Student Handbook

Update October 2026

Home of the Hornets!

1050 35th Lane
Pueblo, CO 81006
(719) 948-3351

Principal
Erin Lewin

Assistant Principal
Ryan Harr
Dylon Ortiz

Athletic Director
Clint Chamblin

Academy Coordinator
Laura Guardamondo

School Song

For when a County Hornet first falls in line
We're going to win this game another time
And for the old High School we love so well
And for the old ball team I yell, I yell, I yell
We're going to fight, fight, fight for every score
We're going to win this game and then some more
We're going roll those _____ on the floor off the court
Roll, roll, roll

Hornet Fight Song

Fight Hornets down the field
County must win!
Fight, fight for victory
County knows no defeat
So roll up a mighty score
never give in team
Shoulder to shoulder
we will fight, fight fight
fight!!!!!!

"Rip 'em up, Tear 'em up
Give 'em Hell Hornets"

PCHS Mission and Vision Statement

Pueblo County High School has a "small school environment" with "big school opportunities". We provide students with opportunities to engage in meaningful learning, and to be part of a safe and secure environment with the support and trust of the school community. Our purpose is to provide all students opportunities in becoming healthy, well-prepared citizens who demonstrate ethical behavior. We promote respect for self and others; encourage the acceptance of diversity, and stress high standards of achievement that will foster life-long learning.

Pueblo County High School is a drug free school zone, CRS-18-18-105(3.5)(a)
State Law prohibits tobacco use on all school property, CRS 25-14-103.5(3)(a)(II

Hornet Traditions

1. Homecoming Festivities are held during the fall of each year.
2. Underclassmen will clap out seniors at assemblies.
3. Students sit as classes in all assemblies.
4. Green and Gold Assembly is held in the spring to honor senior achievement
5. To know and sing the school song and the fight song. When the school song plays, the student body will stand and clap.

High School Administration/Counseling Staff

Erin Lewin, Principal	Ext. 10013
Clint Chamblin, Activities Director	Ext. 10011
Ryan Harr, Assistant Principal	Ext. 10015
Dylon Ortiz, Assistant Principal	Ext. 10007
Laura Guardamondo, Coordinator	Ext. 10043
Flo Downs, Counselor	Ext. 10008
Cherl Sherwood, Counselor	Ext. 10003
Caren Vezzani, Counselor	Ext. 10004
Tom Copley, Counselor	Ext. 10042
Anna Rottinghaus, Attendance Dean	Ext. 10045

High School Office Staff

Roni Vigil, Principal's Secretary…… Ext. 10012
Jennifer Lara, Registrar/Records Secretary……..……Ext. 10000
Christi Lawson /Secretary...…….…..…Ext. 10006
Julie Fricke, Activities/Accounting Secretary……...……...….....Ext. 10010

2026-2027 Regular Bell Schedule				
		1st Lunch	**2nd Lunch**	**3rd Lunch**
1st Hour	7:30 – 8:26			
	8:26 - 8:32			
2nd Hour & daily announcements (62 min.)	8:32 – 9:34			
	9:34 – 9:40			
3rd Hour	9:40 – 10:36			
	10:36 – 10:42			
4th Hour	10:42 – 12:24	10:42-11:12	11:18 -11:48	11:54-12:24
	IN CLASS	11:18-12:24	10:42-11:12 11:54-12:24	10:42-11:48
5th Hour	12:30 – 1:26			
	1:26 – 1:32			
6th Hour	1:32 – 2:28			
	2:28 – 2:34			
7th Hour	2:34 – 3:30			

Visitors

Pueblo County High School is dedicated to maintaining a quality learning environment. Parents/Guardians are always welcome. **Arrangements for adult visitors should be made through the office.** It is our belief that there be a daily focus on our work; therefore, student visitors are discouraged from attending classes with Pueblo County High students. All visitors and/or parents must check in at the main office and be issued a visitor's badge to be worn at all times while they are on the campus.

Change of Address

If at any time during the school year it becomes necessary for your parents to change their home or mailing address or phone number, please report this change immediately to the office. ***It is also vital for the school to have the current employer, address, and phone number of both parents or guardians in case of an emergency.***

Graduation Requirements (Policy IKF)

See PCHS Course Guidebook for detailed information pertaining to graduation requirements.

https://resources.finalsite.net/images/v1781815169/district70org/mxom42zqijx3s1zwarwr/PCHSCourseGuide2026-27docx1.pdf

Counseling

The counselor is directly concerned with the counseling of students. Students should feel free to discuss concerns with the counselor and with their teachers who are also interested in their progress.

Guidance services are available to every student at Pueblo County High School. Guidance counselors can help with educational planning, interpretation of standardized test scores, occupational information, or any questions you may feel you would like to discuss with a counselor. If you wish to see a counselor during class time, please sign the appointment sheet outside the guidance offices. Counselors will make a point to see every student who signs the appointment sheet. **Counselors will not see students who do not have a pass from their teacher or who walk in during passing periods or lunch.**

Schedule Change Procedures - Incomplete Grades - Class Drop Procedures

See PCHS Course Guidebook for detailed information:

https://resources.finalsite.net/images/v1781815169/district70org/mxom42zqijx3s1zwarwr/PCHSCourseGuide2026-27docx1.pdf

Guidelines for Students Taking Summer School, Credit Recovery, and Correspondence Courses

1. District #70 students may use summer school and credit recovery classes to make up for deficient credits. Students are expected to take all required courses at Pueblo County High School before they register for credit recovery/summer school.
2. Credit recovery and summer school courses are not to replace or remove a previous passing grade for the same class.
3. If a student repeats a class, credit will only be used once toward graduation requirements.
4. Applications for summer school, credit recovery classes, must be approved and signed by your counselor at Pueblo County High School.
5. Credit Recovery courses may be started at any time throughout the year, however there

will be set deadlines for completion. (9 weeks from enrollment of class to passing and/or completion of class. Credit recovery classes are $100 per ½ credit if not completed on time.

6. Summer school classes are $100 per ½ credit, and students can take no more than two courses – summer courses run from the first week of June through the third week of June.

Examinations - In Advance

Students who leave school before the close of the school semester risk losing credit. **Students will not be given advance examinations or be given any assurance of full credit when the student leaves, unless approved by Administration.**

Fees, Field Trips, Costs Associated with Courses Offered - Field Trip Disclaimer - Club/Activity Disclaimer

See the PCHS Course Guidebook for more information pertaining to Fees, Field Trips and Costs associated with course offering: https://resources.finalsite.net/images/v1781815169/district70org/mxom42zqijx3s1zwarwr/PCHSCourseGuide2026-27docx1.pdf

Scheduling Activities

All activities are to be scheduled as far in advance as possible. Generally, one week's notice is considered minimum when requesting an activity. **ALL ACTIVITIES MUST BE APPROVED BY THE PRINCIPAL & ACTIVITIES DIRECTOR AND PLACED ON THE MASTER ACTIVITY CALENDAR.**

Activities

Pueblo County High School is a member of the Colorado High School Activities Association; this membership requires that students comply with the general eligibility rules covered by Article 16 of the CHSAA Handbook. The Activities Director and/or the sponsor/coach will review these rules with the participants of each activity at the beginning of the season.

1. To participate in sports a student must pass a physical examination, and be eligible by the rules of the Colorado High School Activities Association. Required procedures for participation:
   a. Physical examination
   b. Participation Fee - $150 for per sport/student. ***Students must be covered by health insurance to participate in interscholastic sports, either through their parent's insurance or by purchasing extra coverage for interscholastic sports.***
   c. Emergency Card Information
   d. CHSAA Competitor's Brochure Sign off sheet
   e. Pueblo School District No. 70 parent information sign off sheet
   f. Parent meeting with coach
2. In order to participate in a CHSAA sanctioned activity, a student must be enrolled in a minimum of 5 classes (2.5 Carnegie units) in the current as well as previous semester (This includes Band, Cheerleaders, Dance Team, Choir and Speech/Debate).
3. An athlete is bound by the athletic rules for the entire four years the athlete is here and not just for the time the athlete is participating in his/her sport(s). These rules are in force 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

4. In addition, athletes are governed by rules specific to Pueblo County High School. These rules and policies will be reviewed with you at the beginning of each sport.

5. Consequences for violation of athletic/activity policies/rules will be enforced immediately and consistently. Please refer to the athletic handbook.
6. Academic eligibility is required for participation.

Clubs and Organizations

Numerous clubs and organizations are active at PCHS. Check with the office for a list of those available and for information pertaining to course requirements and associated fees.

Eligibility to Hold Office

To hold a school office, a student must:

1. Have and maintain a C (3.0) or better grade point average.
2. Student Council Officers must have and maintain a 3.0 or better grade point average and Student Body Officers must have a 3.0 cumulative grade point average. The principal, aided by the staff, has full authority to remove a student from office or place a student on probation for violations of PCHS policies or guidelines.

Philosophy of the Extracurricular Programs

Pueblo County High School believes that all students must meet eligibility requirements set forth by CHSAA as well as the requirements set forth by Pueblo High School. Be sure that you understand the eligibility requirements set forth by both entities.

General Eligibility Requirements: During the period of participation, the student must enroll in courses which offer, in aggregate, a minimum of 2.5 Carnegie units of credit per semester and must pass a minimum of the equivalent of 2.5 Carnegie units of credit.

Weekly Eligibility Requirements: In addition to the CHSAA eligibility requirements stated above, Pueblo County High School will perform weekly grade checks on all students during their participation in a sport/activity. When a student receives an **F** in any class, they will be placed on **Academic Probation** for 1 week, with conditions set forth by the Activities Director. While on Academic Probation, the student will be allowed to practice and compete in all activities but is encouraged to concentrate on their grades. At any time thereafter, if the student receives an **F** in **any** class, they will become **Academically Ineligible** for 1 week. During Academic Ineligibility, the student may not compete in any contest, travel to any game site, or sit on the bench with the team at any contest. They may practice with the team but again, they are strongly encouraged to concentrate on their academics. **An ineligible player cannot help a team if they cannot compete**. Each sport season that the student participates in will have a 1-week Academic Probation period. Weekly eligibility runs from Monday to Monday.

ISS/ISD: Students who are in ISS/ISD will NOT be allowed to participate in COMPETITION if that ISS/ISD is on that game day. They will be allowed to practice on a practice day.

LETTERING POLICY– Each sport/activity has its own set of rules for lettering. Loss of letter may occur for any of the above conduct violations. If you have questions, please contact the coach/sponsor.

FEES: Participation fees: $150 per sport per athlete. For cuts or injury, **refunds must be requested prior to the first contest.** Non-enrolled district participants refer to **Non-enrolled** district participants handout in the parent handbook.

PUEBLO COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT 70 EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES PARTICIPANT CODE OF CONDUCT AND ACADEMIC/ATTENDANCE ELIGIBILITY STANDARDS

For more information refer to the High School Athletic / Activity Handbook

Check Acceptance Policy

Pueblo County School District 70 has established the following policy for accepting checks and collecting returned checks: For a check to be an acceptable form of payment it must include your current, full and accurate name, address and telephone number. When paying by check, you authorize the recovery of unpaid checks and the recovery of the state allowed fee by means of electronic re-presentment. For assistance, please contact Paytek at 866-399-4101.

When paying by check you authorize the recovery of unpaid checks and the recovery of state allowed fee by means of electronic re-presentment.

District 70 accepts credit cards for payment of athletic fees, fines or purchases of yearbooks, dues, etc. District 70 accepts VISA, Mastercard, American Express and Discover.

Assemblies

Each student is personally responsible for the impression made by the school as a whole. Conduct should be courteous, respectful and attentive. Unacceptable conduct would include whistling, excessive or out of place clapping, boisterousness and talking during a program. The use of electronics during an assembly should be participative in nature and not take away from the event by causing a distraction or disruption. Students who exhibit inappropriate conduct may be banned from future assemblies.

We take great pride in the presentation of our Nation's Flag. All students and guests should stand and show respect for our colors by remaining silent until the flag leaves the floor.

Field Trips

Regulations regarding pupil conduct:

1. The instructor in charge is directly responsible to the school and to the parents for the conduct of students on a field trip.
2. Field trips are an extension of the classroom and pupils are expected to act appropriately.
3. Students who leave school on the bus for any trip must return to the school on the bus. The only exception to this rule is where parents of the student personally pick him/her up and take him/her home.
4. Students may not use their cars to attend sponsored field trips or school activities unless prior permission has been cleared through the office.
5. No tobacco products or drinking shall be permitted on a field trip.
6. Parents will be notified of field trips in advance and will be required to sign a permission slip.

7. **Any student who has a total of three (3) unexcused absences in any semester, or a total of ten absences, excused or unexcused, may not be school excused for field trip activities.**
8. Each student wishing to attend a field trip must be passing all classes and will be required to get their teachers' signatures, indicating they are passing their classes, before they will be allowed to attend the field trip.

School Function Behavior
(SPORTS, DANCES, ETC.)
Sportsmanship and fair play must be shown at all times and in accordance with the Handbook of The South-Central League and CHSAA. Conduct at dances should reflect respect and pride of self, others, the school and property.

Court Nominations
Throughout the school year there are several court nominations commemorating different occasions and traditions. Students are reminded that to be nominated to a court by their peers is an honor that brings with it certain obligations and responsibilities. Nominees may be asked to speak at a school wide assembly, to organize and deliver an individual or group performance and to attend other events celebrating their nomination.

Any one student can only be nominated for one court for the school year. Nominees will be voted on by their peers. Any misconduct or deviation from what is expected by the nominees could result in consequences established by the school administration that may impact the final make-up of the court.

Senior Lounge in Commons Area
During the three lunches, there is a Senior Lounge with round tables that is at the west end of the Commons Area. That area is designated for Seniors **ONLY** to eat lunch in.
Underclassmen can NOT sit at a table with Seniors, or along the green carpeted area with the Seniors.

General Rules and Regulations
Administration reserves the right to change or modify these general rules and regulations due to safety concerns or changes in District policy.

1. Maintain a respectful attitude toward other students, teachers, and administrators. Insubordination toward any staff member will not be tolerated and appropriate disciplinary action will be taken.
2. No drinking, tobacco or use of narcotics, are allowed in the school building or on the school grounds at any time.
3. Students will not congregate in the restrooms and/or loiter in or around school grounds.
4. Students, while in the building or on the school grounds, will refrain from outward demonstrations of affection. Anything beyond holding hands is out of place, and will not be tolerated.
5. Fighting will not be tolerated on school property at any time. Any infraction will result in suspension and possible charges.
6. Permission to leave school grounds must be granted by PCHS Office Personnel. Sick leave is granted through the nurse's office or through PCHS office staff. If a parent or guardian cannot be contacted, the student will not be permitted to leave campus. If the

student leaves anyway, they will be marked truant or unexcused and may be suspended. **Parents must excuse absences within 24 hours.** Any student who leaves the grounds during the day for lunch, ditching classes, etc., faces disciplinary action.

7. Any senior who has a Partial Absence must leave the school grounds immediately at the time of the Partial Absence. If a student is found to be causing a disturbance in the community during their partial absence, they may face the loss of their P.A. and/or other disciplinary actions.
8. Damaging school property is considered a serious offense and the offender will pay for the expense of repairs and replacement. Offender may additionally face suspension and/or criminal charges.
9. Throwing objects, including but not limited to snowballs, food, school supplies, waterbottles, etc. is not allowed on school grounds because of the danger involved to other students, and could result in suspension.
10. Scuffling, running or yelling in the halls is not allowed.
11. Rudeness, vulgarity, rebelliousness and profanity will not be tolerated at any time.
12. The use of personal electronic devices is strictly prohibited. These items are not to be brought to school. **The school will not be responsible for confiscated or stolen items and PCHS will not investigate lost or stolen electronic items.**
13. The possession and or use of glass containers outside of the Commons Area is prohibited.
14. The use of water guns/water balloons, air riffles or similar type items on the campus of Pueblo County High is prohibited. Any student who disregards this rule could be suspended from school. These items will be confiscated and may not be returned.
15. Graffiti will not be tolerated, and any student found defacing school property may face suspension and/or expulsion.
16. **Cell Phones may not be used during class time (includes text messaging) per Board Policy JICJ:** Parents, please do not call your student on his/her cell during school hours. In case of an emergency, please call Pueblo County High Office at 948-3351
17. The use of earbuds or headphones in hallways during the school day is prohibited. This includes passing periods.

Student Discipline

The Board of Education of School District #70 assigns the responsibility of student discipline to the principals of each building and his staff. Refer to Colorado Revised Statute 123-20-7.

Students must respect the rights of others as outlined in the Code of Conduct. Students suspended are not allowed at any school function or activity during the time of their suspension. Infractions can and/or will be referred to the proper authorities.

Disciplinary Process

Once a student is referred to the office with a written discipline referral, it is at the discretion of the school administration, along with school and board policy, on what actions will be taken. The action(s) taken would depend on the severity and number of offenses by the individual student. Consequences range from verbal and/or written warning, detention, and out of school suspension or possible referral for expulsion. If a parent or student has any questions, they should refer to the Pueblo School District No. 70 Student/Parent Information Handbook or the Pueblo School District 70 Board Policy Manual. Please call Pueblo County High School's administration if you have any further questions or concerns.

STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT
(Policy JICDA)

The following review of discipline issues and procedures will follow specific due process actions for each student involved in the discipline proceedings. If the principal or designee finds the need to suspend a student, those building professionals will follow the procedures outlined in policy JKD/JKE-R. A copy of that policy is available on the home page of Pueblo County School District 70's website under School Board Policies. Additionally, a hard copy of that policy can be attained through the Student Services Department at (719) 295-6534.

JICDA Code of Conduct:

A student will face disciplinary action, which may include possible suspension or expulsion if they are involved in one or more of the following acts:

1. Causing or attempting to cause **damage to the school property**, stealing or attempting to steal district property.

   Action Taken: Student will be suspended. The student will face expulsion proceedings if the value of the property exceeds $200.00. This includes willful destruction of computers, iPads, video surveillance equipment and other district technology devices.

2. Causing or attempting to cause **damage to private property**, stealing or attempting to steal private property.

   Action Taken: Students may be suspended and/or face expulsion proceedings if the act is considered behavior on or off school property that is detrimental to the health welfare and safety of students and staff.

3. Willful destruction or defacing of district property.

   Action Taken: Students may be suspended and/or face expulsion proceedings if the act is considered behavior on or off school property that is detrimental to the health welfare and safety of students and staff.

4. Commission of any act, which if committed by an adult would be **robbery or assault** as defined by state law.

   Action Taken: Students will be suspended and face mandatory expulsion proceedings, unless the act is considered a third-degree assault, if it was committed by an adult. In that case the student will face suspension and may face expulsion proceedings.

5. Participating in behaviors that are considered **extortion, coercion and/or blackmail, i.**e., obtaining money or other objects of value from an unwilling person or forcing an individual to act through the use of force or threat of force.

Action Taken: Student will be suspended. Students may face expulsion proceedings depending on the severity of the behavior. Principal/Designee will determine the severity of the behavior.

6. Engaging in **verbally abusive behavior** including but not limited to name-calling, ethnic or racial slurs, either orally or in writing or other derogatory statements addressed publicly to an individual or a group that precipitate disruption of the district or school program or incite violence

   Action Taken: Students may be suspended and possible expulsion proceedings depending on the degree of the disruption. Principal/Designee will determine the degree of disruption.

7. Engaging in **"hazing"** activities. Hazing is considered behavior on or off district property that is detrimental to the welfare and safety of others. It is defined as behavior that forces prolonged physical activity, forcing excessive consumption of any substance, forcing prolonged deprivation of sleep, food, or drink, or any other behavior that recklessly endangers the health or safety of any individual for purposes of initiation into any student group.

   Action Taken: Students will be suspended and may face expulsion proceedings depending on the severity of the behavior. Principal/Designee will determine the severity of the behavior.

8. **Bullying and/or aggressive behavior toward others**. **Additionally, violation of the Board's policy on bullying prevention and education.** The Bullying Prevention and Education Policy is **JICDE**. This policy is a complete detailed definition of bullying and bullying behavior. This definition also includes bullying on social media sites if the bullying is posted during a school day, and/or if a district own technology device is used to perform the bullying act. It is highly recommended that parents review this policy with their children.

   Action Taken: Students will be suspended and may face expulsion proceedings.

9. **Violation of criminal law**, which has an effect on the district or on the general safety or welfare of students or staff. (This includes behavior on or off school property that is detrimental to the welfare or safety of others.)

   Action Taken: Students will be suspended and possibly face expulsion proceedings if the action is considered to be detrimental to the welfare or safety of others.

10. Violation of Board policy or building regulations, or established school rules.

   Action Taken: Students may be suspended and possibly face expulsion proceedings depending on the severity and frequency of the behavior. Principal/Designee will determine the severity of the behavior.

11. Violation of Board policy on weapons in the schools. EXPULSION SHALL BE MANDATORY for bringing or possessing a FIREARM in accordance with Federal law.

   a. A firearm, whether loaded or unloaded.

b. A knife may be considered a weapon depending on the student's intent for the use of the knife or the action launched with the knife.

c. Any object, device, instrument, material or substance, whether animate or inanimate, used or intended to be used to inflict death or serious bodily injury. (This could include Laser Pointers if used or intended to be used to harm others, such as shining it into other individuals' eyes.)

Action Taken: Students will be suspended and may face expulsion proceedings depending on the intent and intensity of the violation. Mandatory expulsion will occur for a student that brings a firearm to school, district events, buses, or other district property.

12. **Violations of the Board's policy on student conduct involving drugs, drug paraphernalia and alcohol. This includes possession or handling of drugs or materials represented as drugs, including prescription drugs or over the counter drugs** on district property including the bus and district sponsored activities. (It is important to note that this could also include the possession and/or use of e-cigarette types of devices. If it is suspected that the student has been using the device to smoke oils that are a controlled substance for anyone under the age of 21, the student may be referred to the Director of Student Services for a disciplinary hearing.)

Action Taken: Student will be suspended and possibly face expulsion proceedings

a. **Under the influence of drugs** on district property including the bus and school sponsored activities. (JICH)

Action Taken: Students will be suspended and face possible expulsion proceedings.

b. **Sale and distribution of drugs, prescription drugs, and/or over the counter drugs, on district property**, including the bus and school sponsored activities. (JICH)

Action Taken: Students will be suspended and face possible expulsion proceedings.

c. **Possession of alcohol on district property** including the bus and school sponsored activities. (JICH)

Action Taken: Students will be suspended and may face expulsion proceedings.

d. **Sale and distribution of alcohol** on district property, including the bus and school sponsored activities. (JICH)

Action Taken: Students will be suspended and face possible expulsion proceedings.

13. **Violation of the Board's violent and aggressive behavior policy. (Fighting behaviors, JICCD)**.

Action Taken: Students will be suspended and may face expulsion proceedings if the act is extremely violent. The Principal/Designee will make the decision to send the student to the Director of Student Services for possible expulsion hearing.

14. **Possession and/or use of tobacco products on district property or at district events, this specifically includes the use or possession of e-cigarettes or related paraphernalia.**

Action Taken: Student will be suspended. Students may also face disciplinary action from Student Services Department for repeated offenses. (E-cigarettes and related paraphernalia may constitute a referral to the Director of Student Services Office based on the possession of drug paraphernalia as well. Code of Conduct violation #6).

15. **Participating in sexually or other harassing behavior**.

Action Taken: Students may face suspension and or expulsion proceedings depending on the severity of the behavior and the incident. The Principal/Designee will determine severity after the completion of their investigation.

16. **Violation of the district's policy on nondiscrimination.** The notice of nondiscrimination was outlined earlier in this document.

Action Taken: Students will be suspended and may face expulsion proceedings.

17. Violation of the Board's **dress code** policy as outlined and governed at each school.

Action Taken: Students may face suspension and possibly expulsion proceedings depending on the frequency of the violation.

18. Violation of the Board's policy on **Gang and Gang like activity.**

Action Taken: Students may face suspension and possible expulsion proceedings depending on the severity of the behavior and the incident. The Principal/Designee will determine severity after the completion of their investigation.

19. **Throwing object, unless part of a supervised school activity, that can cause bodily injury or damage to property**.

Action Taken: Students may be suspended in school or out of school. Depending on the severity the student may face expulsion proceedings.

20. Directing profanity, vulgar language or obscene gestures toward other students, district personnel or visitors to others.

Action Taken: Students may be suspended in school or out of school. Depending on the severity the student may face expulsion proceedings.

21. **Lying or giving false information,** either verbally or in writing, to a district employee.

Action Taken: Students may face suspension and possibly expulsion proceedings depending on the severity of the behavior.

22. **Engaging in scholastic dishonesty**, which includes but is not limited to cheating on a test, plagiarism or unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing written work.

Action Taken: Students may face suspension and possibly expulsion proceedings depending on the severity of the behavior. Academic penalties will be given for scholastic dishonesty as well.

23. Making a **false accusation of criminal activity** against a district employee to law enforcement or to the district.

Action Taken: Students will be suspended and may face expulsion proceedings.

24. Behavior on or off district property that is **detrimental to the welfare or safety** of other students or district personnel, including behavior that creates a threat of physical harm to the student exhibiting the behavior or to one or more other students.

Action Taken: Student will be suspended. Students may also face expulsion proceedings depending on the severity of the behavior. Principal/Designee will make the determination about the severity of the behavior.

25. Repeated interference with the district's ability to provide educational opportunities to other students. This behavior is categorized as **"Habitually Disruptive Behavior**".

Action Taken: Students may be suspended. After two suspensions the student will be placed on a behavior plan that outlines how the student can achieve positive behaviors and academic success. If the behavior plan is violated and the student is suspended for a third time the student will face expulsion proceedings.

26. **Continued willful disobedience** or open and persistent defiance of proper authority including deliberate refusal to obey a member of the district staff.

Action Taken: Student will be suspended. Students may also face expulsion proceedings depending on the severity and frequency of the offense.

27. Violation of the Board's **student expression** policy.

Action Taken: Students may face suspension and/or expulsion proceedings depending on the severity of the violation. Principal/Designee will determine severity of the violation.

These above listed actions are district-wide. They should and will occur in every school if a violation is identified. The school retains the ability to add other items to the code of conduct, so please refer to your student's school handbook to clarify items such as public displays of affection, truancies, tardies and other behaviors that may warrant lesser disciplinary actions such as detention or in

school suspension. If you have any questions regarding the definitions of terms used in this section, please contact the principal of your son or daughters' school for further clarification.

Additionally, it is important to note that parents/guardians are entitled to multiple people sitting in the interviews and meetings with school staff and administration. Simply put, if parents/guardians would like an additional person/witness to sit in during interviews and meetings with staff and/or building administration then you simply need to request it from the building Principal, Assistant Principal, or Dean. With such a request the building level administrative staff will be more than happy to find an additional staff member to sit in on the meeting. (rev. 12/18)

Student Tobacco Free Policy

Notice of enactment of Colorado law - C.R.S., Section 25-14-103.5(3)(a)(II)
PROHIBITION AGAINST THE USE OF TOBACCO AT SCHOOLS

Effective July 1, 1999, all Colorado public schools, K-12 are required under Colorado law to prohibit tobacco use on all school property, including building interiors and grounds, and at all school-sponsored activities. This applies to students, teachers, staff, and visitors.

If students are observed with tobacco products during the school day, those tobacco items will be confiscated and possible suspension will occur.

Zero Tolerance: Use, Possession and Abuse of Alcohol and Other Drugs including E-Cigs/Vapes.

Student use, possession, distribution, or sale of alcohol or other drugs is prohibited in all District #70 schools, on school grounds, at school sponsored activities, or when students are being transported in vehicles dispatched by the District at any time during the calendar year.

Students violating this policy shall be subject to disciplinary sanctions, which may include suspension and/or expulsion from school and referral for prosecution.

The term "other drugs" includes, but is not limited to, narcotics, stimulants, depressants, inhalants, hallucinogens, and cannabis derivatives, other than that which can be purchased at a pharmacy without a prescription or prescribed by a licensed physician, or any other item being represented as a drug.

The regulations, which shall guide the enforcement of this policy, shall be in keeping with applicable laws and shall be observed by all school personnel.

Appropriate procedures shall be followed by all District #70 school personnel in working with students who may:

1. Be "under the influence" of alcohol or other drugs on school grounds, at school-sponsored activities or when students are being transported in vehicles dispatched by the district.
2. Possess alcohol or other drugs on school grounds, at school-sponsored activities or when students are being transported in vehicles dispatched by the district.
3. Be engaged in acts of using, selling or distributing alcohol or other drugs on school grounds, at school sponsored activities or when students are being transported in vehicles dispatched by the district.

Grounds for Suspension or Expulsion

The following may be grounds for suspension or expulsion of a child from the schools:

A. Any ground authorized by the Colorado Statutes including but not limited to the following:
    1. Continued willful disobedience or open and persistent defiance of proper authority;
    2. Willful destruction or defacing of school property;
    3. Behavior which is detrimental to the welfare, safety, or morals of other pupils.

B. Violation while on school property or while engaged in school functions or school sponsored activities of any criminal statute of the State of Colorado, or the doing of an act made unlawful by the statutes of this state.

*C. Violation of any policy of the Board of Education.

*D. Violation of any written rule or regulation adopted by the principal of any school, or adopted by any other employees of the district who is authorized by the Board of Education to establish rules and regulations in regard to a particular school, or in regard to a particular activity.

*E. Insubordination or continued and willful misconduct.

*F. Student behavior that is detrimental to the welfare and safety of teacher or school employees.

G. In addition to the foregoing, the following procedures shall be followed in instances of assault, disorderly conduct, harassment or alleged criminal offense by a student directed toward a teacher or school employee. A student shall follow these same procedures in instances of damage to the personal property of a teacher or school employee occurring on school district premises.
    1. The teacher or employee shall file a written complaint with the building principal, the Superintendent's Office and the Board of Education.
    2. The principal, after receipt of both the complaint and adequate proof of the charges, shall suspend the student for up to five days in accordance with established procedures.
    3. The Superintendent shall initiate procedures for the further suspension or expulsion of the student.
    4. The Superintendent or his designee shall report the incident to the district attorney or the appropriate local law enforcement agency or officer who shall then investigate the incident or determine the appropriateness of filing criminal charges or initiating delinquency proceedings.
    5. A copy of this policy shall be distributed to each student and posted in each school building
    6. The foregoing shall not be construed as a limitation on the normal powers of a Superintendent in regard to suspension or expulsion.

H. If suspension or expulsion involves a handicapped child (as defined by federal and state law), before such child can be expelled, it shall be determined (1) that the child has been appropriately placed and (2) that the child's conduct giving raise to suspension or

expulsion was not caused by the child's handicap. A handicapped child may be suspended however in an emergency situation in which the child is endangering himself/herself or others. Otherwise during the pendency of any administrative or legal proceedings the placement of the child shall not be changed. The foregoing factors shall be determined by the same group established to determine placement and the same procedures shall be used. After an affirmative finding as to both factors, the foregoing grounds for a suspension or for an expulsion shall be applied and the factors set out shall be applicable.

I. Suspension/expulsion is considered an unexcused absence per district/state policy. (JED-R) Assignment to In School Suspension/In School Exclusion is also considered an unexcused absence. Students who have been assigned to ISS/ISE will be required to take final exams in the classes that were not attended as a result of being assigned to ISS/ISE.

*Please note that these grounds may support suspension and could be grounds for expulsion as further highlighting A, but grounds of A are the only ones provided for in the statute.

Student interrogations -searches and arrests
(Policy JIH)
(Policy JIHB)

Student searches will be conducted when a school official has reasonable grounds to suspect that a student has violated either the law or Board policy. Reasonable suspicion is the standard used by staff members to determine if a search is required. Reasonable suspicion is defined as the result of having reliable information, through informants, witnesses or other observations that causes a school official to believe that the student has evidence of a violation of the law or board policy.

For further information please contact your student's principal or review board policies JIH /JIHB: Colorado School Laws 1971, Article 29 Property Defacing Control Law

40-29-1. Legislative Declaration. It is the intent of the general assembly by this article to prohibit throughout the state any and all defacing of public and private property and thereby to curb harm to the health, welfare, and safety of its citizens. This article shall not be construed to preempt or limit the authority of any city, city and county, or town.

40-29-2. Short Title. - This article shall be known and may be cited as the "Property Defacing Control Act."

40-29-3. Unlawful to Deface. - It shall be unlawful for any person to deface or cause, aid in, or permit the defacing of any public or private property without consent of the owner of such property.

40-29-4. Definition. - The term "defacing" as used in this article shall include any painting, marking, or in any other manner placing of any letter, character, sign, paper, or device upon any public or private property so as to change in any way its former appearance.

40-29-5. Violation - Penalties. Any person violating the provisions of this article shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof, shall be punished by a fine not to exceed one hundred dollars or by imprisonment in the county jail for a period not to exceed thirty days.

40-29-6. Public Officials Required to Publicize Article. - All public officials having supervision of properties of this state are authorized, empowered, and instructed to establish and to post signs and to otherwise publicize the requirements of this article along state roads and highways, in, on, or about public areas where defacing frequently has been or is likely to be a problem.

Student Distribution of Non-Curricular Materials (Constitutional Relativity) **See policy JICEC-R**

To understand Constitutional values such as the right to free speech, students must not only study such principles but also have an opportunity to put them into practice. However, there are limitations on the right of student free speech in the school setting that have been upheld by the courts because of the unique nature of the school community.

It is the goal of this policy to strike a necessary balance between a student's right of free speech and the school's responsibility to maintain an orderly school environment which respects the rights of all students on school grounds and during school sponsored activities.

Students shall be allowed to distribute non-curricular materials on school property subject to restrictions on time, place, and manner of distribution set out in the accompanying regulations and the prohibitions set out below and in state law.

Any written materials containing expression that is obscene, libelous, slanderous or defamatory shall be prohibited. Students shall not distribute any material that advocates commission of unlawful acts or violation of Board policy and/or regulations, which violates another person's right to privacy or which causes a material and substantial disruption of the orderly operation of the school.

Students who distribute materials in violation of this policy and/or materials that cause a material and substantial disruption or damage to a person or property in the judgment of school officials shall be subjected to appropriate disciplinary action.

School equipment and supplies shall not be used for publication of such written material unless authorized as a school-sponsored activity. Students who wish to distribute non-curricular printed materials on school property or in conjunction with a school activity must notify the principal a minimum of one day in advance so that details may be worked out regarding the time, place, and manner of distribution.

Students do not have to produce an advance copy of the materials that will be distributed for the principal's review. However, materials that are distributed on school grounds containing information prohibited by Board policy and/or materials that create a significant or substantial disruption or damage to persons or property in the judgment of school officials may subject the responsible students to disciplinary action following distribution.

The following restrictions will apply to all requests for distribution of non-curricular materials by students:

1. **PLACE**

Distribution of printed materials must be made at places within the school or school grounds as designated by the principal except that in no event may such materials be distributed in any classroom of any building then being occupied by a regularly-scheduled class.

2. **TIME**
   Distribution may be made one-half hour before school and/or 15 minutes after the close of school. Any other times during the school day are considered to be disruptive to normal school activities.

3. **LITTERING**
   All distributed items discarded in school or on school grounds must be removed by the persons distributing such materials.

4. **MANNER**
   No student may in any way be compelled or coerced to accept any materials being distributed by any person distributing such materials or by any school official. In the alternative, no school official or student may interfere with the distribution of approved materials.

Violation of any of these regulations will be sufficient cause for denial of the privilege to distribute materials at future dates, subject to the right of appeal as stated above.

Technology Usage

Students are expected to use the school issued laptop for the educational purpose it was intended for. The computers issued to students are property of District 70 and can be checked at any time for inappropriate use. Loss of device, discipline consequences and/or charges may be filed for misuse. Students will only access district technology using their school issued login credentials. Students are not permitted to access or use other students' devices or credentials. Students are not permitted to change or adjust parameters on their devices.

Cyber-bullying will **NOT** be tolerated. Discipline consequences and/or charges can be filed.

Inappropriate use of cell phones will NOT be tolerated on school grounds or at any school related function.

Cell Phone Policy per JICJ

Cell Phones may not be used during class time (includes text messaging.) Board Policy JICJ is designed to protect the learning environment, specifically instructional time. With increased technology applications, it is important to mention that smart watches or smart glasses should not be used during instructional time either. Time without distractions is crucial to the instructional process. Students will not use any outside technology without direct permission from their teacher. Please see Board Policy JICJ for more information: Board Policy JICJ

Policy on Prohibition of AI Tools in Assessments

This policy applies to all classroom and standardized assessments administered within District 70. Assessments can include but are not limited to homework assignments, examinations, written work, quizzes, papers, presentations and worksheets.

The use of artificial intelligence (AI) tools, including but not limited to automated content generation, calculators, and predictive text, is strictly prohibited during assessments. This includes any software or device capable of providing direct or indirect assistance in completing an examination. Students must ensure that all work submitted during assessments is completed without the aid of AI tools. Violations of this policy will be considered academic misconduct and will be subject to disciplinary actions as outlined in the student conduct code. Teachers and testing administrators are responsible for monitoring compliance with this policy. Appropriate measures, including the use of monitoring software, active proctoring and physical inspection of devices, may be employed to ensure adherence.

Gang Activities

Pueblo County High School has a Zero Tolerance Policy for gang-related behavior and/or paraphernalia (including clothing). Some of these behaviors or paraphernalia may be, but are not limited to, weapons, threatening language or gestures. Students may be subject to suspension and/or referral to the superintendent or other legal authorities for any behavior that jeopardizes the safety and welfare of any other student(s).

Student Parking

ALL students who drive need to have a parking permit.

Cars that are parked without a permit or outside the designated, striped areas may be ticketed or be subject to disciplinary measures.

Parking Lot Searches

The privilege of bringing a student-operated motor vehicle onto school premises is conditioned on consent by the student driver to allow search of the vehicle when there is reasonable suspicion that the search will yield evidence of contraband.

Refusal by a student, parent or guardian, or owner of the vehicle to allow access to a motor vehicle on school premises at the time of a request to search the vehicle shall be cause for termination without further hearing of the privilege of bringing the vehicle onto school premises.

Board Policy JIHB:

Routine patrolling of student parking lots and inspection of the outside of student automobiles shall be permitted at all times.

PCH Attendance Policy (Revised August, 2025)

Based on the Board's attendance philosophy outlined in the District 70 Student/Parent Handbook, student absences will be closely monitored. One criteria of a student's success in school is regular and punctual attendance. Frequent absences may lead to poor academic work, lack of social development and possible academic failure. Regular attendance is of utmost importance for school interest, social adjustment and scholastic achievement. No single factor may interfere with a student's progress more quickly than frequent tardiness or absence.

According to state law, it is the obligation of every parent/guardian to ensure that every child under their care and supervision receives adequate education and training and, if of compulsory attendance age, (age 6 to under the age of 17) attends school.

Each year the Board establishes the school attendance period by adopting a school calendar. Secondary students are required to have actual teach-pupil instruction and contact time of 1,056 hours for secondary students and 968 hours for elementary students during each school year.

Continuity in the learning process and social adaptation is seriously disrupted by excessive absences. In most situations, the work missed cannot be made up adequately. Students who have good attendance generally achieve higher grades, enjoy school more and are more employable after leaving school. For at least these reasons, the Board believes that a student must satisfy two basic requirements in order to earn full class credit: (1) satisfy all academic requirements and (2) exhibit good attendance habits as stated in this policy.

Any student who comes to school late or leaves school early MUST sign in/out at the office - No Exceptions. Students are not to enter or exit the building after the start of the school day using any other entry/exit point.

Tardies

Tardiness is defined as the appearance of a student without proper excuse after the scheduled time that a class begins. Because of the disruptive nature of tardiness and the detrimental effect upon the rights of the non-tardy student to uninterrupted learning, appropriate penalties may be imposed for excessive tardiness. Parents/guardians shall be notified of all penalties regarding tardiness. Getting up late in the morning is not an excused tardy, even if a parent calls the tardy into the office.

In an unavoidable situation, a student detained by another teacher or administrator shall not be considered tardy provided that the teacher or administrator gives the student a pass to enter his next class. Teachers shall honor passes presented in accordance with this policy. Going to any class 15 minutes late or leaving any class 15 minutes early (ex. Dr. Appt.), will be considered an absence.

Tardies / Consequences

1. 4 – 1 day lunch detention
2. 8 - 1 week lunch detention
3. 12 – ISD; parent notification
4. 16 – 1 day OSS; parent notification
5. 20 – 2 days OSS; parent notification; behavior/attendance plan

Excused Absences

The following shall be considered excused absences with parent/guardian notification.

1. **A parent or guardian must notify the school within 24 hours of the student's absence or the absence could be considered truancy.**
2. **Once a student accumulates 15 absences, the parent can no longer excuse the absence. Documentation must be provided for absences to be excused.**
3. Prearranged absences shall be approved for appointments or circumstances of a serious nature only which cannot be taken care of outside of school hours.

4. A student who is absent for an extended period due to physical, mental or emotional disability.
5. A student who is pursuing a work-study program under the supervision of the school.
6. A student who is attending any school-sponsored activity or activities of an educational nature with advance approval by the administration.
7. A student who is absent must communicate with teachers to get make-up work.
8. Absent students are not to be on school property. Any student who is marked Excused Absence must leave the school grounds immediately at the time of the Excused Absence. If a student is found to be loitering on campus during their excused absence, they may face disciplinary actions.

As applicable, the district may require suitable proof regarding the above exceptions, including written statements from medical sources. If a student is in out-of-home placement (as that term is as defined by C.R.S. 22-32-138(1)(e), absences due to court appearances and participation in court-ordered activities shall be excused. The student's assigned social worker shall verify the student's absence was for a court appearance or court-ordered activity.

Parents must report the absence within 24 hours of the occurrence of the absence. In situations where an extended absence will be necessary, the parents need to communicate with the school ahead of time. It is important that parents attempt to arrange medical appointments outside of school hours. If this cannot occur, parents are expected to have their student's absence pre-approved by building administration. Students are allowed to have pre arranged absences for up to three days if the absence has an educational value. If the excused absences appear to be in excess, the principal/designee may require suitable proof that the absence was justified. The proof may include written statements from the student's physician. Students may not miss more than 15 days unexcused in a school year, or judicial proceedings may be considered.

Chronic Absenteeism

A student is considered chronically absent if they miss 10% or more of the school days they're enrolled. This includes all absences, excused or unexcused.

- For a typical 151-day District 70 school year, 15 days of absence (about 4 days per quarter) would make a student chronically absent.
- The student will be declared chronically absent and placed on an attendance plan.
    - Excused Absences: The district may require suitable proof, including medical statements.

Unexcused Absences

An unexcused absence is defined as an absence that is not covered by one of the foregoing exceptions. Each unexcused absence shall be entered on the student's record. The parent/guardians of the student receiving an unexcused absence shall be contacted by a recorded message via phone and/or by an administrator.

In accordance with law, the district may impose appropriate penalties that relate directly to classes missed while unexcused. Penalties may include a warning, lunch detention, Friday

School or In-School-Detention. Out-of-school suspensions or expulsion shall not be imposed for any unexcused absences.

Students and parents/guardians may petition the Board of Education for exceptions to this policy or the accompanying regulations provided that no exception shall be sustained if the student fails to abide by all requirements imposed by the Board as conditions for granting any such exception.

The maximum number of unexcused absences a student may incur before judicial proceedings may be initiated to enforce compulsory attendance is 15 school days during any calendar year or school year.

The Colorado Department of Education (CDE) defines "truancy" and "habitual truancy" based on Colorado state law. The key distinction is that "truancy" is a single unexcused absence, while "habitual truancy" refers to a pattern of these absences.

- **Truancy (Unexcused Absence):** A student is absent from school without a valid and verifiable excuse from a parent or guardian that is consistent with school policy. It can also mean a student leaves school or a class without permission from an authorized school staff member.
- **Habitually Truant:** A student is considered "habitually truant" if they are between the ages of 6 and 17 and have:
    - 4 unexcused absences in any one calendar month, or
    - 10 unexcused absences during any academic year.

Any student who has been absent from class for six consecutive weeks or more in any one school year, except for reasons of expulsion, excused long term illness or death, may be considered a "dropout" and may be reported to the Department of Education by the school district. However, if the student is in attendance at the end of the school year, or enrolled in another school, home study course or on-line program, such student is not considered a dropout and shall not be reported.

SmartPass

Students are expected to use SmartPass for all trips to the restroom or drinking fountain during instructional classtime. Any other time a student leaves class, they will need a handwritten pass with the student's name, the date, time and destination. Students should refrain from leaving their classroom the first and last 5 minutes of every hour.

Make-up Work

For an excused absence, students are allowed one day to make-up the work for each consecutive day they are absent. (Example: A student is absent on Monday; ALL make-up work is due on Wednesday of that week.)

As per Board Policy JH, ***students who have an unexcused absence will be allowed to make up the work they missed for 60% credit.*** **According to state statute, absences as a result of suspension or expulsion shall be considered excused as it relates to make-up work.** The maximum number of unexcused absences a student may incur before judicial proceedings are initiated to enforce compulsory attendance is fifteen (15) during any calendar or school year.

Unless otherwise permitted by the building administrator, make-up work shall not be provided during a student's expulsion. Rather, the district shall offer alternative education services to the expelled student in accordance with state law. The district shall determine the amount of credit the expelled student will receive for work completed during any alternative education program.

Note: **Permission to leave school grounds must be granted by PCHS Office Personnel!!!** ***Sick leave*** is granted through the nurse's office or through PCHS staff. If a parent cannot be contacted, the student will not be permitted to leave campus. If a student leaves anyway, they will be marked ***truant*** and may be suspended. No parent will be allowed to excuse the absence at a later date. **Any student, who leaves the grounds during the day for lunch, ditching classes, etc., faces disciplinary actions.**

Appeals

Every reasonable effort will be made by the student's teacher to contact the parent(s) by phone, e-mail, or letter for unexcused tardies and unexcused absences. When a student has been dropped from a class, the student and parent will be notified. At that time, the student and parent must contact an administrator to start the appeal process if they wish to do so. The student and parent will have the opportunity to document the reasons for absence. Students will not be reinstated if the appeal is denied.

Note: **Final decisions during the appeals process are left to the professional judgment of the administrator(s) involved.**

Leaving Campus

Once a student's classes for the day begin, the student must remain on the school grounds until their classes for the day are completed. Students are not to leave the grounds without a pass from the office.

A phone call from home must be made to the office **IN ADVANCE** when a student requests to leave, then students must sign out in the office before leaving campus. Failure to get a pass could constitute TRUANCY and can result in suspension. **A parent will not be able to excuse a student after the fact.**

Once the school day has begun students are only permitted to enter and exit the building through the main office. Exterior doors and gates at other entry/exit points are not to be utilized to gain entry or exit the building after the school day has started. The propping open of doors and/or gates, and the opening of secured doors and gates for others to gain access to the building will result in disciplinary consequences.

Partial Absence Policy

In the event a senior has three or few requirements to complete for graduation and the courses needed to fulfill these requirements can be scheduled in a morning or afternoon block, the student may apply for released time for one-half day for employment purposes. The request for released time must be accompanied by written parental or guardian approval and written employment notification. Employment must be at least half time or three hours per day. In all cases, release from school must have the approval of the administration. When part-time employment is approved, the school shall not be

responsible for the student except during those periods of time when he or she is an enrollee attending classes in school.

Should a senior demonstrate a need for released time following the start of semester, he or she may apply to drop a course and be granted release time with the required documentation. After three weeks, a senior may apply for release time and a "withdrawal failure" or a "withdrawal passing) from a course, depending on the circumstances, if it is an elective course and the required documentation is furnished.

PCHS STUDENT DRESS CODE

School District No. 70 DRESS CODE
Administrative Regulation In Accordance with Policy JICA

1. PCHS accepts shirts, sweatshirts, and sweaters that are not excessively bulky. It is not acceptable to wear shirts, sweaters, or sweatshirts that make reference to violence, aggressive/assaultive behavior, tobacco, drugs, alcohol, vulgarities, obscenities, sexual behaviors or innuendos, death/mutilation of one's self or others, or clothing deemed to be of a controversial nature.
2. Shirts shall cover the student appropriately. Excessive skin and undergarments can **NOT** be showing.
3. Excessively baggy pants, excessively ragged pants that are torn, ripped or cut up are not allowed. Pants are to be worn at the hips or higher. Shorts and skirts will be mid-thigh in length. Excessive skin and undergarments can **NOT** be showing.
4. Sleeping attire including pajamas, pajama pants and blankets are not acceptable to be worn at school.
5. Any clothing and/or accessories that are considered gang related will NOT be accepted. (**A rosary can't be worn outside of the shirt**.)
6. Trench coats are not acceptable at any time.
7. Head coverings are not to be worn in the building. The term head coverings, includes: hats, hoods, stocking caps, bandanas, scarves and other like type coverings. Exemptions may be granted on a case by case basis with Administrative Approval.
8. Slippers are not allowed at any time at school.
9. Tattoos need to be covered if they are determined to be a distraction, as determined by administration.
10. Spiked jewelry of any kind is not allowed at school.
11. Undergarments, including bras and/or boxer briefs, should not be exposed when the student walks, stands, bends, kneels, or sits.
12. Only natural eye color contacts can be worn. No animal eye contacts will be permitted.
13. Non-traditional clothing, make-up, nail polish, lipstick, piercings and other attire that distracts from the educational process and environment is not acceptable. **Traditional attire is defined by the building administration**.

Building administration reserves the right to make any modifications or changes to the dress code as it deems necessary.

This dress code has been established by the Pueblo County High School administration and faculty to create a positive learning environment that promotes academic growth and safety for all students and staff.

Consequences for dress code violation

1st offense - PCHS Admin. has the right to determine a "distraction" with clothing, make-up, jewelry, contacts, and any other accessory
2nd offense – verbal warning; put on jacket or other clothes
3rd offense – 4-day lunch duty; phone call home; fix dress code violation
4th offense – ISD; "Defiance"; fix dress code violation; parent notification
5th offense – 2 days OSS; "Defiance"; "Habitual Offender", parent notification

Building and Grounds

1. Only you can make your school look good; therefore, you are encouraged to pick up and throw trash in available trash containers. **BE PROUD OF YOUR SCHOOL - KEEP IT CLEAN!**
2. The building may be used by student groups or individuals only when faculty sponsors are present.
3. The lunchroom conduct of students must be such that leaving trays, throwing food, etc., could result in the loss of lunchroom privileges and/or disciplinary consequences including but not limited to lunch duty. Student tables and the surrounding area must be cleaned and cleared of debris before leaving.
4. Restrooms are to be kept clean and smoke free.
5. Students must remain in the commons area during their lunch period.
6. Parking lots are off limits during lunch
7. The gym is off limits during lunch.

Transportation

Buses for transportation of students living in an area designated by the Board of Education arrive at school in the morning before the first bell and leave in the afternoon after the last bell.

Students who ride the bus before or after school are to stay in designated bus waiting areas. Bus riders are not to wait in other students' vehicles or leave campus prior to boarding their bus.

School buses are operated on a regular schedule and new students may secure information from the bus garage in regard to the time, various stops, and the route covered. Students must obey State Bus Regulations and cooperate with the bus driver at all times. While on the buses, students are responsible directly to the driver and disorderly conduct and refusal to cooperate with the driver shall be sufficient reason for refusing transportation to any student. Buses are also furnished on a limited basis for transportation to athletic and other special activity events. Students are reminded that their conduct to and from such events reflects directly upon the reputation of Pueblo County High School. Good conduct is essential to the safety of all.

Special requests from students to ride a bus must be approved through the office. To obtain a special bus request, prior parent/guardian permission is needed and student must obtain a Special Transportation form from the office.

Textbooks

The teacher issues textbooks to the students. Students are responsible for the care and return of the books and will be charged accordingly if books are lost or damaged excessively. Book covers are advisable. In order to be re-issued another text, the student must make

arrangements with the principal to pay for the lost or damaged one. (Seniors who have not paid accumulated fines will not receive their diploma.)

Students and their parents/guardians shall be held responsible for the general care of books, school equipment and buildings when used by the student. Any accidental or irresponsible damage to books, school equipment or buildings shall be the responsibility of the student and his parent/guardian.

Lockers

Lockers are available for the safekeeping of books and other property needed at school. In order that lockers may provide the security intended, students are strongly advised to keep their lockers locked at all times. Failure to do so is a temptation to others and often results in permanent loss of property and books. The locker combination is the personal property of every student who invites loss by divulging it to others. Students requesting the issuance of a locker and combination will need to see the Principal's Secretary.

Students will be notified well in advance of the deadline for cleaning out their lockers. Generally, the deadline will be the last regularly scheduled school day prior to the semester exam review day.

When cleaning out student lockers, custodians will throw away items that are obviously trash. Textbooks, supplies, and other personal items that appear to have some value will be placed in a plastic bag and tagged with the locker number. The bags are to be taken to the office and stored there for one week.

*Lockers are the property of the School District and therefore may be checked without the consent of the student.

Student Health Services

The administration and faculty at our school consider this one of the most important sections of the student handbook. Good health is a prerequisite to learning; as a matter of fact, good health is essential to success in most activities. Following are a few simple regulations that are requested of students in order that we may help to maintain safety and health for all students.

#1. School Nurse/Wellness Center: A student wishing to see the nurse must first report to his/her class and be sent by the instructor with a pass. Students must report any emergency illness or injury to the nurse or office staff immediately and are not to stay in the restroom during class period because of the illness. **A student may be seen by the Wellness Center after all necessary paperwork has been filled out.**

Missing class by staying in the restroom will be considered a truancy. Leaving campus ill without having the nurse or a secretary first call a parent or guardian, will result in an unexcused absence and/or be considered a truancy.

#2. Accidents and Insurance: The school is responsible for immediate first aid. The Board of Education does not pay any medical or hospital expenses incurred as a result of an accident to the pupil at school. The parent or guardian is responsible for the payment of such bills.

School District #70 will **NOT** provide insurance coverage for students. Students who participate in athletics must be covered by their own family plan or purchase special athletic insurance that will be made available through the high school office in addition to the required catastrophic insurance.

In case of an accident, no matter how minor, the student should report that accident to the teacher immediately, and an accident report should be filed in the main office. In the case of severe accidents or acute illness, emergency care will be given and the parents/guardians will be notified.

#3. Medical Transportation: It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to provide transportation and further care if the student becomes ill or injured on school property. Students may not be sent home without parental approval, and no student may drive when excused for medical reasons unless parental consent has been given.

#4. Emergency Cards: In order to conform to the wishes of the parents, emergency cards stating conditions of an unusual nature, must be filled out and returned to the Nurse's office for use in emergency situations.

#5. Communicable Diseases: Students returning to school after recovering from a communicable disease should be readmitted through the school nurse's office. (German measles, measles, mumps, chicken pox, scarlet fever, conjunctivitis (pink eye), mononucleosis, etc.)

#6. Immunization: Evidence of immunization is required of all students.

Student Insurance

School District #70 will **NOT** provide insurance coverage for the student. Students who participate in athletics must be covered by their own family plan or purchase special athletic insurance that will be made available through the high school office in addition to the required catastrophic insurance.

Insurance for students who own their own musical instruments is available. The Band Instructor can provide you with the details concerning the plan.

Evacuation Drills

Fire, emergency, along with safety and security drills will be held throughout the school year. Students are to proceed to the exit designated on the chart in each classroom. Turning in a false alarm is a violation of both state and local laws. **VIOLATORS WILL BE TURNED OVER TO THE AUTHORITIES FOR PROSECUTION** because any emergency system has to be reliable, and we will not tolerate anyone endangering the lives of students.

Student Behavior

Students are expected to demonstrate respectful and polite behavior, e.g. feet on the floor, not sitting on the tables, appropriate language, etc. It is expected that a student will keep the school clean and leave it picked up.

Revised: October 20, 2026

NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT
Pueblo County School District 70 does not unlawfully discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, marital status, parental status, religion, national origin, age, disability, need for special education services, genetic information, pregnancy or childbirth status, or other status protected by law in admission or access to, or treatment, or employment in its education programs or activities. Additionally, a lack of English language skills is not a barrier to admission or participation in activities. Inquiries about ADA, Section 504, Title VI, and Title IX may be addressed to the Superintendent of Schools, 24951 US Highway 50 East, Pueblo, Colorado 81006, 719-295-6548 or nondiscrimination@district70.org

Pueblo County School District 70, Pueblo, Colorado