street crossing during loading or unloading
36. Sexual or other harassment of individuals including, but not limited to, students, school employees, volunteers
37. Theft
38. Threatening behavior, including but not limited to gestures, written, verbal, or physical acts, or electronic communications
39. Truancy
40. Use, possession, claimed possession, distribution or selling marijuana or marijuana related products in any form. "Marijuana" is defined as provided for in the district's policy on *Medical Marijuana, Hemp & Cannabidiol (CBD)*

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<sup>1</sup>Students who are members of JROTC and are participating in an authorized school program may, with prior approval from the principal, bring an inoperable weapon to school for the sole and exclusive purpose of participating in the program. Students may only possess the inoperable weapon in a manner consistent with the authorization to participate in the program.

41. Use, possession, claimed possession, distribution or selling tobacco, or tobacco related products in any form, including but not limited to cigarettes, cigars, loose tobacco, rolling papers, chewing tobacco, snuff, matches and lighters, and vapor products which includes noncombustible products that may or may not contain nicotine, that employ a mechanical heating element, battery, electronic circuit or other mechanism, regardless of shape or size, that can be used to produce a vapor in a solution or other form. A vapor product also includes any vapor cartridge or other container with or without nicotine or other form that is intended to be used with an electronic cigarette, electronic cigar, electronic cigarillo, electronic pipe or similar product or device and any vapor cartridge or other container of a solution, that may or may not contain nicotine, that is intended to be used with or in an electronic cigarette, electronic cigar, electronic cigarillo or electronic device. Vapor products not included are any products regulated by the United States Food and Drug Administration under Chapter V of the Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act.
42. Use or possession of missing or stolen property if property is reasonably suspected to have been taken from a student, a school employee, or the school
43. Using racial, religious, ethnic, sexual, gender or disability-related epithets
44. Use of the school's resources (i.e., computers, electronic mail, internet, and similar resources) in a manner prohibited by policies, in any manner not authorized by school officials, or in violation of law
45. Vandalism
46. Violation of board of education policies, rules or regulations or violation of school rules and regulations including, but not limited to, disrespect, lingering in restrooms, running in halls, bringing unauthorized items to school, inappropriate or unauthorized use of cellular phones or other electronic media, name calling, destroying or defacing school property
47. Vulgarity
48. Willful damage to school property
49. Willful disobedience of a directive of any school official

In addition, conduct occurring outside of the normal school day or off school property that has a direct and immediate negative effect on the discipline or educational process or effectiveness of the school, will also result in disciplinary action, which may include in-school placement options or out-of-school suspension. This includes but is not limited to electronic communication, whether or not such communication originated at school or with school equipment, if the communication is specifically directed at students or school personnel and concerns harassment, intimidation or bullying at school.

#### School Safety and Bullying Prevention Act (OKLA. STAT. tit. 70, § 24-100.2)

The Oklahoma Legislature established the *School Safety and Bullying Prevention Act* with the express intent of prohibiting bullying in all schools. In addition to the prohibition listed in the student discipline code above, the board has adopted a separate policy prohibiting bullying and outlining the district's plan to address it.

#### Sample Disciplinary Options

- ***Instructor or Administrator Intervention***

May include, but is not limited to: warning conference with student, parent conference, referral to counselor, behavioral contract, restriction of privileges, requirement of

corrective action by student, changing student's seat or class assignment, involvement of local authorities or agencies, or other appropriate action as required or indicated by the circumstances.

- ***Detention or In-School Intervention***

Detention is a correctional measure used when it is deemed appropriate. Students are to report to the appropriate teacher/principal at the specified time with class work to be studied. Detention may be assigned on a weekday or on a Saturday, as deemed appropriate.

- ***Alternative In-School Placement***

Alternative in-school placement is an optional correctional measure that may be used by the school when deemed appropriate. It involves assignment to a school site, designated by the school, for a prescribed course of education as determined by school representatives. Any such placement will be made in accordance with applicable special education procedural safeguards.

*Alternative Out-of-School Placement*

Alternative out-of-school placement is an optional correctional measure specifically authorized in cases when a student has made electronic communications intended to terrify, intimidate, harass, or threaten injury or harm to faculty or students. Any such placement will be made in accordance with applicable special education procedural safeguards.

- ***School Service***

School service may be required of students when an administrator believes that it would allow the student to understand the logical consequences of his/her conduct. Examples include, but are not limited to, cleaning after vandalism or littering, helping a teacher after disrupting a class, etc. School service will not be utilized to augment the district's workforce, in ways which are likely to endanger a student, or in a manner which is designed to unduly embarrass a student.

- ***Corporal Punishment***

Corporal punishment may be administered at the discretion of the school administration. Prior to administering corporal punishment, the administrator will explain to the student the offense he/she is alleged to have committed and allow the student to explain his/her version of events.

Corporal punishment must be administered by a school administrator in a private office area with another certified employee serving as a witness. If possible, the witness will be the same gender as the student. Corporal punishment will only be administered to a student's buttocks with a finished wooden paddle after the student has emptied his/her pockets. No student will receive more than 3 swats per incident, and no more than 3 swats per day. The corporal punishment must be reasonable in force considering the student's age, sex, physical and mental condition, whether the force was degrading and the likelihood of permanent harm to the student.

Corporal punishment will not be administered to special education students with the most severe cognitive disabilities unless the student's parents have signed a written waiver permitting corporal punishment. As to any other special education students, the person administering the corporal punishment must first determine that such punishment is not prohibited by the student's IEP or 504 plan.

A report must be completed by the administrator and signed by both the administrator and the witness. The report will specify the infraction, the number of swats given, the date, time and location of the corporal punishment and the name and position of the witness.

Parents who object to the use of corporal punishment for their student must notify the school principal, in writing, at the beginning of each school year.

▪ ***Out of School Student Suspension***

Students may be suspended out of school pursuant to the district's policy regarding student suspension.

**Student Privileges While Under Suspension**

Participation in the extracurricular activities of the school is a privilege and not a right. Accordingly, when a student's behavior results in a determination by the principal to impose disciplinary or other correctional measures against a student, the student will not be permitted to participate in any extracurricular activities offered by the school during the term of the discipline unless, in the sole judgment of the principal, such participation is appropriate given the nature of the offense committed by the student.

"Extracurricular activities" include, but are not limited to, all school sponsored teams, clubs, organizations, ceremonies, student government, band, athletics and all other school sponsored activities and organizations.

**DISCIPLINE PLAN**

We believe that all of our students can behave appropriately in school. We will not allow any student to prevent a teacher from teaching or to keep other students from learning. In order to guarantee all our students an environment conducive to learning, the following Discipline Plan will be utilized.

**RULES FOR A PRODUCTIVE AND POSITIVE ENVIRONMENT**

1. Students will follow directions.
2. Students will bring all necessary materials.
3. Students will stay in their seats and talk only with permission.
4. Students will be courteous and respectful to others, keeping their hands, feet, and other objects to themselves.
5. Students will move quietly, orderly and efficiently in the halls, restrooms and cafeteria.

**Breaking of rules will result in the following consequences:**

|                            |   |                                     |
|----------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Infraction | - | Warning                             |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Infraction | - | Parent conference                   |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> Infraction | - | 1-hour detention                    |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> Infraction | - | Referral to administrator           |
| Severe Infraction          | - | Immediate referral to administrator |

**DRESS CODE**

The dress code is designed for all students with emphasis on good grooming, cleanliness, safety, and proper dress. This code is an integral part of the student's educational process, which tends to enhance one's appearance and personal image in the school. The students' dress and grooming shall not lead school officials to reasonably believe that such dress or grooming will disrupt, interfere with, or detract from school activities, or create a health or other hazard to students' safety or to the safety of others.

Compliance with the dress code is a responsibility of every student and parent.

The code is to be enforced by every **certified** staff member.

- Students may not wear halter-tops, midriff shirts or blouses, tank tops, pajama type tops or bottoms, or other revealing clothing. Shirts and blouses must cover the abdomen. When a student raises his/her arms, the stomach or back cannot be exposed. Basketball jerseys may be worn over a T-shirt.
- All undergarments must be covered completely.
- Sleeveless shirts or blouses are permitted if they have fitted armholes. No tank tops or strapped tops allowed. Shirts that hang off the shoulder are not permitted.
- Students must wear shoes. Shoes with cleats or rollers are not allowed inside the school building. House shoes are not acceptable footwear.
- Students may not wear clothing or accessories that display symbols, pictures, lettering or numbering that is profane, vulgar, repulsive, or obscene, or that advertises or promotes violence, dangerous weapons, tobacco, alcoholic beverages, low-point beer, illegal or illicit drugs, drug-related items, drug paraphernalia, or other items or activities that are illegal for the general population or for minors.
- Hats, caps, bandanas, shower caps/bonnets, and hoods may not be worn inside the school building except for medical reasons, or when deemed to be necessary equipment for a class.
- Hairstyles or hair colors that are substantially distracting are prohibited. This includes but is not limited to Mohawks, designs shaved into the hair, or neon colored hair. Students' hair should not cover their eyes.
- Chains are not permitted as belts, decorative items, or attached to clothing.
- Students may wear earrings, except long or sharp earrings that create the possibility of injury in hallways or activities. All other body piercing jewelry that creates distractions or the possibility of injury is also prohibited. Flesh tunnels, gauges, plugs or any other devices that facilitate these instruments are prohibited.
- Shorts, skirts and dresses must be longer than fingertip length. Garments shorter in length must have leggings. Biking shorts, leggings, yoga pants or tight fitting knitwear must be covered with a garment that falls below the bottom. Tight fitting knitwear that can be seen through should not be worn at school.
- The waistband of shorts or pants must be worn at the waistline. Sagging is not permitted. PANTS WITH HOLES LOCATED ABOVE FINGERTIP LENGTH ARE NOT PERMITTED.
- Sunglasses may not be worn inside school facilities unless prescribed by a doctor for inside wear.
- Students may not bring blankets to school. Blankets may not be worn in place of a jacket.
- Students may not wear earbuds, including wireless Bluetooth earpieces, during class unless necessary for a learning activity.
- Students may not wear costumes and/or costume accessories, unless specifically allowed as part of a designated school spirit activity. Examples include, but are not limited to, capes, ears, tails, masks, etc.

When a bona fide religious belief or health need of a student conflicts with the school dress code, reasonable accommodations shall be provided. Any student desiring accommodation shall notify the school principal in writing of the requested accommodation and the factual basis for the request. Approved coverings worn as part of a student's bona fide religious practices or beliefs shall not be prohibited under this policy.

At the start of the school day, the faculty will enforce the dress code with a principal making the final decision. Any student with a **first-time** violation of the dress code who cannot reach a parent to bring them appropriate clothing will have one of the following consequences: 1) To be provided alternate clothing. 2) Assigned to the alternative classroom-

**Second and subsequent violations of the dress code may result in detention or more severe consequences.**

## **DRUG TESTING**

In order to protect the health and safety of students participating in extracurricular activities and who drive to school and to educate and direct these students away from drug and alcohol use and abuse, the district has adopted a policy for testing for the use of illegal drugs, alcohol and performance enhancing drugs. All students who participate in any extracurricular activity and/or drive to school will be subject to random drug testing conducted by the school district. Students and parents may view the complete Policy on Student Alcohol and Drug Testing for Extracurricular Activities and Parking on School Property (policy #6670) on our school website under Board Policies.

## **DRUGS AND ALCOHOL**

- 1) **Illegal and Illicit Drugs and Alcohol**
  - a) Use of illicit drugs and unlawful possession and use of alcohol is wrong and harmful.
  - b) Students are prohibited from using, being under the influence of, possessing, furnishing, distributing, selling, conspiring to sell or possess or being in the chain of sale or distribution of alcoholic beverages, low-point beer (as defined by Oklahoma law, i.e., 3.2 beer), illegal or illicit drugs or other mood-altering substances at school, while on school vehicles, or at any school-sponsored event.
  - c) "Illicit drugs" include steroids, prescription, and over-the-counter medications being used for an abusive purpose, i.e. when they are not used in compliance with the prescription or directions for use and are not being used to treat a current health condition of the student. "Mood-altering substances" include paint, glue, aerosol sprays, and similar substances. result
  - d) Violation of this rule will result in imposition of disciplinary measures, which may include suspension for the remainder of the current semester and the following semester.
  - e) Student violation of this rule, which also constitutes illegal conduct, will be reported to law enforcement authorities.
- 2) **Necessary Medications**
  - a) All students who have a legitimate health need for over the counter or prescription medication at school shall deliver such medications to the

school nurse or principal with a parental authorization form, in compliance with Oklahoma law and school policy and procedures regarding administering medicine to students.

- b) Violations of this rule will be reported to the student's parents by the principal, and may result in discipline, which can include out of school suspension.

### **3) Distribution of Information**

Information for students and their parents about drug and alcohol counseling and rehabilitation and reentry programs in this geographic area is available from the principal or counselor at each student's school.

## **ELIGIBILITY**

Durant High School is a member of the Oklahoma Secondary Schools Activities Association. All concerned in an activity program will strictly adhere to rules and regulations of this association.

A student must have received a passing grade in at least five courses during the previous semester in order to be eligible to participate in activities. If a student does not meet the minimum standard, he or she will not be eligible to participate during the first six weeks of the following semester. The student may regain eligibility by achieving passing grades in all subjects at the end of the first six weeks of school. One credit earned during summer sessions may be used to meet the end of semester requirements.

After the first three weeks of school, a student must maintain passing grades in all classes on a week-to-week basis. If a student is not passing all subjects when the grade checks are made each Friday, the student is ineligible for the following week. The ineligibility periods will begin on Monday and end on Sunday. The student remains ineligible for the entire week, even if the grades are all raised to passing during the ineligible period.

Students must also be in attendance at least 90% of the class days held up until the day of the school activity. Students who have been absent for more than 10% of the classes held are ineligible.

## **ENROLLMENT**

All students must be enrolled in seven classes per day. These classes may include classes that are concurrent classes with Southeastern Oklahoma State University and Kiamichi Technology Center and those cooperative education classes at the high school that provide opportunities for students to maintain a job in the community. No schedule changes will be made once a semester begins unless the change is necessary to secure required graduation credits or college classes, or is deemed necessary by the principal. A parent or teacher conference will be required for any schedule change.

A student enrolling in school in Oklahoma must present acceptable evidence of immunization or valid exemption and valid school records from the previous school attended. If immunization records are unavailable, the parent or guardian will be referred to the family doctor or local health department for assistance in obtaining or creating records.

In order for students to participate in OSSAA sanctioned activities, a new student form must be on file.

## **FAMILY EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS PRIVACY ACT (FERPA)**

It is the duty of the Durant School District to annually notify parents of rights guaranteed them under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act. FERPA affords parents and students over 18 years of age ("eligible students") certain rights with respect to the student's education records:

1. The right to inspect and review the student's educational records within 45 days of the day the District receives a request for access. Parents or eligible students should submit to the school principal (or appropriate school official) a written request that identifies the record(s) they wish to inspect. The principal will make arrangements for access and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.
2. The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the parent or eligible student believes are inaccurate, misleading, or in violation of student rights. Parents or eligible students may ask the District to amend a record that they believe is inaccurate or misleading. They should write the school principal, clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it is inaccurate, misleading or in violation of students rights.

If the District decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent of or eligible student, the District will notify the parent of eligible student of the decision and advise them of their right to a hearing regarding request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.

3. The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent. However, records may be disclosed to school officials with legitimate educational interests in the information contained in the records. A school official is a person employed by the District as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); a person serving on the School Board; a person or company with whom the District has contracted to perform a special task (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist, or a parent or student participating in a school service program or serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee, or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks. A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility. Upon request, the Durant Public School District discloses educational records without consent to officials of another school district in which a student seeks or intends to enroll.
4. The right of any person to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the District to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the Office that administers FERPA are:

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

The district will arrange to provide translations of this notice to non-English speaking parents in their native language. The above rights are effective under Child Find procedures. The Durant Independent School District is a Medicaid provider.

## **FOOD AND DRINK**

ALL food and drink must be consumed in the cafeteria/commons area. Students may bring an empty clear beverage container to school for water. However, no other outside beverage containers are allowed inside the school building.

## **GRADE CLASSIFICATION**

At the beginning of each academic year, students will be classified in grade levels based on the number of credits previously earned:

| <b>Number of credits</b> | <b>Grade classification</b> |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 0 – 3.5                  | Grade 9 – Freshman          |
| 4 – 9.5                  | Grade 10 – Sophomore        |
| 10 – 16.5                | Grade 11 – Junior           |
| 17+                      | Grade 12 – Senior           |

## **GRADE POINT AVERAGE (GPA) CALCULATION**

Grade Point Averages are derived differently depending on the type of course:

- Regular classes are transcribed using an unweighted 4.0 scale.
- Honors classes are weighted using a 5.0 scale with three points added to the final grade at the end of each semester.
- Advanced Placement classes are weighted using a 5.0 scale with five points added to the final grade at the end of each semester.
- College (concurrent) classes are weighted using a 5.0 scale with five points added to the final grade at the end of each semester if the grade is reported as a numeric grade.

## **GRADUATION CEREMONIES**

Seniors who have completed all of the graduation requirements will be allowed to participate in the graduation ceremony at the end of the year. Honor graduates will present individual roles in the graduation program. Students must wear the regalia established by DHS to participate in graduation. Graduation caps decorated with inappropriate content or images are prohibited at graduation. Cords, stoles and any additional graduation regalia must be approved.

Students have no constitutional right to attend the graduation ceremony. A student may be suspended for disciplinary reasons and denied the privilege of attending the ceremony for any infraction for which suspension is allowed under the district's disciplinary policies.

## **GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES**

The School District has adopted Grievance Procedures for Filing, Processing and Resolving Alleged Discriminations Complaints. Students and their parents can obtain a copy of the Grievance Procedures from their school principal or the superintendent. Contact the Compliance Officers listed in the appropriate sections of this handbook for further information about the Grievance Procedures.

## **HALL REGULATIONS**

- Students are permitted in the hallways during class time only with a hallway pass.
- Prior to the 8:15 a.m. bell, students must remain in the commons unless receiving tutoring in a teacher's classroom.
- At lunch, students may eat or drink in the commons. Students may not go into the gym.
- Food and drink are prohibited in the classroom areas of the building.

## **HARASSMENT**

Respect for the dignity of others is a cornerstone of a civilized society. It is the policy of this school district that harassment of students by other students, personnel, or the public will not be tolerated. This policy is in effect while the students are on school grounds, in school transportation, or attending school-sponsored activities, and while away from school grounds if the misconduct directly affects the good order, efficient management, and welfare of the school district.

Harassment is intimidation by threats of or actual physical violence; the creation by whatever means a climate of hostility or intimidation; or the use of language, conduct, or symbols in such manner as to be commonly understood to convey hatred, contempt, or prejudice or to have the effect of insulting or stigmatizing an individual. Harassment includes but is not limited to harassment on the basis of race, sex, creed, color, national origin, religion, marital status, or disability, including:

- Verbal, physical, or written harassment or abuse;
- Repeated remarks of a demeaning nature;
- Implied or explicit threats concerning one's grades, achievements, etc.;
- Demeaning jokes, stories, or activities directed at the student;
- Unwelcome physical contact;
- Electronic communication/texting/sexting

### **Reporting harassment**

Any student to whom harassment is directed should immediately report the incident to the superintendent, school principal, counselor or teacher, board member or one of the Compliance Officers listed below. All allegations of harassment will be investigated.

### **Non-Retaliation**

It is the School District's position that any person filing a grievance or complaining of harassment or participating in any way in an investigation of a harassment claim shall not be subjected to any form of reprisal, retaliation, intimidation or harassment. The School District will discipline or take appropriate action against any student, employee, agent, or representative of the School District who is determined to have engaged in such retaliatory behavior.

## **DISABILITY HARASSMENT**

The Durant Public Schools prohibits disability harassment under Section 504 and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Disability harassment includes intimidation or abusive behavior toward a student based on disability that creates a hostile environment

by interfering with or denying a student's participation in or receipt of benefits, services, or opportunities in the school's program. Harassing conduct may include verbal acts and name calling, nonverbal behavior such as graphic and written statements or conduct that is physically threatening, harmful or humiliating. The following are examples of disability harassment:

1. Several students continually remark out loud to other students during class that a student with dyslexia is retarded or deaf and dumb and does not belong in the class; as a result, the harassed student has difficulty doing work in class and her grades decline.
2. A student repeatedly places classroom furniture or other objects in the path of classmates who use wheelchairs, impeding the classmates' ability to enter the classroom.
3. A teacher subjects a student to inappropriate physical restraint because of conduct related to his disability, with the result that the student tries to avoid school through increased absences.
4. A school administrator repeatedly denies a student with a disability access to lunch, field trips, assemblies and extracurricular activities as punishment to taking time off from school for required services related to the student's disability.
5. A professor repeatedly belittles and criticizes a student with a disability for using accommodations in class, with the result that the student is so discouraged that she has great difficulty performing in class and learning.
6. A student continually taunting or belittling a student with mental retardation by mocking and intimidating him so he does not participate in class.

### **For Further Information**

Contact the School District's Section 504 Coordinator or its ADA Compliance Officer (Assistant Superintendent Kenny Chaffin, Durant Public Schools Administration building, 580-924-1276) for further information concerning disability harassment or to initiate a complaint under the School District's Grievance Procedures for Filing, Processing, and Resolving Alleged Discrimination Complaints. Students and their parents can obtain a copy of the Grievance Procedures from their school principal or the superintendent.

### **SEXUAL HARASSMENT**

All students, employees and board members are strictly prohibited from engaging in any form of sexual harassment of any student or employee of the school district. Sexual harassment of a student consists of unwelcome and unsolicited sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, sexually motivated physical conduct, or other verbal or physical conduct or communications of a sexual nature when:

- a) A school employee, teacher, coach, administrator, board member or representative of the School District causes a student to believe that he or she must submit to unwelcome sexual conduct in order to participate in a school program or activity, or when an employee or third party agent of the school district causes a student to believe that the employee will make an educational decision based on whether or not the student submits to unwelcome sexual conduct; or
- b) The unwelcome sexual conduct by any person is so severe, persistent or pervasive that it affects a student's ability to participate in or benefit from an educational program or activity, or creates an intimidating, threatening or abusive educational environment.
- c) Examples of conduct which may constitute sexual harassment include but are not limited to:

- Sexual Advances
- Touching, patting, grabbing, or pinching another person's private part, whether that person is of the same sex or the opposite sex.
- Coercing, forcing or attempting to coerce or force the touching of anyone's private parts.
- Coercing, forcing or attempting to coerce or force sexual intercourse or a sexual act on another.
- Graffiti, notes or drawings of a sexual nature.
- Sexual gestures
- Sexual or dirty jokes.
- Touching one's self sexually or talking about one's sexual activity in front of others.
- Commenting on or spreading rumors about or rating other students as to sexual activity or performance of physical attributes.
- Unwelcome, sexually motivated or inappropriate patting, pinching or physical contact.
- Other unwelcome sexual behavior or words, including demands for sexual favors, when accompanied by implied or overt threats concerning an individual's educational status or implied or overt promises of preferential treatment.

### **Reporting of Sexual Harassment**

Any student who is or has been subjected to sexual harassment or knows of any student who is or has been subjected to sexual harassment is encouraged to report all such incidents to his or her principal, assistant principal, counselor or teacher, board member, superintendent or the Compliance Officer listed under "Title IX" of this handbook. If a report of sexual harassment needs to be made after normal school hours then the person allegedly being harassed may contact the superintendent, principal, assistant principal or any board member at home. It is preferred that all such reports be made in person or in writing signed by the reporting party. However, in order to encourage full and complete reporting of such prohibited activities any person may report such incidents in writing and anonymously by providing such reports to the personal attention of any of the above named persons.

All reports of sexual harassment should state the name of the student or employee involved, the nature, context, and extent of the prohibited activity, the dates of the prohibited activity and any other information necessary to do a full report and investigation of the matter.

### **Disciplinary Action for Sexually Harassing Conduct**

Any student engaging in sexual harassment is subject to any and all disciplinary action, which may be imposed under the School District's Student Behavior Policy.

### **For Further Information**

Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972 prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in education programs and activities. Contact the School District's Title IX coordinator (see section "Title IX" of this handbook) for further information concerning Title IX or to initiate a complaint under the School District's Grievance Procedures for Filing, Processing and Resolving Alleged Discrimination Complaints. Students and their parents can obtain a copy of the Grievance Procedures from their school principal or the superintendent.

## **DISTANCE LEARNING**

Distance learning is the term used for accessing instruction/lessons/assessments digitally. During distance learning days, students are expected to login to the Infinite Campus student management system and complete assignments posted for each class period. In order for students to be counted present on distance learning days, assignments must be submitted by 9:00 p.m. Distance learning days are scheduled on the DISD calendar.

## **HAZING**

Student clubs, organizations, or classes may not engage in any "initiation" rituals. Hazing is a violation of Oklahoma law and will result in disciplinary action against student participants. Student participants will be referred to local law enforcement authorities for prosecution.

Any hazing activity, upon which the initiation, admission into, or affiliation with an organization sanctioned or authorized by the board of education is conditioned, directly or indirectly, shall be presumed to be a forced activity, even if the student willingly participates in such activity.

## **HONOR GRADUATES**

The top ten percent (10%) of graduating seniors will be designated as Honor Graduates. Honor Graduate selection and official class ranking will be determined using each student's weighted cumulative grade point average (GPA) on a 5.0 scale, including grades earned through the first semester of the senior year. The weighted 5.0 GPA will be used to calculate both Honor Graduate status and class rank. Ties in GPA, as well as students who enroll at Durant High School during their senior year, may increase the number of students recognized as Honor Graduates.

Honor Graduates may be selected to perform individual roles in the graduation ceremony. These roles will be determined based on weighted GPA ranking. The four highest-ranked Honor Graduates may be invited to deliver speeches, each limited to three (3) minutes in length. To be eligible to give a speech, a student must have been enrolled at Durant High School for two consecutive semesters immediately preceding selection. Students who do not meet this enrollment requirement may still be recognized as Honor Graduates and may be assigned another individual role in the graduation program.

## **HONOR ROLLS**

The Principal's Honor Roll consists of all students who have made no lower than a 3.0 unweighted grade average for the previous semester.

The Superintendent's Honor Roll consists of all students who have made no lower than a 4.0 unweighted grade average for the previous semester.

## **HONOR SOCIETIES**

### ***NATIONAL ATHLETIC HONOR SOCIETY***

Membership in the National Athletic Honor Society is limited to Seniors and is based on the same requirements as the National Honor society, in addition to lettering in at least one sport during the Senior year.

### **NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY**

The National Honor Society selection process takes place in the spring of each year and is limited to juniors and seniors. Any seniors not inducted their junior year may still qualify during the spring semester of their senior year. The NHS focus is academic as well as good character and service to others. Membership requirements include a minimum cumulative unweighted GPA of 3.75 after the first semester of their selection year. Students may lose NHS membership if their GPA falls below the minimum 3.75.

### **OKLAHOMA HONOR SOCIETY**

Membership in the Oklahoma Honor Society is based on the following academic requirements: The top 10% of each DHS class (grade), ranked by their unweighted grade point average and following the guidelines outlined in *State and National Honor Societies*. Freshman averages are computed from the first semester grades. Sophomore, Junior, and Senior averages are computed from the second semester of the previous year and the first semester of the current year.

In order to be considered for the Oklahoma Honor Society in all grade levels and for the National Honor Society in the 12th grade, at least half of the required schedule of the student must be for core level subjects in English, Math, Science, and Social Studies.

### **INDEPENDENT STUDY**

Students may make up credits for courses they have failed through approved independent study with the permission of the principal. Students may earn only one unit by independent study each year for two years. Students are responsible for the cost. Students should see a counselor to enroll in an independent study course.

### **INDIAN EDUCATION PROGRAM**

The Durant Public School District 1072 receives funds for educational and cultural programming for Native American students. Current census information indicates approximately 1250 active American Indian students in early childhood through grade 12 enrolled in Title VII and Johnson O'Malley programs. Eligibility for Indian Education services requires the parent to sign an "Indian Student Certification Form" for each child, which may be obtained from the school or through the Indian Education Department located at 1313 Waco Street.

There is no blood quantum requirement for two Indian Education programs; however, a copy of the student's CDIB is a prerequisite for Johnson O'Malley services. Indian Education provides school supplies, tutoring services for all grades, and an incentive program that offers rewards for those students meeting the requirements for achievement for grades and or attendance.

During the school year, parents may receive a form to indicate whether or not your child is of Native American heritage. This completed form should be returned to the student's teacher or to the Indian Education office. Parents of children who are eligible and who do not receive this form are requested to contact the Indian Education office at 924-1330. Anyone having questions concerning the Indian Education programs are urged to call or visit the Indian Education office.

## **INTERNET USE POLICY**

The Durant Board of Education believes that the use of the Internet and other local and/or wide networks will further education by promoting the exchange of information and ideas and by providing intra- and inter-district, statewide, national, and global opportunities for staff, students, and the community. Students will be able to access the Internet under the supervision of their teachers. Individual student, employee, and patron accounts and E-mail addresses will not be provided and the user will not be permitted to use the address to send and receive mail at school.

Since the Internet constitutes an unregulated collection of educational resources that change constantly, it is not possible to predict or control exactly what resources users may locate. The school district makes no guarantees of the accuracy of the information or the appropriateness of materials that a student may encounter. Students will be under teacher supervision; however, it is not possible to constantly monitor individual students and what they are accessing. Students and other users will refrain from intentionally accessing and downloading any text, picture, or on-line conferencing that includes material which is considered to be obscene, libelous, indecent, vulgar, profane, or lewd; advertises any product or service to minors prohibited by law; presents a clear or present danger; or will cause the commission of unlawful acts or the violation of lawful school regulation. Users will not solicit or receive any information or service that could result in unauthorized expense to the district.

Users will be courteous and polite. Messages will be concise and not abusive in content or language. Personal information should not be revealed. Records of Internet use will be considered confidential; however, users must be aware that others may access any message or information posted on the Internet for whom it is not intended. E-mail and downloaded material will be deleted from the system on a regularly scheduled basis.

Users of the services will respect all copyright and license agreements. Copyrighted software, pictures, or music will not be downloaded for uses that violate copyright laws.

Staff, students, and the community must agree to attend an orientation that will address the issues of appropriate use of the school network, Internet, copyright laws, Internet etiquette, and fees (if any) incurred during the use of these services. All persons wishing to use the services provided by the school district must sign an Internet/Computer Network use agreement.

Violation of the Internet/Computer Network Acceptable Use Policy will result in forfeiture of all user privileges. Violators shall also be subject to appropriate disciplinary action. Pending investigation into a student/staff complaint of inappropriate use of the networks, user privileges will be suspended.

The district shall not be liable for users' inappropriate use of electronic communication resources or violations of copyright restrictions, users' mistakes or negligence, or costs incurred by users. The district shall not be responsible for ensuring the accuracy or usability or any information found on the Internet.

## **INSURANCE**

At the beginning of the school year, accident insurance will be made available to the student body. All students who participate in interscholastic sports will be required to be covered by school insurance or have insurance coverage through the home. Students who participate where inter-school transportation is involved are encouraged to have some form of insurance. The school does not carry insurance on personnel or students. Information regarding student accident insurance can be found on the athletic department webpage at [www.durantisd.org](http://www.durantisd.org).

## KIAMICHI TECHNOLOGY CENTER

Durant Public Schools provides a bus to and from the technology center. Students may ride the bus at no charge. Students who elect to ride the bus must ride to and from the technology center. Students may drive to the technology center in their own vehicle with written permission of parents and the Durant Career Tech Director. **STUDENTS ARE NOT TO RIDE WITH ANOTHER STUDENT IN A PRIVATE VEHICLE.**

## LEAVING CAMPUS DURING THE SCHOOL DAY

Any student who has permission to leave school during the day for any reason must sign out through the attendance office. Failure to do so may result in disciplinary action. Students must have the permission of a parent and a principal in order to sign out.

A student who must leave during a class for an appointment should present official verification to the teacher. This verification must be obtained from the assistant principal prior to the class from which the student must be excused. Parents must still verify any reason for a student absence. **If a student leaves the school and does not sign out through the attendance office, the absence will be unexcused, and the student will be considered truant.**

## LIBRARY

The Library is open from 8:00 a.m. to 3:40 p.m. each school day for research and reading. Library rules must be observed at all times.

*Library Use:* Tuesdays and Thursdays are designated "Quiet Days" providing students a quiet area to read or study.

*Circulation Period:* Library materials may be checked out of the library for two weeks and may be renewed once unless they have been placed on the hold list. Materials on the hold list must be returned in two weeks.

*Fines:* \$0.05 per day for late library materials, topping out at \$3.00 per book per semester. The replacement cost will be charged to a student for a lost or damaged book.

## LUNCH

Meal tickets may be purchased from the cafeteria by the day or by the week. Meal costs are **\$2.30** for breakfast and **\$3.55** for lunch. No charges are allowed.

Students receive an application for free or reduced lunches upon enrollment. The application should be completed and returned to the office or to the cafeteria. When paying by cash, exact change is required. No change will be given out. The change will be deposited into the student's account. All extra items and second meals are full price regardless of free/reduced status.

## LUNCH HOMEWORK RECOVERY

This program was created in an effort to provide students with every opportunity to succeed in class. Students, who are not completing classwork in a timely manner or have fallen behind due to absences, may be requested to attend Lunch Homework Recovery. This program takes place during the lunch period. Students identified for this

program will receive notification and directions on where to take their lunch to receive extra assistance with their class assignments.

## **MAKE-UP WORK**

Students will be allowed to make up work and tests as a result of excused absences. One make-up day will be allowed for each day missed. Students are responsible for notifying teachers and making arrangements for making up work before leaving for school activities. Students are not allowed additional days to make-up work missed as a result of a planned student activity.

## **MEDICATION**

If a student must take prescribed medications during school hours, the medication must be brought to the nurse's office, and the parent or guardian must complete an administration form. No medication prescribed by a physician will be administered without a completed consent form. Students may self-administer medication only as permitted by school policy. See the principal or school nurse for further information.

The medication must be in the original prescription container and all proper times and dosages should be clearly marked. Medications and the consent form for administration will be kept on file in the nurse's office. All medications administered will be documented and kept in the student's health file.

This policy pertains to temporary or regular medications. The student will be responsible to report to the nurse's office at the proper time.

## **CHECKREDI**

Your Check is Welcome. Your check is welcome at all schools in the Durant Public School System. The Durant Public School System recognizes that occasionally a parent may inadvertently overdraw a checking account and a check may be returned by your bank. In order to recover these funds in a private and professional manner, the Durant Public School System has contracted with Checkredi, for collection of returned checks.

Each person writing a check to a school or the School System should write the check on a commercially printed check with your name, address, and one phone number. Counter or starter checks will not be accepted. When a person writes a check to a school or the School System, the person writing the check agrees that, if the check is returned, it may be represented electronically on the same account, and that the fee established by law, now \$30, may be debited from the same account.

If the check and fee are not collected electronically, then Checkredi will contact you by mail and by telephone in order for you to make arrangements to pay. All payments need to be made directly through Checkredi.com. For a convenience fee, payments of both check and fee may be made electronically at Checkredi.com.

## **PARKING REGULATIONS**

Students with a valid driver's license may park only in the designated student parking lot. Students must register their vehicle and display their parking permit at all times. Failure to register or display parking permits may result in a parking fine. Parking will be on a

first-come basis. Students may not park in the spots designated for Faculty/Staff. Visitors to the school will use the faculty/visitor parking lot located on the south side of the building.

Students are not allowed to remain in vehicles after entering the parking lot, and may not go to vehicles during the day without permission of a principal. Students who must leave campus during the school day must sign out in the attendance office and will be required to show a special pass to the parking lot attendant.

The speed limit around the school area is 10 miles per hour. Please do not use your car in any way that would jeopardize the safety or life of any person. Parking violations may result in disciplinary action. Improperly parked vehicles may be towed at the owner's expense.

## **PUBLIC DISPLAY OF AFFECTION**

At Durant High School, affection will be limited to holding hands while on school property or at school functions. Inappropriate expressions of affection will be subject to disciplinary action.

## **SAFE SCHOOLS - HEALTHY STUDENTS**

Students often know each other better than the teachers or counselors. While you may want to maintain your friend's confidence, there are a few situations where you may play a key role in protecting your friend. There may be a time when you are required to disclose what your friend has told you. The following guidelines will assist you.

If your friend has disclosed to you any of the following situations, you may talk with a teacher, a school counselor, or Safe School Social Worker to seek assistance. Your friend:

1. Has threatened or has a plan to hurt himself/herself.
2. Has a plan to hurt someone else.
3. Has or is abusing illegal substances.
4. Is sick and needs medical attention.

Because Oklahoma law has designated responsibility for child protective services to the Oklahoma Department of Human Services, some reports may need to go directly to DHS (Bryan County number is 924-1866) or to the DHS Hotline 1-800-522-3511. If you know that a friend is being abused physically or sexually or is being severely neglected, you may seek assistance from your teacher, your principal, your counselor, or a Safe Schools Social Worker to help you report this to the proper place.

Oklahoma Law says anyone who thinks that a child has been abused or neglected by the person responsible for the child must report this to OKDHS. The name of the person making a report of child abuse or neglect is confidential. Reports of abuse or neglect can be made anonymously.

Failure to report suspected abuse is a crime legally and morally. No person, regardless of relationship with the child or family is exempt from reporting suspected abuse. A person reporting in good faith is immune from both civil and criminal prosecution.

You are legally responsible for making sure that the report is made. The legal responsibility is not satisfied by merely reporting suspected abuse. The report must be made to the Department of Human Services. You do not have to prove the abuse before reporting. If you make a report and then find out a new allegation, you are required to make a new report.

## **SCHOOL DAY**

The school day for students begins at 8:20 a.m. Students should arrive at school between 8:10 a.m. to 8:15 a.m. Teachers are on duty beginning at 7:50 a.m. Upon arrival, students are to report directly to the commons area.

Students are dismissed at 3:35 p.m., unless students are involved in an organized school activity, they should be out of the halls by 3:45 p.m. and off school grounds by 4:00 p.m. Parents should make all necessary arrangements to ensure that their children will not need to remain in the school area after 4:00 p.m.

## **SCHOOL BULLYING ACT (70 OKLA. STAT. 24-100.2)**

The Oklahoma Legislature established the *School Bullying Prevention Act* with the express intent of prohibiting peer student harassment, intimidation, and bullying. These terms include, but are not limited to any gesture, written or verbal expression, or physical act that a reasonable person should recognize will:

1. Harm another student;
2. Damage another student's property;
3. Place another student in reasonable fear of harm of the student's person or damage to the student's property; or
4. Insult or demean any student or group of students in such a way as to disrupt or interfere with the school district's education mission of the student or other students.

The Board has also adopted a policy prohibiting harassment, intimidation, and bullying which defines and explains this conduct and the School District's response to the legislative mandate.

## **SEARCHES OF STUDENTS (Board Policy 6550)**

The superintendent, principal, teacher, and security personnel have the authority to search a student and a student's property when there is reasonable suspicion for such searches. Suspected possession of a wireless communication device is not grounds for a student search.

A student who refuses to peaceably submit to a search based on reasonable suspicion or who refuses to turn over items discovered as a result of a search may be suspended for refusals.

Students who drive a vehicle onto school property do so as a privilege afforded them by the School District and not as a right. Accordingly, any student who drives a vehicle of any kind to school and parks such vehicle on school property is deemed to authorize a search of such vehicle by the school principal or his/her designee at any time and for any reason deemed appropriate by the school principal or the superintendent of schools. Any student who refuses to peaceably submit his vehicle to a search when requested to do so may be suspended for such refusal and may thereafter be denied the right to drive his vehicle onto school property.

Students should not go to the vehicles during the school day without permission from a school administrator. Students who go to their vehicles without permission during the school day may be searched upon returning to the school building and may be subject to disciplinary consequences.

## **SEMESTER EXAMS AND EXEMPTIONS (Criteria used in a School Year without COVID)**

Semester exams will be administered in all classes. Semester exams will be administered on the last two or three days of the semester. All students must complete a semester exam in order to receive a grade for that subject unless students meet the exemption criteria listed below. Illness of a student and funeral attendance are the only acceptable reasons for giving tests after the close of the semester. **Out-of-town trips are not considered sufficient reasons to miss semester tests.** Students missing semester exams without being exempt will receive a zero as a semester exam score.

Secondary students with good grades, good attendance, and no disciplinary referrals may choose to be exempt from semester exams if they meet the following criteria in each class:

1. An "A" average and no more than three (3) absences (any absence including documented and excluding activity) or two (2) tardies (no disciplinary referrals, unexcused absences or suspensions).
2. A "B" average and no more than two (2) absences (any absence including documented and excluding activity) or two (2) tardies (no disciplinary referrals, unexcused absences or suspensions).
3. A "C" average and no more than one (1) absence (including documented and excluding activity) or two (2) tardies (no disciplinary referrals, unexcused absences or suspensions).
4. Students may choose to not attend school during a semester exam day if they are exempt from **ALL** semester exams being tested that day. **Students will be counted absent for state accounting purposes but these absences will not be counted for perfect attendance purposes.** If students choose to attend school during semester exam days, they will be required to test. However, for students who qualify for test exemption in a course, the semester test scores cannot lower the final semester grade. It can only increase the final semester grade.
5. Absences accrued after the semester exemption list has been generated still count toward the total number of absences for the semester and may affect exemption status.
6. Students will not be exempt if they have a cell phone violation.

NOTE: Attendance at a school activity without participating in that activity will constitute an absence.

## **STUDENT COUNCIL**

Election of Student Council officers will take place during the spring, and will be conducted according to the Student Council By-Laws. These offices include president, vice president, secretary, reporter, treasurer, historian, and parliamentarian. The new slate of officers will assume their duties immediately after being duly elected.

Election of class officers and Student Council representatives will take place during the spring, after the Student Council officer election, and will be conducted according to the Student Council by-laws. These offices include president, vice-president, secretary, reporter, treasurer, and class representatives. Officers and representatives will assume their duties immediately after being elected.

## **STUDENT IDENTIFICATION CARDS**

The Board of Education recognizes the safety of students and staff is of paramount importance. With that in mind, the school district has implemented the use of student

identification cards at Durant High School. Each student must carry the identification card on his/her person while at school. Students will use the identification cards in the cafeteria for breakfast and lunches, in the library for library privileges, to check out textbooks, to be admitted to extracurricular student activities, and to receive student discounts at all gated events, including school dances.

The school district will issue an identification card to each high school student at the beginning of the school year, without charge. If a student loses his/her card, the school district will charge a five-dollar fee for replacement.

## STUDENT INFORMATION

The school may release certain "student information", including student's name, date and place of birth, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, awards received and other similar information without parental consent to newspapers, magazines, radio and television, colleges, civic organizations or similar groups or publish such information in its own publications, programs, yearbooks. **Student information/picture may be displayed on school website, cable, video production or by other means unless the parent notifies the school by the third Monday of September of each school year that he/she does not waive any or certain designated student information released to such parties without their express prior written consent.** According to state law "student information" will be provided to the military. However, parents may request student's information to be withheld. The Withhold Information Form may be obtained in the Counseling Center.

## STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

As of the date of publication of this handbook, the following are school-sponsored organizations.

|                                                          |                                              |
|----------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| Academic Team                                            | Esports                                      |
| Art Club                                                 | FFA                                          |
| Business Professionals of America (BPA)                  | Health Occupation Students of America (HOSA) |
| DECA                                                     | Key Club                                     |
| Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) | Student Council                              |
| Technology Student Association                           |                                              |

## SUSPENSION

### Behavior or Conduct that May Result in Suspension:

Students who are guilty of any of the following acts may be suspended out-of-school by the administration of the school or the District for:

1. violation of a school regulation, policy or provision of the discipline code;
2. immorality;
3. adjudication as a delinquent for an offense that is not a violent offense. For the purposes of this section, "violent offense" shall include those offenses listed as the exceptions to the term "nonviolent offenses" as specified in Okla. Stat. tit. 57, § 571. "Violent offense" shall include the offense of assault with a dangerous weapon but shall not include the offense of assault;

4. possession of an intoxicating beverage, low-point beer, as defined by Okla. Stat. tit. 37, § 163.2, wireless telecommunication device, or missing or stolen property if the property is reasonably suspected to have been taken from a student, a school employee, or the school during school activities; and
5. possession of a dangerous weapon or a controlled dangerous substance, as defined in the Uniform Controlled Dangerous Substances Act. Possession of a firearm shall result in out-of-school suspension as provided in the District's policy related to firearms.
6. In the event of a suspension for any of the reasons listed above, an education plan as discussed in Out-of-School Suspension Requirements below, shall be applicable for acts which fall within paragraphs 1. through 4. above. However, no education plan shall be necessary for acts that fall within paragraph 5., above.
7. Students who are suspended for possession, distribution or being under the influence of drugs will not be provided an education plan.

Any student in grades 6 through 12 found to have assaulted, attempted to cause physical bodily injury, or acted in a manner that could reasonably cause bodily injury to a school employee or person volunteering for the school shall be suspended for the remainder of the current semester and the next consecutive semester. For good cause and considering the totality of the circumstances, the District's superintendent or designee may modify the term of the suspension. Final action as to any such suspension, including its term, remains with the board of education or designated hearing officer, pursuant to a timely appeal.

Students suspended for a violent offense directed toward a classroom teacher shall not be allowed to return to the teacher's classroom without the teacher's prior approval. Whether an offense is considered a violent offense, requiring an affected teacher's approval as a condition of return to a particular classroom, shall be based on applicable provisions of the Oklahoma school law regarding student suspension and applicable Oklahoma criminal law distinguishing between violent and nonviolent offenses.

## **TARDIES**

A student is considered late if he or she is not inside the room when the bell to begin class rings. There are no excused or unexcused tardies.

If a teacher detains a student, the next teacher will not count the student late if the student presents a note from the teacher who detained them with the time and the reason for detaining the student.

Students may be late to an individual class two times per semester without penalty. For the third, fourth, and fifth offenses, the teacher will assign the student to detention. On the sixth and subsequent offense, the student will be assigned additional consequences.

Detention assigned for tardiness to class will follow the steps below:

- Tardies are cumulatively counted each semester for each student.
- Students may be late to class two times per semester without penalty.
- For the third, fourth and fifth offenses, teachers will assign the student to detention.

- On the sixth and subsequent offense, the teacher will refer the student to an assistant principal who may assign additional detention or alternative classroom.

## **TELEPHONE USE**

Students are permitted to use the telephone in the office only in emergency situations. Students must request permission to use the phone. Misuse of the office phone may result in loss of this privilege.

Messages will be delivered to students **only** in case of an emergency.

## **TITLE IX**

No person shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied employment in or benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving federal financial assistance. Contact the Title IX Compliance Officer for further information: Kenny Chaffin

## **24/7 TOBACCO USE POLICY**

The Durant Independent School District Board of Education is committed to providing a healthy and productive environment for all persons using the school's facilities. The Board of Education also recognizes that tobacco use has been shown to be linked to illnesses and disability and that federal law prohibits smoking in any indoor facility or the grounds thereof, which is used to provide educational services to children.

Therefore, smoking, chewing, or any other use of tobacco by staff, students, and members of the public is prohibited on all school property, by all persons (students, faculty, staff, and members of the public), at all times, including athletic events. This is in effect 24 hours per day, seven days per week.

1. "School property" is defined as all property owned, leased, rented, or otherwise used by the school. This includes playgrounds, athletic facilities, maintenance buildings, campus grounds, parking lots, and all school vehicles.
2. "Tobacco" is defined as cigarettes, including electronic cigarettes, cigars, pipe tobacco, snuff, chewing tobacco, and all other kinds and forms of tobacco prepared in such a manner to be suitable for chewing, smoking, or both, and includes cloves or any other product packaged for smoking, and electric cigarettes or any other simulated tobacco devices.
3. "Use" is defined as lighting, chewing, inhaling, or smoking any tobacco as defined within this policy.
4. "Staff" includes but is not limited to full-time, part-time, and contract employees

## **TRANSPORTATION HOME DUE TO ILLNESS**

Before a student who has become ill or injured is sent home, the nurse's office will notify the student's parent or guardian to arrange for transportation. In case of an injury which needs medical attention, an attempt will be made to contact the parent for advice. If a

parent cannot be contacted, the student will be taken to a doctor or to the hospital. **The school does not assume responsibility for payment of these bills.**

## **TRUANCY COURT**

Durant students are required to attend school on a regular basis. Students are expected to be in class on time and attend school the entire school day. Oklahoma state law requires students to attend school a minimum of 90% of the days scheduled per semester. Therefore, when a student misses more than 10% of the days school has been in session, absences are considered outside the boundaries required by state law and will be considered truant. Students with excessive absences are also subject to loss of credit and retention. Student attendance is the responsibility of the student's parent or guardian. Charges may be filed through the District Attorney's office with possible fines of up to \$125 being assessed for each day of excessive absence (each day is a separate offense). Durant school truancy issues will also be addressed by the Durant Truancy Prevention Coordinator, Durant School Resource Officers and the Durant School Administration.

As a preventative measure to ensure academic success, connection to school, and to build resiliency in Durant Public School students, the Durant Board of Education, with the support of the Bryan County District Attorney's Office, has adopted as policy the following measures for the operation of the Durant High School Truancy Court:

Truancy Court will be part of the attendance policy for grades 9-12. Students will be summoned to court because of issues surrounding excessive absences. Students/parents/guardians summoned to Truancy Court are required by the Bryan County District Attorney to attend truancy court. Parents/ guardians are subject to charges being filed in District Court and fines will be assessed. The process for identifying students and parents required to attend truancy court is as follows:

- Parents/guardians of students that fall below the 90% attendance requirement during the school year will receive a letter advising them of our concern for the possibility of excessive absence issues.
- If a student's attendance still continues to decline, the parents/guardians will be summoned to Truancy Court.
- Truancy court meets on the Durant High School campus. Students will be in attendance at school and will only miss class for the time needed for court procedures.
- A parent or guardian must attend the first 3 truancy court dates.
- The only reasons for absences from truancy court are illness or attending a funeral. If you are ill, you must see a doctor and bring a doctor's note. If you attend a funeral, you must present a program from the funeral.
- Students in the Truancy Court system will be required to attend all classes; provide progress reports from school personnel on attendance, grades and behavior; perform any and all duties assigned by the court.
- Students will be dismissed from Truancy Court when their attendance is above 90% and their grades are 70% or higher.

## **TUTORING**

Teachers will be available before school from 7:50 a.m. to 8:15 a.m. to provide tutoring for students who need additional instruction. Students may be required by teachers to attend school during this time to make up assignments and/or receive remediation.

## **VAPING ON SCHOOL PROPERTY**

Vaping is the act of inhaling and exhaling the aerosol, often referred to as a vapor, which is produced by an e-cigarette, vape pen, or similar device. Oklahoma law prevents vaping on school campuses. This includes vaping in vehicles on school property and vaping at school-sponsored events.

Students caught vaping or in possession of a vape or vape paraphernalia will receive disciplinary consequences and may be subject to a fine by law enforcement. Vapes will be tested for illegal substances. Students will be responsible for reimbursing the school district for the cost of the test kit.

## **VISION ACADEMY**

The Vision Academy is designed for students who have fallen behind in accumulating credits towards graduation and who are at-risk for dropping out of school. Students may apply for admission to the Academy. Once accepted, a student may not return to Durant High School for the remainder of the school year. Students may return to Durant High School the following year by successfully completing enough credits to be on schedule to graduate with their original class (see *Grade Classification*).

## **VISITORS**

The purpose of the SchoolSafe ID system is to better ensure the safety of all students, faculty and staff. All visitors will be required to present a valid state-issued ID to obtain a visitor's pass to enter the school or check out students. Visitor information will be checked against the national database of registered sex offenders. Anyone without a state-issued ID will not be permitted to enter past the main office without an escort. Visitors will be able to drop items off or visit the front office without an ID.

All visitors must report to the main high school office and check in via the SchoolSafe ID kiosk. The campus is off limits to anyone without proper authorization from the principal or his designee. Unauthorized visitors to the school will be asked to leave immediately. Students may not bring visitors with them to school. Exceptions may be made by the principal or his designee.

## **NOTICE OF NONDISCRIMINATION**

Durant Public Schools does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, sex, disability, genetic information, veteran status, marital status, or age in its programs and activities. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the District's non-discrimination policies:

Josh Perrin

Director of Compliance

Durant School District

P.O. Box 1160

Durant, OK 74702-1160

(580) 924-1276

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## **GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE FOR FILING, PROCESSING AND RESOLVING ALLEGED DISCRIMINATION COMPLAINTS (STUDENTS AND EMPLOYEES)**

### **I. Definitions**

The District takes all allegations of discrimination seriously and will take all reasonable steps to remedy the effects of, and prevent the reoccurrence of, discrimination of which it has notice. Accordingly, the District adopts the following procedure regarding all complaints of discrimination.

A. Discrimination Complaint: A written complaint alleging any policy, procedure or practice which discriminates on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, gender (including sexual harassment), age, genetic information, veteran status, marital status, or disability.

B. Grievant: Any person enrolled in or employed by the District who submits a complaint alleging discrimination based on gender (including sexual harassment), race, color, national origin, religion, age, genetic information, veteran status, marital status, or disability. Sexual harassment is a prohibited type of sexual discrimination under Title IX for which a grievance under this policy can be filed with the Title IX Coordinator. For purposes of any complaint alleging a violation of Section 504, in addition to those identified as possible grievant in this paragraph, members of the public may also be potential grievant. For purposes of this policy, a parent's complaint or grievance shall be handled in the same manner as a student's complaint would be.

C. Title IX, ADA, Title VII and 504 Coordinator: The person designated to coordinate efforts to comply with and carry out responsibilities under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the Americans with Disabilities Act, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and any other state and federal laws addressing equal educational opportunity. The Coordinator under Title IX, ADA, Title VII and 504 is responsible for processing complaints and serves as moderator and recorder during hearings. The Coordinator for the District is: DUANE MERIDETH, Director of Compliance, P.O. Box 1160, Durant, OK 74702-1160 (580- 924- 1276).

D. Respondent: The person alleged to be responsible for the violation contained in a complaint. The term may be used to designate persons with responsibility for a particular action or those persons with supervisory responsibility for procedures and policies in those areas covered in the complaint.

E. Day: Day means a working day when the School District's main administrative offices are open. The calculation of days in complaint processing shall exclude Saturdays, Sundays and legal holidays.

## **II. Pre-Filing Procedures**

A. Prior to the filing of a written complaint, the student or employee is encouraged to visit with the Coordinator, and reasonable effort should be made to resolve the problem or complaint.**III. Filing and Processing Discrimination Complaints**

A. Grievant: Submits written complaint to the Coordinator, stating name, nature and date of alleged violation; names of persons responsible (where known) and requested action. If the Coordinator is the person alleged to have committed the discriminatory act(s), then the complaint should be submitted to the superintendent for assignment. Complaints must be submitted within 10 days of alleged violation. Complaint forms are available from the office of the superintendent and the Coordinator.

B. Coordinator: Conducts an adequate, reliable and impartial investigation, within 10 days, to the extent reasonably possible, which would include but not be limited to, interviewing the complainant, any witnesses of all the parties, review of any supporting documents of all the parties, and interviewing the respondent; and asks respondent to:

- i) Confirm or deny facts;
- ii) Indicate acceptance or rejection of student or employee's requested action; or
- iii) Outline alternatives.

C. Respondent: Submits written answer within 10 days to the Coordinator.

D. Coordinator: Within 5 days after receiving the respondent's answer, the Coordinator schedules a hearing.

E. Grievant, Respondent and Coordinator: Hearing is conducted. In circumstances involving allegations of sexual harassment, the Coordinator may determine that it is appropriate and reasonable to separate the individual who is allegedly being sexually harassed from the alleged harasser in the hearing.

F. Coordinator: Issues, within 5 days after the hearing, a written decision to the Grievant and Respondent.

G. Grievant or Respondent: If the Grievant or Respondent is not satisfied with the decision, they must notify the Coordinator within 5 days and request, in writing, a hearing with the superintendent or his/her designee. This step is applicable only to situations in which the Coordinator, and not the superintendent or his/her designee, conducted the initial hearing.

H. Superintendent or Designee: Schedules, within 10 days of request, a hearing with the Grievant and Respondent.

I. Superintendent or Designee, Grievant and Respondent: Hearing is conducted.

J. Superintendent or Designee: Issues a written decision within 5 days following the hearing to Grievant and Respondent.

K. Grievant or Respondent: If the Grievant or Respondent is not satisfied with the decision, they must notify the superintendent, in writing, within 5 days and request a hearing with the Board of Education.

L. Superintendent: Notifies Board of Education, in writing, within 5 days after receiving request. Superintendent will schedule a hearing with the Board of Education. Hearing is to be conducted within 30 days from the date of notification to the Board of Education.

M. Board, Grievant, Respondent, Superintendent and Coordinator: Hearing is conducted. Board issues a final decision at the hearing regarding the validity of the grievance and any action to be taken.

#### **IV. General Provisions**

A. Extension of time: Any time limits set by these procedures may be extended by mutual consent of the parties involved. The total number of days from date that complaint is filed until complaint is resolved shall be no more than 120 days.

B. Access to Regulations: Upon request, the District shall provide copies of any regulations prohibiting discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, gender, age, genetic information, veteran status, marital status, or disability.

C. Confidentiality of Records: Complaint records will remain confidential, to the extent allowed by law, unless permission is given by the parties involved to release such information. All complaint records will be kept separate from any other records of the School District. No complaint record shall be entered in any personnel file unless adverse employment action is taken against an employee. Complaint records shall be maintained on file for three years after complaint resolution.

D. Representation: The Grievant and the Respondent may have a representative assist them through the grievance process and accompany them to any hearing.

E. Retaliation: No reprisals or retaliation will be allowed to occur as the result of the good faith reporting of a discrimination complaint.

F. Basis of Decision: At each step in the grievance procedure, the decision-maker will take or recommend the taking of appropriate measures based on the facts, as revealed by the investigation and hearing, taken as a whole, and the totality of the circumstances, such as the nature, extent, context and gravity of the activities or incidents.

G. Section 504 Due Process Procedures: For information concerning due process procedures under Section 504, the Grievant should contact the Section 504 Coordinator.

## GRIEVANCE COMPLAINT FORM

1. Print Name and Address of Charging Party (Grievant):

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2. Date:

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3. Phone numbers where Grievant may be reached: Home:

Office: Other:

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4. Statement of grievance (please provide as detailed a statement as is possible and feel free to attach supplemental pages if necessary for a complete understanding of your concerns):

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5. Please identify any witnesses and/or documents or other materials which support your grievance. If documents or materials are in your possession, please attach copies to this grievance.

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6. Please identify what action or relief you are seeking as a result of this grievance.

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Signature of Grievant

**IF, AS A RESULT OF A DISABILITY, YOU NEED ASSISTANCE IN COMPLETING THIS FORM, PLEASE CONTACT THE DISTRICT'S ADA COORDINATOR, MR. KENNY CHAFFIN, AT 580-924-1276 FOR ASSISTANCE OR ACCOMMODATION.**

**DURANT INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS  
2026 - 2027 SCHOOL CALENDAR**

|                |                                                            |
|----------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| August 10      | Teacher Professional Development                           |
| August 11      | Teacher Professional Development                           |
| August 12      | Teacher Workday                                            |
| August 13      | First Day of Classes                                       |
| September 7    | Labor Day Holiday                                          |
| September 25   | Teacher Professional Development                           |
| October 13     | Parent/Teacher Conferences (3:30 – 9:30 after regular day) |
| October 14-16  | Fall Break                                                 |
| November 23-27 | Thanksgiving Holiday                                       |
| December 18    | Last Day of First Semester                                 |
| December 21    | Christmas Holiday Begins                                   |
| January 4      | Teacher Workday ½ Day                                      |
| January 5      | First Day of Second Semester                               |
| January 18     | Teacher Professional Development                           |
| February 15    | No School                                                  |
| March 5        | OEA Day (No school for students)                           |
| March 15-19    | Spring Break                                               |
| April 2        | Professional Development / DEA Day                         |
| April 8        | Parent/Teacher Conferences (3:30 – 9:30 after regular day) |
| April 9        | No School                                                  |
| April 16       | No School                                                  |
| April 23       | No School                                                  |
| April 30       | No School                                                  |
| May 7          | No School                                                  |
| May 16         | No School                                                  |
| May 20         | Last Day of School                                         |
| May 21         | Teacher Workday ½ Day                                      |

**PARENTS**  
**WHO HOST**  
**LOSE**  
**THE MOST**™



Don't be  
a party to  
**teenage  
drinking.**

**It's against  
the law.**

**The Future Is Now!**