RAMIREZ COMMON SCHOOL DISTRICT

Small School With a Big Heart

2026–2027

STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

Grades K–6

10492 School Street • Realitos, Texas 78376-2644

District Phone: 361-539-4343

Board adoption date: 9/03/26

Important Notice

This Student Code of Conduct is designed for Ramirez Common School District, a single-campus public school serving students in kindergarten through grade 6. It combines the major discipline, safety, student-conduct, and due-process provisions reflected in the three source Codes of Conduct provided for this project.

The document is intended to be adopted by the Ramirez CSD Board of Trustees under Chapter 37 of the Texas Education Code. It should be reviewed by the District's legal counsel and updated as necessary before Board adoption to ensure that every provision, citation, local policy reference, and required notice is current for the 2026–2027 school year.

Where this Code uses a general reference to state or federal law, the District will follow the law in effect at the time of the incident. If a conflict exists between this Code and the Student/Parent Handbook, this Board-adopted Code controls to the extent provided by law.

This Code remains in effect during summer school and at school-related activities outside the regular school year until an updated Board-adopted Code becomes effective.

Table of Contents

1. Purpose and Authority
2. District Contacts and Campus Behavior Coordinator
3. District Authority and Jurisdiction
4. Student Rights and Responsibilities
5. Standards for Student Conduct
6. General Conduct Violations
7. Prohibited Items, Substances, and Devices
8. Technology, Cyberbullying, and Academic Integrity
9. Searches, Safety, Threat Assessment, and Reporting
10. Discipline Management and Student Removal
11. In-School and Out-of-School Suspension
12. DAEP / JJAEP Placement
13. Expulsion and Serious Offenses
14. Students with Disabilities
15. Notification, Parent Involvement, and Appeals
16. Glossary of Key Terms
17. Acknowledgment and Receipt

1. Purpose and Authority

The Ramirez Common School District Student Code of Conduct is adopted by the Board of Trustees in accordance with Chapter 37 of the Texas Education Code. It establishes standards of student conduct, identifies prohibited misconduct, describes disciplinary options, and explains the procedures used when student behavior requires intervention or removal from the regular educational setting.

The Code applies to students in grades K–6 at the District's single campus. It is intended to promote a safe, orderly, respectful learning environment while giving students appropriate opportunities to learn from mistakes and improve behavior.

The District will administer discipline consistent with applicable Texas law, federal law, and Board policy. Discipline will be administered fairly and without discrimination.

Parents and students will be notified of serious violations that may result in suspension, removal to a DAEP/JJAEP, expulsion, or law-enforcement involvement as required by law.

Accessibility

If a student or parent needs this Code in an accessible format because of a disability, contact Claudia Morales, Administrative Assistant, through the District office at 361-539-4343. Claudia Morales is also the District contact for forms and administrative records.

Parent Defined

For purposes of this Code, "parent" includes a parent, legal guardian, or other person having lawful control of the student.

2. District Contacts and Campus Behavior Coordinator

Because Ramirez CSD operates one campus and has one administrator, the Interim Superintendent serves as the District's Campus Behavior Coordinator (CBC), unless the Board designates another person in writing.

- Interim Superintendent / Campus Behavior Coordinator: Dr. Ana Rubalcaba, 361-539-4343.
- District/Campus: Ramirez Common School District, 10492 School Street, Realitos, TX 78376-2644.
- Administrative forms and records: Claudia Morales, Administrative Assistant, through 361-539-4343.

The CBC is responsible for maintaining student discipline, monitoring disciplinary referrals, and ensuring that Chapter 37 procedures are followed. The CBC will report required threats, weapons-related conduct, and concerning behavior or behavioral trends that may pose a serious risk of violence to the appropriate threat assessment and safe and supportive school team.

3. District Authority and Jurisdiction

District rules and disciplinary authority apply whenever the District's interest is involved, on or off school property, in connection with or independent of classes and school-sponsored activities.

- During the regular school day.
- While a student is traveling to or from school or a school-related activity on District transportation.
- During lunch or other periods when a student is permitted to leave campus.
- At any school-related activity, regardless of time or location.
- For school-related misconduct, regardless of time or location.
- For retaliation against a school employee, Board member, or volunteer, regardless of time or location.
- For cyberbullying as provided by Texas law, including qualifying off-campus conduct.
- For criminal mischief committed on or off school property or at a school-related event.
- For offenses within 300 feet of school property when Texas law provides District authority.
- For certain offenses committed on another Texas school district's property or at another district's school-related activity.
- For felony conduct when authorized by Texas Education Code.

- When a student is required to register as a sex offender, as provided by law.

4. Student Rights and Responsibilities

Students have the right to a safe, orderly educational environment and to be treated fairly and respectfully. Students are responsible for following this Code, Board policy, classroom rules, and lawful directions from school personnel.

- Attend school and classes regularly and on time.
- Come prepared with required materials and assignments.
- Follow campus, classroom, transportation, and activity rules.
- Treat students, staff, volunteers, and visitors with courtesy and respect.
- Respect District and personal property.
- Exercise self-control and accept reasonable correction.
- Help maintain a safe, orderly, and supportive school environment.
- Report threats, bullying, weapons, drugs, or other serious safety concerns to an adult.

5. Standards for Student Conduct

Students are expected to demonstrate courtesy, responsibility, self-discipline, regular attendance, preparedness, appropriate dress and grooming, respect for others and property, cooperation with school staff, and compliance with this Code of Conduct.

The District may establish additional reasonable classroom or campus rules. A student may be disciplined for violating those communicated rules when the conduct is also subject to disciplinary action under Board policy or this Code.

6. General Conduct Violations

The following categories describe conduct that is prohibited at school, on District transportation, and at school-related activities. More serious conduct may result in removal, DAEP/JJAEP placement, or expulsion when required or permitted by law.

Disregard for Authority

- Failing to follow lawful directions from school personnel.
- Leaving school grounds or a school-sponsored event without permission.
- Violating District transportation rules.
- Refusing to accept an assigned disciplinary consequence.

Mistreatment of Others

- Profanity, vulgar language, or obscene gestures.
- Fighting or scuffling.
- Threatening a student, employee, volunteer, or other person when District jurisdiction applies.
- Bullying, cyberbullying, harassment, hazing, or making a hit list.
- Sexual or gender-based harassment, sexual abuse, dating violence, or inappropriate sexual conduct.
- Indecent exposure or inappropriate exposure of private body parts.
- Coercion, extortion, or blackmail.
- Releasing or threatening to release intimate visual material without consent.
- Recording another person's voice or image without appropriate consent when the conduct invades privacy or disrupts the educational environment.
- Retaliating against a person who reports misconduct or participates in an investigation.

Property Offenses

- Damaging or vandalizing property belonging to others.
- Damaging or defacing District property, textbooks, technology, furniture, or equipment.
- Stealing or assisting in theft or robbery.
- Entering District facilities without authorization.

Safety Transgressions

- Threatening the safety of another student, employee, or District property.
- Making false accusations or hoaxes concerning school safety.
- Engaging in conduct reasonably believed to substantially disrupt school or incite violence.

- Throwing objects capable of causing injury or property damage.
- Improperly discharging a fire extinguisher or other emergency equipment.

Miscellaneous Conduct

- Violating dress and grooming standards communicated by the District.
- Academic dishonesty, including cheating, plagiarism, unauthorized collaboration, or unauthorized use of artificial intelligence.
- Falsifying school records, passes, or documents.
- Gambling.
- Substantially disrupting or materially interfering with school activities.
- Repeatedly violating communicated classroom or campus standards.

7. Prohibited Items, Substances, and Devices

Weapons and Prohibited Items

Students may not possess, use, sell, transfer, display, or threaten to use prohibited weapons or dangerous items. Prohibited items include, but are not limited to:

- Firearms and ammunition.
- Location-restricted knives, illegal knives, clubs, and other weapons prohibited by law.
- Knives or other cutting/stabbing instruments used or intended as weapons, including pocketknives or small knives when prohibited by District rules.
- Firearm silencers or suppressors.
- Air guns, BB guns, stun guns, knuckles, or similar weapons.
- Look-alike weapons intended to be used as weapons or reasonably perceived as weapons.
- Fireworks, smoke or stink bombs, or other pyrotechnic devices.
- Mace, pepper spray, or similar defensive sprays when prohibited at school.
- Lighters, matches, laser pointers without an approved use, or any other item determined by the administrator to present a danger.

Alcohol, Drugs, and Controlled Substances

- Possessing, using, giving, selling, or being under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs.
- Possessing or using drug paraphernalia or items represented as drugs.
- Abusing prescription or over-the-counter medication or possessing another person's prescription medication.
- Using or possessing medication at school except as authorized by District policy.
- Any conduct involving a controlled substance, dangerous drug, marijuana, or other prohibited substance that is subject to mandatory or discretionary consequences under Texas law.

Tobacco, Nicotine, and E-Cigarettes

- Tobacco products, nicotine pouches, cigarettes, e-cigarettes, vaping devices, and components or accessories are prohibited.
- The District will apply the current Texas Education Code requirements for first-time possession or use of an e-cigarette or nicotine delivery product, including any required ISS consequence when DAEP is not assigned.

Personal Communication Devices

Students may not use a personal communication device, including a cell phone or smartwatch, during the school day except when use is authorized by the District or required by an IEP, Section 504 plan, documented medical need, or applicable health or safety requirement. The District may establish storage and confiscation procedures consistent with current law and Board policy.

8. Technology, Cyberbullying, and Academic Integrity

Technology is provided or permitted for educational purposes. Students must follow District technology agreements, acceptable-use rules, teacher directions, and this Code.

- Do not access or attempt to bypass passwords, security controls, filters, or restricted systems.

- Do not damage, alter, disable, infect, or misuse District technology, networks, data, or accounts.
- Do not use electronic communication to threaten, harass, bully, or intimidate others.
- Do not send, post, possess, or distribute obscene, sexually oriented, threatening, harassing, defamatory, or illegal electronic material.
- Do not engage in cyberbullying or other off-campus electronic conduct when it falls within District jurisdiction under Texas law.
- Do not use technology or artificial intelligence to cheat, plagiarize, or otherwise engage in academic dishonesty.
- Do not record, photograph, or post images or audio of others in a manner that violates privacy or disrupts school.

The District may investigate technology-related conduct occurring off campus when Texas law gives the District disciplinary authority, including qualifying cyberbullying or conduct that substantially disrupts the educational environment or infringes on another student's rights at school.

9. Searches, Safety, Threat Assessment, and Reporting

Searches

District officials may search students, their belongings, desks, and District-provided technology in accordance with state and federal law and Board policy. Searches will be conducted in a reasonable and nondiscriminatory manner. District property may be inspected when permitted by law and policy.

Threat Assessment and Safe and Supportive School Team

The CBC or other appropriate administrator will work with the District's threat assessment and safe and supportive school team as required by law. The team will address concerning student behavior, threats, and behavioral trends that may pose a serious risk of violence to the student or others.

Reporting Crimes and Emergencies

The CBC and other appropriate school officials will report suspected crimes to law enforcement when required by law. Emergency situations will be handled according to District emergency procedures and applicable law.

Unauthorized Persons

A school administrator or other authorized official may refuse entry to or remove a person from District property when the person presents a substantial risk of harm or persists in inappropriate behavior after being warned, consistent with Texas Education Code and Board policy.

10. Discipline Management and Student Removal

Discipline is intended to improve conduct, protect the learning environment, and help students meet their responsibilities. The District will consider the seriousness of the offense, the student's age and grade, disciplinary history, frequency of misconduct, student attitude, effect on the school environment, applicable law, and other legally required factors.

Possible discipline-management techniques include, as appropriate:

- Teacher correction and reteaching of expectations.
- Parent/guardian contact or conference.
- Restorative practices or problem-solving activities.
- Behavioral supports, contracts, or intervention plans.
- Loss of privileges or participation.
- Detention or other campus-based consequences authorized by policy.
- Removal from a classroom or District transportation.
- In-school suspension (ISS).
- Out-of-school suspension (OSS), when permitted by law.
- DAEP or JJAEP placement when required or permitted by law.
- Expulsion when required or permitted by law.
- Referral to law enforcement when required or appropriate.

The District may use emergency removal or emergency placement procedures when authorized by Texas law. Students removed from class will receive the procedural protections required by law, including notice and an opportunity to appeal when applicable.

Removal from the School Bus

A student may be removed from District transportation for conduct that violates transportation rules or this Code. Bus removal does not necessarily eliminate the student's responsibility to attend school.

Teacher Removal from the Classroom

A teacher may remove a student from class when permitted by Texas law and District policy, including when the student repeatedly or seriously interferes with instruction, is disruptive, or engages in prohibited conduct. The District will follow current statutory procedures regarding notice, return to class, written consent or a return-to-class plan, and appeals.

11. In-School and Out-of-School Suspension

In-School Suspension (ISS)

ISS may be used as a campus-based disciplinary consequence when authorized by District policy and law. Students assigned to ISS remain responsible for completing assigned coursework and following all school expectations. ISS placements will be reviewed as required by current law and District procedure.

Out-of-School Suspension (OSS)

OSS may be used only when authorized by Texas law and District policy. Before assigning OSS, the administrator will provide the student the required notice of the alleged conduct and an opportunity to respond, except where an emergency procedure is authorized.

The District will provide coursework and other educational opportunities during suspension as required by law. The length and conditions of a suspension will comply with current Texas law, including restrictions that may apply to younger students, students experiencing homelessness, or other protected students.

12. DAEP / JJAEP Placement

Texas law provides circumstances in which a student may or must be removed from the regular educational setting and placed in a Disciplinary Alternative

Education Program (DAEP) or, when applicable, a Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Program (JJAEP).

Discretionary DAEP Placement

Depending on the conduct and applicable law, discretionary placement may be considered for serious misconduct such as repeated or serious violations of the Code, felony conduct, certain assaults, harassment, bullying or cyberbullying when statutory criteria are met, criminal mischief, certain drug or alcohol conduct, and other offenses identified in Texas law.

Mandatory DAEP Placement

Mandatory placement will be made when Texas law requires it. Examples include certain felony conduct, terroristic threats, certain weapons offenses, certain controlled-substance or alcohol offenses, and other offenses specified by the Texas Education Code.

Placement Procedures

- The student and parent will receive notice and an opportunity for the conference required by law.
- The administrator will consider legally required mitigating factors and the student's circumstances.
- The District will issue a written placement order when required.
- The student will receive coursework and educational services as required by law.
- The District will comply with statutory limits on the length of placement and required review procedures.
- The District will provide transition services when required as the student returns to the regular educational setting.
- Appeals will be handled under Texas law and Board policy.

Students Under Age 10

If a student younger than 10 engages in conduct for which Texas law provides special discipline requirements, the District will follow the statutory protections and placement rules applicable to students under age 10.

13. Expulsion and Serious Offenses

Expulsion is the most serious school discipline consequence and will be imposed only when authorized or required by Texas law. The District will provide the hearing, notice, findings, placement, review, and appeal procedures required by law.

Conduct That May Result in Expulsion

Depending on the location, circumstances, and statutory requirements, expulsion may be considered for serious offenses including certain felony conduct, aggravated assault, sexual assault or other serious sexual offenses, serious weapons offenses, certain drug or alcohol offenses, deadly conduct, arson, murder-related offenses, and other conduct identified by Texas law.

Mandatory Expulsion

The District will expel a student when Texas law requires expulsion, including certain firearm offenses under federal or state law and other specified serious offenses.

Mitigating Factors

When deciding whether to order discretionary expulsion, the District will consider factors required by law, including self-defense, intent or lack of intent, disciplinary history, and a disability that substantially impairs the student's capacity to appreciate the wrongfulness of the conduct, as applicable.

Emergency Expulsion and Alternative Educational Services

When authorized by law, the District may use emergency expulsion procedures. The District will follow current law concerning educational services, DAEP placement of expelled students, transition services, and other requirements.

14. Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities are entitled to all protections provided by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act, Texas law, and applicable Board policy.

- Discipline will be administered in accordance with federal and state law when those requirements apply.
- A disciplinary removal that constitutes a change of placement will trigger the required procedural safeguards and, when applicable, a manifestation determination review.
- The District will provide required parent notices and procedural safeguards.
- The ARD committee will participate when required by IDEA and Texas law.
- Behavioral supports, functional behavioral assessment, behavior intervention plans, and positive behavioral interventions will be used when required or appropriate.
- No discipline practice will be used to injure, demean, or deprive a student of basic human necessities.
- Seclusion will not be used as a routine discipline technique. Any restraint or emergency intervention must comply with applicable law, training requirements, and District procedures.

15. Notification, Parent Involvement, and Appeals

Parent Notification

Parents will be notified when their child is suspended, removed from class or campus, placed in a DAEP/JJAEP, expelled, or otherwise subjected to a disciplinary action for which notice is required by law.

The District may contact parents by telephone, written notice, electronic communication, or another legally permitted method. Required written notices will be provided in accordance with law.

Parent Involvement

Parents are encouraged to participate in conferences, behavior interventions, restorative processes, and disciplinary placement conferences. If the Board adopts a parental involvement policy or behavioral agreement process authorized by law, the District will follow that policy and provide the notices and opportunities required by it.

Appeals and Grievances

A student or parent may appeal a disciplinary decision when an appeal is authorized by law or Board policy. The District will provide the applicable notice, deadlines, conference, hearing, and review procedures. Questions about forms or filing procedures may be directed to Claudia Morales, Administrative Assistant, through the District office at 361-539-4343.

Nothing in this section eliminates any right of appeal or grievance provided by Texas or federal law.

16. Glossary of Key Terms

Term	Plain-Language Meaning
Bullying	A single significant act or a pattern of acts by one or more students directed at another student that meets the definition in Texas law and involves a power imbalance or is sufficiently severe or persistent to create an intimidating, threatening, or abusive educational environment.
Cyberbullying	Bullying through electronic communication or a technological device, including qualifying conduct occurring off campus when Texas law gives the District jurisdiction.
DAEP	Disciplinary Alternative Education Program, an alternative educational setting used for disciplinary placements authorized or required by law.
JJAEP	Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Program, an alternative educational program used when Texas law requires or permits placement in a juvenile justice setting.
Expulsion	Removal of a student from school under the procedures and conditions authorized or required by Texas law.
Harassment	Unwelcome conduct that meets the definition under applicable law or Board policy, including certain conduct based on protected characteristics or directed at a student or employee.
Retaliation	Taking adverse action against a person because that person reported misconduct, participated in an investigation, or exercised a legal right.
Self-defense	Conduct meeting the applicable legal definition of self-defense. The District will consider self-defense when required by law.
Under the influence	A condition of impaired physical or mental faculties caused by alcohol, drugs, or another substance, as defined by

	applicable law.
Weapon	An item identified as a weapon by Texas or federal law or an item used or intended to be used in a manner that threatens or causes bodily injury.

This condensed glossary does not replace the definitions in Texas law. When a term has a statutory definition, the statutory definition controls.

17. Acknowledgment and Receipt

As required by state law, the Board of Trustees has adopted this Student Code of Conduct to promote a safe and orderly learning environment. Students and parents/guardians are expected to review the Code and understand that students are accountable for their conduct.

We acknowledge that the Ramirez Common School District Student Code of Conduct for the 2026–2027 school year is electronically accessible through the District's website and available through the District office.

We understand that students will be held accountable for their behavior and may be subject to the disciplinary consequences outlined in the Ramirez Common School District Student Code of Conduct.

Signing this form acknowledges receipt or access to the Code. Failure to sign and return the acknowledgment does not relieve a student or parent of responsibility to follow the Code.

Return the completed acknowledgment and any required forms to the campus office.

Student Name	_____
Grade	_____
Parent/Guardian Name	_____
Parent/Guardian Signature	_____
Student Signature (Grade 6)	_____
Date	_____

RAMIREZ COMMON SCHOOL DISTRICT

10492 School Street • Realitos, Texas 78376-2644 • 361-539-4343